

CONTACTS OF FEINBERG WITH THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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[redacted] advised that on 1-26-49, Elishu Epstein was in touch with Abe (Feinberg) who was in Room 753 at the Mayflower Hotel. Epstein asked Feinberg what news he had. Feinberg replied that he was going to see the President (Truman) at 4:15 P.M. that day. Epstein remarked that that was fine. He told Feinberg that now he (Feinberg) could also refer to the "cease fire" (order) which was signed that morning (in Feinberg's talk with the President) and said that this would make the situation easier. Epstein then asked Feinberg what his feelings were. Feinberg replied, "Well, the story, as I get it, is that the fact that he had to turn down the Trans-Jordan delegation on something made him realize that he should be in a neutral position. -- But Louie Johnson was in to see him this morning -- and he's going back with me this afternoon. I met him as soon as he got out. I was in Matt Connelly's office. -- And we're going back together. Now, he says that -- that he thinks that if there is a postponement it could be a postponement to a given day -- not an indefinite time." Feinberg told Epstein that this was the story up to now but said he would know more when he (Feinberg) is through. Epstein asked if Feinberg would drop in (at the Israeli Mission) sometime. Feinberg said he would see. Feinberg then asked if Jacobson had spoken to Epstein at all today. Epstein replied that he had spoken to Jacobson again yesterday and that "he" (Eddie Jacobson) has to see "him" (Truman) about 10 o'clock (today) and that "he" (Jacobson) told Epstein that he would come straight "here" after he finished "there" (at the White House). Epstein asked if Feinberg could give him any indication "what was turned down as far as the other party is concerned. He told me he turned down --" Feinberg replied, "Oh, no, he didn't say what and they didn't say what, but whatever it was that they asked he turned down." Epstein concluded by telling Feinberg that he would hear from him as soon as Eddie (Jacobson) came in. (97-2171-156, page 2)

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Drew Pearson in his column of 4-5-49 mentioned that President Truman let a friend down when he cancelled his speech

at a New York testimonial dinner which was being arranged for Chaim Weizmann. Pearson reported the following conversation between Colonel Louis Johnson, Secretary of Defense and President Truman. Johnson had asked "Do you remember when in this campaign, we couldn't raise a cent? Do you remember who was first to say 'I pledge \$100,000 to re-elect Harry Truman?' It was Abe Feinberg."

"I remember Abe," said Truman.

"He certainly did come through."

"Do you know what would make Abe Feinberg happiest? An Ambassadorship? A job? No. Abe would want you to speak for Chaim Weizmann. You'd be honoring two great men."

"All right, Louie" said the President, "I'll do it."

According to Pearson, Johnson didn't call Feinberg, but Presidential Secretary Matt Connelly did. Feinberg was thrilled - until suddenly Truman changed his mind and withdrew.

In connection with Pearson's story, Feinberg and Wahl discussed it on April 10th. Feinberg said that he had sent a wire to Pearson saying that Pearson was in error. He also sent a wire to Matt Connelly advising him of the wire he sent to Pearson. The wire to Connelly stated that Pearson was in error and that President Truman had not let him down; that he had asked for nothing for his support of Truman during the campaign; that Truman's cancellation of his expected attendance at the dinner was due to pressure of state and not because the Jews had let Truman down in New York State in his campaign. Feinberg stated that Truman is a friend of the Jewish people and did not break faith.

Feinberg was of the opinion that Dave Niles was responsible; that a rumor like this would ruin him, Feinberg, with the President; and he hoped that Connelly would be able to straighten the matter out.

Feinberg further told Wahl that he not only does not know Pearson but could not conceive that anyone who knew

him would do such a thing. He asked Connelly in his wire to also bring this to the President's attention. (101-2261-76)

[redacted] advised that on 5-11-49 Dave Niles was in touch with Eliahu Elath and discussed the nice visit Chief Rabbi Herzog had with the President. Niles said that a "few of us" had dinner with Truman last night, and Truman spoke about the Chief Rabbi and about what a great and holy man he is. Niles told Elath that by the time Truman finished his comments Abe Feinberg, who was also there, had tears streaming down his cheeks. (97-2171-203X15, page 1)

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[redacted] advised that on 6-6-49, Mrs. Miller (Secretary Johnson's Office) contacted Ben-Arzi and said that she just received a call from Abe Feinberg asking that REUVEN SHILOAH's appointment to see Johnson be postponed from 2:45 P.M. tomorrow until Thursday afternoon, and she explained that Feinberg is seeing President Truman Thursday morning, and wanted to accompany Shiloah on the latter's appointment with Johnson. (97-2171-210X4, page 1)

[redacted] advised that on 1-25-49, Eliahu Elath, Head of the Israeli Mission in the United States, informed Meyer Weisgal of President Truman's decision to postpone his appearance and speech at the Weizmann dinner, since it would not be appropriate for the President to speak while the Conciliation Commission was attempting to negotiate a Jewish-Arab peace. Elath suggested that Weisgal send a telegram to President Weizmann and have the latter state that he is not able to leave Israel at the present time and request President Truman to speak at a later date. Elath made this suggestion inasmuch as he was concerned that Truman's postponement will be harmful to Israel because of political interpretations. Weisgal informed he did not desire to make an immediate decision and upon this statement, Elath suggested he and Abraham Feinberg come to Washington and they "will rush to his (Feinberg's) friends."

On the same date, Elath conferred with Abraham Feinberg, and the latter stated that President Truman couldn't postpone his appearance and that if he had to go to the White House and have a fight with the President, he would. Elath stated he had informed his government that both Weisgal and Feinberg would attempt to "rectify the situation through their contacts."

This source determined on 1-26-49 that Feinberg saw President Truman on that date and arrangements were also made for Eddy Jacobson to see him. Plans were made for them to meet at the Israeli Mission subsequently. On this same date, David Niles contacted Elath advising him that arrangements were made with President Truman to postpone the affair until April 23, 1949, and that excuses would be President Weizmann's poor health.

(105-10828-18; page 20)

[redacted] advised that in late July, 1949, Wahl advised Feinberg that Max Erskine told him that President Truman wanted Paul Porter to confer only with Abe Feinberg on the American-Jewish side.

(101-2261-83)

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[redacted] advised that on 9-6-49, Abraham Feinberg in New York City contacted Elishu Elath, Israeli Ambassador to the United States, and advised him that Sam Pryor (ph), President of Pan American Airways, visited him. Pryor advised that Pincus was clearing with Elath the idea of requesting another separate loan of 5 million dollars for the airline. Elath says Pryor wants him (Feinberg) to see the President (Truman) about the loan. Feinberg says this is a bad policy for Israel to seek another loan at this time when they haven't used up all of the 100 million. Elath agrees. Feinberg and Elath agree if they want an airline they should find an allotment in the unused portion of the original loan. Feinberg asks Elath to discourage Pincus from promoting this idea with Pan American. Elath tells Feinberg to wait and not do anything until he (Elath) sees Pincus. (97-2171-209, page 1)

The May 4, 1951 issue of the publication "Israel Speaks" contained an article captioned, "From President Truman to President Weizmann." The article is quoted as follows:

"President Harry S. Truman sent personal Passover greetings to Dr. Chaim Weizmann in which he described Israel's President as his 'close personal friend as well as a great statesman.'

"The letter bearing President Truman's greetings was addressed to Abraham Feinberg, President of 'Israel Speaks.' Mr. Feinberg presented Mr. Truman's message to President Weizmann on April 25, at the latter's home in Rehovoth. On his return to the United States Mr. Feinberg is accompanying Prime Minister Ben-Gurion and other Israeli officials." It is pointed out that the letter from the President to Abraham Feinberg was addressed as "Dear Abe."  
(10-2261-138)

[redacted] advised that on February 13, 1952, Teddy Kollek, David Niles, Abraham Feinberg, and Israeli Ambassador Abba Eban had breakfast together at the Carlton Hotel in Washington, D. C. On this date, Feinberg was scheduled to have an appointment with the President. The source indicated during this same period, according to Kollek, the Israeli Embassy sought means to bring pressure to bear through various contacts in a matter of interest to the State of Israel. This matter possibly concerned the desire of the Israelis to obtain money from funds allocated for the Middle East Defense Command.  
(65-58700-831)

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On 2-14-52, [redacted] furnished information indicating Abraham Feinberg saw President Truman on February 13, 1952. Feinberg discussed this visit with David R. Wahl on February 14, 1952.  
(97-2866-146)

*This discussion between Wahl and Feinberg undoubtedly referred to a visit of Benjamin G. Browdy, President of the Zionist Organization of America, to the White House on February 13, 1952. Browdy, according to a news story which appeared in the "New York Times" dated 2-14-52, was interviewed immediately after his conference with President Truman and remarked that Mr. Truman would probably run in the next presidential election and would announce his intentions within the next 10 or 15 days. After Browdy left the White House, a presidential aide came into the press room and requested that the reporters ask Mr. Feinberg the same question about Mr. Truman's plans. According to the article, Feinberg was in conference with Matthew J. Connelly, one of the President's secretaries, while reporters waited in the lobby. Feinberg volunteered the information that he had asked the President whether he was going to run, and Truman told him he had not made up his mind whether to run, that he had not had time to, and did not plan to make his decision for some time to come. The article continued that Feinberg was interrupted by loud laughter from the reporters, who recognized the White House had maneuvered the situation so that Feinberg could lift the deadline fixed by Browdy only a few minutes earlier. (97-2866-145)*

CONTACTS WITH DAVID K. NILES



reported the following

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information:

On 2-2-49, Meyer Weisgal from NYC contacted Harry Zinder, Director, Israeli Office of Information, Washington, D. C. Weisgal said he understood that the release (re new dates for Israeli President Weizman's visit to the US and the banquet for him to be attended by Truman) was to be made that day. Weisgal said that Dave (Niles) had spoken to Abe (Feinberg) that morning and had told him so. Zinder told Weisgal that he expected to hear from Niles on this and Zinder said he would immediately contact Weisgal and let him know.

Weisgal then asked Zinder to do him a favor and to insert something under Abe Feinberg's name in the release the Mission had prepared to put out concurrently with the White House release. Weisgal said he wanted the release to express Feinberg's thanks to Joseph P. Ryan, President of the International Longshoremen's Union, for releasing the hall for the 23rd (April) and making it possible for them to go through with the affair.

Ref; 97-2171-162 pg 4.

On 2-8-49, Abe Feinberg was in touch with Uriel Heyd (Israeli Mission Official) and told him that he was in Dave Niles' Office and would come over to see Heyd at 12:30 after leaving Niles.

Ref; 97-2171-167

On 3-16-49, 12:10 P.M., David Niles was in touch with Eliahu Elath (Israeli Mission Official) and asked if next Thursday, in N.Y., would be all right for Nelson Rockefeller to have lunch with Elath. The latter answered that he would tell it to Moshe Shertok (or Sharett), Israeli Minister, as soon as he arrived "here" (Washington)

on Friday and would then let Niles know. Elath confirmed with Niles that the latter would also be present at the luncheon date. Niles then asked Elath when he was going to N.Y. Elath replied that he was only going up on Sunday to attend "that dinner of Stephen" (Rabbi Wise). Niles then told Elath that "our friends, Abe Feinberg, and that crowd are driving me crazy." Elath replied, "Well, they're driving me crazy too. They want to go to Woodward to Stanley (State Dept.) and I told them that 'you will only make ridiculous' and 'don't you trust us that we will be able to do the fight (ph)' -- not because I want to prevent them -- God bless them, let them go to anybody that they like, but they will make ridiculous themselves -- they will confuse things --" Niles stated that he had told Abe Feinberg that morning, "You deal with the Gov't as though you were running a shoe shop." Elath agreed that this was true and he remarked that it was not nice for Chaim Weizman nor for "themselves."

Ref; 97-2171-199X5 pg 1 & 2.

On 3-24-49, 5 P.M. Meyer Weisgal, NYC, called Elath in Washington. David Niles and Abe Feinberg were with Weisgal. Elath told Weisgal that he had very bad news -- President Truman had cancelled his appearance at the dinner for Weizman which was to be held in NYC on April 23rd. Weisgal replied that he already knew this and that he was with Dave (Niles) and Abe (Feinberg).

They discussed the significance of this and Weisgal stated that whatever happened, Weizman must come to the U.S.

Niles also spoke with Elath and they discussed their proposed meeting with Nelson Rockefeller.

Feinberg then spoke to Elath and told him not to worry about -- that "we" will get "the Chief" (Weizman) "over here."

Ref; 97-2171-202 pg 4 & 5.



On 5-3-49 David Niles was in touch with Elath and they discussed several matters including the coming visit of the Chief Rabbi (Herzog) to see President Truman.

Niles then asked Elath what Abe Feinberg had wanted. Elath replied that Abe had not come, having phoned him (Elath) later in the evening to say that he couldn't come. Elath told Niles that "he" (Feinberg) was angry "about something else," but that he didn't come. Niles laughed about this.

Ref; 97-2171-204X3 pg 2.

On 5-4-49 David Niles contacted Elath and they discussed a reception to be given to Weizman before his departure for Israel.

Niles then asked if Elath had heard from Abe (Feinberg) anymore. Elath said he hadn't and explained that Feinberg was angry and that "they" were quarreling now about "something published about him -- about some paper he is publishing. -- They have done a most nasty thing - ugliest thing - the Z.O.A. - They - Arthur Lourie (Israeli Official) wrote a letter to them about something - so they printed it without asking Arthur Lourie because it involves Abe Feinberg in something. -- I mean they -- they're just outrageous people -- So he is now angry and preoccupied with that. He telephoned to me." Niles expressed astonishment and said this was terrible.

Ref; 97-2171-203X10 pg 1.

On 9-21-49 Eliahu Elath formerly Epstein, Israeli Ambassador to U.S. was in touch with (Dave?) Lipsky, Zionist Organization of America, relative to the Israeli question and Lipsky mentioned that David K. Niles would be in N.Y. that afternoon with Abe Feinberg. Lipsky was uncertain about what he should ask Niles to talk to the head man (Truman) and asked Elath what he would want him to do. Elath indicated Lipsky should repeat the Israeli position that Lipsky knew.

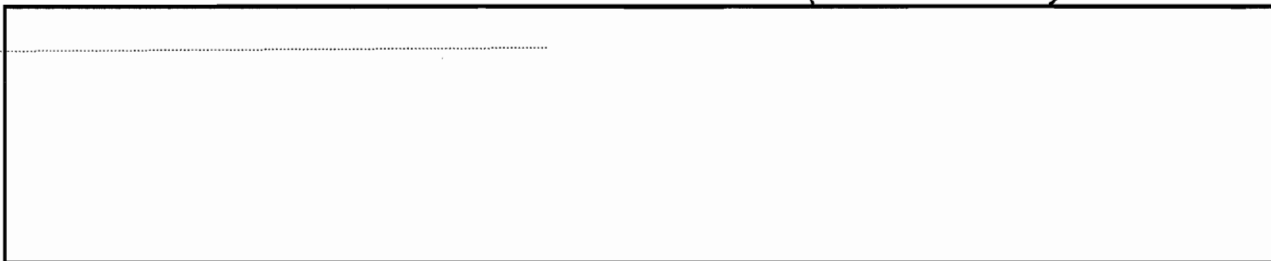
Ref; 97-2171-275

Theodor H. Kollek, Israeli Minister in Washington, D. C., accompanied by a person tentatively identified as Abe Feinberg, called on David K. Niles, Presidential Advisor, on October 10, 1950. (105-10332-41)

On April 30, 1951, an Israeli official in Tel Aviv sent a cable to Washington which was deciphered by the FBI Laboratory. This cable sent to Theodor Kollek, Israeli Minister in Washington, stated, "Abe requests Dave Niles stay in Washington Thursday and Friday." (Obviously meaning May 3 and May 4, 1951.) Abe is believed identical with Abraham Feinberg.

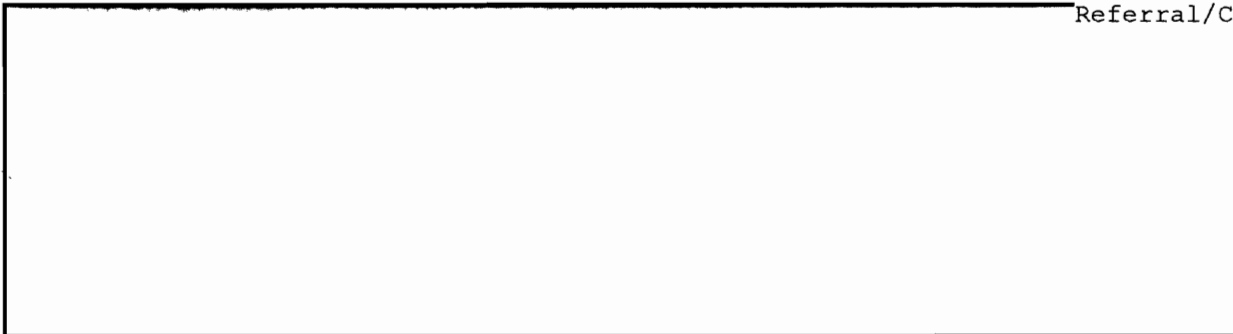
It is noted that David Ben-Gurion, Prime Minister of Israel, arrived in Washington on 5-3-51 and had luncheon with Truman the following day. It is felt that Niles' presence in Washington on May 3 and 4 was desired by the Israelis so that he might assist in arranging for the luncheon between Truman and Ben-Gurion. (65-58700-515)

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During May, 1951, [redacted] advised that Abe Feinberg had requested David K. Niles to see Ben-Gurion, the Israeli Prime Minister, alone in the latter's room after a reception for Ben-Gurion at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D. C., on May 14, 1951. The informant was unable to determine the purpose of this meeting.

105-10332-126 p 2.

A confidential source (unidentified) advised WFO that Theodor Kollek was to meet David Niles on 9-10-51 in company with Abraham Feinberg (probably identical) at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City, where Niles was located.

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105-10332-131

During the period December, 1951, - January, 1952, [redacted] advised David R. Wahl continued his contacts with Abraham Feinberg. On January 2, 1952, while Wahl was in contact with Feinberg, the latter indicated he intended to see David Niles, former Presidential Advisor, that afternoon and would contact Wahl immediately after seeing Niles.

101-2261-169