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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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433

Swope, Herbert Bayard, 1948.

HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE
745 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, N.Y.

12 April 1948.

Dear Dr. Silver:-

Let me know when Mrs. Silver
arrives, so we can find out when you are free
to come to us for dinner.

Don't work too hard.

My warm regard.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
Hotel Sulgrave,
Park Avenue & 67th Street,
New York City.

WRHS



COPY

13 May 1948

Personal

My dear Rogosin:-

Are you sure that the American memorial to six million Jews of Europe is worth doing at this time? It seems to me that the best sort of memorial would be a living one, probably in Palestine, which would be of help to the refugees. I do not believe that this is calculated to touch the public imagination at the moment.

With best wishes,

I. Rogosin, Esq.
450 Seventh Avenue
New York City

HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE
745 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, N.Y.

13 May 1948

Dear Dr. Silver:-

The enclosed speaks for itself.
Should you want any further comment, call
me up.

You have been a tower of strength
to your associates.

WRHS
AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
HBS

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Hotel Sulgrave
60 East 67th Street
New York 21, N. Y.

COPY

13 May 1948

Dear B.M.:—

I was approached today by the representative of a group which is seeking to promote a Jewish settlement in Surinam (Dutch Guiana). He solicited my interest, and wanted to know if I would be good enough to speak a word to you, in the event of my approval of the undertaking.

I do not know the personalities involved but, to me, it seems obvious that they have no basis for the belief that Surinam offers a solution to the refugee problem. In fact, I am dubious as to whether settlement in Surinam is their main purpose, or if below the surface, it is a diversion from the Palestine program. Carried out, the plan would hurt Palestine, since it involves the collection of a minimum of \$30,000,000 to begin work in South America.

I told my visitor that the proposition was unsound to me because:

1. The motives were not clear;
2. The backing was unimpressive;
3. The amount of money required was high;
4. There is no warrant, whatsoever, to believe Surinam offers settlement possibilities.

In connection with the last point, you will recall that the geographers we talked to sometime ago (when you were wondering if there were any immediate harbors for the refugees who could not enter Palestine) were, all of them, disinclined to give Surinam any favor. Recently a book called "Quest for Settlement", issued in 1948 by the Refugee Economic Corporation, quoted Dr. Kral J. Pelzer, Professor of Geography at Yale, thus:

"Settlement possibilities in British Guiana and Surinam are negligible ****. Prospective European settlers could not compete with prevailing low-cost labor without greatly reducing European living standards. \$15,000 to \$30,000 is required to establish a farm in the coastal belt sufficiently large to permit a reasonable income for a European family."

I was quite frank in telling my caller that I would not become associated with the enterprise directly or indirectly, and that I would not bring it to your attention, or to the attention of other friends of mine. I added that of course, he was at liberty to take it up directly with you. He probably will. This, then, is to warn you.

Love,

Bernard M. Baruch, Esq.

4 East 66th Street
New York City

HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE
745 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, N.Y.

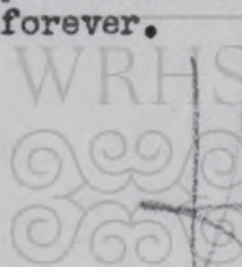
RB
(for AHS)

14 May 1948.

Dear Dr. Silver:-

Here is a statement you are free to use. Baruch is uncertain as to whether he wants to sign but, as you wanted one from me, in any event, I am sending this along.

My heartfelt congratulations on the extraordinarily important job you have done in helping to bring independence to Israel. I am certain it will be preserved forever.



HBS

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
Hotel Sulgrave,
60 East 67th Street,
New York City.

Please don't feel
yourself under any
pressure to sign it - it
probably is not worth
while.

X left at 42nd St. Office for you
Miss Rusty

June 3, 1948

Mr. Herbert Bayard Swope
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

My dear Mr. Swope:

I am enclosing a few paragraphs which you might wish to consider in connection with the statement you had in mind. Bevin Great Britain remains the enemy of Israel. He will use the four weeks cease fire period to try to force the Jews to surrender the Negev - perhaps also Eastern Galilee to Abdullah; parts perhaps to Egypt.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er
Enc.

In normal circumstances, nothing would have given me greater pleasure. Nobody doubts that the close alliance of our two peoples on the basis of common principle and policy is a vital foundation of international peace, and one way to cement this partnership is for citizens in both countries engaged in public affairs to exchange visits from time to time. At the present juncture, however, a heavy shadow clouds our relations. It does not affect exclusively or primarily the relations of our two governments. It is an issue which has aroused all liberal public opinion in this country to an attitude of indignation against British policy.

I do not think it useful at this stage to rehearse the whole story of Britain's Palestine policy during the past decade. Nobody underestimates the importance which the British Government attaches to its Arab alliance, but many people doubt whether it was legitimate to sacrifice, on behalf of that alliance, the interests, the rights, indeed the very hope of existence of the Jewish people in the most agonizing hour of its history. This sacrifice involved the fair name of Britain in what Mr. Churchill aptly called "a squalid war with the Jews." British arms, glorified by their share in victory during the Second World War, become tarnished through their use against a small people whose sacrifices deserve well of mankind.

Even this squalid war could now be forgotten; all past differences could fade away; and questions of blame and responsibility could be left to the historian of posterity -- if only the chapter were ended. Far from being ended, it is now being prolonged in a more acute and terrible form.

It is an undeniable fact that Arab forces are engaged in a war of aggression against the State of Israel and the city of Jerusalem. Neither in that state nor in that city have those Arab armies the faintest shadow of any right to operate at all, and what gives their aggression its most sinister aspect is the fact that

a member of the Security Council, Great Britain, is not in a position to disavow responsibility for it. The entire armament of the Egyptian army, including the aircraft now bombing Tel Aviv, are derived from Great Britain. The entire armament of the Iraqi army now attacking the Jews in the Jordan Valley is derived from Great Britain. Worst of all, the Transjordan Arab Legion, which is the spearhead of this aggression and which is now destroying the holy city of Jerusalem and Jewish villages in its vicinity, is a British army in the most complete and unmistakable sense. Every bullet and shell, every armored car and rifle, is British in origin, design and manufacture. The army is supported directly by the British treasury. Its commander-in-chief is a British officer, as also are the chief officers in charge of operations. A treaty of alliance exists between Great Britain and Transjordan requiring intimate consultation before either party becomes involved in warlike operations anywhere in the Near East. To believe that the Transjordan Arab Legion would be taking this aggressive action if there were any attempt on the British side to deter it, is to stretch credulity to absurd lengths.

For those who, like myself, cherish both the idea of international authority and a sense of sanctity with regard to Palestine and Jerusalem, this episode must be decisive in our whole approach and attitude towards Great Britain. I cannot visit Great Britain while British shells, paid for by the British taxpayer, are being directed by a British army, under British command, against Jerusalem to fall impartially upon its ancient shrines and modern habitations. Never have Anglo-American relations been subjected to a severer strain than at this moment under the impact of these terrible events. It is quite clear that Mr. Bevin has set the policy of his country in discord with that of liberal opinion everywhere else and in complete opposition to the unanimous sentiment of my fellow countrymen.

I hope that under the pressure of liberal and religious opinion everywhere that policy may be changed and a proper harmony created which will enable Americans to envisage their relations with Great Britain in a better light.

HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE
745 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, N.Y.

16 June 1948.

Dear Dr. Silver:-

I have just seen your note to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, under date of 10 June. I agree with your complaint. I shall undertake to see that any correction you wish printed will be made; if necessary, printing your letter.

I am enclosing a copy of the message I read at the dinner we had last night; it went over well.

My warm regard.



Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Ansel Road & 105th St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE

COPY

16 June 1948

HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE, CHAIRMAN
OVERSEAS NEWS AGENCY, DINNER
JANSSEN SUITE, WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL
50th STREET - PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE WORK OF THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY AND THE OVERSEAS NEWS AGENCY FROM WHICH IT BUYS ITS SERVICE, AND I TAKE THIS OCCASION TO STATE MY BELIEF IN BOTH THESE INSTITUTIONS. I THINK THE JTA DISCHARGES A COMMUNAL SERVICE OF FIRST IMPORTANCE. I BELIEVE THE JTA HAS HELPED TO BRING ABOUT THE UNIFICATION OF THE SUPPORTERS OF THE JEWISH AGENCY'S POSITION, JUST AS ONA HAS HELPED THE SECULAR WORLD TO UNDERSTAND OUR PURPOSES. AS YOU HAVE SAID, WE CANNOT GAIN INTELLIGENT SUPPORT UNLESS INTELLIGENT INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED. MY HEARTY COMMENDATION OF THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE, THE WORK THAT IS BEING DONE, AND THE WORK THAT WILL BE DONE.

WRHS
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669
ABBA HILLEL SILVER
CHAIRMAN, AMERICAN SECTION
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE