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

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103

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36

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188

Shulman, Herman, 1944?.

HAYS, PODELL & SHULMAN
COUNSELLORS AT LAW

HERMAN SHULMAN
JACOB J. PODELL
MORTIMER HAYS
BENJAMIN ALGASE
MORTIMER FEUER
HERBERT L. BARNET
ABRAHAM PORTER
SERGEI S. ZLINKOFF

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NATHANIEL DRABKIN
BENJAMIN SPIEGEL
ELSIE BANDES

39 BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY

TELEPHONE DIGBY 4-0515
CABLE ADDRESS "HAPOS"

January 6, 1944.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

For some time now I have been somewhat disturbed about what seems to me to be a rather loose control over the expenditures being made on behalf of the Emergency Council. I am prompted to write to you about the matter because of several incidents which recently came to my attention.

You may recall that when Mr. Robert Szold left for Palestine I was authorized to sign checks of the Emergency Council, together with two or three other persons to whom such authority had previously been given. (Since my appointment, I am informed, five additional persons have been authorized to sign checks). The record apparently also shows that I was designated as the temporary treasurer during Mr. Szold's absence. I never functioned in that capacity, however, since the Budget and Finance Committee came into existence just about that time and all financial matters, including the authorization of expenditures, became the responsibility of that committee.

With respect to the signing of checks, Mr. Montor, as Executive Director, advised me that I was authorized to sign checks submitted to me for signature when the accompanying invoice or expenditure slip contained his "O.K." and signature. Accordingly, I have been signing checks submitted to me when so authorized by Mr. Montor. Since Mr. Montor's resignation as Executive Director no one, to my knowledge, has been designated to approve checks submitted for signature.

About a week ago a check was submitted to me, payable to the order of the Independent Jewish Press Service in the sum of \$2500., accompanied by a memorandum authorizing the payment which was signed by Mr. Montor. I felt that since Mr. Montor was in some way connected with that organization,

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

1/6/44

the issuance of the check should have been approved by some other person. When I advised Mr. Montor of my feeling in the matter, he told me it was unnecessary to sign the check at that time because he wanted to take the matter up with you again. I therefore returned the check to him unsigned.

Yesterday among the checks submitted to me for my signature was one payable to the order of Mr. Harry Shapiro in the sum of \$182.86. This check was accompanied by a memorandum signed by Rabbi Feuer addressed to Miss Shepatin, in which Rabbi Feuer states "that as of January 1, 1944, Mr. Harry Shapiro is to be put on the payroll at a yearly salary of \$9,000 plus \$6.00 per diem. He is to act in the capacity of director of the New York office of the Emergency Council."

Rabbi Feuer's memorandum did not state whether this increase in Mr. Shapiro's compensation had been approved by the Budget and Finance Committee or by you. I attempted to reach Rabbi Feuer about this matter, but I was advised he was home ill in Toledo.

It is not customary for one administrative official to have the power to fix the compensation of another administrative official. Such authority, in my judgment, should be vested either in the Executive Committee or in the Budget and Finance Committee or in you as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Will you, therefore, please advise me whether you or the Budget and Finance Committee authorized this increase in Mr. Shapiro's compensation.

Although with the return of Mr. Szold, for whom I have been substituting, I shall shortly be relieved of the responsibility for the signing of checks, I consider it my duty to point out to you that on the basis of my experience and because at the present time nine persons are authorized to sign checks, it would be wise to adopt a more careful control over expenditures. This could perhaps be achieved (a) by designating a comptroller or other official whose duty it would be to approve the issuance of all checks after checking the items covered by the checks against the budget and after ascertaining whether such expenditures have been duly authorized; (b) by reporting all extraordinary expenses to the Executive Committee of the

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

1/6/44

Emergency Council for approval; and (c) by designating only such persons to sign checks who are fully familiar with the budgetary requirements. Unless such safeguards or some other safeguards are adopted, it would seem to me, persons authorized to sign checks on behalf of the Emergency Council assume a responsibility which they cannot adequately fulfill.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely,

Abba Hillel Silver



HS:b

January 8, 1944

Mr. Herman Shulman,
39 Broadway,
New York City

My dear Mr. Shulman:

Thank you for your letter of January 6th. I did not know there were so many people authorized to write checks for the Emergency Council - almost as many people as are running to Washington. I shall look into the matter at once.

As far as the payment to the Independent Jewish Press Service, this was agreed to some time ago when a similar payment was made to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Dr. Wise was present at the meeting when this subject was discussed, and approved. When I was in New York last Tuesday, I signed the check.

As far as Mr. Harry Shapiro's salary is concerned, I have authorized his salary of \$9,000.00, subject to the approval of the Budget Finance Committee. The sudden resignation of Mr. Montor has made certain decisions imperative.

I shall ask Mr. Rosenbloom to have a meeting of his Committee at once so that we might take up the subject raised in your letter.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:NEK

WJH
January 27, 1944

Mr. Herman Shulman,
39 Broadway,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Shulman:

I was very happy that Senator Wagner has given his definite consent to introduce the Palestine Resolution in the Senate. I understand that from the Republican side it will be either Taft or Lodge.

It was desirable to introduce the Resolution in the House immediately, first, because both McCormack and Martin advised that it be introduced into the "popular" branch of the Government first, and secondly, because we did not want to postpone the introduction of it until after we will have seen the gentleman whom we are hoping to see next week. The introduction of the Resolution after seeing him might be interpreted by him as a dissatisfaction on our part with what he would have said to us in the interview. Some day next week the Resolution should be introduced in the Senate, adequate publicity will be given to it, and it will be a powerful reinforcement to our effort.

Some day, soon, I should like for you and me to call on Mr. Bloom and "talk turkey" to that gentleman. We will not permit him to play around with this Resolution as he did with the Rescue Resolution.

When will you be free to go to Washington? I plan to spend next Wednesday and Thursday there.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:NEK

Abba Hillel Silver

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date February 3, 1944

From Herman Shulman

Because of special circumstances that have developed in Washington, it has become necessary to postpone the National Conference on Palestine from Thursday, February 24th to Thursday, March 9th.

As you already know, the Conference is to be held under the auspices of the American Palestine Committee. Cooperating with the American Palestine Committee in sponsoring the Conference are the following: American Federation of Labor, Christian Council on Palestine, Congress of Industrial Organizations, Free World Association, Union for Democratic Action, Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice and United Christian Council for Democracy.

Under such sponsorship the Conference will assume great national significance. The recent introduction of Resolutions in both the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States makes it all the more necessary that we do everything in our power to make the Conference as representative of every community as possible. These Resolutions call upon our Government to use its good offices and take appropriate measures to the end that the doors of Palestine shall be open for free entry of Jews into that country and that there shall be full opportunity for colonization so that the Jewish people may ultimately reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. I am sure you can readily appreciate how important it is at this particular time to get the maximum amount of support from our non-Jewish friends.

The present schedule for the Conference is as follows: There will be three sessions during the day, beginning at 10:30 A. M. and ending at about 5:30 P. M. These three sessions will be followed by a dinner which will be held under the auspices of the American Palestine Committee. All of the events on the program will take place at the Statler Hotel in Washington.

Among those who have already accepted engagements to participate in the program are:

Senator Robert F. Wagner, Chairman, American Palestine Committee
Dr. William F. Albright of Baltimore, Professor of Semitics, Johns Hopkins University
Dr. Henry A. Atkinson of New York, General Secretary of the Church Peace Union and the World Alliance for International Friendship Through Churches; Chairman, Christian Council on Palestine.
Dr. Carl J. Friedrich of Cambridge, Professor of Political Theory, Harvard University
Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk of Washington, Assistant Chief, Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Poling of Philadelphia, Pastor The Baptist Temple; Editor, the Christian Herald
Arthur T. Vanderbilt of New York, Dean of the Law School of New York University, former President, American Bar Association

Within the course of the next few days, we shall undoubtedly have other acceptances from prominent individuals.

Again I must urge you to take all steps necessary to make certain that your community is represented at the Conference by at least one prominent non-Jew. If you have not already taken the steps outlined in my last memorandum will you please do so as soon as possible? Hotel and other arrangements will have to be made without delay. We cannot conclude those arrangements until we hear from you.

All the details in connection with the Conference are being handled in the Washington office of the American Zionist Emergency Council, 1720 - 16th Street, N. W. May I suggest that you direct your communications with respect to the Conference to Mr. Abram S. Magida, who is in charge.

HS:S

P. S. Notice to Chairmen of local Emergency Committees in communities where there are no American Palestine Committee members:

Although you may not have received any previous notice in connection with this meeting, it would be greatly appreciated if you could exert your influence to the extent that a prominent non-Jew in your community will attend this Conference, inasmuch as we are anxious to have as widespread representation as possible.

April 21, 1944

Mr. Herman Shulman,
39 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Shulman:

I have been informed this morning that the literature of the League for a Free Palestine is out and is being widely circulated. The campaign has evidently begun to build up a non-sectarian Zionist organization to compete with the existing Zionist bodies. The Bergson group will now build up a membership, will hold a conference in June, and will begin to operate on the American scene as a competing body.

What is clearly indicated is a quick and large scale intensification of the work of the American Palestine Committee. We must lose no time. Among the things which should be done immediately, I would suggest the following:

- (1) A mail campaign to get members for the APC. Ten to fifty thousand letters should be sent out immediately, containing a statement by the APC, enclosing the resolution adopted at the National Conference in Washington and signed by the members of the Executive Committee. An attractive folder should be gotten up. Publicity should be given to this mail campaign along the line: "Christian forces in America intensifying their effort for Palestine" etc.
- (2) A large meeting should immediately be arranged for and announced, to be held in New York City, utilizing the New York membership of the APC as well as the signatories to the petition of the educators and college presidents which Mr. Lamm supervised. I have already spoken to Mr. Shapiro about it.

April 21, 1944

- (3) The delegation of the APC should call on Secretary Hull and Halifax right away to present the resolutions adopted in Washington. It would be well if men like Dr. Marsh, Dr. Poling or Niebuhr would make up this delegation. Extensive publicity should be given to this delegation. Concerning this, I have also spoken and written to Mr. Shapiro.
- (4) An Executive Director for the APC should immediately be engaged. If you can't get a man for full time, Cole should be engaged for part time and allowed to work. Time is of the essence and we should not delay just because we cannot obtain the ideal arrangement. Publicity should be given to the appointment of the Executive Director right away.
- (5) Jewish journalists of the type of Fishman and others should be asked to write editorials and articles on the subtle and dangerous program of the Leage For a Free Palestine, emphasizing especially, the point that there is no need for such an organization because of the presence in the field of the American Palestine Committee.
- (6) The two newspapers in New York which are likely to cooperate with the Leage, namely, the New York Post and PM, should be seen at once and the whole situation should be explained to their editors. They should be made to understand that this is a thing quite different than the Emergency Committee for the Rescue of European Jewry which they backed and is an opposition movement to the Zionist movement of America and to the authority of the World Zionist movement and the Jewish Agency. A committee consisting of Dr. Wise, Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. Epstein and Rabbi Gold and Mr. Wertheim, representing all the Zionist groups, as well as the American Jewish Conference, should sit down at the earliest possible moment with the editors of these two papers. It may also be desirable that the same people sit down with the editors of the Yiddish papers.

Mr. Herman Shulman

-3-

April 21, 1944

(7) Van Paasen's letter should be given extensive circularization. It should be sent, among others, to the members of Congress.

(8) The New Palestine, The Hadassah News Letter and the other Zionist publications ought to give extensive coverage to this conspiracy.

(9) In the mailing campaign to get members for the American Palestine Committee, it might be very helpful to utilize the services of the local community contact committees who may know to whom these letters may be addressed. It might be well to send the stationery to the local communities and ask them to mail the material to those non-Jews in the community who should receive it.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Shapiro. Please act promptly.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:NEK

cc: Harry Shapiro

Abba Hillel Silver

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TELEPHONE DIGBY 4-0515
CABLE ADDRESS "HAPOS"

June 8, 1944.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I just returned to New York and found your telegram concerning the proposed plank on Palestine which was delivered yesterday.

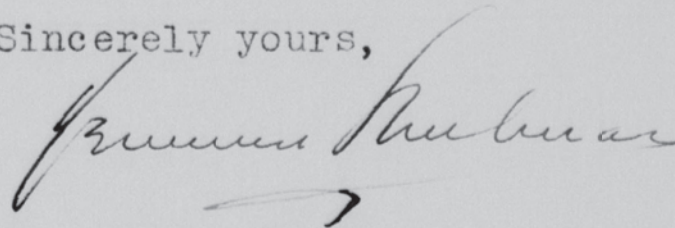
I have drafted a proposed plank, which I am sending you airmail in accordance with your suggestion. As you said, it will have to be very short. The enclosed draft, I believe, contains the essential provisions.

Now that I am back I shall call a meeting of the Program Committee as soon as possible to discuss the relationship between the Emergency Council, Dr. Goldmann and the Jewish Agency office.

I am sorry I had to miss the meeting of the Emergency Council on Monday. My son's graduation from the Naval Academy was first on the agenda.

With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,



HS:B
encl.

June 9, 1944

Mr. Herman Shulman
39 Broadway
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Shulman:

The problem of Wagner is becoming increasingly more serious. It may well be that the work of the American Palestine Committee will be largely stultified by the presence at its head of a man who has in the last few months demonstrated either an unwillingness or a "lack of grasp of the situation" to cooperate effectively in the work. His choice as one of the sponsors of the Resolution in the Senate was most unfortunate. He has not pushed his Resolution aggressively, and I suspect that he would like to forget about it altogether. The trouble we had with him in getting a statement on the Bergson group whose League for a Free Palestine is a direct threat to the American Palestine Committee, was another evidence of his unwillingness to cooperate. The latest act of his to insist upon the postponement of the New York A.P.C. dinner is the most ominous of all. The postponement will greatly embarrass the work of the A.P.C. at a time when it should be greatly intensified because of the large-scale propaganda of the League for a Free Palestine. The Bergson group will make its appeal principally to non-Jews because on the Jewish scene they have been pretty well licked. Unless the American Palestine Committee captures the non-Jewish field, the Bergson group will make great inroads in the next few months and will in the Fall loom up as a very strong membership organization which no longer speaks in the name of a few boys, but in the name of a few thousand citizens.

I am persuaded that as long as Wagner remains as the active head of the A.P.C., and must accordingly be consulted on every major move, the organization will make no progress. The Senator must be lifted out of that post -- perhaps made Honorary Chairman -- and a very energetic person who is really sold on our cause put in his place. That should be done immediately. We haven't any time to lose.

I think you, with the aid perhaps of Mr. Zaritsky, should also make it very clear to the Senator that in sponsoring the Palestine Resolution in the Senate he has assumed a serious responsibility, and

Mr. Shulman

-2-

June 9, 1944

that the Jewish people of New York are expecting him to take aggressive action in furthering his Resolution in the Senate and that we are counting upon the resolutions being brought up for action in August. The Jews of New York will blame him severely if the Resolution is permitted to go by default because of his lack of interest or his unwillingness to press it in the Foreign Affairs Committee and in the Senate.

I am afraid that the Senator has had some Jewish advisers whose advice has been responsible for his reluctance and hesitancy.

Please keep me in touch about the progress of this matter.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



June 9, 1944

Mr. Herman Shulman
39 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

My dear Friend:

You might be interested in the enclosed
report of the meeting between the Jewish Congressmen
and Bergson in Washington.

Very cordially yours,

AHS:DR

Enc.