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

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

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Central Conference of American Rabbis, Binstock, Louis, 1946.



# TEMPLE SHOLOM



*The Temple-on-the-Lake*

3480 LAKE SHORE DRIVE, CHICAGO, 13

RABBI LOUIS BINSTOCK, D. D.

July 22, 1946

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

At the request of Rabbi Binstock,  
I am enclosing a copy of the May 10th release  
of the American Council for Judaism.

Sincerely,

*Ethel Mann*

Secretary to Rabbi



May 10, 1946

The President,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

It is my very great pleasure to follow the instructions of our Executive Committee to send you in its behalf, as well as in behalf of our entire membership, our sincere thanks and deep appreciation for the part you played in enabling the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry to render its magnificent Report. I have likewise been instructed to convey to you our opinions regarding the Report, which I do most respectfully, with the hope that you will consider them as a constructive policy which you can wholeheartedly endorse. Fundamentally we urge the complete acceptance of the Recommendations of the Report as a whole, and we look forward to its implementation at the earliest possible moment. I stand ready to confer with you to the end that our organization may be useful in bringing this Report speedily into effect.

We believe that some day, when the passions of the moment will have become a memory, the unanimous Report of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry will be regarded as one of the most lucid, wise, humane and statesman-like documents of our times. Composed under incredible pressures, within a limited time and on subjects on which there is intense feeling, the Report is a monument to good sense, to clarity and to breadth of vision. The unanimity of its sponsors is a tribute to their rational wisdom.

The unique quality of this Report lies in the fact that it is one Report. While designed to deal with a number of complex problems, each of its Recommendations is an intrinsic but subordinate aspect of a larger total; each section is related to and intertwined with all others. No greater disservice can be done to the judicious findings of the able and sincere men who composed the Committee than to mutilate their Recommendations by fragmentary action; by breaking up the unified coordinated structure they have reared of humanitarian vision, political wisdom and high-minded aspirations for peace.

The magnitude of the Report can be judged from the fact that it deals, and deals with utmost wisdom, with four basic interlocking considerations.

1. The report commends action on the immediate problem of about 100,000 Jews who are among the Displaced Persons of Europe, who are actually, not theoretically, homeless and for whom new homes must be found. The views of the Committee are that these homes should promptly be found for them in Palestine.



2. The Report logically and properly then turns to conditions for peace and progress in Palestine. What service would be rendered to the 100,000 displaced Jews by merely transferring them from an unhappy post-war atmosphere to a tense, potential, pre-war environment? The crackle of gunfire, the bursting of hand grenades, the bombing of buildings, the barbed wire enclosures of a military encampment do not constitute an atmosphere suitable for those deeply injured men, women and children. They must be removed to a land of peace. To urge their transfer to Palestine without regard for the other Recommendations would only give the appearance of solving a problem without actually considering the fate of the human beings who constitute that problem.

Throughout its Recommendations, the Committee clearly indicates its goal: that Palestine be a peaceful land in which all of its inhabitants shall be bound by a common loyalty to that country and to no other; in which they will all pool their skills and resources for the common good, not merely for parrisan good. To this end it advises that all dis-criminatory practices of group against group, whether a "White Paper" restricting Jews or a Jewish National Fund lease excluding Arab labor, shall be rejected.

In the Committee's Report the relationship between all these elements is made apparent. The transfer of these deeply injured people from Europe to Palestine is not enough. The move must be accompanied by procedures that will make for a peaceful habitation of all of the people of all of Palestine.

3. The Committee's breadth of vision is also made clear in those sections of its Report which deal with the status of the remaining Jews in Europe.

In regard to them, the Committee expresses the view that the whole world shares a responsibility, both for those who may still need to emigrate and those who will continue to live in Europe.

Corresponding to the position that we of the American Council for Judaism have steadily maintained, the Committee's emphasis is on giving effect to the provisions of the United Nations Charter for the protection of fundamental human individual rights.

The Committee's insight and profound wisdom are summarized in its statement that: "A considerable number of Jews will continue to live in most European countries. In our view, the mass immigration of all European Jews would be a service neither to the Jews themselves nor to Europe. Every effort should be made to enable the Jews to rebuild their shattered communities, while permitting those Jews who wish to do so, to emigrate."



The committee rightfully recommends action for the economic, political and social re-integration of the Jews of Europe: "The only really effective antidotes are the enforcement by each government of guaranteed civil liberties and equal rights, a program of education in the positive principles of democracy, the sanction of a strong world public opinion -- combined with economic recovery and stability."

4. Finally, the Committee's Report deals with the fundamental character of the relationship of the Jews of the world to Palestine. This may be, over a period of years, the most important service that it renders. It makes clear what are the acceptable as against the unacceptable relationships between Jews the world over and Palestine as a proposed state.

The Committee states: "Further, while we recognize that any Jew who enters Palestine in accordance with its laws is there of right, we expressly disapprove of the position taken in some Jewish quarters that Palestine has in some way been ceded or granted as their State to the Jews of the world, that every Jew everywhere is, merely because he is a Jew, a citizen of Palestine and therefore can enter Palestine as of right without regard to conditions imposed by the Government upon entry, and that therefore there can be no illegal immigration of Jews into Palestine. We declare and affirm that any immigrant Jew who enters Palestine contrary to its laws is an illegal immigrant." (our underlining.)

A Jew who enters Palestine legally is there as of right. So is the Jew who enters any other country in accordance with its immigration laws. Justifiably, this declaration rejects the Zionist claim that Palestine has been given to the Jews of the world, and that therefore all Jews have special rights in regard to Palestine.

By this significant declaration, the Committee clears the way for the important task that must be given priority by Jews all over the world; the historic process of their full integration into the countries in which they live or to which they remove. In this way they will further the traditions of western civilization and democracy.

We respectfully submit the above in support of our contention that the Committee's Report be accepted in its entirety and that prompt action be taken to implement all of the provisions of that Report.

Sincerely yours,

President



July 31, 1946

Dr. Louis Binstock  
348 N. Lake Shore  
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Lou:

I am replying to your letter here in New York and I haven't your handwritten letter before me. As I recall it, you checked up with Fineshreiber about my statement and Fineshreiber indignantly repudiated it. I don't know why you didn't follow my advice and go to the "original sources". It is always well to consult the sources.

The American Council for Judaism issued two statements on the Report of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. One was a letter addressed to the President of the United States and made public on May 14 by Lessing J. Rosenwald. It is printed in the "Information Bulletin" of the American Council for Judaism issue of May 15, 1946. The other is a letter submitted to the State Department at a meeting between Mr. Rosenwald and Dean Acheson on June 2, 1946, and printed in the "Information Bulletin" of June 15, 1946.

In the letter to the President on May 14, Mr. Rosenwald, speaking for the American Council for Judaism, stated, "The unique quality of this Report lies in the fact that it is ONE Report." (The italics are Mr. Rosenwald's). "While designed to deal with a number of complex problems, each of its recommendations is an intrinsic but subordinate aspect of a larger total; each section is related to and intertwined with all others."

"No greater disservice can be done to the judicious findings of the able and sincere men who composed the Committee than to mutilate their Recommendations by fragmentary action; by breaking up the unified coordinated structure they have reared of humanitarian vision, political wisdom and high-minded aspirations for peace."

"...What service would be rendered to the 100,000 Displaced Jews by merely transferring them from an unhappy post-war atmosphere to a tense, potential, pre-war environment? The crackle of gunfire, the bursting of hand grenades, the bombing of buildings, the barbed wire enclosures of a military encampment do not constitute an atmosphere suitable for those deeply injured men, women and children. THEY MUST BE REMOVED TO A LAND OF PEACE. (The italics are Mr. Rosenwald's). To urge their transfer to Palestine without



July 31, 1946

regard for the other Recommendations would only give the appearance of solving a problem without actually considering the fate of the human beings who constitute that problem."

You will recall that the President of the United States when he made public the Anglo-American Report took the diametrically opposite point of view of Mr. Rosenwald. The President stated on April 30, "I am very happy that the request which I made for the immediate admission of 100,000 Jews into Palestine has been unanimously endorsed by the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. The transference of these unfortunate people should now be accomplished with the greatest dispatch. ...In addition to these immediate objectives the report deals with many other questions of long-range political policies and questions of international law which require careful study and which I will take under advisement."

In other words, the President was eager to have these 100,000 unfortunate Jews moved at once without waiting for action on the other recommendations of the Report. But not so Lessing J. Rosenwald and the American Council for Judaism who were perfectly content to let these 100,000 languish in their misery while the long-range policy problems are first disposed of. That is to say not until the Jewish State is officially buried to the satisfaction of the American Council for Judaism.

As a result of wide-spread criticism, I assume the letter to Dean Acheson a few weeks later is somewhat less pointed. Nevertheless, the same position is maintained. "...We whole-heartedly approve all of the Recommendations of the Report, and urge the adoption of the Report AS A WHOLE (the italics are Mr. Rosenwald's) and the simultaneous implementation of all its Recommendations. We consider it imperative that the realistic balance between contending forces that is provided for in the Report be maintained by the adoption of the Report AS A WHOLE. (Italics are Mr. Rosenwald's). ...Partisan pressures, which demand the acceptance of only those Recommendations which are favorable will lead unquestionably to unsettled conditions within and outside of Palestine."

The question which I posed in my Presidential Message at the CCAR addressed to my Rabbinical College was therefore based on the official statements of the Council, and I feel that conscientious rabbis whose anti-Zionism has not poisoned either their religious convictions nor their Jewish loyalties should seriously ask themselves whether they can continue to remain members of such an organization as the American Council for Judaism.

With all good wishes and hoping that you are enjoying your summer vacation, I remain,

Most cordially yours,

AHS: jm

Abba Hillel Silver



# TEMPLE SHOLOM



*The Temple-on-the-Lake*

3480 LAKE SHORE DRIVE, CHICAGO, 13

RABBI LOUIS BINSTOCK, D. D.

August 8, 1946

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th Street and Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My dear Silver:

It's too bad you didn't have my handwritten letter before you (or perhaps you couldn't have read my script anyway) prior to your answer. I agree with you that it is well to consult the sources and that goes for both of us. And it is well also to stick to the literal meaning of the sources.

I did not take Fineshriber's "word" about the facts. I had him send me the facts, namely (1) the May 10th Council statement (exact copy of it I mailed you); (2) New York Times issue of May 10th (which I personally examined and found no article about Council, as you claimed); (3) copy of article about Council in New York Times issue of May 13th, which no more warrants your charges than May 15th Council Bulletin. X

In our auto ride together, you definitely stated to me that your charges were not based on the May 15th bulletin, containing May 14th letter, but on a report in New York Times May 10th and Council statements on which it was based. Now, you go back to May 14th statement and to a later one of June 2nd and give them your own interpretations. If it's a matter of interpretation of a statement and not a presentation of proof, then we must disagree. I am still convinced that you are absolutely wrong in your interpretation and that your charges made at the Conference were terribly unjust. But I have gotten over being resentful. ✓



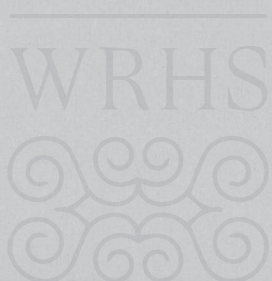
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Page Two  
August 8, 1946

I am still very grateful for our ride because I learned much -- primarily to understand you much better. So, we'll let the matter stand that way. I pray that our friendship shall deepen with the coming difficult years and that we shall be drawn closer together by our dreams and deeds.

Many thanks for your letter. Take care of yourself.

Sincerely,

*Louis Binstock*



P.S. Am having my secretary type this letter and sign my name. Then you can assuredly read it.



not sent manuscript

## The Temple

EAST 105TH STREET AT ANSEL ROAD

TELEPHONES GARFIELD 0150-0151

Cleveland

WILLIAM M. KRAMER  
ASSISTANT RABBI

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D. D.  
RABBI

HARRY A. LEVY  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Aug. 12 - 1946.

My dear Brewster,

I received your letter of Aug. 8. I am pleased to know that that you "have gotten over being resentful." I still hope that you will face up to the unpleasant facts and not resort to a fulsome.

In my Presidential Address I stated: "Surely these colleagues of ours must ask themselves whether it is indeed in the interest of Judaism and in the spirit of Judaism that the Amer. Council for Judaism recently petitioned the American Government not to permit the hundred thousand Jews who are still languishing in the internment camps of Europe to go to Palestine unless and until all the recommendations, the Report, the Anglo-Am. Com. of Inquiry are first carried out. This Com. had unanimously recommended their immediate and unconditional transfer to Palestine."

I sent you abstracts from the 2 official releases, the A. C. J. J. - which appeared in The Official Bulletin, the Council itself (and what could be more official!) These clearly substantiated



the charges which I made. They require no "interpretations". They speak for themselves.

Whether the "Times" carried an abstract, the Council may release on the 10<sup>th</sup> or the 13<sup>th</sup> is, as you must yourself realize, little consequence. You knew all along that I was referring to the May release. You are very confused about what I said to you in the auto. I called your attention to the two releases, and to the fact that the second, the June one, was an attempt to mitigate the impact, the first - and I drew your attention to a statement on this very matter in the "Yiddish Post".

However, since you do not believe that the official Yiddish ~~publications~~ <sup>publications</sup> of May and June ~~do~~ <sup>mean</sup> what I said they clearly meant - וויבאלד זאלסטו - and since you failed to fill me in on Chas that night with that understandable apology, I must hold to my own conclusions -

I send you all my good wishes for a pleasant summer.

Very sincerely  
Abba Hillel Silver



My dear Abba:-

I have your letter. The only comment I shall make is this: When a "difference" leaves the reader of facts & then "interpretation" of facts and enters the phase of charging the other fellow with a failure to read his facts and therefore not knowing what he's talking about (2) a refusal to face the unpleasant truth (3) resorting to pointless jargon (4) being confused in his recollection of a conversation then it's time to call a halt. It's no good.

Our vacation is now at an end. I'm glad you are enjoying one now. May the "Holy Days" be fruitful for you & yours.

Sincerely  
Louis

P. S. Sure the snap of paper. Were all packed.



MRS. LOUIS BINSTOCK  
520 STRATFORD PLACE  
CHICAGO 13, ILLINOIS

My dear Abba:-

Hope you got a fairly early  
plane June 29<sup>th</sup> & that you've recovered from your  
wild "act o' mine. Have had Freshwater checking  
facts re your charges at conference. He insists  
there is no article regarding A. C. for J. in  
N. Y. Times of 10<sup>th</sup> & will send me that issue. Says  
this was one in 13<sup>th</sup> issue, which does not  
corroborate your charges.

I am sending you a copy of  
A. C. for J. release of May 10<sup>th</sup>. It is substantially  
same as one in booklet of May 15<sup>th</sup> which you  
admitted did not warrant your charges. For the  
sake of truth, I'd like for you to submit your  
facts, since you said mine were wrong. To  
me it is highly significant that Freshwater find-  
ing-mentally & resentfully states that you were absolutely  
wrong. I've known him since boy hood days  
& I've never known him to falsify facts.

Ruth & I are relaxing here  
in Winona. I wish you could relax. I  
know there are better days. Very best to you  
& your family

Sincerely  
Louis Binstock



July 31, 1946

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346 N. Lake Shore  
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Abba Hillel Silver