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

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Jewish Agency, general, 1943-1944.

March 28, 1943

Mr. Meyer N. Weisgal
41 East 42nd St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Weisgal:

Thank you for your letter of March 25 and for the tentative plan which you sent me. I wish to make just one or two observations.

In the first place it is absolutely important that the so-called Office Committee of the Emergency Committee be abolished. As long as it remains it will be in the way and will attempt to duplicate the work of the Political Department. The members of the Political Department will meet frequently, and there is no need for an Office Committee. There will probably be a professional staff which will meet regularly, but this staff should be under the Political Department, and not the Emergency Committee. This is the crux of the whole situation. Political planning and authority should be concentrated in the hands of a small committee which will have full authority to act without having to refer their decisions for approval to any other body. This Committee should make regular reports and should regularly consult with the Emergency Committee, representing all the Zionist parties in the United States, and larger groupings if found desirable. But the planning, execution and responsibility should be that of the Political Department, working in closest contact with the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

I do not believe that this Political Department should make independent efforts to raise funds in the United States to carry on its work. Whatever it needs for executive work during the war should come out of the budget of the Jewish Agency, and should be provided for by ear-marked funds raised by the United Palestine Appeal. The funds which have heretofore been going to the Emergency Committee should now be channeled into the Political Department. The Emergency Committee should be granted a small budget for administrative purposes.

In other words, there are two conditions, in my judgment, prerequisite for the success of the proposed plan: (1) Complete centralization of authority without any strings or loop-holes; (2) adequate financing assured by the heads of the KK and the KH. If these are unwilling to bring pressure on the Jerusalem offices to permit the UPA to allocate sufficient funds for the work of the Political Department in the U.S.A., then there is no point in going ahead. Independently the Political Department will not be able to raise the

Meyer W. Weisgal

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March 25, 1943

money which it will need, nor should it make any attempts to do so.
It will create confusion and misunderstanding both here and abroad.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



COPY CABLE

APRIL 28 1943

DEFERRED

ELIEZER KAPLAN
JEWISH AGENCY
JERUSALEM

CONFIDENTIAL JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE APPOINTED JOEL GROSS GOOD
FRIEND OURS AND CHAIRMAN 1942 UNITED JEWISH APPEAL ALLOCATIONS COM-
MITTEE ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN MIDDLE EAST TO CONFER VARIOUS COUNTRIES
REGARDING RELIEF AND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS stop INTIMATION THAT
JEWISH AGENCY CONCERNING ITSELF WITH PROBLEMS OUTSIDE ITS SCOPE AND
BELONGING RATHER AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATION stop PLEASE ADVISE
WHETHER JEWISH AGENCY HAS ANY CONFLICT WITH JOINT ON THIS PROGRAM AND
WHAT INFORMATION I MAY CONVEY GROSS PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE

HENRY MONTOR

May 13, 1943

Mr. Meyer W. Weisgal
41 East 42nd St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Weisgal:

Following out our telephonic conversation of yesterday, I should like to recall to you my letter of March 28, especially the third paragraph.

In my judgment no official announcement should be made by Dr. Weizmann of the appointment of the Political Bureau until the members of it have all been selected and have met at least for a preliminary organizational session.

The Jewish Telegraphic Bulletin of yesterday carries the announcement from Jerusalem that the Jewish Agency has decided to establish an office in Washington. What does that mean? Is this the Political Bureau of which Weizmann and Shertok have been talking, or is this something else again? Unless we are careful, we shall find ourselves in the position of having half a dozen committees conducting the political work of our movement in this country.

There must be complete clarification before any announcement is made, and I should not wish to be a party to any arrangement unless such clarification is first made.

It is especially important to determine where the funds for the operation of this Political Bureau are to come from, and who is to vote these funds.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

MEYER W. WEISGAL

SUITE 709
FORTY-ONE EAST FORTY-SECOND STREET
NEW YORK
MURRAY HILL 2-5967

May 17, 1943

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I showed your letter of May 13th to Dr. Weizmann and he is in agreement with you that no announcement of the formation of the Political Committee should be made until the personnel of the Committee is finally agreed upon and the Committee has had its preliminary organizational session.

The item in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency with reference to the Political Office in Washington has to do with the same thing we have been discussing for the last several months. In fact, there has come a cable from the Executive authorizing the opening of an office in Washington under the direction of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

As usual, we have again met with a number of snags in connection with the personnel of the Committee. Mrs. Halprin thinks her position will be intolerable if she accepts membership on the Committee and Mrs. Pool is left off. Similarly, others have expressed the opinion that Levinthal, as president of the Zionist Organization should be on, the argument being that both of them (Levinthal and Mrs. Pool) should be there by virtue of their office and that in any event the two will be out of office within a few months.

Dr. Weizmann's feelings in the matter is that the whole thing has already become muktza machmas mius. I honestly cannot blame him. He had a long talk with Levinthal the other day and Levinthal advanced a brand new idea of a panel rather than a Committee which, in my opinion, is utterly idiotic.

Dr. Weizmann has been in Washington for the last few days and is remaining there until the end of the week. I shall probably see him on Wednesday to talk over the situation. Dr. Weizmann, however, is determined to open the Political Of-

MEYER W. WEISGAL

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May 17, 1943

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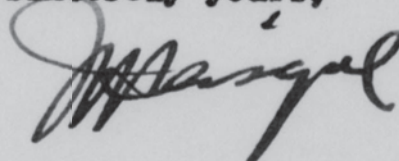
fice in Washington irrespective of the final action that may be taken on the question of the set-up of the Political Committee.

As for the funds, I don't think there will be any difficulty on that score. The Executive has already indicated that it would authorize whatever expenditures would be necessary for the conduct of the work. The intention is that \$100,000 or more of the \$250,000 allocated to the Emergency Committee should be placed at the disposal of the Political Office and of the Political Committee when formed.

I shall keep you informed of further developments and will appreciate greatly if you will let me know when you intend to be in New York.

With kind personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,



MWW:FR

AIDE MEMOIRE ON AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

August 1943

Prepared as background → For Churchill's Message!

1) The American Jewish Conference will meet in New York on August 29th to September 3rd. It will be the first Conference representative of all sections of American Jewry to be called together since the last war.

2) The representative character of the Conference may be inferred from the fact that it will be composed of 125 representatives of the large Jewish national organizations including the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Jewish Labor Committee, and the Zionist Organization of America, and 375 representatives elected by ballot from the Jewish communities throughout the country.

3) The purpose of the Conference will be to work out a united program of action for American Jewry for the post-war period in regard to the rehabilitation of the Jews of Europe and also in respect of Jewish rights to Palestine.

4) The Conference meets in the shadow of reports that the number of European Jews who have been slaughtered by the Nazis now greatly exceeds the two millions reported a few months ago. It is understood that the Prime Minister may find it difficult to make a statement at this time as to the future Palestine. Nevertheless a message from the Prime Minister indicating an awareness of the terrible situation of the Jews of Europe and offering some measure of hope for the future would be deeply heartening not only to the Conference but to the whole Jewish people.

5) As a precedent for such a message it will be recalled that about a year ago the Prime Minister sent a message to a mass meeting at Madison Square Garden convened by the American Jewish Congress, in which he referred to the contribution to victory of the Jews of Palestine. A message at this time would be not less a source of satisfaction and encouragement. It will be appreciated too as a recognition of the importance of the gathering to which it is to be addressed.

*(Jewish Agency
general)*

COPY OF CABLE

NOVEMBER 29, 1943

ARTHUR LOURIE
41 EAST 42ND
NEWYORKCITY

EMERGENCY CABLE TO EXECUTIVE REGARDING RESIGNATION MENTIONED
IN ISRAEL GOLDSTEINS NEWYORK CABLES TO DAVID BENGURION AND
ROBERT SZOLD JERUSALEM NOT RECEIVED

MOSHE SHERTOK



C
O
P
Y

Dr. Lohr
Jewish Agency
General

JERUSALEM Dec. 3, 1943 (Received Dec. 6)

NLT ARTHUR LOURIE 41 EAST 42nd STREET NEW YORK

PURPOSE PROPOSED TRIP MOSHE SHERTOK JERUSALEM EXPLORE
AGREEMENT REGARDING COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY EXECUTIVE
JERUSALEM LONDON IF RESULTS SATISFACTORY DAVID BENGURION
JERUSALEM WILL RETURN

ROBERT SZOLD



הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

The Jewish Agency for Palestine

New York Office: SUITE 708, 41 EAST 42ND ST., NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • MUrray Hill 2-5967

Washington Office
1720 SIXTEENTH ST., N. W.
Michigan 4480

December 24, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Silver:

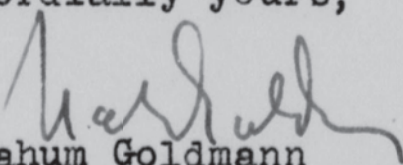
Enclosed I am sending you copy of a cable from Dr. Weizmann concerning the delegation. I think we will have to discuss it again on January 3.

I don't think that there is a chance of getting a priority for Lourie right away so that he could go to London for a short while and come back. I personally will go around the middle of January.

I think that on January 3 when you will be in New York again we should have one of our usual luncheon meetings. If you agree, please be good enough to ask Montor to make the arrangements.

With kind regards,

Cordially yours,


Nahum Goldmann

ng:ea
encl.

March 14, 1944

Mr. David Wertheim
Poale-Zion
45 E. 17th St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Wertheim:

The Zionist Emergency Council authorized me to appoint a committee to consider the present status of the Political Bureau of the Jewish Agency which was established a few months ago, and the question of its continuation in view of the new developments which have taken place in relation to our own-re-organization and the expansion of our work. I regard this as a very important assignment and I would greatly appreciate it if you would serve on this committee along with Mrs. Judith Epstein, Mr. Leon Gellman and Dr. Israel Goldstein. I am requesting Judge Morris Rothenberg to act as chairman. As soon as Nahum Goldmann and Goldstein return, a meeting of this committee will be held.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Undated 3

Dec 25 1941
Final report
(2/27/42)

PLAN FOR A BRANCH OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE IN THE UNITED STATES
AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WESTERN
HEMISPHERE

In view of the vital importance of Zionist political work in the United States and other parts of the Western Hemisphere and the need for maintaining here official Zionist policy through a single executive agency, the Executive of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Executive shall establish a branch of its political department in New York and Washington, which shall be in charge of all political work in the Western Hemisphere.

I. The members of said Political Department shall be

The President of the Jewish Agency who shall be Chairman of the Department;

The members of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency and the Zionist Executive now residing or sojourning in the United States;

The members of the Zionist Executive resident in the United States;

The Chairman of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs;

Such other Zionist personalities appointed by the President of the Jewish Agency, resident in the United States, who are qualified and prepared to render continuous personal service in connection with the program of Zionist political activities, number of members of the Political Department shall not exceed seven.

II. The members of said Political Department shall be collectively responsible, within the framework of the Zionist Constitution, for all Zionist political activities in the Western Hemisphere; and their activities shall be determined by majority decisions of the members of the Department.

III. The Political Department thus constituted shall render monthly reports in person to the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee and at regularly stated periods to the full membership of the Emergency

Committee as well as the members of the Actions Committee resident or so-journing in the United States.

IV. The Political Department thus established may assign specific tasks, included within its program, to such sub-committees of the Emergency Committee, or to sub-committees appointed by other American Zionist Organizations, as may be determined by the Political Department from time to time. Such special tasks shall come under the general supervision and direction of the Political Department.

V. The Political Department shall establish its own offices and such personnel as may be necessary for the conduct of its work. Its budget shall be acquired from the same sources that provide the budget of the Zionist Executive in general, and through its own independent efforts in the United States. In such independent efforts, it shall coordinate its fund-raising within the framework of other, Zionist fund-raising efforts.