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

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

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American Zionist Emergency Council, Christian council on
Palestine, 1943-1944.

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON PALESTINE

70 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 11, N. Y. — ALGONQUIN 4-2720

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DR. DANIEL A. POLING

REV. DR. HAROLD PAUL SLOAN

September 28, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 106th Street and Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

At the September 27th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Christian Council on Palestine, a unanimous resolution instructed us to send you warmest greetings on the occasion of the Holiday Season. We express to you our high hopes that this message will manifest our oneness with the Jewish people in all their aspirations.

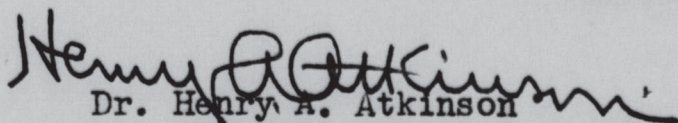
Throughout the entire Christian world there are countless co-religionists who, with us, will stand before God in supplication that the horrible brutalities visited upon your people will cease and justice again reign supreme.

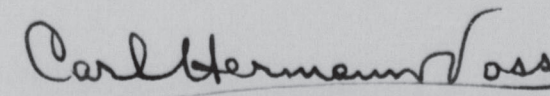
We are doing our utmost to arouse the concern of our Christian clergy and laity so that an equitable solution may speedily be found to grant a refuge to the great people who wander homeless and stateless across the war-torn continent of Europe. This is one way in which Christian churches and their constituency may bear the responsibility and unwillingness to act promptly.

We shall do all we can in these coming months and years to stem the tides of anti-Semitism. Furthermore, we shall throw all our efforts into the struggle for a homeland where your stricken millions may again find the dignity and stature which are so rightfully theirs. This action is in obedience to the religious imperatives of the Judaeo-Christian tradition, but it is more than that - it is our partial payment to you of the enormous debt we owe for the priceless contributions of Judaism to our Christian heritage.

On these High Holy Days, we send our sincere good wishes to all our Jewish brothers here in America and throughout the world. We join hands with you in proclaiming our common faith in the destruction of the evil forces which swarm over the world today, and we anticipate ultimate victory for justice and truth.

Sincerely yours,


Dr. Henry A. Atkinson
~~Chairman~~


Dr. Carl Hermann Voss
Executive Secretary

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

MEMORANDUM

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date December 29, 1943

From Lilian Mond

Re: Christian Council on Palestine

At Mr. Montor's suggestion I am sending you herewith a copy of the covering letter (on the stationery of the Christian Council on Palestine) which is to be sent with the pamphlet "Shall the Door Be Shut?" to the members of the Christian Council on Palestine (which numbers approximately 950).

Dr. Carl Hermann Voss, the Executive Secretary of the Christian Council on Palestine, plans to follow up this pamphlet with a resolution on the White Paper. He is preparing such a resolution which he intends to send out to the members of the Executive Committee of the Christian Council on Palestine, for their approval, after which he plans to send the resolution to the members of the Christian Council on Palestine and get their signatures for a release to the editors of newspapers some time in January.

(Covering letter for pamphlet "Shall the Door Be Shut" to be mailed
to the members of the Christian Council on Palestine)

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON PALESTINE

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PROF. S. RALPH HARLOW

REV. DR. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES

DR. DANIEL A. POLING

REV. DR. HAROLD PAUL SLOAN

December 29th, 1943

Dear

On April 1, 1944, by the terms of the Chamberlain White Paper of 1939, no further immigration of Jews into Palestine will be permitted. This means that millions of homeless and hunted Jews in Nazi-dominated Europe have no place to which they may escape from the ravages of Hitlerism.

We of the Christian Council on Palestine are so deeply concerned about this matter that we are urging action on the part of our members. We know that you want the facts. In order to make our members aware of the problem, we are sending you this pamphlet entitled "Shall the Door Be Shut?"

I trust you will read this brochure carefully and determine upon a course of action which seems most appropriate for your community. We shall communicate with you later to enlist your aid in a campaign for the abrogation of the White Paper of 1939.

If you have any questions concerning these issues, or if we can be of any aid to you in arousing public opinion in your local community, both Dr. Atkinson and I would appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

CARL HERMANN VOSS
Executive Secretary

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON PALESTINE

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REV. LESLIE T. PENNINGTON
DR. DANIEL A. POLING
REV. DR. HAROLD PAUL SLOAN
PROF. PAUL TILlich
MR. PIERRE VAN PAASSEN

March 27, 1944

Dear Dr. Silver:

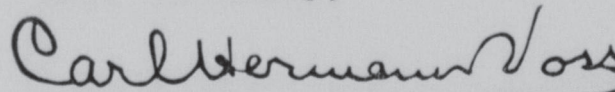
Enclosed is a copy of the program and purposes of the Christian Council on Palestine, which is being sent to you in the hope that you may have some suggestions for our Executive Committee. I trust you will read these resolutions and aid us in our work.

We would appreciate hearing from you, if you have any names to suggest for membership. We shall be happy to write to local ministers to whom you may have spoken about the necessity of fulfilling the Balfour Declaration and abrogating the White Paper. If you desire more copies of these resolutions as well as other publications of the Christian Council on Palestine, such as "I Speak As a Christian" by Dorothy Thompson; "More Light On the Jewish Question"; and "The Jewish Problem Is a Christian Problem" by Henry A. Atkinson, let us know the number you need. We shall send you any number you desire to distribute at some ministers' meeting.

At various times and places, the Rev. Richard E. Evans, Dr. S. Ralph Harlow, the Rev. Karl Chworowsky, Dr. Howard Warren, Dr. Henry A. Atkinson and I are available to speak to ministerial groups. I would be happy to confer with you about such meetings at some later date.

You have my best wishes in your work. May I hear from you at your earliest convenience?

Most cordially,



CARL HERMANN VOSS
Executive Secretary

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

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON PALESTINE
70 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N.Y. -- A lgonquin 4 2720

May 10, 1944

Mr. Harry L. Shapiro
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the letter you wrote in answer to Mr. Conrad Hoffman.

I have known Mr. Hoffman for a number of years and know of his great interest in the missionary movement. The answer to his fear is the fact that he is interested not only in missions in Moslem lands, but is one of the directors of that part of the Protestant Christian missionary effort that is seeking to convert the Jews.

I must say Hoffman is moved very much by humanitarian impulses and is an able exponent of his point of view.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours

Henry A. Atkinson

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5/17/44

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

May 3, 1944

Mr. Conrad Hoffmann
Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church
in the United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Hoffmann:

We have no opinion that we can give you on the question that you have put in your letter of April 27 with reference to American church sponsorship of political Zionism and its potential dangers to the missionary approach of said churches to the Moslem world. As far as we have any idea on the subject it is the feeling that missionary efforts will in no way be affected.

If we may use an analogy, when the American troops overcame Vichy control in Algiers the problem was presented for the restoration of citizenship for the Jews in that country, which the Cremieux Decree had granted them in the 1850s. The Vichy Government had revoked this Decree and had put in a modification of the German Nuremberg law which made outlaws of the Jewish citizens in that country. Strenuous objections were raised to restoring the Jewish rights as they existed under the Cremieux Decree on the ground that this would create a revolt among the Arabs. However, when our Government did act favorably and the Cremieux Decree was restored, there was no trouble of any sort.

A similar situation, we feel, exists with respect to the threats of trouble in Palestine. It is our impression that the rank and file of the Arabs in Palestine are far less disturbed about the prospects of Jewish settlement than many of their leaders want the world to believe. Because of this we feel, therefore, that whatever action is taken it will not seriously disturb the good relations which missionaries have established throughout the Near East. The aims of the Zionists are not imperialistic and we only seek to obtain elementary justice for our stricken people.

Our leaders are particularly favorable to the plan for an informal non-public conference with some of the foreign mission representatives of your churches who carry on the work in Moslem lands and our organization. I am in a position to assure you that if a date is set some of our outstanding leaders will be quite ready to meet with you for the purpose of a frank and open discussion, which undoubtedly will prove helpful.

Cordially yours,

Harry L. Shapiro
Director

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5/17/44

CC: Dr. Voss
Dr. Atkinson

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

BOARD of NATIONAL MISSIONS
of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in the
UNITED STATES of AMERICA
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

April 27, 1944

Mr. Harry L. Shapiro,
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

We are indeed grateful for your note of April 24th announcing the sending of various Zionist literature which in the meantime has arrived. Please accept my sincere thanks.

We do appreciate receiving a copy of the book by Dr. Lowdermilk, entitled, "Palestine, The Land of Promise". In fact we had ordered a copy from the publishers.

We shall, of course, appreciate receipt of future publications that you may be issuing for we are vitally interested in the subject and have some influence in Christian circles. I am working not only with the Board of National Missions, but also with the International Missionary Council on the question concerning Jewish Christian relationships.

Do you perchance have any statement on the present agitation with reference to American Church sponsorship of political Zionism and its potential dangers to the missionary approach of said churches to the Moslem world? I recently suggested in one of our groups that some time we should plan a small informal non-public conference between some of the foreign mission representatives of our churches carrying on work in Moslem lands and representatives of the Jewish organizations interested in Zionism, particularly its political aspects. What do you think of such a proposal? It would at least afford opportunity for informal exchange of opinions and might serve to eliminate some of the prevalent anxiety regarding the matter.

Sincerely yours,

CH/m
CC: Dr. Voss
Dr. Atkinson

Conrad Hoffmann:

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5/17/44

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

April 24, 1944

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Attention: Mr. Conrad Hoffman

Gentlemen:

Your letter addressed to the Zionist Organization of America was turned over to this office. As you will note from this letter, we are one of the affiliates of the Zionist Organization.

Under separate cover we are sending you a number of publications issued by the American Zionist Emergency Council. We are also sending you a copy of Dr. Lowdermilk's book entitled, "Palestine, The Land of Promise". We have a number of other publications in process of print and when they are completed, we shall take the liberty of sending you a few copies.

If you should desire additional copies of the material we have mailed, please do not hesitate to call upon us and we shall be glad to supply you.

Cordially yours,

Marry L. Shapiro
Director

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5/17/44

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

April 24, 1944

Stock Room

Mr. Harry L. Shapiro/MN

Please ship to: Board of National Missions of the
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

one copy of Dr. Lowdermilk book "Palestine, Land of Promise"

and

two copies each of the following:

Test of Fulfillment

Why a Jewish State

Facts about Palestine

Zionism and the Arab World

Thy Neighbor as Thyself

Zionism-What it is-What it is Not

There Is Only One Answer

The Absorptive Capacity of Palestine

After the Victory

Promise of Palestine: Why it should be Kept

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5/17/44

BOARD of NATIONAL MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

April 17, 1944

Zionist Organization of America
41 East 42nd St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Friends:

For various meetings we are having in Chicago in May we are arranging a small exhibit of literature dealing with Jewish question in an effort to promote better understanding of the Jews and their problems on the part of the Christians who will attend our meetings. It occurs to us that you have such a splendid and valuable supply of informative and illustrated material dealing with Palestine that we should like some of them for display purposes.

Many thanks in advance for everything and anything can send us that will help us with our exhibit.

Sincerely yours,

Conrad Hoffmann.

CH/m

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5/17/44

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REV. LESLIE T. PENNINGTON
DR. DANIEL A. POLING
REV. DR. HAROLD PAUL SLOAN
PROF. PAUL TILlich
MR. PIERRE VAN PAASSEN

September 15, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 106th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

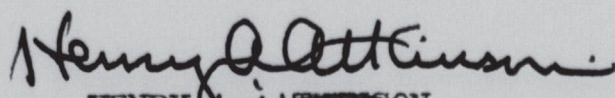
On behalf of two thousand Christian ministers and religious educators who comprise the Christian Council on Palestine we send you greetings on the occasion of the Holy Day season.

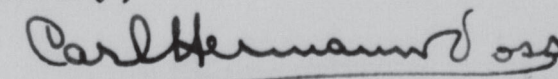
By this message we would express our oneness with the Jewish people in all their hopes and aspirations. We know that throughout the entire Christian world there are tens of thousands of fellow ministers and many hundreds of thousands of our co-religionists who, with us, stand aghast before the spectacle of the unspeakably cruel tortures which have been visited upon your people. Now that victory is in sight, we anticipate the day when justice will again reign supreme and your people will once more live in complete dignity and integrity.

In the Christian Council on Palestine our efforts are centered upon the tremendous problems which face the Jewish people, especially the lack of a refuge for the millions who wander homeless and stateless across the war-ravaged continent of Europe. We are throwing all our strength into the struggle to insure the establishment and maintenance of Palestine as a National Homeland for the Jewish people. This we do because of our concern for the cruelties and the indignities which your people have suffered for far too many years, but we do it also because of the incalculable debt we owe for the contribution Judaism has made to our Christian heritage.

On these high Holy Days we send our sincere good wishes to all our Jewish brothers here in America and throughout the world. Together we proclaim our common faith -- a faith in God, in the dignity of man, in our ability to destroy the evil forces of bigotry and hatred, and in the ultimate victory of justice and truth throughout the world.

Most cordially,


HENRY A. ATKINSON
Chairman


CARL HERMANN VOSS
Executive Secretary

September 19, 1944

Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, Chairman
Christian Council on Palestine
70 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Atkinson:

Permit me to thank you and Dr. Carl Voss for your very gracious New Year greeting which I profoundly appreciate. The moral support and the understanding sympathy which our cause has received during these trying years from the Christian forces of America has been a source of profound gratification. I pray that during the decisive days to come, the Christian sentiment of the United States will be effectively marshalled to insure the upbuilding of the Jewish Commonwealth which is so vital immediately for the rescue of our helpless millions in Europe and ultimately for the solution of the great millennial problem of Jewish national homelessness.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK