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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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Taft, Senator Robert A., 1944.



ROBERT A. TAFT  
OHIO

UNITED STATES SENATE

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April 4, 1944

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I wish to thank you for your letter of March 22. It was a privilege to come to New York and attend such a magnificent meeting. In fact, I am grateful to you and your friends for interesting me in the Palestine matter. Certainly, neither from the point of view of today or of the future, ~~can there~~ be a more vital problem.

If from time to time you have any suggestions, I shall be glad to hear from you. The President's last statement seemed to me to be an evasion of the issue.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

RT/pr

/s/ Robert A. Taft

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May 5, 1944

The Honorable Robert A. Taft  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Taft:

I enjoyed the opportunity of spending a little time with you last week in your office. I should like to set definitely a date of the Palestine meeting here in Cleveland. You suggested that you would be free on Monday or Tuesday, June 19th or 20th. Are these dates still open on your calendar? If so, I would appreciate it if you would let me know which is more convenient for you. We would then proceed to make the necessary arrangements for your coming to Cleveland. I think that you would enjoy the meeting and I know that you will render us a tremendous service.

I met, the other day, the Attorney General of New York State, Mr. Nathaniel L. Goldstein, and told him of the conversation which I had with you about the Palestine plank in the Republican Platform. I suggested to him that it was your thought that Mr. Dewey's opinion be elicited and he undertook to see Mr. Dewey about it. He felt confident that Mr. Dewey would enthusiastically approve of the idea. I told him that in the matter of the drafting of the plank, and how to proceed, we have left the matter entirely in your hands.

I see where Mr. Stettinius has returned from London. I hope to see him before long and to learn from him what discussions took place with reference to Palestine. I know that while in London he met with Dr. Weizmann. I shall keep you informed.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

May 19, 1944

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

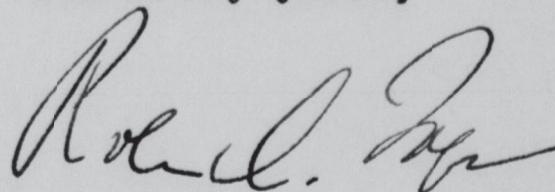
Dear Rabbi Silver:

I regret that I have not sooner answered your letter of May fifth. I regret very much that I cannot get to Cleveland now on June nineteenth, or June twentieth. I have been appointed to the Resolutions Committee of the Republican National Convention, and a meeting of that Committee has been called for the nineteenth of June in Chicago. In any event, I am going to be swamped in trying to finish up the legislative program, and also work on the Republican platform, so I shall have to ask you to let me off for the present.

I shall think about the Palestine plank and submit a copy to you before I go to Chicago.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



RT/pr



June 2, 1944

The Honorable Robert A. Taft  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Taft:

Thank you so much for your kind letter of May 19. I am pleased to know that you are drafting the Palestine plank and that I will have an opportunity of seeing a copy of it before you go to Chicago.

I had the pleasure of meeting Governor Dewey yesterday in New York at the Roosevelt Hotel. I spent a pleasant half hour with him and talked over many things. I mentioned the fact that you were drafting a Palestine plank for inclusion in the Republican Party Platform and that you had suggested that I bring the subject to his attention. He asked me what I thought would be a desirable plank and I suggested that the final paragraph in the Taft-Wagner Resolution which was introduced in the Senate would cover the situation. I showed him a copy of it and he said, "I agree most heartily." He indicated that he would see you in the near future. I found Governor Dewey a very understanding and enthusiastic supporter of our cause.

I feel that the resolved part of the Resolution (omitting the words "and take appropriate measures" to which some exception was taken) would be a completely satisfactory statement and would strengthen our position in Congress when the Resolution comes up for action, which I hope will be soon after the crest of the invasion is reached.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



June 9, 1944

The Honorable Robert A. Taft  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Taft:

Since writing to you last, I have given some thought to the exact phrasing of the statement on Palestine to be included in the Republican Platform. I am sending along the enclosed statement as a suggestion. It might be advisable to introduce the statement with the sentence: "The Republican Party has been traditionally in sympathy with the aspirations of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home in Palestine, and it was Republican leaders who introduced the Congressional resolution favoring the establishment of such a National Home which was unanimously adopted by the Congress of the United States on June 30, 1922."

Mr. Leo Sack has informed me that the Committee on Resolutions will meet in Chicago on the 21st and 22nd. I shall arrange to be in Chicago on those days and will be on hand to do whatever you will deem helpful. Is there any one whom we should contact between now and then? Should we see some of the members of the Resolutions Committee?

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

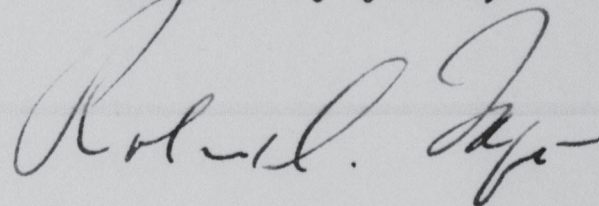
June 12, 1944

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

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I enclose draft of the letter to which I referred on the telephone. There is a question whether we should address it to the President or the Secretary of State. If it is to go at all, it should be this week because after that I am likely to be in Chicago. Senator Bridges approves the letter but also wishes to have your opinion.

Sincerely yours,



RT/pr  
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Via AIR MAIL



June 15, 1944

The Honorable Robert A. Taft  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Taft:

Thank you for your kind letter and for the inquiry which you have addressed to me. There are two reasons which suggest themselves to me why the draft of the letter which was submitted to you should not be sent.

The first has to do with the people who, you indicated, are back of the project to send this letter, and who will exploit the fact that their letter was sent as proof of their political effectiveness in Washington and, by contrast, the ineffectiveness of the official Zionist bodies which have so far failed to get any action on the Palestine Resolutions in Congress. This small Bergson group which recently opened the fake "Hebrew Embassy" in Washington, and is now launching a rival organization to the constituted Zionist bodies in this country, has been repudiated by all sections of American Jewish public opinion. They represent nobody in this country, and, in Palestine, a small terrorist group which has been outlawed and which the official Zionist bodies in Palestine have condemned. This small group which has created one front organization after another and which keeps itself alive by sensational full page ads in the public press should not in any way be encouraged.

The second and more important reason is that a statement such as is being suggested, covering the rights of the United States in Palestine under the terms of the Mandate, was presented to our Government a few years ago. This detailed statement, properly documented, I had read into the record of the Hearings on our Resolutions before the Committee on Foreign Affairs last February, and it is now published on pages 47-64. The only response which this representation elicited from Secretary Hull at that time was that the United States would do its best to protect the rights of American nationals in Palestine, and equality of treatment for them with all other foreign nationals. I am afraid that another representation along the same lines at this time will elicit from the State Department another negative statement similar to or worse than that issued in 1938. Obviously the effect of such a statement would be very bad and would in a large measure nullify the assurance contained in the President's statement to Dr. Wise and myself on March 9.



Senator Taft

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June 15, 1944

The cause of the Jewish National Home, in which you and Senator Bridges are so vitally interested, can best be served at this time by a strong pro-Palestine plank in the Republican Party Platform and by action of Congress on the Palestine Resolution. The feeling among our group is that the Resolution should be brought up for action some time in August or early September when it is hoped the military situation will be considerably and favorably advanced.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

P.S. Under separate cover I am sending you the statement on the Rights of the United States to Participate in any Disposition of Palestine to which I refer above; also the account which appeared in the "New York Times" of the representation made to Secretary Hull.

