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

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37

American Friends of Spanish Democracy, 1936-1941.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES

Franklin, Pennsylvania
September 23, 1936

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street & Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Sir:

The Committee on Manufactures of the Senate, under Senate Resolution, is doing some work on a National Economic Council, or National Council which, I believe, may prove to be one of the most important and fundamental undertakings in generations. I am enclosing a discussion intended to give a measure of general orientation to the work.

Many of the questions involved are comparatively new and we have, therefore, held no hearings to date because we did not think it would add much of value to call witnesses to the stand, as a first step, and ask them questions they possibly had never carefully considered. As opposed to such a method, we are first trying to lay the questions involved before our thinking people and to afford them a real opportunity to consider these questions and to contribute from their experience and judgment to the work.

To better bring to bear the wealth of experience and knowledge in the nation as a whole, we are forming an Advisory Committee from the different fields to cooperate with the Committee on Manufactures of the Senate. Later on, in order to give the members of the advisory group a more convenient opportunity to discuss this with us and with each other, we expect to hold some regional meetings. The progress made so far has been very encouraging.

I think the effort being made to give the best minds and judgment of the nation a real opportunity to consider the matter with ample time to think it over in all its aspects before a bill is introduced or hearings are held is very significant in itself and constitutes a democratic technique meriting the whole hearted support of the more thoughtful.

Recent events in Spain and indeed the whole current of events abroad speak very forcibly of the dangers

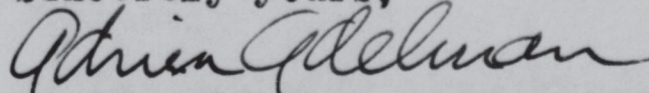
facing democratic systems and, unless we are to assume that our government is wholly immune from maladies which affect others, I believe the matter of a National Council such as is contemplated far transcends the many other innumerable movements which press upon us for attention. It is a question whether it may not be absolutely essential to the future of our democracy and democracy the world over to provide some mechanism to better bring to bear the general intelligence and judgment available.

I do not believe, as I feel sure you do not believe, in mixing religion and politics. This does not mean, however, as I see it, that we should turn our back upon the significance of the spiritual element in our civilization and it seems to me entirely fitting and proper that the spiritual leaders of the nation should be interested, in an entirely non-sectarian way, in such an undertaking as this proposed National Council. There is in it, it seems to me, much that should appeal to them, because in place of much of the strife and conflict and the concomitant injuries thereof, it envisages the settlement of the problems and disputes of men by a more real understanding and a more real brotherhood and seeks to provide a practical mechanism whereby men can be brought together and from which better understanding and better feeling would naturally flow. Aside from other considerations, it is becoming more generally recognized that grave dangers exist that our civilization and its wonders may destroy itself unless progress in the material field is accompanied by that spiritual progress which alone may avail to prevent such a result. Recent utterances of men such as Charles Lindberg and Admiral Byrd show how keenly they feel about the dangers which the advance of civilization in the field of aviation has brought to the existence of civilization itself and this is only one instance of a very grave and profound problem, at the heart of which lies the problem of spiritual progress.

There is, therefore, it seems to me a very proper place for your interest in this matter and I will be very glad to hear from you regarding it. Senator Bulkley, of Cleveland, is Chairman of the Senate Committee in charge of the work. I will be over to see him sometime soon and will be glad to see you also, if possible, and discuss this with you.

Hoping to hear from you, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Adrien Adelman

Director, Investigation

National Economic Council

Box 388 - Franklin, Pennsylvania

AUA:A

Enclosure

NORTH AMERICAN COMMITTEE TO AID SPANISH DEMOCRACY

CLEVELAND CHAPTER

ROOM 542

ENGINEERS BUILDING

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December 2nd, 1936.

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Fred Hodgson

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
10311 Lake Shore Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

This Committee is sponsoring a mass meeting to be held Tuesday, December 8th, at Euclid Avenue Baptist Church at 8:00 P.M. This meeting is being held in an effort to aid the Spanish people in their heroic struggle to preserve democracy and fight the attack of Fascism.

The famous Spanish visitors - Senora Isabel de Palencia, member of the League of Nations; Rev. Father Luis Sarasola, well-known writer on religious subjects, and Marcelino Domingo, former Minister of Education, will make their only Cleveland appearance at that time.

We would like you to be present with us at that time, to sit upon the platform with our distinguished speakers. Would you kindly let us know by Friday whether this will be possible.

Cordially yours,

George Palda, Chairman
NORTH AMERICAN COMMITTEE
TO AID SPANISH DEMOCRACY

mf
STBAU
19366

December 5, 1936

Mr. George Palda, Chairman,
North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy,
Engineers Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Palda:

Let me thank you for your letter of December 2 and for the invitation which you extend to me to attend the mass meeting of the Cleveland Chapter of the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy on Tuesday evening, December 8. Our Temple Men's Club is having a dinner meeting on that evening and it will therefore not be possible for me to attend.

With best wishes, permit me
to remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF SPANISH DEMOCRACY
ROOM 301—20 VESEY STREET
NEW YORK CITY

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CLEVELAND CHAPTER
542 ENGINEERS BLDG. MAIN 7940
CLEVELAND, OHIO

January 20, 1937

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
10311 Lake Shore Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi:

A short time ago Mr. John Sherman, representative of the Medical Bureau of the American Friends of Spanish Democracy, called upon you seeking your support and sponsorship of the Cleveland Chapter of the Bureau, and your membership upon the National Committee. I have accepted the Chairmanship of the Cleveland Chapter, and you will be pleased to know that such people as Dr. Roy Scott, Dr. T. Wingate Todd, Dr. Harry Goldblatt, Dr. Harry H. Lenhart, Miss Grace Coyle have already offered their full support as sponsors of the organization. I write to verify your acceptance as indicated by Mr. Sherman, and will telephone to confirm this.

Very sincerely yours,

Jerome Gross

Dr. Jerome Gross
Chairman, Cleveland Chapter

by dc

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CLEVELAND CHAPTER Main 7940
542 ENGINEERS BLDG.
CLEVELAND, OHIO

February 10, 1937

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
10311 Lakeshore Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

There will be a very important meeting of the Medical Bureau on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2:30 P.M. at the Y.W.C.A., Prospect and 18th Street. We should like to have all the members of the Cleveland Committee there.

The plans for our concert to aid the Spanish people are almost completed. As you may know, the date has been set for March 12 at the Masonic Auditorium. The following people and organizations are contributing their talent: Arthur Loesser, Mary Elizabeth Gleason, Leon Machan, the Women's Symphony Orchestra, and myself.

We have sent your name to the National Office to be added to the National Committee.

Very sincerely yours,

Jerome Gross
Dr. Jerome Gross, Chairman

by dc.

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

CARE TEMPLE EAST 105 ST AND ANSEL RD CLEVE=

I ACCEPTED INVITATION TO ADDRESS MEETING OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMITTEE TO AID SPANISH DEMOCRACY THIS HAS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE AGITATION IN THE LOCAL PRESS PRESSURE IS PUT FORTH TO BAN IT I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE ONE OF THE SPONSORING MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION WHETHER YOU ARE AFFILIATED WITH IT OR NOT I WILL APPRECIATE YOUR WRITTEN STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT BY AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY=

RABBI ISRAEL HARBURG.

April 12, 1937

Rabbi Israel Harburg,
Temple Beth El,
4 Timsbury Terrace,
Lynn, Mass.

My dear Rabbi Harburg:

Please pardon the delay in replying
to your telegram.

I am not a member of the American
Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy. I understand
that this organization is sponsored by radical
and communist organizations. I am a member of the
Medical Bureau of the American Friends of Spanish
Democracy which has a chapter here in Cleveland
and whose New York headquarters are 20 Vesey Street.
I have been in favor of giving the Spanish Loyalist
Government every possible support consistent with
the neutrality laws of our country.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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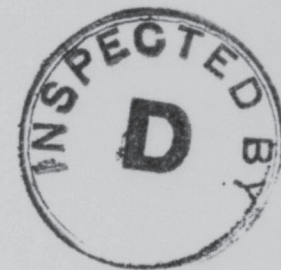
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RABBI ABBA HILLEL

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CLEVELAND CHAPTER

ROOM 217

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MAIN 7940

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Treasurer

April 29th, 1937

Dear Sir:

The great Irish priest and patriot, Rev. Father Michael O'Flanagan, will come to Cleveland, Wednesday, May 5th. Speaking in the ballroom of the Public Hall at 8:00 p.m., he will call upon Cleveland citizens to do their part in providing medical supplies for those now suffering as a result of fascist attacks.

Today's slaughter of 1000 Basques by the fascists, the increasing thousands of men, women and children now jamming the hospitals of Spain and the numerous other tragedies arising out of renewed fascist attacks, all emphasize the intense need for medical supplies from America.

Father O'Flanagan's appearance should be the occasion for the opening of a wide-spread movement to fulfill this humanitarian task.

Believing it is the duty of every humanitarian American to do everything in his power to help alleviate the agony of the Spanish people and to support those American doctors who are already working day and night in Spain, we are asking you to announce this meeting from your pulpit and to point out to your congregation the necessity of liberty loving Americans supporting, in this way, the struggle of the Spanish people to protect themselves and their government from the assault of fascism.

Sincerely yours,

Dan F. Bradley

Rev. Dan F. Bradley
(for the committee)

dfb-sl
stbau
19366

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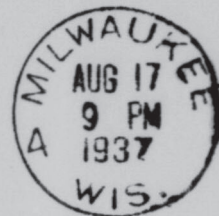
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If not delivered in 10 days return to

Catholic Herald Citizen

523 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wis.



WRHS



Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

~~10311 Lake Shore Blvd.~~

Cleveland, Ohio

*The Temple
E 105 to Ansel*

BISHOP FRANCIS J. McCONNELL
381 FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

May 4, 1937

Rabbi Abba H. Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The aerial bombing of defenseless civilian populations and the cold-blooded murder of hundreds of women and children have now reached a climax, in the Spanish war, with the massacre of the Basque Catholics at Guernica.

It seems to me incredible and impossible for Americans to remain indifferent and speechless before this crime, which is surely one of the greatest outrages of modern times. By our silence we would condone murder of the most revolting sort, and might well doom to brutal assassination an inestimable number of innocent civilians -- perhaps tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of them.

I am convinced that this question rises far above all politics, or the fortunes of insurgents or loyalists in Spain. With this thought in mind I am submitting to you an "Appeal to the Conscience of the World." Will you join President Angell of Yale, Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Mr. Charles P. Taft, Mr. Leland Stowe and myself in raising your voice in defense of the non-combatant aged and the women and children in war-torn Spain? We believe that you cannot fail to share our sentiments of outraged humanity.

If so, will you kindly inform me by collect telegram that you affix your signature to this completely non-partisan appeal? I can extend to you only the unspoken gratitude of utterly defenseless human beings who, tomorrow, may be mowed down from the air like sheep in a slaughter pen.

Very sincerely yours,

Francis J. McConnell
Francis J. McConnell

AN APPEAL TO THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD

The ancient Basque city of Guernica has been razed to the ground by Fascist Insurgent airplanes. Unfortified and unarmed, its houses, churches, and defenseless inhabitants -- 10,000 men, women and children including refugees -- were bombed and machine-gunned for nearly four hours without ceasing. The toll of slaughtered innocents exceeds 800 persons. This is the crime of Guernica. And this is the unspeakable crime of War on Women and Children, waged with a brutality and callousness unparalleled in modern times.

The massacre of Guernica has been confirmed in all its horror by such survivors as Canon Alberto Onaindia of Valladolid Cathedral and by foreign correspondents. One of them, a distinguished staff member of the London Times, described the machine-gunning of helpless civilians and added: "The only counter-measures the Basques could employ--for they did not possess sufficient airplanes to face the Insurgent fleet--were those provided by the heroism of the Basque clergy. The clergymen blessed and prayed for kneeling crowds--socialists, anarchists and communists in addition to the declared faithful--in crumbling dug-outs" (built for safety from air raids).

Will the prayers of Guernica's dead and dying go unanswered? Or will 300,000 civilians, women and children, soon meet a similar fate in Bilbao without the voices of civilized peoples being raised in overwhelming protest?

We refuse to condone such atrocities by our silence. We do not attempt to assess the contending causes which now struggle for mastery in Spain, but we do insist that this ruthless aerial warfare upon women and children stands outside the pale of morality and of civilization. We insist that there is no such thing as partisanship where this kind of mass murder occurs, or is permitted to occur. We denounce the monstrous crime of Guernica in the name of justice and humanity. We demand a revival of that noble world conscience which manifested itself in the days of the persecution of the Jews in Russia and again when the Armenian people lay prostrate before the Turks.

For these reasons we call upon all men of good will to protest this immense crime in the name of all that is sacred to human morality and human decency--and in the name of Almighty God.

* * * * *

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TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

May 6, 1937

19

To Bishop
Francis J. McConnell

Street and No. 381 Fourth Ave.

Place New York, N.Y.

I JOIN WITH YOU IN SIGNING THE APPEAL TO THE CONSCIOUS OF THE WORLD WHICH
YOU SENT ME TO PROTEST AGAINST THE UNSPEAKABLE OUTRAGE AT GUERNICA

A H SILVER

Sender's address
for reference

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY
IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

Sender's telephone
number

An Open Letter to 76 Signers of "The Crime of Guernica"

Distinguished American Citizens:

Some several months ago you allowed your names to be used in a pamphlet entitled "The Crime of Guernica."

You subscribed to the following statements:

When you subscribed your name to such serious charges, you did so in good faith. Since that time later news stories about Guernica have reached this country.

One of your members, Ex-Governor Landon, withdrew his name from the statement when these later dispatches were brought to his attention. He writes: "This testimony—the later reports—produces a reasonable doubt concerning the truth of the report that General Franco's airplanes had wantonly destroyed the city and machine-gunned its helpless inhabitants. In the light of recent developments, common justice and decency would forbid us to accuse General Franco of 'a monstrous crime' against the Basque nation—whatever that may be."

Has not the public—to which you issued your appeal "in the name of justice and humanity" a right to expect that your ardent interest in this affair would continue long enough for you to read subsequent news stories about Guernica? Have you done so? If you have, why have you not withdrawn your name from the statement?

Surely the facts prompting you to withdraw your name are as compelling as those which prompted you to subscribe. Is it that no pressure has been brought to bear upon you as was done by the group who originated the statement? One hardly expects persons who demand the "revival of a noble world conscience" to wait until they are forced to retract a slanderous statement. "Human morality and human decency" demand a voluntary retraction.

Undoubtedly you failed to read any but the very first reports about Guernica. If you had read later reports, your name would have been withdrawn from the statement you signed.

Because it might be difficult for you to refer to later news stories about this much publicized city of the Basques, I submit three statements for your perusal. There are many others that you might find if you care to investigate the matter further.

(1) "The ancient Basque city of Guernica has been razed to the ground by Fascist Insurgent aeroplanes. Unfortified and unarmed, its houses, churches and defenseless inhabitants—10,000 men, women and children, including refugees—were bombed and machine gunned for nearly four hours without ceasing. The toll of slaughtered innocents exceeds 800 persons. This is the crime of Guernica. And this is the unspeakable crime of war on women and children, waged with a brutality and callousness unparalleled in modern times."

(2) "We denounce the monstrous crime of Guernica in the name of justice and humanity. We demand a revival of that noble world conscience which manifested itself in the days of the persecution of the Jews in Russia and again when the Armenian people lay prostrate before the Turks."

(3) "For these reasons we call upon all men of good will to protest this immense crime in the name of all that is sacred to human morality and human decency—and in the name of Almighty God."

Found Bombing Evidence Lacking

(By Wm. P. Carney, New York Times, May 8)

GUERNICA, SPAIN, May 4—"This writer found most

of the destruction here could have been the result of fires and dynamiting, as the Nationalists claim, because the roofless shells of many buildings are still standing and huge shells dropped from planes do not hollow out buildings, leaving their four walls standing.

"In the street where most of the damage was done particularly around two big arms factories the Talleres de Guernica and the Esperanga works, there are no bomb holes in the streets. It is not likely that bombs dropped in an air raid would all land atop houses or buildings and none fall in the streets.

"In many respects Guernica presents the same picture of desolation that can be seen at Irun and Eibar and in part of Malaga where destruction by incendiary mobs before these cities were abandoned, never has been questioned."

From Aug. 5, New York Times

(Wm. P. Carney writing from Salamanca.)

"Several priests whose signatures appear at the bottom of a letter addressed to Pope Pius in May, protesting the destruction of Guernica by German airmen flying for Gen. Franco, have sworn to a statement, now in the possession of the authorities here, in which Pres. Jose Antonio Aguirre and other officials of the Basque government are accused of having threatened the lives of these clergymen unless they signed the letter, which they insist they had no part in drafting."

From: Red Propaganda From Spain

By Douglas Jerrold in the American Review, Summer 1937

"Every count in the indictment against General Franco is a lie, but no matter. The 'red' government got their story in first, and that, in the modern world where 'anything goes', is enough. Let us, however, for the benefit of the curious and critical minority, recite a few facts of the case.

"Guernica was bombed in the proper course of the operations against Bilbao, but it was not bombed on the day it was burnt, and it was burnt by the retreating Basque (or more probably by the Asturian) troops and not by the Nationalist forces.

"The correspondents of the Havas agency, of the Times, and of several other newspapers have affirmed positively that most of the damage which they saw was wrought not by bombing but by deliberate destruction by fires from the ground. The statements are explicit. There were only a few bomb holes—the city had been bombed intermittently for several days before it was given up) and the walls of the houses in the quarter most completely destroyed bear no marks of bomb splinters. Nor can the damage done by a bomb and that done by dynamiters and incendiaries be confused by any competent observer.

"In view of the attitude of the Times correspondent in Bilbao, the testimony of their correspondent with the Nationalist forces, who—unlike his colleague—visited Guernica after the destruction, is to any intelligent person conclusive, once we remember the question, which is not, 'Was Guernica bombed?' but, 'By whom was Guernica burned?'

"Finally, the question can be cynically determined by reference to that old question 'cui bono?' When the alleged destruction of Guernica took place it was in the process of being evacuated; an advance had taken place on all fronts and nothing could have saved the town. General Franco had nothing whatever to gain by destroying it. The Basque government, if they could get their story accepted, had everything to gain. the 'incident' would stiffen the resistance of the Catholic Basques. It would influence neutral opinion. . . .

"The Guernica story was invented to stimulate ill-will between the democratic and fascist states."

In the face of the above dispatches, hasn't the public, to which you appealed "in the name of all that is sacred to human morality and human decency," a right to expect you to withdraw your name from the original statement?

Very truly yours,

THE EDITOR.



EMBAJADA DE ESPAÑA
WASHINGTON

June 7, 1937.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St. and Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio:

Dear Dr. Silver:

I was deeply touched by the sincere expression of sympathy for the sufferings of my people signed by you and other distinguished Americans. In the name of my Government, and in my own, permit me to extend my heartfelt thanks.

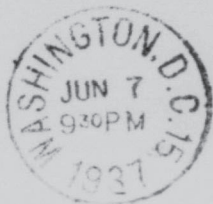
Your noble "Appeal to the Conscience of the World" for moral and political help to the innocent victims of the barbaric fascist invasion of Spain will be eternally remembered. The anguish they suffer in this time of need, as they struggle for the finest ideals of Democracy, is somewhat lessened through the sympathy and understanding of humanitarian citizens of this great country.

May I humbly thank you again, and extend my most cordial regards.

Sincerely yours,

Fernando de los Ríos
The Spanish Ambassador

SPANISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON



WRHS
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

The Temple

East 105th St. & Ansel Road

Cleveland, Ohio

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES
יד אהרן יצחק וישראל

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THEATRE PEOPLE TO SEE THE PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON WEEK OF JULY

27 JUL 2 AM 5 55

12TH IN SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE RESOLUTION REPLY NAC 381 4TH

AVE NYCITY

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WALTER B CANNON STUART DAVIS DR SAMUEL GUY INMAN PAUL KELLOGG

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Answered July 2nd

Rabbi Silver spending summer in Europe.

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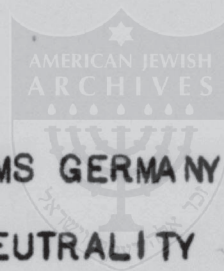
NF NEWYORK NY 1

RABBI ABBA HILEL SILVER

THE TEMPLE CLVD

RESOLUTION 390 NOW BEFORE HOUSE PROCLAIMS GERMANY ITALY AND
PORTUGAL NATIONS AT WAR AS DEFINED IN NEUTRALITY ACT AND THUS
AUTOMATICALLY SUBJECT TO EMBARGO ON WAR MATERIALS IN THE INTERESTS
OF AMERICAN SELF-RESPECT THE PRESENT DISCRIMINATORY EMBARGO AGAINST
THE SPANISH PEOPLE MUST BE CORRECTED WILL YOU JOIN DELEGATION
INTERESTED COMMITTEES TRADE UNIONISTS EDUCATORS ARTISTS WRITERS

37 JUL 2 AM 5 ET



W. A. C.

Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America

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SIDNEY L. GULICK
SECRETARY EMERITUS

July 8, 1937

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Are you inclined to sign the attached statement for publication on July 19th, the anniversary of the outbreak of the civil war in Spain? The statement emanated from England and is being circulated in other countries in the attempt to secure an impressive list of signers so as to keep this matter before the attention of the world. We believe that governments will take initiative only as the result of the pressure of public opinion.

Among those who have already signed the statement are Samuel McCrea Cavert, Newton D. Baker, Carrie Chapman Catt, Charles G. Fenwick, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Herbert S. Goldstein, Rufus Jones, W. Appleton Lawrence, Charles Clayton Morrison, William Allan Neilson, Ralph W. Sockman, Ernest Fremont Tittle, and Mary E. Woolley.

A return card is enclosed for your reply.

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell P. Barnes

RPB:S

Letter proposed to be published on July 19, 1937

Sir:

The Spanish Civil War has now been in progress for a full year. For all who have the peace of the world at heart a more tragic anniversary could hardly be recorded.

Each side has stated that for them the struggle is one of life and death. That it is the latter is certain; the Cardinal-Archbishop of Toledo has estimated that the war, before it is concluded, will have cost a million casualties.

The memory of two wars is recent with us. That in the Chaco was ended by exhaustion; that in Abyssinia by conquest. It is, indeed, a melancholy reflection, almost a counsel of despair, to suppose that there are no alternatives beside these.

Nor can we be content with a measure of non-intervention designed simply to localize the conflict. Much more would be necessary to prevent conflagration if, say, a country in a more delicate international position became the scene of such an outbreak. To save civilization a more vigorous moral effort in making peace is required of all of us. It is in order to stir neutral leaders to that end that we make this appeal. Preoccupied as they are with immediate difficulties, we beg them not to forget the larger issues of peace.

We earnestly hope that the early months of the second year of war will see a renewed and steadily maintained effort by neutral groups or governments or parties to formulate terms of settlement which would secure for all classes in Spain more than could possibly be secured by peace through exhaustion, and more than could ultimately be retained through victory by force of arms?

An Appeal to the Leaders and Members
of American Churches and Synagogues

Have our hearts turned to stone or are they still capable of human feeling? More than 10,000 children have been killed and more than 15,000 wounded in aerial bombings of open cities in Spain. On one day, May 31, in the little town of Granollers, 600 were killed or maimed. Most of the victims were women and children.

Photographs of hundreds of the murdered and maimed have come to this country. Most of them are too horrible for publication. "Most of the victims were women and children." This sentence appears over and over again in the news dispatches. What has happened that men and women can remain silent when confronted with such barbarity?

The answer is - we may as well admit it - that we have become almost accustomed to the horror. We no longer feel the same acute shock and indignation we felt when first we read such dispatches.

Let every humane person search his heart! Are we ready to acquiesce in these things? Does the scream of a child mean nothing to us - any more? Surely we dare not admit that such wanton and cynical destruction of human life must now be accepted as a part of modern life!

Our Secretary of State has publicly expressed his condemnation of this kind of warfare. England and France have lodged protests with General Franco. Three times the Vatican has pleaded for a cessation of the bombings. The bombings continue.

We believe that the voice of the people is more potent than any official gesture. We, therefore, call upon people of every faith to join with us in observing Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17, as days of solemn protest against aerial bombings of defenseless civilians. And we especially invite the clergy of every faith to appeal to the conscience of the world against ruthless and unnecessary destruction of life.

Bishop James C. Baker
Rt.Rev. Benjamin Brewster
Rev. Samuel McCrea Cavert, D.D.
Bishop Matthew W. Clair
Rabbi Henry Cohen
Rev. Charles W. Gilkey, D.D.

Rt.Rev. G. Ashton Oldham
Rt.Rev. Robert L. Paddock
Rev. Guy Emery Shipler
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Rev. Charles W. Welch, Th.D.
Rabbi Stephen S. Wise

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NEWYORK NY 31

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

THE TEMPLE CLEVE



WILL YOU SIGN OUR MESSAGE TO ROOSEVELT ASKING PUBLIC PROTEST
AGAINST NEW WHOLESALE BOMBINGS RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS SPANISH
CITIES, INDICATING ESTABLISHED REBEL POLICY PURSUED ON LARGER
AND LARGER SCALE AMERICA'S PROTEST MAY HELP TO HALT WANTON
DESTRUCTION HUMAN LIFE AND ESTABLISHMENT SINISTER PRECEDENT
FOR FUTURE WARS. WIRE US COLLECT VIA WESTERNUNION

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF SPANISH DEMOCRACY 70 FIFTH AVENUE.

Coverly
+ Cedar Rd

St. Ann's Church

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

April 4, 1938.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,
10311 Lake Shore Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Under the title "Civic Welcome for Spain's Spokesman" I note your name mentioned, among others, as one of a sponsor's committee to attend a reception in honor of the Spanish Ambassador, Fernando de los Rios.

May I respectfully recall to your mind the almost unanimous cooperation of our Catholic people, both lay and cleric, with your people, in making protest against Hitler's inhuman treatment of the Jewish people in Germany.

While I readily admit your right, as a free citizen, to follow any course your judgment dictates, I feel that common justice and gratitude would suggest that you hesitate to lend your influence and encouragement to the representative of a government which has slaughtered our defenseless co-religionists in Spain.

Surely a man of your intelligence cannot expect me and mine, to continue to unite with you and yours in protest against injustice to the Jewish people in Germany, or elsewhere, and have Jewish leaders offer encouragement and aid to the persecutors of Catholics in Spain.

Hoping that the Plain Dealer article was misleading, I am,

Sincerely,

John M. Powers

April 13, 1938

Reverend John M. Powers,
St. Ann's Church,
Coventry and Cedar Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Reverend Powers:

Let me thank you for your letter of April 4 and for your frank statement with reference to my name being included among the sponsors of a reception which was tendered to the Spanish Ambassador, Fernando de los Rios.

I shall be equally frank in my answer. I am opposed to all Fascist, Nazi, and Communist governments and movements because I believe them to be a menace to civilization. I am opposed to them regardless of whether under those regimes Jews are persecuted or not. In the Soviet Union and in Fascist Italy, the Jews are not being persecuted and yet I am opposed to Russian Communism and Italian Fascism quite as much as I am opposed to German Nazism under whose regime the Jews are inhumanly persecuted.

General Franco has set himself up avowedly as a Fascist dictator. He has announced that to be his program. I am therefore opposed to him and the cause which he represents. I am profoundly moved and distressed at what is undoubtedly a fact, that members of the Catholic Clergy have in some instances, been made to suffer unjustly at the hands of the Loyalist Government. There can be no excuse for it. But this fact does not establish, in my mind, the righteousness of General Franco's cause. My information is that Catholic Priests have also in some instances been made to suffer unjustly at the hands of General Franco. This, too, is unpardonable. I am enclosing herewith an article from the New York Times of Tuesday, April 12, which gives the other side of the story.

Let me assure you, my dear Reverend Powers, that my sympathies with the cause of the Loyalist Government are in no way influenced by ill will towards

J. M. Powers

-2-

April 13, 1938

the great church of which you are a member, for which I have had great admiration and whose service to humanity I have praised over and over again in the pulpit and on the lecture platform.

You may be interested to know that two years ago, at the sessions of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, a resolution was adopted protesting against the persecution of the Catholic Church in Mexico.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:CK



COMMITTEE TO AID SPANISH DEMOCRACY

912 CHARLEVOIX BLDG. • 2033 PARK AVE.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN • CADILLAC 6605

A delegate body composed of representatives
from organizations aiding Spanish Democracy

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April 15, 1938

Rabbi Aba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Ansel Road & E. 105th St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Miss Ann Rontal, one of the
representatives of the Committee to Aid Spanish
Democracy, will be in Cleveland this weekend and
will try to contact you in order to discuss with
you the possibility of your participation in a
meeting we are planning for the near future.

We trust you will be good enough
to grant Miss Rontal a half hour of your time to
make this interview possible.

Cordially yours,

Sol A. Green
Sol A. Green, secretary
Committee to Aid Spanish
Democracy

SAC:MF

uopwa
#26

St. Ann's Church

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

April 28, 1938.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, D.D.,
10311 Lake Shore Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Since I received your answer to my former letter, I have been wavering between two impulses - the desire to answer, and the fear that my answer might appear to seek to draw you into a controversy. My desire has at last overcome my fear, therefore this letter.

I frankly cannot understand how you could construe anything in my letter as indicating allegiance to - or a plea for, General Franco, or his cause. I am, like you, opposed to both fascist or communist dictators. Aside from this I feel we have too many real problems in our own country, the solution of which should have our deepest study, to the exclusion of foreign problems.

If I had any desire to espouse either cause (which I have not), I would not dare to do so, because my study of the matter has led me to feel that practically every report is either unreliable or positively prejudiced.

May I call to your attention the fact that the persecution and slaughter of priests, nuns and lay Catholics, was largely carried on with the assistance, or at least without the opposition, of the government years before Franco's rebellion was ever thought of, and that this was probably the greatest contributing cause to the starting of the rebellion.

Referring to the clipping of New York Times, which you enclosed, I question the integrity of the writer, when I have information of unquestionable reliability to the contrary. Pope Pius has recently issued a statement that thirteen hundred seventy (1370) priests and nuns, belonging to religious orders, have been executed. This does not include secular priests who are more numerous.

I am enclosing a clipping announcing four Christian Easter services held in the city of Madrid - a town that is ninety per cent Catholic, and these four were held by four Protestant Denominations.

St. Ann's Church

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

-2-

I fear the time is fast approaching when your people and my people will be called on to present a united front to a common enemy, and will have the right to demand of leaders like you and me proper direction.

Maybe I am over serious, but I assure you I have no other motive in seeming to pursue this matter.

Most respectfully yours,

John M. Powers



FRANCO BROADENS WEDGE ON COAST

Insurgents Capture Two Vil- lages, Drive On

HENDAYE, France (at the Spanish Frontier)—April 17.—(AP)—A slashing attack from the south today brought Spanish Insurgents nearer Tortosa, important highway center blocking Generalissimo Francisco Franco's campaign to broaden his coastal wedge in government Spain.

Insurgent commanders reported capture of two villages from stubbornly resisting government mountain troops placed them almost within striking distance of Tortosa, a city of 20,000 at the delta head of the Ebro River.

The captured towns were Mas De Barberans, ten miles to the southwest and La Galera, twelve miles due south.

* * *
MADRID, April 17. — (AP) — Easter was celebrated today in four war-scarred Protestant churches by about 1,000 persons who the pastors reported had regularly attended unmolested services since the war began 21 months ago.

Lutheran and Baptist services were held in the regular chapels which, although marked by ma-

chine-gun bullets, were still serviceable. Episcopal and Presbyterian services were held in temporary chapels adjacent to the regular churches.

The main Presbyterian chapel had been ruined and windows of the Episcopal chapel had been shattered by a bomb about a year ago.

All four churches lie within a mile of the actual front and rifle or machine-gun bullets often land in the church grounds.



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Pres. Frank P. Graham
L. O. Hartman
Rabbi Edward Israel
Matthew Josephson
Francis Fisher Kane
Paul Kellogg
Freda Kirchwey
Max Lerner
Prof. Robert Morss Lovett
Dr. J. A. MacCallum
Benjamin C. Marsh
Bishop Francis J. McConnell
Prof. C. H. McIlwain
Arhibold MacLeish
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Herbert A. Miller
Lewis Mumford
Pres. William Allan Neilson
Prof. Frederick Nussbaum
Prof. Harry A. Overstreet
Bishop Edward L. Parsons
William Pickens
Herbert Ingram Priestley
Dorothy Ross
Charles Edward Russell
Prof. Arthur M. Schlesinger
Leland Stowe
Alan Sweezy
Mary Van Kleeck
Willard Uphaus
Oswald Garrison Villard
Lillian D. Wald
Rev. David Rhys Williams
Rabbi Stephen S. Wise

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF SPANISH DEMOCRACY
ROOM 414 — 70 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

Telephone: ALgonquin 4-6921

Chairman
Executive Committee
Prof. Samuel Guy Inman
Vice Chairman
Executive Committee
Rev. Guy Emery Shipler

June 29, 1938.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We propose to send the enclosed letter to Protestant and Jewish clergy all over the United States, asking them to observe July 16 and 17 as days of protest against the bombing of open cities.

To make our appeal more impressive, we are asking sixteen distinguished persons of both faiths to sign the letter. May we have your signature?

Bishop Paddock and Guy Emery Shipler, editor of the Churchman, have already given their signatures, and the others we are inviting to sign are Samuel McCrea Cavert, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Bishop Benjamin Brewster of Maine, Bishop G. Ashton Oldham of Albany, Bishop Edgar Blake of Detroit, Bishop James C. Baker of California, Charles W. Welch of Louisville, Bishop Matthew W. Clair of Kentucky, Rabbi Edward L. Israel of Baltimore, Rabbi Henry Cohen of Galveston, and Rabbi Leo Franklin of Detroit.

As it is necessary to get this letter into the mails as early as possible to give the clergymen time to prepare their sermons, we would appreciate it very much if you would reply by wire collect.

Yours very sincerely,

Natalie Hankemeyer
Natalie Hankemeyer
Executive Secretary

June 30, 1938

Miss Natalie Hankemeyer, Executive Secretary
American Friends of Spanish Democracy
70 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Hankemeyer:

In reply to your letter of
June 29, permit me to state that you may
use my name in connection with the letter
protesting against the bombing of open
cities.

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

STANDARD TIME INDICATED
RECEIVED AT
TELEPHONE YOUR TELEGRAMS TO POSTAL TELEGRAPH

Form 16 L

Postal Telegraph

Mackay Radio
Commercial Cables



All America Cables
Canadian Pacific Telegraphs

THIS IS A FULL RATE TELEGRAM, CABLE-
GRAM OR RADIOGRAM UNLESS OTHERWISE
INDICATED BY SYMBOL IN THE PREAMBLE
OR IN THE ADDRESS OF THE MESSAGE.
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X 120 NJG 109 12 EX NL

WX NEWYORK NY JAN 7 1941

CT

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

342 MADISON AVE NYC

DR. ABRAHAM FLEXNER OF INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY HAS SENT THE
AMERICAN RESCUE SHIP MISSION AN UNSOLICITED TELEGRAM WHICH STATES
QUOTE PLEASE RETAIN MY NAME ON THE LIST OF SPONSORS FOR THE AMERICAN
RESCUE SHIP MISSION. I AM DISGUSTED THAT ANYONE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN BY
THE LOOSE TALK REGARDING COMMUNISM. IT IS HIGH TIME THAT THAT
SORT OF THING SHOULD BECOME RIDICULOUS. ABRAHAM FLEXNER UNQUOTE STOP
AFTER EXAMINATION OF MATERIAL SENT TO YOU SPECIAL DELIVERY LAST NIGHT
WILL BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE YOUR REAFFIRMATION OF BELIEF IN AMERICAN
RESCUE SHIP MISSION BY COLLECT WIRE.

HELEN R BRYAN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
AMERICAN RESCUE SHIP MISSION
UNITED AMERICAN SPANISH AID

200 FIFTH AVENUE NEWYORKCITY.

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NOTED BY	REFER TO
	HM
JAN 8 1941	
ANSWERED	