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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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Histadrut, 1942-1943.

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Palestine Labor Campaign

Affiliated with the Histadrut Haovdim in Eretz Israel

September 2, 1942

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

My name is Dr. David Rebelsky. I am the Director of the Palestine Labor Campaign for the ten midwestern states. The annual Convention of this Histadrut Campaign is taking place Sunday October the 25th, in Chicago.

On the basis of our previous experiences, we expect about 2000 delegates and 2000 guests and visitors. In the city of Chicago, this is the most outstanding Zionist affair.

As you know, we are the only remaining independent Palestinian Campaign, and this instrumentality will be of great value in the United States when better times return and Palestinian funds will once more be on their own.

These facts give me courage to make an unusual request of you, Rabbi Silver, and that is: to come and address the closing session of this Convention Sunday evening at 9:00 o'clock.

I know how deeply seated your sympathies for the Histadrut are, and the fact that you are the National Chairman of the U.P.A. should not deter you from addressing a large audience of Jews who for years have been trained in their allegiance to the Histadrut.

It would be extremely superfluous for me to tell you that the Jewish community of Chicago will be very happy to see you and hear you.

If you want additional information, I am ready to take the first available train to Cleveland and have the pleasure of seeing you personally.

There is an evening plane from Cleveland which leaves your city at 7:30 and arrives in Chicago at 8:30 Chicago time. It is thus possible for you to leave as late as 7:30 if you so desire. I shall anxiously await your reply.

Very sincerely yours,

David Rebelsky
Dr. David Rebelsky, Director

DR/cl

September 4, 1942

Dr. David Rebelsky, Director
Palestine Labor Campaign
3322 Douglas Boulevard
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Dr. Rebelsky:

Thank you so much for your kind letter of September 2 and for the invitation which you extend to me to address the annual convention of the Histadrut Campaign in Chicago on Sunday, October 25. I wish I were free to come. Unfortunately I must be in my own pulpit on that day and I have other congregational engagements for the afternoon and evening. I am sorry that I can not be of service to you. I trust that your Campaign will be very successful.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

הועד הפועל

תל-אביב

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בדואר אויר

ח' בכסלו תשי"ב
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לכבוד
רבי הלל סילבר
אוהיו

שלום וברכה,

כחנוכה שנה זאת תתכנס הועידה הארצית השלישית של העובד הציוני (תנועת העבודה הציונית הכללית) בארץ ישראל. מאז ועידתנו הקודמת (1939) חלו תמורות רבות בציונות, בישוב ובעולם כולו. פרצה המלחמה והביאה בעקבותיה הרס וחורבן על מליונים יהודים. תנועתנו בגולה, שעד פרוץ המלחמה היתה אחת מתנועות הנוער הגדולות והחזקות בציונות וזכתה להערצה רבה מכל חוגי ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית - נהרסה ורק שרידיה ממשיכים עוד בקנאות ובזעזוע רוח לארוג את מסבת התנועה ושומרים על גחלת אמונתנו עד ליום הגאולה.

לעומת זאת גדלה תנועתנו בארץ, היא התרחבה, הקימה סניפים ותאים חדשים, יצרה מפעלי התישבות והיא שותפה נאמנה למפעל היצירה והבניין הלאומי במולדת.

כידוע, מהוה **העובד הציוני** סיעה רעיונית עצמאית בהסתדרות העובדים הכללית בא"י. אנו שואפים לאחד במסגרת הסתדרות עובדים אחת את כל העובדים בארץ החיים מעבודת עצמם ואנו מאמינים כי בא יבא היום הזה, כמאוחר או במוקדם, וניצנים ראשונים של אמונה זאת מבצבצים ועולים פה ושם. היותנו סיעה רעיונית מיוחדת בהסתדרות (הסיעה הציונית הכללית היחידה בתנועת העבודה בארץ) מטילה עלינו תפקידים גדולים; לא הסכמנו אף פעם למתן צביון פוליטי להסתדרות העובדים; לחמנו תמיד נגד הכנסת מומנטים מפלגתיים בעניני עבודה ומקצוע; אנו מטיפים בלי הרף ובאומץ לב כל השנים לרעיון של אחדות צבור הפועלים והעדפת האינטרס הציוני הלאומי מעל כל אינטרס אחר במערכת הבניין והתחיה. אנו השליחים של הציונות הכללית והפרוגרסיבית בקרב צבור העובדים, ועל זאת - גאותנו.

והנה אנו עומדים בפני ועידתנו השלישית. בוועידה זאת ישתתפו באי כח של 60 סניפים, בערים, במושבות, בקבוצות, במושבים, בבתי ספר חקלאיים ומחנות עבודה. הועידה הזאת מוקדשת לבירור היסודות הרעיוניים של העובד-הציוני ודרכו בצבור הפועלים לאור בעיות השעה ובהתחשב עם שנוי הערכין המתהווה והולך בקרב העולם התרבותי. כמו כן עלינו להקדיש - ואנו עושים זאת גם עכשיו - יזמה ומרץ כדי להרחיב את מפעלי ההתישבות שלנו, ליצור מפעלים שיבססו את העובד שלנו וישרישוהו בקרקע המולדת, עלינו להפיץ ביתר שאת את הרעיון של אחדות האומה ואחדות המעשים. לכך מצווה תנועתנו, בזאת אנו דוגלים וכך אנו עושים. הועידה הארצית שלנו תסיים דף בתולדות חיינו בארץ ותפתח פרק חדש, שימשש מקור לא אכזב לאלה ההולכים אתנו כאן ולהמוני הציונים הכלליים בכל אתר ואתר.

בכבוד רב ובהוקרה,

העובד הציוני
הועד הפועל

17th November, 1942.

Sir,

The third Palestine Convention of the HAOVED HAZIONY (General Zionist Labour Movement) will be held during the coming Hanukka week.

Many a change has taken place in the Zionist movement, the Yishuv, and in the whole world since our last Convention in 1939. War broke out, bringing in its wake the ruin and annihilation of millions of Jews. Our movement in the Diaspora, until the outbreak of the war one of the largest and most powerful Zionist youth movements, encouraged by all circles of the Zionist World Organisation, was wiped out, and only its remains weave on the thread and arduously preserve the traditions of our creed till the day of deliverance arrives.

In Palestine, on the other hand, our Movement has spread and ramified, opening new branches and setting up colonization enterprises; and it is a loyal partner in the national upbuilding work in our homeland.

The Haoved Hazoniy is an independent ideological section within the general labour federation in Eretz Israel. It aims at uniting all the workers in this country into one federation. We are confident that sooner or later this will come true, and, indeed, the first signs are already appearing here and there to strengthen us in our belief.

The fact of our being an independent ideological section within the Labour Federation (and the only General Zionist section within the labour movement in Palestine) imposes upon us a great task. We never approved of the labour federation assuming a political aspect. We always fought against the introduction of party policy in matters relating to labour and trade. We never, for a single minute, stopped advocating the idea of unity among workers, and the necessity of placing the interests of Zionism above all other interests in the campaign of upbuilding and national revival. We are the champions of General and Progressive Zionism in the midst of the body of workers, and proud of it.

Now we are on the eve of our third convention. Delegates of 60 branches from towns, villages, collective and individual farmers settlements, agricultural schools, and work camps are to take part in it. Its purpose - to determine the ideological principles of the Haoved Hazoniy and the course it is to take within the labour party in view of the present problems and the changing standards of the civilized world. Furthermore, we must dedicate our initiative and energy with still greater vigour to expanding our colonizing work. We must set up enterprises that will help to consolidate the position of the our worker and root him to the land of his forefathers. We must propagate with still greater zeal the idea of national unity and the unity of action. It is the idea dictated by our Movement and

p.t.o.

all it stands for, the idea we all strive to set up to.

Our all-Palestine Convention will turn a page in the history of our life here, and open a new chapter, which shall be a source of inspiration for those who follow us in this country, and for the tens of thousands of General Zionists throughout the world.

We are, with all good wishes,

Yours respectfully,



Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some words like 'inspiration', 'General Zionists', and 'American Jewish Congress' are faintly visible.



NATIONAL LABOR COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINE

AFFILIATED WITH HISTADRUT HAOVDIM IN ERETZ ISRAEL

געווערקשאפטן קאמפיין פאר דער הסתדרות אין ארץ ישראל

National Headquarters

275 Seventh Avenue • New York, N. Y.

WAtkins 9-5288

January 14, 1943

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Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We have been informed by Mr. Lurie and Mr. Montor that you are to address the general assembly of the welfare funds in Cleveland during the sessions on the United Jewish Appeal, and it has been suggested to us that a memo be sent to you to include a few words about the Histadrut. This is particularly important this year, inasmuch as no special sessions will be held for the various agencies working for Palestine, such as was arranged last year.

Knowing your views on the Histadrut, we are confident that you will include a few remarks that will do justice to this important segment of the Palestine population.

The Histadrut today numbers 133,000 members. They constitute 80% of the Palestine Jewish volunteers serving with the United Nations, and they are the overwhelming majority of the men and women who work the factories and farms.

We feel that in an over-all picture of what is going on in Palestine these facts should be called to the attention of the leaders of American Jewish communities. As to the exact method of presenting the subject, we can safely leave it to your own inimitable style.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes,
I remain

Sincerely yours,

Isaac Hamlin

National Secretary

IH:G:m

Forward to Victory and a Jewish Cooperative Commonwealth!

NATIONAL LABOR COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINE

AFFILIATED WITH HISTADRUT HAOVDIM IN ERETZ ISRAEL

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

275 SEVENTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

March 23rd, 1943.

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

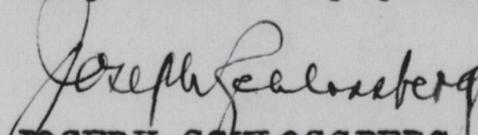
Dear Rabbi Silver:-

As you know, the National Labor Committee for Palestine has been conducting its annual Passover festival in the form of a Third Seder for the past ten years. In the course of the years, it has become an established institution with the supporters of our movement.

The success of the Third Seder has reached such proportions that we are now compelled to engage three large ballrooms in the two largest hotels in New York City to accommodate all who desire to attend. I take pleasure in inviting you to address one of the three audiences.

You will recall that last year you were unable to be with us because of your late arrival from London. I hope you will see your way clear to be with us this year and I assure you that your message will be received with high appreciation and will do much to encourage our people to greater efforts for our homeland.

Very sincerely yours,


JOSEPH SCHLOSSBERG
National Chairman.

JS:RA

April 7, 1943

Mr. Joseph Schlossberg
National Labor Committee for Palestine
275 Seventh Ave.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Schlossberg:

Please pardon the delay in answering your kind letter. I have been away from the city most of the time and my correspondence has lagged.

I wish I could come and share with you joy of the Passover Festival on the Third Seder which you are arranging. It would indeed have given me great pleasure if I were free to come. Unfortunately I am so heavily booked up with out of town engagements in connection with the United Jewish Appeal and the United Palestine Appeal, many of whose campaigns are being held in April and May, that I cannot in justice to myself take on any additional obligations. I assure you that it would have given me great pleasure to accept your invitation if it were at all possible. Perhaps at some future time I may be of service to you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK