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Zionist Organization of America, Committee on Unity for
Palestine, 1946-1947.

Memorandum

COMMITTEE ON UNITY FOR PALESTINE

SUITE 600

From: RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD

41 East 42nd Street • MU 2-3205 • New York 17

To: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date: September 4, 1946

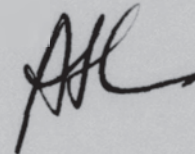
Subject:

Rabbi Louis I. Newman called me last week to tell me that he fully supports our position vis-a-vis other Zionist spokesmen, and that he is eager to cooperate with you in every way possible.

He asked me to convey these sentiments to you.

Cordial regards.

AJL:rl



September 20, 1946

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld
Committee on Unity for Palestine
41 East 42 Street
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Lelyveld:

I have received copy of your letter to Dr. Silver tendering your resignation as Director of the Committee on Unity for Palestine. It comes as an unpleasant surprise to me because I had fully counted on your continuing to direct this work.

If your resignation is due to personal reasons and is irrevocable, I can only regret it but if it reflects misgivings in your mind regarding the future position of this activity within the framework of the ZOA program, I would like to see the matter threshed out fully before having your resignation acted upon. You have done a valuable piece of work which is, I am sure, fully appreciated.

With kind regards and best wishes for the New Year,
as ever

Faithfully yours,

Emanuel Neumann

EN/M

Committee on UNITY FOR PALESTINE

41 EAST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

DR. FELIX A. LEVY
Chairman

NATHAN STRAUS III
Vice-Chairman

RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD
Executive Director

RABBI JEROME UNGER
Field Director

October 8, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th & Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

The Annual Convention of the Zionist Organization of America will take place October 25th-29th in Atlantic City, N. J. at the Hotels Breakers and St. Charles. I want to urge you most strongly to make every effort to be present at this most important Convention of the Z.O.A. in what is perhaps the most crucial period of our movement.

The Convention Committee has assured the Committee on Unity, of time during the Convention program, for a consideration of our work, reports on the year's activities, and discussion and consideration of program and possibilities for the future. Since this will have been the first opportunity since the last convention for all of our key representatives and committee members to get together for such a meeting, I am urging you not only to be present at the Convention but to take part in our Committee deliberations.

We will have a brief meeting on the Sunday morning of the Convention for a report of our activities, and a longer meeting on Monday morning for an adequate discussion of our whole program and our future plans. Rabbi Lelyveld and Rabbi Unger are eagerly looking forward to meeting with you and having the benefit of your counsel and advice.

May I again urge you to make every effort to attend?

With cordial regards and best wishes for the New Year, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Felix A. Levy

Dr. Felix A. Levy
Chairman

FAL:rl

Committee on UNITY FOR PALESTINE

41 EAST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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NATHAN STRAUS III
Vice-Chairman

RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD
Executive Director

—
RABBI JEROME UNGER
Field Director

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

October 14, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

In view of the fact that Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld will cease to be Executive Director of the Committee on Unity on October 31st, I am naturally concerned over the status and future of the Committee and my association with it. I am eager to continue serving this cause which has achieved so much in the last two years under Rabbi Lelyveld's leadership.

You will agree, I am sure, that the status of the Committee should be defined as soon as possible so that those of us engaged in its work may have a clear understanding of the direction in which we are going. For several weeks I have been planning a tour of the Southeast Region to begin on November 2nd. I am averse to canceling this trip, and similarly averse to being absent from my office in the first days of whatever new arrangements must be made occasioned by Rabbi Lelyveld's resignation. It is because of this that I seek your advice and guidance. I hope that I may hear from you as soon as possible.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Emanuel Neumann, and I am asking him for an appointment in order to discuss the whole matter at length.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Jerome Unger

Rabbi Jerome Unger
Field Director

JU:hsl

Memorandum

COMMITTEE ON UNITY FOR PALESTINE

SUITE 600

From: RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD

41 East 42nd Street • MU 2-3205 • New York 17

To: Dr. Silver

Date: October 16, 1946

Subject:

An idea occurred to me last night which is essentially simple but which I am prompted to submit to you because I have not seen or heard it expressed before and because it seems to me that it has potentialities.

It involves the use of the International Court of Justice provisions in the United Nations Charter in a manner that would bring our government to the point of either accepting or rejecting a demand from us for positive action on the question of Palestine. It would also provide the most effective kind of public relations pressure against Great Britain.

This is the substance of my proposal:

I. We call attention to the fact that under Chapter IV, Article 92 of the United Nations Charter, the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and its statute is an integral part of the Charter.

II. We note that under Chapter 2, Article 34 of that Statute, the competence of the Court extends to all legal disputes concerning "the existence of any fact, which, if established, would constitute a breach of international obligations." We note further that the Court is to decide such disputes on the basis of international convention and "the general principles of law recognized by civilized nations," and that the Court, under Article 65 of the statute, "may give an advisory opinion on any legal question at the request of whatever body may be authorized by or in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to make such a request."

III. We call attention to the existence of a valid international convention existing between the United States and Great Britain known as the American-British Palestine Convention of December 3, 1924.

IV. We hold that this convention has been violated in several instances by Great Britain, and that it is at present being ignored by Great Britain in violation of her international obligations. We note that the convention incorporates the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine which recognizes the authority of the League of Nations, and that the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations has already ruled on Great Britain's violation of her obligations under that Mandate. In this connection, we call attention to Article 37 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice which reads: "Whenever a treaty or convention in force provides for reference of a matter to a tribunal to have been instituted by the League of Nations...the matter shall, as between parties to the present Statute, be referred to the International Court of Justice."

V. We also note that in Article 80 of the United Nations Charter, provision is made to prevent alteration "in any manner" of "the rights whatsoever of any states or any peoples or the terms of existing international instruments to which members of the United Nations may respectively be parties."

VI. We believe that the foregoing provides us with an irrefutable case for demanding:

a. That the Executive of the United States Government shall immediately inform Great Britain of her desire to bring this matter before the International Court of Justice, or failing Great Britain's assent to this, shall seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice in the event that Great Britain shall continue to violate and/or ignore the provisions of the American-British Palestine Convention of 1924.

b. That in the event that Great Britain shall, within a specified period, fail to act on this request, we demand that the Executive of the United States Government shall take the initiative in accusing Great Britain of a treaty violation and in using such recourse as we may have to the International Court of Justice.

I believe this idea has the following points of merit:

1. It has the virtue of being concrete. We would ask the United States to inform Great Britain of its desire to bring before the International Court of Justice the matter of the violation of an international obligation to which the United States is a party.

2. It is founded not on the issue of the status quo in Palestine, which the British are attempting to make the center of all negotiations today, but rather in the proper context of the matter, namely, the immediate historic background and the sound legal case on which we base our claim to Palestine.

3. It would provide a specific demand for reasonable, concrete action which we could make to our government as a public test of the sincerity of the statements and promises which have been given to us by the administration.

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I am understandably eager to hear your reaction to the foregoing, and I shall appreciate an opportunity to talk with you about it.

Kindest regards,

Charles L. Heywood

HOW DOES HE **DARE** Put Stumbling Blocks In Their Way

A Million and a Half Homeless Jews Look to Palestine

Hear What Our President Says:

The New York Times

(N. Y. Times, Oct. 29, 1946)

The Government and people of the United States have given support to the concept of a Jewish national home in Palestine ever since the termination of the first World War, which resulted in the freeing of a large area of the Near East, including Palestine, and the establishment of a number of independent states which are now members of the United Nations. The United States, which contributed its blood and resources to the winning of that war, could not divest itself of a certain responsibility for the manner in which the freed territories were disposed of, or for the fate of the peoples liberated at that time. It took the position, to which it still adheres, that these peoples should be prepared for self-government and also that a national home for the Jewish people should be established in Palestine. I am happy to note that most of the liberated peoples are now citizens of independent countries. The Jewish national home, however, has not as yet been fully developed.

Palestine Entry Favored

It is only natural, therefore, that this Government should favor at this time the entry into Palestine of considerable numbers of displaced Jews in Europe, not only that they may find shelter there but also that they may contribute their talents and energies to the upbuilding of the Jewish national home.

RABBI ELMER BERGER, Executive Director of the AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM, told a Pittsburgh audience.
(from the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph, Oct. 11, 1946)

OPPOSES PRESIDENT

Dr. Berger said his group was partially opposed to President Truman's recent letter to England on the Palestine situation. He said the President implied a partition of Palestine to allow a Jewish state. He added:

"We approve of the section calling on nations of the world to take in displaced persons as new citizens."

"I believe, however, the President showed bad taste when he asked England to admit 100,000 persons into Palestine before the political situation was cleared there and before this country could aid the situation."

He said his group holds that Judaism is a religion and not a political creed. He added:

"We believe the salvation of Jews lies not in herding them into one compact plot of land, but in encouraging the struggle for equal rights for individual Jews all over the world."

Repudiate This Negative Quibbling

Support a Positive Jewish Program

Write to the

COMMITTEE ON UNITY FOR PALESTINE, 41 East 42nd Street, Suite 600, New York 17, N. Y.

Committee on **UNITY FOR PALESTINE**
of the Zionist Organization of America

41 EAST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

DR. FELIX A. LEVY
Chairman

DR. DAVID POLISH
Co-Chairman

NATHAN STRAUS, III
RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD
Vice-Chairmen

—
RABBI JEROME UNGER
Executive Director

January 14, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th and Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio

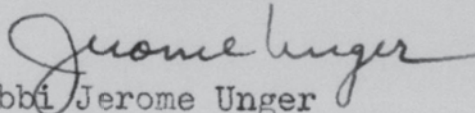
Dear Dr. Silver:

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Unity for Palestine, and formerly Executive Director, has accepted an invitation of the Cleveland Chapter of the American Jewish Committee to address its meeting on February 10th on the subject of "Zionism." I have cleared this matter with the American Zionist Emergency Council who feel that not only would his address be acceptable but most desirable.

I thought that you would like to know in advance about Rabbi Lelyveld's coming to Cleveland.

With warm regards and greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,


Rabbi Jerome Unger
Executive Director

JU:hsl