



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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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, Israeli, Arnold, 1945-1946.

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

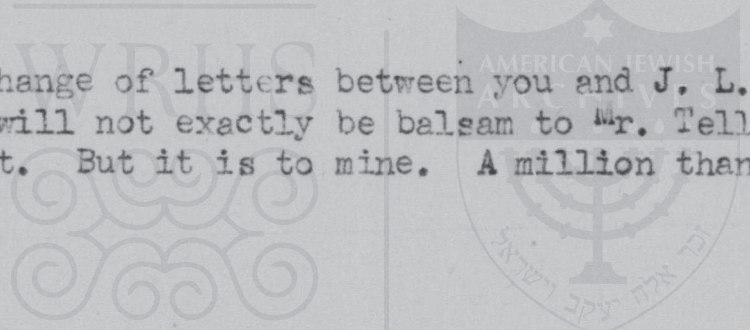
## MEMORANDUM

*To* Dr. Silver

*Date* September 24, 1945.

*From* Mr. Isreeli

I saw the exchange of letters between you and J. L. Teller. Your crisp answer will not exactly be balsam to Mr. Teller's wounded innocent heart. But it is to mine. A million thanks.





October 24, 1945

Mr. Kretchmar-Isreeli  
American Zionist Emergency Council  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Isreeli:

You may be interested in the enclosed clipping. I thought that the Jewish Communists had adopted a friendly attitude towards Zionism. This fellow's statement is certainly far from friendly. You might wish to take up this matter with the people at the "Freiheit."

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



January 17, 1946

American Zionist Emergency Council  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York 17, N. Y.

Attention: Mr. Israeli

My dear Mr. Israeli:

I have made numerous corrections in the text so that  
I have had the article retyped. I hope that it will  
reach you in time.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR  
Enc.



January 28, 1946

Mr. Arnold K. Isreeli  
American Zionist Emergency Council  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York 17, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Isreeli:

I received Sunday's copy of "The Day" which contains the address which I delivered at the Administrative Committee meeting of the ZOA. I find two criticisms to make of it: first that it is full of typographical errors. There should be better proof-reading. Secondly, the statement that it was written especially for the English page of "The Day" is misleading.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



# AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

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## *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

March 22, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

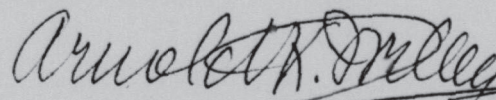
Dear Dr. Silver:

Attached is your article for the Jewish Morning Journal. I tried to cover with dignity but also with firmness all the salient points of the problem.

I read the article together with Mr. Manson, and he "did not find a word of criticism," agreeing with the substance and form.

I would appreciate it if you could return to me the article at your very earliest convenience.

Yours respectfully,



Arnold K. Isreeli

AKI:LD  
Enc.



March 25, 1946

Mr. Arnold K. Isreeli  
American Zionist Emergency Council  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York 17, N. Y.

My dear Friend:

I am returning herewith the excellent article which you sent me. It should be published at the earliest moment.

A few questions present themselves. Am I the person to sign this article? By so doing, I would become the principal object of attack of the Poale Zion. But I must bear in mind that I am also Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council and that our political activities require maximum harmony within our ranks. The approaching elections have already made themselves felt in the Emergency Council—only slightly as yet. As President of the ZOA, I will, of course, have to assume responsibility for the general line and campaign propaganda of the ZOA. I question, however, the tactical wisdom of publishing an article over my own signature at this time, an article which is polemical in nature, before the position of the ZOA has been placed officially before the American Jewish public, and before a number of our General Zionist leaders have had occasion to reinforce and advocate the position taken by the ZOA.

I am wondering whether this particular article should not be signed by someone else—Lipsky, Wise, Levinthal, Goldstein, etc. After the campaign warms up a bit, then an article over my own signature would, I believe, be more timely. If I were to publish an article at this time, it would have to be of a general character and non-polemical in nature.

I have suggested to Tannenbaum that the ZOA engage the services of a journalist like Mr. Auerbach, who would look after our interest in the Yiddish Press. What do you think of the suggestion? Is Mr. Auerbach a General Zionist? If not, can you suggest someone else?

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR



P.S. I have indicated on the margin a few places where, in my judgment, a slight revision is indicated. I would not refer at any time to the question of "ethics." Nor would I refer to the numerical insignificance of the Poale Zion.





MEMORANDUM

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date April 3, 1946

From Arnold K. Isreeli

CONFIDENTIAL

I wish to report to you about a discussion I had yesterday with David Wertheim which clarified for me -- and I am sure it will do so for you -- the atmosphere in which our Shekel and Elections Campaign is developing.

Mr. Wertheim was in my office and I felt this was an opportunity to discuss with him the rumors that labor Zionists are spreading in the country about your adverse attitude towards labor.

I will give you the discussion in detail.

AKI: "Chaver Wertheim, don't you think you and your group are making a grave mistake by spreading rumors throughout the country to the effect that Dr. Silver is an enemy of labor? Don't you think that in the end he and his group may really become antagonistic to labor because of those tactics? I talked to Dr. Silver and to his closest collaborators a number of times about their attitude towards labor Zionism or labor in Palestine, and I didn't notice any unfriendly feelings on their part towards the Histadruth or the labor members of the Agency."

DW: "It will be the greatest disaster for the movement if Silver should become the dominant figure in the Agency or in the World Zionist Executive. We were instinctively right when we voted in the Emergency Council with his enemies. We reverted ourselves afterwards but only for the American scene. The question of Dr. Silver's leadership on a world scale is a different story altogether."

AKI: "Why?"

DW: "You see, the Zionist Organization of the World is probably living its last days. It may take another year or a few years and the political status of Palestine will be settled. The Zionist Organization will then virtually disappear as an active factor. The Yishuv will take matters in its hands. The Zionist Congress will not be able to impose upon the Yishuv its decisions. And when we say Yishuv, it really means Histadruth. It has now 150,000 members. Their number is steadily on the increase. This is the future government of Palestine. To increase now the influence of General Zionist leadership in Palestine is absurd and dangerous."

AKI: "You mean to say that you do not want General Zionists in the higher councils of the Agency?"

DW: "Yes, if Dr. Silver wants to move to Palestine and live there he can be an active member of the Executive; perhaps in charge of political activities, but not the President of the organization."



AKI: "Why not?"

DW: "Because he will not want to be the figurehead that Dr. Weizmann has been, leaving to the Executive the actual work. He will want to be active, and everywhere. That, we cannot agree to."

AKI: "What would you propose?"

DW: "We would insist upon Dr. Weizmann to remain in the Presidency. He has learned to work with the Histadruth and no changes need be made."

AKI: "Do you mean that you can sidetrack the vital American Zionist Organization which is furnishing to the Agency the most money and backing it with political influence? How long will American Zionists agree to supply all that and stay out from the highest leadership in the movement. They will not always want to be the huers of wood and carriers of water in the movement."

DW: "American Jews will give money and will help Palestine no matter who is at the head."

AKI: "What would you do if General Zionists were to have the majority at the next Congress? Is it worthwhile to antagonize the American leadership of General Zionists?"

DW: "Never mind, Hadassah will not vote for Silver."

AKI: "I believe you ought to think twice before alienating the most active group in Zionism at this moment. It doesn't matter when the political status of Palestine will settle, but it will take years before the Jews are a majority in Palestine and meanwhile, the World Zionist Organization will function even more actively than now and will be the mainstay of Palestine in every respect particularly with respect to finances and political backing. You ought to think twice before you provoke such a radical split in Zionist ranks. You are making enemies of friends and perhaps denying Palestine the help that you yourselves couldn't muster."

DW: "It isn't we, really, it is the General Zionists who are at fault at the present moment. Read in today's papers Lipsky's statement to the effect that things have changed in the Palestine situation and, therefore, a new leadership is necessary. Read what Neumann has said in Palestine bringing Silver to the fore and talking of new leadership. Read what Frisch, what Goldstein said at the Silver dinner. There is no doubt they all want to dislodge the Histadruth and take its place. They all talk about the new leadership and about the self-assertion of General Zionism. This means -- Silver as against the present leadership in the Agency which is intolerable and would be disastrous."

From this discussion, you can draw your own conclusions. As far as I am concerned, I understand now more fully the crusade against you. It is expected to do away with the World Zionist Organization and supplant it by the Histadruth which expects to get the help of Jews anyway; General Zionists or no General Zionists.

AKI:MH



M E M O R A N D U M

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April 11, 1946

Mr. Arnold K. Isreeli  
American Zionist Emergency Council  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York 17, N. Y.

My dear Friend:

I am deeply grateful to you for the various memoranda which you sent me. They have been extremely helpful.

When I am in New York next week I should like to have a bit of free time with you, when we can talk over the many items and suggestions contained in your memoranda.

With all good wishes for a very happy Pesach, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR



## MEMORANDUM

**To** Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

**Date** October 30, 1945.

**From** Mr. Arnold K. Isreeli

At my luncheon-conference with Mr. P. Novick, editor of the Morning Freiheit, I wanted him to clarify the following points:

1. For whom does the Freiheit speak and who formulates its policies.
2. What are the relations of the Freiheit-group to the Communist Party here and to Moscow.
3. Where does the Freiheit's Palestine stand differ from our aims, where is their agreement with us.
4. What does he know about Moscow's attitude towards us.

The Freiheit belongs to a separate and quasi-independent group organized in the "Freiheit Association". The leaders are members of the Comparty but the Freiheit is not a party organ.

The policies of the Freiheit are formulated at the annual conferences of the Association. There will soon be such a national conference where Zionism will be thoroughly discussed. Zionism is not the Freiheit's policy all the way, although there are in the Association many outright Zionists. At the next conference their voice will surely be heard. The leaders of the Freiheit Association differ from us in our belief that Zionism will solve all the Jewish problems. They are for Jewish statehood in Palestine, but this is, in their view, not a panacea to all Jewish ills, not even entirely to Jewish homelessness. They believe that there is a possibility of having close Jewish settlements in several areas, for instance in Biro-Bidjan. They may in various places assume different forms. They agree that the peculiar Palestine economy and the "personality", so to speak, of the Yishuv tend to Jewish statehood there, and they are for it. But the immediate Commonwealth demand while the Arabs are still the majority is utopistic and they cannot go with us all the way.

Here I asked Mr. Novick, wherein does the Freiheit's stand on Palestine differ from that of the American Jewish Committee or of the American Council for Judaism. The answer was: the Freiheit believes in a world Jewish people, in a future, if not immediate, Jewish state in Palestine, in the necessity to foster the Yishuv as a jewel of our people, while the others are assimilationists.

A great deal of the interview was devoted to Russia. I wanted to know:

- a. Who in Russia has an opinion on Palestine;
- b. Is that opinion official;
- c. What are the relations between the Freiheit and those quarters;
- d. What does he know about the stand of the Moscow government.

Officially Moscow expressed an opinion on Palestine only through the Einigkeit Committee, which is a body fostering Jewish unity throughout the world. It is not directly a government nor a Comparty institution, but its activities have the consent of both. It is understood that the pronouncements of the Committee could not be contradictory to the wishes of the Government.



The Committee has enunciated its Palestine policy in a manifesto which was printed in Russia and reprinted by the "Freiheit" in its issue of November 16th, 1944, (I will get a copy). The manifesto favors open doors, the abolition of the White Paper, some recognized form of statehood, but in agreement and in cooperation with the Arabs, with some Arab circles at least. The Freiheit takes its cue from the Einigkeit Committee in Moscow.

Our discussion then turned to the attitude of the Soviet Government. There were no discussions on Palestine in the official Soviet press outside of the Einigkeit magazine. But as far as he knows, Russia is not disinterested in the Palestine solution. The government merely wants to be very careful, not to evoke undue suspicions, and desires to enter the scene gradually. Moscow does not believe the present ruling class in the Arab countries, but there are no other politically conscious classes in the Arab countries as yet. Therefore, it would be best for the Jews not to provoke any war-like reactions at present and meanwhile to cultivate the masses. This, one can say, would please Moscow most, and from this viewpoint it will be looked there very favorably upon opening the doors of Palestine and not so favorably upon the demand for the immediate proclamation of a Jewish Commonwealth.

