



## 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

2

Box

1

Folder

34

American Council for Judaism, 1948-1949.



COPY

COPY

COPY

LOS ANGELES ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL  
664 PARAMOUNT BUILDING  
323 West Sixth Street - Los Angeles 13

M E M O R A N D U M

To: All Members of the Los Angeles Zionist Emergency  
Council and Public Relations Committee

From: Theodore Strimling

February 7, 1949

The following memorandum just received from the American Zionist Emergency Council should be of great importance to all of us.

"There seems to be a tendency among some Zionists to believe that, with the creation of the State of Israel, and its full recognition by the U.S.A., there is less need for public relations activities in the general community as well as within the framework of the American Christian Palestine Committee. Actually, the information we have gathered from all over the country does not bear out this belief.

Reports reaching our offices prove decisively that there are forces at work preparing for a long and sustained attack on the State of Israel and on the position taken by Jews in the United States toward that State. Vigilance on our part, therefore, is as necessary as ever. The list of charges and accusations levelled against Israel, and propagandized with vigor throughout the United States, is a formidable one. It includes alleged Soviet orientation, brutality against Arab refugees, desecration of churches and holy places, attempts to nullify missionary gains, Jewish imperialism (encroachment on the territory of surrounding Arab countries), dual loyalty of American Zionists, use of vast Jewish resources for propaganda, endangering of vital American oil supplies, loss of American prestige in the Middle East with a corresponding increase in Soviet influence -- and many, many more.

Thus multi-fronted attack is being carried on by lecturers from the public platform, articles in newspapers, magazines and church publications, by letters from missionaries in the field, and by every conceivable means.

We list below some of the hostile forces actively engaged in anti-Israel propaganda.

American Lecturers

Individuals such as Kermit Roosevelt, Colonel Wellington Furlong, Captain Michael Fielding, Khalil Totah, Harold R. Hoskins, and many others are constantly touring the country and lecturing on Palestine and the Middle East in the spirit of pro-Arab propaganda. Some of them, like Khalil Totah and Kermit Roosevelt, speak on behalf of organizations -- the Institute of Arab-American Affairs and the Committee for Peace and Justice in the Holy Land, respectively. Others, like Furlong and Fielding, appear to be free-lance lecturers speaking under the auspices of lush commercial lecture bureaus. Mr. Hoskins, an officer of the Foreign Policy Association, is being sponsored at non-publicized meetings of the Foreign Policy Association and of other important opinion-making groups.

Propaganda from the Middle East

A. Middle East Study Tour:

A ten weeks seminar and Middle East Tour on modern Arab life and culture will be held



during the summer with headquarters at the American University of Beirut. Sponsored by Western Michigan College of Education, Kalamazoo; Wilson Teachers College, Washington, D. C.; State Teachers College, Oneonta, New York; and the American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon, the seminar is primarily designed for teachers but students or others who may be interested in teaching are eligible. A group of about 40 will leave New York by plane about the middle of June and will return the last week of August.

Thus, 40 trained pro-Arab spokesmen (the majority of them teachers) may return this fall from the Near East with a Beirut orientation, and will reach thousands of young people as well as clubs, churches, radio audiences and newspaper readers with their biased views. A relatively low rate has been set as the cost of this tour, indicating possible subsidization.

#### Educators

The following American Educators, missionaries, and others with a pro-Arab orientation, deserve our attention:

Professor John S. Badeau, President of the University of Cairo, extremely active as a speaker under excellent sponsorship including Foreign Policy Association, colleges, institutes, church federations, etc.

Dr. Floyd H. Black, President of Robert College and American College for Girls, Istanbul, Turkey.

Professor Homer W. Davis, President of Athens College, Athens, Greece.

Dr. Millar Burrows of the American School for Oriental Research.

#### Y.M.C.A. Leaders

A. L. Miller, General Secretary of Jerusalem, Y.M.C.A.

Wilbert T. Smith, formerly of Y.M.C.A. in Jerusalem, now a member of Institute of Arab-American Affairs.

Paul Hoffman, also of Y.M.C.A. in Jerusalem.

Relief Workers such as Dr. Edwin Moll, Director of Palestine Branch of Lutheran World Federation, and various others attached to the American Friends Service Committee and Church World Service.

Dr. Harman A. Lichtwardt, Medical Missionary of Detroit.

Missionaries Home on Rotating Leaves, such as Glera Wysner of the Methodist Church, also a member of the Institute of Arab-American Affairs, and Garland Evan Hopkins, secretary of the Missions Council of the Methodist Church.

Professor T. Cuyler Young, Professor of Oriental Languages, Princeton  
Professor John A. Wilson, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago  
Professor Walter L. Wright of Princeton University  
Professor William Stinespring of Duke University

#### Missionaries Abroad

Periodically, letters from Missionaries in the field to Christian leaders and friends



in America are widely circulated. Important leaders in missionary, federal and church groups are outstanding in anti-Zionist propaganda. Such names as Henry Sloane Coffin and Henry Smith Leiper, to mention only two, come at once to mind.

An example of this is to be found in an editorial appearing in "Christianity and Crisis" of February 21, 1949 entitled "Perils to America in the New Jewish State". It is perhaps the most vicious attack which has yet been made upon Israel and American Jews who support the new State. An analysis of the editorial, which has been sent out to a number of leading Christian friends of Israel by the American Christian Palestine Committee, has the following to say in its opening paragraph;

"The editorial is obviously written with animus, and however much it disclaims anti-Jewish feeling, it cannot but give rise to such feeling among its readers. The facts on which it is allegedly based are so distorted by the author's emotional bias that their accuracy is extremely dubious. One would have thought that in a journal of Christian opinion special care would be taken to verify facts and to eliminate all traces of prejudice."

In addition to all the above factors, the following should be listed among the anti-Israeli forces active on the American scene;

Government officials, i.e., Edwin M. Wright, special Assistant to the Director, Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs, Department of State.

Visiting Arabs from the Middle East, like Musa Hussein.

Arab students scattered throughout the United States.

*purpose* The above list of individuals engaged in pro-Arab propaganda in the United States is by no means complete. There are other individuals and organizations whose primary concern is to combat the establishment and development of Israel, and to promote Arab interests on the American scene. The Institute for Arab-American Affairs, the American Council for Judaism, and the Gildersleeve Committee admittedly belong in this category. However, there are many other public bodies in the United States whose wholehearted association with the Arab viewpoint is not so apparent. They may be even more dangerous, for that reason.

The Middle East Institute in Washington, which publishes the Middle East Journal is an illustration in point.

For all in all, there is no exaggeration in our saying that we are facing a formidable array of hostile forces which will demand all the vigilance and talent at our disposal.

In the past, it has often happened that local committees have informed us of acts of anti-Zionist propaganda after they have already taken place, asking for our counter-action. It would be obviously more advisable and effective if, whenever possible, we could be informed before a given pro-Arab speech or lecture takes place so that we are able to devise measures in good time. It is with this in mind that we have listed for you here the most outstanding among the pro-Arab propagandists in the U.S. Accordingly, the moment that you learn that any of these persons are about to appear on a local platform, please advise us immediately.

\*\*\*\*\*



# the American council for judaism

## NATIONAL OFFICE

• 201 E. 57th ST.  
• NEW YORK 22, N. Y.  
• PLAZA 9-6600

*Secretary*  
Morris Wolf  
Philadelphia, Pa.

*President*  
Lessing J. Rosenwald  
Jenkintown, Pa.

*Treasurer*  
D. Hays Solis-Cohen  
Philadelphia, Pa.

### *Vice-Presidents*

Milton S. Binswanger  
Memphis, Tenn.

Rabbi William H. Fineshriber  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Fred F. Florence  
Dallas, Texas

Rabbi Irving F. Reichert  
San Francisco, Calif.

David B. Stern  
Chicago, Ill.

Ralph Wolf  
New York, N. Y.

### *Regional Vice-Presidents*

George L. Levison  
San Francisco, Cal.

Henry A. Loeb  
New York, N. Y.

Henry S. Moyer  
Youngstown, Ohio

I. Edward Tonkon  
Dallas, Texas

*Executive Director*  
Elmer Berger

February 24, 1949

Dear Member:

As you know from the announcements in "Council News", we are holding our Fifth Annual Conference this year at the Drake Hotel in Chicago during the three days of April 22, 23 and 24.

The Conference will hear, at first hand, complete reports of our activities during the last year. It will have a chance to discuss and approve a new statement of our principles, which an excellent committee is now drafting. Distinguished Americans will tell those who are in attendance, what they believe about the problem of "Jewish" nationalism and our program for dealing with it.

I earnestly invite you to attend. We need your active participation in the formulation of our future program.

For our Conference in Chicago this year will be more important than any we have ever held. Practically all organizations of Jews and many individual Americans who are not Jews agree that the existence of the State of Israel makes it more important than ever to make a clear national distinction between Americans of Jewish faith and Israelis of Jewish or any other faith.

The very realization, on the part of so many, that the problem exists is a step forward toward the kind of clarification for which we have been striving.

But the long standing confusion between Jew and Zionist and now the relation of both to Israelis will not evaporate overnight nor by the mere publication of statements. That we have carried a large part of the responsibility for making it clear that these confusions do exist and must be dispelled, should now encourage us to go on, more energetically than ever to help determine the ultimate way of life for Americans of Jewish faith, which clarification must and will bring.

5th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, APRIL 22, 23, 24, 1949  
THE DRAKE, CHICAGO



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MRS. JULIAN E. ADLER  
Birmingham, Alabama

MRS. HAROLD J. SCHWAB  
Birmingham, Alabama

ADOLPH WEIL  
Montgomery, Alabama

HERBERT M. COUZIN  
Phoenix, Arizona

ABE KORRICK  
Phoenix, Arizona

HERMAN LEWKOWITZ  
Phoenix, Arizona

NORMAN DeROY  
Tucson, Arizona

ALFRED G. KAHN  
Little Rock, Arkansas

\*ARTHUR PHILLIPS  
Little Rock, Arkansas

LOUIS ROSEN  
Little Rock, Arkansas

SAM STRAUSS  
Little Rock, Arkansas

MONROE E. DEUTSCH  
Berkeley, California

JACK H. SKIRBALL  
Beverly Hills, California

JOSEPH P. LOEB  
Los Angeles, California

ROBERT J. RICHMAN  
Los Angeles, California

\*HARRY F. CAMP  
San Francisco, California

DANIEL E. KOSHLAND  
San Francisco, California

\*GEORGE L. LEVISON  
San Francisco, California

GROYER A. MAGNIN  
San Francisco, California

\*RABBI IRVING F. REICHERT  
San Francisco, California

\*MRS. M. C. SLOSS  
San Francisco, California

MELVIN H. SCHLESINGER  
Denver, Colorado

JACK A. WEIL  
Denver, Colorado

\*MRS. MAX B. LEICHTER  
New Haven, Connecticut

BERNHARD ROGOWSKI  
New Haven, Connecticut

MARCUS S. GOLDNAMER  
Washington, D. C.

JOSEPH D. KAUFMAN  
Washington, D. C.

ALFRED M. LILIENTHAL  
Washington, D. C.

MRS. ABRAM SIMON  
Washington, D. C.

BENJAMIN E. BRONSTON  
Miami Beach, Florida

SINCLAIR JACOBS  
Atlanta, Georgia

ARMAND MAY  
Atlanta, Georgia

MRS. LOUIS H. MOSS  
Atlanta, Georgia

CLARENCE COLEMAN, JR.  
Chicago, Illinois

EDWIN EISENDRATH  
Chicago, Illinois

MAX EPSTEIN  
Chicago, Illinois

SAMUEL E. HIRSCH  
Chicago, Illinois

RABBI ABRAM HIRSCHBERG  
Chicago, Illinois

\*HERBERT M. LAUTMANN  
Chicago, Illinois

HERBERT T. SCHAFFNER  
Chicago, Illinois

HAROLD R. SCHRADZKE  
Chicago, Illinois

\*DAVID B. STERN  
Chicago, Illinois

HUBERT deJONG  
Evansville, Indiana

E. P. ADLER  
Davenport, Iowa

JULIAN BRODY  
Des Moines, Iowa

ARTHUR SANFORD  
Sioux City, Iowa

JAMES H. LEVY  
Louisville, Kentucky

BERNARD ROSENBLUM  
Louisville, Kentucky

HERBERT S. BENJAMIN  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

MRS. MARION B. KAHN  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

BYRON R. KANTROW  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

S. E. BLUMENTHAL  
New Orleans, Louisiana

JOSEPH HASPEL  
New Orleans, Louisiana

IRVING R. SAAL  
New Orleans, Louisiana

CHARLTON E. MEYER  
Shreveport, Louisiana

RABBI MORRIS S. LAZARON  
Baltimore, Maryland

AARON STRAUS  
Baltimore, Maryland

IRVING ZIEMAN  
Boston, Massachusetts

LEWIS C. FRANK  
Detroit, Michigan

JULIAN G. WOLFNER  
Detroit, Michigan

NORMAN BUCKNER  
Pontiac, Michigan

CHARLES D. FIST  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

JACK K. HEIMANN  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

ROBERT ADLER  
St. Paul, Minnesota

DAVID B. FRIED  
Vicksburg, Mississippi

MRS. ALBERT E. AUER  
Clayton, Missouri

JOSEPH GLASER, Jr.  
St. Louis, Missouri

EDWIN GROSSMAN  
St. Louis, Missouri

JOHN JOSEPH HAGEDORN  
St. Louis, Missouri

\*LAWTON J. LEVY  
St. Louis, Missouri

JOSEPH H. SCHWEICH, JR.  
St. Louis, Missouri

BERNARD S. GRADWOHL  
Lincoln, Nebraska

MRS. BEN D. SILVER  
Omaha, Nebraska

EDGAR S. BAMBERGER  
East Orange, New Jersey

RABBI SOLOMON FOSTER  
East Orange, New Jersey

\*IRVING J. FEIST  
Newark, New Jersey

HAROLD M. HECHT  
Buffalo, New York

JACK ALTMAN  
New York, New York

\*EDWIN W. BRAND  
New York, New York

MRS. MONROE PERCY BLOCH  
New York, New York

\*JACQUES COLEMAN  
New York, New York

\*MRS. RICHARD G. CONRIED  
New York, New York

RABBI SAMUEL H. GOLDENSON  
New York, New York

\*ARTHUR J. GOLDSMITH  
New York, New York

\*LEO GOTTLIEB  
New York, New York

HENRY L. HEMING  
New York, New York

HENRY S. HENDRICKS  
New York, New York

\*IRA W. HIRSHFIELD  
New York, New York

\*JOSEPH J. KLEIN  
New York, New York

\*HENRY A. LOEB  
New York, New York

HERBERT H. MAASS  
New York, New York

\*MRS. JOSEPH I. SAKS  
New York, New York

MRS. DAVID A. SCHULTE  
New York, New York

\*RALPH WOLF  
New York, New York

CEASAR CONE  
Greensboro, North Carolina

RALPH BLOOM  
Cincinnati, Ohio

RABBI ABRAHAM CRONBACH  
Cincinnati, Ohio

ALVA W. GOLDSMITH  
Cincinnati, Ohio

RABBI DAVID PHILIPSON  
Cincinnati, Ohio

RABBI VICTOR E. REICHERT  
Cincinnati, Ohio

\*RANDOLPH TRAGER  
Cincinnati, Ohio

ROBERT HAYS GRIES  
Cleveland, Ohio

JULIUS E. FINN  
Dayton, Ohio

ROY L. HARTZELL  
Youngstown, Ohio

\*HENRY S. MOYER  
Youngstown, Ohio

CHARLES R. FLEXNER  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

JACK ISRAEL  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

AARON M. WEITZENHOFFER  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

WILLIAM HELLER EHRMAN  
Portland, Oregon

SIDNEY TEISER  
Portland, Oregon

\*EDWARD W. SCHLEISNER  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

\*LESSING J. ROSENWALD  
Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

\*MRS. KURT BLUM  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

\*RABBI WILLIAM H. FINESHRIER  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

JULIUS GRODINSKY  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

\*D. HAYS SOLIS-COHEN  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

\*MORRIS WOLF  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

\*MRS. S. IRWIN KAMIN  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

ROBERT LOEB  
University of Pennsylvania

\*MILTON S. BINSWANGER  
Memphis, Tennessee

MRS. ABE GOODMAN  
Memphis, Tennessee

A. M. LOVEMAN  
Nashville, Tennessee

HERMAN SPITZ  
Nashville, Tennessee

JEROME K. CROSSMAN  
Dallas, Texas

\*FRED F. FLORENCE  
Dallas, Texas

ALEX J. GEISENBERGER  
Dallas, Texas

RABBI DAVID LEFKOWITZ  
Dallas, Texas

\*STANLEY MARCUS  
Dallas, Texas

\*J. EDWARD TONKON  
Dallas, Texas

RABBI HENRY COHEN  
Galveston, Texas

JAMES M. BAUMOHL  
Houston, Texas

GEORGE S. COHEN  
Houston, Texas

MRS. ISRAEL FRIEDLANDER  
Houston, Texas

RABBI HYMAN J. SCHACHTEL  
Houston, Texas

\*IRVIN M. SHLENKER  
Houston, Texas

MAX EDWARD TONKON  
University of Texas

\*WALTER S. GALESKI  
Richmond, Virginia

PHILIP W. KLAUS  
Richmond, Virginia

BERMAN SCHOENFELD  
Seattle, Washington

MORTON L. SCHWABACHER  
Seattle, Washington

ALFRED SHEMANSKI  
Seattle, Washington

ALVIN J. LINDENBERG  
Charleston, West Virginia

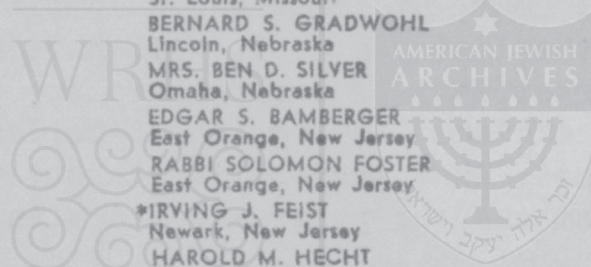
RALPH L. MILLER  
Wheeling, West Virginia

\*HERBERT M. SONNEBORN  
Wheeling, West Virginia

JOSEPH ROTHSCHILD  
Madison, Wisconsin

RABBI SAMUEL HIRSHBERG  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

JEROME C. SALTZSTEIN  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin





The program of "Jewish" nationalism has become fairly clear for the future. It means increasing segregation. It includes activities for youth camps to train children for life in Israel, emigration of Jews from America to Israel to supply the population needs of Israel, continued political activity in behalf of Israel, here in the United States on the part of American citizens segregated in a sectarian group. "Jewish" nationalism means harnessing the interests, devotion and resources of Americans of Jewish faith to a foreign state, resulting inevitably in detriment to our needs in America.

For it is now clear, as we consistently predicted, that the problem of "Jewish" nationalism is not confined to Palestine or Israel. It is also a way of life which is forcefully being imposed upon us -- here in the United States.

How to deal with these problems and to advance our own ideas of integration for Americans of Jewish faith will be our major concern in Chicago.

Our determination to resist a trend toward segregation in the United States is not to be confused with attitudes about Israel. That State is now a fact. Earnestly do I hope that all of its citizens and those who in the future may seek to rebuild their lives there may enjoy life, liberty and happiness such as we in America have enjoyed for generations. I hope also that Israel itself and the entire Middle East, in which our country is so importantly concerned, will enjoy peace, prosperity and democracy.

I believe profoundly that all Israelis should be free to work out a way of life which will enlist their whole allegiance to their state, as we in America who are of Jewish faith propose to work out our life-pattern as an inseparable part of the American people. The most loyal citizen of Israel could wish no more.

Since our inception I have said publicly and privately, again and again, that we stood ready to work in practical implementation of our program with any and every organization that shared our hopes for the future status of our co-religionists. That proposition still stands.

In recent weeks there has been some confusion about the relationship of the program of the Council to the American Jewish Committee.



You may have noticed that at its recent annual meeting the American Jewish Committee issued a statement which contained general principles, to many of which we of the Council subscribe.

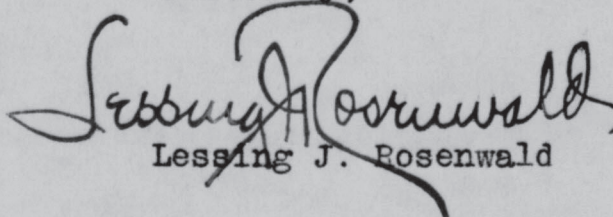
This is most encouraging. It demonstrates the essential validity of our program. It is one of the gratifying developments which should stimulate us to do more of what we have done in the past in the hope that more organizations will move in the same direction. But we must be alert, as we have been in the past, asking for implementation of principles in action. For deeds speak more eloquently than words. Only thus can the process of integration, too long interrupted, be revitalized so that there may develop here an American way of life for our five million co-religionists who are Americans. For this goal, I think we may say with pardonable pride, that we stood firm and fast in the difficult years we have worked together.

One of the most important subjects we will consider in Chicago will be ways and means of strengthening the trend which seems to be coming our way and of increasing cooperation, in work and action, with those organizations moving in the direction of integration.

For all these reasons, I hope to have the pleasure of welcoming you in Chicago and of your participation in our efforts to deal with all these problems.

A reservation card is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely,

  
Lessing J. Rosenwald

LJR:cac  
encl.



# the American council for judaism

## NATIONAL OFFICE

• 201 E. 57th ST.  
• NEW YORK 22, N. Y.  
• PLAZA 9-6600

*Secretary*  
Morris Wolf  
Philadelphia, Pa.

*President*  
Lessing J. Rosenwald  
Jenkintown, Pa.

*Treasurer*  
D. Hays Solis-Cohen  
Philadelphia, Pa.

### *Vice-Presidents*

Milton S. Binswanger  
Memphis, Tenn.

Rabbi William H. Fineshriber  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Fred F. Florence  
Dallas, Texas

Rabbi Irving F. Reichert  
San Francisco, Calif.

David B. Stern  
Chicago, Ill.

Ralph Wolf  
New York, N. Y.

### *Regional Vice-Presidents*

George L. Levison  
San Francisco, Cal.

Henry A. Loeb  
New York, N. Y.

Henry S. Moyer  
Youngstown, Ohio

I. Edward Tonkon  
Dallas, Texas

*Executive Director*  
Elmer Berger

March 14, 1949

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, President  
American Zionist Emergency Council  
c/o The Temple  
East 105th Street & Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

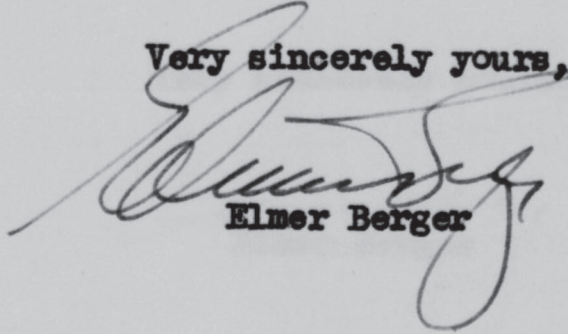
My dear Dr. Silver:

The enclosed copy of a memorandum circulated by the Los Angeles Zionist Emergency Council, together with copy of my letter to Mr. Strimling should be self-explanatory.

Inasmuch as the Los Angeles memorandum appears to be a quotation from a memorandum of the American Zionist Emergency Council (although no quotation marks indicate the end of the quote from the parent body) I sincerely hope that you, as Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, will take the proper steps to correct this inaccurate report.

I would be very grateful to you if you would keep me informed of what action you will take.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Elmer Berger

EB:C  
encl.

5th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, APRIL 22, 23, 24, 1949  
THE DRAKE, CHICAGO





201 EAST 57th STREET  
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

## COPY

March 14, 1949

Mr. Theodore Strimling  
Los Angeles Zionist Emergency Council  
664 Paramount Building  
323 West Sixth Street  
Los Angeles 13, Cal.

My dear Mr. Strimling:

My attention has been called to a memorandum under your name, dated February 7, 1949 in which there is reproduced a memorandum "received from the American Zionist Emergency Council..."

On page 3 of your memorandum, fourth paragraph from the bottom of the page, the American Council for Judaism is listed, together with other organizations, all of which are designated as having for their "primary purpose...to combat the establishment and development of Israel and to promote Arab interests on the American scene."

I am compelled to write you, prompted by simple American principles in the rules of public debate, to call your attention to the unpardonable inaccuracy of this characterization of the Council.

There is not the slightest scrap of evidence in any public, official statement of the Council, to substantiate your contentions; either that we are opposed to Israel or that any part of our purpose is the promotion of Arab affairs.

Arab politics have never concerned us. Since the national aspirations of the Arab states have never been and are not now a part of our area of interest, I cannot submit documentation to you to prove that we are not promoting "Arab affairs on the American scene." The total absence of any mention of Arab national affairs from any of our literature however, is proof of that fact. Unless you can adduce evidence to verify your charge therefore, your memorandum stands as a deliberate distortion of truth.

On the score of opposition to Israel, our record is established.

I enclose copy of our "Council News" for May, 1948. On page 1 you will find marked a "Statement of Policy", officially authorized by the Executive Committee of the



Mr. Theodore Strimling

- 2 -

March 14, 1949

-----  
American Council for Judaism. Also enclosed is a copy of an official letter, dated February 24, 1949, signed by Lessing J. Rosenwald and addressed to the general membership of the Council. On page 2 of this letter you will find marked a further statement on the State of Israel.

It is utterly impossible for any fair-minded person to construe either of these statements as in opposition to Israel. On the contrary, they both reveal a sincere hope for the peace and prosperity of the people of that State.

It is conceivable and legitimate that the Zionist Organization of America and the American Council for Judaism may have different ideas as to the relationship of American Jews to "Jewish" nationalism. Within the freedom of American life, those differences may and should be debated. But it is unforgiveably a departure from American traditions and democratic procedure, for one party to a controversy to deliberately malign and misrepresent the other without any documentation whatsoever.

In the interest of truth and public responsibility, I believe the Los Angeles Zionist Emergency Council is obligated to correct these inaccuracies and to provide those to whom this memorandum of February 7 was sent, with the demonstrable facts in the situation.

I shall eagerly await word from you as to what corrective action you propose to take.

Very truly yours,

Elmer Berger

EB:C  
encl.



DR. DAVID PHILIPSON

712 GHOLSON AVENUE

CINCINNATI 29, OHIO

A.C. for Jud

June 23, 1949

My dear Colleague:

The attached Resolution, submitted by me, was enthusiastically endorsed by the recent Chicago Conference of the American Council for Judaism. I am firmly convinced that the Council represents the viewpoint of very many Rabbis of the country, and that those who have come out against the Council misunderstood its purpose.

The object of my Resolution was to correct any such misunderstanding. I hope you will give the Resolution very careful consideration and, if in any way it will help clarify the situation, I will be very greatly gratified.

To implement this Resolution, the Council has appointed a Religious Committee of Rabbis and laymen. It is our sincere hope that, with consistent and constructive thought, ways may be found to assist in the revival of Judaism, free of "Jewish" nationalism.

I would be grateful to you for any concrete suggestions you may have, pertaining to this important objective and if you would send such suggestions to me, I would be glad to forward them to the co-chairmen of this Religious Committee.

With cordial regards and hoping that we may work together for many years, I am

Fraternally yours,

David Philipson

Rabbi David Philipson

DP:c  
encl.



## RESOLUTION ON REVITALIZATION OF JUDAISM

We deem it an honor to join in the sentiments expressed in the following resolution submitted by Dr. David Philipson, the dean of the American Reform rabbinate.

"The time has come for the American Rabbinate to lead the way towards a revitalization of Judaism in America.

"The Rabbis should stimulate all Jews to seek a knowledge of their religious heritage and imbue them with a firm determination to build here in America a way of life that shall be true to the best tradition of Judaism and perfectly harmonious with our daily environment, as American citizens thoroughly integrated into the life of our country, America, and steadfast in devotion to our religious faith, Judaism.

"Not on the basis of constituting a separate 'national group', or on vague secular sentiments, but on the firm foundation of a blending of the completely compatible philosophies of Judaism and Americanism, should the Rabbis seek to strengthen and bring inner security to the Jews of America. We share common religious beliefs with those in Israel who are Jews, but we have no political or national rights in or responsibilities to their state as they have no national connection with us. We seek to build here in America a Judaism that will serve as a shining example to the Jews of Israel and all other communities throughout the world. We call attention to the fact that adequate financial support for religious institutions in America is urgently needed now, if the cause of Judaism is not to suffer irreparable harm."

We believe that expressions of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism free of "Jewish" nationalism and stressing the universal traditions in our faith are essential to the survival of Judaism in America and to completely integrated lives for our co-religionists here.

To the fullest extent of resources available for that purpose, we pledge the American Council for Judaism to assist in the revitalization of such universal expressions of Judaism.

We resolve that a committee of laymen and rabbis be appointed by our national executive committee to explore ways and means whereby this concern for our faith may be implemented and sustained as a part of the continuing work of the American Council for Judaism.

-----



# THE COUNCIL NEWS

Published by  
THE AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM, INC.

"Americans by  
Nationality;  
Jews  
by Religion"

VOL. 2: No. 5

MAY, 1948

## ISRAEL IS A "FOREIGN STATE," COUNCIL SAYS

### N. Y. CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING ATTRACTS 1,000

The largest audience in the history of the New York chapter of The American Council for Judaism attended the annual meeting at Hunter College, May 11, and heard Dr. Israel Mattuck plead for a solution of the crisis facing the Jews of the world that would assure peace and immigration opportunities for Palestine and maintain the historic position of Jews in every land.

More than 1,000 members and guests heard speeches by Dr. Mattuck, rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue of London; Dr. Paul Hutchinson, editor of *The Christian Century*; Lessing J. Rosenwald, president of the Council, and messages from Dr. Virginia C. Gildersleeve, Governor Dewey, Representative James W. Wadsworth, and others.

Henry A. Loeb and Jacques Coleman, co-chairmen, headed a slate of chapter officers unanimously re-elected. Other officers are Mrs. Richard G. Conried, Arthur J. Goldsmith and Ralph Wolf, vice chairmen; Mrs. Joseph I. Saks, secretary, and Dr. Joseph J. Klein, treasurer. Thirty members were named to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Loeb presided at the meeting, which was arranged by a committee headed by Aaron W. Berg, Mrs. Conried, Mrs. Isaac Witkin, and the office staff of Executive Director Julius Grad.

Dr. Mattuck said that to make the Jews into a nation would affect adversely the position of the Jews in democratic countries where they have the full status of citizenship.

"If it is made into a nation, it will be the only nation in the world with sections in many nations," the speaker added, and described the effect of political Zionism on Jews in Arab countries and in England. He said there are nearly a million Jews in Arab countries outside Palestine and that they now are being treated as hostile foreigners.

"In some places they have been attacked, but everywhere their lives are insecure, their political rights taken from them and their status reduced in every way. In Baghdad, a city famed in history for its outstanding Jewish community and prominent families, Jews are now forced to live in a ghetto."

Mattuck said "we need not fear such grave repercussions in other lands but recent developments in Britain give plain warning of the dangers that attend Jewish nationalism."

"The Zionists charge the British government with hostility towards the Jews. It was, however, a British government which, moved by friendliness toward the Jews, issued the Balfour Declaration; it was British governments that promoted the upbuilding of Palestine; the party to which the present British government belongs once even favored the political aims of the Zionists. If the attitude of the British government towards Jews is less friendly than it was, what is responsible for the change?"

"The general attitude in Britain towards the Jews has undergone a clear change. The professed anti-Semites have exploited to the utmost the Palestinian troubles to

(Please Turn to Page 4)

### PHILADELPHIA'S MAYOR GREETES MATTUCK



Mayor Bernard Samuels, of Philadelphia (right), welcomes a visitor from abroad, Rabbi Israel Mattuck, at the annual meeting of the Philadelphia chapter at the Broadwood Hotel, May 12. Mrs. Kurt Blum, in center.

### TEXT OF STATEMENT OF POLICY

Authorized by the Executive Committee,  
The American Council for Judaism  
May 21, 1948

The State of Israel has been proclaimed and the United States has given de facto recognition to its provisional government. Time alone will determine the wisdom of these acts. We hope profoundly that our government through the United Nations will succeed in its efforts to end the conflict over Palestine and bring peace and security to all the people of the Middle East.

This is imperative to provide a secure haven in the State of Israel for Jewish displaced persons for whom the world has provided so little. It is of equal importance in view of the peril to 900,000 Jewish citizens of the several Arab countries and the insecurity of the Arab population in the State of Israel itself.

In the Proclamation of the State of Israel the Provisional Government explicitly claimed that it represents "the self-evident right of the Jewish people to be a nation . . . in its own sovereign state" and ". . . the Zionist movement of the world. . . ." Such claims impinge upon the authority of the government of every nation of the world over its citizens of Jewish faith. Thus, such claims constitute a danger to Jewish citizens whose sole national rights and obligations belong exclusively to these governments.

The American Council for Judaism believes that the status of Americans of Jewish faith must be clarified in the light of these contentions made by the State of Israel.

It is more necessary than ever for us to continue and expand our program. The goal and privilege of every American of Jewish faith is to become part of American life, equal in rights and valued in service to his fellow citizens. The future of five million Americans of Jewish faith as of all other American citizens, lies in a nation free from segregation or divisiveness. America must continue to move toward its own, characteristic unity. Its private citizens must not impede this progress by entertaining rights in or obligations to any other nationalism or by seeking to foster here, in a separatistic manner, the character of any other nation. The continuing efforts of The American Council for Judaism to affirm and act upon its basic principle that we are Jews by religion, and to reject fallacious racist or nationalist concepts or programs for Americans of Jewish faith will be a significant contribution to a stronger America.

We therefore emphatically declare that the State of Israel is not the State or homeland of "the Jewish people." To Americans of Jewish faith it is a foreign state. Our single and exclusive national identity is to the United States. Our exclusive spokesman in all international affairs is the Government of the United States through its authorized representatives. American citizens have no right to participate in the political life of the State of Israel except through the proper agencies and procedures of the Government of the United States.

It is also essential that the State of Israel confine its nationalism to its own borders. Israel can in no way represent those of Jewish faith who are citizens of other nations. It cannot bestow rights upon them or exact obligations from them.

(Please Turn to Page 2)

### JEWS WHO ARE CITIZENS OF OTHER LANDS CAN HAVE NO RIGHTS OR OBLIGATIONS

Israel is a foreign state and can in no way represent those of Jewish faith of other nations, the American Council for Judaism declared in a statement of policy authorized by the Executive Committee at its monthly meeting, in New York May 18. The statement calling upon the provisional government of the new state in Palestine and the Zionist Movement to make clear the complete severance—political and national—of Jews who are citizens of other nations, was widely publicized by the press, radio and news magazines.

Informing both members and the public of the Council's future policy, the statement, (printed in full in this issue) was authorized by the Executive Committee in a five-hour session which attracted the largest attendance of the year.

The Committee also made plans for future action, authorizing the special committee headed by Ralph Wolf to consider any representations to the American government that may be required to protect the status of Americans of Jewish faith. The Committee also agreed with President Lessing J. Rosenwald's proposals that the Council engage in an intensified study of the whole problem of integration, which has been and remains, the long term program of the organization. In clarifying the relationship of American Jews to the state of Israel, it also was proposed that the Council again explore the opportunities for cooperative action with other Jewish organizations.

A short time after the proclamation of the Israeli provisional government of its independence on May 15, Mr. Rosenwald, issued a press statement declaring that "it must be clearly understood that the provisional government can be the government of its inhabitants and citizens only; and that it can have no claims upon the national attachments of those of Jewish faith who are citizens of other lands."

"The national loyalty and attachment of Americans of Jewish faith are to the United States, to the United States alone, and to no other nation in the world," Mr. Rosenwald added, and made clear that he was not commenting either on the "wisdom" or the "unwisdom" of the action in Palestine.

In Washington Joseph D. Kaufman, chairman, and Alfred M. Lilienthal, counsel of the Washington chapter, declared in a press statement:

"The British mandatory rule in Palestine has come to an end. The Zionist movement and the Jewish Agency have issued a manifesto relying, they say, upon the support of the 'entire Jewish people,' and have declared their intention to establish an independent Jewish State in Palestine. At this time, we Americans of Jewish faith declare our complete independence and separation from any state that is, or may be, established."

In response to the request of the National Jewish Post for comment on the *de facto* state, I. Edward Tonkon, of Dallas, regional vice president of the Council, replied in part:

"In view of the action of our government in recognizing the *de facto* government of Israel, which by the way does not necessarily mean a recognition of a *de jure* government, it must be clearly and unmistakably understood that the provisional government of Israel is the government of its inhabitants and citizens only, and that it cannot under any circumstances, implied or otherwise, have any claims upon the national attachments of those of the Jewish faith who are citizens of other countries."

"The imminent necessity for

this needed clarification and distinction, and the corollary of the balance of the Council's program of integration make the instrumentality of The American Council for Judaism a far greater need than ever before. . . ."

Mr. Rosenwald's press statement was issued by the Council's New York office after being telephoned from Lexington, Virginia, where he was addressing the International Relations Club of Washington and Lee University.

The text follows:

"A compelling need for a clear distinction between 'Zionists' and 'Jews', in light of recent developments in Palestine and in particular, of the action establishing a *de facto* government requires, in our judgment, that we express clearly and unmistakably our views as Americans of Jewish faith."

"Whatever the wisdom or unwisdom of the action of setting up a provisional Zionist government; however the United States may act on this matter, with due regard for its fundamental national interests, it must be clearly understood that this provisional government can be the government of its inhabitants and citizens only; and that it can have no claims upon the national attachments of those of Jewish faith who are citizens of other lands."

"Those of Jewish faith who are citizens of various countries and regard these countries as their homes and homelands, do not have and cannot have, any national attachment or obligation to this provisional government. The national loyalty and attachment of Americans of Jewish faith are to the United States—to the United States alone—and to no other nation in the world. By the democratic heritage of our unity as a people, no group of American citizens, whatever its origin or race or religion, may carry on independently a foreign policy of its own, either in support of or in opposition to a foreign country. We direct attention to the importance of bearing in mind and making clear these fundamental truths."



# THE COUNCIL NEWS

Official Publication of The American Council for Judaism, Inc.  
National Headquarters . . 201 East 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y.

## National Officers

### PRESIDENT

LESSING J. ROSENWALD  
Jenkintown, Pa.

### VICE PRESIDENTS

Milton S. Binswanger  
Memphis, Tenn.

Rabbi William H. Fineshriber  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Fred F. Florence  
Dallas, Tex.

Rabbi Irving F. Reichert  
San Francisco, Cal.

David B. Stern  
Chicago, Ill.

Ralph Wolf  
New York, N. Y.

### REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

George L. Levison  
San Francisco, Cal.

Henry A. Loeb  
New York, N. Y.

Henry S. Moyer  
Youngstown, O.

I. Edward Tonkon  
Dallas, Tex.

SECRETARY  
Morris Wolf  
Philadelphia, Pa.

TREASURER  
D. Hays Solis-Cohen  
Philadelphia, Pa.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Elmer Berger  
New York

Address all communications to Editor, "The Council News"  
201 East 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y.

## WHAT IS THE COUNCIL?

The American Council for Judaism is a national organization of Americans of Jewish faith dedicated to an educational program consonant with its basic principle: Our nationality is American; our religion is Judaism; our homeland is the United States of America. Rejects any concept that Jews are at home ONLY in Palestine and insists that no Jew or group of Jews can speak for, or represent, all the Jews of America.

## WORDS OF COUNSEL

In his presidential address at the St. Louis convention of the American Council for Judaism last January, Mr. Rosenwald, anticipating the establishment of a Zionist state which has now, in fact, been set up, said, "We wish the new states (Arab and Zionist) the greatest possible success. We hope, in all sincerity, that the new states will play a worthy and creditable role in the family of nations; we hope that they will prosper and develop in peace and harmony; we hope that they will prove to be all that those who worked for their creation envisioned."

These were and are the views of the Council.

Later on in that address, he went on to state the problem:

"A small state has been newly decreed. A bare majority of its citizens are Jews. The birth of this tiny state, holding a small fraction of those who are and will be called Jews, makes urgent our clarification of our relationships, our decisions on definitions, on who and what we are!"

"What are we to that State? What is that State to us? Have we any attachments to it, or is it just another foreign state? These are the decisions we must make if we are not to paralyze and stultify all that Emancipation has achieved for the Jews of the world."

Today those words are more significant than ever.

The Zionists of Palestine have set up an independent state of Israel that has the de facto recognition of the United States Government.

We wish that state well.

Yet, if ever there was need for sober appraisal, it is now.

We are not crystal-gazers. We cannot tell with precision what the future will hold. But it is more than likely that the bitterness, violence and bloodshed in that area of the world will increase, that more lives will be lost, that there will be unbelievable destruction of ancient religious treasures, that there will be a cruel denial of immigration opportunity to those who need Palestine in favor of those whom a Zionist state needs for its defense.

In these forecasts, we may be mistaken. Indeed we hope to be proved wrong. But one aspect stands out with such revealing clarity that if Jews do not see it, it is because they close their eyes, because there are "none so blind as those who will not see."

A de facto State of Israel may—if we Americans of Jewish faith permit it—intensify and multiply a thousand-fold the pressures within American political life, the attempted manipulation of the emotions and sentiments of American Jews to pull chestnuts out of the fire for the new State.

Here in the United States the drums may begin to beat in behalf of this foreign state.

They will be drums of disaster,—unless—

Unless this is widely known and clearly understood: That the State of Israel is and can be the State of its citizens only and of no other. That the State of Israel can have

no claims upon the national attachments of those of Jewish faith, citizens of other lands. That these citizens of many countries, which they regard as their homes and homelands, do not have and cannot have any national attachment and obligation to the State of Israel. That the national loyalty and attachments of Americans of Jewish faith are to the United States, to the United States alone and to no other nation in the world.

In fact, the true friends of the provisional state of Israel must recognize that if it is truly to be an independent state taking its full part in the society of nations, it must be utterly independent of Jews outside that state as Jews outside that state must be utterly independent of it. Any claims, instrumentalities or ambiguities that may seek to maintain a link between the citizens of that state and those who are of the Jewish faith but citizens of other countries will do incalculable injury to both that State and the world's Jews.

The recognition and acceptance of these fundamental truths will play a decisive part in the security and well-being of all Jews—in Palestine and the world over, in the years ahead.

These concepts must be our rockbottom faith and our guide post in the troubled period ahead.

Despite the emotional appeals that are being and will be made, we must never forget that no group in this country may with impunity carry on an independent foreign policy of its own—either in support of a foreign country or in war upon a foreign country.

We are a united nation with one flag, one loyalty, one official foreign policy. Those who would impair that sacred unity do so at their peril.

## Text of Council's Statement

(Continued from Page 1)

The World Zionist movement participated in proclaiming the Provisional Government of Israel. We hope that both the Zionist movement and the Provisional Government will recognize the necessity of making clear the complete and unequivocal national severance of Jews who are citizens of other nations from this new state.

We further hope that both the program and principles of the Zionist organization in word and deed and the constitution and activities of Israel will leave no question on this important matter.

For our part, to clarify the status of Americans of Jewish faith, the Council will take appropriate action through our Government and will continue its program for the following purposes:

1. To make clear the sharp distinction between Judaism and Zionism and between Israelis (citizens of the State of Israel) and Jews who are citizens of other nations.
2. To insist that no Jew or organization of Jews can speak for or represent all the Jews of America.
3. To deny the validity of any claim to the existence or control of a "Jewish" bloc vote in the United States.
4. To continue to work for increased immigration opportunities in the United States and elsewhere for displaced persons of all faiths and national derivations.

At this time of world crisis, like members of other religious groups, we have a deep and compassionate concern for the welfare of our co-religionists in other parts of the world. We are dedicated to do our utmost to find new and secure homes for them and for those of all other faiths who have suffered so long in displaced persons camps. We shall continue to give the fullest possible assistance to all those still suffering in the backwash of the war to restore them to lives of decency and dignity.

We deplore the fact that the UJA precludes help of a purely philanthropic and humanitarian nature to our co-religionists without at the same time supporting the military and governmental functions of a foreign state. We maintain now, as we have in the past, that humanitarian problems must be separated from the political problems inherent in the establishment, support and conduct of the State of Israel.

Furthermore, to avoid any implication that the UJA, an American institution, is an agent of this foreign government, a clear and unmistakable separation of contributions received by UJA should be made. Funds disbursed for relief and rehabilitation should be segregated from funds that support programs which are now properly the functions of the State of Israel.

The Council will continue to urge such a separation. Meanwhile, we will continue our efforts to find other agencies for those Americans of Jewish faith who desire to contribute to humanitarian requirements alone.

Our task remains that of clarifying for all of our fellow citizens the aspirations of Americans of Jewish faith and of continuing our program to realize that objective. We shall continue to stress that the cherished privileges of American citizenship entail high responsibilities and that the way to complete emancipation for our co-religionists in America is through complete integration as individual Americans of Jewish faith.

We welcome the support of those who subscribe to the wisdom of these principles and this program. They will serve the purpose, now more essential than ever, of promoting the unity of the American people.

## Rabbi Cronbach Named to Board

Rabbi Abraham Cronbach, noted Jewish savant and professor of social studies at the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Council for Judaism. Prof. Cronbach is widely known for his important contributions to the field of social service literature. He is the author of "Religion and its Social Setting," "Judaism and Psychoanalysis," "The Bible and Our Social Outlook," and of a number of other treatises in the field of religion and humanity.

### Rosenwald Talks at Lexington, Va.

LEXINGTON, Va.—Lessing J. Rosenwald, president of The American Council for Judaism, said in an address at Washington and Lee University May 14, that behind the United Nation's Assembly's vote recommending partitioning of Palestine was "a sordid story of pressuring and high-handed methods of lining up votes."

He addressed the annual spring meeting of the International Relations Club on the subject "International Aspects of the Jewish Problem."

### Elmer Berger in WLIB Radio Forum

Rabbi Elmer Berger, executive director, representing The American Council for Judaism, participated in a radio forum over Station WLII, New York, on May 19. The subject was "Palestine after the Mandate" and was presented as one in a series of forums. Major Aubrey Eban, member of the Jewish Agency delegation at Lake Success, and J. Max Weis, executive director, World Peaceways, Inc., were the other speakers.

### CBS Digest Includes Talk by Rosenwald

"Talks," a quarterly digest of addresses presented in the public interest by the Columbia Broadcasting Company network, includes the address "What Now in Palestine?" by Lessing J. Rosenwald. Mr. Rosenwald spoke over the national network April 17.

### Propose World Judaism Head

NEW YORK—Acceptance of the chief rabbinate of Israel as the central religious authority of world Judaism has been recommended by the Rabbinical Council of America, the president-elect, Dr. Israel Tabak of Baltimore, told the golden anniversary meeting of the Council here May 23. The Council regards the creation of Israel as an opportunity for the re-establishment in Palestine of religious authority for world Jewry.

### Goldberg Talks To Methodists

The challenge of a Zionist Palestine, Rabbi David Goldberg told an audience at the Japanese Methodist church in New York, May 16, is "will the new political state be Jewish in the religious or political sense of the term?" In either sense, the research director of The American Council for Judaism said it could not be a democracy in the American sense.

"No state which derives its political power from a particular religious or racial majority could rightly be termed a democracy as we understand the word in America," Rabbi Goldberg told the junior congregation. He added that there must be and will be a fundamental distinction between the political Jews whose state is Palestine, and the religious Jews who are citizens of America or of any other democratic nation.



# New State Creates Grave Responsibility for ACJ, Reichert and Lazon Agree

The Council News asked two of the Council's most distinguished leaders—Rabbi Irving F. Reichert and Dr. Morris Lazon—to express their opinions of the situation created by the proclamation of the State of Israel and its de facto government. They are especially qualified to speak because of the steadfastness with which they have championed Judaism and also because they have had unusual opportunities to discern the temper of the American people—Jew and non-Jew—during recent speaking tours. Dr. Lazon made a coast-to-coast tour and Rabbi Reichert last week concluded a two-weeks' schedule of speeches in the East.

by MORRIS S. LAZARON  
Rabbi-Emeritus, Baltimore  
Hebrew Congregation

The declaration of a Zionist State and the United States' recognition of its de facto status does not change the basic issues in the Palestine question. If The American Council for Judaism were not in existence, it would have to be created to meet the graver possibilities that lie ahead for the millions of our brethren in this country and elsewhere who must persevere live outside Palestine.

Let us pray that the things many of us have feared—the destruction of much that has been built in Palestine; unnecessary loss of Christian, Moslem and Jewish life in a useless civil war; the stopping of orderly immigration; difficulties for our own country; international complications—will not come to pass. Surely the truth of our Council position has been revealed beyond doubt: this is not a fight for homes for the homeless—this is a fight for a state. The political ambitions of Zionist extremists have overridden every consideration of relief for the refugees and displaced persons. The first qualification for any immigrant to Palestine is that he must be a fighter.

The Palestine triple-play of the Truman political advisers will not bring the desired results in the fall election. It will be a boomerang whose influence will not only affect the political fortunes of those who gave such meretricious advice, but the position of American Israel. The passionate nationalism of the sick Jewries of the crowded metropolitan centers needs to be offset in the American scene by a vigorous reassertion of the Council's position. The events of these last days mark merely the end of one chapter and the beginning of what may be another and bloodier story in Palestine and sharper interfaith conflicts here.

If, indeed, the establishment of statehood is necessary for the protection and freedom of Jews or any other minority in the years to come, there is little hope for the future of our world. We who reject the philosophy of Jewish nationalism, who conceive of Jews as a world religio-cultural community, just as our Christian brethren are a world religio-cultural community, will continue to work for freedom for Jews and all other minorities everywhere. This is the spirit of our Judaism and the goal of democracy.

I call upon my friends all over the country—you who are Council members and you who accept our religious interpretation of Jewish purpose—to rally with eager enthusiasm and persistent unflinching determination under the banner of the one living God. Let us go forward together in the struggle for that democracy under which Jews and all men will be freed.

"Mi L'Adonoi Elai!" ("Whoso is for the Lord, let him join Me.")  
Baltimore, Md.  
May 21, 1948.

## HEADS COMMITTEE

Rabbi William H. Fineshriber, of Philadelphia, a vice president of The American Council for Judaism, has accepted the chairmanship of the Rabbinic Committee.

by IRVING F. REICHERT  
Rabbi-Emeritus, Temple  
Emanu-El, San Francisco

I returned to the Coast gratified with the enthusiastic reception accorded the principles of the ACJ in every college and community I visited. Everywhere I met with a growing realization that the principles for which the ACJ stands must prevail if Jews in America and other lands are to have any secure and hopeful future. While I discovered profound and legitimate concern for the welfare of Palestinian Jews, and an ardent desire to create emigration opportunities for the homeless Jews in Europe, two other significant opinions are widespread and steadily growing.

First, as a result of Jewish political efforts on behalf of Palestine, the status of Jews and Judaism has dangerously deteriorated throughout the Near and Middle East and in England, where anti-Semitism is mounting:

Second, that American Jews must unequivocally and quickly dissociate themselves from any semblance of political and national involvement with the new Zionist state.

Without minimizing the importance and the need of 650,000 Jews in Palestine, the millions of Jews in other lands where they are loyal citizens must not be further jeopardized by misleading and inflammatory propaganda and appeals for Jewish political solidarity. The feeling grows that while American Jews are ready and eager to relieve Jewish suffering everywhere, they are in no mood to encourage American military adventure overseas or to abandon the dearly-won position we have achieved in the United States as a religious community, or to strengthen the fallacious notion that Zionist leaders in Palestine or elsewhere have the right to speak for the Jews of the world.

The vital necessity of the Council's long-range program is coming into clear focus. Our most important task lies ahead. Our members are determined to resist to the last the fundamental philosophy of Zionism that Jews are a homeless nationality who can live a normal life only in Palestine. They know that the record in democratic lands refutes that proposition. They propose to continue to affirm, with unbounded confidence in democracy, that American Jews are and intend to remain a religious community, entirely at home in this country, the only homeland they desire. They realize that much has been done to undermine this classic formulation of the status of the American Jewish community, and that heroic efforts will be required to recover much valuable ground that has been lost.

But I found an abiding faith that the logic of our position and principles will win through if we hold fast to our purpose. The march of events will rally to our cause millions who share our ardent hopes for peace and prosperity in Palestine, for the redemption of our captives and for the welfare of American Jews and our historic religion.

Portland, Oregon  
May 20, 1948

## LARGE TURNOUT AT CAPITAL FOR PEACE RALLY

WASHINGTON—A public rally in support of peace in Palestine "through truce and trusteeship" sponsored by the Washington chapter of The American Council for Judaism attracted more than 400 persons to the Shoreham Hotel May 6.

Alfred M. Lilienthal, counsel to the chapter and GI representative at the San Francisco United Nations conference, presided and shared the platform with Rabbi Morris S. Lazon, Baltimore; Irving F. Reichert, San Francisco, and Kermit Roosevelt, executive director of the Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land.

WOL broadcast direct from the Shoreham the addresses of Dr. Lazon and Rabbi Reichert from 9:30 to 10 p.m.

Rabbi Lazon declared: "The time has come to let Arab and Zionist extremists know that they will incur NO support from the United States and that the moral conscience of the Jewish, Christian and Moslem world is not behind them."

"Let us strengthen the moderates so that they shall have the chance through truce, to reach honorably a just and democratic compromise in the land where they live side by side as neighbors. Such a compromise is still possible and necessary. It will come after war. But why should it not come before?"

Lazon expressed the hope that Palestine will not become "another tragic example of a great spiritual dream distorted and degraded by ecclesiastical politicians and false messiahs."

Rabbi Reichert, rabbi-emeritus of Temple Emanu-El of San Francisco, which he served for 18 years, said that Judaism, as a result of Jewish preoccupation with the political affairs of Palestine, has reached an all-time low in America as a religion of piety, prayer and spiritual regeneration.

"It is high time that responsible leaders of American Jewry," he added, "reaffirm with unmistakable clarity that Jews are a religious community, and insist upon giving priority to strengthening Jewish religious values, to saving lives and rehabilitating the dispossessed rather than to support the inflexible program of Jewish political nationalists."

Kermit Roosevelt, discussing the situation in the Middle East where he served with the United States Army and the State Department, said that the Jews of Palestine must decide whether Palestine is more important to them as a home in which they can live peacefully and work productively with other Palestinians, or whether it is more important for them as a state, which will have to be established and maintained, if that is even possible, by constant bloodshed and strife.

"It must be clear to them now that this is a necessary choice—that they cannot have both the peaceful home and the sovereign state."

## LEADS CHAPTER



LEE D. GREIF

The chairman of the newly organized Baltimore chapter is a native of Baltimore and attended Park School and Johns Hopkins University. He spent two and one-half years as a chief petty officer in the United States Coast Guard during World War II and is now an executive in the wholesale clothing business. His wife is the daughter of Sir Reginald and Lady Tuck of Sussex, England.

## Grodinsky Again Chosen Chairman by Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA—Dr. Julius Grodinsky, professor of the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, was re-elected chairman of the Philadelphia chapter at the annual meeting May 12. The meeting, addressed by Dr. Israel Mattuck of London, and Rabbi Irving F. Reichert of San Francisco, attracted more than 150 members to the Green Room of the Broadwood Hotel.

Lessing J. Rosenwald, president of the Council; Dr. William H. Fineshriber, Philadelphia, a vice president, and Chairman Grodinsky also spoke.

Other officers re-elected were: Robert D. Abrahams and Mrs. Kurt Blum, vice chairmen; Lester S. Hecht, secretary, and Mrs. Murray J. Makransky, treasurer.

Re-elected to the executive committee were the following: Harry I. Abrahams, Mrs. Alfred Adler, Robert J. Allman, Bertram Bennett, Mrs. Julian Bers, Kurt Blum, Walter Hart Blumenthal, Richard J. Bowers, Mrs. Raymond Chalis, Mrs. Michael L. Davies, Edwin Davis, Major Samuel Edelman, Sydney A. Garbish, S. Mayer Feldenheimer, Howard W. Fineshriber, Lionel Friedman, Henry E. Gerstley, Norman J. Kalcheim, and Lucien Katzenberg, Jr.

Also Mrs. Samuel Kind, II, Mrs. Louis Lehman, Mrs. Jerome H. Louchheim, Mrs. Max Myers, Theodore G. Rich, Edward Rosewater, Ray Semser, Leon E. Sperling, Harry F. Stern, II, Mrs. Harry J. Sturm, Stanley R. Sundheim, Morris Wolf, and Walter L. Wolf.

## New Baltimore Chapter Formed; Greif Chairman

BALTIMORE. — A Baltimore chapter of The American Council for Judaism was formed here May 5 at a meeting of more than 300 men and women.

Carroll Binder, editorial editor of the *Minneapolis Tribune*, Rabbi Irving F. Reichert of San Francisco, and Lessing J. Rosenwald, president of the Council, were the speakers.

Dr. Morris S. Lazon and Aaron Straus were elected honorary chairmen; Lee D. Greif, chairman, and Milton Halle, co-chairman. Other officers are Malcolm Hecht, secretary; Alan Wirtzbarger, treasurer; Mrs. Irwin Grinsfelder, chairman, women's division, and Robert S. Nyburg, publicity chairman.

Leonard Weinberg, attorney, presided at the meeting held at the Phoenix Club. The program was recorded and broadcast by WBAL (NBC) for a half hour at 11:30 p.m. the same evening.

In outlining the purposes of the Council, Weinberg said that "there are thousands of Jews in this country and all over the world, many even in Palestine, who are unalterably opposed to any combination of religion and politics, of church and state."

President Rosenwald urged his audience to write to Senators Tydings and O'Connor to support the Ferguson amendment to Senator Wiley's bill to open the doors to some of the displaced persons. He explained the Council's action in recommending certain relief agencies to members who do not wish to contribute to organizations in which funds for resettlement and relief are commingled, with those for political purposes. He expressed regret that the Council had been unable to make any arrangements with the Joint Distribution Committee to enable those who wished, to contribute for relief purposes.

Asserting that domestic considerations too often have determined American policy towards Palestine, Mr. Binder, who addressed the St. Louis conference, warned that if the United States is to survive as a world power, it must conduct its foreign policy from the standpoint of the general welfare, and world peace.

"It must not be conducted from the standpoint of whether Republicans, Democrats or Henry Wallace's party would carry key districts in New York and other areas by doing or not doing something about some part of the world in which minority pressure groups are interested."

The editor said deference to a domestic pressure group on Palestine has made more difficult the conduct of foreign relations in other fields.

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1948.  
THE NEW YORK TIMES.

## CLAIMS OF ISRAEL CHALLENGED HERE

Judaism Council Warns They 'Impinge Upon the Authority' of Every Government

Israel can in no way represent those of Jewish faith who are citizens of other nations, the American Council for Judaism, Inc., declared yesterday.

These were the headlines on the Council's policy statement in New York's two leading morning newspapers.

## NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, Judaism Council Tells U. S. Jews They Owe Israel No Allegiance

The new state of Israel in Palestine should be regarded by Americans of Jewish faith as a foreign state to which they owe no allegiance, the American Council for Judaism, Inc., 201 East Fifty-ninth Street, said yesterday in a statement.

## News on Inside Pages

CITY AND VICINITY  
Judaism council says U. S. Jews not allied to Palestine. Page 2  
Mrs. Weizmann asks Britain to recognize Israel.  
Britain accused of aggression.  
Zionist rally.

FOREIGN  
Turks fear war on Palestine.  
aid But both the...



## Einstein Makes Plea for Welfare Both Jews, Arabs

Dr. Albert Einstein, the noted Princeton scientist, and Rabbi Leo Baeck, onetime spiritual head of the German Jews, joined April 12 in an appeal to Jews to work for the goal of the common welfare in Palestine in a letter to the *New York Times*.

"We believe that any constructive solution is possible only if it is based on the concern for the welfare and cooperation of both Jews and Arabs in Palestine," they said. "We plead with all Jews to focus on the one important goal; the survival and permanent development of the Jewish settlement in Palestine on a peaceful and democratic basis, the single one which secures for its future in accordance with the fundamental spiritual and moral principles inherent in the Jewish tradition and essential for Jewish hope."

The letter bolstered the efforts of Dr. Judah L. Magnes, chancellor of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The American Council for Judaism, and others who have urged a truce to afford opportunity for moderates to work out an amicable solution of the differences between Arabs and Jews in Palestine. While the Zionists because of Dr. Einstein's cooperation with Dr. Chaim Weizmann in establishing Hebrew University had proclaimed the author of relativity as a Jewish nationalist, the latter made clear that he was not a Zionist in testifying before the Anglo-American Committee in 1946. He openly derided the "Jewish commonwealth" concept as "an imitation of Europe, the end of which was brought about by nationalism." He said, "I believe the idea of a Jewish state is bad; I have always been against it."

### Text of Letter

The text of the joint letter to the New York newspaper follows:

Both Arab and Jewish extremists are today recklessly pushing Palestine into a futile war. While believing in the defense of legitimate claims, these extremists on each side play into each other's hands. In this reign of terror the needs and desires of the common man in Palestine are being ignored.

We believe that in such a situation of national conflict it is vitally important that each group and particularly its leaders uphold standards of morality and reason in their own ranks rather than confine themselves to accuse their opponents of the violation of these standards. Hence we feel it to be our duty to declare emphatically that we do not condone methods of terrorism and of fanatical nationalism any more if practiced by Jews than if practiced by Arabs. We hope that responsible Arabs will appeal to their people as we do to the Jews.

Were war to occur, the peace would still leave the necessity of the two peoples working together, unless one or the other were exterminated or enslaved. Short of such a calamity, a decisive victory by either would yield a corroding bitterness. Common sense dictates joint efforts to prevent war and to foster cooperation now.

Jewish-Arab cooperation has been for many years the aim of far-sighted Jewish groups opposed to any form of terror. Recently a declaration of such a group was published in the American press under the dateline Jerusalem, March 28, 1948, to which we want to draw attention. We quote here some of the key sentences:

"An understanding between the two peoples is possible, despite the constant refrain that Jewish and Arab aspirations are irreconcilable. The claims of their extremists are indeed irreconcilable,

## Wheeling Chapter Leaders Greet Rabbi Reichert



Rabbi Irving F. Reichert of San Francisco, on national speaking tour for the American Council for Judaism, is greeted by leaders of the Wheeling, W. Va., chapter. Left to right: Ralph L. Miller, Rabbi M. P. Mann, Rabbi Reichert, D. Milton Gutman and Herbert M. Sonneborn. The occasion was the chapter's meeting at the McLure Hotel, May 10.

but the common Jew and the common Arab are not extremists. They yearn for the opportunity of building up their common country, the Holy Land, through labor and cooperation."

The signers of the statement represent various groups in Palestine Jewry. Besides Dr. Magnes, the chairman, those who signed were Dr. Martin Buber, Professor of Jewish Philosophy at Hebrew University; Dr. David Senator, administrator of the university; Dr. Kurt Wilhelm, rabbi of Emeth Ve'Emunah, liberal congregation in Jerusalem; Simon Shereshevsky, a surgeon, who belongs to the Mizrahi Zionist religious group, and Isaa Molho of the Spanish Jewish community.

Those who signed this declaration represent at the moment only a minority. However, besides the fact that they speak for a much wider circle of inarticulate people, they speak in the name of principles which have been the most significant contribution of the Jewish people to humanity.

We appeal to the Jews in this country and in Palestine not to permit themselves to be driven into a mood of despair or false heroism which eventually results in suicidal measures. While such a mood is undoubtedly understandable as a reaction to the wanton destruction of six million Jewish lives in the last decade, it is nevertheless destructive morally as well as practically.

We believe that any constructive solution is possible only if it is based on the concern for the welfare and cooperation of both Jews and Arabs in Palestine. We believe that it is the unquestionable right of the Jewish community in Palestine to protect its life and work, and that Jewish immigration into Palestine must be permitted to the optimal degree.

The undersigned plead with all Jews to focus on the one important goal; the survival and permanent development of the Jewish settlement in Palestine on a peaceful and democratic basis, the single one which secures its future in accordance with the fundamental spiritual and moral principles inherent in the Jewish tradition and essential for Jewish hope.

LEO BAECK

ALBERT EINSTEIN

New York, April 12, 1948

### FUND DRIVE FAILS

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—The American Association for Jewish Education has been unable to raise \$175,000 to meet its 1948 budget because of the fund raising campaign to establish a Jewish State, Nathan H. Friedman told the association's annual meeting May 23.

### Binswanger Heads Richmond Chapter

RICHMOND, Va.—Millard L. Binswanger was elected chairman of the Richmond chapter of the American Council for Judaism at the annual meeting May 13, succeeding Philip Klaus.

Re-elected were Dr. Harry Lyons, vice chairman; Howard Goldman, treasurer and Herbert Friedman, secretary.

Rabbi Irving F. Reichert of San Francisco was the principal speaker.

### N. Y. Chapter

(Continued from Page 1)

foster animosity against the Jews. They have so far succeeded that the Jewish community of Britain are very disturbed. The Christians who are interested in promoting good relations between Jews and Christians share in the apprehension. There is more anti-Jewish prejudice in England now than ever before. Much of the increase can clearly be traced to the trouble in Palestine and the attacks on Britain by political Zionists in other lands."

Speaking virtually on the eve of termination of the British mandate over Palestine, Dr. Hutchinson expressed his own faith in an international trusteeship looking toward the eventual establishment of a federal democratic state as offering the most hope of saving Palestine from civil war, but confessed that it was surrounded by many "ifs," because of doubledealing and blundering.

Dr. Gildersleeve, chairman of the Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land, sent a message, saying "present happenings in Palestine and the United States are endangering friendly relations among the peoples of the three faiths—Jews, Christians and Moslems—and urged renewed efforts to diminish this "grave danger."

Elected to the Executive Committee were Jack Altman, Maurice S. Benjamin, Aaron W. Berg, M. Percy Bloch, Mrs. Myron Borg, Edwin W. Brand, Eli Bronstein, David Fluegelman, George Galinger, Mrs. E. R. Glauber, Ira W. Hirschfield, and Rabbi Samuel H. Goldenson.

Also, Leo Gottlieb, Clarence Herick, Ira W. Hirschfield, Henry L. Heming, Herbert H. Maass, Harold M. Miller, Rudolf Neuburger, Stephen Ogden, William Parsont, Max Reichenback, Mrs. David A. Schulte, Ira Schur, Richard L. Simon, Edward L. Steckler, Milton Steinbach, Maxwell Steinhart, Sidney Wallach, Alfred H. Wasserstrom, and Mrs. Isaac Witkin.

### Mattuck Is Back Home in England

After a three-weeks' visit to the United States Rabbi Israel Mattuck returned to London May 15. Accompanied by his wife, Dr. Mattuck took a trans-Atlantic plane, returning as he had come, by air.

The American-educated rabbi delivered three addresses. He spoke before the Jewish Graduate Society at Columbia University and the annual meetings of the New York and Philadelphia chapters of the Council. He also was the guest of honor at a dinner at which Milton Biow, prominent advertising executive, was host.

Dr. Mattuck came to the United States, where he has visited on several occasions during the past 36 years as rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue of London, at the invitation of the New York chapter of the Council.

### Wadsworth Praises Council's Policy

The following letter was received by the New York chapter from Rep. James W. Wadsworth, of New York, member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and former United States Senator, on the occasion of its annual meeting May 11.

"Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your very courteous letter of April twenty-ninth, telling me that the annual meeting of the New York Chapter of the American Council for Judaism is to be held in New York on Tuesday, May eleventh. As you know, I have been deeply impressed for several years by the sincerity and the wisdom displayed by the members of your organization in its approach to the Palestine problem.

"As a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives I listened with deep interest to the testimony of your representatives and the recommendations which they made to our committee when we were considering the Palestine problem. And I have also read with deep interest the communications which you have sent to the President of the United States.

"Looking back over that testimony and recalling those recommendations, and observing today the utterly tragic situation prevailing in Palestine, I am convinced that the Council for Judaism has been correct in its attitude and courageous in presenting it. Furthermore, I believe that had persons in positions of higher governmental responsibility followed in principle the recommendations of the Council, far more progress would have been made toward the solution of the Palestine problem. I venture to express the hope that the present tragic situation will not deter your organization from continuing those efforts to establish a better understanding of this problem among American citizens of every religious faith.

"Ultimately, truth must prevail."

## CUBAN URGES UN TO SUMMON ACJ

As the United Nations sought during the closing days of the British mandate to devise an emergency provisional regime for Palestine, a 12-nation subcommittee heard a proposal from the Cuban delegate that it call the American Council for Judaism and Dr. Judah L. Magnes, chancellor of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and now in the United States, to testify.

Guillermo Belt, Cuban representative who has opposed partition, pointed out that "in the midst of the storm of Zionist propaganda for a sovereign Jewish state in Palestine" The North American Jews of the American Council for Judaism are developing a public campaign in opposition to the plan of partition.

"Rabbis Berger and Lazaron who head the militant groups of these Hebrew adversaries of radical Zionist nationalism, maintain that the fervor of polemic strengthens the fanatical elements which have completely abandoned the critical attitude and accuse them of mental terrorization of those who do not think as they do—a terrorization that includes attempts to break up rallies of The American Council for Judaism."

No action was taken on the Cuban's proposal.

### Reichert Talks in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI—On the basis that American Jews can have and shall have no political involvement in any foreign state, including the new nation of Israel, the way is open at long last for healing the breach that has divided the American Jewish community, Rabbi Irving F. Reichert, San Francisco, vice president of The American Council for Judaism said in an address here May 18.

Rabbi Reichert, concluding a two weeks' speaking tour on behalf of the Council, addressed a public meeting at Rockdale Temple Annex, under the auspices of the Cincinnati chapter. The speaker and the rabbi of the Temple, Dr. Victor E. Reichert, are brothers.



SERIES I

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE  
Sub-series A - Alphabetical File



Folder:

Folder title: [folder and contents lacking at time of filming  
for 4-1-33 through 4-1-42]

Folder code/number: