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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, by-laws, 1942-1945.



BY-LAWS

AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

ARTICLE I

NAME - The name of the Organization shall be the AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS - The AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) shall engage in such activities as it may deem advisable in the interest of the Zionist cause, more particularly in the field of public relations; while framing its own policies in relation to the work it carries on, its activities shall be those which are of common interest to the four American Zionist Organizations represented in its composition.

ARTICLE III

Section 1 - MEMBERSHIP - The Committee shall consist of the following twenty-six persons:

- (a) Five members designated by the Zionist Organization of America;
- (b) Five members designated by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America;
- (c) Four members designated by Poale Zion;
- (d) Four members designated by Mizrachi Organization of America;
- (e) Eight members named at large as follows:

Dr. Solomon Goldman  
Dr. Israel Goldstein  
Mrs. Rose Jacobs  
Mr. Louis Lipsky

Judge Morris Rothenberg  
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
Mr. Robert Szold  
Dr. Stephen S. Wise

Section 2 - Members designated under groups (a) (b) (c) and (d) shall ordinarily be designated for a period of one year, but each of the organizations concerned shall be entitled to change its representatives on giving two weeks' notice. Each of the said groups (a) (b) (c) (d) shall be entitled to designate alternates to attend meetings of the Committee and to vote in the place of any of their duly appointed representatives.

The Zionist Organization of America shall be entitled to nominate three alternates;

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of American, shall be entitled to nominate two alternates;

Poale-Zion shall be entitled to nominate two alternates; and

Mizrachi shall be entitled to nominate two alternates.

Notice of appointment of such alternates shall be filed in advance with the Secretary. Alternates shall further be entitled to attend any meeting of the



Committee as observers without vote. If any member designated by any of the four Organizations herein before referred to shall cease to be a member of the Committee, he may be replaced by the Organization which designated him. Group (e) members shall be permanent members of the Committee and shall serve throughout the Committee's existence. If any member of the Committee shall fail to attend three successive meetings, without an excuse acceptable to the Committee, his seat may be declared vacant by the Committee.

Section 3 - The Committee may by resolution invite representatives of other Zionist groups to attend its sessions as observers without vote. Representatives of all Zionist groups entitled to sit at Emergency Committee meetings in the capacity of observers may submit written applications for full membership. All members of the Committee are to be given two weeks' notice of such application, which may be approved by a majority vote of the members of the Committee.

#### ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS - The officers of the Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Committee shall, from time to time, elect.

#### ARTICLE V

Section 1 - MEETINGS - Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held at least once in every month. Special meetings may be held from time to time as may be determined by the Committee, or upon call of the Chairman or upon written request of seven members of the Committee. Notice to all members shall be sent three days in advance of each special meeting.

Section 2 - A quorum shall consist of ten members.

#### ARTICLE VI

Section 1 - OFFICE COMMITTEE - Between meetings of the full Committee, the business of the Committee shall be conducted by an Office Committee to be elected by the Committee and to be composed as follows: two members representing the Zionist Organization of America; two members representing Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America; one member representing Poale-Zion; and one member representing Mizrachi. The representatives of the four Organizations which shall compose the Office Committee shall be designated by the respective groups (a)(b) (c) (d) from among the members of the Committee. In addition to the six thus designated, the following shall also be members of the Office Committee, to wit, the Chairman and the Treasurer of the Committee, and three members of the Committee to be elected by the Committee. The Office Committee shall elect its own Chairman and such other officers as it may see fit.

Section 2 - A quorum of the Office Committee shall consist of five members.



Section 3 - The Office Committee, acting under authority from the Committee as a whole, shall have power to open a banking account or accounts in the name of the Committee, to engage executives and other employees and to enter into such other contractual obligations as shall be necessary to carry on its work provided the Committee shall have no power to bind members personally in respect of any obligation undertaken by the Committee.

Section 4 - The Committee and the Office Committee, respectively, shall have power to pass rules from time to time for the regulation of their respective procedures.

#### ARTICLE VII

FINANCE - The expenses of the Committee shall be met out of funds supplied to it from time to time by American Zionist organizations or agencies and/or other Jewish groups or institutions organized and operating in the United States under the laws of the United States or of the several states; it may also receive contributions from individuals. The Committee shall not conduct any business undertaking nor operate with a view to profit.

#### ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS - Any amendment of these By-Laws shall be effected either:

- (a) By unanimous vote of the Committee at a meeting of which at least one week's notice in writing shall have been given to members of the Committee together with notice in writing of the proposed amendment; or
- (b) By a resolution adopted by a majority vote at a meeting of which one week's notice shall have been given and which shall further have been ratified in writing by 2/3 of the total membership of the Committee.
- (c) If, following notice of a proposal for an amendment of the By-Laws, any two of the Organizations (a) (b) (c) (d) referred to in Article III, Section 1, notify the Secretary in writing prior to the meeting at which the said proposal is to be considered, or, alternatively, inform the Chairman verbally at the said meeting, of their opposition to such amendment, no action shall be taken on the said proposal.

February 20, 1942



# *Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs*

41 EAST 42<sup>nd</sup> STREET  
ROOM 1121  
NEW YORK CITY

May 21, 1942.

To the Members of the Emergency Committee:

At a meeting of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs held on May 5th it was unanimously resolved to amend Article VI Section I of the Constitution to read as follows:

"OFFICE COMMITTEE - Between meetings of the full Committee, the business of the Committee shall be conducted by an Office Committee to be elected by the Committee and to be composed as follows: three members representing the Zionist Organization of America; three members representing Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America; two members representing Poale Zion; and two members representing Mizrachi. The representatives of the four organizations which shall compose the Office Committee shall be designated by the respective groups (a) (b) (c) (d) from among the members of the Committee. In addition to the ten thus designated, the following shall also be members of the Office Committee, to wit, the Chairman and Treasurer of the Committee. The Office Committee shall elect its own Chairman and such other officers as it may see fit."

In terms of Article VIII of the Constitution, an amendment of the by-laws of which no previous notice has been given, if passed by a majority vote, requires to be ratified in writing by two-thirds of the total membership of the Committee.

You are requested to signify on the attached card whether or not you desire to have ratified the amendment above set out.

Arthur Lourie.



MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

August 26, 1943.

A meeting of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs took place on Thursday, August 26, 1943, at 5:00 p.m. at 41 East 42nd Street.

PRESENT

Dr. Wise (in the Chair), Miss Benjamin, Mr. Bublick, Mr. Cruso, Mrs. Doniger, Mrs. Epstein, Miss E. Franklin, Mr. Furmanský, Rabbi Gold, Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. S. Goldstein, Mrs. Halprin, Rabbi Heller, Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Jaffe, Rabbi Kowalski, Miss Leibel, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Mereminski, Mr. Neumann, Dr. Perlzweig, Judge Rosenblatt, Miss Rothbard, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Rothstein, Mr. Segal, Mrs. Shulman, Mr. Shulman, Dr. Silver, Mr. Szold, Mr. Wertheim.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mr. Isreeli, Mr. Kenen, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Magida, Mr. Weisgal.

Mr. Montor, Mr. Shetzer.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION AND ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRMEN

Following an introductory statement by Dr. Wise, Mr. Lipsky submitted an amendment to Article IV of the Constitution of the Emergency Committee which (after correction) read as follows:

"The officers of the Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Co-Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer and such other officers as the Committee shall, from time to time, elect."

Following a discussion, the proposed amendment was unanimously approved. The secretary was instructed to write to all members of the Committee in order to secure a two-thirds ratification of the proposed amendment. It was also unanimously agreed that the Office Committee be called henceforth the Executive Committee.

Mr. Lipsky then nominated Dr. Abba Hillel Silver as Co-Chairman of the Emergency Committee together with Dr. Wise. The motion was seconded and Dr. Silver was unanimously elected as Co-Chairman of the Committee.

The meeting of the full Emergency Committee was then temporarily adjourned and a meeting of the Executive Committee was convened.



## MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Dr. Wise read the following telegram which he had received from Judge Levinthal:

"REGRET URGENT WAR LABOR BOARD CASE PREVENTS MY ATTENDANCE  
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETING TODAY STOP INFORMED FULL AGREEMENT  
REACHED IN ACCORDANCE YOUR PROPOSALS STOP THEREFORE RABBI  
SILVER'S SUGGESTION HE BE ELECTED TODAY SUBJECT ZOA EXECUTIVE  
RATIFICATION SATURDAY EVENING SHOULD IN MY OPINION BE ADOPTED  
STOP TO FACILITATE EFFECTUATION OF AGREEMENT I HEREBY TENDER  
MY RESIGNATION CHAIRMAN OFFICE COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE AT  
COMMITTEE'S PLEASURE"

Judge Levinthal's resignation was accepted and Dr. Wise was authorized on behalf of the Committee to express to him the warm appreciation of the Committee for the manner in which he had conducted its affairs during his tenure of office.

Dr. Goldstein then nominated Dr. Silver as Chairman of the Executive Committee and paid a warm tribute to him and to Dr. Wise. He believed that he spoke for those present in saying that they all looked forward to working with him towards the fulfillment of our common aim to make Palestine a Jewish Commonwealth.

Mrs. Halprin asked whether the nomination meant that Dr. Silver, if elected, would reside in New York. She felt that the man who was to head the Executive Committee should be present to guide and direct it. We wanted Dr. Silver here in New York.

Dr. Silver replied that he had given full consideration to the amount of work that would be involved. He realized that his presence would be required in New York and in Washington and he planned to give to the work all the time it required.

Dr. Silver was unanimously elected to the Chairmanship of the Executive Committee.

## RESUMED MEETING OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned and the meeting of the full Emergency Committee was resumed.

## CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

A discussion took place on the basis of a draft Palestine resolution prepared in the office, to be submitted to the American Jewish Conference. The resolution was remitted to the drafting committee.

## STATEMENT BY DR. SILVER

Before adjourning, Dr. Silver made a statement in the course of which he expressed his great appreciation of the consideration which had



been shown him in selecting him as Chairman of the Executive Committee and Co-Chairman with Dr. Wise of the Emergency Committee. He said that he knew what his new position entailed, that it meant, for example, many nights spent on trains coming and going, but he was ready to make the sacrifices that might be needed. He did not, indeed, regard them as such. There were many who had to make sacrifices. He planned to give all the time that would be required to his new work. He hoped it would not become necessary for him to uproot himself completely from Cleveland, but he was nevertheless ready to move to the East if it should in the end become necessary. He expressed the hope that the members of the Committee would bear with him and help him in the work. He added that those who know him know that his bark is worse than his bite. He liked to be frank and he liked others to be frank when discussing Zionist problems.

Because of his living outside New York it might not be possible, perhaps, to have as many meetings as they had been accustomed to, and it might be necessary to crowd more work into fewer meetings. He felt confident, however, that they had not called him to the Chairmanship just to preside over meetings. He hoped that he would be able to do something to see our work more centralized and better coordinated. He planned thoroughly to acquaint himself with the work of the Committee and to work out some definite lines of cooperation with Dr. Goldmann and the Washington office. He intended to leave a great part of the responsibility for certain work to the people engaged to do that work. If a man was capable and did his work well his every step should not be locked to, but he must be given the necessary authority and confidence.

Dr. Silver went on to say that we were on the eve of great decisions and he hoped that we would be able to make use of the help and ability of all. The work should not be done by just a few, but as far as possible everyone should find a place and take a part in it.

Dr. Silver concluded by referring to the hopes entertained by Mrs. Silver and himself of settling in Palestine after the war is over.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

A. L.



# American Zionist Emergency Council

## CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Mizrachi Organization of America  
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America  
Zionist Organization of America

342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.  
Murray Hill 2-1160

April 6, 1945

To the Members of the American Zionist Emergency Council:

Please take notice that at the next meeting of the American Zionist Emergency Council, which will be held Monday evening, April 16th, at 8:15, at 342 Madison Avenue, New York City, the following amendment to Article IV of the Constitution will be proposed for adoption on the recommendation of the Administrative Committee:

"Article IV shall read as at present with the addition of the following sentence:

'Elections of officers shall take place annually at a meeting of the Council of which at least two weeks notice shall be given and which shall be held not later than December 1st of each year.'"

Yours sincerely,

*Arthur Lourie*  
Arthur Lourie

AL:LB



# *American Zionist Emergency Council*

## CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Mizrachi Organization of America  
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America  
Zionist Organization of America

342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.  
Murray Hill 2-1160

April 19, 1945

To the Members of the American Zionist Emergency Council:

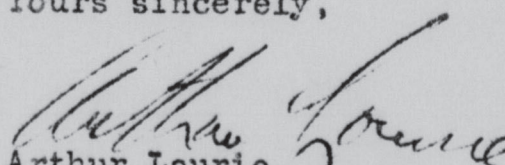
At a meeting of the Emergency Council on Monday night, April 16, it was moved that Article IV of the Constitution be amended to read as follows:

"The officers of the Council shall consist of a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Council shall, from time to time, elect. Elections of officers shall take place annually at a meeting of the Council of which at least two weeks notice shall be given and which shall be held not later than December 1st of each year. There shall also be an annual election of a Chairman of the Executive Committee, and a Chairman of the Administrative Committee if any, which shall take place not later than December 1st of each year."

As the vote on this motion was not unanimous, approval in writing of the proposed amendment by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the Council is required for ratification.

Please indicate on the enclosed card whether or not you favor ratification.

Yours sincerely,

  
Arthur Lourie

AL:LB  
Enc.



# American Zionist Emergency Council

## CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Mizrachi Organization of America  
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America  
Zionist Organization of America

342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.  
Murray Hill 2-1160

June 26, 1945

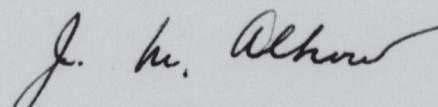
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
Atlantic City, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Silver:

At the request of Mr. Emanuel Neumann, I am sending to you herewith the By-Laws of the American Zionist Emergency Council.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
J. M. Alkow

JMA:MH  
Encs.