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

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Zionist Organization of America, 1946.

COMMISSION ON PALESTINE SURVEYS

Administrative Office

521 FIFTH AVENUE

ROOM 1903

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

February 11, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland 6, Ohio

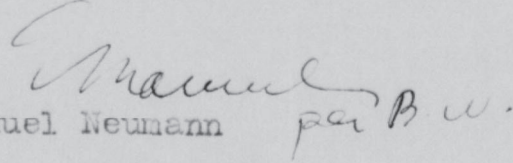
Dear Dr. Silver:

I have read the attached letter from Dr. Akzin with regard to the disposition of the Z.O.A. building in Washington and I am inclined to agree with him.

The alternative would be to remodel it into a first class place for our political work, receptions, meetings and the like. That would be desirable but would probably take quite a bit of money. If we are prepared to spend that money and to make provisions also for having refreshments served to groups of people who may be invited in, that would be a worthwhile thing to do.

As ever,

Faithfully yours,


Emanuel Neumann

EN/w/h

Dr. Neumann

February 6, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
19810 Shaker Boulevard
Shaker Heights
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have given a lot of thought to the problem of the location of the Washington office after the Z.O.A. moves back to New York, and I would like to submit to you certain considerations.

The real estate market in Washington is now at its highest. By selling the house, the Z.O.A. could make now much more money than if it were to hold on to the house. The house is in a rather dilapidated condition and in a neighborhood which is neither first-rate residential nor business. As soon as new building gets going, the price for it will undoubtedly fall very rapidly. From this point of view, therefore, the best thing the Z.O.A. could do would be to take advantage of prevailing conditions and to sell it now.

The above conclusion is not destroyed by any consideration of the advantage which may result for the Zionist movement from holding on to the house and using it instead of a suite of offices. I have made a careful study of the costs of maintaining and using the building. These costs amount to \$613 per month, or \$7,359 per annum. For this amount of money, and probably for far less, we could rent a very comfortable suite of offices in town. For the purposes of this letter, I am considering the Zionist movement as a whole and not the question of whether the building will be maintained by the Emergency Council or whether the Emergency Council will pay a rent to the Z.O.A. and the maintenance of the building will be charged to the Z.O.A.; these are, after all, bookkeeping details which do not change the total picture.

Should the Z.O.A. decide to keep the building and turn it over on whatever terms to the Emergency Council, it would, no doubt, be feasible for the Council to rent a few rooms to the Hadassah, Brandeis District, National Fund, or other institutions. But I

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

February 6, 1946

don't think that such rentals to local chapters of Jewish bodies would compensate for any sizable part of the budget, and I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the house is not suitable for a harmonious division of space between several organizations. I would like to suggest, therefore, that you decide in principle on the desirability of selling the house as soon as the Z.O.A. has found permanent quarters in New York and has moved out its entire furniture, and as soon as I am able to secure adequate offices for the Emergency Council in Washington at a monthly rent of, let us say, not over \$500.

I should like to say that, as far as personal convenience is concerned, the retention of the present house suits me admirably. It is located most conveniently with relation to my apartment, and with the moving out of the Z.O.A., it would give me a magnificent office of my own. What I propose in this letter is, therefore, based on general and not on personal considerations.



Sincerely yours,

Benjamin Aksin

BA:es

cc to:

Dr. Neumann
Mr. Shapiro
Dr. Marks

NOTE: See Appendix.

APPENDIX

Maintenance Costs of House
1720 16th Street

	<u>Monthly Expense</u>	
Insurance	\$ 20.00	
Mortgage and Interest	274.00	
Taxes - Real Estate	50.24	
" - Water	4.00	
	<u>348.24</u>	
Coal	60.00	
Electricity	32.00	
Gas	5.00	
	<u>97.00</u>	
Service and repairs	30.00	
Towels, water, ice	25.00	
Caretaker - \$26 per wk.	<u>113.00</u>	
		<u>168.00</u>
		613.24
TOTAL PER ANNUM		<u><u>\$7,358.88</u></u>

WRHS



COMMISSION ON PALESTINE SURVEYS

Administrative Office

521 FIFTH AVENUE

ROOM 1903

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

70X

February 19, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

Enclosed is a letter received from
Benjamin Dofit, together with a check for
\$20,000.



Perhaps you may wish to drop him a
line directly - it would be a fine gesture.

Sincerely yours,

Emanuel

EMANUEL NEUMANN

EN/w

February 19, 1946

Mr. Benjamin J. Doff
Long Island Zionist Region
163-18 Jamaica Avenue
Jamaica 5, N. Y.

Dear Ben:

On my return from Cleveland I was handed your letter of February 15th with which was enclosed check for \$20,000 from the Long Island Region.

We all deeply appreciate the hard work put in by the Region and the loyalty to the Organization so well evidenced. Personally, you deserve to be congratulated on your untiring efforts and the success which attends your efforts.

It was a great pleasure to have had lunch with you.

With warmest regards,

As ever,

Faithfully yours,

Emanuel Neumann

EN/w

C O P Y

LONG ISLAND ZIONIST REGION

163-18 Jamaica Avenue

Jamaica 5, N. Y.

Office of the President

Jamaica 6-6232

February 15, 1946

Dr. Emanuel Neumann
Zionist Organization of America
41 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Neumann:

Our discussion we had last Wednesday left a profound impression. It actually inspired me to influence our Executive Committee that met in session last night for greater reffort in our Zionist activities.

In line with our discussion I recommended to the Executive Committee that the sum of \$20,000 be allocated for the National Expansion Fund. This recommendation was accepted. I am glad to enclose a check for this amount.

I want to take this opportunity to assure you of a greater acceleration in membership, Public Relations work and other activities for the remaining of this year.

I hope I will have an opportunity to say (Hebrew) personally before you depart.

With best regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Pres. Benjamin J. Doft

Benjamin J. Doft:ER

Ernest E. Barbarash

201
February 20, 1946

Dr. Emanuel Neumann

In keeping with our conversation during the sessions of the American Jewish Conference in Cleveland, please consider my memorandum of February 6th regarding resignation as editor of the News Reporter as now null and void.

Regards.



COMMISSION ON PALESTINE SURVEYS

Administrative Office

521 FIFTH AVENUE

ROOM 1903

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

208

February 24, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

1. I am enclosing a confidential memo from Akzin, together with his covering letter and a copy of my reply.

2. We had a meeting of the Inner Committee on Wednesday which lasted from 5:30 through supper to almost 11:30 p.m. and dealt with quite a long agenda. Irving Miller accepted Acting Chairmanship of the Inner Committee ~~after~~ I stated that we wanted him to take it provided he finds that he can relieve himself of Jewish Congress work sufficiently to give the ZOA business the attention it requires.

3. It was decided that the Newsletter be published bi-weekly during the period of the Shekel Action and Congress Elections. Because it ~~will~~ *will* be printed in New York there will be a great saving in printers' bills so that the cost of its appearance bi-weekly will exceed very slightly the present cost of its appearing monthly.

4. Regarding the "New Palestine" magazine, the Committee agreed to authorize the expenditure of extra sums during the next three months in its effort to improve the journal. I spoke with Lewisohn on the telephone. I also called in Abe Duker and discussed with him the idea of having an Editorial Committee to assist in getting out the magazine, with himself as the Executive Officer. He agreed to the idea and wanted to engage a young man, Shlomo Katz, to work regularly for the magazine within the next few months, particularly in translating articles from Hebrew and Yiddish. Irving Miller is to see that this plan is implemented so that we may get immediate improvement.

5. Regarding the Shekel Board, I had a long talk with Mrs. Halperin, and Torczyner spoke with Mrs. Epstein. They will probably insist on having their own list of delegates but we expect a certain measure of cooperation rather than hostility in the Shekel Action. At any rate, with the support of Hadassah Mizrahi members on the Shekel Board, we put through an organization of the Shekel Board satisfactory to us, as follows:

- (a) Charles Ress, Chairman.
- (b) A co-chairmanship open to the Poale Zion to accept, if they wish.
- (c) Juliette Benjamin, Secretary.
- (d) Rabbi Zabrowski of the Mizrahi as Treasurer
- (e) Abe Tannenbaum as an Executive Director. (The bulk of his salary will be paid by the Shekel Board so that only a minor part will be paid by the ZOA.

2/24/46

The Poale Zion found themselves rather isolated and did not agree on the spot to accept the position of Co-Chairman offered to them.

(6) At a meeting of the Inner Committee a ~~proposal~~ ^{proposal} for a new building was submitted by Messrs. Pollak and Sugarman, which seemed much more attractive than the first, from ~~our~~ point of view. It is on Madison Avenue and 40th Street, with about 70,000 sq. ft. of space and requiring virtually no alterations. The price will be about \$1,100,000. We would require from \$300,000 to \$400,000 for the down payment, balance on mortgage. The whole Committee was favorable to this, including Herman Weisman, whom I had invited to the meeting. It was also agreed that we should finance it by issuing bonds rather than taking the money from the Life Membership Fund, which may be too complicated a proceeding. Also, to request Funds to advance us the money on several months' loan.

(7) The following day I attended a meeting of the Joint Committee of the KHJNF and presented the proposal. Montor was negative and Rothenberg cold to the proposition. However, it was decided to put it up to the two Boards. We are pretty confident on favorable action in the KH, where Ress takes good care of our interest, and probably also of the JNF. A special committee of business men is being formed for the building project. At the Joint Committee meeting I also presented the proposal for reserving a certain amount for the support of general Zionist settlements in Palestine. Montor opposed it but I believe it is going through. While in Palestine I am to look into the matter further and try to create a responsible Board of Trustees for the purpose.

(8) At the Inner Committee we reviewed our financial position and particularly the prospects for the Expansion Fund. Our Staff insist that we are going to raise \$400,000 to \$450,000 for the year and perhaps more. Nevertheless I insist that we should do some retrenching in some departments so as to create an unallocated reserve and end the year with a surplus rather than run the risk of a deficit.

(9) We dealt with many other matters, as you will see from the minutes.

(10) I am set to fly tomorrow to Paris, thence within two or three days, I hope, to Cairo.

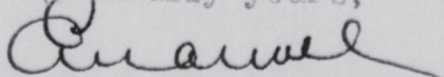
(11) I am expecting to get a letter from Mayor O'Dwyer tomorrow morning, inviting Mayor Rokach. Ixhaliav

I believe that is all for the time being, except to say "au revoir".

My warmest regards to you, Virginia and the boys.

As ever,

Faithfully yours,



Emanuel Neumann

20A

April 30, 1946

Dr. Stephen S. Wise
40 W. 68th St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Wise:

The contents of the enclosed press clipping was brought to the attention of the Executive Committee of the ZOA at its meeting on Monday afternoon. I don't know whether you have seen it. I feel that if any criticism is to be made of the campaign activities of the ZOA in connection with the Shekel Campaign and the elections, it would be most helpful if it were made at a meeting of the ZOA Executive or to me as President of the organization rather than at a public meeting of another party which in its campaign literature has gone all out in its attack upon the platform of the General Zionists which was unanimously accepted by the Administrative Committee of the ZOA at a meeting which you attended.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.