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

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Bernstein, Rabbi Philip S., 1947.

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RABBI PHILIP BERNSTEIN
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HEADQUARTERS U.S.F.E.T.
APO 757
c/o POSTMASTER, NEW YORK

JANUARY 30, 1947

HAVE SPOKEN TO HERBERT HOOVER IN CONNECTION WITH HIS VISIT TO
GERMANY STOP SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT HE SEE YOU AND ALSO STUDY
DEEPER CAMPS AND MEET WITH DEEPER REPRESENTATIVES STOP IMPORTANT
THAT HE GET FULL PICTURE OF THE SITUATION AND RELATIONSHIP TO
PALESTINE STOP PLEASE CONTACT HIM UPON HIS ARRIVAL KINDEST
REGARDS

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:RB

HEADQUARTERS
U. S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER
Office of the Commanding General
APO 757, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

March 4, 1947

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Abba:

On my return to Frankfurt today, I found your cable requesting information concerning my conversations with Hoover and members of the British Cabinet. Although there will be a few days delay, I think it better to reply by letter, rather than by cable.

Mosheh Shertok was kept informed by me of my previous conversations, and I assume he transmitted the essence of my experience to you. Let me give you more details in the following summary.

I went to London with the approval of General McNarney to bring a special report to members of the British Cabinet on the present conditions and prospects of the Jewish DPs and to make a special appeal for early substantial emigration, despite the delays in the political settlement. I carefully avoided discussion of political solutions and adhered strictly to my instructions and program; namely, emigration.

I spent an hour with Bevin, just before he went to the Cabinet meeting to propose referring the matter to the UN. He was bitter against the United States, particularly President Truman and U. S. Zionists. He felt he had gone as far as he could go and that, henceforth, the initiative, if any, must be taken by the Jewish Agency. He gave me a careful hearing and volunteered to present my views to the Cabinet, although he made no personal commitments.

Creech-Jones was much more sympathetic. He remains a committed Zionist. He indicated that he would personally support my request and asked for a written memorandum for use with the Cabinet, which I provided for him.

I talked, also, with Philip Noel Baker, Air Minister and erstwhile British representative to UN, and to George Isaacs, Minister of Labor. They both displayed a sympathetic attitude, but made no commitments.

Noel Baker said he was in favor of increased immigration up to the point of bloodshed with the Arabs.

I spent an hour with Mr. Hoover in London, not only discussing the DPs, but reporting on my experience with the British. I told him that, according to my experience, the solution of the DP problem had resolved itself into (1) early mass immigration into Palestine and (2) liberalization of the U. S. immigration laws. I urged him to use his influence for both, primarily for the former. He agreed to do so. He said that he was in favor of making deals with the Arabs, which would involve substantial investments in Arab countries, designed both to appease them and to drain off some of the Arab population from Palestine. In any event, we agreed that this was the time for concrete, vigorous U. S. governmental action.

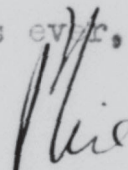
In my talks with the British Minister of Labor and with the Canadian and Australian High Commissioners, I learned that there is no possibility of any real immigration of Jewish DPs into those countries in 1947.

In my talks with the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, I learned that most of the South American prospects had proven illusory. As I told Mr. Hoover, the solutions have narrowed down to, primarily, Palestine and, secondarily, the United States.

In view of the fact that I went to London on a military mission and reported officially to General McFarney, I would like you to regard this communication as confidential and to be shared only with a small confidential group.

With all good wishes,

As ever,



RABBI PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN
Adviser to the Theater Commander
on Jewish Affairs

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