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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, Arab press reports, 1945.



EXTRACTS FROM THE ARAB PRESS IN  
THE U.S.A.

(Issued by the Office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Washington, D.C.)

REMARKS FROM THE SPEECH OF THE HONORABLE GEORGE WADSWORTH, UNITED STATES MINISTER TO SYRIA AND LEBANON AT THE DINNER IN HIS HONOR GIVEN BY THE SYRIAN-LEBANESE CLUB "AS-SALAM" AT THE RITZ CARLTON HOTEL, N.Y. Monday, Dec 3, 1945

"As-Sameer" (Dec. 11, 1945)

"You recall that at the beginning I bore letters from President Roosevelt accrediting me as Diplomatic Agent to Syria and Lebanon. I know that we share keenest satisfaction that meanwhile that rank has been raised to Minister.

"The earlier rank was clearly indicative of my Government's policy in 1942. In my letters of credence the President said that the appointment of a first diplomatic representative to Syria, and Lebanon, was a manifestation of sympathy with the aspirations of their peoples for full independence, then circumscribed by limitations necessitated by conditions of war.

Two years later, when presenting new letters of credence, Mr. Hull authorized me to say that, by the appointment of a Minister, the United States accorded unconditional recognition of the full independence of the two countries.

"The ensuing year, Syria and Lebanon saw much sound progress toward consolidating their independence, crowned in the field of external relations by full membership in the United Nations Organization. And during that period the policy of my Government became, and still is, to extend to Syria and Lebanon friendly political, cultural and economic support to assist them in realizing that program.

"Throughout these troubled, war-torn three years American-Levant relations have been characterized by mutual friendship and good will. It is the hope today of your governments and of my own that on that foundation broader relations can be built. Happy auguries of success are not wanting; for example the opening last month of an American secondary school in Damascus and the vote last week whereby the Lebanese Parliament approved the granting to two American oil companies of permits to construct and operate oil refineries at Tripoli and Lebanon."

IN DEFENSE OF ARAB PALESTINE

"As-Sameer" (Brooklyn Daily) Dec 11, 1945

Mr. James Essa is a native of Acre, Palestine. He came to the U.S.A. after the First World War and resides now in Watertown, N.Y. He is married, has two children, and is considered a successful business man. He wrote, in defense of Palestine, to the Watertown DAILY TIMES, the following:

"I am a Christian native of Palestine, I have two sisters and one brother residing in Haifa and Lydda. I hear from them regularly and though I know the situation on both sides, it makes me sick every time I read one of your editorials about Palestine.

"Because you are apparently misinformed. You seem to ignore the fact that Palestine has been an Arab country for twelve hundred years. I think therefore they are entitled to restrict immigration in their own country. The Jewish argument is that England promised to give Palestine to them as a homeland. What right has England, or any other country, to give away anything that does not belong to her?

"How would you like to see a group of foreign people in this country trying to create a nation of their own? Of course you wouldn't. Then why blame the Arabs for fighting the Zionist cause? If you feel sorry for the Jews, why not urge the United



States Congress to lift the restriction of immigration and have them come into this country? Canada is a very much underpopulated country; so why not urge Canada to take them in? Palestine is only three hundred miles long and ninety miles wide, and is very much overpopulated.

"The Zionists are trying very hard to get more Jews into Palestine so they will become the majority of the population. They would then say to the world: 'We are the majority in Palestine and have the right to rule'. My advice to the Zionists is to forget the Balfour Declaration; rather sit around a table with Arab leaders and discuss the matter, not as a political question, but as a human question. For the Jews are going to have to live with sixty million Arabs, not with the American or English people.

"You may dump this letter in your waste basket, but I feel you should know some of the truth."

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF AL-BEGAA, LEBANON.

"Meraat-Ul-Gharb" (N.Y. Daily) Dec 12, 1945

EDITORIAL

There is no representative for Al-Begaa in Lebanon's Parliament now! Rafaat Qazoun is in prison for treason. He, as Deputy of Al-Begaa, used his car and his privileges as a member of Parliament to smuggle arms for the Zionists in Palestine.

We never thought that Zionist gold would corrupt a representative of the people of Lebanon. But how many such positions have been dishonored in the hands of traitors - criminals whose sole purpose in life is to acquire money even at the expense of their country's misfortune, even though it lead them to shame and disgrace.

The blame should be placed not on the deputy traitor so much as on the people who elected him for many are elected year after year out of habit or because they bring to bear the influence of their wealth in money or land. Meanwhile, many honest young men, willing to serve their country with their sincerity, education and devotion, are not and will not be elected because they are not backed by money or influence. But these <sup>young men</sup> ~~latter~~ are just the assets that the country needs.

We hope that this event will be a lesson to the electors in every district in Lebanon and we further hope that Deputy Qazoun's treason will be properly punished so that no one in the future dare to play with his country's safety.

DEPUTY QAZAOUN IS FREE FROM TREASON

"Meraat-Ul-Gharb" (N.Y. Daily) Dec 14, 1945

by our Special Correspondent

The arrest of Deputy Qazaoun of Al-Begaa caused a sensation in Lebanon and gave the press and the public something to talk about, but not for long. The Military Court which was supposed to punish him severely after placing him under arrest for trial, has found that his crime is not the smuggling of arms to the Zionists in Palestine, which is high treason, but turns out to be a simple matter of carrying arms in his car while crossing the border into Palestine. This is simple because the Deputy stated that he was taking the arms to a British officer friend of his. In this light the Military Court will consider the episode and our Deputy will be free.

He is out now on bail of 10,000 Lebanese Liras.

PROTEST AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE JOINT ANGLO-AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR  
PALESTINE

"Al-Bayan" (Washington, D.C.) Dec. 13, 1945

We have received from our correspondent in Montreal, Canada and from the director



of the Arab-Canadian Friendship League, M.S. Masaoud, a cable which stated the following:

"We hope that "Al-Bayan" will protest the appointment of James G. MacDonald as one of the six American members of the Joint Committee of Inquiry on Palestine.

"The said MacDonald is known for his enmity toward the Arabs and their cause. Cable your protest to President Truman and make that Arab Americans do the same."

(Signed) Mohamad Said Masaoud,  
Montreal, Canada. Director of the League of Arab-Canadian Friendship.

THE MOSLEMS OF NEW YORK PROTEST

"Al-Bayan (Dec 15, 1945

The Imam, Sheikh Khalil Hawaf, has sent a cable to President Truman in the name of the Moslem community of New York, which group met and decided to delegate him for the job of drafting the cable of protest against the appointment of James G. MacDonald as a member of the Joint Commission of Inquiry on Palestine.

The cable states that although Judge Hatcheson, head of the American members of the Commission, is known to be sympathetic to the Zionists (back in December 1942 he said as much in the New York Times), still the Moslems feel that as a judge he cannot but render justice to the cause of the Arabs once he knows the truth. But the case of James G. MacDonald is different; he is for the Zionists and has always been for them. He defends them over the radio in the U.S.A. and recently in Canada he championed them in a debate. The Moslems believe that he may perhaps be paid by the Zionists. Therefore the cable asks the President to withdraw him from the Commission or else the Arabs will feel that his appointment makes the Commission pro-Zionist. American justice is too honorable to allow such a thing to happen.

A LETTER BY PIERRE JEMAIL

Al-Hoda (N.Y. Daily) Dec 10, 1945

EDITORIAL

Knowing how anxious Lebanese Emigrants are to learn what is going on in their Old Country at present, the leader of Lebanese Youth, Pierre Jemail, sent a letter to "Al-Hoda" which we are publishing to-day.

This letter, as we already knew it would be, is a clear statement by this young leader of the youth of Lebanon who are known as the Lebanese Phalanges. The Phalanges stand for the complete independence of Lebanon, following the example of their ancestors. They do not want to copy any group and are especially against foreign elements in Lebanese politics. No protection or annexation from anybody far or near. The letter states that, due to present conditions, the Leader of the Phalanges cannot go into any detail but, the emigrants should be content to know that if a change should come which is contrary to their aims and hopes and which might endanger in any way the state of independence of their old country, the Phalanges will let them know and will be there in strength to combat and to defeat such a danger. Moreover the emigrants should leave this question to the Phalanges and to the Lebanese who reside in Lebanon but if a decision is to be made they surely will ask for and welcome their help.

"Al-Hoda" in turn assures the leader of the youth of Lebanon that the emigrants



are forever ready to help him and the patriots of Lebanon in their just and rightful fight for independence.

ONLY ONE MINISTER FOR BOTH SYRIA AND LEBANON  
"As-Sayeh" (N.Y. Semi-Weekly) Dec 13, 1945

EDITORIAL

At the banquet in honor of the American Minister Mr. Wadsworth, many, like the editor of "As-Sayeh", asked themselves this question: "Why has the U.S.A. appointed only one Minister to represent her in both Syria and Lebanon whereas Syria has a Minister in Washington, D.C. and Lebanon has another?"

The United States of America is the richest country on earth and she can spend as much money as she likes on representations everywhere. On the other hand, both Syria and Lebanon are new in the group of independent nations and they are small; their finances are equally small.

Are we to understand that the U.S.A. considers both countries as one, with no difference in their peoples? That although they are two separate, independent countries she is satisfied to send one minister to both, while they are not satisfied with less than two diplomatic representations?

It seems that the world knows more about us than we do. Those who stand for their country being divided into two or more parts should take into consideration whether it is right that their country should carry so heavy a burden just because they will it.

THE "PARTY OF ALLAH" ELECTS AND PROCLAIMS KING FAROUK KHALIF OF ISLAM  
"Al-Islaah" (N.Y. Three times Weekly) Dec 13, 1945

From the Journal "Aj-Jamhour" of Beirut, Lebanon, "Al-Islaah" reproduces this article for the benefit of its readers. It went as follows:

The Lord Chamberlain of His Majesty King Farouk of Egypt received a cable from the "Party of Allah" in Egypt on the occasion of the New Holy year of Islam. The cable is in the form of a proclamation by the Party which set down this program:

- 1- The proclamation of King Farouk of Egypt as a Khaliph of Islam to command the Moslems of the world in the name of Allah.
- 2- To Grant the Khaliph the complete power to govern over all Moslems, backed by a Moslem General Council chosen from the wisest figures of the Moslem world. This Council will take the place of the League of Arab States. Each Moslem State may choose its own Governor in the name of the Khaliph with help from a council chosen and acting according to Moslem laws.
- 3- To abolish all institutions and political parties because they are obstacles to the unity of Islam and are of no value since this proclamation which makes of all Islam one nation governed by one authority, the Khaliph.
- 4- To enlist charity and organize Islam finance on a sound Moslem basis in order to abolish poverty, ignorance and sickness, and place the economy of the Nation on a sound Moslem foundation.
- 5- To order military conscription according to Islamic laws in all the Moslem



countries, without exception, in order to proclaim the Jihad by order of the Khaliph at any time.

6- To consider the pilgrimage season every year as a general conference wherein every Moslem leader will be present to discuss and further the progress of all Moslem interests, and to decide what policy to pursue to ensure the Greatness of Islam and its prestige in the World.

7- To call upon all the leaders of the Moslem States and their Councils, authorities of the Moslem Communities, and the Al-Azhar University to proclaim Al-Farouq Khaliph bearing the Banner of Jihad, the protector of Islam, and the Unifier of the words of all Moslems.



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8-6-CONTENT



EXTRACTS FROM THE ARAB PRESS IN  
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(Issued by the Office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Washington, D.C.)

THE INDEPENDENCE OF SYRIA AND LEBANON  
"Al-Hoda" (N.Y. Daily) Dec. 17, 1945

EDITORIAL

Within a few months Syria and Lebanon are to enjoy the prerogative of administering their own affairs without the interference of any Foreign Power. Their lands will be entirely free from the armies of France and Great Britain and for the first time since the Turkish Ottoman conquest these two countries will enjoy their full independence.

The date for the withdrawal of the two armies is not definitively set yet but it will not be later than March before the Security Council of the UNO will be functioning. This body will insure the safety and interests of the Powers should necessity or threat to the peace demand it.

It was understood that according to the agreement between France and England the last British soldier should leave Palestine at the same time that the last French soldier leaves Lebanon. This gives satisfaction to the French who feared that as soon as they left, the British would take their place. What is more important is that at last our two countries have benefited because they are now two independent States free from the clutches and dominations of any foreign powers.

This agreement contains a clause on which we need more enlightenment in order to analyze it properly. This is the part which says that the two Powers will consult each other on any future problems arising in the Near East which includes Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Transjordan and Saudi-Arabia.

It is well known that France has no privileged status in any of these countries, which are all under direct British influence. If Great Britain agrees to consult with France on her problems - this means something new in the Near East. To some it may signify that Great Britain is afraid to face the danger coming from the East by herself. That she wants France with her in order to form a bloc, strong enough to hold against the danger of the Soviet Union which is approaching rapidly by way of Iran, Turkey and the Balkans.

Therefore this agreement may mean something more than what it was meant to be, merely an agreement on Syria and Lebanon. It is a safety measure and a guarantee for future peace in the Arab East.

THE DAY OF WITHDRAWAL

"As-Sameer" (Brooklyn Daily) Dec. 17, 1945

EDITORIAL

The day of the withdrawal of Both French and British soldiers from Syria and Lebanon is a happy day for the patriots and a black day for those who wanted to see their country protected by the French, claiming that therein was their independence.

This agreement on Syria and Lebanon is a decided British victory; for not only does it put France out of the Near East but also binds her to stand beside Great Britain in any future trouble there. This is an advantage for Great Britain but what benefit France will get from this agreement no one yet knows.



But the real victory is the victory for Syria and Lebanon and a triumph for the efforts of the American Minister Wadsworth and his government who insisted on giving our countries their independence according to the principles of the Atlantic Charter.

We await the day of withdrawal with the hope that it is very near. Those who so loved the protector should, if they like, leave with him, for the countries' good and perhaps for their own.

THE DEPUTY AND THE MINISTER

"As-Sameer" (Dec. 17, 1945)

EDITORIAL

The well known Lebanese newspaper "Aj-Jamhour" (The Public) tries to gloss over the cases of both deputy Qazoun and Minister Al-Asaad. But both cases are very serious and no one has the right to present them as mere infractions, or intentional infractions of the law.

The deputy who smuggles arms for the Zionists in Palestine is a criminal and the Minister who attempts to or does sell land to the Zionists is a criminal also and both should be punished severely.

This deputy and this Minister are a threat to the independence of Lebanon and it is very dangerous for the country to make their cases appear as though they were accidental occurrences and not to stress that in the future no immunity of deputy or minister can be brought to apply to criminal acts.

THE ANGLO-FRANCE AGREEMENT

"Al-Islaah" (N.Y. three times Weekly) Dec 18, 1945

EDITORIAL

The competition between France and England for the Near East has ended, and both countries have agreed to withdraw their troops from Syria and Lebanon, in conformity with their promises to these countries to help them achieve their independence.

This is, of course, what both countries want and have desired for a long time - as proof, witness their struggle with the French for the past 25 years, a bloody struggle but one which, thank God, has culminated in their independence.

The agreement, according to Paris, opens a new phase of Near East policy that is consultation between the two powers whenever a new problem arises in the Arab east. As for the meaning of such consultation no one yet can say what it is; but the truth is that the Near East has won her independence and will not let the foreign Powers interfere in her own affairs. This is the right of any independent State and the clause of the agreement is therefore void as such.

What is definite is that Syria and Lebanon are now really independent States and they are going to put their independence into practice in order that their own people may be free, happy and totally independent.

FRANCE WITHDRAWS HER ARMY FROM SYRIA AND LEBANON

"As-Sayeh" (N.Y. Semi-Weekly) Dec. 17, 1945

EDITORIAL

We don't know yet the exact and definite terms of the agreement between France and England in regard to the Near East, but according to what Mr. Bidault said to the council of Ministers in Paris we see two conflicting thoughts. On the one hand it is said that the agreement saved the face of the French, while on the



other hand it declares the end of their mandate and a complete withdrawal from Syria and Lebanon.

It is also said that the withdrawal will be complete from Syria but partial from Lebanon. Why the difference? Aren't the two countries equally independent? And if Syria is to enjoy her complete independence - why not Lebanon? What is the secret? Will Lebanon accept such a measure? Not unless the Lebanese are like the editor of Al-Naba and his friend, Monsignor Akl who preach independence under a protector. Of course this is no freedom nor independence; it is like freeing the prisoner by putting him in jail to protect him.

Still, we will await further information before we analyze and judge what has happened in this so-called agreement.

JAMES MACDONALD ON THE AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR INQUIRY ON PALESTINE  
"As-Sayeh" (Dec. 17, 1945)

EDITORIAL

President Truman has nominated James MacDonald as one of the six Americans on the Commission for study of the Jewish problem in Europe and Palestine. Judge MacDonald was appointed because of his sympathy for and work with the Zionists in helping them to establish a Jewish State in Palestine.

We were therefore glad to hear that the well known patriot Mouhamand Said Masoud, Director of the Arab Canadian League of Friendship, had cabled the President protesting the appointment of James MacDonald, an enemy of the Arabs. The cables of protest are piling up in great numbers and we learn from the American press that the Arabs of Palestine have decided to oppose the Commission altogether because it is known to be biased in favor of Zionism.

Our Arabs of Palestine knew beforehand that a Zionist had already played a part in the composition of the Commission for Inquiry on Palestine; that is why they decided not to cooperate with the Commission. This is a very effective procedure and takes the place of the protest against men like Judge MacDonald.

ON THE FRANCO-BRITISH ACCORD IN THE MIDDLE EAST  
"Meraat-Ul-Gharb" (N.Y. Daily) Dec. 21, 1945

EDITORIAL

American political circles analysing the France-British agreement on Syria and Lebanon have come to the conclusion that this agreement lessens the danger of explosions in the Levant, and thus decreases the number of trouble spots in a sorely troubled world.

To us of Syrian-Lebanese origin it is a good augury for Syria and Lebanon are, by this accord, completely free of the vicious imperialist circle that the Colonial Powers had created around certain small nations in order to exploit them at their ease. Syria and Lebanon are masters of their destiny now and can work toward the pursuit of happiness of their own people without dictation from the Foreign Oppressor.

The terms of the agreement are somewhat vague; it says for instance that the two powers will consult each other regarding any of their interests in the Middle East. This is not clear, for why the consultation, when the terms of this agreement France withdraws from Syria and Lebanon and the latter are the only places with French interests, the others being all under British influence, - and Great Britain is sole master. The present political situation on the borders is full of danger and Great Britain may want and need French cooperation in order to maintain peace



in that part of the world.

PALESTINE ON THE CROSS

"As-Sameer" (Brooklyn Daily) Dec. 20, 1945

EDITORIAL

We know that our weak voice will be lost amid the political noise as the voice of a distressed person calling for help in the midst of a fierce storm. Still we cannot refrain from crying out that our Congressmen in Washington have nailed Palestine to the cross as others like them did to Christ long ago although both were innocents and had committed no crime at all!

What has been done will not bring peace to Palestine but will create a very difficult problem and one which will in turn give birth to many complex problems. The Arabs, aroused, will shake off the false hopes nourished in their breasts by the solemn promises of the Allies and their leaders in this war, and they find themselves deceived by these political leaders for the second time. They will realize that there is no value to any promise made in this age, especially if these promises were made by politicians.

The British, who a quarter of a century ago created this problem, will find it recurring as the most troublesome problem of every age from now on. What will be their stand? It is not clear yet; we must await the lifting of the masks.

And what will be the stand of the President and his Secretary of State who is absent from Washington now for the Conference of the Big Three in Moscow? The Arabs of Palestine are in despair. They feel that America has let them down and that they are the rightful owners of Palestine. All this only to give their land to a foreign people and make them the masters of Palestine.

History has never yet recorded such a tragedy brought to a poor people from a so-called civilized, progressive people!

It may be that after this darkness comes the dawn - or some dawn. It cannot remain always dark and morning will follow the night.

But when is this morning to come? It is in the hands of Allah!

"THIS IS WHAT I SAY TO EGYPT AND THE ARAB STATES"

"Al-Bayan" (Washington, D.C.) Dec. 22, 1945

We are reprinting the words of H.E. Muhanad Alaouiah Pasha, Chairman of the Arab conference on Palestine. Here is what he says, according to the Egyptian paper Al-Mussawar:

"I do not speak about the past, but the present and the future. The political sky is dark - a tragedy may ensue, if what we hear is true; that the Zionists have decided to take Palestine by force of arms to establish their Jewish State. This is what is happening in the 20th century, in spite of the Atlantic Charter's declaration of the Four Freedoms.

All these promises and declarations are worth no more than the paper they are written on to the deceived Arabs if this tragedy takes place.

"There is only one way to stop this tragedy from occurring and this is to see that the Arab nations and their governments are united in a military and material form, physically strong enough to drive out this danger threatening the



life of Palestine.

"May I ask the Arab Governments of Egypt, Saudi-Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Transjordan and Yemen how they are prepared to stop this tragedy? By what armed, forceful means?

"Can we hope that these Governments are preparing to meet this danger by the right means? Or are they going to be satisfied just with protests, conferences, cables and speeches?

"The Arab Governments and the Arab Nations must understand that this matter is not only the loss of Palestine but is a question of the life and death of all the Arab Nations. The Arabs will not be defending Palestine alone but the rest of the Arab World as well.

"Zionism, armed Zionism will spread from Palestine to conquer the whole Arab East with its arms, economy and finance. This is the real danger.

These are my words to the Government of Egypt, and the other Arab Governments of the World; take care before it is too late!"

