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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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Azkin, Benjamin, 1947.

January 2, 1947

Mr. Abe Tuvim
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Tuvim:

1. With further reference to the forthcoming departure of Ambassador-Designate Gardner for England, I wish to report that Mr. Henderson is arranging for me to see Mr. Gardner in the near future. Mr. Cox, whom I have asked to have a personal talk with Gardner, has not yet managed to meet with him but hopes to do so next week.

Cox informed me that Ambassador Gardner's son Ralph, a young lawyer, is accompanying his father as his personal secretary, and suggested that we discuss the matter with him as well.

Accordingly, I asked Mr. Schulson to see Ralph Gardner, which he did through the courtesy of a mutual friend of theirs, a young Jewish lawyer by the name of Seymour Sheriff. Schulson informs me that Gardner is already well acquainted with our problem, mainly through his contacts with Mr. Sheriff and other Jewish friends, and seemed in entire sympathy with the idea of a Jewish State. According to Ralph Gardner, his father also believes this to be the best solution.

Schulson made use of the occasion to prepare young Gardner for the British arguments, acquainted him with our replies to them, and drew his particular attention to the need, should any question arise in London, for the American negotiators to keep in close touch with experts who would be able to furnish them with arguments and data in reply to British argumentation. Schulson went over the experience of Grady and others, pointing out that their failure resulted largely from insufficient information. Gardner seemed very much impressed by these arguments.

In conclusion, Schulson gave Ralph Gardner the names of Messrs. Ben-Gurion, Shertok and Dr. Weizmann as the people in London who know the situation best. He gave him the name of Dr. Silver as the head of the Zionist movement in this country; and he suggested that if Gardner would like to have some disinterested expert advice on the situation, he might get it from Oscar Cox, who is a friend of the family.

Ralph Gardner is going to London within two weeks; his father will follow later. It might be useful to inform the Jewish Agency office in London in advance of Ralph Gardner's coming and to suggest that they keep in touch with him. In doing so, they should refer to Mr. Schulson.

(his talk with)

Mr. Abe Tuvim

January 2, 1947

2. Since the likelihood of Jewish participation in the London Conference becomes more pronounced, it might be useful to consider the advisability of having someone go to London to act in one way or another as liason man with the American observer at the Conference, whether this observer be Senator Mead or anyone else. It would be best, perhaps, if the American observer were in a position to consult this man constantly with reference to the questions that would arise, in order to augment his own knowledge. This would greatly strengthen his hand and enable him to deal more effectively with tricky British arguments.

If you believe that something of the kind could be arranged, I would tentatively suggest the names of Oscar Cox, Bernard Bernstein, or Professor Hanna, each of whom might be recommended to Senator Mead as a personal assistant on his staff. Even if this is not feasible, it would still be useful to have somebody like Cox or Bernstein, or one of our own people, go to London on the understanding that the American observer would keep in close touch with him.

Even if we don't go to the London Conference, or if the personality of the American observer precludes any such close liason, it would still be advisable to have somebody go to London on the understanding that he could keep in close touch with the newly appointed American Ambassador during the crucial period. This, in a way, is connected with a more long-range problem: the problem of having the staff of the Jewish Agency in London augmented by someone who, as an American, could both represent the American point of view and keep in close touch with American diplomatic and press circles in England.

Sincerely yours,

Benjamin Akzin

BA:cw
cc to:
Dr. Silver
Dr. Neumann

BENJAMIN AKZIN
1706 G
1720 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington D. C.

January 3, 1947

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

Permit me to offer my heartiest congratulations upon the tremendous progress made in Basel under your leadership.

The new set-up is far from ideal and opens the door to many intrigues, but in view of the terrific array of forces combined against you, it must be considered a great victory. The elimination of Weizmann alone is a historical event, and one can already see its effects in London.

May the Zionist movement under your leadership proceed

Bin Binn

Sincerely yours,

Bakzin

Benjamin Akzin

Benjamin Akzin

January 3, 1947

Abe Tuvim

Mr. Constantine Brown, political columnist in the WASHINGTON STAR and one of the shrewdest observers of the political scene in this city, is leaving in a few days on a prolonged trip to Europe and Palestine. He expects to be in Palestine in March and would like our people to be on the lookout for him, so as to enable him to get first-hand information regarding the Jewish viewpoint and, if possible, to see the Jewish cities and some of the colonies.

Mr. Brown is rather conservative and is full of distrust of the Russians. He has never taken a clear public stand in our favor, but in private conversations he has always been very outspoken in warning us against being misled by verbal assurances of friendship. He was largely instrumental in divulging the duplicity of government policy on Palestine under President Roosevelt. He also seems to appreciate at their worth the attitude of British officials. But hitherto his blunt, somewhat cynical friendliness was never reflected in his columns. It would be splendid if our people in Jerusalem could induce him to write as he has spoken. I would suggest that the type of people who should be asked to meet with him in Palestine should be the quick-witted ones, rather than the long-winded dogmatic ones.

BA:cw

cc.to:

Dr. Silver

Dr. Neumann

Mr. Isidore Hamlin

(Washington office of the Jewish Agency)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
1706 G St. N.W.

Dr. Silver

Benjamin Akzin

January 9, 1947

Mr. Abe Tuvia

Mr. Sayre, formerly Professor of Law at Harvard University and son-in-law of the late President Wilson, has been appointed United States representative on the Trusteeship Council. Sooner or later, and probably quite soon, he will have to deal with the Palestine issue. The sooner we get to him, the better, naturally.

It is not quite clear to me whether, under the "division of powers" doctrine, it is our business or that of the Jewish Agency to get to an American representative with the United Nations. Please let me have an official decision on this point. Should the decision be in favor of our approaching him, please let me know whether you want me or someone else to do it. I could get to him through several channels.

Independently of our approaches, Sayre, who is a former colleague of Justice Frankfurter, will certainly discuss Palestine with him. Though the Justice is far more accessible to people like Dr. Goldmann and Dr. Wise than to us, something ought to be done to inform him about our view of the situation. I could not crash the Justice's gates but, if Dr. Silver does not feel like going to see him, it might be a good idea to ask Rabbi Goldstein to do so. In either case, I would very much recommend that I should be allowed to trail along so as to establish my status for the purpose of facilitating future contacts.

BA:ME

CC-Dr. Silver
Dr. Neumann

Walter A. Frank

Jean Acheson

Dr. Silver

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXX
1706 G Street, N.W.
Executive 1060

January 13, 1947

Mr. Abe Tuvim
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Confidential

Dear Tuvim:

Mr. Sack and I visited Senator Brewster last Saturday. He showed us an advance copy of Senator Vandenberg's speech in Cleveland and we were unanimous in regretting that he did not make the slightest reference to the Palestine question.

The Senator told us that he was about to speak in Indiana and invited suggestions regarding his speech. As a result, we put a few paragraphs in his speech, copy of which I enclose herewith.

Leo Sack had to leave for another appointment, but the Senator asked me to stay and see him after I will have completed the draft of the Palestine part of his speech.

I thanked the Senator for the information which he gave Leo Sack regarding Secretary Marshall and for his promise to talk to the Secretary at the first opportunity. The Senator repeated that Marshall was sorry that he was made to bring up military objections to the Palestine Resolution at a time when they were no longer justified, and explained that he has no certainty whatever as to what the Secretary thought or thinks of the political aspects of the Palestine problem. According to the Senator, Marshall is most likely to rely in this respect on people whom he regards as fair and well-informed. The Senator, who has come very obviously to distrust Acheson, said that he was not at all hopeful regarding Marshall's attitude should he retain Acheson and take his advice. Another man who, according to the Senator, is close to Marshall and may play an increasingly important part in the Department of State is Ambassador Messersmith, who only the other evening hinted to the Secretary that he was going to stay in Washington until some time after Marshall's arrival and expected to be consulted by Marshall regarding various problems. From his talks with Messersmith, the Senator had the impression that his advice would be rather unfavorable to us, since he tended to put oil policy before all other considerations in the Middle East and since he was strongly influenced by the British way of thinking.

Confirming that he will try to talk Palestine to Marshall, the Senator nevertheless gave me the impression that he did not expect to be the determining influence in regard to straightening out Marshall on our problem. He very emphatically stated that our main channel to Marshall should be the membership of the

with Senate Foreign Relations Committee, with whom Marshall will be in frequent contact. If Marshall sensed that it is the prevailing opinion of the Committee that a pro-Zionist policy should be sustained, this would probably count ~~as~~ the Secretary very much. He especially emphasized the part of Senator Vandenberg in this connection and said: "Dr. Silver will have to impress upon Vandenberg that just as, before the elections, Truman was on the spot and had to prove himself with regard to Palestine, so now Vandenberg is on the spot." He said that we should give Vandenberg a few weeks' time and if, during that time the Senator would not make his support to pro-Zionist policy very plain, it might be possible to get him to move by asking Senator Taft and Governor Dewey to take the lead in this respect. What they would do would, in the Senator's opinion, greatly influence the attitude of Senator Vandenberg, who, as the Senator expressed himself, "was not a man of moral enthusiasms" but considered things from a political point of view.

In view of the character of the Senator's reference to Mr. Acheson, it is clear to me that the relations between them are extremely cool at the present, and that therefore the Senator would not be the right man to bring about a rapprochement between Mr. Acheson and Dr. Silver.

Sincerely yours,

Benjamin Akzin

AK:ME

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXX

1706 G Street
Executive 1060

January 16, 1947

Mr. Abe Tuvim
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Tuvim:

In connection with the possible importance of Messersmith in the scheme of things, I made an appointment to meet again Mrs. Norman Littell, who, as Senator Brewster told me, is a close friend of Ambassador Messersmith. I saw her today in her husband's office, and he, too, was present. I meant to ask them whether they could introduce either Ben-Horin or me, in an informal fashion, to the Ambassador with a view of acquainting him with the true state of affairs. They refused to do it, but instead took the occasion to unburden themselves of a series of complaints which they have against the Jews. The complaints seem to be rather justified and call for some fence mending on our part. These complaints go back several years. They said they had discussed Palestine and the oil issue for the last five years with Rabbi Wise, the late Mr. Shulman, Mr. Edward Kaufmann and Rabbi Irving Miller, before they discussed it more recently with Ben-Horin and me. In none of these earlier cases did they get any serious attention, and they were very much disappointed because of our refusal to take their warnings seriously, and an unfriendly group of people got the inside track with the White House and the State Department. They would have been happy to take up our cause and fight for it as they have the habit to fight for a cause in which they believe, but faced by the indifference of the Zionists, they decided to turn their activities to other directions. They still retain a friendship for our cause, but since they cannot act on too many fronts at once, they decided to confine their active efforts to other matters.

They spoke with bitterness of the episode of Mr. Littell having been ousted from the Department of Justice after his rift with the Attorney General. Rabbi Irving Miller, who previously was constantly coming to him for help, suddenly dropped him, and at a time when editorial opinion and many influential friends all over the country rallied to him, he was practically boycotted by the Jews. Both he and she felt badly about it and made no bones about it.

I explained that there have been changes within the Zionist leadership since that time. I said I apologized for whatever Zionist leaders of old may have done, and that I did not think they deliberately dropped him because of his rift with Mr. Biddle; and I told him how much our present awareness of the oil aspects of the Palestine situation and our steps to combat this factor are due to the information which Mrs. Littell gave me a year ago and to the valuable suggestions which Ben-Horin received from them subsequently.

They tended to paint the Zionist picture exceedingly black as a result of our having neglected to keep in touch with them, and I thought it useful to say that, on the contrary, things have started looking up, thanks to the more dynamic leadership in general and thanks to our becoming aware at last of the oil aspects of the problem.

Though the oil aspect may not be quite as all-important as the Littells think, and though their own position may have somewhat suffered under the new regime in Washington, still I would advise that we should take steps to get back their active friendship. If I am not mistaken, you were thinking some time ago of getting them to act as our consultants on a permanent basis. Another more limited possibility would be to ask Mrs. Shepard to inquire from Mr. Littell whether he would be available for a few lectures (well paid) on subjects such as Palestine and American oil policy, civil rights, etc. A third possibility would be to have Ben-Horin call on them when he is next in Washington in advance of any written communications.

I will be in New York on Monday and Tuesday of next week, and I would like to discuss these matters more thoroughly with you and Ben-Horin. This letter is merely by way of advance information in order to set your minds thinking about the subject.

Sincerely yours,

Benjamin Akzin.

BA:ME

Dr. Silver

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX XXXX
1706 G Street, Northwest
EXecutive 1060 Zone 6

January 28, 1947

Mr. Harry Shapiro, Executive Director
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Shapiro:

In accordance with instructions of last December, I applied at that time for an interview with O. Max Gardner, recently appointed American Ambassador to London. I also asked Oscar Cox, a personal acquaintance of the Ambassador, to discuss with him the Palestine question informally. At Mr. Cox's suggestion, I had Schulson meet the Ambassador's son, who is accompanying his father to London. After not hearing from the State Department about my request for several weeks, I had a call yesterday informing me that the Ambassador would see me today. Mr. Henderson was present at the interview.

Mr. Gardner mentioned that he had been scheduled to join the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry and said that he was glad now that he could not make it, since otherwise he would have been committed to a definite point of view on Palestine, which would decrease his usefulness now. As is, he has no pre-conceived ideas on the Palestine question, but will seek to carry out his government's policies.

I said that I fully appreciated his position and that there was no need even to ask him to go further than the government policy, since this policy has recently been very gratifying to us. The President has indicated that he favors the establishment of the Jewish State, he has made it plain that he wants Palestine opened for large-scale Jewish immigration and colonization, and he has insisted for the last eighteen months that 100,000 displaced Jews be admitted there immediately, independently of any political negotiations, as an urgent humanitarian measure. If he, the Ambassador, is able to carry out this program, we would be very happy. The trouble is, of course, that the British try to avoid carrying out this program. This is why they proposed an Anglo-American Committee, this is why they are holding conferences now, and this is why they will probably resort to other devices later. Because this is their attitude, they will undoubtedly try to impress the Ambassador with various arguments against the President's program. These arguments sound quite plausible to anyone who has not made a careful study of the question. Should the British convince him, he would, in good faith, become a channel

Mr. Harry Shapiro

January 28, 1947

through which the British would try to get American consent to delay rather than a channel through which the American government would get British consent to action. I would not undertake to deal with these arguments at present, but I would like the Ambassador to give our representatives in London an opportunity of answering them before he makes a decision as to their validity.

Mr. Gardner agreed to it, but asked that our representatives should not make a daily habit of visiting him, since there are a great many complicated questions with which he will have to deal, and his time will be limited. He said he had been a crusader once, and he knows the habits of crusaders. I replied that I would not ask for more than that he give our representatives an opportunity to meet him once in the beginning; thereupon they will call upon him only in cases of great emergency. What I really would like him to do would be to call upon them when he feels that he has almost, but not quite yet, become convinced of some plausible British argument against our program. Mr. Gardner agreed that this is a reasonable request and promised to act accordingly.

As we went into the question of personalities, Henderson intervened and said that Dr. Goldmann will undoubtedly be the man we would want the Ambassador to deal with. I said that there are a great many Zionist leaders in London today, but in order not to confuse the Ambassador with too many people, I would recommend him more especially to deal with Mr. Shertok, Director of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency, a Palestinian who from now on will be stationed in Washington, and Dr. Emanuel Neumann, a distinguished American citizen, a member of the Executive and a vice-president of the Z. O. A. We agreed that I would leave these names with Mr. Fred Salter, a foreign service officer hitherto in charge of the United Kingdom desk at the Department, who is going to London together with the Ambassador. Agency

Following this, I again drew the Ambassador's attention to the fact that the British are perfectly well aware of the positions which Jews and Arabs are taking on Palestine, and that the Conference cannot be considered a genuine means of seeking agreement. British governmental opinion is seemingly divided on the question of Palestine, with a strong section opposed to any important concessions to the Jews, and they simply resort to a long succession of delaying devices so as to avoid agreeing to the solution advocated by the American government. Our hope is that he will make it difficult for the British to continue these tactics and will make it necessary for them to act in accordance with the American government's policy.

Mr. Gardner assured me that he would do what he could and then switched over to the question of terror in Palestine. He said that the acts of violence in Palestine create a very bad impression in America and do us a lot of harm. He compared it with the lynchings in the Southern states, especially at the time of Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia. BA

American Zionist Emergency Council

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

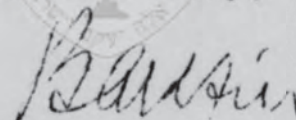
342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
Murray Hill 2-1160

March 19, 1947

To the Members of the American Zionist Emergency Council:

Enclosed are the Minutes of the Executive Committee
Meeting of March 10, 1947.

Yours sincerely,


Benjamin Akzin

BA:LM
Enc.



American Zionist Emergency Council

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
M U r r a y H i l l 2 - 1 1 6 0

June 11, 1947

To the Members of the American Zionist Emergency Council:

Enclosed are the Minutes of the Meetings of the
Executive Committee dated May 19 and June 4, 1947.

BA:SR
Encs.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Benjamin Akzin".

Benjamin Akzin

Mr. Abe Tuvim

June 13, 1947

Benjamin Akzin

I want to report on my trip to Detroit.

The main event was a luncheon arranged by the Detroit Chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild for the members of the Detroit Bar. There were present 250 lawyers, 16 judges including most Federal judges in Detroit, and 5 consuls. I understand it was the largest lawyers' luncheon ever held in the city.

My talk dealt with the legal aspects of the Palestine issue. It seems to have been a hit. As a result, the local Zionists, especially those in the legal profession, suggested that similar meetings be held in other large cities such as Chicago, Cleveland, Boston, etc. If possible, the meetings should be held under the auspices of one of the Bar Associations; the National Lawyers' Guild should be second choice.

Credit for the initiative in organizing the luncheon largely goes to two prominent Zionist lawyers in Detroit, Messrs. Sol Dann and Seymour Tilchin. They persuaded the National Lawyers' Guild to arrange the luncheon, convinced a Jewish hotel owner to make possible an admission price of \$1.00 in order to ensure a large attendance at the dinner, and did a great deal of telephoning with a view to getting people to come. An added feature was a special reprint of the Palestine Mandate, which was furnished to every person present. Practically everyone took the text with them.

The Local Emergency Council cooperated in this venture and participated in the expenses.

In the evening I met with the members of the Emergency Council and the other leaders of the various Zionist groups in the city. I made no speech, but answered at length the questions which they addressed to me.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date June 20, 1947

From Benjamin Akzin

The United Zionists-Revisionists have asked me to forward to you the attached enclosures which, they inform me, refer to a subject which was discussed in the course of their recent interview with you.

Encs.
BA:sr

BA.
see - Revisionists
relating to

American Zionist Emergency Council

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
Murray Hill 2-1160

June 20, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I should like to report on a few matters which you have asked me to take care of.

1) A 1500-word report for the pre-Convention issue of the *NEW PALESTINE* was prepared by me, after consultation with Messrs. Tuvim and Manson, and handed over yesterday to Mr. Barbarash. For this report, I utilized in part the formal report on the work of the Emergency Council, prepared by Mr. Manson, which is to be submitted to the ZOA Convention.

2) With regard to Mr. Schuyler's anti-Zionist columns in the Negro press, which you sent me some time ago with instructions that something be done about them, an article in reply to Mr. Schuyler was prepared by Miss Shulamith Schwartz and gone over by me. After consultation with Mr. Tuvim, it was decided that none of us should send the article in over our signature, but that an attempt be made to have a prominent Negro intellectual send in the article over his signature. Mr. Langston Hughes, a Negro member of the A.C.P.C., was requested by Dean LeSourd to do so, and we believe that the article will appear.

In addition, I thought it best to deal a little more thoroughly with the growing anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist trends of the American Negro population. Accordingly, I have asked Hy Schulson to visit Mordecai Johnson, the President of Howard University, as well as such other Negro leaders in Washington as would be suggested to him by Dr. Johnson, in an effort to explain to them the spirit of Zionism and to ascertain what they could do to promote understanding for that movement among the Negro intelligentsia.

Furthermore, on the advice of various people, I contacted Miss Pauli Murray, a young Negro lawyer in New York who seems to enjoy a great reputation among the educated Negro groups in New York, and introduced her to Harold Manson. Manson tells me that he hopes to get her to do something for us in Negro circles.

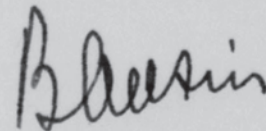
3) In accordance with your oral instructions, transmitted through Mr. Tuvim, copies of the communication of the Zionist Executive suggesting the creation of a permanent comprehensive Zionist federation in this country have been transmitted to the seven constituent bodies for their information.

4) I would like to add that some time ago I received a communication from Mr. Dobkin informing us that the Jewish Agency is initiating Training Courses in Jerusalem for Zionist officials and youth leaders, and requesting us to coordinate the work of the ZOA, Hadassah, Mizrahi, Poale-Zion, and Hashomer Hatzair in America in selecting their candidates for these training courses. I thought it only correct to point out in reply that the Achdut Havodah and Revisionists have become constituent bodies of the Emergency Council, and to ask whether the Agency wishes us to confine the invitation to the five groups mentioned in Mr. Dobkin's letter or to extend it to the other two groups as well. Last week, I received a reply from Jerusalem telling us that no discrimination had been intended and that we may extend the invitation to all our constituent groups. Accordingly, I have invited all these parties to appoint representatives to a Committee that would deal with this question.

5) You will recall that, at a recent meeting of the Executive Committee, you appointed two sub-committees to deal with boycott and resistance groups respectively. The Boycott Sub-Committee has met and, as a result, a few economic experts have been commissioned to make a preliminary study of the feasibility of the boycott.

The Sub-Committee on Resistance Groups held two meetings. At the first, the consensus of opinion was that there is no point in asking information from any of the Bergson groups or from the Palestine Resistance Committee which is unaffiliated with Bergson but supports the Irgun, since our attitude toward these groups is already established. On the other hand, however, it was decided to go into the activities of the Asirei Zion, a fund which purports to care for the families of the Jews arrested in or deported from Palestine. A second meeting was held, to which representatives of that Fund explained their activities and asked for a friendly attitude on the part of the Emergency Council. They said that the Jewish Agency and the Vaad Leumi are aware of their activities and of the need for them. It was decided to ascertain the attitude of the Agency and the Vaad Leumi toward the Asirei Zion before coming with recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Sincerely yours,



Benjamin Akzin

BA:sr

Dear Dr. Silver,

I thought you'd be
interested in the underlined
paragraph of the enclosed
letter.

The writer is a leader
and past President of the
Hadanah in Washington.

Sincerely,

Bausis

May 20.

C
O
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THE WOMEN'S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
H A D A S S A H

SEABOARD REGION

May 12, 1947

Dear Dr. Akzin:

I've been intending - ever since the April fourth issue of the New Palestine came out - to write you how "we" feel about your article on Zionist policy.

It seemed to me so clear and realistic and logical that I've used it as a basis for discussion, not only for our Political education group - but for the other study groups and have recommended it as a discussion topic throughout the Region. Many of us were particularly encouraged when we realize what position you hold and that that is probably the position and policy that the Zionist Emergency Committee will take.

I think that those of us who study and "analyse" Zionist policy and are not unalterably bound by organization party lines must agree with you that only two things are important at the moment - immigration - and a strong and unanimous attitude backing Resistance of all kinds in Palestine. It seems so clear that the World in general and the United Nations in particular must know, unquestionably, that there will be trouble in Palestine, backed by the Jews of America, if this time we don't get justice.

Therefore, it's confusing and terribly disheartening to have important Agency people talk about "murder" and "terrorism" and setting the Haganah against the Irgun etc.

It seems to me natural that Jew and Gentile alike would take pride in the courage and self-sacrifice in all the resistance activities. It seems to me psychologically wrong and subtly demoralizing to our people themselves to have implanted in them the feeling that these are shameful acts of banditry and murder etc. - aside from the terrible danger to the whole cause if the United Nations is convinced that the Agency itself would not back all-out resistance.

Many of us must know what our policy is. Is it the Silver-Neumann policy which gave us hope and kept many of us within the Zionist movement - or is it the pre-Congress Weizmann policy. When we see and hear the statements made by Ben-Gurion and Shertok and when we see Shertok, Ben-Gurion, Nahum Goldman are to represent us at the UN we are very disturbed. We wonder if the time has come when we must give what aid and support we have to give - to those who are supporting the Irgun.

Can you answer these questions? Could you come in to Washington to address a Political Education session? I could arrange it to suit your convenience and we would be grateful.

I hope you are settled comfortably in your new home. Will you give Mrs. Akzin our kindest regards?

Sincerely,

Dorothy Naftolin

P. S. - Just noted that I've written on Hadassah stationery. You know, of course, that the sentiments expressed are my own, not officially Hadassah.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date June 11, 1947

From Benjamin Akzin

The enclosed is a copy of a communication received by us from the Organization Department of the Jewish Agency Executive.

It would seem to me that the communication should be brought to the notice of all members of the Emergency Council or, at any rate, of the seven constituent bodies, before the question is brought up at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

I would like to have your approval of this step.

Enc.
BA:sr



C
O
P
Y

THE EXECUTIVE OF THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION

Organisation Department

Jerusalem

243/8487

29th May, 1947

The Secretary
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

We should like to address ourselves to you in a matter of the greatest importance:

Since its inception your Council has rendered sterling services not only to Zionism in America but to our whole movement. It performed most important activities at a crucial time, and in serving as a rallying point of all Zionist forces for joint work it fulfilled a vital organisational mission by its very existence.

Important as these achievements are, they do not suffice at a time when an urgent need has arisen to replace occasional cooperation in a limited sphere by a permanent organisational framework combining all Zionist groups and parties into a body capable of unified action. This body should command the loyalty of all its component groups while safeguarding their legitimate aspirations founded upon differences of ideology or other reasons.

The problem of finding a harmonious and working synthesis between these particular interests and those of the whole movement concerns other countries as well, but in the U.S.A. it has acquired a special significance which is commensurate with the decisive part which the U.S.A. play in our movement because of the size of its Jewish population, the generosity of American Jewry's contributions to all Zionist causes and the influence which American Zionists are able to exert in many fields.

Following the debates and resolutions of the 22nd Zionist Congress, an Advisory Organisational Committee was set up to examine the question of Zionist organisation in countries in which no Zionist body embracing all groups and parties has been in existence. The conclusions at which the Committee has arrived may be seen from the attached circular letter.

It goes without saying that the scheme embodied in this circular does not constitute hard and fast rules but only a general outline, which is to be adapted to local conditions and legitimate interests which deserve special consideration in your country. While the greatest latitude is given in details and full allowance is made for arrangements safeguarding the autonomy of the various parties and groups, one basic aim should be achieved: to put the foundation of a permanent body embracing all Zionist parties and groups which work in all fields of joint interest under a democratically elected Executive, vested with sufficient powers and acting on behalf of all component organisations.

In order to bring about the realisation of this aim you are asked to put the whole matter before a regular meeting of the Emergency Council or before a special session, in both of which all sections of American Zionism represented at the Congress and with a permanent organisation at their command should participate. This forum should consider the idea put forward by the Organisational Committee and should deliberate on ways and means of creating a Zionist body, as suggested.

With Zion's greetings,
Yours faithfully,

AZ/JS

ORGANISATION DEPARTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE



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THE EXECUTIVE OF THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION

Organisation Department

Jerusalem

No. 146 A.

May 21, 1947

Dear Sirs,

Re: Advisory Committee for Organisation Affairs

Since the last Zionist Congress the Executive and its Organisation Department have devoted particular attention to the problems of organisation and propaganda, which have assumed increased importance in a period in which so much depends on the strength and unity of the Zionist movement and its ability to command the sympathy and support of the widest Jewish and non-Jewish circles.

2. The last Congress, it will be remembered, provided for the setting up of an Advisory Committee for Organisation Affairs in Palestine for the purpose of dealing with the organisational and propaganda questions of the World Zionist Organisation and of advising the Organisation Department of the Executive in all such matters. This Committee was constituted, according to the instructions of the General Zionist Council, of representatives of all the Zionist Congress parties (General Zionists, Ichud Poale-Zion - Hitachdut, Mizrachi, United Zionist Revisionists, Hashomer Hatzair, Achdut Haavoda - Poale Zion, Aliyah Hadashah).

The Organisation Committee held during March and April, 1947, three meetings in Jerusalem devoted to deliberations on the following two questions: (1) The programme of work for the coming period, and (2) the creation of nuclei of the Zionist Organisation in countries where no Zionist federations exist.

Discussions on the first question were based on a survey given by Mr. E. Dobkin, the Member of the Executive in charge of the Organisation Department, while the second question was introduced by Dr. L. Lauterbach, Director of the Organisation Department, in a paper on the structure of territorial branches of the World Zionist Organisation.

3. Mr. Dobkin outlined a plan of action, which all parts of the Organisation would be called upon to carry out under the direction of the Executive in a measure appropriate to the needs of the present situation. The plan covers the following activities:

(a) Education of Jewish children and establishment of schools - above all in Europe, where the needs are most pressing and where a beginning is now being made by sending the first batch of 100 teachers from Palestine. This scheme is to be extended first to the countries of the East, to Latin America and later to the English-speaking countries.

(b) Organisation of the young and promotion of joint federations of Zionist youth organisations.

(c) Propagation of the Hebrew language.

(d) Development of the Halutz movement and its consolidation in all parts of the Diaspora, including the English-speaking countries.

(e) Improvement of Zionist information and propaganda, particularly by centralising and coordinating the services maintained for this purpose by various Zionist institutions.

(f) Effective assistance to Zionist territorial bodies, in particular by establishing regional offices in those parts of the world in which this is required.

(g) Coordinated scheme of sending out emissaries, including Hebrew teachers.

(h) Enlargement of the scope of activities of the Organisation and Youth Departments.

(i) Promoting publication of Zionist literature and its dissemination.

(j) Publication of Zionist periodicals in Hebrew and other languages.

(k) Training courses to be held in Palestine for Zionist officials, youth leaders and teachers from abroad.

It was stressed that the carrying out of all these programmes would depend to a large extent on the financial means available, and it was announced that attempts were being made to adapt the budget of the Zionist Organisation to present requirements.

In the course of the coming months we shall revert in detail to the various schemes mentioned above which have won the approval of the Organisation Committee. We wish to express the hope that Zionists in all countries will make their contribution in a spirit of responsibility for the success of our common effort.

4. A special problem which has faced us for a long time is that of consolidating the Organisation and effectively uniting Zionist forces in every country. At the present moment this question is of particular importance in those countries in which, as a result of peculiar developments and, especially, after the ravages caused by the tragic years of war, the basis of a strong Zionist Organisation has been destroyed and Zionist activities are conducted by various independent bodies without the necessary coordination. Wherever such a state of affairs prevails, it appears of the utmost urgency to find a way of uniting Zionist forces so as to ensure that efficiency and cohesion of the Zionist Organisation on which its strength and stability depend.

This problem engaged the attention of the Organisation Commission at the Zionist Congress in Basle and of the Congress itself, and, in accordance with a resolution there adopted, was submitted to the Advisory Organisation Committee in Jerusalem. After a full discussion, the Committee expressed its agreement with certain basic principles for the creation in the respective countries of a joint framework, for which the name of "Territorial Zionist Confederation" has been proposed.

A summary containing these principles is enclosed herewith. It will be seen from the contents that it refers only to those countries where no organised, well-established Federation (or Organisation), embracing all Zionists in the country, exists, and where it is necessary to create a minimum of unity and coordination as a foundation on which more advanced forms of organisation may be built, when the barriers now existing between different parts of the movement have been removed.

With Zion's Greetings,

Yours faithfully,

EXECUTIVE OF THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION

May 31, 1947

Dr. Benjamin Akzin
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Akzin:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I received from Dr. Fox of Chicago. The article of Schuyler is, of course, a digest of pro-Arab propaganda, which should be answered. I would appreciate it if you would attend to it once.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

WRHS

