

Jerusalem, Palestine.

January 20, 1945.

Dr. John Slawson,
Executive Vice-President,
American Jewish Committee,
386 Fourth Ave.,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Slawson:

In accordance with my telephone conversations with you and Judge Proskauer just before leaving America, I have initiated unofficial conversations with Dr. Weizman, Mr. David Ben Gurion and other members of the Jewish Agency.

My first interview was with Dr. Weizman. He had invited me to come to Nahovoth to see him. I informed him that I was not empowered to speak or act officially for the AJC, but that I had had conversations with some of its leading members on the subject of Jewish settlement in Palestine, and particularly with you and with Judge Proskauer, whom he knows personally.

I asked about the letter which Judge Proskauer had written him. We discussed it at some length. To get ahead of my story, and, I believe, as a direct result of this conversation, Mr. Ben Gurion informed me the next afternoon that it had just been decided to reply to Judge Proskauer's letter.

Dr. Weizman answered that he and his colleagues were very interested in the letter, but had been waiting with a reply because of Dr. Weizman's intention to proceed shortly to America.

Dr. Weizman said that he could see great benefit from the reconstitution of the Jewish Agency, provided properly qualified non-Zionists were sent out to join it in Jerusalem. I replied that that was a matter which required much more consideration from both sides, but that I felt that if a general agreement could once be reached the AJC would undertake to see that the non-Zionist representation was of the highest possible calibre. In principle, I gathered, Dr. Weizman would welcome the renovation or revamping of the Jewish Agency.

We then discussed what might be the bases for discussion between Dr. Weizman and Judge Proskauer should the former come to America in April as he hopes to, and on what general lines the Zionist Organization and the AJC could cooperate in matters of mutual interest. I said to Dr. Weizman that in my opinion the most propitious moment in many years had arrived for such conversations and for such cooperation, and that he himself in recent utterances had done much to prepare the way. His emphasis now seemed to be away from further talk about the immediate establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth and more towards the practical possibilities of immigration and land acquisition and settlement. He agreed.

I said to him that those were in brief the bases and the only bases for conversations between him and Judge Proskauer and for cooperation of the AJC with the Zionist organization. I said that I thought the AJC was prepared a) to do everything it could in conjunction with the Zionist organization to form a united front to press for the abrogation of the 1939 White Paper, against which indeed Judge Proskauer and his associates objected as strongly as Dr. Weizman himself did, b) to help promote as large as possible Jewish immigration into Palestine, c) to help obtain unused lands in Palestine for Jews to settle, and d) to help secure private and governmental assistance for the commercial and industrial undertakings necessary for the sound economic development of Jewish settlement in Palestine.

I emphasized to Dr. Weizman that the AJC was in agreement with him that these steps

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would undoubtedly be advantage to all of the inhabitants of Palestine, and that the AJC would oppose any undertakings prejudicial to the general interests of the non-Jewish inhabitants of Palestine. I further underlined that in my opinion the AJC would not only not support any new attempt to secure the creation now or in the foreseeable near future of the Jewish Commonwealth of Palestine but would oppose it, and on that score would disassociate from any cooperation with the Zionist organization which might be agreed upon even as it had withdrawn on that score from the American Jewish Conference.

Dr. Weizman declared himself deeply interested and very pleased to hear this exposition of what I thought might be the bases for cooperation with the AJC to be explored in direct conversations with Judge Proskauer later on. Since my interview with him he has expressed himself to an intimate of his and of mine in Jerusalem as being delighted with this interview.

Dr. Weizman then told me in considerable detail the results of a very important conversation he had with Churchill about Palestine just before he came here recently. He also expressed to me the conviction, based in part on an interview with a member of Churchill's immediate entourage which took place just after the Moyne murder, that Churchill had in no essential point changed his mind from the time when a few days previously he had talked to Weizman. I would rather not repeat the details of these conversations, but let Weizman do that himself if he wants to. They encourage me greatly, however, in my conviction that a great historic moment has arrived in which the AJC can render service of incalculable value to world Jewry.

I left Dr. Weizman when he told me that he wanted to think over what I had to say to him and to have a chance to consult with his colleagues. Since then I have had a long interview with Mr. David Ben Gurion and another with Dr. Senator, who is the only non-Zionist member left on the Jewish Agency. I want to conclude this letter now, however, in order to get it off in the pouch. I assume that in replying to me you will not mention that it has come to you via the pouch, and that besides showing this letter to Judge Proskauer and to any others of the AJC you may care to, you will regard this letter as confidential.

With my best salams to you,

sincerely,

Nelson Glueck,
American School of Oriental Research, Jerusalem, Palestine.