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Weizmann, Chaim, 1941.

Hotel Salisbury ,
123 West 57th Street ,
NEW YORK CITY.

January 14, 1941.

Rabbi Dr. Abba Hillel Silver ,
The Temple ,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Doctor Silver:

In accordance with your suggestion I have been in touch with Dr. Samuel Maron since almost eight months in order to have him raised in Cleveland an amount of at least \$2,000.00 for Dr. Weizmann's Chemical Institute at Rehovoth. You will remember that as a result of a luncheon party arranged by you on the occasion of Dr. Weizmann's last visit to your city about a year ago an amount of \$3,000.00 to be raised by the end of 1940 was promised to him. Soon afterwards you handed over to Dr. Weizmann checks in the amount of \$1,000.00 and as to the balance of \$2,000.00 your suggestion was that the matter should be taken up by Dr. Maron and other Zionists in Cleveland.

Though I am convinced that Dr. Maron both as a Zionist and a chemist is deeply interested in the research work carried out at the Rehovoth Laboratories the fact remains that in regard to the \$2,000.00 ^{nothing} has as yet been accomplished by him and his co-workers. I know that for very serious personal reasons Dr. Maron over a period of a few months couldnot do anything at all. In a letter of the 12th November, 1940 he had informed me, however, that he would be now in a position to resume his Zionist activities. Since then and in spite of various letters and one telegram urging him to produce some money before the end of last month I have not heard anything at all from him.

In view of this situation I am writing you to-day

in order to ask you to look into this matter. There is apparently nothing which will be done without your direct help and assistance. I understand also that Dr. Maron is giving up his post as President of the Cleveland District of the Z.O.A.

In asking for an early and satisfactory settlement of this matter by your personal intervention I am also prompted by another consideration. According to the latest information received here two days ago Dr. Weizmann will be arriving in this country very shortly and I simply hate the idea of having to report to him that the relatively very small amount of \$2000 couldnot be raised in Cleveland.

You know how much importance Dr. Weizmann attaches to the Rehovoth Institute and that he has to rely on financial help coming from the U.S.A. in order to maintain it. In addition to this the research work carried out there is turning out to be quite an important contribution to Great Britain's war effort in the Near East and Dr. Weizmann himself in cooperation with his chief chemist from Rehovoth is conducting a specific piece of research work which might be of national importance.

I should be very happy to hear from you soon. As to prospective contributors I like to call your attention to the fact that the following four people who attended the luncheon meeting with Dr. Weizmann still have to send their checks:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) Mr. Samuel D. Wise | (2) Mr. I.F. Freiburger |
| The Arco Co. | Cleveland Trust Co. |
| (3) Mr. Nathan L. Dauby | (4) Mr. Sidney Weil |
| The May Company | Sterling Brass Co. |

With kindest regards ,
Cordially yours ,

Josef Bohn.

Dr. Maron dated November 21st, December 9th and 19th, January 9th and finally January 27th (addressed to another person) remained unanswered. I am at a loss to understand this silence and I am afraid that I cannot count anymore on the co-operation of Dr. Maron and his friends.

As already pointed out to you in my letter of the 14th January I simply hate the idea of having to report to Dr. Weizmann that an insignificant amount of \$2000 couldnot be raised in Cleveland. You will agree with me that something must be done now with a minimum of delay.

In accordance with your suggestion I have been ready to come to Cleveland since a couple of months. I have asked Dr. Maron several times (by letter and telegram) as to a suitable date of my visit to your town. I have never received a reply.

I should, therefore, be most grateful if you would kindly inform me when it will be possible for you to see me in Cleveland so that I can have the benefit of your advice and assistance in this matter. There is no doubt in my mind that with your co-operation the money can be raised within a few days.

I shall be most happy to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

With kindest regards ,
Cordially yours ,

Josef Bohn.

enclosure

Hotel Salisbury ,
123 West 57th Street ,
NEW YORK CITY

February 6, 1941.

Rabbi Dr. Abba Hillel Silver ,
The Temple ,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Doctor Silver:

I beg to send you the enclosed copy of a letter from Dr. Weizmann which I have received this morning. I am sending you this letter primarily for the reason in order to convey to you Dr. Weizmann's present state of mind, which is so distinctly in accordance with the tune of your great and unforgettable speech in Washington. In spite of all the difficulties, with which the U.P.A. is confronted at present, I feel certain that Dr. Weizmann together with you will accomplish a great deal during his forthcoming visit. We will have to point out to him, however, that he must stay here over a period of several months though - in my opinion - it will not be necessary for him to travel too much. In New York alone tremendous things can be done which will turn the scales in our favor to such an extent that our friends on the other side will get the surprise of their life.

Dr. Weizmann's letter to me is naturally concerned with the fundraising efforts for his Chemical Institute since he has asked me to follow up his activities carried out in regard to this matter when he was here last year.

It is with deep regret that I have to bring to your attention again the question of the remaining \$2,000.00 promised to him when he visited Cleveland exactly one year ago. My last communications to

Dr. Maron dated November 21st, December 9th and 19th, January 9th and finally January 27th (addressed to another person) remained unanswered. I am at a loss to understand this silence and I am afraid that I cannot count anymore on the co-operation of Dr. Maron and his friends.

As already pointed out to you in my letter of the 14th January I simply hate the idea of having to report to Dr. Weizmann that an insignificant amount of \$2000 couldnot be raised in Cleveland. You will agree with me that something must be done now with a minimum of delay.

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I shall be most happy to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

With kindest regards ,
Cordially yours ,

Josef Bohn.

enclosure

77, Great Russell Street ,

LONDON, W.C.1.

27th January, 1941.

Dr. Josef Cohn,
Salisbury Hotel,
123 West 57th Street,
NEW YORK CITY.

My dear Josef,

It is quite possible that this letter will reach you only after my arrival in America, but as I am not yet absolutely certain about the date of my departure, I thought I had better send you a few lines.

I have before me your letter of December 24th, and also your later letter of the 1st January. Frankly they fill me with sadness. This is no reflection on your efforts, because I am sure that you are doing your best. But it seems that our friends in the States have not yet learned the lesson which the last years have taught us, and you are compelled to run after people in order to extract from them small contributions for Palestine in the midst of this most critical emergency. I could say a good deal about this, but I will leave it till we meet.

You ask me about certain matters - e.g. changing the name of the fund in order to make it more attractive to the Canadians, or negotiating with Kramarsky's and Sonnenberg's representatives here. It is difficult to convey to you how utterly incongruous all these things look when seen from our angle here. If people want to support Palestine, they should do it without strings, and without imposing additional burdens on me. I would rather have the budget at Rehovoth curtailed, (and let them go through some of the same difficulties as confront us here) than adapt myself to the point of view of those who live in false security, and believe we can deal with Palestine now in the same way as we could three years ago. These people simply cannot read the writing on the wall, and continue to live in a fool's paradise until the hour of their doom strikes. Then, in despair, they will search for a solution - and will find none.

This is also the reason why I have refused to write to H., but I do not mind your reading this letter to him. I am sure you understand, and that M. also appreciates the position.

All I can add at present is that the Institute is engaged on important work; to the testimony of the High Commissioner I could add a great many similar letters of encouragement. If that is not enough for our American subscribers I am afraid I have nothing more

to offer them, except - if I may adapt the words of the Prime Minister - work, sweat, blood and tears. It seems to me that American Jewry is a long way from realising that yet.

I can now see the end of my work here at least for the time being. The matters which have engaged my attention for the past year seem to have come to maturity, so that I hope to be able to leave very soon now. I would like to stay in America as little as possible and return here, for my place is here. But all this we can discuss when we meet. I send you my best love, and all good wishes for the successful progress of your work.

Yours ever ,

(sgn) Ch. Weizmann



COPY.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
JERUSALEM

20th September, 1940.

Dear Dr. Weizmann,

Thank you for your letter of the 26th of July about the manufacture of drugs; I received it on the 3rd of September, under cover of a letter from Dr. Bloch.

I am naturally very interested in this project which is likely to provide welcome assistance to medical services (both civil and military) in this part of the world and farther East, particularly in present circumstances. You may be rest assured that I shall do all that I properly can to encourage and support it.

There appears to be a certain amount of confusion and misunderstanding on the part of the India Office and the Government of India regarding the scale of production contemplated and the precise function of the Sieff Institute in the matter. I appreciate the facts (a) that the Institute will continue to confine itself to research work; (b) that even the separate manufacturing plant (which you describe as a "pilot plant") will produce only a limited quantity of certain drugs; and (c) that benefits over a wider field will be achieved by sending out chemists to instruct others.

Colonel Heron had been in touch with Dr. Bloch last December, and at my request he visited the Institute on the 10th September. He is most impressed with the results that have been obtained in the production of synthetic drugs, and in the discoveries and improvements that have been made. He learned from Dr. Bloch that the Institute is in touch with a British commercial manufacturing firm and with a distributing firm, and that they are ready to hand over to the former the results of their research in production. The building in the Institute compound is almost complete, but I understand that it will be four or five months before the plant and machinery can be installed.

The contemplated production of two or three tons a year should suffice for the needs of Palestine, and part of India's requirements, in these particular drugs, and the project will be a valuable one for this country. There will be no difficulty about the issue of a licence for the production plant, or the grant of export permits for drugs surplus to Palestine's requirements. Colonel Heron tells me further that the amount of imported raw materials required will be comparatively small, and will be confined to sulphuric acid, anilines and several other basic materials. Sulphuric acid may be obtainable before long from the Consolidated Refineries at Haifa.

I was most interested to learn of your appointment as Honorary Chemical Adviser to the Ministry of Supply.

With kindest regards,
Yours sincerely,

I. MACMICHAEL.

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DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TAMPLE CLEVE=

THANKS YOUR TELEGRAM WILL BE VERY GLAD TO HAVE DINNER WITH
YOU ON TUESDAY NIGHT REGARDS=

CHAIM WEIZMANN.

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

3-26-41

Dr. Chaim Weizmann
St. Regis Hotel
N. York

Delighted that you will be here April 1st.
Looking forward eagerly to your coming.
Will be delighted to have you for dinner
at my home prior to meeting if convenient.
Was greatly pleased with my tour of the
Pacific Coast where I believe we have
done some good.

Abba Hillel Silver

April 17, 1941

Mr. Nathan Loeser
800 National City Bank Building
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Loeser:

I cannot tell you how pleased I was to have the opportunity of meeting again with you in Cleveland a fortnight ago.

In accordance with your suggestion I am writing you more or less in detail what I have already explained to you somewhat briefly with a view of securing a contribution from the Foundation which you mentioned.

I beg to send you the enclosed pamphlet of the Rehovoth Laboratories from which you may gather that the Institute was founded by the Marks and Sieff families, which have contributed almost the entire amount of money required for the building and equipment. The budget of the Institute has expanded gradually, and amounts to about £20,000.0.0 at this time; and it will continue to rise due to the new requirements inherent in the development of the institution and also owing to the emergency situation arising out of the war.

It is believed, therefore, that about \$100,000 will be required to meet the budgetary needs. Up to 1940, the budget was covered by contributions primarily from Europe. There was no need to appeal to our American friends. Messrs. Marks and Sieff have always carried and are still carrying a considerable part of the budget. The balance came from various institutions and individuals in Europe. Since the outbreak of the war, the European income, with the exception of that portion derived from England, has practically disappeared.

It is not likely that the European contribution, or that even the English remittances, will be repeated in 1941, with the exception of those made by the Sieff and Marks family, so that I fear that about 75% of the budget will have to be raised in America.

Supplementing the statement embodied in the pamphlet, I would like to say that the rapid development of the Institute is in direct response to the increasing and urgent needs of the country. Its researches cover the fields of general chemistry, biological chemistry, technical chemistry, chemical botany - all problems which are also closely allied with the developments of war. Owing to the requirements created by the war situation, the Institute is engaged at present in the elaboration of three major problems of technical importance, which have already yielded practical results and will, I am sure, constitute a contribution to the war effort, namely:

- 1) Fermentation of starches and sugars in various parts of the British Empire
- 2) Conversion of oil residues as obtainable in the refinery at Haifa and elsewhere into essential material required for war and
- 3) The manufacture of drugs and pharmaceuticals for the requirements of the army and civil population in the Middle East.

Apart from these problems the Institute is engaged in purely scientific research which it publishes in the scientific Journals in England and America.

Since the war there has been a great scarcity of drugs in the entire Middle East and even in India, as this trade has been wholly in the hands of the Germans, and has therefore at present practically disappeared. We have been concentrating our energies on replacing, to some degree, the deficiency thus created, and have actually built a small factory attached to the Institute, so that in connection with a very important pharmaceutical firm, we are beginning to place on the market drugs otherwise unobtainable. These drugs have been tested by the authorities in London and found satisfactory, and were we provided with sufficient funds, and were we not handicapped by difficulties of shipping and transportation, we could manufacture and sell four or five times more than the supplies which

we are now producing, and we would cover a market extending from Egypt to India, India included. A representative of the Institute participated in the Eastern Conference held in New Delhi, and my statement is based on his report. The small factory which we have built, and which is already operating, although not as yet at its full capacity, has been erected by means of a fund of £20,000.0.0 placed at the disposal of the Institute by Mr. Daniel Wolf of Amsterdam. I am sending you under separate cover a photograph of the new factory.

I believe that I make no overstatement when I say that the scientific and technical attainments of the Institute, young as it is, can be safely classified with the performance of similar important institutions in Europe and America; and I am looking forward to a time when the Daniel Sieff Institute, supported and strengthened as it will be by the generosity of the Jewish community in America, will not only occupy a position of prominence in the scientific world, but will play a leading part in the upbuilding of Palestine.

In conclusion I would like to remark that we have located the Institution in Rehovoth because it is the home of the Agricultural Research Station, which is primarily responsible for the colonizing activity of the Jewish Agency in the last twenty years; and both institutions, working in close collaboration, are rapidly becoming the guide and instructor of our population in matters of agricultural and technical development.

I am hopeful that with the help of Dr. Silver and through your own good offices a substantial grant for the Rehovoth Institute will be forthcoming.

I remain, my dear Mr. Loeser, with kind regards,

(signed) Ch. Weizmann

Mooney, Hahn, Loeser, Keough & Freedheim

Attorneys - at - Law
National City Bank Building
Cleveland

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April 21st, 1941

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi:

I have the enclosed letter from Dr. Weizman, concerning
which I shall talk with you at your convenience.

Best wishes as always.

Sincerely yours,

Nate

NL-K

April 22, 1941

Mr. Nathan Loeser
National City Bank Building
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Nate:

Thank you for letting me see
Dr. Weizmann's letter. I trust that you
will be able to do something through the
Beaumont Fund for this very worthy cause.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.