

19. Dr. W. Dear Helson. I have written this from bed. You will see from
this letter how I have let myself down. - Your letter? *come. What's*
homecoming. - I am glad Morje seems so earnest about you. He had hel,
- *your enclosing* February 18, 1947.
letters about the University meeting. - we are anxious to hear from
you after you meet them. Love to
Helson & T.

Dr. D.W. Senator
American Friends of the Hebrew University
10 East 40th Street
New York.

MAGNES

Dear Dr. Senator,

Your letter of February 7 came yesterday.

All arrangements have been made for me to leave for London on the plane starting from Lydda tomorrow morning. Unfortunately I have a slight attack of flu and yesterday I had temperature, and Dr. Rachmilevitz is to come over this morning to tell me, so I am afraid, that I cannot go tomorrow. That is a great pity. All arrangements had been made through Government here for me to see the Colonial Secretary on Friday the 21st, and they were asked to arrange a meeting for me with the Foreign Secretary.

The situation can be summed up in two sentences from Lord Samuel :
"Since Government are now at last drawing nearer to the lines which you and I have been advocating for so long, they may be very glad of your assistance in working them out. If you are able to come, you will no doubt let me know when it will be."

From all appearances this would be just the time for someone to get to London with the kind of proposals, which we have been making all this time. The Conference with the Arabs and the Talks with the Jews of course broke down, and it must appear obvious, even to the most intransigent, that there is no other way of peace and progress in Palestine, except through Jewish-Arab cooperation. How this is to be brought about is of course a tremendously complicated problem. But granting that the main objective of declared policy, whether by Great Britain or by UNO, would be Jewish-Arab cooperation in an undivided Palestine with two nationalities, I am convinced today more than ever that we would find the way.

It now becomes the function of each of us to try to think this problem through and to take genuinely practical and effective steps to convince those who make policy in England, America, France, Russia and in the UNO, that every other way, whether it be a full state or a half state, is doomed to failure and trouble, and that there is a great chance if the Holy Land be kept whole and the Jews and the Arabs be given this lead from above to try to adjust their life and their needs and their aspirations to one another.

It was this that I was expecting to talk about in London. I suppose they will let me go in a week hence. But it depresses me, because it seems to me that now is the time.

You are right in thinking that I hesitate to leave here, because unfortunately I seem to be at times practically the only one with access to the highest quarters in Government. I had to intervene latterly on behalf of the Chief Rabbi to secure an interview for him, which the Chief Rabbinate and the Mayor of Tel Aviv and all the others were unable to secure. I have been told that, if any further terror breaks out, exceedingly severe measures will be taken. They will be of such a nature as to impede the progress of the country for years to come. I have tried to convey some of these things to some of our friends. But we still live with these dangerous illusions that have bedevilled us for years, and I notice that we are going through the same process again now that the UNO is in the picture.

This is the copy for Dr. W. Helson's files. It is under 'Senator'

17.II.47.

Dr. D.W. Senator.

I wonder why it is that the so-called moderates in America are so ineffective, even powerless. The one person who seems to have any courage at all is Lessing Rosenwald. But his organization has too unfortunate a history. The American Jewish Committee content themselves with pious resolutions about immigration and are afraid to take a stand on the basic burning political issue. The Jewish Labour Committee the same. The American Association for Union in Palestine seems almost to have been stillborn, although I am still hoping that it may come into life. People like Mrs. Jacobs and Alexander Dushkin, than whom ^{there} are no finer persons or better Jews and Zionists, seem to content themselves with ~~agreeing in principle but~~ without being able to make up their minds to act. The non-Zionist members of the Jewish Agency in America might at the present time have a genuine role to play. But can they be moved into systematic, vigorous activity; and who will do it? It really ought to be your task and that of Mrs. Jacobs and of Hexter. You at least resigned from the Executive, they did not.

There is one great thing that might bind together thousands and tens of thousands, and not only Jews alone - cooperation in the Holy Land of two equal peoples. If there was a sincere, vigorous group in America ready to fight for this, I think I should be ready to come and give a lot of time and energy to preaching this message and to organizing public opinion in its favour, so that by the time the UNO meet, there would be an organization which could stand up with some authority.

I am writing you another letter on University matters.

With best regards,

I am,

Sincerely yours,

J.L. Magnes