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Johnson, Congressman Luther A., 1943.

Dr. Silver

Cur. File

MINUTES OF CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN LUTHER A. JOHNSON
of the 6th District of Texas, at his office in the
Capitol Office Building, Washington, D. C., Friday
afternoon, December 17, 1945.

Present: Congressman Luther A. Johnson, Mr. Leo Sack, and Rabbi Feuer

Mr. Johnson is the ranking minority member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. This was an extremely satisfactory interview with every minute of it devoted to the subject of Palestine. We opened the interview by telling Mr. Johnson that we hoped to enlist his sympathy with the aspiration that a real Jewish National Home become one of the achievements of the present war. He pointed out that a Jewish Commonwealth was first of all important in itself and secondly, that it was an urgent necessity as a place of resettlement for the surviving Jews of Europe. Mr. Johnson assured us of his great interest in the subject generally and of his deep sympathy with the plight of European Jewry. He mentioned the hearings which he had attended on the Gillette-Baldwin Resolution. Here he definitely indicated his distaste for the tactics of the Emergency Committee to Rescue The Jews of Europe and expressed his belief that their methods in connection with resolution had not been calculated to win friends in Congress. He understood without very much prompting from us that they were an irresponsible and unrepresentative group and told us that Congressmen would much rather deal with responsible people. He expressed pleasure at the fact that the Emergency Council was now represented in Washington and hoped that we would keep in touch with him.

He asked the usual questions about the attitude of Great Britain, the Arabs and the absorptive capacity of Palestine. We discussed these questions with him in the usual way and he seemed quite satisfied with the

answers. He was very receptive throughout the interview and should definitely be further cultivated. During the conversation, we sent up as a trial balloon the question of some kind of expression of opinion on the subject by the Congress of the United States. Since we were not specific about it, we could not expect a specific answer, but we got the definite impression that Mr. Johnson would be disposed to be very friendly if and when some concrete proposal were before him. Upon leaving, we left some literature with Mr. Johnson, including the Lurie memorandum on the absorptive capacity of Palestine.

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