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

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O'donnell, John, "the News", 1944.

February 5, 1944

Mr. John O'Donnell,
c/o Washington Times Herald,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. O'Donnell:

I received, this morning, a copy of your column "Capitol Stuff" published in the Washington Times Herald on February 4, 1944.

I appreciate very much the interest which you manifested in attending the Press Conference on Thursday and your reporting of it. Unfortunately, one or two inaccuracies crept into your column which might give rise to serious misunderstanding both here and abroad.

You state: "The Prime Minister of Great Britain, we learned today, has urged that American Jews, and in particular the American Zionist Emergency Council, use every effort to win the formal endorsement of Congress to resolutions now pending, etc." I never made such a statement at the Press Conference, nor did the Prime Minister ever make such a request of American Jews or of the American Zionist Emergency Council.

You state again: "But Churchill wanted endorsement of the American Congress before he moves against his British opponents, etc." This statement, too, was not made by me. Mr. Churchill has not expressed himself at any time on the subject of the pending resolutions in Congress.

You state furthermore that: "Mr. Churchill, a few days ago, told the Zionist leader, Chaim Weizmann . . . that he is at heart a strong supporter, now as always, of the original Balfour Declaration, etc." Churchill did not

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meet with Dr. Weizmann a few days ago, and there has been no report of such a meeting. What I stated was that Mr. Churchill regards himself today, as he always did, a great friend of the Jewish National Home, and that from all that we have been able to learn, his attitude on the White Paper which he sharply criticized in Parliament in 1939 remains unchanged. I expressed my belief that an expression of sympathetic interest and good will on the part of the Congress of the United States towards the Jewish National Home and the abrogation of the White Paper, as reflected in the resolutions which have been introduced, would strengthen the hands of Mr. Churchill and of all of our friends in England, inasmuch as it would indicate to them how the American people feel about it.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:NEK

Abba Hillel Silver

THE NEWS

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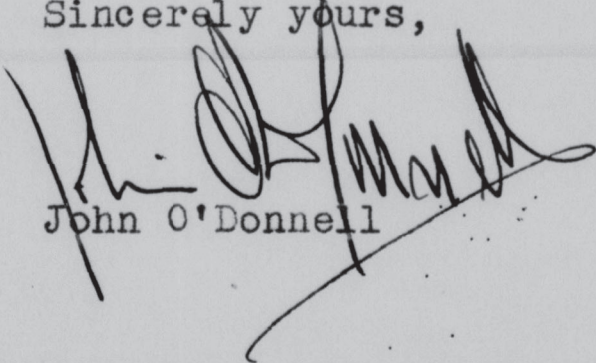
February 10, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Doctor:

I am deeply chagrined that my report of the luncheon session on February 4 give rise to misinterpretations. I immediately communicated with Mr. Eugene Kelly and explained to him that the inaccuracies which you point out crept into the column sprang from innocent misinterpretations. I have noted carefully the points which you raised and may I assure you that these will be borne in mind for future guidance.

Sincerely yours,


John O'Donnell