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Eaton, Congressman Charles A., 1944.

1/18/44

AHS File

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

FROM: Elihu D. Stone

re: Palestine
Resolution

CONFERENCE OF NEW JERSEY JEWISH DELEGATION
HEADED BY JUDGE WILLIAM NEWCORN WITH CONGRESSMAN
EATON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1944

Subsequent to the conference with Congressman Joseph W. Martin, Jr.,--
Minority Leader, on Tuesday, January 11, 1944, in accordance with the suggestion
of Dr. Silver, Mr. Stone telephoned to Joel Gross, Newark, New Jersey, relative
to the advisability of having a delegation from New Jersey come to Washington
for the purpose of conferring with Congressman Eaton. It was conveyed to Mr.
Gross, in the opinion of Congressman Martin, that Congressman Eaton, the ranking
Republican Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, would be the best
person on the Republican side to introduce the proposed Palestine Resolution.

It was the considered judgment of Mr. Gross that a committee consisting
of prominent constituents of Congressman Eaton's District should go to Wash-
ington in connection with the aforesaid proposal of the Minority Leader.

As a result of the effort of Mr. Gross, a delegation from Congressman
Eaton's District arrived in Washington last Friday. The delegation was headed
by Judge William Newcorn, of Plainfield, New Jersey. The other members were:
Frederick I. Pelovitz, Esq., of Somerville, New Jersey; Augustus S. Dreier, Esq.,
of Plainfield, New Jersey; and Frederick A. Onore, Esq., of North Plainfield,
New Jersey.

The conference with the Congressman lasted about two hours. This is significant, as Congressman Eaton left ^{an} executive meeting of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs which was then in progress in order to meet Judge Newcorn and the other members of the delegation.

Mr. Stone participated in the conference as a representative of the Zionist Emergency Committee.

Judge Newcorn and his colleagues were cordially received by Congressman Eaton.

After an exchange of pleasantries, Congressman Eaton referred to the manifold tasks confronting his committee. Particularly troublesome is the problem of relief and rehabilitation after the war.

Reference was made by the New Jersey Congressman to a certain irritating committee headed by one who is in this country on a temporary visa, by the name of Bergson. He observed that "this man Bergson is doing a great deal of harm to the Jewish people." Judge Newcorn quickly disassociated himself and the other members of his delegation from the activities of Mr. Bergson. It was made clear by Mr. Stone that Judge Newcorn's delegation is identified with the American Zionist Emergency Council, and the American Jewish Conference.

Judge Newcorn stated that this visit was a continuation of the one in Plainfield, and that he is starting off from the point where they left off in New Jersey. The Judge recalled the conversation with the Congressman while in Plainfield during the Christmas recess, and that he left Zionist literature with Dr. Eaton. The Congressman smilingly remarked that he read all of the pamphlets; "some I read religiously, and others, irreligiously."

Judge Newcorn suggested to the Congressman the advisability of introducing the resolution himself, as he is the ranking Republican member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. This would be a particularly appropriate act, stated Judge Newcorn, "as you are a former Minister of the Gospel." Congressman Eaton appeared rather solemn at this moment. In reply he stated that he was very much interested in the Jewish problem that the unparalleled Jewish suffering in Europe deeply moved him, and that he is in favor of the Jewish National Home, in Palestine.

Dr. Eaton recited in the original Hebrew the first few sentences of the first Chapter of the Book of Genesis. He did it beautifully. He thus emphasized his Hebraic affinity.

The proposed Palestine Resolution was handed by Judge Newcorn to Congressman Eaton who read it through carefully. The Congressman characterized it as being "clever" and he inquired as to its authorship. Mr. Stone informed him that the authorship of the resolution is a composite one, and it includes such men as Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Judge Morris Rothenberg, and others. Mr. Stone pointed out that the resolution merely reaffirms the policy established by the United States Congress twenty-two years ago when it adopted the Lodge Palestine Resolution, which is the Law of the Land today. Surely, a Home is a place in which one enjoys the freedom of entry. "Hence," continued Mr. Stone, "the resolution simply expresses the American point of view as to the right of the Jewish people to enter Palestine, and to enjoy the full opportunity of colonization."

Congressman Eaton called attention to the last line of the resolution wherein reference is made to a Jewish Commonwealth, pointing out that it contains grave implications.

Mr. Stone suggested that the reference to the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth is a logical corollary to the first two propositions, namely--the freedom of entry into Palestine and the freedom of colonization. If these propositions are acceptable and if in due course of events, the Jewish people constitute a majority in Palestine, then it would be perfectly proper to re-constitute the Jewish Commonwealth, on the basis of a covenant with Great Britain and the successor of the League of Nations, observed Mr. Stone.

Congressman Eaton volunteered the information that since the last conversation with Judge Newcorn at Plainfield, he spoke with officials of the State Department relative to Palestine. It was made clear to him that this is no time for settling political problems in Palestine, as it would tend to provoke the Arabs and ~~the~~ entire Islam world, and that it would endanger the security of our American armed forces in the Near East.

Judge Newcorn called to the attention of the Congressman that the Arabs have done nothing to help the cause of the United Nations and that during the critical period of the war, the United Nations were even hindered by the Arabs.

Mr. Stone pointed out the tragic experience of the British in Iraq. Moreover, the Egyptian Army was disarmed by the British because it was not trustworthy.

Congressman Eaton agreed that the Arabs have done nothing to help the United Nations. However, the Congressman pointed out that the Committee on Foreign Affairs would be guided in such matters by the attitude of the State Department, and that the opposition of the State Department to the resolution, in his opinion, would be fatal.

Dr. Eaton made reference to Colonel Hoskins, who is a "dear friend" of his, and with whom he spoke. He referred to Hoskins as a very fine person. Mr. Stone joined by stating that Colonel Hoskins, is no doubt, "a fine person,"

nevertheless, it is a fact that he spent his youth in Syria, where he was associated with the Beirut University--a hotbed of Zionist opposition--and that his sympathies have always been pro-Arab, and anti-Zionist. Mr. Stone observed that there was no need for Colonel Hoskins to spend three months traveling in the Near East for the purpose of making the report which he made, as he could have written it in New York. Colonel Hoskins' report which was read by the Congressman represents his preconceived prejudiced views. Colonel Hoskins' anti-Zionism is evident from the report itself. While he consulted every antagonistic source in the Near East, he failed to take notice of the presence of 600,000 Jews in Palestine, and failed to meet a single representative of the Jewish Community in Palestine. It is hardly an impartial report.

It was apparent that this information struck the Congressman with its suddenness as something new to him.

The Congressman added, however, that he discussed the matter with British officials who share the view that the attempt to deal with political ^{problems} involving Palestine would jeopardize the security of the armed forces in the Near East.

"It is indeed strange," joined Mr. Stone, "that Great Britain who did not hesitate to antagonize more than three hundred million Hindus by the imprisonment of their national leaders, appears to be terrorized by the thought of displeasing the followers of the grand mufti--the guest of Mr. Hitler.

The other members of the delegations, Messrs. Pelovitz, Onore, and Dreier, from time to time, participated in the discussion reinforcing the requests of Congressman Eaton to make himself the co-author of the proposed resolution. They dealt with the practical unanimity of American Jewry in support of the resolution as recently manifested by the American Jewish Conference.

Reference was made to the contribution that the Jewish people made to the progress of Palestine, and particularly to the well-being of all the inhabitants of Palestine regardless of race or creed; that whatever the Jewish people accomplished in Palestine, it was achieved through their own efforts, sweat and blood. Palestine's contribution to the war effort of the United Nations was emphasized with which the Congressman apparently was familiar.

Dr. Eaton made reference to the chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bloom, whom he should like to consult. The Congressman emphasized that Bloom is an able man and that he is "a credit to the Jewish people." Those present, while agreeing with the Congressman that Mr. Bloom "is a credit to the Jewish people," they conveyed to Dr. Eaton their appropriate reactions.

Judge Newcorn reminded Congressman Eaton that it was the opinion of the Minority Leader, Congressman Martin, that he, Dr. Eaton, is the appropriate person to introduce the Palestine Resolution. Mr. Stone added that also the Majority Leader, Mr. McCormack, is pledged to support the Resolution.

Congressman Eaton stated that he is a friend and admirer of Congressman McCormack, even though he is a Democrat, and that he will discuss this matter both with Congressman Martin and McCormack. He suggested that he might consult the British Ambassador, Lord Halifax. Mr. Stone observed that it would be too much to expect from Lord Halifax to favor the resolution since he himself was a member of the Chamberlain Government which is responsible for the White Paper--a Government that pursued a policy of appeasement of which the White Paper was a part, as pointed out by Judge Newcorn, added Mr. Stone. Judge Newcorn observed that it is the same White Paper which Mr. Churchill so vehemently condemned in Parliament in 1939.

At this point, Judge Newcorn inquired from Mr. Stone whether or not, in Mr. Stone's opinion, that the Zionist leadership would agree to changes in the resolution affecting ~~the~~ form or language.

Mr. Stone replied that Congressman Eaton and his colleagues may, of course, affect changes so far as the language or form is concerned, so long as the substance is retained. Judge Newcorn joined by saying, "of course the substance must be retained."

Congressman Eaton put his hand on the shoulders of Judge Newcorn saying, "Judge, as always, you are sound."

He repeated his promise to confer with the leaders of the House and others relative to the resolution, and that he will make his decision accordingly during the coming week.

After an exchange of pleasantries, and after references to local episodes, the meeting was concluded in an atmosphere of reciprocal friendship and cordiality. Judge Newcorn and the other members of the delegation congratulated Congressman Eaton on the prospect of being called upon to serve as the KEYNOTER of the forthcoming National Republican Convention. This was not distasteful to Dr. Eaton.

The delegation arrived at the Zionist Emergency office at about 1 p.m., where they briefly conferred with Mr. Stone for the purpose of securing a meeting of minds.

The New Jersey delegation, headed by Judge William Newcorn of Plainfield, rendered a real service to our cause.

Judge Newcorn, speaking for his colleagues and himself, stated that all of them would be glad to respond to the call of the Zionist Emergency Committee at any time in order to serve Palestine and the Jewish people.

S. J. S.

February 11, 1944

Mr. Joel Gross
744 Broad Street
Newark, N.J.

My dear Joel:

From the impressions which I gathered at the hearings of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman Charles A. Eaton is decidedly on the fence. I believe that he should be contacted by a few of the leading citizens of his district and persuaded to become enthusiastic for the Resolution as is. Attempts may be made to amend it by eliminating reference to the Jewish Commonwealth. Charles Eaton should also receive some letters and communications from his constituents. I hope that you can do something about it immediately. There will be another hearing next Tuesday and then action by the Foreign Affairs Committee may come by the end of the week.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

GROSS & BLUMBERG

COUNSELLORS AT LAW

JOEL GROSS
LEO BLUMBERG
MILTON H. GOLDBERGER

744 BROAD STREET
Zone #2 NEWARK, N. J.
MARKET 3-1072

February 14th,
1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

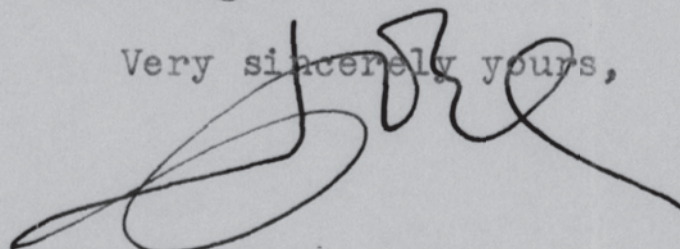
My dear Dr. Silver:

You really can have no idea of the pressure I have caused to be brought against Eaton. For years I have differed from almost everything Eaton has said or done. On Jewish matters I feel sure in my own mind that he has been closer to Coughlin than to Conscience.

Almost every Jew in his District, and almost every non-Jew of influence, has already contacted him on the Palestine question. Frankly, I am amazed at the progress that has been made with him, as you would be if you knew the man's history. I am today causing renewed pressure to be applied to him and I hope to be able to write to you further before the end of the day.

Without knowing anything of the background I guess that the delay in reporting the Resolution to the floor is not to our advantage.

Very sincerely yours,



JG/lr
cc Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
1720 16th Street
Washington, D. C.

GROSS & BLUMBERG

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Zone #2

744 BROAD STREET
NEWARK, N. J.
MARKET 3-1072

February 14th, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Since writing you earlier today I have set a great many forces in motion to converge on Eaton.

Chauncey Staut, Editor of the Plainfield Courier News, to which paper Eaton is directly indebted for support "at home", telephoned the Congressman this afternoon. He spoke to him at some considerable length in an endeavor to persuade him to issue a statement now, for publication in the local press, endorsing the Palestine Resolution now before the Foreign Affairs Committee. Staut pointed out to Eaton that all shades of opinion in his District were behind the Resolution and that his endorsement of it now would be most timely. Eaton informed Staut, with whom he talks on terms of profound intimacy, that he was in favor of giving the Jews their Homeland, but that (a) it would be most inappropriate for him, the ranking Republican member of the Committee, to take a public position on the question before the hearings were concluded (he indicated that the hearings would continue and that "Arabs, Jews and Syrians, as well as members of the War and State Departments" would be heard); (b) that "Bloom and I are concerned about the second part of the Resolution - that it may embroil us in a controversy with Britain" and that "Bloom and I are working to see if we can't work out some Resolution which would not put us at loggerheads with the British."

I gather from Staut's report that Eaton will probably try to hide behind Bloom to avoid the clamor of criticism against him which will result from his failure to support the Resolution as drawn. Therefore, in my judgment, it is highly important to concentrate again on Bloom.

Most every person of any consequence in Eaton's District has already wired to him or written to him. The local press has given admirable support. Eaton can't help but be aware of the fact that the people in his District want him to support the Resolution. However, I have arranged for another barrage of letters and wires to descend upon him and another two or three telephone calls from im-

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Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

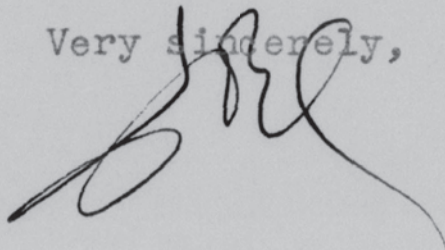
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February 14th, 1944

portant personages will be made to him.

Let me know if, on the spot, you get any ideas
which you think should be followed.

Very sincerely,



JG/lr

cc Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
1720 16th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

