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Zionist Organization of America, Palestine Bureau, 1946.

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

41 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N.Y.

January 15th, 1946

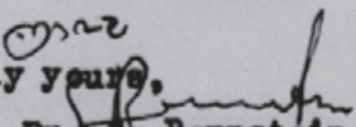
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I wish to G-d that you could arrange to be in New York on the 12th of February (Lincoln's Birthday). We would all be very happy if you could manage to attend the Chupa of my daughter, Mrs. Margalit Brill and Dr. Israel Chipkin, who too shares my hope that you be with us. The Chupa, a private one with our close friends present, will take place in the social hall (at 2 P.M.) of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, 15 West 86th Street. Rabbis Kaplan, Eisenstein and Shussheim (of Providence, R.I., a brother-in-law of Chipkin), will officiate.

After the wedding, we will all go to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cohen, 88 Central Park West, nr. 60th St., who are giving a reception from 3 to 7 P.M. in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Chipkin.

Of course, I know that a rabbi is not always his own master, especially on a legal holiday when he probably has other weddings to attend to. But it is nevertheless my fervent wish that you manage to be with us on this occasion. With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dr. S. Bernstein

Copy to Dr. Silver

MEMORANDUM

January 16, 1946

To: Dr. Sidney Marks

From: Dr. S. Bernstein

A few items which might be of interest to you.

1. It seems that finally the Polish Jews who were evacuated to Russia at the beginning of the war, are really coming back to Poland. Numerous people coming to my office show me letters from their relatives who are already back in Poland or are on the verge of leaving for home.

This means that in a few months we will have large Jewish masses back in Poland and the impact on the Palestine Bureau, in the terms of pressure for immigration visas to Palestine for these people, will be enormous. Up till now we have been sending all applications by Americans for relatives in Poland to the Central Jewish Committee in Warsaw for registration. But it is evident that we shall have to be prepared for a ~~further~~ further large influx of applications from here very soon.

2. A few days ago the British Passport Control Office in New York granted three Palestine tourist visas in important cases at my request, issuing them immediately without referring them to Palestine. Among them was Rabbi Mordecai Shulman, a delegate of the Vaad Hazala (or Agudath Israel) to Palestine. He was originally refused the visa and upon being requested to intervene on his behalf, I did not deem it wise to decline. I am sure that you agree with me in this connection.

3. It is interesting to note that in the last two weeks we have cabled to Palestine, in small remittances for individuals, an amount in excess of \$3,500. This is the average sum practically every two weeks. The money senders are American Jews whose relatives came to Palestine through our assistance and it proves how faithful they remain to their assurances to us that they would support them after their arrival in Palestine.

4. Your suggestion about printing a pamphlet containing letters of thanks and appreciation from people ~~for~~ whom the Palestine Bureau has served is a very good one, to my mind. Tehilla Feinerman is now trying to get together these letters which we have in the literal hundreds. I think that in about two weeks we can present to you such a collection. However, I will not include letters of thanks from Gov. Lehman, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Hofstadter, Federal Judge Fromberg, and other such dignitaries.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA



41 East 42nd Street, New York 17, 1946

January 16, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

You will be glad to learn that your intervention in behalf of the G.I. Bill of Rights during your stay in Palestine, for which I appealed to you in my cable of December 4, 1945, was not entirely in vain. The British Passport Control Office just informed me that they have received an order by the Palestine Government to issue 50 tourists visas to Jewish War Veterans who can prove that they have been admitted to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem or to the Technicum in Haifa. This is good news, indeed and I want to congratulate you upon this remarkable result.

Up to now, we have over 50 candidates ready to go right now, but as I mentioned to you in my said cable we have on our waiting list another 150 G.I.s. All candidates will have to be recommended by the New York Committee of Friends of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem which has to guarantee to the temporary character of stay in Palestine in behalf of all whom they recommend.

For your information I want to tell you that the Jewish Agency has wisely arranged that these "tourists" visas do not go through the intermediary of our Palestine Bureau. A great many of the G.I.'s will most probably apply in Palestine for a change of their status as permanent residents and this may prove damaging to the relations between the Palestine Bureaus and the local British Consulates with regard to applications for tourists in general. Right now it is practically impossible, not only to obtain a tourist visa for an ordinary tourist, but the British Passport Control Office in New York is instructed not even to accept such applications. As a result of the very good relations established between our Palestine Bureau and the British Passport Office, they, the British authorities in New York, make exceptions to our requests granting tourist visas in important cases on the spot without even referring the case to Jerusalem for a decision. Only the other day Mr. Wilson at my request granted three important tourists' visas, among them a delegate of the Vaad Hahatzala right away. I am very anxious that this confidence they place in me, namely that a tourist whom I recommend to them is not going to apply for any change of status and will leave Palestine within the prescribed period,

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

PAGE TWO

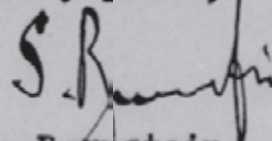
remain undiminished. This will be unavoidable the moment tourists recommended by us disclose their tendency of remaining in the country.

Our policy, therefore, will remain as follows: We will give all assistance and cooperation to the G.I.s desirous of entering the University or Technicum (later on I intend to request the Agency to include other institutions and places of study like the various teachers seminaries in Jerusalem and others) but we will not recommend them directly to the British Passport Control Office; we will recommend them only to the American Friends of the Hebrew University. They, on their part, will undertake the necessary guarantees with the British authorities. Of course, should we receive other directions from the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem in this connection we shall act accordingly.

In the meantime, I am giving all applications by the B.I. Bill of Rights to Captain Popkin of the Hechalutz who is doing a very fine job. However, I made a condition with him that he also work on the religious G.I. Bill of Rights belonging to the Hashomer Hadati, to which he readily agreed. I gave him, already, five such candidates. This may perhaps serve as a prelude to the Hashomer Hadati joining the Hechalutz which would make things much easier for the Palestine Bureau.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



Dr. S. Bernstein
Director, Palestine Bureau

SB/rg

January 18, 1946

My dear Dr. Bernstein:

It would have given me great pleasure indeed if I could accept your kind invitation to attend the wedding of your daughter and Dr. Israel Chipkin on February 12. I assure you that if I were free I would have been most happy to attend.

I have known Israel Chipkin ever since our boyhood days, and of course my friendship and high regard for you would have also prompted me to join with you on this occasion. Unfortunately, I must remain in Cleveland on that day, as I have a very important Temple function scheduled.

I wish the young people every joy in the fulfillment of the dearest wishes of their hearts.

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:GR

Dr. S. Bernstein
Zionist Organization of America
41 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

1720-16TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

PALESTINE BUREAU
SUITE 600
41 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

January 30, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Something must be done to satisfy the wide circles of Yiddish speaking elements who have put their hopes in the new administration that there would be an inauguration of a new era in the attitude of official Zionism to Yiddish. It has been the general opinion for a number of years that the Zionist Organization of America is not interested in spreading Zionism among the Yiddish-speaking masses through the channel of the Yiddish language, and it is very often pointed out that were it not for "Dos Yiddishe Folk", the Yiddish Aleph Beis would be entirely eliminated and forgotten in American Zionism. The publication of "Dos Yiddishe Folk" is also regarded somewhat as a sham device used on the part of the leadership to demonstrate their "interest" for Yiddish.

Some of our friends believe that this concern of the Yiddish speaking circles would be satisfied by a better Yiddish organ which would appear more often, say at least bi-weekly. But in reality this dissatisfaction has nothing to do with "Dos Yiddishe Folk". What these circles expect in the interest of the Zionist movement is propaganda in Yiddish carried out on a vast country-wide scale, in order to bring these neglected masses into the Zionist fold and at the same time to strengthen and revitalize Yiddish as a political and national vehicle in American Jewish life.

From what I know and hear from the various circles, it is my feeling that only the following program would be acceptable to them and serve as conclusive proof that the Zionist Organization of America is fully aware of the need and importance of Yiddish for the cause of Zionism:

1. Creation of a special Yiddish department at the Zionist headquarters with a Yiddish speakers' bureau.
2. Publication of Yiddish pamphlets from time to time for wide distribution.
3. Setting up of a special advisory board on this department consisting of balebatim, shul-yiden, well-known Yiddish writers, etc., to advise and to guide the department in all its activities. Of course, "Dos Yiddishe Folk" could serve as an important vehicle within this department for propaganda

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Executive Committee
(In addition to National Officers)

and dissemination of Zionism among wide circles of the Jewish community.

Here I wish to point out that it is one of the amazing phenomena which I never could understand, why this field is so woefully neglected even from the point of view of membership and finances.

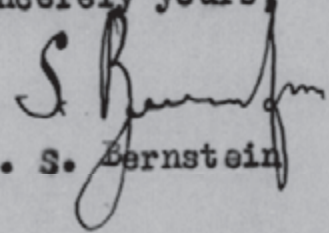
There are two distinct Yiddish speaking sections waiting to be utilized for Zionism, namely the shul-yiden and the landsmanschaften.

While the importance of the shul-yiden from a financial and membership point of view need not be over-rated, the landsmanschaften are a vast potential for us. They are all well-organized with offices, many of them in their own buildings, easily accessible, having conferences and meetings almost daily. Their support of the United Palestine Appeal has been very considerable for the past few years. There cannot be any doubt that many thousands of them would gladly join as members of the Z.O.A. and generally be of enormous help and strength to the organization. From my own experience in the Palestine Bureau, I know this to be the case. Quite a number of landsmanschaften have been in contact with my department in connection with the rescue of relatives from Europe into Palestine and at present a great many of them are sending monies to relatives and landsleit there through the intermediary of the Palestine Bureau. As a matter of fact they are the strength and practically the mainstay of the Yiddish press.

It is only the Z.O.A. that does not take cognizance of their existence. It can be stated with certainty that such an activity will open a substantial avenue of income for the Z.O.A. and bring into the movement large Jewish masses hitherto overlooked.

I believe that this is an urgent necessity of the hour.

Sincerely yours,


Dr. S. Bernstein

copy to Dr. Silver

MEMORANDUM

February 1, 1946

rec'd
2/4/46

To: Dr. Sidney Marks

From: Dr. S. Bernstein

ack
7/4/46
am

Re: My memo to Dr. Emanuel Neumann of January 25th, '46

I convened an unofficial preliminary meeting of the representatives of the four Zionist parties for January 31st. The purpose of calling this meeting with representatives of the parties entitled to representation on the Palestine Bureau was to talk over matters in order to come to the forthcoming official meeting of the Palestine Bureau prepared somewhat. The main things on the agenda of the larger meeting are supposed to be the nominations of representatives by the parties in accordance with the Congress Resolutions of 1939, and election of officers of the Palestine Bureau.

Hadassah Organization did not respond. Nor was a member of the Poale Zion present, since they are now in the midst of re-organization of their Party. But they assured me today by telephone that as soon as Wertheim will return from his tour, they will get in touch with me.

The only delegate present besides me was Rabbi Zambrowsky of the Mizrahi. In the name of his organization he stated that in their view it would serve no purpose to nominate new representatives and to elect officers. They, as are all other Zionist parties, have begun to launch their Shkel campaign and elections for the Congress, which will probably occupy them until the end of May shortly before the next World Zionist Congress will be convened. It would be an enormous waste of time and energy without any tangible results being achieved, since right after the Congress the whole procedure would probably have to be repeated.

Accordingly it is their view that a temporary committee should be appointed now at which all parties should be equally represented, and whatever the forthcoming Congress will decide on the matter, will be adhered to by them.

The Mizrahi furthermore maintain that the Palestine Bureau dealing with immigration matters shall not be confused with the projected committee for Chalutzuth. Nor would they accept the key by which the nomination of representatives of the Palestine Bureau is being effected. The Chalutzuth committee, as now proposed, is on an entirely different scale and scope than it was before the war and the approach cannot be same. Therefore, they would not accept the lowest representation on this committee.

February 4, 1946

Dr. S. Bernstein
Zionist Organization of America
Palestine Bureau
Suite 600
41 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Bernstein:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of January 30. I brought your letter to the attention of the Office Committee last Thursday. We will discuss the subject further at our next meeting.

I would suggest that you have a talk with Dr. Marks about the entire subject. I think there is merit in what you say.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

1720-16TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

PALESTINE BUREAU
SUITE 600
41 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

February 18, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Last Friday I received a cable from the Agency informing us that they expect to cable us thirty certificates for chalutzim, which means that the British Passport Control Office will be authorized to grant thirty settlers' visas for people recommended to them by us.

Since this information appeared also in a Palcor cable dispatch in the Yiddish press a day before, on Friday we were literally besieged by many middle-class people and professionals, who, as you know from my previous reports, have children in Palestine, many of whom serve in the Jewish Brigade, or are holding considerable investments in Palestine. Upon learning that the certificates announced are to be assigned to chalutzim only, I had to face quite an uproar. They maintain that at least one-third of this number ought to be granted to them and they should not be left outside entirely.

Accordingly, I have dispatched today a cable to the Agency, as per copy attached, which will give you a picture of the situation.

May I express my wish and hope that you will help me in my efforts with the Jewish Agency and drop them a good word by cable supporting our demand.

Sincerely yours,

S. Bernstein
Dr. S. Bernstein
Director, Palestine Bureau

SB/rta
encs.

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Executive Committee
(In addition to National Officers)

M A C K A Y

FEBRUARY 18, 1946

MLT

ALIYAH
JEVAGENCY
JERUSALEM (PALESTINE)

YOURS FOURTEENTH RECEIVED STOP IMPERATIVE YOU GRANT US IMMEDIATELY
AT LEAST FIFTY CERTIFICATES FOR MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE ALL OF WHOM HAVE
CHILDREN IN PALESTINE MANY SERVING IN BRIGADE STOP MAJORITY OF THEM
POSSESS CONSIDERABLE MEANS STOP ALSO FOR NUMBER PROFESSIONALS
PHYSICIANS ENGINEERS STOP ALL PRESSING FOR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE
PALESTINE STOP OUR PALESTINE BUREAU REORGANIZED ALL PARTIES
PARTICIPATING ACCORDING CONGRESS RULES STOP IT IS OUR UNANIMOUS
APPEAL YOU HELP US IN THIS CRITICAL PROBLEM

BERNSTEIN

cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Cleveland, Ohio

Also sent to:

EHADASSAH
POALE ZION
MIZRACHI
JUDENSTAATS PARTY

February 18, 1946

Dr. Sidney Marks, Executive Director
Zionist Organization of America
New York City

IMPORTANT

Dear Dr. Marks:

This is to inform you that on Tuesday, February 26, at 4:00 P. M. a meeting will be held at this office at which the Zionist organizations in America will nominate their representatives to the Palestine Bureau.

Another item on the agenda will be the cable received by us from the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem informing us that 30 Palestine immigration certificates will be authorized shortly for distribution among American chalutzim.

The nomination of representatives of all Zionist parties to the Palestine Bureau is to be carried out in accordance with the repeated requests made to us by the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem - that the representation of the parties to the Bureau be based upon the number of delegates to the last World Zionist Congress held in Geneva, Switzerland in August 1939. Therefore the following figures will be suggested:

1. Zionist Org. of America	- 34 delegates to the	World Zionist Congress...4	rep. to Palestine Bureau
2. Poale Zion Organisation	- 34 delegates to W.Z.C....4	"	"
3. Hadassah	- 29 "	" " " "....5	"
4. Misrachi	- 17 "	" " " "....2	"
5. Judenstaats Party	- 1 "	" " " "....1	"

There is to be an additional member, with voting power, of the Hechalutz Organization representing organized chalutzim groups in the United States.

We therefore ask you to kindly let us have as soon as possible the names of your representatives so that we may invite them to the meeting without delay.

Hoping to hear from you by return mail, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. S. Bernstein
Director, Palestine Bureau

SB/rta

Palestine Bureau

New York City
March 1, 1946

Mr. Samuel Liebow
27 Duncan Avenue
Jersey City, N. J.

Dear Mr. Liebow:

I am glad to inform you that authority has been received to grant to you and Mrs. Liebow the tourist visas for Palestine, in accordance with the attached copy of letter from the British Passport Control Office in New York.

The amount of \$7.04 will be forwarded to you in a few days, under separate cover, by our bookkeeping department.

As soon as you have your passport please go up to your travel agent who will submit it to the British Passport Control Office where it will be vised for Palestine. The visas are valid for six months. You will also need an Egyptian visa which is difficult to get. I shall be glad to submit the matter to the Royal Egyptian Consulate in New York for you.

Sincerely yours,

S.B.
Dr. S. Bernstein
Director, Palestine Bureau

SB/tf/rta
enc.

✓ cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

March 1st, 1946

From: Dr. S. Bernstein,
Director, Palestine Bureau

To: The Members of the Committee of the Palestine Bureau

In a letter dated February 14th, 1946, the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Jerusalem writes us:

"We earnestly request the Palestine Bureaus to carry out the agreement made between us and the Agudas Israel and Revisionists with regard to their share in the certificates. Of course, in countries where these organizations do not exist, the agreement does not apply. But where these organizations do function and if they have suitable candidates, the certificates have to be approved to them in accordance with the following ratio which has been adopted:

7% - - - Agudas Israel

3% - - - Revisionists

The Palestine Bureaus are urged to comply with the terms of this agreement and to confirm this to us in writing. Otherwise we shall have to, much against our will, dispatch in the future certificates issued in the specific names of the candidates on account of the general quota which is allocated to each country."

MEMORANDUM

March 1st, 1946

To: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

From: Dr. S. Bernstein

I should like to bring to your attention a few items on the immigration activities of our bureau in which you will be interested:

1..... The 30 certificates for chalutzim which we have received have been distributed by the Committee of the Palestine Bureau in the following manner:

21 certificates to Hechalutz

4 " " Hashomer Hadati (Mizrachi)

5 " being held in abeyance in view of the cable request which we have received from the Agency to grant three certificates to Revisionists and two to Agudas Israel. Since the order of the Agency specifies that the certificates be granted to these organizations if suitable candidates are available, it is the view of the Committee that this obviously means that they must comply with the principal requirement, namely H a c h s h a r a. Only then will the certificates be granted to them. Otherwise, only one certificate each shall be placed at their disposal in token of compliance. Attached you will find an extract of a letter from the Jewish Agency, referring to this matter.

2.....In reply to the cable we sent to the Agency appealing for at least 50 certificates for those American residents^{who} have children in Palestine, the Agency cabled us that the children should be advised by the parents to submit the applications directly to the Government in Jerusalem on behalf of their parents desiring to rejoin them. Therefore, I have advised the people concerned, numbering over 100, to act accordingly. It seems that the Palestine Government is now considering a plan to permit parents whose children reside in Palestine for a length of time to enter the country. Members of the Jewish Brigade and others are entitled to this privilege even if they arrived in the country illegally. In this category we have about one-half dozen cases.

3.....An interesting item was mentioned in the ~~Internal~~ Internal Bulletin of the Agency which is sent to us for our confidential information, -- that the Government is considering the possibility of admitting "capitalists" (either as such or as tourists) with the instruction on the part of the Agency: At any rate, those concerned should apply directly to the Government". This item, of course, is of the utmost importance to us and I have cabled yesterday to the Agency inquiring whether we should submit these applications to the Government through the British Passport Control Office in New York. I expect their reply in a few days and if they give me the green light, I may submit about 100 capitalist applications. Incidentally, I should like to remark that these are ~~in~~ capitalists without quotation marks.

4.....We have been informed by the Jewish Agency that a Palestine Bureau has been opened in Munich to take care of the immigration matters of all displaced persons within the American zone of occupation. Up till now these camps belonged to the jurisdiction of the Palestine Bureau in Paris, to whom our applications have been forwarded. Accordingly we have requested Paris to forward all our applications to Munich and we have today received their cable reply that this has been done. Altogether there were over one thousand persons involved, relatives of American Jews in whose behalf we have applied, and their numbers are increasing daily.

5.....I must give credit to the Palestine Government that they are acting with utter fairness and correctness with regard to applications for returning residents. Up till now we have submitted over 200 applications comprising 500 persons, practically all of whom have been granted return visas, with the exception of two cases where previous residence in Palestine could not be established. In a large measure we owe this to the cooperation of the British Passport Control Office in New York, with whom we are at present on very friendly terms and who submit our cases - mostly complicated ones - with patience and good will.

Every week we receive further applications of American Jews, former residents of Palestine, of whom there are still in this country over 1000, who sooner or later will have to return.

It is remarkable that although the permission to return to Palestine was originally granted to persons who left Palestine "after the outbreak of war", in September 1939, quite a number of cases were favorably culminated where the persons concerned had left Palestine as far back as 1929.

S. B.

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

1720-16TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

PALESTINE BUREAU
SUITE 600
41 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

March 7, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

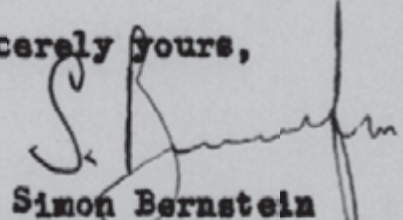
I just had an interesting conference with the people in the JDC and I was shown a cable just received from their representative in Teheran. The cable states that on March 1st ten Polish Jews arrived there from Russia, all of whom having received Russian exit permits and Palestine Immigration Certificates. The cable further states that according to reliable information a considerable transmigration movement from Russia may start in the near future.

The Certificates, I believe, are part of the over 100 Certificates which have been dispatched by the Palestine Government to the British Embassy in Moscow about three years ago to be issued to those who are able to leave Russia. Only recently the Agency in Jerusalem mentioned to us in a letter the fact that not a single certificate had been issued since.

Perhaps this is an indication for a new beginning. Let's hope so.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,


Dr. Simon Bernstein
Director, Palestine Bureau

SB:dh

MEMORANDUM

March 28, 1946

To: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
From: Dr. S. Bernstein

Attached please find a copy of the letter which I wrote to Mr. Sol Cohen which will be of interest to you and I know that you will read it carefully.

S.B.

Copy - Mr. Abba Hillel Silver

New York, N. Y.
March 28, 1946

Mr. Sol Cohen, Chairman
Subcommittee, Palestine Bureau
11 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Cohen:

The budget of the Palestine Bureau is now, as a result of its ever-expanding activities, growing almost from month to month.

Right now, we have before us an enormous task in connection with the Jews in Hungary, all relatives of American Jews, which will require a special effort for the duration of two to three months with quite a substantial cost. As you know, we have, during the year 1944-1945, secured 11,000 certificates for Hungarian Jews of whom only a small number were enabled to escape and utilize the certificates. The fate of the others remains unknown to us. In the meantime all those unused certificates have been invalidated by the Palestine Government as of January 1, 1945.

In early 1945 we forwarded to the Palestine Bureau in Budapest (functioning under the name of HICEM) about 7,000 to 8,000 names for whom we have formerly applied, asking information as to what has become of them. The lists have been forwarded with the assistance of the State Department via Lisbon, Portugal.

A few days ago we received an enormous batch of detailed replies concerning many thousands of those victims. Accordingly, it is now our task to communicate with the American relatives, and, in an overwhelming number of cases, to re-submit applications for the renewal of their invalidated certificates.

Not only is it physically impossible for our present staff to handle this matter, but we do not have the space for the performance of this task. We will be visited daily by literally hundreds of people who will simply besiege not only our offices but perhaps the entire building.

It therefore will be necessary to arrange for at least two rooms somewhere, probably in the Hotel Broadway Central, and put two or three girls on the job under the supervision of Miss Kathleen Katonah, the Hungarian girl who worked for us during our great "Hungarian campaign" about a year and a half ago.

Now I am wondering why the Z.O.A. should have to bear all the expenses alone. Continuously we are rendering very great services to the U.P.A., the J.N.F., and to Hadassah, who are kind enough to express to us their recognition and admiration in a great many letters for our wonderful cooperation--but don't show any sign of readiness

(continued)

Mr. Sol Cohen

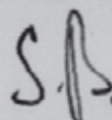
Page 2

March 28, 1946

to participate in the budget of the Palestine Bureau. I am confident that if the matter were brought to their attention they would be fair enough to recognize the justice of our claim and most willingly would be prepared to act accordingly.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Dr. S. Bernstein
Director, Palestine Bureau

SB/rta



April 14, 1946

Dr. Simon Bernstein, Director
Palestine Bureau
Zionist Organization of America
41 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Bernstein:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I received from my young friend Jay Kaufman. It is self-explanatory.

Any help that you can give Mr. Kaufman would be deeply appreciated. He is a very fine and deserving man, and deeply loyal to Zionism and Palestine.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

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J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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

May 4, 1946

WANT A REPLY?

"Answer by WESTERN UNION"
or similar phrases may be
included without charge.

Dr. Simon Bernstein
Zionist Organization of America
41 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.



RECEIVED YOUR TELEGRAM. WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH
EMERGENCY COUNCIL WHICH MEETS THIS AFTERNOON. KINDEST REGARDS.

Silver

GR

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

41 EAST 42ND STREET

• MURRAY HILL 2-3205

• NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

PALESTINE BUREAU

DR. SIMON BERNSTEIN, *Director*

May 6, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

There are a few things in connection with our immigration problems which I think you ought to be informed about.

- 1) It seems that the Egyptian Consulate is prepared to issue transit visas to Palestinians. With regard to Americans--they will grant visas for tourists submitting a letter from the State Department guaranteeing their return, but not to those who go there to stay. There will be a boat sailing on June 8th, and it is my hope that we might induce the War Shipping Administration to direct the boat to Haifa. In the meantime, I have cabled to the Palestine Bureau in Paris, France, requesting them to let us know by cable when and how often boats sail from Marseilles to Haifa. I understand that boats from there are leaving twice monthly--one to Alexandria and one directly to Haifa. It would be good to utilize Marseilles so as to completely avoid the Egyptians. Before the war, we always used that route. There is no reason why Americans couldn't resume this route in spite of the higher cost of \$75 to \$100 this may involve.
- 2) On the VULCANIA, there were supposed to sail, in addition to 150 of our people, another 36 people, some of them non-Jews, who are going to participate at the Conference of Scientists to be opened in Jerusalem on May 29th.

Frankly speaking, I gave word to the chalutzim and to a great many others, not to go on the VULCANIA sailing May 11th even if the Egyptian Consul would be prepared to grant the visas. The idea that these people should have to travel by railroad from Alexandria to Palestine for a full 24 hours is, to my mind, not a very inspiring one. The other day I received information from those who travelled on the VULCANIA on March 29th that it came to bloody fist fights on the boat between Jews and Egyptians. A large group of Jews had been detained for three full days in Alexandria under the guard of Egyptian police until they finally had been transported under military guard, and safely arrived in Palestine. I was glad to learn that Mrs. Lebow was not among those detained--neither were other women--and that she was able to continue her trip to Jerusalem unmolested.

(continued)

Under the circumstances, it seems to me quite hazardous to risk, under the present Stimmung, again bringing such a large group of Jews to Alexandria.

- 3) A few days ago I had a luncheon conference with Messrs. Williams and Wilson of the British Passport Control Office here, for three hours. We settled quite a number of cases. First of all, we had to settle the problem of the 30 chalutzim certificates, a very difficult problem indeed since the Palestine Government instructed the British Passport Control Office to use their discretion in cases of married chalutzim who are not accompanied by their husbands. I was disgusted with the large list of married women going without husbands submitted to me by the Hechalutz. It seems that the husbands are already over there with Mr. Aliyah Beth, and although Mr. Williams, who is the chief, did not speak too much about the absence of the husbands, he told me that he "hates" these cases. He finally stated that he would take my word for it and granted them the visas. However, I informed the Hechalutz that under no circumstances will I, from now on, recommend to the British authorities here a married chalutza if her husband is not present in this country and will not personally appear at the Consulate to give his consent to his wife's departure.

The Palestine Bureau has acquired the good-will and friendship of the British officials to a degree of highest satisfaction, as a result of many years cooperation and it would be disastrous indeed to lose this good-will for the sake of a half-dozen eager chalutzim who do not know what consequences may follow for the many hundreds of travellers under various categories, depending on the confidence and good-will of the men of the British Passport Control Office.

- 4) After his more than *1012* *hours* Mr. Williams told me in confidence that the Palestine Government is anxious to have Americans come to Palestine "with money", either as tourists with intentions of investing capital there, or even for settling in Palestine, whereupon Mr. Wilson, the old sea bear of the Control Office, remarked to me "Of course they don't mean your \$5,000 millionaires." I immediately submitted to him ten such names, with all details, to whom he stated he will issue tourist visas right here without referring to the Government in Palestine. Seven of these men belong to a group formed by Frank Cohen, and one of them is Mr. Wolf, the lawyer of Lessing Rosenwald and belongs to the American Council for Judaism. They intend to invest ~~the~~ large capital in Palestine in connection with the Jordan almond production in which Frank Cohen is interested.

(continued)

But more important, Mr. Williams agreed to apply for certificates for capitalists who are prepared to take their money to Palestine. I explained we now have on our files applications for a large number of such people possessing capital of \$25,000 - \$100,000. He was greatly impressed by it. He finally agreed that I submit to him a list of 25 people in this category which he will then submit to the Government with the endorsement of the local British authorities- i.e., by Mr. Wann, head of the Commercial Department of the Consulate. I am now working on the selection of those names which I think I will submit to him in about 8 to 10 days. This will probably be in line with what the Jewish Agency reported to us in one of their recent internal circulars, indicating that the Government is contemplating the introduction of the special category of American capitalists as desirable settlers for Palestine.

With kindest regards, I am

SB/rta

Sincerely yours,

Dr. S. Bernstein
Director, Palestine Bureau

P.S. A good friend of ours of the Fern Line just called me up stating that there is a freighter leaving directly for Haifa on Sunday, May 12th. I implored him to take about 25 of our people on that boat, although there is only room for 12. I am hopeful that as many as possible will go. There may be another such boat early in June.

S.B.

COPY

VIA MACKAY

MAY 14, 1946

NLF

DOBKIN SHAPIRO
JEVAGENCY
JERUSALEM (PALESTINE)

AM PERTURBED BERNSTEINS DIFFICULTIES STOP IF YOU CAN HELP US
WITH DOZEN OR SO CERTIFICATES FOR WEALTHIER MIDDLE CLASS
PEOPLE BY ALL MEANS DO SO

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
SILVER

SENT BY DR. BERNSTEIN

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

41 EAST 42ND STREET • MURRAY Hill 2-3205 • NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

PALESTINE BUREAU
DR. SIMON BERNSTEIN, Director

May 29, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Re the cable which you received from Dobkin.
Please note that it was a reply to the cable which I sent
to him under your signature.

It was a moment of despair and I thought your
signature was important. I am sure you did not mind.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Dr. S. Bernstein

P.S. I was glad to inform yesterday Dr. Maxwell Silver
that a visa has been granted to him and his wife to visit
your parents, and was delighted to hear the fine report
which Mrs. Liebow is giving about them.

I again stress with pride that here I proved to be
right.

SB.

June 18, 1946

Dr. S. Bernstein
Zionist Organization of America
41 E. 42nd St.
New York 17, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Bernstein:

I heard from my sister, Mrs. Eli Liebow, who is now visiting our parents in Jerusalem, that she has completed her visit and is eager to return at the earliest possible time to the States. She asks me to do whatever I can to facilitate her return. I know of no better way of doing this than by turning to you. I am sure that you will do all that you can in this regard.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

41 EAST 42ND STREET

MURRAY HILL 2-3205

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

June 24, 1946

PALESTINE BUREAU

DR. SIMON BERNSTEIN, *Director*

Re: Your letter of June 18.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Shipping accommodations from Palestine to America belongs today to the realm of the almost-impossible. Palestine is the only over-seas country which is practically isolated from the whole world; this, at a time when many hundreds of visitors to and from there are waiting in vain for the solution of their problem.

Immediately upon receipt of your letter I cabled to the Agency urging them to make every effort to secure shipping accommodations for Mrs. Eli Liebow. I also asked that if intervention from here with the American Consulate in Jerusalem is advisable they should so cable us.

For the moment I have two suggestions to offer you:

1. That you should cable to Mr. Pinkerton, the American Consul General in Jerusalem, asking him to be helpful to Mrs. Liebow in regard to a ship. I have in mind the S. S. *Matine Shark* which is leaving New York July 13 with a large number of people headed for Palestine. This ship will probably make her return trip to the United States during the first week in August. I believe that a message from you to the Consul will be exceedingly helpful. Or,

2. We should ask the State Department at Washington, D.C. to cable the American Minister in Cairo requesting him to convey to Mr. Pinkerton in Jerusalem, over whom the American Ministry in Cairo has jurisdiction, urging that he secure passage on the boat for Mrs. Liebow. I had a similar experience about a year ago which was concluded very satisfactorily.

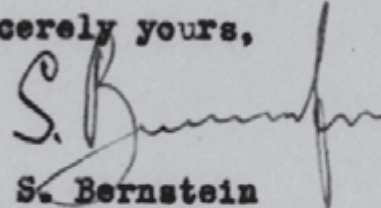
There is practically nothing else which can be done in this matter. I hope to hear from the Agency in a few days what the chances are.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio
June 24, 1946
Page 2.

I shall be glad to hear from you and also I shall be
happy to act in accordance with your views.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Dr. S. Bernstein
Director, Palestine Bureau

sb.sbp



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

41 EAST 42ND STREET • MUrray Hill 2-3205 • NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

PALESTINE BUREAU
DR. SIMON BERNSTEIN, *Director*

June 24, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am sending you attached herewith - for your kind information - copy of a cable which I have today dispatched under your signature to Dobkin, with regard to tourist visas for Dr. Felix LEVY and his wife.

This was an emergency case in which I had to act without delay. Rabbi Lelyveld brought me the message from Mr. Kaufmann, asking that the visas be secured for them at once, since they are booked to fly on July 19th.

Now, I could obtain visa for Dr. Levy alone at once, without having the case referred to Palestine. But he maintains that without his wife he will not go. So, it was necessary for me to refer the matter with the utmost of speed and without the loss of a single day. Under the circumstances I thought it imperative that such a cable go out under your signature and I am confident that you have no objection.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Dr. S. Bernstein

enc.

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Cy for Dr. Silver

TO OBTAIN OUR FAST AND ACCURATE SERVICE
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IN THE SPACE BELOW.

"Via

MACKAY

99

NLT

DOBKIN
JEVAGENCY
JERUSALEM (PALESTINE)

WRHS

JUNE 24, 1946



PLEASE ARRANGE BRITPASS BE AUTHORIZED ISSUE TOURIST
VISAS TO DR. FELIX ALEXANDER LEVY DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN
RABBI AND WIFE CELIA PROMINENT IN PHILANTHROPIC AND
COMMUNAL ACTIVITIES STOP THEY HAVE BEEN DELEGATED BY
EDMUND I. KAUFMANN TO ~~REKARE~~ PREPARE SUITABLE PROJECT
FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF HOSTELRIES FOR CHALUTZIM AND CHALUTZOTH
WHICH HE READY TO FINANCE SUBSTANTIALLY STOP LEVYS SCHEDULED
FLY JULY NINETEENTH STOP HOPE FOR SPEEDY AUTHORIZATION REGARDS

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Sender's Name and Address

ORDINARY MESSAGE UNLESS MARKED OTHERWISE — SEE OTHER SIDE FOR CLASSES OF SERVICE