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

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American Jewish Conference, 1948-1949.



**AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

**DATE:** October 14, 1948

**FROM:** Abram Rothfeld

**SUBJECT:**

Below are excerpts from Col. Bernard Bernstein's letter of October 11th to me dealing with his conversations with U.S. officials in Paris, which I believe you will find of interest:

"...Meanwhile on Saturday I had a conference alone with Jessup for 3/4 of an hour in which he listened to my views. He said that he himself was not handling the Palestine question and that he would put me in touch with U.S. delegation people who were. In fact from what I have heard, Jessup's influence is growing because he is showing increasing stature and competence in handling the problems assigned to him. I am also trying to arrange an appointment with Dulles.

...I think it is clear that the U.S. delegation staff experts here are tied to the British kite on the Palestine question and that such experts recommend giving the Jews as little as possible. Shertok said of Dean Rush that it was hopeless to talk to him because he reflected a "carefully concealed irritation with the Jews."

...So far as I could ascertain here from an excellent source, Dulles has not indicated as of last Saturday what he or Dewey thought of Palestine question. Same source indicated Dulles and Dewey might continue to play game of hiding their views and that Truman and Marshall might try to play same game and in effect leave American decision to U.S. experts....."

Col. Bernstein, as you know, is a member of the Conference delegation to the General Assembly Sessions.



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 10, 1948

XXIV

Biltmore Hotel, New York City

The meeting opened at 2:30 p.m., with Louis Lipsky, chairman of the Executive Committee, presiding.

Those present were: Joseph R. Apfel, Maurice Bisgyer, Harry M. Ehrlich, Miss Jane Evans, Mrs. Ida Cook Farber (alt. for Mrs. A. Orlow), Dr. Simon Federbush, Daniel Frisch, William M. Gerber, Arthur Gilbert, Frank Goldman, Lester Gutterman, Mrs. Josephine Grossman (alt. for Hon. Justine Wise Polier), Mrs. Joseph Hamerman, Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman, Sidney G. Kusworm, Jacob Marrus, Samuel Rothstein, Samuel Pevzner (alt. for Rubin Saltzman), Louis Segal, Alex F. Stanton, Hermann Stern, Mrs. Robert Szold, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Baruch Zuckerman. Guest: Mrs. Rachel Vixman.  
Staff: Col. Bernard Bernstein, Abram Rothfeld, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, Mrs. Theresa Adler, Lillian Friedman.

I. MINUTES OF MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23, 1948 - Approved.

II. REPORT ON UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION:

- A. Col. Bernstein reported for the Conference delegation. (Full text of his report is attached.)
- B. Mr. Bisgyer, supplementing Col. Bernstein's report, made particular reference to the delegation's concern with the Israeli question, and observed that the heads of Medinath Israel were very pleased with the caliber of work done and assistance rendered by the Conference representatives.

MOTION: Dr. Wise's motion that the Interim Committee express and record its deep appreciation of the services rendered in this connection by Col. Bernstein and Mr. Bisgyer was CARRIED.

III. MOTION TO RESCIND (Pursuant to notice of October 11, 1948) - Mr. Rothstein moved to rescind the action of the Interim Committee of December 29, 1947, fixing the date of dissolution of the Conference. The resolution in question read as follows:

"If the elections to the new body shall not have been held by December 31, 1948, the Interim Committee shall proceed to wind up the affairs of the American Jewish Conference, and submit its final written report to the delegates of that body and to the general public."

In his plea for support of his motion, Mr. Rothstein emphasized his belief that had there been any doubt on December 29, 1947, that the projected American Jewish Assembly would not come into being, the Interim Committee would not have determined to conclude Conference activities before its tasks had been completed.



In the ensuing debate, the following participated: Miss Evans, Mrs. Vixman, Messrs. Apfel, Goldman, Marrus, Frisch, Stanton, Segal, Stern, Wise and Zuckerman.

On a roll call vote, Mr. Rothstein's motion was defeated by a vote of 21 - 5, with 3 abstentions.

At this point Dr. Wise assumed the chair.

MOTION: Mr. Lipsky, after referring to the negative vote on Mr. Rothstein's proposal, and to the concern of the entire membership of the Interim Committee that the affairs of the Conference be brought to an honorable and recorded end, requested the privilege of moving the adoption of the following resolution:

Taking cognizance of the resolution adopted at the Fourth Session of the American Jewish Conference held in Chicago November 29 - December 1, 1947, to the effect that if a new body has not come into being by December 31, 1948, the Interim Committee be directed to proceed forthwith to wind up the affairs of the American Jewish Conference and submit its final written report to the delegates of that body and to the Jewish public, which resolution was referred with power to act to the Interim Committee;

Considering the resolution adopted by the Interim Committee on December 29, 1947, which was in effect an approval of the preceding resolution, and also the resolution adopted by the Interim Committee on March 10, 1948, proposing the indefinite continuation of the Conference;

The Interim Committee now finds that the situation requires the adoption of final instructions calling for the winding up of the affairs of the Conference as described in the resolution of the Chicago Convention quoted above, and therefore;

RESOLVES, that a Final Committee be appointed to consist of Lester Gutterman, Jacob Marrus, Hermann Stern and Louis Lipsky, ex officio, to wind up the affairs of the Conference, to dispose of its assets, to discharge all its liabilities, in accordance with a schedule of assets and liabilities which will be hereto appended; to conclude all activities of the American Jewish Conference as of December 31, 1948, submitting a report of what it has done to a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference to be held on or about January 31, 1949; the Executive Committee in turn then to send out a final statement to the delegates of the Conference, to the members of the Interim Committee and to the public at large; and when that act shall have been completed to adjourn sine die. And from that day the Conference shall cease to function.

The motion was seconded by Messrs. Apfel and Stern and CARRIED.

At this point Mr. Lipsky resumed the chair.

MOTION: Dr. Wise's motion that the Interim Committee tender and record its deep-felt thanks to the Chairman of the Executive Committee for his leadership and service to the American Jewish Conference was seconded by Mr. Goldman and CARRIED.

MOTION: Dr. Wise's motion that the Interim Committee express, and cause to be spread upon the minutes, its own sense of appreciation of the late Henry Monsky, the sense of permanent indebtedness of American Jewry to him, and the conviction that whatever future over-all organization may be created will be a monument to his memory was, upon a rising vote, CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. sine die.



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