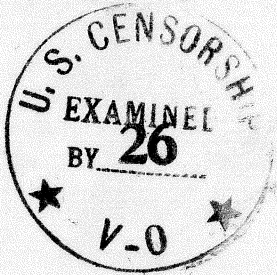




The American Jewish Committee

386 FOURTH AVE., NEW YORK 16, N. Y.
TELEPHONE: MURRAY HILL 5-0181
Cable Address: "Wishcom, New York"



President - JOSEPH M. PROSKAUER
Chairman Executive Committee - JACOB BLAUSTEIN
Vice-Chairman Exec. Comm. - MORRIS D. WALDMAN
Chairman Administrative Comm. - ALAN M. STROOCK
Treasurer - IRA M. YOUNKER
Associate Treasurer - NATHAN M. OHRBACH
Secretary - VICTOR S. RIESENFELD
Executive Vice-President - JOHN SLAWSON
Assistant Secretary - HARRY SCHNEIDERMAN

Honorary Vice-Presidents
IRVING LEHMAN, New York
ABRAM I. ELKUS, New York
Vice-Presidents
JACOB J. KAPLAN, Boston, Mass.
EDWARD LAZANSKY, Brooklyn, N. Y.
FRED LAZARUS, Jr., Columbus, Ohio
M. C. SLOSS, San Francisco, Cal.
HORACE STERN, Philadelphia, Pa.
HENRY WINEMAN, Detroit, Mich.

April 17, 1945

Dear Nelson:

I am extremely grateful for your letters. I am glad to hear that you have gained the confidence of Dr. Weizmann and that we might be able to work with him. I think you have stated to him very well the position of the AJC. We are indeed anxious to do everything in our power to bring about the abrogation of the White Paper and to secure the largest possible Jewish immigration into Palestine. Weizmann talks about a million new Jewish immigrants. As far as our information goes, we cannot see where he will get that number, especially since the largest groups of surviving Jews are at present in countries from which it seems they will have great difficulty to emigrate (Russian area of influence). However, whatever the figure may be, if Weizmann is willing, as he has indicated to you, not to insist at the present time on a Jewish commonwealth, I believe we will find a basis for cooperation with him.

Judge Proskauer and Mr. Blaustein recently met with our late President and the officials of the State Department. They were given to understand that our government at the present time would not like to have the Jews press for a definite commitment on the political status of Palestine. We are glad that our policy is in full accord with the position of our government.

You can readily understand how deeply shocked and grieved we were to learn of the President's death. Our hope is that the new administration will follow in his footsteps.

The AJC has scored a great success in having been officially invited by Secretary of State Stettinius to send a consultant to the American delegation in San Francisco. The American Jewish Conference was the only other Jewish organization to receive that distinction. Judge Proskauer is going as our consultant, together with Messrs. Blaustein and Medalie. We have presented our post-war program to the government. I am sending you a printed copy under separate cover.

The San Francisco Conference, it is now clearly stated, will deal only with the setting up of the machinery of the new world organization. Many problems, which are of great concern to us, including Palestine, will not be on the agenda. In our recommendations we ask for the establishment of three commissions, a

Commission on Human Rights, a Commission on Migration and a Commission on Statelessness. These, we feel, should be part of the machinery and therefore comes within the scope of the San Francisco Conference. Other organizations are cooperating with us in the promotion of these commissions. You may also be interested to know that as soon as the Yalta decisions were announced, we invited the American Jewish Conference, the American Jewish Congress, the Jewish Labor Committee and the Agudas Israel of America to get together with us on a common platform in San Francisco. We thought that since Palestine is not within its scope anyway, there was no real reason why the Jewish organizations should not cooperate there. The Jewish Labor Committee and the Agudas Israel accepted our invitation; the Conference and the Congress refused, the Conference stating that it alone represents American Jewry.

An attempt has recently been made by the Zionist Organization of America, in the face of considerable grass-roots discontent in the provinces, to heal the Wise-Silver rift by setting up a commission to investigate the whole affair. Little is expected from the commission, for the Silver group has already denounced it as loaded in Wise's favor. The Zionist Emergency Council has been greatly re-staffed since the split, because a large number of the staff followed Silver into the Zionist Policy Committee. At present, each group is seeking to outbid the other in its maximalist demands, with Silver forcing the Wise group to become more vociferous Biltmorists than heretofore. Lipsky has been steering a middle course and is active in the peace forces. Weizmann has cabled his desire that unity be effected, since disunity would naturally impede his activities in the United States. He has not yet arrived, and a recent report indicates that he will be delayed in London for some while yet because of an eye illness.

Write soon.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,


John Slawson

Dr. Nelson Glueck
American School for Oriental Research
Jerusalem, Palestine

JS/ss

P.S. All your letters are confidentially distributed to the usual "inner group."