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Pro-Zionist work in other countries, 1947.

LONG ISLAND ZIONIST REGION

163-18 JAMAICA AVENUE, JAMAICA 5, NEW YORK . TELEPHONE JAMAICA 6-6232

July 28, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o Harry Shapiro
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.

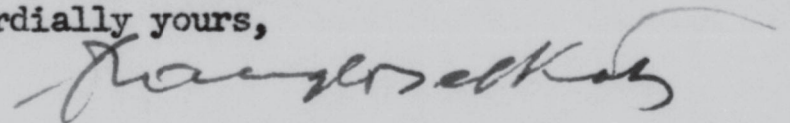
Dear Dr. Silver:

Please find attached herewith excerpts pertaining to Christian pro-Zionist work in Scandinavia, contained in a personal letter from Hugo Valentin dated June 29-30. Annotations on his letter are to be found on page 2 appended to the excerpts.

However, I shall send you a memorandum on the entire subject of pro-Palestine work in the Nordic countries as soon as I have received Valentin's next letter thereon.

Copies of this communication as well as of the enclosures have also been sent to Dr. Emanuel Neuman, Miss Dorothy Adelson, and Mrs. Sulamith Schwartz Nardi.

Cordially yours,



FRANZ J. KATZ
Associate Director

FJK/fl
Enc.

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Translated Excerpts from Letter of Hugo Valentin, Uppsala,
to Franz J. Katz, New York, of June 29, 1947, on Christian
pro-Palestine work in Scandinavia.

Confidential - Not for Circulation

(6/29/47)

(Denmark)

" ... In Scandinavia, there is only one Christian pro-Palestine Committee, the one in Copenhagen, small, recently established, but headed by several "big shots." The work of Benjamin ~~Slor~~. ~~Slor~~. Naturally, I shall try to follow suit. Thus far, I have not been successful, but possibly I shall succeed in the fall (As you may know, the Swedes do not work during the summer)."

(Sweden)

(Norway)

" In Norway, the sentiment is more in our favor than in Sweden, and one could probably organize a pro-Palestine Committee there. Dr. P..... (name illegible), who was naturalized just recently, is a convinced, highly talented Zionist, with connections in intellectual circles. But Faye Hansen is not equipped for that type of people, but rather for the simple, religious elements, the masses, not for the elite; consequently he is not suited for the pro-Palestine committees."

(Sweden)

" Naturally, I shall try to get in touch with Ochs."

(Sweden)

" Among the non-Jews in Sweden, there is only one active Zionist, Marika Stiernstedt, the famous authoress. She certainly will be of help to me in establishing a Swedish pro-Palestine Committee. However, I am not certain, whether we shall be successful. It does not take much to gain leading Swedes for the Hebrew University, but Swedes refrain in general from taking part in activities with a political emphasis. However, kindly send us literature suitable for our initial activities."

(Sweden)

" The Archbishop of Sweden is participating in the Lutheran conference at Lund. I know him, but do not expect anything from him. But because he has been attacked because of his passive attitude on the Jewish question during the Hitlerite period - he is weeping over our fate, but has conducted himself rather cowardly - I shall now provide him with an opportunity for rehabilitation. Consequently, I sent him a letter, enclosing the text of the American resolutions and urged him to get in touch with Ochs. I told him that there is no need for platonical resolutions against anti-Semitism, but that a pro-Zionist resolution would have moral value."

" I should like to receive the "Christian Voice," for propaganda work among the Swedes, in the fall, preferably various copies."

Explanations and Comment on Contents of Hugo Valentin's
Letter of 6/29/30/47 on Christian Zionist work in
Scandinavia, addressed to Franz J. Katz, New York:

Paragraph 1 (Denmark):

Benjamin Slör, of Copenhagen: One of Denmark's leading and truly devoted Zionists; not personally known to me.

Paragraph 2 (Norway):

"Dr. P." whose name I could not decipher in Valentin's handwritten letter is a subject to which I shall refer in my next report to you. I have inquired with Valentin and expect further information about the gentleman.

It is also obvious from Valentin's letter that he does not deem the existing Norwegian pro-Zionist body either adequate or headed by the proper person.

I expect to hear from Valentin just what the full picture is. I imagine this information will be contained in his next letter to me.

Paragraph 4 (Sweden):

Reference is made to a person named "Ochs."

The latter is a Lutheran lay delegate from Texas, who is a member of the American Christian Palestine Committee and who attended the Lutheran World Conference at Lund as a delegate for the United States.

Miss Dorothy Adelson, of the Jewish Agency, conferred with him during his stay in New York and asked me to request Valentin to take advantage of Ochs' visit to Sweden.

Paragraph 5 (Sweden):

Marika Stjernstedt, the authoress, gained fame as angel of the stranded Jewish refugees. Oddly enough, however, she is a Roman Catholic, which is unusual for Lutheran arch-anti-Catholic Sweden. While Marika Stjernstedt is not taboo in the manner of Sigrid Undset, of Norway, nevertheless, her Catholicism will not exactly serve as a bait to other prominent Swedes to join in pro-Zionist work, if she were to head such a Committee!

Valentin's references to Archbishop Aulen are very interesting. As long as the Germans and the German-Americans retain the controlling influence within world Lutheranism, not much can be hoped for from that group. As the result of the war, however, the Scandinavian-American Lutherans are somewhat aloof from both the Germans and the German-Americans, though not sufficiently so.

At any rate, Valentin's initiative, as the result of our letter, prompted by Dr. Ochs' visit, was worthwhile, irrespective of the immediate results, about which I have not received a report as yet, though I expect to get it soon.