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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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Zionist inter-party affairs, 1948.

LABOR ZIONIST ORGANIZATION of AMERICA

— POALE ZION —

הסתדרות פועלי ציון
באמריקה

45 EAST 17th STREET
NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

פועלי ציון ארגאניזאציע
אין אמעריקע

July 28, 1948

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

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

We received a copy of your letter to Mr. Abraham Schenker, chairman of the Progressive Zionist League-Hashomer Hatzair. We appreciate your sending us this copy since it gives us an opportunity to react to its contents.

We agree with you that Hashomer Hatzair should not have made a separate presentation before the Platform Committee of the Progressive Party; even the fact that they are affiliated with this party does not, in our opinion, justify them for not consulting the American Zionist Emergency Council.

We must object, however, most strenuously to the second point raised in your letter. You object to the Progressive Zionist League-Hashomer Hatzair becoming an integral part of the new party movement, and you base yourself "on a longstanding and well understood position of the Zionist Movement in the United States that neither the Zionist Movement as a whole nor any Zionist organization, admitted as such to the World Zionist Congress or to the Zionist Emergency Council, should affiliate with any political party in the United States."

We consider your intervention in this matter as ill-advised and as an infringement on the political liberty of groups to participate in American political life. There has never been even a sign of the policy to which you refer and no decision has ever been taken in this sense. The fact that some Zionist groups have not of late been affiliated with American political parties has been a result of contingencies which cannot be construed as a precedent or, to an even lesser degree, as a rule.

Without taking any stand whatsoever on the merits of the new party, we believe that Hashomer Hatzair was completely within its right in affiliating with it. Hashomer Hatzair will do well to disregard your letter; it is clearly outside the competence of the American Zionist Emergency Council.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Berl Frymer
Executive Secretary

August 2, 1948

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

My dear Mr. Shapiro:

I received a copy of the letter addressed to you by Dr. Beryl Frymer of the Poale Zion. I think the matter which he raises is of sufficient importance to get an opinion on it from the various bodies which make up the Emergency Council. You might unofficially sound them out. If the several organizations which make up the Emergency Council can independently identify themselves officially with political parties in the United States, then unified political action on the part of the Council would become quite impossible. At our next meeting we might take up this matter in a formal manner. In the meantime I would write to Dr. Frymer in your name, telling him that your communication to him and his reply will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the A.Z.E.C.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

P.S. I am arriving in New York Wednesday morning. Please leave whatever material you have for me in the office of the Jewish Agency before Wednesday noon. I should like to see you there if possible.

I would suggest that you send me a day-by-day digest of important news to the ship and from the 10th to the 14th, to the George V Hotel in Paris.