



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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Central Conference of American Rabbis, resolution, undated.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis in Convention assembled in Chicago, Ill., has just learned the shocking news of the unconscionable arrest of members of the Executive of the Jewish Agency in Palestine and of thousands of other Jews; and of other acts of violence and terror tantamount to the inauguration of war by the British authorities on the Jews of Palestine. We are outraged even further by the manifestly deliberate desecration of the Jewish Sabbath, by this wanton violation of one of the basic elements of religious freedom and which represents a reversion to the barbaric practices of ancient Syria and Rome.

This Conference of 400 American Rabbis is unable to express adequately in words its grief and its horror at these unprecedented, unjust Gestapo acts.

In the bitter struggle of the forces of right against the powers of evil, the Jews of the world played a valiant part and Palestinian Jews particularly distinguished themselves in spite of the unfriendly and unsympathetic attitude of the British Colonial Administration in Palestine.

It is a matter of record that the Palestinian Jews under the guidance of the Jewish Agency have been an invaluable and an indispensable factor in allied victory.

In view of the important role in the titanic struggle played by Jews of all lands and of which the Jews of Palestine are a part, we had a right to expect that simple justice would have been meted out to our people everywhere, but, instead of justice, Jewry has had thrust upon it the infamous White Paper, oppressive and tyrannical measures in Palestine, continuous aggressive and provocative acts against Palestinian Jewry; the breaking of sacred promises and now the supreme act of betrayal, the arrest of the Executive of the Jewish Agency and thousands of others.

We, the members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, are resolved to resist this act of flagrant injustice with all the moral power at our command. We hereby petition the President of our country to use his good offices to procure the immediate release of the members of the Executive Agency and of all other victims of this terroristic procedure; and the prompt implementation of that recommendation of the Anglo-American Inquiry Commission's report to call for the unconditional admission of one hundred thousand Jews into Palestine.

We are firm in the conviction that the moral conscience of America is in full agreement with our stand; will support our protest and will join us in this appeal in the name of the God of Justice.

*Adopted
unanimously*

Copy
RESOLUTION OF PROTEST AGAINST THE ARREST BY BRITISH AUTHORITIES OF MEMBERS OF THE
EXECUTIVE OF THE JEWISH AGENCY AND AGAINST OTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE - UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED IN CHICAGO, ILL.
HAS JUST LEARNED THE SHOCKING NEWS OF THE UNCONSCIONABLE ARREST OF MEMBERS OF THE
EXECUTIVE OF THE JEWISH AGENCY IN PALESTINE AND OF THOUSANDS OF OTHER JEWS; AND OF
OTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND TERROR TANTAMOUNT TO THE INAUGURATION OF WAR BY THE
BRITISH AUTHORITIES ON THE JEWS OF PALESTINE. WE ARE OUTRAGED EVEN FURTHER BY THE
MANIFESTLY DELIBERATE DESECRATION OF THE JEWISH SABBATH. BY THIS WANTON VIOLATION
OF ONE OF THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND WHICH REPRESENTS A REVERSION
TO THE BARBARIC PRACTICES OF ANCIENT SYRIA AND ROME.

THIS CONFERENCE OF 400 AMERICAN RABBIS IS UNABLE TO EXPRESS ADEQUATELY IN
WORDS ITS GRIEF AND ITS HORROR AT THESE UNPRECEDENTED, UNJUST GESTAPO ACTS.

IN THE BITTER STRUGGLE OF THE FORCES OF RIGHT AGAINST THE POWERS OF EVIL,
THE JEWS OF THE WORLD PLAYED A VALIANT PART AND PALESTINIAN JEWS PARTICULARLY
DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN SPITE OF THE UNFRIENDLY AND UNSYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE OF THE
BRITISH COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION IN PALESTINE.

IT IS A MATTER OF RECORD THAT THE PALESTINIAN JEWS UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY HAVE BEEN AN INVALUABLE AND AN INDISPENSIBLE FACTOR IN ALLIED VICTORY.

IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE TITANIC STRUGGLE PLAYED BY JEWS OF ALL
LANDS AND OF WHICH THE JEWS OF PALESTINE ARE A PART, WE HAD A RIGHT TO EXPECT THAT
SIMPLE JUSTICE WOULD HAVE BEEN METED OUT TO OUR PEOPLE EVERYWHERE, BUT, INSTEAD OF
JUSTICE, JEWRY HAS HAD THRUST UPON IT THE INFAMOUS WHITE PAPER, OPPRESSIVE AND
TYRANNICAL MEASURES IN PALESTINE, CONTINUOUS AGGRESSIVE AND PROVOCATIVE ACTS AGAINST
PALESTINIAN JEWRY; THE BREAKING OF SACRED PROMISES AND NOW THE SUPREME ACT OF
BETRAYAL, THE ARREST OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE JEWISH AGENCY AND THOUSANDS OF OTHERS.

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS ARE RESOLVED TO
RESIST THIS ACT OF FLAGRANT INJUSTICE WITH ALL THE MORAL POWER AT OUR COMMAND.
WE HEREBY PETITION THE PRESIDENT OF OUR COUNTRY TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO PROCURE
THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AGENCY AND OF ALL OTHER VICTIMS

OF THIS TERRORISTIC PROCEDURE; AND THE PROMPT IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT RECOMMENDATION OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INQUIRY COMMISSION'S REPORT TO CALL FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND JEWS INTO PALESTINE.

WE ARE FIRM IN THE CONVICTION THAT THE MORAL CONSCIENCE OF AMERICA IS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH OUR STAND; WILL SUPPORT OUR PROTEST AND WILL JOIN US IN THIS APPEAL IN THE NAME OF THE GOD OF JUSTICE.

