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

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

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

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American Zionist Emergency Council, reorganization, 1945.

GEORGE H. BENDER
CONGRESSMAN AT LARGE
OHIO

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

June 29, 1945

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi:

Last night I attended a meeting of the Jewish Community Council which was addressed by Cy Kenen, reporting on the work of the American Jewish Conference at the San Francisco convention. In his usual objective manner, Cy pointed out the minor - very minor - victories scored on our behalf at that meeting, while he dwelled upon the general gain in friendship and meaningless good will achieved through the personal contacts of our representatives with the many delegates present at the conference.

After hearing his report, and in the light of the general deterioration of the Jewish position throughout the world in the past year, I have come to the conclusion that you have an obligation to assume an even more important role in the Zionist organizational structure than the executive direction of the Emergency Committee. Our present leadership, characterized by an ineradicable timidity in its conduct, is utterly incapable of rousing the moral indignation and the righteous anger which must be engendered in the non-Jewish community of our own country if a complete disaster is to be averted in Palestine. I do not believe that a militant policy requires a loud thumping on the table, but I do believe strongly in the complete necessity of incessant and determined action with all segments of American public opinion to achieve our goal. It is not enough to bring pressure to bear sporadically upon a few Representatives or Senators from the State of New York. The Congressmen from Ohio and from Nebraska and from Texas are no less important in the moulding of our nation's policies. As Secretary to Mr. Bender, who sympathizes whole-heartedly with our views (largely through the influence of Dan Wasserman) I know only too well how easily American public officials may defer action or avoid specific commitments on matters in the moral realm.

To end this overly long statement, I am adding my voice to the voices of your many friends who are urging you to seek election to the Presidency of the ZOA. Nothing less will offer any prospect for a change - a lasting and significant change - in the present "Wait and Hope" policies of the national organization. If you ask merely for resotation to your former position, the same forces which vitiated the progress you had made

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will eventually re-assert themselves. Only a thorough-going reformation of the entire household can assure the permanent elimination of the cobwebs. I know that you will have many loyal and enthusiastic followers if you make this effort.

Surely our community can no longer endure the ignominy of repeated defeats in minor skirmishes. we ask for little and obtain less. I feel confident that with your leadership, we might ask for much and, rousing the active and meaningful support of the right-minded peoples of the world, obtain what we must so surely have if we are to retain self-respect in this dark hour.

Although he has not read this letter, I am sure that Dan Wasserman joins me in these views.



Very sincerely yours,

Saul Stillman

July 5, 1945

Mr. Saul Stillman
Williamson Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Friend:

Thank you so much for your kind letter which I read with great interest. I am in fullest sympathy with what you say. There is much work to be done in reconstituting the ZOA and I hope to be helpful. The prospective settlement of the Emergency Council will not in any way deter conscientious Zionists from seeking to make the ZOA a more effective and dynamic organization.

Incidentally, the plans for the re-organization of the Emergency Council do not contemplate a return to status quo, but a far greater centralization of political leadership in my hands than heretofore, and the augmentation of the Council with additional members which will give me a working majority.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

House Calendar No. 280

79TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 113

[Report No. 1463]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 13, 1945

Mr. FLOOD submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

DECEMBER 18, 1945

Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the Sixty-seventh Congress of the United States on June 30, 1922, unanimously resolved "That the United States of America favors the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of Christian and all other non-Jewish communities in Palestine, and that the holy places and religious buildings and sites in Palestine shall be adequately protected"; and

Whereas the ruthless persecution of the Jewish people in Europe has clearly demonstrated the need for a Jewish homeland as a haven for the large numbers who have become homeless as a result of this persecution; and

Whereas these urgent necessities are evidenced by the President's request for the immediate right of entry into Palestine of one hundred thousand additional Jewish refugees; and

Whereas the influx of Jewish immigration into Palestine is resulting in its improvement in agricultural, financial, hygienic, and general economic conditions; and

Whereas the President and the British Prime Minister have agreed upon the appointment of a Joint Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry to examine conditions in Palestine as they bear upon the problem of Jewish immigration and the Jewish situation in Europe and have requested a report within one hundred and twenty days: Therefore be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the interest shown by the President in the
3 solution of this problem is hereby commended and that the
4 United States shall use its good offices with the mandatory
5 power to the end that Palestine shall be opened for free
6 entry of Jews into that country to the maximum of its
7 agricultural and economic potentialities, and that there shall
8 be full opportunity for colonization and development, so that
9 they may freely proceed with the upbuilding of Palestine as
10 the Jewish national home and, in association with all ele-
11 ments of the population, establish Palestine as a democratic
12 commonwealth in which all men, regardless of race or creed,
13 shall have equal rights.

79TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

House Calendar No. 280

H. CON. RES. 113

[Report No. 1463]

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Relative to the opening of Palestine for free
entry of Jews.

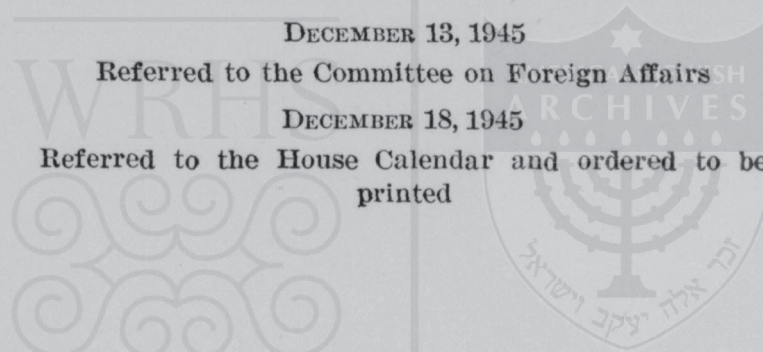
By Mr. FLOOD

DECEMBER 13, 1945

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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printed



[undated]

Jan

Peace Negotiations

21
We view with deep regret and concern the retirement of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver from the position he has occupied in the American Zionist Emergency Council and the breach in the leadership of American Zionism. At this critical time the Zionist movement can neither dispense with the services of a man of his abilities nor permit the dangerous breach to widen.

We convey to Dr. Silver our sincere affection and admiration for his work in the Zionist cause and affirm our confidence in the policy he has advocated.

With the best interests of the Zionist movement in mind, we call upon the national administration of the Zionist Organization of America to take immediate steps for the prompt recall of Dr. Silver to active political leadership and the early restoration of unity in the Zionist movement. //

Dr. Lilav

Eper

~~Emergency~~

Region

Dr. Goldstein

New Palestine

WRHS



[undated]

The proposal which seems to have the support of the majority of our committee is that Dr. Wise be Chairman of the larger committee and that Dr. Silver be the Chairman of the Executive Committee. If Dr. Silver desires also to be Co-Chairman of the larger committee, I believe that a majority of our committee would make this additional recommendation.

The Executive Committee will be clothed with the authority to carry on all of the executive work, including the political activity of the Emergency Council. The Chairman of the larger committee will preside at meetings of the larger committee.

Mr. Greenberg and Mr. Shulman shall be named as Vice-Chairmen of the Executive Committee, it being understood that the members of the Executive Committee, so far as possible, shall accept function in connection with the program of the Emergency Council; that the Executive Committee shall operate under ~~the~~ collective responsibility; that the Administrative Committee shall be abolished.

It is also understood that the peace we are trying to establish will be a total and complete peace and not a partial one.

It has also been suggested that in line with the desire of Dr. Silver, the membership of the larger committee be enlarged by the addition of ~~20~~ 2 representatives of the ZOA, 2 of the Hadassah, 1 of the Poale Zion and 1 of the Mizrachi, and that the 2 of the ZOA shall be persons acceptable to Dr. Silver.

All of this is not a definitive report. I think it is likely to be the report of our committee. There may be a change after the discussion at the meeting of the Emergency Council which the Agency representatives will attend.

[undated]
COPY

OFFICIAL PROPOSALS OF THE Z.O.A. COMMITTEE
ON THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

AT A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE Z.O.A. HELD ON SUNDAY EVENING, June 24th, the report of its Committee on Peace, of which Judge Louis E. Levinthal was Chairman, was submitted and, after a thorough discussion, was adopted. Full authority was given to a Committee of Three to be appointed by the President to submit the proposals as adopted for the consideration of the various parties associated in the Council, to consult with other interested persons and, finally, to submit the agreements arrived at to a meeting of the Emergency Council to be called for the purpose of considering the reorganization plan.

The Committee of Three appointed by President Goldstein includes Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Judge Morris Rothenberg and Louis Lipsky.

The Committee accepted the resolution of the Executive Committee as a general directive to be interpreted in a liberal spirit. In all its consultations it was animated by a keen desire to adapt the general directives as far as possible to aid the cause of peace and not to retard its speedy consummation.

The Committee therefore submits the following proposals for the official consideration of other parties in the Emergency Council with the hope that it may be possible to arrive at a general agreement to be submitted and supported by all parties at a plenary sitting of the Emergency Council.

FIRST: - The Emergency Council shall be headed by Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver as joint chairmen, who shall preside at alternate meetings of the council. *Dr. S. Silver, Chairman & Dr. A.H. Silver, Vice-Chairman of the Council.* Membership of the full Committee shall be enlarged by the addition of six members; two for the Z.O.A., two for Hadassah, one for Mizrahi, one for Poale Zion, the Z.O.A. members are to be named in agreement with Dr. Silver, it being understood that these new Z.O.A. representatives and their proxies shall have freedom of action.

SECOND: - All executive and administrative functions of the Emergency Council shall be placed ⁱⁿ ~~under the collective responsibility~~ of an executive committee of which Dr. Abba Hillel Silver shall be the Chairman (and Hayim Greenberg, Herman Shulman and

Leon Gellman shall be Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Rose Halprin shall continue as treasurer.

The Executive Committee shall be enlarged by the addition of two voting members to be elected in agreement with Dr. Silver as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Further human reading
THIRD: - There shall be a steering Committee to decide on steps to be taken in line with policies already agreed to on matters arising between the meetings of the Executive Committee that require prompt action; and it shall have such other authority as the Executive Committee may assign it. The Steering Committee shall include the officers of the Council and of the Executive Committee; to wit, Dr. Wise, Dr. Silver, Mrs. Halprin, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Shulman and Mr. Gellman, and one other person to be named by the Executive Committee in agreement with its Chairman. The Steering Committee shall determine its own methods of procedure.

FOURTH: - It is understood that the Chairman of the Executive Committee shall have the right to name, with the (prior) approval of the Executive Committee, an Executive Director and other key members of the staff, (but that full recognition shall be given to the established status of persons who have come into the service of the Council within the past six months.)

FIFTH: - It is taken for granted that the established relationship between the American representatives of the Jewish Agency and the Emergency Council continues in effect without impairment. This relationship is expressed in the following terms as taken from the records of the Emergency Council:

1. In the field of public relations, legislative bodies, Congress, Senate and so forth, the Emergency Council should have exclusive jurisdiction to initiate, contact, propagandize, and so forth.

2. No representative of government in Washington shall be contacted by the Emergency Council or the Jewish Agency without mutual exchange of views.

3. Political negotiations with officials of the State Department shall be conducted jointly by the Emergency Council and the Jewish Agency, not

necessarily together, but in consultation with each other.

4. That so far as other governments, legations and so forth, including the Latin American countries are concerned, the representatives of the Jewish Agency shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

5. In any matter of dispute between the American Representatives of the Jewish Agency and the Emergency Council, the Executive in Jerusalem shall have the final decision.

6. The members of the Jewish Agency in the United States shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of all committees of the Emergency Council, including the Steering Committee.

SIXTH: - All other questions at issue shall be referred for action to the reorganized Emergency Council.

We submit these proposals for prompt action, believing that they embody a comprehensive basis for the reorganization of the Council and that with good will and a desire for mutual understanding, it will be possible for the Emergency Council to discharge its heavy responsibilities with justice to the cause and with credit to all parties concerned.

SERIES I

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
Sub-series A - Alphabetical File

Folder:

Folder title:

Folder code/number: [Folder and contents of 4-2-33 lacking at
time of filming]

