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Sub-series A: Main Manson File, 1940-1949.

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Ben Gurion, David, and Chaim Weizmann split, 1942.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

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TELEPHONE LONGACRE 5-2600

June 25, 1942.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
E. 105 Street and Ansel Rd
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Silver:

I write to you briefly and hurriedly about certain things and await your immediate reply.

One: Am very happy that you went to Chicago and had a good talk with CW, to whom it meant a good deal. Saturday, all day,--I wish you might be with us,--four or five of us are to sit down with CW and BG and try to hammer out the bitter differences that have arisen between the two men and touching which I wrote to BG, as you may have heard, that, with Tobruk gone, this is no time for internecine strife.

Two: Again, on Sunday afternoon, we of the American Jewish Congress are going to initiate a great United Jewish War Effort for Britain, Russia and China, and I cannot help feeling that Palestine should be included in the effort. Many Jews, to whom appeal will be made, will be very happy to include Palestine within the group of beneficiary nations or peoples. The feeling is that I ought to serve as Chairman of the effort, but there is the equally strong feeling, which I more than share, that you and I be associated as Co-Chairmen, and I must add at once that there is a very urgent reason for your doing this;

Namely, everything now waits upon the War Chest decision. If the War Chest decision come, I think that somehow the UPA would be out of it, though the JDC would probably, through some hocus-pocus, get into it, nominally because it is a relief organization. If you served with me as Co-Chairman of the United Jewish War Effort, you could serve as our representative in relation to a Committee which is being organized and of which JDC has been invited to be a member on the relief side. I could suggest, and in any event, will suggest to Aldrich, who is the real head of the enterprise, that you be called in because you are the head of the UPA. But I most earnestly wish that, despite your UPA duties and additional duties which I hope you will accept, that you will undertake to serve as Co-Chairman, even though we know your time and strength for service would necessarily be limited.

Will you not be good enough to call me up, reversing charges, in the morning, between 9:30 and 11:30 (Trafalgar 7-4050). After 11:30, I shall be out of the office because of medical treatment.

With warmest greeting,

Yours,

Wise

SSW:S

June 26, 1942

Dr. Stephen S. Wise
340 W. 57th St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Wise:

Let me thank you for your letter of June 25. I am glad to know that you have written to BG about his differences with CW. It would be tragic if at this moment a public controversy which would split our movement would develop. I am amazed that BG, who is a disciplined Zionist and certainly loyal to the cause in every regard, does not appreciate the catastrophic nature of the course upon which he is embarking. You must tell him that regardless of our personal feelings as to the relative merits of their opposing procedures, responsible American Zionists will not be parties today to an attack on CW.

As far as the United Jewish war effort is concerned, I should like to say the following: We had a meeting of the Board of the UJA on Tuesday which you could not attend. At this meeting there was a lengthy discussion about the role of the UJA in the War Chest movement which is developing in the country. You know, of course, that the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds has called a meeting for this Saturday of the chairmen and executive directors of the welfare funds of thirteen of the largest communities in the United States at which meeting the entire subject will be thoroughly discussed. It was the consensus of opinion at the meeting, last Tuesday, that the representatives of the UJA who had been invited to attend the conference called by the Council will take the position which they took a few months ago when the Jewish community of Kansas City informed us of its decision to enter a War Chest, namely - that for the time being the UJA is in no position to advise communities whether they should enter a War Chest or not, but that if they decide to enter a War Chest, they must see to it that the interests of the UJA are fully protected, and that quotas certainly no less than that of 1942 or 1941 (whichever is the larger) should be insisted upon.

The Board of the UJA decided also to appoint a committee to study the matter, to consult all interested bodies, and to bring

Dr. Stephen S. Wise

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June 26, 1942

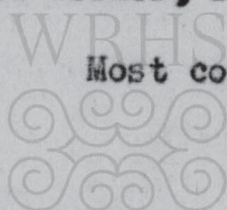
in a report to the next meeting or to a special meeting which may be called for that purpose.

Pending such developments, it would be unwise, in my judgment, for the UPA to be represented on the United Jewish war effort, or any other set-up. Should the War Chest idea be agreed upon, it is not likely that the UJA would enter it as an independent body, or any of the constituents of the UJA. It would be the welfare funds in each community which would be merged within the drive, and these welfare funds will include the UJA. It would not do for the UJA to break away from the Jewish Welfare Funds to join the War Chest, assuming even that the welfare funds would permit it. It certainly is premature for the UPA to make such a move. The feeling at the meeting, last Tuesday, was that the three agencies act as a unit and carefully explore the whole situation before any decisive action is taken.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



Hotel Winthrop
Lexington Avenue & 47 Street
New York, N. Y.

July 7, 1942

Dr. Stephen S. Wise
40 West 68 Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Wise:

Thank you for your letter of July sixth. There is some misunderstanding in your reply to my letter of June 30. In that letter I asked you a question of fact-- whether there has already been a decision and whether you took part in the decision, on the organizational forms of Dr. Weizmann's activities in this country-- as this is the claim which Dr. Weizmann made in a letter written to me on June 15, in which he says: "Even the organizational form of my activities was decided upon after long and serious discussions with all our colleagues."

As I have no idea of these discussions and don't know what the decision is, I asked you, Judge Levinthal, Robert Szold and Nahum Goldmann, whether they happen to know anything about it, and I will be exceedingly grateful if you will be able to tell me whether you took part in these long and serious discussions, and what decision was taken. It is clear that this decision must have been taken, if ever, before June 15 when Weizmann made this assertion in his letter to me.

As for the future, after the attitude taken by Dr. Weizmann at the meeting held in your study, that the way ^{he} has acted until now was all right and he will continue to act in the same way, nothing is left for me but to do what I told you in my letter of June 25: "Unless this disastrous situation

can immediately be remedied, no other course will be left for me than to ask *the* Executive and the Actions Committee in Palestine to call for his resignation." I cannot do this before the grave danger threatening Palestine passes, as I still hope it may. Until that will be possible I will have to inform the leaders of the Zionist parties officially of the unfortunate situation which was created by the unauthorized and, in my view, irresponsible action of Dr. Weizmann.

Yours sincerely,

D. Ben-Gurion
David Ben - Gurion

