

President's Secretary's File
Departmental File
State: Berle, Adolph A Box 72

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Memorandum for the President from A. A. Berle-dated- October 23, 1939

Re-Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees and the taking of Myron Taylor into camp by the British and the French-their views being that if they won the war there would be no refugee problem.

See:Palestine folder-Drawer 1-1939 for letter.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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December 20, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Referring to the proposed Christmas message to the Pope, designed to be sent also to Jewish and Protestant leaders:

The best candidate for spiritual leader of American Jewry that I can find is Dr. Cyrus Adler, President of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Broadway and 123rd Street, New York City.

As head of the outstanding Jewish Theological Seminary, he more nearly approaches theological leadership.

The President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America is Dr. George A. Buttrick. The address is 297 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

AEB
A. A. Berle, Jr.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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January 3, 1940

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Re: Christmas Message to the Pope,
Dr. Buttrick and Dr. Adler.

You will be interested in the following despatch from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, which reads in part as follows:

"The President's action came as a complete surprise to Jewish leaders here. At the Jewish Theological Seminary it was said that no one here had had any advance inkling of Mr. Roosevelt's intention and it was thought that even Dr. Adler, who has not been participating actively in public affairs because of his ill health, may have been taken by surprise when he received the President's message.

"Jewish leaders compared the peace action to the President's proposal for the Evian refugee conference in 1937 in the way it apparently had originated with Mr. Roosevelt himself and burst upon them without warning. How the Chief Executive came to choose Dr. Adler as the representative of the Jewish religion was similarly not known, but it was the consensus of Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Jews alike that no better choice could have been made."

It looks as though the divisions in the Jewish group have been successfully navigated.

acs
A. A. B., Jr.