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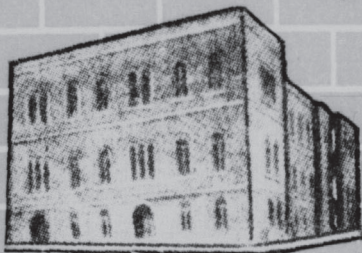
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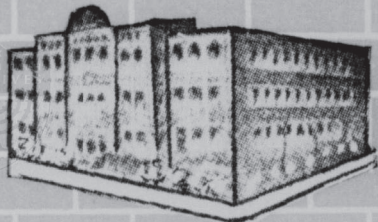
Bicur Cholem, 1948-1949.

BUILDING FUND
of the
UNITED CHARITY INSTITUTIONS
of JERUSALEM



**BIKUR CHOLIM
HOSPITAL**

505 FIFTH AVENUE



**ETZ CHAIM
YESHIVOTH**

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

\$25

TWENTY-FIVE BRICKS

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL

15 East 56th Street
New York, N. Y.

June 8, 1948

I have your letter of June 3 inviting me to participate in a Testimonial Dinner in honor of Sol Bloom's 25th year in Congress to be held on Thursday, June 10.

Please convey my heartiest congratulations to Congressman Bloom on this anniversary of an outstanding career and assure him that it is only because of my extremely demanding commitments that I shall not be present to take part in honoring him on this occasion.

With very best wishes for success in building the Sol Bloom Wing of the Bicur Cholim Hospital, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Aubrey S. Eban

Aubrey S. Eban

"Jerusalem Forever"

Benefit

UNITED CHARITY INSTITUTIONS OF JERUSALEM

220 S. State Street Suite 1328 Chicago 4, Illinois Webster 9-2654

January 20, 1949

Mr. M. M. Sokell
Checker Cab Company
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Sokell:

Pursuant to a conversation had with one of the members of my committee I am happy to know that you would like further information about our gala performance to be held at the Civic Opera House to commemorate the first Anniversary of the State of Israel.

We hope that you will join with my people in celebrating this historic occasion to the extent of making a contribution, or through the purchase of tickets to the performance that will be known as "Jerusalem Forever", which will be given by a number of outstanding stage, screen and radio stars.

The proceeds from this affair, which incidently is being held in principal cities from coast to coast on the same date, will be given to the United Charity Institutions of Jerusalem.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

A. J. Sabath, M.C.
Honorary Chairman

ELMER GERTZ

November 11, 1948

Honorable J. W. Gerard, Chairman
Bicour Cholim Hospital of Jerusalem
Suite 609
New York 23, New York

Dear Mr. Gerard:

Returning to my office, I find the letter asking me to be a sponsor of the drive for the Sol Bloom Wing of the Hospital. This I am glad to do. I am reading the Congressman's Autobiography with the greatest interest.

Sincerely,

Elmer Gertz

EG:er

EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN

Bicur Cholim Hospital of Jerusalem

CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS: 1947 BROADWAY, SUITE 609, NEW YORK 23, N. Y. • TRafalgar 7-3495

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February 28, 1949

Rabbi Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland
Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Only this morning we received from Jerusalem from the head of our Hospital Professor Zondek your wonderful statement for which historic Jerusalem and the thousands of destitute people in Jerusalem who are kept up by our Institutions will be thankful to you.

We are writing this letter not only to thank you but also to draw your attention to a certain situation in Chicago and also in New York, where our holy work is being hampered by very disgusting methods. We are enclosing herewith a copy of a letter which we are sending today to Chicago; from this you can get a clear picture of what is happening in Chicago.

In New York we are having a lot of difficulty with Hadassah, who even dared to send a letter of "Mesirah" to the Dept. of Welfare under the signature of Mrs. Rose Halpern, President. We thought the old Jewish curse, the curse of the Ghetto "Malshinoth" was eradicated with the creation of the glorious state of Israel but it seems to our great sorrow that some Jews who are leaders of National Jewish Organizations, are still incurable.

It is with deep regret, our dear Rabbi Silver, that we bother you with such matters, but you are the Moses of our generation. You are the only one to whom we can turn, and who more than you and your late father "Zichron Tzadik Livocho" knew so intimately our Jerusalem and of its urgent needs.

We are certain that you will find a way to help us and it is our deep faith and conviction that because of your monumental work on behalf of the reborn state of Israel, the Almighty will honor the day when we will see you as head of the State of Israel in the historic boundaries of Israel with Jerusalem as its capital.

Gratefully yours,

Morris Eliach

MORRIS ELIACH
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SR; hl

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Proceeds to Establish Sol Bloom Wing of the Bicur Cholim Hospital in Jerusalem

February 28, 1949

Mr. Milton J. Silverman
701 North Wells Street
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Mr. Silverman:

Many reports have come to us from Chicago, stating that you are conducting a campaign of vilification against our Organization. Therefore, I decided to write to you, and also mail a copy of this letter to Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, since I can not believe these reports to be true; there must be a misunderstanding somewhere. We are not in conflict with either the ZOA or any other Zionist or Jewish organizations. Our institutions have been in existence in Eretz Israel for the past one hundred and eight years.

As you probably know, Jerusalem has always been, and still is a poor Jewish community. We therefore had to raise money from the outside to send to Jerusalem. The situation today is more acute than ever, as the war has left the Jewish community in Jerusalem in a ruined economic state.

All our institutions, including the Bicur Cholim Hospital are overtaxed. The poorest of the poor come daily asking for help which we cannot provide for lack of funds. We are not receiving any subsidy from the United Jewish Appeal or any other Zionist fund. All of the eighteen institutions under the care of the United Charity Institutions of Jerusalem depend principally on the money raised in the United States.

Inasmuch we were receiving daily telegrams and SOS letters crying for help we tried to arrange a few extra events in order to raise funds. One of them was to be held in Chicago in the form of a show. To our great sorrow we immediately met with a situation initiated by you. We thereupon sent Rabbi Shapiro to meet with you and discuss all difficulties. He returned with the report that you gave him many conditions, one of which was that there was to be no show. He agreed to many of your demands, however. In return, you promised to help and cooperate with us if these demands were fulfilled.. That help and cooperation were never forthcoming; instead this campaign of vilification is, for no apparent reason, still going on.

We ask you, in the name of eighteen of the oldest institutions in Eretz Israel and in the name of thousands of poor and sick people who depend on us, why are you trying to hinder instead of helping us?

Enclosed you will find copy of a letter which Rabbi Silver sent to Professor Zandoni three months ago when he was visiting the

February 28, 1949

(Milton J Silverman-Cont'd)

United States. This letter speaks for itself. Whatever your Zionist affiliations may be this statement by the greatest Zionist leader of our generation, the man who more than any one else contributed to the restoration of the State of Israel, should surely earn your respect. His endorsement and appeal for help should gain the attention of all Zionists!

We know, Mr. Silverman, that you have been an active Zionist for a good many years. We feel assured therefore, that since Eretz Israel, and this includes Jerusalem, is very dear to you, that you will in the future help us raise the necessary funds in this emergency.

WRHS



MORRIS BLIACH
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

cc to Rabbi Silver

March 4, 1949

Mr. Milton J. Silverman
701 North Wells Street
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Mr. Silverman:

I received a rather unhappy letter from Mr. Morris Eliach, Executive Secretary of the Bicur Cholim Hospital of Jerusalem. He complains of the treatment which his organization has been receiving in Chicago. I wonder what the trouble is. Can I be of any help in the matter?

Bicur Cholim Hospital is really a first-class institution and is rendering great service, and its head, Professor Zondek, is, as you well know, one of the foremost medical men in the world today.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

FROM THE DESK OF

Milton J. Silberman

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Reference Bicur Cholim Hospital

Date March 10, 1949

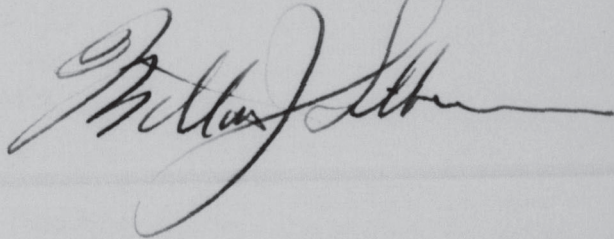
My dear Dr. Silver:

I have yours of recent date, and I am sorry that you have been burdened with this matter.

May I suggest, even though it is lengthy, that you read the entire history of this case. I have in my possession the originals as well as the newspaper releases and pamphlets being used.

Please be assured that you still have the complete confidence of so many of us, and I am ^{sure} it will be proven of American Jewry.

With kind personal regards and Zion's greetings,



For H. Well
Chicago 10 10

March 10, 1949

Mr. Morris Eliach, Executive Director
Biour Cholim Hospital of Jerusalem
1947 Broadway, Suite 609
New York 23, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Eliach:

I have just returned from New York and found your letter of February 28th. Because of the contents of this letter and the endeavor again being made to cover up the true facts either intentionally or unintentionally by your group, I am answering it immediately.

For your information, neither I nor any other member of the Chicago Zionist Emergency Council is conducting a campaign of vilification against your organization -- by organization I mean the Biour Cholim Hospital of Jerusalem. From the outset we have maintained that the hospital is a legitimate project in Jerusalem. When you say we are conducting a campaign of vilification, you had better state the true facts in the matter, unless you, too, are willing to go along with a film over your eyes.

No one has charged that the Biour Cholim Hospital is in conflict with the Z.O.A. or other recognized Zionist or Jewish organizations. We, here in Chicago, are deeply concerned though when groups come into our community for the purpose of raising funds. We do not set ourselves up as the masters as to who has the right to solicit funds for Israel in Chicago, but we are concerned when means of a questionable nature are utilized for that purpose.

This we have made clear to your Meyer Shapiro, who says he is a Rabbi, yet we in our community who are interested in this matter doubt to the extent that he is using the title of Rabbi in the true sense of Jewish Rabbinic Law. For after we had made known to him the facts as we saw them, he still persisted in conducting himself, as an individual and as a representative of the Biour Cholim Hospital, in a disrespectful manner.

Let us understand that we, who are interested in this matter, happen to hold a certain position in our community, and we are, therefore, called upon for advice in matters such as these. Again I say that we fully understand the position of the hospital and the United Charity Institutions of Jerusalem.

Now let us look at the record and let that speak for itself.

-2-

On January 21, 1949 I received a telephone call from one of our most conscientious and devoted Zionist workers. I was not in the office at that time, yet he advised my secretary that he had been called by a Mr. Henry Strauss in the name of the Bicur Cholim Hospital, telephone number WEBster 9-2654, address 220 S. State Street. You may not know, but 220 S. State Street in Chicago is the address of the Zionist headquarters, also the J.N.F. and the U.P.A., and it is considered, shall I say, a "kosher" address by Jews in our community. Mr. Strauss, in his telephone remarks, said that the hospital is celebrating with Chicago the first anniversary of the proclamation of the Jewish State on May 14, 1949 in the Civic Opera House, at which time such individuals as Eddie Cantor, Al Jolson, Larry Adler, etc., would be present. He asked for minimum contributions per seat of \$25.00 per person -- the entire proceeds going to the hospital.

When I returned to my office on January 21st, I called the Webster phone number and asked for Mr. Strauss. The young lady who answered said that Mr. Strauss was not in, and when I queried her for information, she, too, repeated some of the remarks made by Mr. Strauss, but in all justice to her, her name was Miss Elaine Weinberg, she also said that she had just been hired and did not know too much about the set-up. She would though have someone contact me in a short while.

This contact, you can be sure, was made by none other than a woman named Gerda Farber. When Miss Farber called, and speaking in a very affected manner in answer to my questions, she, too, repeated the "line of talk" that was being used. I then asked Miss Farber if she knew to whom she was talking, and I again gave her my name. You see, we, in Chicago, as well as the members of my Committee, had had some bitter experiences with the same Miss Farber just a year ago when she and a Mr. Samuel Rosen came to Chicago and put on a show at the Chicago Stadium supposedly in behalf of Revisionist institutions into which the United Zionist Revisionists were inveigled. They ran what is known in the soliciting business as a boiler factory -- telephone solicitors -- who in turn, including herself and Mr. Rosen, used the names of those of us who are Zionists and many non-Zionists of reputable stature in soliciting monies for this project. Many things were done by them that were of a questionable nature.

You might recall that a year ago we, Zionists, were having a hell of a time endeavoring to bring about a favorable position on the part of our government. We had received instructions from the American Zionist Emergency Council to engage in a city-wide meeting to focus propaganda and bring pressure upon our government toward a favorable end. Somehow Mr. Rosen learned of this matter, and I was approached with the suggestion that the Chicago Zionist Emergency Council join with them in utilizing the show as a protest meeting. While, as I have said before, many of the promotional activities of this group were not of the best, when they made the proposal it was on the basis that they had already sold the greatest part of the seats at the Stadium, that the monies were intact, that

certain other seats would be made available to our Committee for purchase, and many other complicated matters. Let me tell you at this time that I staked my personal reputation, as did Mr. Bernard Shulman and others, in getting approval from our Zionists to enter into such a combination, which was only brought about after bitter arguments in which all of our people participated. Those of us who were in favor of this program had a number of things in mind: one, that the peoples who were contributing and who had purchased seats for this program were in the main regular members and good friends of the Zionist Movement; two, that we did not want to subject them to a line of propaganda from another group which might confuse their thinking; and lastly and mainly, that because we had been requested to hold a mass protest demonstration, theirs was the first date available that would suit our convenience too.

We sat with them for two days and tried to find the so-called "nigger in the woodpile" -- why they were so willing to have us join them when as they claimed they had a financial success. My good friend, we found it and thank God we did in time to withdraw as co-operating groups. The record and history of the affair still smells to high heaven. Mr. Joseph Teitelbaum, the Chairman of the United Zionist Revisionists of Chicago can well tell you what happened to the monies Mr. Rosen and Miss Farber received. For your information, his organization also withdrew when they found out, as we did, what was going on.

Now let us return to the Biour Cholim case. On that Friday, the 21st, when I spoke to Miss Farber, I also learned for the first time from the Executive Director of the Zionist Organization of Chicago, Mr. Charles Levin, that your group was conducting another mail order type of campaign, using a stationery carrying the names of many people from Illinois as well as national dignitaries, both Jews and Christians. The gist of this campaign was that monies were being solicited for the sale of a fountain pen, and I quote part of a paragraph of that letter: "I am confident you will be as generous as possible, and at least send us the amount of the retail price of the enclosed pen \$3.95. To cover our expenses."

I notified Miss Farber that we felt it our duty to investigate this entire setup and asked her to be present the following Monday evening, January 24th, at a meeting of the Chicago Zionist Emergency Council and other representative members of the Jewish community. She advised me that Rabbi Meyer Shapiro would be present at the meeting Monday night. They both showed up at the meeting, and the first thing that was made known to Rabbi Shapiro was that we were not questioning the authenticity of the Biour Cholim Hospital of Jerusalem or the United Charity Institutions of Jerusalem. We all agreed that they were perfectly legitimate, but that we were questioning (a) the method being used to solicit monies, and (b) the utilization of names for this purpose. I recounted to Rabbi Shapiro the entire history as I have already recounted to you.. Mr. Joseph Teitelbaum, Rabbi Morton M. Berman, Mr. Max Swiren, Mr. Eli Strauss,

Mr. Bernard Shulman, and I could go on naming all the members present, also gave their thoughts in the matter.

Let me say to you that we told Rabbi Shapiro that we felt that the Bicur Cholim was being taken for a "ride", that it was being used as a means by people of questionable reputation, and let me also say that after Mr. Teitelbaum got through, if your Rabbi Shapiro had any respect for himself or your organization, he would have immediately told Miss Farber to "get", but it seems that it is not the intention of your group to listen and be advised.

One matter that we did bring up was the utilization of a day dear in our hearts, May 14th, to promote a program supposedly in the name of the Chicago Jewish community when in fact no representatives of a positive Chicago Jewry have anything to do with this program.

As you know, the Chicago Committee is supposedly headed by Congressman A. J. Sabath as Chairman, Barney Ross as co-Chairman, Isachar B. Rokach as Executive Director, Gerda Farber as Executive Secretary, and further included the names of Rev. Preston Bradley, Ernest Byfield, Arthur X. Elrod, General Julius Klein, Irving Kupcinet, Dr. Karl A. Meyer, Dr. Edward J. Sparling and Governor Adlai E. Stevenson. The letterhead on the front and on the back further contains the names of people of national repute -- Jew and Gentile alike. Let us, though, confine ourselves to the members of the so-called Chicago Committee. Mr. Rokach and Miss Farber are not residents of Illinois. Mr. Barney Ross was a resident at one time.

I communicated with Congressman A.J. Sabath, and he said he had authorized this group to use his name last year in connection with a dinner they had planned in New York in honor of the now late Congressman Sol Bloom, for the purpose of honoring Mr. Bloom for his many years of service in Congress and for the supposed dedication of a Sol Bloom wing of the Bicur Cholim Hospital in Jerusalem.

Congressman Sabath, Mr. Byfield, Mr. Elrod, General Klein, and Mr. Kupcinet did not authorize or did not want their names used in any promotional scheme such as the selling of fountain pens or the running of a telephone boiler factory in the solicitation of funds. As your literature puts it in re fountain pens -- "Emergency Campaign Bicur Cholim Hospital of Jerusalem" and "Jerusalem Forever", May 14, 1949, Chicago Civic Opera House commemorating the first anniversary of the State of Israel". You will please note that we did not feel that we should contact the "goyim" whose names were being used for fear that when they did learn how they were being "used", we, as Jews and as Zionists, and the State of Israel, as one of our dearest hopes, would suffer.

At the meeting your Rabbi Shapiro was told that while we did not like an outside group to come into our city and use the day of May 14th, that was only a minor objection, but that the main objection was the method of operations. We suggested to him that if he was sincere and if the program was completely honest he immediately cleanse the staff of the office,

March 10, 1949

-5-

discontinue telephone solicitations in the manner that they were being carried out, discontinue the solicitation of funds by the sale of fountain pens, discontinue using the names of the peoples appearing on the stationery from the Chairman to and including all the names used unless they had specifically given authorization to use their names after they had been apprised of the type of campaign to be carried on. He was further told by me, as well as the others, that if this cleansing process were to take place and a group of people were to be invited to a meeting in order to present the needs and discuss the possibilities and means of raising funds for the hospital in Chicago, that a good number of us, including myself, would be happy to sit down and participate in such a meeting, but that we could not take the initiative in this matter.

Your Rabbi Shapiro was to first call and then meet with me, Mr. Swiren, and Mr. Teitelbaum. This he never did. We had to trace him by telephone and he took a very adamant position.

For your information and again for the record, Commissioner Arthur X. Elrod wanted to immediately have your entire setup here in Chicago arrested, but at my behest and after I spoke to Capt. Dan Gilbert of the State's Attorney's police, withheld action until further communication from me. Two days passed and because Capt. Gilbert did not hear from me due to my being out of town, your Rabbi Shapiro was "invited" by detectives to "visit" the State Attorney's office. It was reported to me by that office that on the basis of the letters of original acceptance of last year which your Rabbi Shapiro presented, the "goyim" felt that everything was okay, but your Rabbi Shapiro did not, and I say did not deliberately, tell them of the hoax being used in the sale of fountain pens and the solicitation of funds for a show at the Civic Opera House.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter, the original of which I have in my possession, addressed to Mr. M. M. Sokoll of the Checker Cab Company -- the signature being that supposedly authorized by Congressman Sabath and initialed G.F. (Gerda Farber). I am also enclosing copy of a letter by Mr. Elmer Gertz. I can continue to give you originals and quotations. You have them too. I do though want to quote further from the Confidential Bulletin of the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry dated February 2, 1949.

"BICUR CHOLIM HOSPITAL, Jerusalem, Chicago Committee Office,
220 S. State Street, is distributing fountain pens on a
remit-or-return basis. Proceeds are for support of Bicur
Cholim Hospital in Jerusalem. Our investigations indicate
that there is a division of opinion among Jewish groups in the Chicago area regarding the advisability of soliciting for this hospital in Chicago. Some Jewish groups contend that the people in Jerusalem are able and should carry the full support."

March 10, 1949

-6-

"NOTE: Our Committee believes that unsolicited merchandise on a remit-or-return basis is not desirable. Unsolicited merchandise is mailed at the senders' risk, and the recipient is under no obligation to return the merchandise."

"JERUSALEM FOREVER, 220 S. State Street, Chicago, is soliciting contributions and selling tickets to a variety show for May 14, 1949. Tickets are from \$5.00 to \$25.00. Proceeds are to benefit United Charity Institutions of Jerusalem comprising eighteen institutions including Bicur Cholim Hospital. (SEE discussion of Bicur Cholim Hospital elsewhere in this Bulletin.) Chicago Committee states sale of tickets is being handled by three office employees on a full time salary. In the opinion of our Committee, since the cost of this type of entertainment is substantial, tickets should be purchased primarily on the entertainment value of the event."

Let me also say that immediately upon your Rabbi Shapiro's appearance before our group, he said he came with good credentials as he was a cousin of Rabbi Moses Eichenstein, whom we all know and who happens to be a personal friend of the writer's. It later developed, after meeting with Rabbi Eichenstein on this matter at the home of my Rabbi, Dr. Morris A. Gutstein -- who happens to be a cousin of Rabbi Eichenstein -- that Rabbi Shapiro is related to him by marriage as a cousin six times removed and Rabbi Eichenstein didn't even know he was in town or what his connections were in this whole matter until he was asked to take over the operations of this office. Nevertheless, his name was being used as a reference. I am sure you know that when Rabbi Eichenstein found out all that was involved he washed his hands of the whole thing. We again told Rabbi Eichenstein what we thought would be the proper approach.

I am sorry that I have to use the language that I am about to when you say that Rabbi Shapiro "agreed to many of your demands, however in return you promised to help and cooperate with us if these demands were fulfilledthat help and cooperation were never forthcoming; instead this campaign of vilification is, for no apparent reason, still going on." In plain words, Rabbi Shapiro is lying. He promised to see that Miss Farber would leave the office immediately and that methods of operation would be changed. Not only is Miss Farber still there, but the operations are continuing as before.

We did not promise to help in any manner other than as stated before and because I have been preoccupied with matters affecting the rally that we had on February 13th here in Chicago and various Zionist and JNF activities, I have not even had the slightest opportunity to further go into this matter. Wherefore is there any campaign of vilification?

Mr. Morris Eliach

March 10, 1949

-7-

For you people to endeavor to conduct your affairs in the manner that you are, which is now questionable in my mind if it is with the full knowledge of the officials of the Bicur Cholim Hospital in Jerusalem, and to endeavor to further confuse the entire matter by the type of letter you have sent me and a copy of which you had the "chuzpa" to send to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver when he is so occupied with matters that in my mind affect the future of not only Israel but positive living by the American Jewish community, is only a further indication that the Bicur Cholim Hospital is being used by you people.

Again I say that the hospital, its integrity or the integrity of Professor Zondek, is not the question. The question is does a responsible, recognized institution have to have its name pilfered with by cheap methods of solicitation? I don't think so. I feel that it can of its own strength command an open appeal to the American Jewish and Gentile community for support.

That is the record. It is now for you to say whether or not you are doing a service or a dis-service not only to the sick but to the State of Israel. I feel, and my colleagues join me in that feeling, that whatever action we have taken was taken as a service -- not as vilification.

I am sending a copy of this letter to my beloved leader Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and if he will tell me that my actions have been wrong in this matter, I am prepared to step aside from any further Zionist responsibilities that I may now have, but I do not feel that I will be called upon to do this.

With Zion's Greetings,

Milton J. Silberman

MJS:SP

Enc. (2)

cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

P.S. I am enclosing a so-called brick coupon that you people have used to raise money which further confuses the public mind, for it infers that the Honorable Aubrey S. Eban has given approval of the method of your operation, while his letter actually only advises you that he cannot be present at the June 10, 1948 dinner in honor of the late Congressman Bloom, but nevertheless wishes for success in the building of the wing in what is now his memory. It is again a piece of clever manipulation.

Beken Cholim

March 15, 1949

Mr. Milton J. Silberman
701 North Wells Street
Chicago 10, Illinois

My dear Friend:

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of the letter which you addressed to Mr. Morris Eliach on March 10th. I read it with a great deal of interest, and it is certainly very informative. When Mr. Eliach approaches me again on the matter, I shall be very happy to have at my disposal the facts which you sent me.

With all good wishes, and trusting that you are well,
I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er