



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and  
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

---

Reel

1

Box

1

Folder

5

Allen, Jay, includes draft of 1940 news release concerning  
President Roosevelt's letter to AHS and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise re:  
UJA financial aid to Catholic and Protestant refugees, 1939-1950.



# UNITED JEWISH APPEAL (Inc.) FOR REFUGEES AND OVERSEAS NEEDS

ON BEHALF OF  
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.  
UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL and  
NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FUND, INC.

## National Chairmen

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
RABBI JONAH B. WISE

## Honorary Chairmen

CYRUS ADLER  
LOUIS BAMBERGER  
ALBERT EINSTEIN  
MAX EPSTEIN  
HON. HERBERT H. LEHMAN  
LOUIS E. KIRSTEIN  
HON. JULIAN W. MACK  
HENRY MONSKY  
WILLIAM J. SHRODER  
HON. MAX C. SLOSS  
HON. NATHAN STRAUS  
SAMUEL UNTERMYER  
MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG  
RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE

## Co-Chairmen

PAUL BAERWALD  
RABBI SOLOMON GOLDMAN  
RABBI ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN  
LOUIS LIPSKY  
JAMES N. ROSENBERG  
WILLIAM ROSENWALD  
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG  
EDWARD M. M. WARBURG

## Co-Treasurers

I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER  
ARTHUR M. LAMPORT

## Executive Vice-Chairmen

ISIDOR COONS  
HENRY MONTOR

## Allocations Committee

RABBI SOLOMON GOLDMAN  
HENRY ITTLESON  
LOUIS E. KIRSTEIN  
ALBERT D. LASKER  
RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

## Executive Committee

JAMES H. BECKER  
DAVID M. BRESSLER  
JOSEPH C. HYMAN  
HON. JACOB J. KAPLAN  
SIDNEY LANSBURGH  
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINthal  
SOLOMON LOWENSTEIN  
LOUIS P. ROCKER  
CHARLES J. ROSENBLOOM  
ELIHU D. STONE  
and officers

November 16, 1939 342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

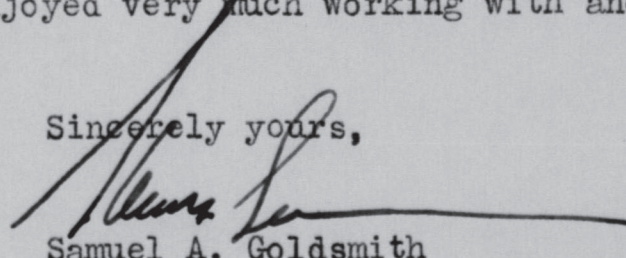
I attach herewith a copy of a minute of the meeting of the Allocations Committee held yesterday. May I call your attention particularly to the resolution which I have phrased indicating action taken by the Committee with respect to the expenditure of cash to be received by the United Jewish Appeal beyond the \$9,500,000 already allotted. If this resolution and the second resolution concerning distribution of funds immediately to the National Refugee Service and United Palestine Appeal meet with your approval will you please sign the second copy of the minute sent you and return such second copy to me at my Chicago address, No. 130 North Wells Street, Room 1712, Chicago, Illinois. Naturally, any suggestions with respect to phraseology of the resolution would be most welcome.

I assume that in view of the powers granted the Allocations Committee and in view of the unanimous action taken by the Committee, no further meetings of the Committee are required. Do you believe that the Committee should ask to be discharged by the organizations that appointed it?

May I also indicate that I shall prepare two letters: (1) a letter to be sent to the joint Chairmen of the United Jewish Appeal, copies thereof to the joint Treasurers, indicating action taken by the Allocations Committee with regard to the distribution of funds; (2) a letter to Mr. James N. Rosenberg, carbon copies to members of the Rosenwald Family Association, in answer to the letter written by Mr. Rosenberg to the members of the Allocations Committee with respect to proper auditing of the accounts of the constituent organizations of the United Jewish Appeal. I shall prepare such letters when I return to Chicago later today and forward them for approval to the chairman of the Committee, Mr. Louis Kirstein.

Finally, may I say that I enjoyed very much working with and for the Committee.

Sincerely yours,



Samuel A. Goldsmith

SAGEH  
Encls.

**\$20,000,000 is the National Goal for 1939**



M I N U T E S

OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

Held at the Offices of Mr. Henry Ittleson

No. 1 Park Avenue, New York City

- - - - -

A meeting of the Allocations Committee which was held at the offices of Mr. Henry Ittleson, 1 Park Avenue, New York City, began at 1 P.M. on November 15, 1939, and was adjourned at 6 P.M. All members of the committee were present, namely, Dr. Solomon Goldman, Henry Ittleson, Louis D. Kirstein, chairman, Albert D. Lasker, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. Mr. Samuel A. Goldsmith, Secretary, performed the duties of that office.

\* \* \* \* \*

(NOTE: The members of the Committee, acting as individuals, held an informal hearing with Mr. Ben Cohen of Washington prior to the formal meeting of the Committee. Mr. Cohen presented a request that the Allocations Committee make a gift which might be used for refugees, irrespective of their religion, and which might be presented in memory of Pope Pius XI. The members of the Committee indicated to Mr. Cohen that it was not within the province of the Committee to make allocations of this type, but that Dr. Silver, as a member of the Negotiating Committee, would in that capacity be glad to present the request at the next meeting of the Negotiating Committee and urge the Committee to make a gift and to indicate the conditions of such a gift.)

\* \* \* \* \*

The Secretary presented a formal report which he had prepared as a result of an exploratory investigation of the work and the financial operations of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and its constituent organizations, as well as the National Refugee Service. Following the reading of this report it was suggested those portions of pages 15, 16 and 17 in the



report which concerned themselves with the New York City operations of the National Refugee Service should be deleted. The Committee also unanimously agreed that the general suggestion made by the Secretary to the effect that the operations of the various agencies be considered on a calendar year and cash basis could not at this time be considered.

The Committee thereupon immediately turned to a consideration of the best methods to govern a reasonable division of the \$6,000,000 which would in all probability be raised and paid into the treasury of the United Jewish Appeal in addition to the \$9,500,000 which had already been distributed among the participating organizations, such division to be achieved on the basis of the needs presented by these organizations and in relation to the total amount to be distributed.

Discussion indicated that the Joint Distribution Committee had undertaken various underwritings and guarantees with respect to refugees, notably in connection with the Coordinating Foundation and with refugees who had to be disembarked from the S. S. St. Louis. The Committee also considered the emergency needs of the National Refugee Service and of the United Palestine Appeal. In all these connections the possibility of relative responsibility of all participating organizations in all such underwritings was explored.

As a result of all these discussions and of a discussion of the general budgets presented by the organizations, the following resolution was adopted by unanimous vote:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Allocations Committee, in accordance with the powers vested in it by the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal under an agreement dated December 9, 1938, hereby instructs the officers of the United Jewish Appeal to distribute funds, collected beyond the \$9,500,000 covered in such agreement and up to a grand total of amounts collected of \$15,500,000 as follows:



- (1) \$600,000 to the National Refugee Service, Inc.

250,000 to be held in reserve pending a report by the Negotiating Committee with respect to a gift or gifts to be made to organizations dealing with Christian refugees;

- (2) With respect to the remainder \$5,150,000, the following distribution is to be made: \$1,500,000 to the United Palestine Appeal

3,650,000 to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee;

- (3) If more than a total of \$15,500,000 is collected in cash the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal are to share in such additional amounts on the basis of 70% of such additional amounts being paid to the Joint Distribution Committee and 30% to the United Palestine Appeal;

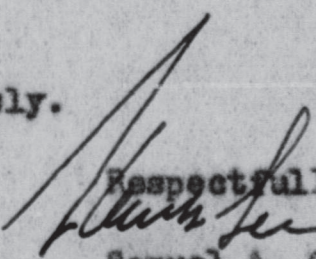
- (4) Should less than a total \$15,500,000 be received the Joint Distribution Committee and United Palestine Appeal shall share in such amounts up to \$5,150,000 in relation which the two sums appropriated, namely \$1,500,000 for the United Palestine Appeal and \$3,650,000 for Joint Distribution Committee, bear to each other. In other words, a relation of 15 to 36.

In view of the facts presented to the Allocations Committee with respect to the financial emergency existing in the National Refugee Service and with respect to an emergency relief situation in Palestine, the Allocations Committee also

RESOLVED that the officers of the United Jewish Appeal be instructed to distribute as soon as possible from funds now available or shortly to be made available the sum of \$500,000 to the National Refugee Service and \$250,000 to the United Palestine Appeal.

This resolution was also adopted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Samuel A. Goldsmith  
Secretary



M I N U T E S

OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

Held at the Offices of Mr. Henry Ittleson

No. 1 Park Avenue, New York City

- - - - -

A meeting of the Allocations Committee which was held at the offices of Mr. Henry Ittleson, 1 Park Avenue, New York City, began at 1 P. M. on November 15, 1939, and was adjourned at 6 P. M. All members of the committee were present, namely, Dr. Solomon Goldman, Henry Ittleson, Louis D. Kirstein, chairman, Albert D. Lasker, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. Mr. Samuel A. Goldsmith, Secretary, performed the duties of that office.

\* \* \* \* \*

(NOTE: The members of the Committee, acting as individuals, held an informal hearing with Mr. Ben Cohen of Washington prior to the formal meeting of the Committee. Mr. Cohen presented a request that the Allocations Committee make a gift which might be used for refugees, irrespective of their religion, and which might be presented in memory of Pope Pius XI. The members of the Committee indicated to Mr. Cohen that it was not within the province of the Committee to make allocations of this type, but that Dr. Silver, as a member of the Negotiating Committee, would in that capacity be glad to present the request at the next meeting of the Negotiating Committee and urge the Committee to make a gift and to indicate the conditions of such a gift.)

\* \* \* \* \*

The Secretary presented a formal report which he had prepared as a result of an exploratory investigation of the work and the financial operations of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and its constituent organizations, as well as the National Refugee Service. Following the reading of this report it was suggested those portions of pages 15, 16 and 17 in the



report which concerned themselves with the New York City operations of the National Refugee Service should be deleted. The Committee also unanimously agreed that the general suggestion made by the Secretary to the effect that the operations of the various agencies be considered on a calendar year and cash basis could not at this time be considered.

The Committee thereupon immediately turned to a consideration of the best methods to govern a reasonable division of the \$6,000,000 which would in all probability be raised and paid into the treasury of the United Jewish Appeal in addition to the \$9,500,000 which had already been distributed among the participating organizations, such division to be achieved on the basis of the needs presented by these organizations and in relation to the total amount to be distributed.

Discussion indicated that the Joint Distribution Committee had undertaken various underwritings and guarantees with respect to refugees, notably in connection with the Coordinating Foundation and with refugees who had to be disembarked from the S. S. St. Louis. The Committee also considered the emergency needs of the National Refugee Service and of the United Palestine *Silver* Appeal. In all these connections the possibility of relative responsibility of all participating organizations in all such underwritings was explored.

As a result of all these discussions and of a discussion of the general budgets presented by the organizations, the following resolution was adopted by unanimous vote:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Allocations Committee, in accordance with the powers vested in it by the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal under an agreement dated December 9, 1938, hereby instructs the officers of the United Jewish Appeal to distribute funds, collected beyond the \$9,500,000 covered in such agreement and up to a grand total of amounts collected of \$15,500,000, as follows:



- (1) \$600,000 to the National Refugee Service, Inc.

250,000 to be held in reserve pending a report by the Negotiating Committee with respect to a gift or gifts to be made to organizations dealing with Christian refugees;

- (2) With respect to the remainder \$5,150,000, the following distribution is to be made: \$1,500,000 to the United Palestine Appeal

3,650,000 to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee;

- ✓ (3) If more than a total of \$15,500,000 is collected in cash the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal are to share in such additional amounts on the basis of 70% of such additional amounts being paid to the Joint Distribution Committee and 30% to the United Palestine Appeal;

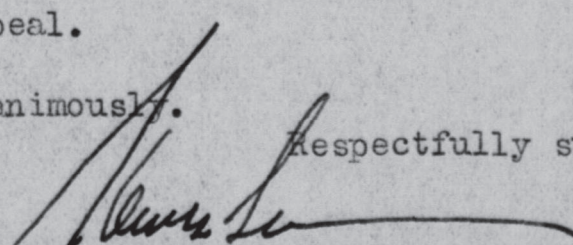
- ✓ (4) Should less than a total \$15,500,000 be received the Joint Distribution Committee and United Palestine Appeal shall share in such amounts up to \$5,150,000 in relation which the two sums appropriated, namely \$1,500,000 for the United Palestine Appeal and \$3,650,000 for Joint Distribution Committee, bear to each other. In other words, a relation of 15 to 36.

In view of the facts presented to the Allocations Committee with respect to the financial emergency existing in the National Refugee Service and with respect to an emergency relief situation in Palestine, the Allocations Committee also

RESOLVED that the officers of the United Jewish Appeal be instructed to distribute as soon as possible from funds now available or shortly to be made available the sum of \$500,000 to the National Refugee Service and \$250,000 to the United Palestine Appeal.

This resolution was also adopted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel A. Goldsmith  
Secretary



# LORD & THOMAS

247 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK

Carbon Copy for attention of

November 17, 1939

Dear Mr. Goldsmith:

Your very clear letter and minutes of November sixteenth covering the actions of the Allocations Committee:

May I, as a member of the Committee, both thank and congratulate you on the quality, conciseness and completeness of your original report, which was invaluable.

The minutes constitute the agreement exactly as I understand it, excepting that under the final settlement made at the last moment, the \$250,000 earmarked item "to be held in reserve pending a report by the Negotiating Committee with respect to a gift or gifts to be made to organizations dealing with Christian refugees" was fixedly allocated to the JDC, with the proviso, however, that if the Negotiating Committee ordered it to go to Christian refugees, the JDC would reserve it for such purpose, expending same 50% to Protestants and 50% to Catholics.

I think the other gentlemen will confirm that understanding, and that future divisions of money on the basis of 70-30 were to be based on that \$1,500,000 is to \$3,900,000. In other words, the last second settlement was made on the basis that \$5,400,000 was being allocated between the Palestine Appeal and the JDC. I definitely remember Rabbi Silver writing these figures on a piece of paper, in explaining his last proposal to Mr. Littleton.

As to the last two paragraphs of your letter, I approve of sending reports to the officials of the United Jewish Appeal as proposed therein, and also letter to Mr. Rosenberg in regard to the Rosenwald Family Association.

When I left the meeting, I thought that the Allocations Committee as it existed had adjourned sine die. There is no further work for it to do.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

*Albert D. Lasker*

Mr. Samuel A. Goldsmith  
United Jewish Appeal  
342 Madison Avenue, New York  
Copies to Messrs. Littleton, Kirstein, Rabbi Silver, Rabbi Goldman  
ADL:K



November 17, 1939

Mr. Louis E. Kirstein  
Wm. Filene's Sons Company  
426 Washington St.  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Kirstein:

Because I had to rush away to Philadelphia to be on hand for the opening of their United Jewish Appeal, I did not get a chance to tell you how delighted I was with the manner in which you conducted the meeting of the Allocations Committee, with your fairness, your wisdom and your tact. You made it possible for the Committee to complete a very difficult job in a remarkably short time, and to conclude with complete unanimity many things.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter which I wrote to Mr. Samuel Goldsmith covering the Minutes of the meeting which he sent me and which you have also undoubtedly received. You will recall that Dr. Goldman and I insisted throughout the meeting on a 2/3-1/3 arrangement. The reading of clause 2 on page 3, unless it is revised in keeping with the suggestion of my letter, would give the impression that we agreed to a 71%-29% arrangement which was, of course, foreign to all our minds. Also clause 4 in the Minutes should be revised with this fact in mind. I shall be glad to hear from you.

With all good wishes, and hoping to see you in the very near future, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK  
Enc.



C  
O  
P  
Y

November  
seventeenth  
19 39

Finally, may I repeat that I completely enjoyed  
having the opportunity to work with such an efficient and  
human person as yourself.

Mr. Samuel A. Goldsmith  
130 North Wells St.  
Chicago, Illinois

Sincerely yours

Dear Mr. Goldsmith:

Answering your letter of November sixteenth  
would say I have signed the second copy of the minutes of the  
meeting of the Allocations Committee held November fifteenth  
in New York, which you sent me and return it herewith.

There are one or two suggestions which I have  
to offer and to which I think there might be no objections on  
the part of the other members of the Committee, i. e. --

1. First page, paragraph commencing NOTE: - fourth line-  
I think the words: "which might be presented in memory  
of Pope Pius XI" might be stricken out because it  
might hamper the Negotiations' Committee in arriving  
at a decision and furthermore, it might become em-  
barrassing or prejudice the Committee, Also I think  
it would be very unwise to take the risk of having it  
made public at this time.
2. I should like to have added, the suggestion that I  
made just before Mr. Cohen left and which seemed to  
meet with the approval of the Committee and which  
Mr. Ittleton said was entirely fair, -- that Mr.  
Ben Cohen be given an opportunity to appear before  
the Negotiations' Committee and present and review  
the history of the case from its beginning before  
they arrive at a decision.

I quite agree with you there is no need for  
any further meetings of the Allocations Committee and that the  
Committee should ask to be discharged by the organizations that  
appointed it -- if you will do this as secretary, I shall very  
much appreciate it or, would you want me to do it?

Am glad to know you propose to prepare the  
two letters which I will be very glad indeed to approve and sign



Finally, may I repeat that I completely enjoyed having the opportunity to work with such an efficient and human person as yourself.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours

(Louis E. Kirstein)





C O P Y

November 20, 1939

Mr. Albert D. Lasker  
Lord & Thomas  
247 Park Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Lasker:

Let me thank you for sending me a copy of the letter dated November 17th which you addressed to Mr. Goldsmith. I am afraid I cannot agree to the full contents of it. The quarter of a million dollars ear-marked for Christian refugees was at no time regarded as an allocation to the J.D.C. You will recall that following Mr. Ben Cohen's statement, and after considerable heated discussion, I said that I had recommended, last year, to the Negotiations Committee that a contribution be made by the United Jewish Appeal to agencies working for Christian refugees, ~~and~~ *but* that for one reason or another, the plan was not then adopted. I thought that the Negotiations Committee, in view of the developments on which Mr. Cohen reported, might see the wisdom of making such an allocation this year. You, yourself, then jumped at the idea and said that Rabbi Silver would present that subject to the Negotiations Committee, and when we came to discuss allocations in detail, it was I who suggested that the sum of a quarter of a million dollars be set aside as the contribution of the United Jewish Appeal (not the J.D.C.) to Christian refugees - half to the Protestants and half to the Catholics. I furthermore suggested that this gesture of good will would help us in the United Campaign for 1940.

You will recall that when we spoke of prior commitments in the initial stages of our conference, we itemized them as \$1,850,000 (\$600,000 for the National Refugee Service, \$250,000 to the Negotiations Committee for Christian refugees, \$500,000 for the St. Louis refugees, and \$500,000 for the Refugee Coordination Foundation). Towards the close of the conference, you suggested that the first two items be separated from the last two inasmuch as the first two were outside the province specifically either of the JDC. or of the U.P.A. Accordingly, we discussed the distribution of the remaining \$5,150,000 which we agreed to divide \$1,500,000 to the U.P.A. and \$3,650,000 to the J.D.C.; with the further understanding that of the \$3,650,000 allocated to the J.D.C., \$500,000 would be designated for the St. Louis refugees and \$500,000 to the Refugee Coordination Foundation.



C O P Y

Mr. A. D. Lasker

-2-

November 20, 1939

All additional monies raised over and above the \$6,000,000 were to be divided between the J.D.C. and the U.P.A. on the basis of 70-30. This lower ratio for the distribution of additional funds was a concession on our part to bring about a final agreement, but as the Minutes clearly indicate, it was applicable only to monies raised over and above the \$6,000,000.

With all good wishes, permit me to remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK





247 PARK AVENUE

November 21, 1939

Dear Rabbi Silver:

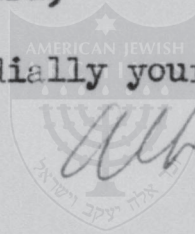
I hasten to acknowledge your letter of November seventeenth. I immediately spoke to Mr. Ittleson as to its contents.


As you will note from the enclosed copy of letter from Mr. Ittleson to Mr. Goldsmith, which Mr. Ittleson subsequently sent me, his understanding of the matter is as yours.

I am therefore sending Mr. Goldsmith your letter and copy of this reply, that the record may thus be straightened out.

With every kind regard,

Cordially yours,

 Albert D. Lasker

WRHS  
  
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

encl.



C  
O FOR Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

P  
Y

November 28, 1939.

Mr. Henry Ittleson  
One Park Avenue  
New York City

Dear Mr. Ittleson:

I have read your letter carefully and have also read the memorandum on your conversation with Mr. Lasker.

I have discussed your letter and the revised report with Dr. Solomon Goldman, here in Chicago. Fortunately, he was in town today. I have also discussed your letter and Dr. Goldman's comments on your letter with Rabbi Silver over the telephone. Dr. Silver was in Cleveland. I am, of course, going to send Dr. Silver a copy of your letter so that he can understand more clearly our discussion.

Aside from minor corrections in spelling and the reallocation of sentences within the paragraph on page 2, it seemed to me that there were three important points made in your letter and in Mr. Lasker's comments. These had to do with (if you have the revised report before you):

- (1) Page 3 - Item 1, with reference to the \$250,000 to be held in reserve, etc.;
- (2) Page 3 - Item 2, with reference to the possibility of earmarking the two \$500,000 items;
- (3) Page 4 - Item 4, with reference to the possibility of less than \$15,500,000 being available for distribution.

The reaction of Dr. Goldman and Dr. Silver, so far as our present conversations go, more or less agree, though I must say that I will have to await Dr. Silver's written comment. I am hurrying the reactions to you, however, so that you may have as much time as possible to consider them.

Referring now to the three items mentioned, neither Dr. Silver nor Dr. Goldman feel that the \$250,000 to be held in reserve pending a report by the Negotiating Committee should be distributed through the Joint Distribution Committee. They feel it should not be so distributed. At least, that in the report of the Allocations Committee no mention of the means of the distribution shall be made; that the fact that on the Negotiating Committee there are representatives of the J.D.C. and U.P.A., the entire matter can there be fully discussed and a definite decision made by the members of that Committee. In other words, that the Allocations Committee should not tie the hands of the Negotiating Committee with regard to distribution. As Dr. Silver put it, and I think he is correct, in view of the kind of hearing we had with Mr. Cohen and in view of the expressions on the part of the individual members of the Committee before, at, and after such hearing, "The Allocations Committee has wiped its hands of any responsibility with respect to this gift other than the responsibility of reserving the \$250,000 for the possibility of making such a gift."



Mr. Henry Ittleson

-2-

November 28, 1939.

If the Secretary of the Committee is permitted to have any feelings in the matter, I feel that this is not a very material point, in that it would still be possible for the J.D.C. representatives on the Negotiating Committee to ask for the privilege of having the J.D.C. distribute these funds, if they are voted. It probably is not important enough a matter on which to have another meeting of the Allocations Committee.

With respect to Item 2, I would assume that the objection to the present phrasing, namely, mentioning the fact that the two \$500,000 items are included in the \$3,650,000 allotted to the J.D.C., is that this seems to earmark these sums for the specific purposes mentioned, and ties the hands of the J.D.C.

Both Dr. Silver and Dr. Goldman assure me that that is not their intention, nor, of course, was it my intention in affixing the bland clause beginning with the words "which includes". In order to eliminate the possibility of considering these earmarked items, both Dr. Goldman and Dr. Silver are willing that a sentence be added to read to this effect:

"While the United Palestine Appeal joins with the Joint Distribution Committee in recognizing the obligations involved in Items A. and B., it is agreed that these sums are voted with the understanding that any sums remaining after necessary expenditures are made out of 1939 funds for these items, such remaining funds are to be solely at the disposal of the Joint Distribution Committee."

X Now with respect to the third item, namely, Item 4 on page 4, Dr. Silver would like to consider this matter. In general, Dr. Goldman agreed with Mr. Lasker's suggestion that a ratio of two-thirds for J.D.C. and one-third for U.P.A. should be established for any amount to be distributed under \$5,150,000.

You understand, of course, that I shall write you again as soon as I have a reaction from Dr. Silver, and when I write you again my communication will be in the nature of a second revision of the Minutes or report. I am quite sure that both Dr. Goldman and Dr. Silver, as well as possibly other members of the Committee, wish to avoid another meeting of the Committee. As I see it, in substance, under the agreement now reached in my conferences today, effectively, \$1,500,000 will go to the U.P.A. and \$3,650,000 will go to the J.D.C.

May I mention one matter which has remained something of a mystery to me? It may be a mystery because someone in the U.P.A. organization hasn't sent a formal report to someone in the J.D.C. Both Dr. Goldman and Dr. Silver have stated repeatedly in discussions on the Allocations Committee report, that the U.P.A. formally agreed to an allocation of funds to the St. Louis matter and to the expenses of the Coordinating Foundation; that they did this after some meetings last summer and after having communicated with London and Jerusalem; and that they agreed, also, that the J.D.C. should act as the agency through which expenditures for these items should be channeled, but that the U.P.A. should stand its share.



Mr. Henry Ittleson

-3-

November 28, 1939.

In my exploratory work, as I termed it, in New York, I did not get the impression that the J.D.C. understood that such a decision was made by the U.P.A. On the other hand, both Dr. Goldman and Dr. Silver, whose memories are relatively good, are very certain that there were at least two meetings of the U.P.A. organization in which the agreement indicated above was established, and it may well be that whoever acted as Secretary of those meetings did not communicate the decisions reached to the J.D.C. group.

Since these gentlemen are convinced that this agreement on the part of the U.P.A. to participate in the financing of the two projects was actually made, they would like the Minutes of the Allocations Committee to show such participation on the part of the U.P.A. Hence, their desire to indicate that the appropriation to the J.D.C. includes these two items, but that the J.D.C. might have at its disposal all of this money, after having met all calls on 1939 funds directly related to these two items.

WRHS  
ARCHIVES  
SAG:K

Very sincerely yours,

SAMUEL A. GOLDSMITH

SAG:K



# UNITED JEWISH APPEAL (Inc.) FOR REFUGEES AND OVERSEAS NEEDS

ON BEHALF OF  
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.  
UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL and  
NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FUND, INC.

## National Chairmen

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
RABBI JONAH B. WISE

342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

## Honorary Chairmen

CYRUS ADLER  
LOUIS BAMBERGER  
ALBERT EINSTEIN  
MAX EPSTEIN  
HON. HERBERT H. LEHMAN  
LOUIS E. KIRSTEIN  
HON. JULIAN W. MACK  
HENRY MONSKY  
WILLIAM J. SHRODER  
HON. MAX C. SLOSS  
HON. NATHAN STRAUS  
SAMUEL UNTERMYER  
MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG  
RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE

January 10, 1940

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am herewith enclosing a draft of a  
news release concerning President Roosevelt's letter  
addressed to you and Rabbi Wise.

It would be most helpful if you could  
wire your approval of this report tomorrow morning  
so that it may be released to the press at the earliest  
moment.

Sincerely yours,

*Meyer F. Steinglass*  
Meyer F. Steinglass  
Director of Publicity

## Co-Chairmen

PAUL BAERWALD  
RABBI SOLOMON GOLDMAN  
RABBI ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN  
LOUIS LIPSKY  
JAMES N. ROSENBERG  
WILLIAM ROSENWALD  
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG  
EDWARD M. M. WARBURG

## Co-Treasurers

I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER  
ARTHUR M. LAMPORT

## Executive Vice-Chairmen

ISIDOR COONS  
HENRY MONTOR

## Allocations Committee

RABBI SOLOMON GOLDMAN  
HENRY ITTLESON  
LOUIS E. KIRSTEIN  
ALBERT D. LASKER  
RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

## Executive Committee

JAMES H. BECKER  
DAVID M. BRESSLER  
JOSEPH C. HYMAN  
HON. JACOB J. KAPLAN  
SIDNEY LANSBURGH  
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL  
SOLOMON LOWENSTEIN  
LOUIS P. ROCKER  
CHARLES J. ROSENBLOOM  
ELIHU D. STONE  
and officers

MFS:FW  
Enclosure

\$20,000,000 is the National Goal for 1939

*Tue*



United Jewish Appeal for Refugees  
and Overseas Needs  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT HAILS JEWISH GIFT OF \$250,000 FOR AID TO CHRISTIAN REFUGEES

- - - - -

In Letter to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, National Chairmen of United Jewish Appeal for Refugees and Overseas Needs, He Characterizes It As "An Example in Good Will Which Could Be Widely Copied With Happy Results"

- - - - -

Declaring that it bears "eloquent witness to the spirit of tolerance and true charity", President Roosevelt hailed the action of the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees and Overseas Needs in contributing the sum of \$250,000 to aid Catholic and Protestant refugees from funds raised in 1939 to meet the needs of Jewish relief and reconstruction agencies.

In a letter addressed to Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, National Chairmen of the United Jewish Appeal, the Chief Executive extended his "hearty congratulations upon the spirit of brotherhood and universal good will which prompted allocation from the funds of the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees of generous sums for use through other agencies in relieving suffering among non-Jewish refugees."

Through a decision of the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal, the United Jewish Appeal sent a check for \$125,000 to Bishop Bernard J. Sheil of Chicago for transmission to Pope Pius XII to provide assistance to Catholic refugees and a similar amount to Dr. George A. Buttrick, President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America for distribution to agencies assisting Protestant refugees.

Text of President Roosevelt's Letter

The following is the text of the letter received from President Roosevelt by Rabbi Silver and Rabbi Wise:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 8, 1940

Dear Friends:



"I desire to extend hearty congratulations upon the spirit of brotherhood and universal good will which prompted allocation from the funds of the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees of generous sums for use through other agencies in relieving suffering among non-Jewish refugees.

"I heard with peculiar satisfaction of the gift of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars to the Catholic Church for its refugee work, as a memorial to George Cardinal Mundelein, and of the allocation of a like amount to the Protestant Churches, through Reverend Doctor George A. Buttrick, President, Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, for their refugee relief work.

"This action bears eloquent witness to the spirit of tolerance and true charity and affords an example in good will which could be widely copied with happy results.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
Rabbi Jonah B. Wise,  
United Jewish Appeal for Refugees,  
342 Madison Avenue,  
New York, N.Y."

In 1939 the United Jewish Appeal combined the fund-raising activities of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service, Inc., the three foremost American agencies for relief and rehabilitation of Jews in distress in European lands, assistance to refugees in various parts of the world, immigration and settlement in Palestine and the integration of refugees coming into the United States in accordance with the quota regulations.

In expressing his gratitude to the United Jewish Appeal, Dr. Buttrick described its gift as "a clear token of good will", which in "its lighted imagination



will kindle many other lights across our present darkness until a new day shall break". Dr. Buttrick added: "We hope and believe that your unusually generous action will encourage men and women of every faith to make prompt and compassionate provision for refugees of every faith. This is a primary American task and opportunity, in which you are giving splendid leadership."

Bishop Sheil expressed the sympathy of all Catholics for Jews who have been subjected to oppression and injustice. Declaring that the refugee problem is not a problem of any one race or religion but "a problem which affects all humanity," Bishop Sheil urged that all men stand together to bring about a speedy solution. Bishop Sheil said: "Be sure, dear friends, we Catholics can sympathize with you to the full in the suffering, the oppression and injustice to which your people have been so cruelly subjected. Like you, we also have our refugee problem, thousands of men, women and children who are the victims likewise of intolerance and tyranny. The refugee problem is not a problem of any one race or religion, but a problem which affects all humanity. It is a problem which can be solved only by men of good will standing together.

"We will gladly join hands with you in striving to build a better world where men and women may live long in peace, harmony and security, as God Almighty intended them to live. We will labor eagerly with good men and women everywhere to lessen the social, economic and political evils from which millions of human beings suffer so grievously. We are eternally grateful to you for the noble tribute of esteem and admiration you have paid to our great Pope, Pius XI, of blessed memory."



C

O

P

Y

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO  
Chancery Office  
719 N. Wabash Avenue  
Chicago, Ill.

February 21st, 1940

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Rabbi Jonah Wise  
National Chairmen  
United Jewish Appeal (Inc.) for Refugees  
and Overseas Needs  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Friends,

I have received an acknowledgment from the Secretary of State of the Holy See of the correspondence between us in reference to the munificent gift of the United Jewish Appeal to Pope Pius XII in memory of the late Pius XI for the relief of refugees.

The Secretary of State asked me to inform you that His Holiness wishes to express to the donors his deep appreciation of their generous and noble gift and tell them how deeply moved he was by the cooperation and goodwill between the Catholic and Jewish people which our interchange of letters so significantly revealed. The Secretary of State added that His Holiness was especially grateful that the benefaction was intended as an act of homage to the memory of his great predecessor Pius XI. The memory of Pius XI's magnificent struggle against the inhumane and anti-Catholic doctrine of racialism continues to inspire all of us.

Again, expressing my own deep appreciation of the generosity of your gift and your noble effort to relieve the suffering of the refugees, I am

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) BERNARD J. SHEIL

Most Reverend Bernard J. Sheil, D.D.  
Administrator.

B. J. S. : D. R.



*Answer Jewish Year Books*

*Allen, Jay*

CABLE ADDRESS  
HOTELEEN

Hotel Fourteen

14 EAST 60TH STREET

NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

January 13, 1950

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Some years ago , on an occasion when I was lecturing in Cleveland, we happened to discuss the activities of the Church of Rome and, in particular, the appointment of a successor to Cardinal Mundelein.

The other day I brought up the Stritch appointment and some of the circumstances surrounding it, with John Gunther who, as you doubtless know, is engaged on a book announced as " Roosevelt in Retrospect." And, to my embarrassment, I found that I had forgotten some of the details of the story. I am writing to ask if you would be kind enough to refresh my memory. Needless to say, I will not quote you, either to Gunther or to anybody else.

My memory is that the White House favored the appointment of Bishop Sheil for reasons we know and that arrangements were made whereby that dignitary, on a trip to Rome, was enabled to carry to the Holy Father a sizeable contribution from the Jews of this country to the work the Vatican was alleged to be doing among the victims of the Nazis. I had heard this before you mentioned it to me in the course of our conversation and, having seen at first hand the efficient work of the JDC, I was a little taken aback. For I was not at all convinced, from what I had seen of Vatican efforts, that the money would be used as effectively as if it had been channeled through the JDC. But I realized that FDR's interest was primarily in seeing Sheil nose out Stritch, which would have been a good thing no doubt, though I have never believed that the personality of an individual Prince of the Church ever made much difference in Church policy on major issues. Unhappily, as we know, all he



Hotel Fourteen

14 EAST 60TH STREET

NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

2-

accomplished was to demonstrate again his woeful incomprehension of Vatican psychology.

Gunther was naturally intrigued by the story but I was unable to give him chapter and verse on it. My recollection is that if FDR had had his way, Sheil (was he bishop then or only monsignor?) would have taken ~~with~~ him a still large hunk of Jewish money. Do you remember the figures involved? How much it was originally proposed he should take and how much he was finally given? And, incidentally, was there ever a "thank you" note of any kind?

Perhaps the interest His Holiness is now showing in Jerusalem is the pay-off.

I have followed your attitude on Palestine these past few years with interest and admiration. Syrian developments happen to intrigue me. I remember the years after World War I when General Weygand was French High Commissioner in Syria and the great interest shown by the Jesuits in his work. With the eclipse of French influence in the Near East, have the Jesuits lost out? Do you know of anything in print on their Syrian activities? I also recall that in the Near Eastern Division of our State Department there was always an imposing contingent of graduates from Georgetown. Is this still so?

Let me say again that I have no intention of quoting you on any information you may feel able to give me on the Sheil-Stritch episode.

Sincerely Yours,

Ray Allen

