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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series II: Harold P. Manson File (Zionism Files), 1940-1949, undated.

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

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Oil, 1943.

HERMAN P. TAUBMAN

Dallas, Texas
December 3, 1943

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
Chairman - American Zionist Emergency Council,
41 East 42nd St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

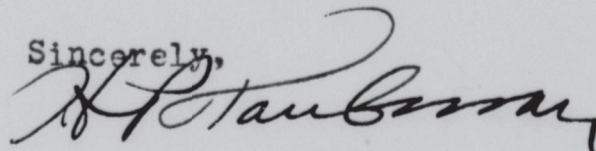
Attached you will please find copy of letter I have written our good friend, Henry Montor, which is self explanatory. I wanted to point out to you the cause of my delay in getting to Cleveland.

When you have an opportunity, will you kindly get someone to check on my reservation at the Hotel Cleveland for arrival Saturday, December 11th. Now, since I am not going to arrive in Cleveland before Sunday, December 12th, I wish my reservation so changed but felt it unwise to try to change same through correspondence. Also, if by chance they did not confirm my original reservation requested for Saturday, December 11th, will greatly appreciate that you see that I secure a reservation.

I intend to spend Sunday and Monday with you in Cleveland and hope to have important news for you on the Near East oil situation.

Looking forward to seeing you and with kind personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,



HPT/SG

COPY

Dallas, Texas
December 3 1943

Mr Henry Montor, Executive Director,
American Zionist Emergency Council,
41 East 42nd St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Henry:

I recently returned from a trip which delayed my receiving your call for a meeting in Cleveland. I promptly proceeded to work on reservations, which I assure you is quite a task! No more than I had completed arrangements for my Cleveland trip than I received a telegram from Ralph T Zook, President Independent Petroleum Association of America, of which organization I am a member of the Board, calling for a special meeting in Washington starting Friday, December 10th through Monday evening the 13th.

Normally, I would not participate in the Oil Man's meeting because there will be plenty to take care of matters without me. However, since the Palestinian question is so closely affected by the manouvering of some of the Major Oil Companies and our Government in the negotiations for concessions in Saudi-Arabia, which as you know involves Palestine, I thought it better that I take part in this meeting inasmuch as it is an independent group which is opposing Government ownership in foreign oil concessions and no doubt some important discussions will be had at this meeting and which, of course, will be valuable to us.

I believe if we find it advantageous to Palestinian efforts that such move be opposed, I would have a stronger medium to work through the Independent Oil Association of America.

Offhand, I believe if it is necessary to create public opinion against Governmental participation, it will remove the excuse of our unfriendly State Department to "sell us down the river". Their only excuse, then, would be to help the big interests and would serve the purpose of removing the disguise now being used.

The purpose of my letter is to outline to you what I have in mind, I.E. I have now made my arrangements to leave Dallas 3:50 PM Monday, December 6th, arriving in Washington the morning of December 8th. My board meeting does not start until Friday morning ten o'clock. This should give me time to get with whomever you may suggest I contact to get the full picture of the effect it would have on Palestine and what course of action to take. I will also make a few rounds to see some of the Senators and Congressmen, seeking their sympathetic views against the British White Paper.

I have requested hotel reservations at the Statler for arrival Wednesday morning and if you have anybody with influence, I would appreciate your making sure that my reservation has been confirmed so I will not lose time getting placed.

Also, if possible, get word to me at the Statler as to whom to meet, where and when so I may familiarize myself with what I should do to make my mission effective.

As far as I know I will be the only Yehudi among a representative group of oil men from every oil producing State in the Union. Most of them are well familiar to me due to my good standing as an oil operator, as well as my past acquaintance with most of the oil men during my twenty years while engaged in the Oil Well Supply business.

I will appreciate that none of this be quoted in any of the Confidential Bulletins or any other information which emanates from your office because this is definitely something very few others can help and might tip off our hand to where we could not get the use of this great Organization's voice against Governmental participation in foreign oil if it were to be gotten out that Yehudim are back of it.

Frankly, I would appreciate spending a little while with you as there are many other ramifications pertaining to this I do not believe advisable to put in writing.

It is my intention to be with these oil men Friday, Saturday, leaving Saturday night and spending Sunday and Monday in Cleveland. If, for any reason you are not in position to meet with me, will ask you to kindly convey my plans to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. I believe my plan is worthwhile and if nothing unforeseen happens I will miss only the Saturday night meeting but will be on hand Sunday and Monday.

As Chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the Southwest Region, Zionist Organization and President of the Dallas Emergency Council, I want to acquaint myself with everything possible so it will help me do more effective work.

I had previously asked the Hotel Cleveland at Cleveland for reservation for arrival the morning of Saturday, December 11th and since my plans are now to arrive in Cleveland Sunday, morning of the 12th, will ask that you have some one in your Cleveland office intercede for me at the Hotel Cleveland changing same to Sunday. I am afraid if I try to change it now through correspondence I may not get any reservation.

Looking forward to meeting you and with kind regards, I am,

Sincerely

(Signed) Herman P Taubman

One copy sent Air Mail

One copy sent Regular Mail

P.S. Since writing above I have received confirming letter as to my reservation at Hotel Statler, for arrival December 8th.

HPT

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Late '43 (?)

OIL AND PEACE

1943-44?

By Raymond Clapper

Washington, Oct. 25 - We have the most practical reasons for needing a stable world organization with power to prevent aggression.

One of them is oil. We must look ahead for decades, and by the span of generations, as the British do. We are running out of oil. Not tomorrow, but perhaps in 30 years or so, perhaps in the lifetime of the younger generation, just as the automobile and gasoline industries have grown up within the span of my memory.

In the United States we have 10 percent of the world's oil. We are serving up 70 percent of the world's production. No diagram is needed to show where that leads.

Our oil people have been more farsighted than our government has been. They were lured by the search of profits, and it has carried them far out into the world where we as a government would never have ventured to look for even such an essential resource as oil. Whether we have oil or not means the difference between our being a first-class power or a third-class power, but nothing has been done except what the pursuit of private profit has stimulated.

American companies have enormous holdings in the Middle East. We have a quarter share in Iraq oil. We have a half share in Kuwait, all of Bahrein oil and all of Saudi Arabia, which is a concession of 244,000 square miles leased by Standard Oil of California and Texas Co. jointly.

There is more American controlled oil in the Middle East than we have in the ground in the United States.

That's the measure of our stake in the Middle East. And it is privately owned oil. American companies have gone after it with the expectation of making big profits.

We have usually taken the attitude that if private American capital was involved the operation was just a bit sinister and certainly nothing that should be the concern of the American government - and never would we be sending marines out to protect Standard Oil.

Well, in the case of oil, we have to consider first that the oil is an essential national resource and that our national interest is deeply involved. As for the private companies that happen to carry on the operations, that is something secondary, which must not be allowed to obscure our national interest.

Discussions are going on here which may lead to government and private partnership in development of Middle East resources.

Also important is a stable international organization. Racial conflicts are severe in the Middle East, and the chief of Saudi Arabia is now trying to develop a Pan-Arabian Confederation that would roll the Jews under in Palestine. To leave our vast oil resources there at the mercy of constant local conflict

is to take too much of a risk. But we can scarcely consider sending American marines in to protect oil properties in event of trouble.

An international organization that could maintain security of all areas and remove the need of any one nation moving in itself on its own motion to police its interests would be highly desirable from the point of view of our own interests.

