



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
27

Box
9

Folder
618

Eban, Abba, 1951-1952.

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

שגרירות ישראל
ושינגטון

September 14, 1951

Dear Dr. Silver:

It gives me pleasure to extend a cordial invitation to you to attend an Oneg Shabat reception in honor of His Excellency Moshe Sharett, Israel Minister for Foreign Affairs, to be held at the Hotel Shoreham, Washington, D.C., on Saturday afternoon, September 22nd from 5 to 7 o'clock, during the course of the National Economic Conference for Israel.

May I add my urging to that of officers of the American Financial and Development Corporation for Israel that you attend this important gathering of Jewish community leaders and take your part in discussion of a program which my Government regards as the keystone of Israel's program to achieve financial independence.

It would be a source of satisfaction to me to have the opportunity to express to you personally the appreciation of my Government for the outstanding leadership you are giving in your community in behalf of the State of Israel Independence Bond Issue.

Cordially yours,

Abba Eban

Abba Eban

R.S.V.P.

Dr. Abba H. Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL

שגרירות ישראל

Washington D.C.
October 15, 1951

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have accepted an invitation to be in Cleveland on October 30th for a dinner on behalf of the Israel Bond campaign.

Do you think that we might use this opportunity to meet and discuss problems of mutual interest ? I presume that I shall arrive in Cleveland at about noon by air and that the Bond engagement will be in the evening.

With cordial wishes,



Yours very sincerely,

Abba Eban

Abba Eban.

Rabbi Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
"The Temple",
Cleveland, Ohio.

ae:lt

October 17, 1951

Ambassador Abba Eban
Embassy of Israel
Washington, D. C.

My dear Ambassador Eban:

Thank you for your letter of October 15th. I shall be very happy to see you in Cleveland on October 30th. I shall be available any time in the afternoon convenient to you.

With warmest regards, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL

שגרירות ישראל

IN/5/38/28

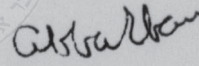
Washington, D. C.
May 14, 1952

Dear Dr. Silver:

May I thank you for responding so effectively to the suggestion which Mr. Kenen made to you on my behalf. I regret that I lost my voice through a cold that day and could not speak to you in person. I hear that our friend has since clarified his position in our favor again.

I hope that we may talk fully when I am in Cleveland next month.

Yours very cordially,


Abba Eban

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL - Day Letter

NL - Night Letter

LC - Deferred Cable

NLT - Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

GQ-CLA233 DL PD=WASHINGTON DC 26 408P=

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER, THE TEMPLE=

EAST 105 & ANSEL RD CLEVE=

1952 FEB 26 PM 5 47

MY GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED A NEW ECONOMIC POLICY WHICH WILL IMPOSE ADDITIONAL HEAVY BURDENS UPON THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. IN ORDER THAT LEADERS OF AMERICAN JEWRY AND PARTICULARLY THOSE IN FOREFRONT OF ISRAEL BOND PROGRAM MAY RECEIVE FULL AND INTIMATE STATEMENT ON THIS NEW SITUATION AND THE REASONS WHICH BROUGHT IT ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL HAS REQUESTED GOLDA MYERSON, MINISTER OF LABOR, TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDINGLY IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INVITE YOU AND A SMALL GROUP OF SELECT LEADERS TO MEET WITH ME AND MRS. MYERSON IN WASHINGTON D.C. AT EMBASSY ON SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH FIRST AND SUNDAY, MARCH SECOND FOR A CONFERENCE. THE CONSEQUENCES RESULTING FROM THIS NEW POLICY ARE SO FAR REACHING AND THE PRESSURES WHICH ISRAEL BEARS SO URGENT AS TO MAKE SUCH AN EARLY CONFERENCE IMPERATIVE. MRS. MYERSON AND I WILL APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY OF PLACING ALL THE FACTS AND IMPLICATIONS BEFORE YOU. THIS IS DESIGNED AS A DISCUSSION MEETING AND NOT TO MOBILIZE FUNDS. PLEASE TELEGRAPH ME AT ISRAEL EMBASSY 1621 TWENTY SECOND STREET AT R STREET, WASHINGTON D.C. THAT WE MAY EXPECT YOU. ABBA EBAN AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED STATES=

MEMORANDUMUNITED STATES AID TO ISRAELI. ISRAEL'S NEED

One of the compelling forces for the establishment of the State of Israel was the recognition that for hundreds of thousands of dispossessed and homeless Jews, Israel offered the certain prospect of rehabilitation, a permanent home, and freedom. Since the establishment of the State, events have demonstrated the validity of that conception. Within the first thirty months of Israel's existence, 500,000 Jews came into the country to make their home there. To carry out this unprecedented, humanitarian project, the people of Israel assumed a staggering economic burden. The Jews of the United States and of other countries in the world contributed their philanthropy but the people of Israel themselves, accepting heavy taxation, rationing and other restrictions, made the major contribution toward the effort.

2. Mass immigration, despite the sacrifices it summons from the people of Israel, will continue unabated. It is a powerful, historic impulse which cannot be checked. It can be understood against the background of recent history. The rate of immigration is determined by the fact that certain Jewish communities cannot remain where they are and are convinced that this is their last chance of deliverance. It is feared that Jews who are not saved now may not be saved hereafter. The government of Israel, recalling the brutal extinction of six million Jews within the last decade, is determined that nothing shall be left undone to rescue those who still survive. Jews everywhere understand and share that determination.

3. Accordingly, at a conference recently held in Jerusalem, leaders of the Israel government and the American Jewish community agreed that during the next three years, an intensified effort must be made to consolidate the State of Israel and to develop and strengthen the country's agricultural and industrial economy to make it possible for Israel to absorb another 600,000 immigrants, whose entry is regarded as an imperative in human mercy.

II. THE PROGRAM

4. It has been estimated that these tasks will require a billion and a half dollars for the next three years. To raise this sum, the people of Israel are ready to make continued sacrifices and to mortgage their future so that the main economic resources of the country can be devoted to absorption and immigration. They have undertaken to provide \$500,000,000.

5. The Jewish communities throughout the world, and especially the United States have promised to redouble their efforts by increasing their contributions to the United Jewish Appeal, by stimulating private investments in Israel, and by supporting the bond loan to be undertaken by the Government of Israel in the United States.

6. American Jews resolved to request the United States Government to grant direct aid to Israel as part of its general policy of supporting friendly and democratic countries everywhere in the world.

III. ISRAEL'S ELIGIBILITY

7. Does Israel qualify for United States aid? Four considerations sustain an affirmative answer:

- A. The record of friendly relations between the people of the United States and the people of Israel.
- B. Israel's economic needs.
- C. Israel's record as a democratic state.
- D. The benefits of such a program for the entire Near East.

B. A. The relations between the peoples of the United States and Israel.

The United States contributed its great influence to the rebirth of Israel; American public opinion as given expression by six Presidents and two Resolutions of Congress asserted support for the establishment of an independent Jewish state; within the United Nations the United States Delegation worked for that objective. On May 14, 1948, when Israel was established, the United States was the first government to recognize the new state. The United States Government and the people of the United States have evinced the warmest interest in Israel's growth and development. (Reference has already been made to the contribution of the Jewish people of this country to Israel's immigration and development program).

9. In the economic sphere, the United States Export-Import Bank has authorized loans to Israel amounting to 135 million dollars for the acquisition of machinery, equipment and supplies from this country. However, Israel has not received direct assistance from the government of the United States. Since many countries are now included in the international assistance program, the exclusion of Israel from the list would appear to be incongruous in the light of the friendly and cordial relations existing between the two countries.

10. B. Israel's economic needs:

Israel's immigration program has been previously discussed. Were it not for that program it is conceivable that Israel's people might have gone a long way towards achieving economic self-sufficiency without outside help. However, other factors have contributed to Israel's economic difficulties.

11. The State of Israel had to establish the apparatus of government from the ground up. It had to do this, moreover, under fire, for within hours after its establishment, hostile forces attacked Israel from all four sides. Israel had to build its army over night.

12. Israel was able to repel its enemies on the battlefield. But it has not yet been able to win peaceful relations with them. The Arab countries refuse to recognize Israel, reject peace negotiations, and persist officially in economic boycott and blockade. This has two direct consequences:

- i. Israel is compelled to maintain a large army and to be prepared for any military eventuality at any moment,
- ii. There is no trade between Israel and its neighbors. It cannot acquire food nor can it sell its products in its immediate vicinity. It must purchase much of its food-stuffs, its supplies and essential raw materials from far-away countries. This raises the prices of what it sells, the cost of what it buys and contributes adversely to its balance of trade. It makes large inroads upon its limited dollar supply.

13. C. Israel's Record as a Democracy.

The entire international assistance program carried on by the United States after the war, was designed to strengthen countries which had come through the ordeals and exhaustions of the war so that democratic ideas and institutions might be strong enough to endure and overcome attack from within and from without. However, this program has not yet been extended to the Near East.

14. Israel is a democratic country in the fullest sense of the term. It has given impressive confirmation of the democratic character and ideals of its people and institutions. From the inception of the State, Israel's institutions have been completely democratic. With the exception of Turkey, which has already been the recipient of numerous grants from the United States, Israel is the only country in the Near Eastern area where democratic forms of government and society are fully practiced. It is the one country in the Near East where the democratic forms have content for the people themselves and where the preservation of democracy is an objective which the masses of people cherish and are ready to defend.

15. It should be recalled that the people of Israel, alone in the Middle East, made a positive contribution to the democratic cause in the defeat of Hitler in World War II. They again gave evidence of their capacity and will to fight for the tenets of democracy, freedom and independence, when they resisted and defeated the Arab armies which greatly outnumbered their forces.

16. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Israel have declared publicly that the State of Israel will resist by force any attempt to invade it from the without or to subvert its institutions from within. These statements are corroborated by the experience and convictions of the people themselves. They won their liberty at great cost. They will not surrender it.

17. Israel's foreign policy, as expressed in the United Nations, has consistently opposed aggression. Israel actively supported United Nations action against aggression in Korea while other states in Israel's neighborhood have shown marked indifference to the principles and responsibilities of the international organization.

18. D. Benefits of such a program for the Near East.

Aid to Israel will mean benefits to other people in the Near East, will help to bring peace to the area, and generally strengthen democracy's cause.

19. The simultaneous rehabilitation of Israel's people and the reclamation of its land will, if successfully pursued, give enormous stimulus to similar development in the entire Near East and elsewhere in the world. It will serve as a pilot plant, an example of what can be done in other underdeveloped areas.

20. It will serve the cause of peace. If the United States affirms its friendship to Israel by direct economic support, it will encourage those elements in the Arab world which seek peace with Israel. At the same time it will demonstrate the futility of the policy which seeks to liquidate Israel, either by economic blockade or the renewal of hostilities.

21. If Israel overcomes its economic difficulties, it will mark a victory for the democratic concept. Should democracy fail in the one Near Eastern country where it is fully practiced, the concept would be discredited and defeated in a crucial frontier area. Should it succeed, democracy will win new adherents and allies among many millions of people who have not yet attained full political freedom and economic security.

CONCLUSION

Aid to Israel means aid to a people eager and ready to aid themselves. Their country is poor in natural resources, but rich in a major asset -- people who have made the most of very little. Whatever aid is given them, they will multiply many times by their initiative, their enterprise, their dedication to their future and the democratic way of life. To aid Israel is to strengthen the principle and ideal for which the United States stands. It is to fortify the one community in the Near East which is strongly determined to defend its independence.