

Samuel Rosenman  
Box 4  
Wise Stephen

# AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

330 WEST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK CITY

*File*  
*"Stephen Wise"*

STEPHEN S. WISE, PRESIDENT  
CARL SHERMAN, CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
NATHAN D. PERLMAN } VICE-PRESIDENTS  
LEO H. LOWITZ }  
LOUIS LIPSKY, CHAIRMAN, GOVERNING COUNCIL  
M. MALDWIN FERTIG, CHAIRMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE  
JACOB LEICHTMAN, TREASURER

CABLE ADDRESS 'CONGRESS'  
TELEPHONE LONGACRE 5-2600

Office of Dr. Wise  
40 West 68th Street,  
New York, 23, N. Y.

PERSONAL

August 24, 1943.

Hon. Samuel Rosenman  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Rosenman:

My associates and I have given you ten days or nearly a fortnight of respite as far as our immediate problem is concerned. I write to you now, on the eve of the American Jewish Conference, which in its preliminary sessions begins Thursday and Friday, in order that I may make one thing clear to you. The Conference would be thrown into a nasty uproar if before Sunday or during the Conference the once imminent statement should be given out. We deeply appreciate all that you have done to avert its issuance.

I may say to you that I am concerned about these things: the injury that it will do to the Jewish status in Palestine by seeming to approve, even though it be not actually done, the White Paper; the angry response which will come from genuine Liberals all over the country, and the moral hurt which it will do all Jews within the United Nations with its terrible implication that we have put second things first, our own Palestine interests above the triumph of the United Nations. There is yet another consideration which I must discuss with you and you will understand me. The President has come to have a unique place everywhere in the heart of men who would be free, but for many reasons which I need not bring home to you, he has come to have a very, very special place in the heart of Jews. They rightly look up to him, revere him and love him as an exemplar of that truly just and American spirit which abhors intolerance and feels that Jews have their rightful place of service and honor within the American polity. No one would more deeply sorrow than I, unless it be you, if this feeling of Jewish homage before a sovereign and liberating spirit should be changed. The issuance of that statement might change it. In my opening address at the Conference I shall say what I believe is just with respect to the President, but I fear that regrettably unwise things may be said in the course of the Conference by those who do not understand the immensity of the difficulties and the pressures under which the President rests.

Hon. Samuel I. Rosenman

-2-

August 24, 1943

Two things! The statement must not appear, despite the nasty, semi-editorial fulminations from Jerusalem in the New York Times! Two, if the President is to be in or near Washington during the Conference, I ought to have the privilege, together with you, of suggesting a message to the Conference, possibly in response to one to be addressed to him.

With deepfelt thanks for your help and most cordial greeting, dear Judge Rosenman,

Faithfully yours,

  
PRESIDENT

SSW:S

## American Zionist Emergency Council

### CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Mizrachi Organization of America  
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America  
Zionist Organization of America

342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.  
Murray Hill 2-1160

Office of Dr. Wise  
40 West 68th Street  
New York 23, N.Y.

September 26, 1944

Hon. Samuel I. Rosenman  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Judge Rosenman:

You were good enough to say that I could send this letter to you and ask you to place it on the desk of the Chief.

I may say to you in confidence that it would be definitely helpful to THE Cause if we could see the Chief with the least possible delay, and get from him a statement that would be little more than one of assent to the plank in the Democratic platform, together with some word that would indicate that either in this or his next term of office he will do what he can to translate that platform declaration into action together with the British Government.

Believe me, dear Judge, that I would not press this as I do if I did not have reason to fear that fullest advantage might be taken of the Chief's failure to speak on this at an early date. It would be a mistake to let that word come just before the election; the sooner the better, as you well understand.

If Dewey were wise he would waive the nomination after Saturday night's address. It is all but over! With every good wish,

Yours  
*Wise*

SSW:eh

September 27, 1944

Dear Doctor Wise:

As I stated to you on the telephone, I would be glad to submit your personal letter to the President, which I am doing.

There was enclosed, however, the attached letter signed by both you and Dr. Silver, and as I stated to you I think that it should be submitted directly. Therefore, I am returning it to you for that purpose.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely,

SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Chairman,  
American Zionist Emergency Council,  
342 Madison Avenue,  
New York 17, New York.

slr/tmb

Enclosure

Returning let addressed to the P. from Drs. Silver and Wise asking appt to resume discussion of March re Palestine.

Wise

*my file*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 12, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Attached is the letter which Dr. Wise has drafted for transmission by you to Bob Wagner to be read at the Zionist Convention in Atlantic City tomorrow, Friday. It probably will have to go as a telegram if it is to reach there in time.

I have not tried to make any changes in Dr. Wise's draft, but it seems to me this takes you out very far in favor of a Jewish Commonwealth -- too far.

*SM*

S. I. R.

# American Zionist Emergency Council

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS:

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Mizrachi Organization of America  
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America  
Zionist Organization of America

WASHINGTON BUREAU

1720 Sixteenth Street, Northwest  
Michigan 4480

October 12, 1944

Hon. Samuel Rosenman  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Rosenman:

Here is the statement for the Chief, which I hope will take the form you and he both like, namely a letter to Senator Wagner, which Bob is to deliver as a message from the Chief at the Zionist Convention at Atlantic City, Friday.

I think it is important to do it just that way and I hope you will feel as I do about it.

With cordial greetings,

Faithfully yours,

*Stephen S. Wise*  
Stephen S. Wise

STEPHEN S. WISE  
FORTY WEST SIXTY-EIGHTH STREET  
NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

October 24, 1944

Dear Samuel Rosenman:

From Kirk in Caserta comes the following telegram:-

"I assume that OSS has told you that Rumania's Grand Rabbi, Dr. Alexander Safran, has received what is believed to be a reliable report that the Legionnaires now are occupying Budapest and that great fear is expressed that all the Jews there will be liquidated at once. Dr. Safran would like an appeal made to the President, asking him to issue an appeal immediately which would say that all persons having to do with the killings would be properly handled. It has also been stated by the Rumanian Jewish Community head that the Jews' only hope in Hungary rests in the broadcasting of a threat by the highest ranking chiefs of the Allies to the Nazis still in Hungary that the most dire punishment will be meted out to anyone having any connection with the murder of Jews, and that this punishment will extend even to their families."

Do you not think it will be possible for the Chief to make a last personal appeal with respect to this matter, and at the same time to have Eisenhower issue yet another warning?

Stephen Wise

October 25, 1944

Dear Doctor Wise:

I have your letter of the twenty-fourth, and it bears the same news as other information.

We are trying to do something about it.

Very sincerely,

SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN

Dr. Stephen S. Wise  
40 West 88th Street  
New York 23, New York

Wise

October 7, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Rabbi Wise phoned me today about the request which he and Rabbi Silver made to see you.

Silver is undoubtedly hostile to you and is using Dewey as a threat to get you to do or say something, and I hate to have you see Silver. However, I think just as much could be accomplished by your seeing Wise alone, who is as you know friendly to you -- especially if the time is now ripe to say what you indicated to me after the Quebec conference might be said about economic surveys, etc. being made in Palestine.

C. I. R.

S. S. Wise

Free Synagogue  
NEW YORK

Synagogue House  
40 WEST 68 STREET  
NEAR CENTRAL PARK

December 12th, 1944.

Honorable Samuel I. Rosenman,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Rosenman:

I beg to send you herewith a copy of my resignation as Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council. I have written to the Chief to inform him of my resignation. I am most unhappy over the conduct of my associate.

I telephoned your office to ask about an appointment tomorrow - 12 or 12.30; 2.30 or 3 would be best for us. I shall telephone again in the morning to you or your secretary to find out whether you could see Goldmann or myself at any one of these hours.

With warmest greeting,

Yours,

*Wise*

sww/rm  
enclosure

December 12, 1944

American Zionist Emergency Council  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Friends:

I cannot remain Chairman of a body one of the leading officers of which has, in a matter of supreme importance, deliberately and persistently contravened the decisions of the Plenary Council, with the resultant hurt which has thereby been inflicted upon our sacred cause.

I herewith resign.

Faithfully yours,

Stephen S. Wise

ssw:eh

Stephen Wise

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 18, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WATSON.

I think it would be very helpful if the President could see Dr. Wise for 3 minutes.

That is really all he wants so as to satisfy his organization that he had a chance to talk to the President before the President went to the conference.

S. I. R.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL  
342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

CHAIRMAN  
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE  
Office of Dr. Wise  
40 West 68th Street  
New York 23, N.Y.

January 12, 1945

Dear Judge Rosenman:

I hasten to send you a copy of a letter which I have just addressed to the Chief. You evidently understand how important it is that either a small delegation or I should have the opportunity to speak to the Chief. I do not mention it to the Chief, but you cannot imagine how bitter and nasty is the battle of Silver against me. I would be immensely strengthened in the fight if I might have that word with the Chief.

With most cordial greeting,

Yours,

*Wise*

Hon. Samuel I. Rosenman  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Office of Dr. Wise  
40 West 68th Street  
New York 23, N.Y.

January 12, 1945

Dear Chief:

My associates of the American Zionist Emergency Council and I feel that before you leave for the conference, a small delegation of us who, it is needless to say, stand gratefully and loyally at your side, ought to have some time in which to present the case of Palestine.

I know how overwhelmed you are in view of the twentieth, and still I feel that either a delegation or, if you chose, I, should have the opportunity to meet with you.

I am, with heartfelt rejoicing over Inauguration Day,

Yours,

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

P.S. I am tempted to tell you this nice little joke. I happened to say to David Niles that I told Dr. Silver that whether he liked it or not you would remain President until January, 1949. Dave's answer was, "So you too, Wise, have joined the ranks of our enemies and assume there will be no fifth term!"

Stephen Wise

Free Synagogue  
NEW YORK

Synagogue House  
40 WEST 68 STREET  
NEAR CENTRAL PARK

October 25, 1944

Hon. Samuel I. Rosenman  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

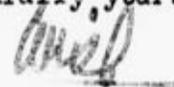
Dear Judge Rosenman:

I sent you yesterday a message that I had received from the Chief Rabbi of Rumania, even though I could not sign it. What an appalling thing it was! I did not wish to trouble the Chief, so I had it sent to you directly.

I told Dr. Goldstein I wanted him to do what he could in the matter of getting needed funds for the campaign. This is what he writes.

With most cordial greeting,

Faithfully yours,



Stephen S. Wise

ssw:eh  
enclosure

STEPHEN S. WISE  
FORTY WEST SIXTY-EIGHTH STREET  
NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

Hon. Samuel I. Rosenman  
Washington, D.C.

October 24, 1944

-2-

The Rumanian Chief Rabbi Safran is a trustworthy person, and all of us have reason to feel that this crime of crimes may yet be committed. From every point of view I should think it would be worthwhile for the Chief to make such a declaration.

With deepest appreciation,

Faithfully yours,

*Stephen S. Wise*

P.S. I am dictating this early in the morning, just before leaving my office for the day. It will therefore not be signed by me personally, so that it may reach you at the earliest possible moment today.

Hon. Samuel I. Rosenman  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.