



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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Eban, Abba, 1956-1959.

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

אבנן
שגרירות ישראל
ושינגטון

13 July 1956

Dear Dr. Silver:

After you left I received information that the Canadian Prime Minister had made the following statement to the House of Commons this afternoon, replying to the Leader of the Opposition:

Mr. St. Laurent:

"I am confident that a solution will be found to supply arms to Israel, but not exclusively by Canadian action".

This, of course, is in full accord with what I told you.

I am passing on your suggestion about Canadian Jews.

Yours very sincerely,

Abba Eban

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Carter Hotel

December 2, 1956

Dear Dr. Silver,

Our main task at present is to secure American support for a reasonable solution in Akaba, Sinai, Gaza and Suez through a proposal use of the United Nations Force.

The objectives are

Gulf of Akaba

The proven fragility of the Suez Canal gives this new importance. We are now laying an emergency pipe-line from Elat to the railway connection at Beersheva.

I have proposed to Hammarskjöld that we stay in the Gulf until a UN

detachment takes over. For your private
and confidential information he has
agreed. Our task will then be to
ensure that the U.N. force will not go
away unless an arrangement for free
passage is made. This will require
a firm U.S. attitude towards Nasser
within a few months or less.

Sinai

Hammarkyeld has so far agreed
with me that whenever we withdraw
U.N. forces, not Egypt, will fill the
vacuum. We wish to use the duration
of the U.N. occupation to get a
denuclearization agreement before the U.N.



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leaves. This again will depend on the
U.S.A.

Gaza At the present time we are being
unofficially pressed to stay in Gaza.

I believe that we would be prepared
to keep the strip, its population and
many refugees. If 100,000 refugees
could be taken care of elsewhere, we
would try to digest the remainder.

The important thing now is for
us not to be pressed to leave before
decisions are taken. This depends on
the U.S.

Suez. The Canal is now closed to the

ships of all nations without distinction
of flag. It would be idiotic to open it
a few months from now in conditions
of illegality. This depends on the U.S.
Nasser, with all his bombast, is badly
switten militarily and economically. He
cannot withstand any form American
demand.

a few other brief reflections
Russia. we can take care of ourselves
militarily against any or all arabs. But
only the U.S. can counteract the Soviet
talk about Israel's "existence" being
prejudiced. It is urgent that Eisenhower



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should, in the context of the present situation
personally reaffirm the language of the
Republican Platform of 1956 about preserving

Israel

Europe



All European leaders —

Adenauer, Spaak, Mollet and the
Italians are firmly with us in our
resistance to Nazism. So are the
Commonwealth leaders. The reconstruction
of America with Europe on anti-Nazi
terms is a vital Israeli interest.
Strangely enough, we are less isolated
than ever before. But our new friends
can help us little unless America is

with us and with them.

U. N. The results of our negotiations with Hammarskjöld so far are satisfactory (see today's papers). But without a stronger American position against the reestablishment of Nasser's hegemony it will be difficult to retain our security gains which are, so far, considerable.

Egyptian Jews. The position is worse than anything so far published. Great public pressure on this is very essential, both for its own sake - and because this illustration of Nasser's character is the best answer to the question



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whether we were right to resist him.

I do not know if this adds
much to our knowledge. Naturally, the
urgent need is to get some of these ideas
into the knowledge of D.D.E. Anything
you can do with this aim in view
would be invaluable.

Best wishes

Abba Eban

my new Washington telephone is

RAndolph 3-9264

March 6, 1959

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

My dear friend:

Upon my return from a trip around the world, I read in the public press of your resignation as Ambassador of Israel to the United States, and also as Chairman of its delegation to the United Nations. While this announcement did not come to me as a complete surprise, it made me sharply and regretfully aware that we will soon miss you as chief spokesman of Israel not only in Washington and New York, but throughout this country. You have meant much to the new State of Israel but equally as much to American Jewry. We have learned to turn to you in great moments and in significant situations and you never failed us. Your leadership was always sound, your voice movingly eloquent, and your dignified bearing at all times inspired confidence and pride.

I am sure that the experience which you gained here during an exciting and historical decade will be of inestimable value to Israel. I wish you utmost success there in political leadership and statesmanship.

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

שגרירות ישראל
ושינגטון

March 23, 1959

Dear Dr. Silver:

Amongst the many letters which reached me on the publication of my resignation, yours was by far the most moving to me. It evoked memories of my early service in the United States when I was privileged to work in such close association with you. I have never forgotten the inspiring example which you set to all those who will ever be called upon to plead our cause in the family of nations.

In the ensuing years I have deeply valued your mature counsel and your constant readiness to reinforce Israel's international position with your unique qualities of experience and prestige.

I appreciate your kind wishes for my future. If things go as I hope, there is good reason to expect that I may not be deserting for long the arenas of action which I have learnt to love.

I still hope that we shall meet before I leave at the end of May, either in Cleveland or in Washington or New York.

Let me add that my colleagues are writing to me enthusiastically from Far Eastern Capitals concerning the strong impression which you made during your recent tour. For my part I am glad that they were able to be of assistance in your arrangements and contacts.

With best wishes.

Yours very sincerely,

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Abba Hillel Silver