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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series II: Harold P. Manson File (Zionism Files), 1940-1949, undated.

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

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Welles, Sumner, 1948.

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Dr. Silver

SUMNER WELLES

Oxon Hill Manor
Oxon Hill, Maryland

March 29, 1948

My dear Dr. Akzin:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 24.
The Australian Embassy had already sent me Dr. Evatt's
statement. The views he expresses are what I would have
expected and I am confident that they will have a far-
reaching and beneficial effect.

I need hardly add that the developments of recent
days have left me profoundly indignant. The difficulty
of the moment naturally, in view of the position taken by
the United States, is to decide upon the course best
calculated to afford some alleviation of the present tragedy
and at the same time promote the essential long-range objectives.

With my kind personal regards, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Sumner Welles

Dr. Benjamin Akzin,
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue,
New York 17, New York.

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SUMNER WELLES

Personal

Oxon Hill Manor
Oxon Hill, Maryland

April 9, 1948

My dear Dr. Akzin:

I enclose a self-explanatory telegram received this morning.

Mr. Louis Bromfield is an old friend of mine and I have a high regard for Will Rogers, Junior. I am, however, altogether unfamiliar with the plans that they are now formulating for this meeting in Madison Square Garden on May 13, and I am equally unaware as to the position which the responsible authorities of the Jewish Agency are taking with regard to this project and with regard to the activities that the American League for a Free Palestine is carrying on. At the present moment there is, unfortunately, so much friction between many of the groups and organizations interested in the Palestine cause and the purposes of several of these groups, as they have occasionally been brought to my attention, seem to me to be so wholly destructive in their results, however well-intentioned they may be, that because of my own ever-growing desire to do what I can to further effectively the establishment of an independent Jewish Commonwealth, I feel the only wise solution for me is, before responding to invitations such as the one I enclose, to obtain the confidential advice of the Jewish Agency.

If you will, therefore, be so kind as to let me have your suggestion as to the desirability of my accepting this invitation, I would be most grateful.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

Enclosure.

/s/ Sumner Welles

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

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April 13, 1948

Honorable Sumner Welles
Oxon Hill Manor
Oxon Hill, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Welles:

I hasten to reply to your letter of April 9th regarding the communication which you have received from Messrs. Louis Bromfield and Will Rogers on behalf of the American League for a Free Palestine. The Zionist leaders whom I have consulted in confidence regarding this matter have asked me to thank you for your thoughtfulness in asking for our advice. They are unanimous in feeling that an acceptance of the invitation on your part would only serve to confuse the public. They hope, therefore, that you will abstain from endorsing the proposed demonstration of the American League.

The organized Zionist movement in America greatly deplores the separatist activities of the American League for a Free Palestine. The Zionist leaders, chosen by a large electorate and responsible to it, are of the opinion that this separatist organization, unwilling to submit to democratic discipline, is utterly unrepresentative of Jewish opinion. It is further the opinion of the Zionist leadership that certain of the activities of the American League, however well intentioned its individual sponsors may be, are a serious danger to the cause of Jewish Palestine. This is particularly the case of the "Registration of Volunteers for the George Washington Legion" sponsored by the American League, an enterprise which, in the opinion of the Zionist leaders in this country, complicates rather than solves the problem of Jewish manpower in Palestine.

The Executive of the Jewish Agency, whom I have also consulted in this matter, fully and unreservedly shares this view.

Yours very sincerely,

BA:lb

Benjamin Akzin

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SUMNER WELLES

Oxon Hill Manor
Oxon Hill, Maryland

April 14, 1948

Bergson
Committee

My dear Dr. Akzin:

Thank you for your most helpful letter of April
13. In consequence of the information given me in your
letter, I have written a reply to Mr. Bromfield and Mr.
Will Rogers, Junior, of which I enclose a copy for your
information.

With my kind personal regards, believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

/s/ Sumner Welles

Enclosure.

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

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Oxon Hill Manor
Oxon Hill, Maryland

April 14, 1948

Messrs. Louis Bromfield and Will Rogers, Junior,
Suite 1401, 25 West 45th Street,
New York, New York.

Sirs:

I deeply regret that it is impossible for me to attend the meeting to be held under the auspices of the American League for Free Palestine at Madison Square Garden on May 15, next, or to agree to serve as a sponsor for the meeting.

I recognize, of course, the high purposes by which you have been motivated in organizing this meeting. The ultimate objective that you seek, namely, the prompt establishment of a free and independent Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine is an objective which I most heartily endorse and toward the attainment of which I shall contribute in every way that lies within my power. I feel, however, that under present conditions the registration of volunteers for the George Washington Legion is an enterprise which gravely complicates the whole situation in Palestine and which impedes rather than furthers the adoption by our own Government of a policy which will help the cause of Jewish independence.

Because of my belief in the fundamental principles of Zionism it is a matter of very real concern to me that so many of the organizations working for the ultimate establishment of an independent Jewish state should now be operating wholly at cross purposes and should be spending so much time and effort in attacking one another instead of working solidly together until the end which they all seek has finally been reached. These conditions in my opinion have not only greatly confused non-Jewish American public opinion, but have also had an exceedingly unfortunate effect by tending to alienate general sympathy from the Zionist cause.

Under present conditions, therefore, I feel that I must limit myself to supporting the policies adopted by the leaders who are directing the Jewish Agency.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,