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

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

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Palestine Resolution, United States Congress, 1943-1944.

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MARKSON BROS.
100 Summer Street
Boston, Mass.
(10)

December 31, 1943

Mr. Henry Montor
342 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Montor:

I received the enclosed telegram from
B. Netanyahu, which is self-explanatory.

There is not much I can do about it, so I am
referring it to you.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)
Yoland D. Markson

YDM:N
Enc.

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WESTERN UNION

LONG NC673 NL- NEW YORK NY 30
MR YOLAND D MARKSON
100 SUMMER ST BSN

NEWS OF LAST FEW DAYS INDICATES PERSISTENT PARTITION SCHEMING
IN LONDON AND CAIRO STOP JUDGING JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
CABLE AND RELIABLE INFORMATION OTHER SOURCES WEIZMANN ACTIVELY
ENGAGED PARTION NEGOTIATIONS STOP COLONIAL OFFICE THOROUGHLY
PREPARING GROUND TO FORCE PARTITION UPON ZIONISM IN EXCHANGE FOR
ABOLITION WHITE PAPER WHICH WILL OBVIOUSLY BE A MUCH GRAVER AND
MORE PERMANENT JEOPARDY STOP IN LIGHT THIS SITUATION AND ALSO
THE UTTERLY INADEQUATE CAMPAIGN AGAINST WHITE PAPER WE FEEL
THAT ZIONISM AS A WHOLE WILL MISERABLY FAIL UNLESS UNITED
WIDE-RANGE AND ALL-EMBRACING POLITICAL CAMPAIGN IMMEDIATELY
INITIATED AND PROPERLY CONDUCTED STOP YOU AND WE SHALL NEVER
BE FORGIVEN IF IN THESE DAYS OF UNPARALLELLED CRISIS WE SHALL
NOT ACT TO THE UTMOST OF OUR ABILITY STOP WE URGE AN IMMEDIATE
CONFERENCE WHERE EVER AND WHENEVER YOU SUGGEST TO ADOPT PLAN
AND COMMENCE WORK

B NETANYAHU CARE NEW ZIONIST ORGANIZATION 55 WEST 42 STREET

C
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P
Y

LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL
606 City Hall
Philadelphia, Pa.

January 4, 1944

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am sorry that I had to leave the meeting before its adjournment last night. I simply had to make the 11 o'clock train to Philadelphia in order to be on hand early this morning in court.

I do not know what decision was finally arrived at with regard to the Resolution, but despite the caution of my own local Congressmen and of Dr. Goldmann, I am inclined to agree with you that we have no alternative but to submit the Resolution and press for its adoption. I am enclosing copy of the letter which I sent to Mr. Joel Gross last week after the meeting with the Congressmen.

The suggestion made as to the elimination of "land purchase" is, I think, important. The other suggestion, that we indicate that the original intent of the establishment of a national home was to re-constitute a Jewish Commonwealth when the Jews will be the majority of the population, should, in my opinion, also be favorably considered.

The most important suggestion which should not be ignored is the one calling for bi-partisan and responsible sponsorship of the Resolution. We must have the Resolution introduced by men of the calibre of McCormick of Massachusetts, Wadsworth of New York, Berkley of Kentucky, and McNary of Oregon.

If it be decided to have the Resolution submitted soon, without regard to the effect of the invasion, I think I should explain to our local Congressmen who cautioned us against doing so, why we simply cannot wait.

With kind personal regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

(Signed)

Louis E. Levinthal

COPY

Joint Board
of the
CLOAK, SUIT, SKIRT AND REEFER MAKERS' UNIONS
127-31 West 33 Street
New York City

January 4, 1944

Mr. Jacob Pat,
Executive Secretary
Jewish Labor Committee
175 E. Broadway
New York, N. Y.

My dear Pat:

Enclosed, you will find a letter that I received from Abba Hillel Silver in connection with the activities that they are undertaking pertaining to the abolition of the White Paper. However, he also discusses the question of a homeland.

I understand that the Jewish Labor Committee has either reached understandings with the Jewish Conference or is about to reach understandings pertaining to our activities. I therefore, see no reason why the individual members of the Jewish Labor Committee should be circularized in connection with this matter. I have no objection of course but I think it ought to be made clear that insofar as the Labor Committee is concerned, we are doing everything we can to arouse public opinion with regard to the White Paper.

I hope you will check into this and communicate with the Commission and make these explanations.

Fraternaly yours,

ss/ ISRAEL FEINBERG
General Manager

C O P Y

NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

ALBANY, N. Y.

January 6, 1944

Jewish Labor Committee
175 East Broadway
New York 2, N. Y.

Atten: Mr. Jacob Pat, Exec. Sec.,

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the New York State Federation of Labor the undersigned officers beg to advise that this State Federation of Labor endorses the action taken by the 1943 convention of the American Federation of Labor in condemning the White Paper on Palestine issued by the government of Great Britain, which provides that Jewish immigration into Palestine shall be stopped by the end of March, 1944.

We join with all other forward-looking organizations in making this protest and in appealing to the British government to revoke that action solely in the interest of saving human lives and keeping open a door which will provide an asylum for persecuted people who without continuance of this avenue of escape will needlessly suffer great loss of life.

Very truly yours,

as/ Thomas A. Murray
President

ss/ E. W. Edwards
Secretary-Treasurer

January 7, 1944

Mr. Yoland D. Markson
100 Summer Street
Boston 10, Mass.

My dear Mr. Markson:

Mr. Montor has forwarded to me the telegram which you received from Mr. Netanyahu, and your note.

My comment on the telegram is, first, that our campaign against the White Paper is far from being utterly inadequate. Quite the contrary, it is intensive - well organized. Not only has the voice of American Jewry of all sections been made to register in Washington through thousands of resolutions, addressed to the State Department and other government officials, but Christian public opinion has also been aroused, and there has been wide editorial comment on the White Paper throughout the country. Through the local community contacts groups, most of the Senators and Congressmen of the United States were seen by representative Jews in their respective communities and states during the Christmas holidays. The work is being pushed very aggressively and systematically.

With reference to Mr. Netanyahu's charges that Dr. Weizmann has been conducting negotiations on Partition, they are altogether without foundation. Dr. Weizmann has informed us that neither he nor any responsible leader of the Jewish Agency has discussed the subject of Partition.

Please convey this information to our other good friend in Boston. With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:NEK

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE
175 East Broadway

January 7, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman
Palestine Commission
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Ave.
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter we received from Israel Feinberg, General Manager of the Cloak, Suit, Skirt and Reefer Makers' Unions, and a member of the Executive Board of the Jewish Labor Committee. The letter is self-explanatory.

We are certain that you are aware of the fact that the Jewish Labor Committee has a definite understanding with the American Jewish Conference with regard to its activities on behalf of the White Paper and the Palestine question as a whole. It was made clear on our part, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that our organization would act in this matter as a unit. We, therefore, agree with Mr. Feinberg that there is absolutely no reason why individual members of the Jewish Labor Committee, whether they are delegates to the Conference or not, should be circularized and asked to accept membership in the Emergency Committee in Palestine.

We hope you understand our feeling in this matter, and will guide yourself in the future accordingly.

May we indicate again on this occasion that the Jewish Labor Committee is using its utmost resources to bring about the withdrawal of the White Paper.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Jacob Pat,
Executive Secretary

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enclosure

A.Z.E.C.
342 Madison Av.
N.Y. 17

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January 11, 1944

Law Offices
GUSTAVE L. GOLDSTEIN
Citizens Nat'l. Bank Bldg.
453 South Spring St.
Los Angeles 13, Calif.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, President
Zionist Organization of America
New York City, New York

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

I write this letter to you simply as a Zionist, in my individual capacity, and not as President of the Los Angeles District or in any other official capacity.

A very serious situation has arisen here with respect to the setting up of a local emergency committee on Palestine. In brief, the situation is this:

When we received our original instructions to set up an emergency committee here, we immediately convened our local allied Zionist council which is made up of four representatives from the District, four from Hadassah, six from the Labor Zionists and one from Mizrahi. This Allied Zionist Council voted to constitute itself as the local emergency committee, and to co-opt me and Rabbi Nussbaum as additional members, and to ask Rabbi Magnin, who is not a member of the Council, to act as Chairman of the Emergency Committee which was to be expanded to take in Jews and Gentiles.

Accordingly Messrs. Strimling, Brown, Riche, Rabbi Kohn and I called on Rabbi Magnin to ask him to take the chairmanship and as a result of the discussions that took place, Rabbi Magnin stated he would not take the chairmanship unless the expanded emergency committee would ask him to serve. It was therefore decided to call a meeting, first of Jews (Zionists, non-Zionists, and anti-Zionists) with Rabbi Magnin extending the invitation to such persons as he thought could be useful.

This meeting was subsequently held at the Biltmore Hotel and the gathering was probably the most representative group of Jews in this community.

At the time this meeting was held, it was not indicated to us that any persons to serve on this emergency committee must subscribe to the idea of the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine or that the committee to be formed necessarily had to be based on the Palestine Resolution of the American Jewish Conference.

On the contrary, the advices we had from the American Zionist Emergency Council were to the effect that the task of local emergency committees would be to fight the White Paper, Because of this fact we did not hesitate to invite to our Biltmore meeting non-Zionists and anti-Zionists in addition to the Zionists who were present.

At this meeting at the Biltmore Hotel, the persons present voted to constitute themselves the Los Angeles Committee for the Abrogation of the White Paper and named Rabbi Magnin as Chairman thereof. Rabbi Magnin was authorized to expand the committee to include additional Jews and any Gentiles who might wish to serve.

Subsequently, the Los Angeles Jewish Community Council approved the creation of this Los Angeles Committee for the Abrogation of the White Paper and forwarded \$1,000. toward the expense of setting up an office, engaging a stenographer and an executive secretary.

You will further note that at this juncture, we had made what we considered remarkable progress in getting Jewish communal-wide support.

Thereafter Rabbi Magnin called a meeting of Gentiles, including the leading Christian clergymen, editors of newspapers, the Mayor, the Sheriff, etc. This was truly one of the most remarkable inter-faith gatherings that ever took place in this city, and under the excellent leadership of Rabbi Magnin and Mendel Silberberg, practically all of the persons present voted to become members of the Los Angeles Committee for the Abrogation of the White Paper, and also decided to prepare a form of resolution to obtain other Christian signatories thereto, and thereafter the resolution which was prepared was sent out to the persons who attended this inter-faith meeting and practically all of them did become members of the committee. At this time many of our Jewish leaders were not only elated by this success which was met in the formation of a committee to fight the abrogation of the White Paper, but they also were so much impressed by this inter-faith committee, that they hailed it as the beginning of future, far more successful inter-faith relations on other matters of Jewish interest.

However, apparently certain of our Zionists in this community were conducting a correspondence of their own with their own national leaders in New York, as a result of which it was indicated from the American Emergency Zionist Council that our setup of the Los Angeles Committee for the Abrogation of the White Paper was the wrong procedure, and that had to go "all out" for the Jewish Commonwealth.

Then, came the Cleveland meeting and we were expressly told that every member of the emergency committee must subscribe to the Jewish Commonwealth and the Palestine Resolution of the American Jewish Conference. Subsequent correspondence with New York multiplied the misunderstanding because it has been indicated to us that there is no reason why there cannot be a committee for the abrogation of the White Paper which can include non or anti-Zionists, but there can also be an emergency committee every member of which must go for the Palestine Resolution of the American Jewish Conference.

We were also told by people who are supposed to be corresponding with New York that it was undesirable to have two of such committees, that an active committee for the abrogation of the White Paper would harm the work of an emergency committee which is supposed to work "all out" for the implementation of the Palestine Resolution, that to fight against the White Paper was no longer important or of only minor importance, etc., etc.

The result is that Rabbi Magnin refuses to act as Chairman of any committee! Meantime, an active movement has grown up in this community for the formation of a Los Angeles chapter of the American Council for Judaism. The organizers thereof are working very intensively and soon we will be confronted here with a well-organized local chapter of the American Council for Judaism.

I personally consider it of the greatest importance that the existing Committee for the abrogation of the White Paper should not dissolve or disintegrate or that Rabbi Magnin should withdraw as the Chairman thereof.

If Rabbi Magnin were to withdraw now as Chairman of this Committee, many persons locally would interpret it as a decision on his part to withdraw because of the impending fight between the local branch of the American Council for Judaism and the local Zionist groups. His resignation from the Committee would have disastrous, devastating effects upon our local Zionist endeavors.

More important, his resignation right now, notwithstanding the fact that he would continue to serve on any emergency committee we set up would give tremendous impetus to the local organizers of the American Council for Judaism.

Of course the blame for the whole situation falls squarely upon the American Zionist Emergency Council which apparently is very badly confused in its thinking and in its action.

We of course could take the position that we do not organize any emergency committee, say, until after April 1, 1944 and let the Committee for the Abrogation of the White Paper continue to function.

As a matter of fact, if the choice is between organizing an emergency committee and having Rabbi Magnin continue to act as Chairman of the Committee for the Abrogation of the White Paper, I would even go so far as to say that we do not organize a local emergency committee at all, and that we let the present Committee for the Abrogation of the White Paper remain in a state of suspended animation or moribund.

After all, what we do, or what we do not do locally, is not going to change the international situation nor is it going to change the map of Palestine.

The difficulty, however, is that the American Zionist Emergency Council may refuse and in fact it has been indicated that it will refuse, to have any official contact with the existing Los Angeles Committee for the Abrogation of the White Paper. That is the real difficulty because Magnin says he will not continue to head this Committee if it is not officially recognized by the American Zionist Emergency Council.

I therefore recommend as follows:

1. That we do not organize any local emergency committee on Palestine at least before April 1, 1944 and possibly at all in the future.
2. That the present Committee for the abrogation of the White Paper be not disbanded nor dissolved, and that it be recognized officially by the American Zionist Emergency Council.
3. That if the American Zionist Emergency Council considers the existence of such a local Committee for the Abrogation of the White Paper as harmful to our maximum demands, that this Committee for the Abrogation

of the White Paper simply do not function or that it function only on such occasions and in such a manner, as it is directed to do so by the American Zionist Emergency Council.

I believe that if these recommendations are followed, that the local situation can work itself out quite satisfactorily, considering the terrible predicament in which we now find ourselves.

I therefore ask that you submit this letter for consideration, at the earliest possible date, by the American Zionist Emergency Council, to the end that my recommendations may be carried out. Please understand that all our local Zionists are of course for the fullest implementation of the Palestine Resolution of the American Jewish Conference and that I also am. However, viewing our local Zionist situation from a total viewpoint, I feel that the acceptance of my recommendations immediately is for the better development of our Zionist positions here. If my recommendations are not accepted I am very fearful that our Zionist position here will suffer tremendously in many respects.

Will you please acknowledge receipt of this letter by return airmail, let me have your personal views and also let me know what you propose to do about it.

With kindest personal regards,

Cordially yours,

(signed) GUSTAVE

Gustave L. Goldstein

P.S. The situation is now further confused by a letter from the American Jewish Conference (to its Delegate from L.A.) which urges the fight on the White Paper, apparently considering such a fight of immediate importance, and makes no mention at all to fight for a Jewish Commonwealth.

1/21/44

sh

Dr Silver

January 11, 1944

Mr. Jacob Pat, Exec. Sec.,
Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York, 2, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Pat:

I have before me your letter of
January 7th addressed to Dr. Silver which I shall
bring to his attention at an early date.

By way of explanation on my part,
I am certain that Dr. Silver understands the position
of the Jewish Labor Committee; certainly there was no
intention to disregard that position.

Next time we meet we might talke
it over.

Sincerely yours,

J. S. Pearlstien
Administrative Secretary

JSP:AJ

COPY FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE

Senator Van Nuys, Democrat, Indiana, January 14, 1944
interview with Mr. Leo Sack.

I submitted today to Senator Van Nuys, member of the Foreign Relations Committee, copy of the proposed resolution.

"Of course I shall support it," he said. "I am very glad that you have given me the opportunity to read it."

Then Senator Van Nuys went on to tell me of a conference a few months ago with a delegation of very prominent Indianapolis Jews in behalf of the Homeland. He found them, he said, "very sore at President Roosevelt because they feel that Mr. Roosevelt has not been sufficiently aggressive in behalf of Palestine."

Senator Van Nuys said his friends think that Mr. Roosevelt has allowed himself to become "Churchill's tool".

This attitude on the part of Indianapolis Jews, which he confirmed elsewhere in Indiana, is such that he feels that President Roosevelt will be penalized next fall. He said he has reported this attitude to the White House and has warned "them" of the political possibilities of an aroused Jewish vote in communities where Jews have large voting strength.

JOE WEINGARTEN
HOUSTON, TEXAS

January 15th

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Friend Silver:

Happy to hear from you and hope your entire family is fine. I shall look forward with interest to reading your lectures on Zionism, given for the benefit of my "chatesim" friends in Houston.

Frankly, Rabbi, as to exactly what to do at this time and how to handle our non-Zionist friends here, I am pretty much puzzled. I am very much encouraged by your remark that some new plan "for the permanent solution of the Palestine problem will be announced before long, which will automatically liquidate the White Paper."

However, as there is sometimes a slip between the cup and the lip, I, personally, will feel very much relieved when that actually comes about. In the meanwhile, however, I would prefer measures that would not antagonize anti-zionists too much, but would tend to keep opposition to the White Paper united.

Now, I am not in favor of making any concessions that would compromise our ultimate right to Palestine and to a Jewish Homeland or Commonwealth there - - especially after we have attained a majority. That was the position taken by the American Jewish Conference and as I understand it, still is and must still be our position.

However, to me it seems to be a question of doing first things first. The most pressing problem as I see it is the final and ultimate doing away with the menace of the White Paper and providing for the greatest possible immigration into Palestine and the acquisition of land, and all those other things that must be done to make this immigration upbuilding, permanent and effective. Second, it seems to me that we must get a maximum amount of help to be provided by our own people, and then from the United States and the United Nations, in order to provide the means to settle these hundreds of thousands of Jews who are going to pour in after the war - possibly some before. Third in my opinion comes the kind of government we will have in Palestine. About this last, however, I have no fears, if the first two objectives can be accomplished. Once they become a majority, the Jews will settle that matter and will settle it right - - I believe we can de-

JOE WEINGARTEN
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Page #2.

pend upon them for that. Of course, I know, Rabbi, that you know a great many things and a great many angles of this problem which I, as a layman, am not acquainted with. There is no doubt that there are certain things and certain views that must be pressed, possibly at this time, in order to get favorable action at the Peace Conference, and it may be necessary to press these views, even at the risk of stirring up our non-Zionist friends. Of course, that is entirely possible.

However, Rabbi, I want you to remember that we have these people here in our midst and all of them are not bad people, or even bad Jews; altho I admit that at times it is pretty hard, even for me to figure out how they can be good Jews and do and say some of the things they do do and do say. In spite of this, these views of theirs are not new, and we have been living together with them and working with them on many things that are of common interest for a great many years. We have known their views and they have known our views, but in spite of this, we have managed to get along, and in most cases respect each other and even like each other in spite of our differences. Therefore, I for one do not want to go wild, even though some of them have seemed to have lost their good reasoning and good judgment, and some people on our side have done likewise. We still have to raise a large sum of money each year for the objectives which you and I hold precious and some of which they, too, hold dear. We certainly cannot raise this money or at least our maximum, unless we find means whereby we can all pull together in some way or fashion. Furthermore, I for one do not want to spend my time and energy in a fight between Jew and Jew when our full time is needed to win a war, and also needed to rescue those of our people who are still alive in Europe.. Frankly, I am not going to let myself be drawn into that kind of a struggle. I maintain that the best kind of defense against what these people are seeking to do, is to be better Americans and better Jews and better Zionists. Many people who were former non-Zionists and even anti-Zionists have become disgusted with some of the ideas and actions of this group and are coming to our side. One young fellow who I know never until now has taken any active interest in Zionism, is now calling upon and writing hundreds of his friends, and canvassing the Jewish community generally in the interest of the Palestine Foundation Fund.

I have seen other cases of renewed interest and greater zeal in Zionism since the Beth Israel Temple and the American Council for Judaism have started functioning here, so these clouds may also have their silver lining!

Now, Rabbi, while I am on this subject, I must tell you that I feel that somehow we Zionists are not entirely blameless in regard to the status of Zionism today. The fact that you can go to a Zionist meeting and see mostly old men there, is in itself a serious manifestation of our failure to make ourselves understood.

JOE WEINGARTEN
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Page #3.

Zionism is really a pioneering job and if it is presented in that way, it should catch the imagination of the young people. It has not been presented in this way and it is far from appealing to the imagination of our youngsters. If many people misunderstand or do not understand Zionism, I believe it is as much our fault as it is their's. Instead of teaching them, we have been fighting them and lambasting them.

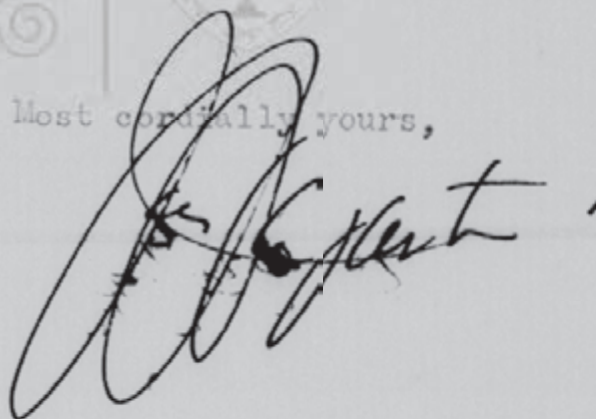
Lambaste and controversy are poor substitutes for facts that carry convictions. I am not smart enough to give the answer of exactly what course to take, but I am convinced that the course we are taking and have been following is the wrong one. We must try others until we find the right course.

Now Rabbi, I have really written more than I intended; however, this matter is on my mind and I wanted to get it off, so you are the "sufferer". However, I will appreciate having your reaction.

Hoping that you are feeling fine and with my warmest regards, I am

JW:b

Most cordially yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to Joe Weingarten, is written over the typed name and extends across the middle of the page.

P.S. Referring to the dinner to be given in honor of Hon. Alben Barkley, I regret very much indeed that I will be unable to attend.

January 17, 1944

Hon. Wallace H. White, Jr.,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator White:

It was, indeed, a great pleasure for me to have had the opportunity of meeting you and spending a pleasant period with you in your office. I was grateful for the opportunity to discuss with you the Jewish National Home and the White Paper which threatens its very existence.

There has been considerable misleading propaganda circulated among our government officials with reference to Palestine, and I was happy to learn that very few, indeed, have been taken in by this propaganda.

You asked about the absorptive capacity of Palestine, and I am taking the liberty of enclosing, herewith, a brief statement on the subject. I am also sending, herewith, a concise little brochure on Palestine, which you may not have seen and which gives many pertinent facts about the economic possibilities of Palestine and about Arab-Jewish relations there.

Every Senator whom I interviewed seemed to be heartily in favor of the Palestine Resolution, which it is proposed to introduce. I hope that you will find it possible to lend the prestige and authority of your name to it and give it your support.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:NEK

January 20, 1944

Rabbi Leon I. Feuer
American Zionist Emergency Council
1720 16th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Leon:

I shall be in New York this coming Sunday and Monday and I should like to decide with Dr. Wise on the exact date for the introduction of the resolution. I would therefore appreciate it if you would let me have the names of the Senators and Congressmen who have definitely committed themselves (1) to introduce the resolution and (2) to sponsor it. After you have gotten the Democrat and Republican Senators to introduce the resolution, it should be very easy to see some other Senators and ask them to sponsor it. The Senators with whom I have spoken, and who have indicated a willingness to go along with us, are Lodge, Taft, Clark of Missouri, and Barkley. You may know of others, such as Senators Van Nuys and Gillette. Six or seven such names would be very helpful.

The same thing holds true of the House. If we are not yet ready with the names of Congressmen, we might introduce the Senate resolution first, and introduce it into the House a little later.

At all events, I should like to have the detailed information by Sunday. Please send it to me airmail to Cleveland, and a copy of it airmail to the Commodore Hotel, New York.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

MEMORANDUM

REPORT OF INTERVIEW BY MR. WILEY MOORE, POLITICAL
LEADER OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA WITH SENATOR WALTER F.
GEORGE.

Mr. Moore was in Washington Monday, January 24th. He contacted Rabbi Feuer and told him that he was having dinner with Senator George and would like to discuss the subject of Palestine with him. Rabbi Feuer furnished Mr. Moore with a copy of the proposed resolution. The next morning, January 25th, Mr. Moore called Rabbi Feuer and reported on his conference with Senator George.

Mr. Moore found Senator George very understanding and sympathetic. He told Mr. Moore that he had had a very interesting conversation with Dr. Silver. He was very much impressed with him. He thought that if the resolution could get some unofficial expression of support from Cordell Hull, it would have the unanimous passage through the House and Senate. However, he liked the text of the resolution and even suggested that it ought to be made a joint rather than a concurrent action of the two Houses. Mr. Moore discussed with him the possibility of his introducing the resolution himself. He said that he would be very much inclined to do so if he was not the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee. He felt that it ought to be introduced by someone who was not serving in such an official capacity. His attitude was the familiar one that members of the Foreign Relations Department, particularly prominent members, ought not to commit themselves in advance.

He told Mr. Moore that barring serious opposition from the administration in the State Department, he would support and vote for the resolution and was inclined to think that the chances for its passage to be good.

January 27, 1944

The Honorable James A. Wright
House of Representatives of the United States
Washington, D.C.

My dear Congressman Wright:

Please accept my profound appreciation and thanks for the initiative which you took in introducing the Palestine Resolution in the House. American, world Jewry, and all men of good will everywhere, will be grateful to you for this act of statesmanship and humanity which I am confident will help in the establishment of the Jewish National Home in Palestine, overwhelmingly approved by the nations of the world and by our own government after the last war, as an act of historic justice, and will keep the doors of that ancient Land of Israel open to the myriads of victims of Nazi persecution who will be able to find a new home and a new life there. You have rendered a great service to a great cause in a great hour.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ANS:BK

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WESTERN UNION

1211

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

WANT A REPLY?

"Answer by WESTERN UNION"
or similar phrases may be
included without charge.

Dr. Silver NIGHT LETTER TO BE SENT TO THE ATTACHED LIST

FEBRUARY 1, 1944

BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS NOW CONSIDERING RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS CALLING FOR ABROGATION OF WHITE PAPER AND FREE JEWISH EMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE WITH VIEW TO ULTIMATE ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE DEMOCRATIC JEWISH COMMONWEALTH. THIS IN ACCORD WITH RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE AT AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE. AT MEETING OF PALESTINE COMMISSION OF CONFERENCE UNANIMOUS VIEW THAT THIS IS PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT FOR REGISTRATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF THIS RESOLUTION. WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR TELEGRAPHIC APPROVAL AUTHORIZING CONFERENCE TO UNDERTAKE TO CONDUCT SUCH REGISTRATION. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD REGISTRATION WILL TAKE THE FORM OF PETITION SIGNED BY INDIVIDUAL JEWS TO PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF UNITED STATES IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION INTRODUCED IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS. IT IS VIEW OF MOST IMPORTANT CIRCLES THAT SUCH ACTION IS OF HIGHEST IMPORTANCE IN ASSURING PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION. TIME IS OF ESSENCE THEREFORE THIS EFFORT TO POLL VOTE OF MEMBERS OF INTERIM COMMITTEE BY TELEGRAM. WOULD DEEPLY APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE BY WIRE.

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
CHAIRMAN, PALESTINE COMMISSION

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN) CO-CHAIRMEN
HENRY MONSKY) INTERIM COMMITTEE
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE) AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

AJ

SENT TO ENTIRE INTERIM COMMITTEE

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 3, 1944

My dear Dr. Silver:

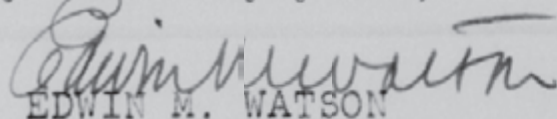
The President has arranged to receive the following group of persons and yourself on February fourteenth, 1944, at about twelve-thirty P. M.

Dr. Stephen Wise
Dr. Israel Goldstein
Mr. Henry Monsky
Mr. Joseph M. Proskauer
Mr. Jacob Blaustein
Mr. Adolph Held

I understand that this conference has been requested of the President in order to discuss the continuance of immigration into Palestine and the settlement of refugees thereon.

Will you please notify me of your ability to attend at that time?

Very sincerely yours,



EDWIN M. WATSON
Major General, U.S. Army,
Secretary to the President.

Dr. A. H. Silver,
41 East 42nd St.,
New York, New York.

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

February 4, 1944

I. L. KENEN
Public Relations Director

J. S. PEARLSTIEN
Administrative Secretary

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I read the letters to Mr. Monsky and he is in agreement with the proposal to circularize all the congressmen and the editors of the country's leading newspapers in the name of the Conference appealing for their vote and editorial support of the resolutions.

I renewed the request that he appear before the Congressional Committee, but he tells me that his schedule makes this prohibitive and he does not believe that he can nominate anyone to take his place, although he has written a letter expressing B'nai B'rith's support.

It is his suggestion that whoever does appear before the Committee identify himself with respect to the Conference so that the members of the House Committee may understand that the resolution does have the support of the Conference as such.

We concurs with your suggestion that we enclose the text of the Palestine resolution and I am arranging to have this printed at once in the hope that the resolution may be in the hands of all the Congressmen as soon as possible.

I had a call from the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, informing me that they were planning to send a spokesman to the hearings in regard to the resolution and asking me to transmit this information to you.

I am planning to be in Washington on Tuesday and hope that I can be of some service.

Telegrams received from members of the Interim Committee show that the great majority favor the mass registration proposed by Mr. Weisgal. We should be in a position to go forward with this early next week.

If it becomes evident that we will have a fight on our hands in connection with this resolution, we might be able to induce some of the newspapers or newspaper chains to print copies of the petition as a contribution to this cause. Despite my seventeen years of newspaper experience, I still have some idealistic notions about publishers.

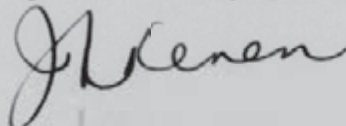
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
February 4, 1944

- 2 -

It is conceivable that if it should be found necessary to print the petitions in newspaper advertisements, it might be done by local emergency Zionist councils and financed by subscriptions from individuals in local communities.

In response to Rabbi Leon Feuer's call, we sent out telegrams yesterday to the national organizations friendly to the Zionist position and I have been already advised that a number of organizations immediately responded with telegrams to Sol Bloom.

Very sincerely yours,



I. L. KENEN
Public Relations Director

ILK:FS

P.S. I am enclosing copy of letter sent today to Mr. Monsky wherein drafts of the letters to be sent to all Congressmen and leading editors were included.



CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

WA111 15 GOVT=THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 4 1046A
1944 FEB 4 AM 10 58
DR A H SILVER, THE TEMPLE E 105TH AND ANSEL RD=
CLEVE=

PLEASE REGARD MY LETTER FEBRUARY THIRD CONFIDENTIAL AS
DEEMED INADVISABLE HAVE PUBLICITY PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT=
EDWIN M WATSON SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT.

Ga 0150

AN	1107A	BK (RB)
		MAIL

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
NIGHT LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION

1207

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

\$	CHECK
\$	ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
F	TIME FILED

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

2-4-43

19

Care of or Apt. No.

Street and No.

Place

PLEASE REGARD MY LETTER FEBRUARY 3 CONFIDENTIAL AS DEEMED INADVISABLE

HAVE PUBLICITY PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT

EDWARD M. WATSON

Secretary to the President

Washington, D.C.

WANT A REPLY?

"Answer by 'WESTERN UNION'"
or similar phrases may be
included without charge.

Sender's Name

Address

Tel. No.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

FEB 10 1944

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

GAWU H64 30 GOVT 3 EXTRA=THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC

VIA CLEVELAND OHIO FEB 10 1944 DR A H SILVER=CARE AMN ZIONIST

EMERGENCY COUNTY=I AM SORRY THAT IT HAS BECOME

BECOME NECESSARY TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY THE CONFERENCE

SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY FOURTEENTH. I SHALL ADVISE YOU WHEN

ANOTHER DATE HAS BEEN SET=EDWIN M WATSON SECRETARY TO THE

PRESENT. 137PM..

JOE WEINGARTEN
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Feb. 15, 1944.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
American Jewish Conference,
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York, 17, New York.

Dear Friend Silver:

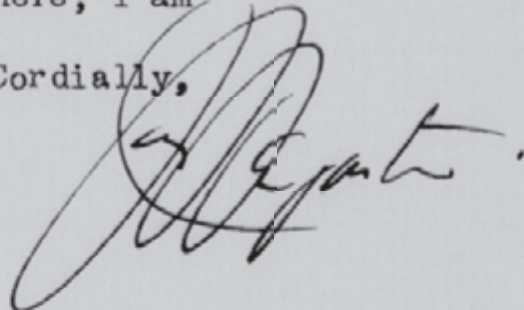
Referring to your letter of February 2nd regarding the Resolution introduced in the Senate and in the House, concerning Palestine, wish to say that I have gotten in touch with quite a number of prominent people here, non-Jews as well as Jews; and in fact, a great many more non-Jews than Jews, and have urged them to send telegrams or air-mail letters to our senators and congressman, urging them to vote for this Resolution. As most of these people had already attended a luncheon, given by Mose Feld and myself in honor of Judge Krosse, they knew what it was all about, and I feel quite certain that we will get good results.

As a matter of fact, while we, of course, want to have a lot of Jewish folks get in touch with our legislators to show their interest, nevertheless, I think it is even more important to have non-Jewish people do this. Frankly, just between us, I have found it much easier to get the sympathetic understanding and consideration of a great many non-Jews than of some Jews, and especially some that you and I know about.

If I can be of any further service, do not hesitate to call upon me. I do hope with my whole heart that these Resolutions will be adopted.

Hoping that you, Mrs. Silver and the entire family are fine, and with very best from all here, I am

Cordially,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Weingarten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

B'NAI B'RITH

Office of the President
HENRY MONSKY
OMAHA NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

February 21, 1944.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
c/o The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I would appreciate it if, at your convenience, you would advise me confidentially, the circumstances as you found them, which preceded and led up to the postponement of the meeting originally scheduled for February 14th.

I have been following with much interest the developments in the hearing before the Foreign Relations Committee, and I shall appreciate your appraisal of the situation in respect to the House and Senate resolutions.

I ask this because, while I have formed certain impressions from published reports, I am reluctant to conclude any judgments without having an expression from you based upon your first-hand information.

My inquiry is prompted also by some anxiety lest there be an attempt to reduce the scope of the resolution. I hope you will find the time without going into too much detail to give me the benefit of your ideas in respect to the matters referred to in this letter.

Regards

Sincerely yours,

Henry Monsky
Henry Monsky

HM:ES

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

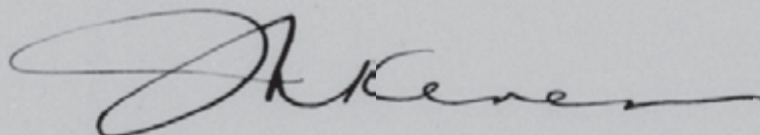
FROM: Mr. I. L. Kenen

DATE: February 22, 1944

SUBJECT:

In line with the discussion last night, I am suggesting that the attached letter be sent to all delegates and national organizations.

Will you make such changes as you deem desirable and let me have your authorization to proceed?

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "I. L. Kenen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
Washington

In reply AG 291.2 Palestine
Refer to (19 Feb 44) CH-L

24 February 1944.

Fe

Mr. Louis Segal
c/o Jewish National Workers' Alliance
45 East 17th Street
New York, 3, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 19 February 1944, addressed to the Secretary of War, and inclosing an editorial which appeared in the New York Post of 16 February, dealing with Palestine and the War Refugee Board. You request advice as to the position taken or to be taken by the War Department on the bi-Partisan Wright-Compton resolution on Palestine now pending before both houses of Congress.

No record has been found to show that the War Department has been called upon by a Committee of Congress for a report on the resolution referred to above. The remarks made by you have been noted and in the event the Department is called upon for report on the resolution, the matter will receive careful consideration. However, it is a long standing rule of the Department not to express any views upon proposed legislation except in response to a call for a report from a committee of Congress in charge of a particular bill. For this reason it is necessary to refrain from expressing any views with respect to the measure.

Very truly yours,

(signed) ROBERT H. DUNLOP

ROBERT H. DUNLOP
Brigadier General.
Acting The Adjutant General

Jewish National Workers' Alliance



אידן-לאנדמאנער ארגאניזאציע

DAVID PINSKI, PRESIDENT
J. ENTEEN, VICE-PRESIDENT
DR. A. MARGULIS, TREAS.
LOUIS SEGAL, SECRETARY
S. BURSTEIN, ASST. SEC.
J. KATZMAN, ASST. TO SEC.
PH. GINGOLD, EDUC. DIR.

DR. ISAAC GROSSMAN
CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR
S. H. AND LEE J. WOLFE
ACTUARIES AND AUDITORS
SHERMAN AND GOLDRING
ATTORNEYS

MEMBERS GENERAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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I. HAMLIN
H. HERRINGMAN

B. I. PERLMUTTER
DR. D. T. SOMMER
M. SILVERBERG
R. TEMPER

45 EAST 17th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

February 25, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman
Executive Committee
American Zionist Emergency Council
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter received by me from Brig. General Robert H. Dunlop, Acting Adjutant General of the War Department, Washington, D. C., which I consider of significance in reference to the situation created in connection with the Wagner-Taft and Wright-Compton resolutions on Palestine.

The information contained therein may be of help to you.

I am, with best wishes,

Most sincerely yours,

LOUIS SEGAL
General Secretary

LS:PMK

AFOE

ENC.

P.S. A copy of this letter and enclosure are being sent to the New York Office of the American Zionist Emergency Council.

February 25, 1944

Mr. Robert Szold,
30 Broad Street,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Bob:

You have probably learned from Arthur Lourie, or Emanuel Neumann or both about the present status in Washington - General Marshall's appearance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; the interview of F.F. with Mr. McCloy.

I am enclosing, herewith, a report of Mr. Elihu D. Stone of the most recent interview which he and Dr. Feuer had with Mr. Bloom. Please let me know what you think of his suggestion.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:NEK

February 25, 1944

Dr. Leon I. Feuer
American Zionist Emergency Council
1720 16th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Leon:

You mentioned, some time ago, that Senator Tydings was prepared to deliver an address on Palestine on the floor of the Senate. What happened to it?

2) Please procure for me a copy of the letter which Senator Taft sent to the State Department before he introduced the resolution.

3) Did you hear from Judge Fisher, Sabath and Frank Knox?

4) Keep in touch with Mr. Bloom. Tell him about General Marshall's statement. See whether he is still as confident as he was. Suggest that he go to the President to get the Green Light for his resolution. The Senate resolution could then wait.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

March 7, 1944

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

My dear Joel:

I do not know whether in the press and drive of these recent days during which I have been away from my desk most of the time I took the occasion to write to you and to inform you that your resignation as chairman of the Community Contacts Committee was presented at a meeting of the Zionist Emergency Council and was accepted with much regret. I am sorry that pressure of work and your health made necessary this step on your part. I trust that you will find it possible before very long to resume your place in our Council.

You are no doubt acquainted with the recent developments in relation to our Congress Resolution. The State Department which had previously indicated no objection to the Resolution, suddenly changed its mind (we suspect oil and British pressure) and used the War Department to bring about a deferment of action on the Resolution. It is a long story which some day will be told in full. The feeling in Congress has been and continues to be most friendly towards the Resolution, and were it to vote today, the Resolution would be adopted by it almost unanimously.

We are having an important conference with a very important individual in Washington this coming Thursday, and something may come out of the conference.

Hoping to see you soon, and with all good wishes to Terry, I remain

Most cordially,

AHS:BK

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

DATE: MARCH 13, 1944

FROM: ELIHU D. STONE

Pursuant to the Conference with the President of last Thursday, I respectfully suggest the advisability of your going to London as soon as possible, in order to join Dr. Weizmann in his conversations with Mr. Stettinius, our Under-Secretary of State.

It seems to be clear that Palestine will be on the Agenda. In view of the fact that Mr. Stettinius is being accompanied by Mr. Murray and others who are not too friendly to our Cause, the presence of an American like yourself would be of inestimable value.

Statements however friendly do not execute themselves, not even statements from the President of the United States. There is an opportunity in London to confirm the interpretation given ^{by us} ~~to~~ to the President's attitude. On the other hand, the reverse is also true. Mr. Murray, on whom Mr. Stettinius will necessarily lean by reason of the fact that he is the "expert" on the Near East including Palestine, may utilize the occasion for the purpose of translating his hostility to the Jewish National Home into some kind of an arrangement. Hence, the imperativeness of your participation in the conversations ~~that~~ Mr. Stettinius may carry on with Dr. Weizmann. It is obvious that you as the head of the Zionist political work in America would be in a better position to neutralize Mr. Murray than Dr. Weizmann. It is clear that the evolutionary process of Zionist events in the United States calls for your assumption of a share in the World Zionist leadership. It is dictated by the very logic of the realities of the situation. It is inescapable.

In view of all these, I venture to urge upon you to give this proposal your earnest consideration.

Elihu D. Stone

March 14, 1944

Dr. Leon I. Feuer
American Zionist Emergency Council
1720 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Leon:

There is an excellent editorial,
"The Army in Palestine" in the New Leader,
March 11, 1944. You may wish to see it and
to make it available to certain people. The
New Leader is a pro-Roosevelt and pro-New Deal
journal.

I am also sending you a clipping of
Senator Brewster's address in The Temple pulpit
last Sunday which significantly points out the
anomaly of the President's statement and the
prohibition on the Resolution in Congress.

You mention that Senator Thomas is eager
to make a speech on the floor of the Senate. By all means
have him do so, and as soon as possible. There should be
additional speeches made both in the House and in the
Senate. What about Senator Tydings' promised speech?

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc. - 2

AHS File
SILVER PAPERS

Friday, March 17, 1944
Re: Pal. Res.

Rabbi Feuer phoned and said that the Foreign Affairs Committee had met in Executive Session this morning, listened to McCloy and to Army officers, and decided to defer action on the resolution, and issued a statement to that effect.

I phoned Congressman Wright at Washington and he gave me more details. The military objection was not to any part of the resolution, but the resolution as a whole -- any resolution on Palestine at this time. The military indicated that the subject might be reopened at some future time, but in all probability, not in the near future.

Wagner was surprised at the sudden calling of the meeting. He had been led to believe that the subject would not come up for action, but the resolution would remain in the state of pendency.

There was no letter from Secretary Hull, only the military was represented. Congressman Wright regarded this as a skirmish. He plans to bring the matter up at some future time. He felt that little could be done at the moment, in view of the fact that the military had put itself on record that favorable action on the resolution would be a danger to our military security.

It is significant that McCloy appeared, even after his conversation with F. F.

Congressman Bloom had given no indication to our people who saw him yesterday that such action would be forthcoming.

X given AHS File
re: Pol.
Res.

Substance of Interviews on Wednesday, March 15, 1944 and Thursday, March 16th with the following Congressmen: Celler, Rowe, Wright, Compton, Bloom, McCormack, and Ellison. Participating in the interviews were Stone, Sack, and Feuer.

In accordance with the decision reached at the last meeting of the Executive Committee, we undertook a survey of the situation as it obtains in the Capitol with reference to the pending resolutions. We had lengthy interviews with the above Congressmen, including Republicans and Democrats, Jews and non-Jews. We went into the whole situation very exhaustively, particularly in the light of the President's statement. Without going into the specific details of each interview we gathered the following impressions and came to the following conclusions.

All of the people to whom we spoke were pretty much of the same opinion. Taking all of the factors into consideration, the wisest thing to do, at least for the next two or three weeks, is to follow a policy of watchful waiting. All of the men to whom we spoke were agreed that it would first of all be difficult to bring the present resolution, in the form in which it is now, out of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. If the resolution is brought up for discussion before the Committee, an immediate demand will be made to have representatives of the War and State Departments appear to testify. As a matter of fact, the Republican members of the Committee have been demanding that this be done. They have interrupted sessions of the Committee which were being devoted to the discussion of other subjects in order to insist that some action be taken on the Palestine resolution. The reason for this is clear. The Republicans want to be able to give themselves "an out" with their constituents. They can say that they were ready to act favorably on the resolution but were helpless in the face of the testimony of the military. As a matter of fact, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Bloom, has indicated, and Congressman Wright supports him, that he is having some difficulty now in avoiding acceding to the demands of the Republican members.

But, assuming that the resolutions were to weather the testimony of the War Department and possibly also of the State Department and come through the Committee by a majority (and the probability of this is not very great at the present moment) we would still have a hurdle to cross in the Rules Committee. If the resolution finally came on the floor, a number of risky things might happen. We have already been warned that there are some members who would attack and try to delete the last phrase of the resolution dealing with the Commonwealth, either because they have been reached by our opponents or because, as was indicated by Representative Hamilton Fish last week in a conversation with Rabbi Feuer, it is an unusual procedure for Congress to commit itself with regard to a specific political formula for another committee. There is also a strong likelihood that the military objection to the resolution would be made a subject of debate. The request would be made to have a public reading of the Hull and Stimson letters. The presence of these letters is now widely known in the Congress. It was strongly hinted to us by Majority Leader McCormack that this would afford an opportunity for the anti-Semites in Congress to have a field day, an opportunity for which they are always seeking, to accuse the Jewish people of trying to oppose the judgment of the constituted military authorities. With all of these various factors present, it seems to be the consensus of opinion of the men we consulted that there is a strong likelihood of a lengthy debate on the resolution on the floor of the House and attempts to amend and emasculate the resolution. With good organization on our part and a re-marrying of our forces we might beat off these attempts and carry a majority of the House. But, it must be recognized that the risk of amendment or defeat is present and a danger to be reckoned with. It is questionable whether it is advisable to take that risk at the present moment when by a period of waiting not too prolonged we lose nothing and may gain a change in the situation, whether because of an actual change in the war

situation or because we have been able to reach and remove the opposition of the Executive Departments.

An interesting and curious thing kept cropping up in all the conversations, merely the hint from some of the men interviewed and the outright advice from others that a milder resolution would have a far greater chance of success and that such a resolution might even be obtained rather quickly. This, of course, reveals the fraud of the military argument, which was based on the premise that any resolution and public hearings on same would be dangerous to the war effort. It indicates what we have long suspected, the objections to the resolution are not military but political and originate in the State and not in the War Department. Representative Fish told Rabbi Feuer a week ago that if we permitted him to redraft the resolution along lines which he would suggest, substituting some other phrase for the Jewish Commonwealth phrase he could personally guarantee its passage in a very short time. Congressman Compton told us that he has been urged by fellow Congressmen in the interest of the passage of the bill to eliminate the Commonwealth phrase. McCormack kept throwing out the suggestion that a milder resolution might give the War Department a face-saving formula which would enable it to withdraw its objections. Bloom has been trying to persuade us to introduce a substitute resolution for several weeks now. All of this, of course, means that what they are trying to get us to do is to compromise so as to give an easy out to everybody concerned, the people in the House who want to see the phrase Jewish Commonwealth eliminated from the resolution, the State Department which will fight tooth and nail to prevent Congress from committing itself to such a proposal and the War Department which knows it has raised a hornet's nest and would not be averse to covering its tracks by turning its face in another direction while a meaningless substitute resolution is put through. A compromise would have been effected by the Zionist and the Zionist-opposition and the Congressmen would have satisfied their constituents by doing something for the Jews.

Congressman McCormack advised an attempt be made to talk to the President about the need of the legislation and persuade him that there was a need and desire for expression of some opinion on the part of the Congress and that we would appreciate his cooperation in working out some method of meeting the objections of the War Department.

Rabbi Feuer raised the question of the advisability of having an interview with Secretary Stimson on the subject. Congressman McCormack thought that was a very good idea although he would prefer to see the subject discussed with the President first. On the basis of our interviews we have come to the following tentative conclusions:

1. That for the present we stand by the resolution we now formulated without change or modifications. If we stand by it, we have a good chance of getting it, not as soon as we would have liked to but eventually. A compromise now is a final step which should not be taken at the present moment.
2. That we wait to see what developments in the next few weeks and utilize the breathing period both to explore the situation further and to keep the subject alive. For this latter purpose we are planning periodic addresses in the House and Senate. Such addresses will be made in the very near future by Senators Tydings, Walsh, and Clark and by a number of Congressmen with whom we are working.
3. That an effort be made in the very near future to see Secretary Stimson and discuss the matter with him. There is a chance that he may be

persuaded by a presentation of our case to alter the attitude of the War Department. This could not happen in the immediate future but it is not inconceivable that some military event would give the War Department an excuse for dropping its interest in the subject.

L.H.

LIF:hh



MEMORANDUM

FROM Rabbi Leon I. Feuer

DATE: March 24, 1944

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

SUBJECT: Minutes of Dinner Meeting on Wednesday evening March 22nd
at the Statler Hotel

Present were Congressmen Celler, Dickstein, Weiss, and Ellison
and Messrs. Stone, Sack and Feuer

We held a detailed discussion with the Congressmen on the question of the pending resolutions and our future course with regard to them. It was the consensus of opinion of the Congressmen that without interference the resolutions would have passed overwhelmingly. Congressman Dickstein told us that close to fifty representatives voluntarily offered to sign the petition which he had threatened to circulate to discharge the Foreign Affairs Committee and bring the resolution to the floor. In view of what has transpired he has decided to abandon this idea for the time being.

We discussed with the Congressmen the danger of the introduction of another resolution and of the damage that would do to the Zionist cause here and more especially in England. They agreed with us completely and pledged themselves not to lend assistance to such a move, but that on the contrary they would stand by the Commonwealth resolution. (I have since learned that Congressman Celler has been asked to introduce such a resolution and has desisted) They did not think it very likely that such a resolution would be introduced in the very near future for several reasons. First, they felt with the attitude of the War Department on the subject of Palestine so well known in Congress that no individual Congressman would be likely to be "fool-hardy" enough to sponsor such a resolution and to buck the War Department on it. Secondly, if such a resolution were introduced, it would be referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee which from the point of view of consistency could do nothing but pursue the same course as they had with our resolution.

(Note: The danger of such a situation would be that if the Foreign Affairs Committee has two resolutions before it, when it finally comes to reporting out a resolution the Committee might be inclined to follow the path of least resistance and report out the milder resolution. Since we know what Bloom's attitude is, this would be a very strong possibility. Then we would have two alternatives, either to stand firm by our resolution which the Committee will have to consider first and depend upon its going through the Committee by a majority, or agreeing to some re-writing of our resolution in which we would make some concession on language and the opposition of the Committee would make some concession on their opposition to the Commonwealth phrase. This would not give us all that we asked for but it might enable us to come out with a fairly decent resolution. Mr. Neumann suggested to me this morning as a result of his conversation with Akzin who reported that the other group was contemplating the introduction of a resolution that we might forestall such action by indirectly encouraging the introduction of a Palestine Immigration resolution ourselves. I am not clear as to the advantage to be gained by this, but I am certain that if a Palestine Immigration resolution were passed it would kill the chances of a Commonwealth resolution being passed. Congress will not pass two Palestine resolutions, certainly not in the same session.)

The Congressmen were of the opinion that we ought to keep on working and heartily seconded our plan to attempt to obtain Palestine planks in the platforms of the national conventions of the Republican and Democratic parties. They pointed out that if such planks were written into the platforms the parties would be committed, and this would have a strong influence on the vote in Congress when our resolution finally is considered. The suggestion was made by them that we ought to keep up by all means our public activities and propaganda which would indirectly influence Congress and that we ought to utilize an additional device. Between now and election time we ought to circularize the Congressman with a questionnaire sent to them by their constituents and requesting them to express themselves as to their attitude on the Commonwealth resolution. This is a procedure adopted by many groups to sound out Congressional opinion.

The group agreed that they would consider themselves a sort of informal committee and would meet and consult with us from time to time as the necessity arises.

Congressman Celler then reported on the substance of the interview which he had with President Roosevelt on February 9th. There are several interesting points about this interview.

✓ 1. The President told Celler that Secretary Hull had asked him not to confer at the present time with Jewish leaders on the Palestine question. Celler was not clear as to whether Hull had intervened with regard to the interview with Dr. Silver and Dr. Wise or whether it was with reference to the joint interview with the Zionists and the representatives of the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Labor Committee. This is interesting because in an interview which I had with David Niles, he suggested that the President was a little "miffed" because the Zionists had refused to meet with the others and caused the cancellation of the appointment. Therefore, Secretary Hull's intervention must be with regard to the earlier appointment. Since the President made the appointment it may indicate that he was not disposed to follow the Secretary's advice; or, it may be that the cancellation of the first appointment by Wise gave the President a chance to compromise with Hull who did not want him to meet with the Zionists and hold a joint meeting which was scheduled for February 14th. The more you think about it the more confusing it gets.

✓ 2. The President told Celler that General Marshall had discussed the resolution with him. It was not clear whether Marshall had discussed this with the President alone or whether the suggestion came up at some military staff meeting. Marshall told the President that the resolutions were bad from the point of view of the war effort. The President, said to Celler that he was ^{not} sure that he agreed with Marshall about how seriously the resolutions would affect the military situation but that he was inclined to defer to Marshall's judgment.

3. The interview with the President concerned itself exclusively with the White Paper. There was nothing about the general future of Palestine. Mr. Celler told us that he brought the President back several times with the specific question of the White Paper and what ought to be done about it. In response to this, he said, the President repeated several times the same phrase: "The White Paper will be by-passed".

4. Celler told us that the substance of the interview had been reported by him to Dr. Nahum Goldman. Since Celler saw the President in February and Goldman left for Europe on January 17th, this is not possible. Either Celler is confused, which is not unlikely, or he is trying to cover himself up for not providing us with the details of the interview.

An interesting side light was introduced into our evening's conversation with the Congressmen by Ellison. He reminded the other Congressmen that all of them had seen the President together about a ~~month~~ year ago to discuss all of the aspects of the problem. It was a very unsatisfactory interview. They asked the President about refugees, the White Paper, etc. What he proposed to do about these things. They made a number of suggestions to him as to what they thought he ought to do and the answer to all of those suggestions was "No". Bloom was present at this interview. In fact he was already there when the Congressmen had arrived and very obviously had primed the President for the meeting. He sat on a couch in a corner of the room, did not participate in the conversation, did not assist his fellow Congressmen in any way, very evidently played the role of assisting the President out of a difficult situation rather than assisting his fellow Congressmen who had come there to do some good for the Jews.

COPY

Law Offices

SAMUEL MARX
321 South Chadwick St.
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

AHS

March 27, 1944

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise
President of American Jewish Congress
New York City, New York

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
New York City, New York

Dear Rabbi Wise:-

At a recent meeting of a newly organized chapter of the American Jewish Congress in Philadelphia, the members participated in a thorough discussion of the Palestine Resolutions in the Congress of the United States. There was unanimity of opinion that the War Department's statement that the passage of the Resolutions would impede the war effort was neither convincing nor acceptable. In this connection your attention is invited to Pierre Van Paassen's article, "Is There Not A Sorrow", in the April issue of "The Protestant".

It was thereupon resolved that activity on behalf of an immediate passage of the Resolutions should not be discontinued in the absence of facts clearly demonstrating the alleged harmful consequences to the war effort.

Perhaps you are familiar with evidence which would justify such a conclusion and would enlighten us as to its nature. In the absence of such persuasive evidence, we call upon you to revive and reinvigorate the total effort directed to the immediate passage of the Palestine Resolutions.

Please be assured of our continued and wholehearted support in this campaign.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Samuel Marx

President, Central Chapter, A.J.C.

MN

4-11-44

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
HARRISON E. SPANGLER

1337 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

June 20, 1944

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th & Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

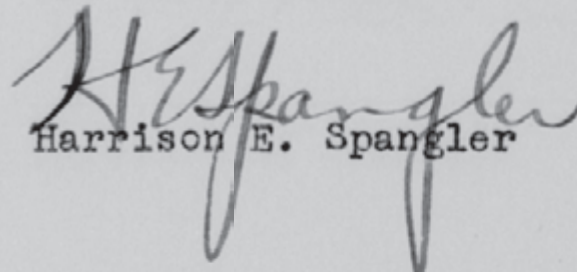
Confirming my wire of this morning, we deeply appreciate your courtesy in so kindly consenting to give one of the invocations at the Republican National Convention. We have arranged for you to do this at the session beginning at 8:15 P.M., Tuesday, June 27th.

In checking the records of our previous Conventions we find that it has been customary to limit the invocations to five minutes.

Will you please be there a little before 8:15 P.M. and report to Harold W. Mason, Secretary of the Convention, who will be on the platform?

We will deliver two tickets to you which will be good for all sessions. If you cannot use them for the other sessions, will you kindly leave them with the Secretary, Mr. Mason?

Sincerely yours,


Harrison E. Spangler

HES:K

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WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

=342 MADISON AVE=

1944 JUN 20 PM 12 36

WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU GIVE INVOCATION TUESDAY EVENING
SESSION, JUNE 27TH=

HARRISON E SPANGLER.

RECEIVED		
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DATE	AIH	JUN 20 1944
ANSWERED		

DRAFT OF LETTER TO BE SENT IN THE NAME OF DR. SILVER
TO ALL DELEGATES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Sir:

During the last few weeks there has been a remarkable outpouring of sentiment in support of the Wright-Compton and Wagner-Taft resolutions calling for the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth.

From all parts of the country Jewish organizations and their leaders have made a notable effort to inform members of Congress of their views on these resolutions. The unprecedented flood of telegrams, telephone calls and letters has profoundly impressed the Capitol, evoking many assurances of support from Congressmen.

Analysis of the situation now indicates the necessity of a similar approach to the President and Secretary of State Cordell Hull, since it is evident that Congress will seek the advice of the executive branch.

We are therefore requesting all Conference delegates and organizations affiliated with the Conference to send letters appealing to the President and Secretary Hull to lend sympathy and support to the two resolutions. We are hopeful that the response to this new request will be as eloquent and as vigorous as the last one. Forceful action at this time may well determine the final outcome.

Sincerely yours,

There

- ① Kenna - wire
- ② Lanni - d 77
cable - Thomas Bue/Cole
- ③ Sack - Pat Hurley
- ~~St. Thomas~~
- ④ Lipstky - do Henry
Willkin
Bridges

⑤ Write Joel Gross

⑥ Dr. Thomas
⑦ Write Margaret

Unseen Hill
2/1/60

1/ Unpublished = Fr = 0th in
- Joe = unglypt -
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Unseen Hill