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

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Madison Square Garden Rally, 1944.

American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
Murray Hill 2-7197

INTERIM COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN, New York
HENRY MONSKY, Omaha
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE, New York

I. L. KENEN
Public Relations Director

J. S. PEARLSTIEN
Administrative Secretary

March 3, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have learned today that the Emergency Council is sponsoring a large rally in Madison Square Garden in New York March 21st. I am wondering whether it would not be wise for the Conference to participate in some way. I have had two comments today to the effect that such a meeting might well have been sponsored by the Conference itself and I feel that I should let you know that there is growing criticism to the effect that the Conference is not active enough in any of the fields in which it is interested and that opportunities for activity have been repeatedly lost. Some of this criticism comes from non-Zionists and some of it from Zionists.

You will recall that we polled the members of the Interim Committee in early February on the advisability of a mass registration of American Jewry on the commonwealth issue. The vote was overwhelmingly in the affirmative. We have never communicated to the Interim Committee the result of the poll or the decision flowing from that result.

I would like to call your attention to the fact that the Interim Committee of the Conference will meet on March 21st in New York, the very day on which the Madison Square Garden mass meeting is being held. This coincidence of meetings will certainly raise the issue of the place of the Conference in the whole program. One Zionist who called me today suggested that the Madison Square Garden mass meeting should be sponsored by the Conference, that the Interim Committee could attend such a conference in a body, that at the meeting of the Interim Committee during the day, the Committee could determine formally on the petition, that the petition could be printed in the meantime and that circulation could be launched at the mass meeting.

You will recall at the last meeting of the Interim Committee there was a long discussion on the relationship between the Conference and the World Jewish Congress with respect to the War Emergency Conference that is being convened by the World Jewish Congress. The same question is developing with respect to the Conference and Zionist activity. I know that it is in the minds of a number of people and I feel that you should be informed of this point of view.

Dr. A. H. Silver

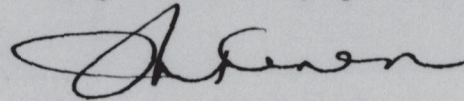
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In view of this situation, it might be well to have a meeting of the Palestine Commission in advance of the Interim Committee meeting so that the whole question can be canvassed.

The issue is also coming to a head at a meeting of the Administrative Committee Tuesday night.

Very sincerely yours,



I. L. Kenen
Public Relations Director

ILK:s



UNITED STATES SENATE
CONFERENCE OF THE MAJORITY

April 1, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Let me thank you for your very kind letter of March 22nd with reference to my address at Madison Square Garden. That was a wonderful meeting and it was enough to inspire any man. I want to say that I have never heard you speak more eloquently than you did on that evening, and I greatly enjoyed your address.

I shall keep in mind your suggestion about the resolution and it seems to me that that is the proper way to handle it for the present.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours.

(Signed) Alben W. Barkley

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
NE

April 10, 1944

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I am writing to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you and Rabbi Wise sent me under date of March 27, 1944, enclosing a copy of a resolution adopted by the Rally for Palestine held at Madison Square Garden on March 21, 1944. The Department has also received, by reference from the White House, your letter of the same date to the President with a similar enclosure.

I wish to assure you that in this connection due note has been taken of the views outlined in the resolution of the Palestine Rally and that the appropriate officials of this Government will continue to devote the closest attention to those matters relating to Palestine with which they may be concerned.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Cordell Hull

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue,
New York 17, New York