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

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

Reel
106

Box
37

Folder
328

Niles, David, 1946.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN LEO SACK AND DAVID NILES OF THE WHITE HOUSE

Tuesday, May 21, 3:30 P.M. ⁴⁶

On yesterday morning when Dr. Akzin talked as a substitute for me with David Niles in the White House in reference to the requested conference with the President by Dr. Silver, Dr. Wise, and Mr. Monsky, Niles told Dr. Akzin that if the President returned to Washington on yesterday, he, Niles, would advise Akzin today as to when the conference would occur.

At the time Niles spoke to Akzin, he must of certainty have known that the President was planning to return to Washington yesterday afternoon. Actually a few minutes before Dr. Akzin telephoned me of the nature of his conversation with Niles, I had heard on the radio that the President had gotten his degree at William Jewell College and was preparing to return to Washington immediately.

When I telephoned Niles this afternoon, I prefaced my remarks with the statement that I had been advised at the White House last week that the President would see these gentlemen at a time that was "mutually agreeable" and the inference was mutually agreeable to the three men, all of whom lived in separate cities, one as far away as Omaha. I suggested that Wednesday of the following week might be fitting as the time, and I had no doubt then that the Wednesday date ^{would} ~~might~~ be agreeable. Two days later, I was told at the White House that David Niles was "handling the matter", that we would be advised of the date upon his return to his office on Monday, May 20. Actually, I fully expected Niles to confirm the appointment for Wednesday when Dr. Akzin spoke to him.

When I reminded Niles that the White House advised me of a date "mutually agreeable", he replied that he was aware of that conversation, but "the President will be involved for the next few days in the railroad strike and in the coal strike, and I am certain that the President cannot see these gentlemen on Wednesday." Niles then said that he had spoken to the President about the engagement this morning, "and he

told me that he did not think he could see them this week, but if he can he will."
Niles then added, "you know he is a very busy man."

Next Niles said that the President had said that he wanted these gentlemen also to see Acheson and that upon checking it up, he ~~xxxxxx~~ had ascertained that Dr. Silver and Dr. Wise would see Mr. Acheson tomorrow.

Continuing, Niles declared that "if the picture changes, I will let you know." His whole attitude was so evasive and so deliberately obstructive, in my opinion, that I was prompted ^{to} and did ask Niles if these gentlemen are getting the "run-around" to which Niles replied "He is the President of the United States".

"Yes," I retorted, "I am aware of that."

"He doesn't have to give people the run-around. If he wants to see people, he will see them, and if he doesn't want to see them, he will say so."

"That's just the point, if he doesn't want to see them, we would like to know."

Thence Niles went on to say that he thought that the President has always been willing to see these people and has seen them on many occasions.

The conversation ended with Niles asking me for my telephone number and promising to advise me when he had something to report.