

War: Jewish Attitude 15/5/5/39.

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28th September, 1939.

My Lord,

I asked Dr. Weizmann to come and see me on the 18th September as I had learnt that he intended shortly to visit the United States of America and I was advised that it would be worth-while having a little talk with him before he went there.

2. Dr. Weizmann began by speaking about the German-Soviet Pact, in regard to which his conclusion was that the ultimate issue of those arrangements might not at all turn out to the advantage of Germany. She had deprived herself of the opportunity of going for the Ukraine and exposed herself, certainly in East Prussia, to all the dangers of Bolshevising influence. She might no doubt draw supplies from the Soviet Union, but he felt very confident that she would get nothing without payment.

3. Dr. Weizmann then spoke at some length about the unhappy position of Jews in Poland and the possibility that in the Soviet Union the policy of the government towards his co-religionists might revert to that of Czarist days. Every Jew now realised that this was a war in which they must be vitally interested to assist in securing a victory to the Allies, and he was doing everything that he could in that direction. He asked me, if I were satisfied of his sincerity and purpose, to do anything that I could to assist him in maintaining his contacts in the several countries

from/

His Excellency
The Most Honourable
The Marquess of Lothian, C.H.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Washington.

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from which he might be able to get information useful to us. I undertook to do what I could to help him in this direction.

4. In regard to his visit to the United States of America, Dr. Weizmann said that he was fully alive to the danger of that visit being misinterpreted by the isolationists in the sense of saying that it was evidence of the Jewish desire to see America involved. He was accordingly going there on Palestine business and had received a cordial message of encouragement from Mr. Cordell Hull. While there he would wish to be guided by any advice that Your Lordship might give him. He was very confident of being able to secure substantial help for the allied cause through the influence of Jews in many important posts connected with the press, banks, industry and films. He told me that he had just heard from a leading Jew at Hollywood instructing him to put his correspondent down for 500,000 dollars in the first war loan that we might issue. He hoped to be able to find others similarly minded. I told him that whatever he could do in any of these directions, provided, of course, that he could be careful to avoid the dangers to which he had himself alluded, would obviously be all to the good.

5. Dr. Weizmann spoke about the possibility of Jews forming Jewish units or cadres at least which Jewish recruits might join. I told him this was not a matter on which I could speak with any knowledge, but that I should suppose it might, at the present stage at all events, be very difficult to fit these rather isolated pieces of effort into the general military effort that was being made. At the same time I had no doubt that we were all very

sensible/

sensible of the value of any contribution that it was in the power of the Jewish community to render, and certainly no community could be more interested in helping to secure the defeat of Germany than his own.

6. Throughout our interview Dr. Weizmann made no reference to Palestine, beyond saying that it was necessarily in cold storage, and that he thought we should derive vastly more assistance from the Jews than from the Arabs.

I am, with great truth and respect,

My Lord,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

(For the Secretary of State)

J. A. Patrick