



## 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, Eliot, Major George  
Fielding, 1948.

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

## MEMORANDUM

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date September 29th, 1948

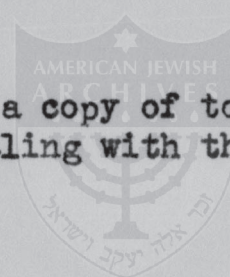
From Eliahu Ben-Horin

I enclose for your information a copy of today's memorandum to Harry Shapiro dealing with the Eliot trip to Paris.

Best regards.

EAH;mab  
enc

L. B-H.





MEMORANDUM

To Harry L. Shapiro

Date September 29th, 1948

From Eliahu Ben-Horin

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

I reported to you yesterday the conversation over the telephone which I had with Major Eliot. I think that it would be advisable to have a record of this conversation, in order that we avoid any misunderstandings in the future.

Major Eliot telephoned me to say that he has almost completed all the arrangements with O.N.A., but he wanted to make sure that by accepting this assignment, he would be under no obligation to us, and that it is understood that in Paris, he would be acting in accordance with his views and conscience.

To this, I replied as follows: "This goes without saying. I don't think that this matter could be handled in a more frank and straightforward manner than I handled it with you. I originally suggested this Paris trip to you, remarking that I was fully aware that your views do not necessarily tally completely with official Zionist views. However, I never questioned your right to your views, and I still felt that if you go to Paris and meet there with your friends, Secretary Marshall, Ambassador Austin and others, and talk to them on Palestine, it will be useful to the Zionist cause. It was this that prompted me to suggest to you the trip to Paris. I further thought that it would be an imposition on Ted Thackray to expect him to cover the expenses of your trip to Paris, as it was definitely a mission on behalf of Zionist interests and not of the New York Post. I therefore told you that I feel reasonably certain that if I take up this matter with the Zionist authorities, they would be willing to foot the bill.

"Subsequently, when you told me that after discussing the matter with Ted, you felt that you couldn't place yourself in such a position, namely of being sent on this mission by the Zionist movement, and of having the Zionist treasury cover the expenses of your trip, and that the only way of arranging this matter would be for you to represent a newspaper syndicate on this trip - I told you that I will try to arrange the matter this way. Later, I informed you that I did arrange it through O.N.A. who is willing to send you as its correspondent to Paris. You will surely understand", I continued, "that while O.N.A. is sending you to Paris, it is we who foot the bill, as you couldn't possibly expect O.N.A. to undertake such a sudden expense not provided for in their budget."

Major Eliot's reply to this was that he is completely satisfied with my statement and that he will proceed now to continue the arrangements with O.N.A. for his trip. I then suggested to Eliot that I thought it advisable for him to meet with Dr. Silver before he leaves for Paris. He gladly accepted this suggestion of mine and it remains to be seen whether this interview can take place before the Major's departure.

EBH:mab



# 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

September 30th, 1948

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

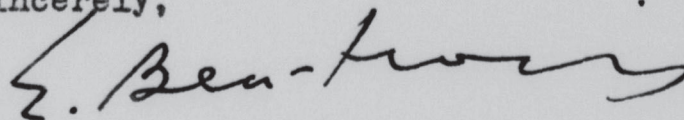
Dear Dr. Silver:

I am enclosing for your information copies of my letters to Arthur Lourie and Moshe Shertok in the Eliot matter.

I didn't have a chance to ask you yesterday what you thought of Eliot after having had the long talk with him. It seems to me that there is little doubt that the man can be helpful to us in Paris.

Wishing you, Mrs. Silver and the family a Shana Tova, I am

Sincerely,



Eliahu Ben-Horin

EBH:MB  
Enc.



September 30th, 1948

Mr. Moshe Shertok  
Foreign Secretary  
Provisional Government of Israel  
Paris, France

Dear Mr. Shertok:

You will have received in the meantime Arthur Lourie's cable advising you of George Fielding Eliot's trip to Paris. I feel that a little more information about this matter may be helpful in your relations with Major Eliot in Paris. I shall therefore tell you this story in full.

As you are fully familiar with Eliot's previous trip to the Middle East and the considerable services which he rendered us through his writings on the Middle East and even more so through his unpublished reports to General Marshall and the military in Washington, I shall not enlarge on that. Let me just mention that his book, HATE, HOPE AND HIGH EXPLOSIVES, which appeared a couple of weeks ago (an inscribed copy of which, by the way, is being sent to you ~~to~~ Tel Aviv) is also very favorable to us. In the present emergency, I felt that if Eliot were to go to Paris and talk to Marshall, Austin and also to some of his other American and British friends, (he is a close friend of Hector McNeill), it might be useful. After consulting Dr. Silver and Mr. Shapiro, who agreed with me as to the desirability of such a move, I started talking to Eliot on the suggestion. The enclosed copy of a memorandum I sent yesterday to Mr. Shapiro will acquaint you with the tenor of my negotiations with Eliot.

Yesterday, I brought Dr. Silver and Eliot together, and we had a very good and helpful discussion of the problem. In Paris, Eliot will be, of course, in closest touch with you and Major Even. Eliot made only one request and that is that your military assistants treat him with the same confidence as they did during his stay in Palestine, so as to enable him to have all the facts about the military situation for his talks with Marshall. I assured him that this will be so.

With kindest regards and wishing you every success in the difficult task you are facing in Paris, I am

Sincerely yours,

EBH:MB  
Enc.

Eliahu Ben-Horin



September 30th, 1948

Mr. Arthur Lourie  
Provisional Government of Israel  
16 East 66th St.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Arthur:

The conference between Dr. Silver and Major Eliot yesterday afternoon went off very well. Eliot is flying to Paris this Saturday. When I see you, I will tell you more as to how this matter was arranged. In the meantime, I suggest that you cable to Shertok. Even should be coached along the following lines:

"George Fielding Eliot flies this Saturday Paris for few weeks as O.N.A. correspondent stop Ben-Horin who arranged trip air-mailing you details stop main purpose is our belief that Eliot's contacts with Marshall, Austin, others may be useful stop please accord Eliot friendship confidence."

I am also enclosing the letter to Mr. Shertok, which you said you can forward to him in a safe and expeditious manner.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Elisha Ben-Horin

EBH:MB  
Enc.