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American Zionist Council, 1954-1955.

No Arms for Arab States Without Peace in the Middle East

A Memorandum

Submitted by the

AMERICAN ZIONIST COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The United States Government has given its wholehearted support to the national aspirations of the peoples of the Middle East since the first World War, generally with bipartisan approval. It has had a large share of responsibility for the fact that eight Arab states and the State of Israel have won and now enjoy sovereignty and independence.

The road to independence was not traversed without great difficulties. Some of the problems arising in the Middle East have been solved in recent years, but the question of Arab-Israel relations still remains on the agenda. Now, more than six years since Israel was established, the Arab states, bound together in a league of hostility towards the new State, still regard it as an intruder and still obstinately reject peace with their neighbor.

Peace between the Arab states and Israel is essential if the region is to lift itself to the higher reaches of economic progress and joint defense against aggression. Peace and economic cooperation within the region are indispensable for any military defense that may be constructed against aggressive Communism.

The steps now being taken by the United States Government to supply arms to the Arab states in spite of their reluctance to align themselves firmly and openly with the Western world and without their agreement to end their belligerence against the State of Israel will not promote the cause of peace nor the cause of military defense against aggressive Communism.

On the contrary, the premature supply of arms to the Arab states without conditions will, in effect, delay peace, stimulate Arab hostility against Israel and obstruct the organization of an effective defense system in the region. Verbal assurances of good intentions alternating with threats and appeals to hatred are meaningless performances upon which no reliance can be placed.

The statement which appears on the following page is submitted to you with the hope that it also reflects your views. If it does, we would welcome your signature or an expression of your own views on this vital matter in your own words.

LOUIS LIPSKY
Chairman

September 15, 1954.

American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs,
1737 H Street N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

UNITED STATES POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

I. I am opposed to the grant of arms to any of the Arab states unless they:

1. declare their readiness to join in the defense of the Free World against Communist aggression;
2. agree to negotiate a peace settlement with the State of Israel; and
3. in advance of any such negotiations, abandon their direct and indirect boycott and blockade of Israel, and in the case of Egypt, the restrictions on the free movement of shipping to and from Israel through the Suez Canal.

II. I believe that the Administration should make a new and vigorous effort to bring the Arab states and Israel to the peace table for direct negotiations.



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I. L. KENEN, *Executive Director*

September 16, 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR ACTION #9

Dear Friend:

The plan of the Department of State to give arms to Iraq and Egypt is a menace to Israel's security and contrary to the best interests of our own country.

It is important to secure expressions of opposition from leading citizens and, particularly, from members of Congress and candidates for Congress.

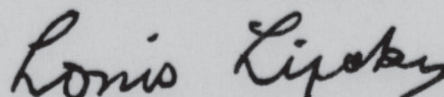
Please arrange to submit the enclosed statement to all Congressional candidates on both tickets in your area without delay. Ask them for their signatures or, if they prefer, to draft their own statements. Ask them to make a public statement during the course of their campaign.

It would be preferable if a committee of community leaders called on the candidates to discuss the problem in greater detail.

Please consult with other leaders in your community to make certain that this is done without duplication of effort. Also, make sure that an effective approach is made to the candidates for Senate if there is a contest in your state this year.

We wish to complete this poll by October 8. Please act and let us hear from you promptly.

Sincerely yours,



Louis Lipsky
Chairman

Enc.

CHESHIN
JUSTICE S. ZALMAN CHESIN

Mr. Justice Chesin^h is Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the State of Israel. He has been a judge since 1947. Justice Chesin was born in Jerusalem in 1904. He was educated in that city and is a graduate of the Jerusalem Teachers Seminary.

He came to the United States for his legal education and was graduated from New York University in 1931 with a Doctor of Law. He was a member of the New York State Bar Association and has written several law books in Hebrew.

October 8, 1954

AMERICAN ZIONIST COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
RABBI IRVING MILLER

October 15, 1954

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

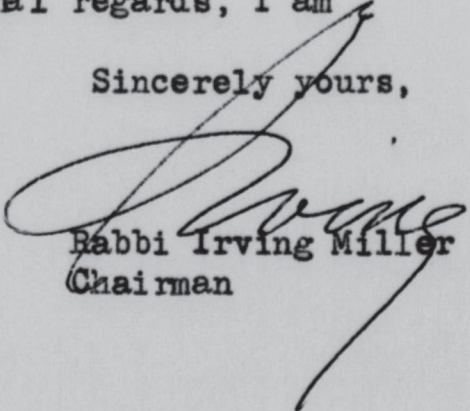
I trust that this note finds you and yours well and enjoying this holiday season.

May I impose on you to the extent of seeking your cooperation in arranging for leading public officials in your city to meet Justice S. Z. Chesin, who, as you know, is the presiding Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel and who will be in Cleveland from Wednesday, November 22nd, through Saturday, November 27th.

We have already contacted Mr. Danaceau, who is in general charge of arranging Judge Chesin's visit to Cleveland but I feel very strongly that some kind of a civic reception involving the Mayor, leading judges, etc. should be arranged for him, and I am sure that a word from you would go a long way.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


Rabbi Irving Miller
Chairman

IM:JK

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AMERICAN ZIONIST COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1737 H STREET N.W. • WASHINGTON 6, D. C. • EXECUTIVE 3-1060

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152 Madison Ave.
New York 16, N. Y.

October 21, 1955

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SYDNEY LUBARR
1737 H St., N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

As you probably know, we have assumed the responsibility of obtaining \$200,000 to meet the budgetary requirements of the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs.

It would be presumptuous on our part to indicate the importance of the work of the Committee since we are sure that you are fully aware of the immediate task that must be achieved in light of the precarious position of United States-Israel friendship.

We want you to know that this is not a form letter, Rabbi Silver. It is being sent to twenty-four very top leaders in the American Zionist movement.

You can be very helpful if you would agree to:

1. Provide us with a list of one hundred of your personal friends and associates.
2. Send a letter to them requesting a contribution of \$100 for the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs.

We will be happy to take care of all the details involved such as lettershop work, mailing, etc., so that there will be a minimum of effort necessary on your part.

We know that if you consent to our request, it will help us immeasurably in our effort to get the necessary money in the shortest period of time.

May we hear from you.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Joselyn M. Shore
JOSSELYN M. SHORE

Lawrence G. Laskey
LAWRENCE G. LASKEY

jms/lgl/ek

"THE COMMITTEE CONDUCTS PUBLIC ACTION, BEARING UPON RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES, WITH A VIEW TO MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD WILL BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL."

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