



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

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

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

Reel

11

Box

4

Folder

226

American Zionist Emergency Council, Mizrahi declaration on
Palestine, undated.

AKL
HPM

DRAFT OF MIZRACHI DECLARATION ON PALESTINE

- - - - -

Meeting in the most tragic hour in the history of our long-suffering people, when the voices of our murdered brethren cry out to us from the Nazi slaughter ovens, when the plight of uprooted European Jewry demands speedy and effective action, the Mizrahi Organization of America, which is built on faith in God and in his Holy Law, in convention assembled, issues this declaration:

I -- The re-establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth remains the one permanent solution to the Jewish problem. Conscious of our great responsibility as American Jews, untouched by the holocaust which has swept over our brethren in Europe, we must take the initiative in working towards the fulfillment of our people's historic hope, and reaffirm our adherence to Israel's great ideal which has its roots in the teachings of our Prophets and Sages and in our Holy Law -- the return to Zion and the creation there of a society founded on the high moral precepts of the Torah. In this great aspiration we are joined by an overwhelming majority of American Jewry, represented in the American Jewish Conference, and by men of goodwill of all faiths and creeds throughout the length and breadth of our nation.

II -- We hail President Roosevelt's magnificent statement of October 15, 1944, in which he pledged his help in bringing about the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. This historic declaration, voicing the sentiments of the American people, has brought new hope to the tortured remnants of Israel abroad.

III -- We also hail Governor Thomas E. Dewey's forthright declaration of October 12, 1944, in which he pledged to work towards the achievement of the Jewish Commonwealth. His notable utterance is another indication of the help and support for a Jewish Palestine which has been manifested by the bulk of the American people.

The Chief Executive of the United States, as well as the Republican candidate for the Presidency, have spoken in unmistakable terms. Their utterances, following the magnificent pro-Palestine planks included in the platforms of both the

Democratic and Republican parties, and following other great utterances by American statesmen and public figures -- including an overwhelming majority of the membership of both Houses of Congress -- represent the crystallization of American public opinion on a burning issue of our time. During the past year the mighty voice of America has spoken: The Jewish people shall live.

IV -- But these heartening pronouncements must be implemented immediately. The tragic plight of European Jewry permits no procrastination; speedy decisions must be taken with regard to their settlement and their future. First and foremost -- the doors of Palestine must be opened at once to unrestricted Jewish immigration and land colonization. We call upon our Government to use its good offices with the Mandatory Power to bring about the free entry of Jews into their ancient Homeland. The conscience of civilized humanity will not allow further delay on this question affecting the future of an entire people.

V -- We urge the early adoption by the Congress of the United States of the pending resolutions, calling for the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and land purchase and the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. In view of the official announcement by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson that Congressional action on these resolutions should now be determined upon the political rather than the military basis, and in view of the incorporation into the Democratic and Republican party platforms of planks embodying the spirit of the Palestine resolutions pending in Congress, we see no deterrent to speedy and favorable Congressional action on these measures.

VI -- Because the Jewish people have been singled out by Hitler for annihilation and because they have been the major victims of Nazi ruthlessness, we urge that in the rehabilitation of peoples who have been ravaged by the Axis aggressors, special consideration be given to the needs of Israel. The United Nations have a moral duty to extend whatever technical, financial and economic assistance is required to transfer as many Jewish settlers as possible to their Homeland, and to create the economic conditions necessary to their integration into Palestine. We urge, further, that accredited re-

representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine-- recognized spokesman for the Jewish people in all matters affecting the future of the Jewish Homeland -- be allowed to participate in discussions by international bodies who are charged with responsibilities involving the interests and the rights of the Jewish people in relation to Palestine.

VII -- In calling for the re-establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth, we demand that the whole of that country be included in such a Commonwealth.

With confidence in the justice of our cause; with a prayer that the slaughtered millions of Israel shall not have been martyrs in vain; with hope that the great heart of America will be quick to respond to the anguished cry of our helpless brethren; and with faith in God and in the prophecies of His Torah, we shall join hands with our comrades in arms in the fight against justice, tyranny and bigotry, and shall emerge out of the shadows of this era of suffering and cruelty into the daybreak of a new world of hope, progress, morality and dignity.