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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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Israel Bonds, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, including photograph of  
AHS and others, 1958.



DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR ISRAEL

# State of Israel Bonds

215 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 3, OREGON 7-9650, CABLE ADDRESS: BONDISRA

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Feb. 17, 1958

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have notified our manager in Pittsburgh, Mr. Gus Bisgyer, that you have agreed to speak there on Tuesday, May 27th. This function will be the highlight of the 1958 Bond campaign. It will serve as Pittsburgh's Tenth Anniversary celebration and it is anticipated that a sale of \$400,000 - \$500,000 in Bonds will result. They expect to have an attendance of 1,000 people.

The new chairman there, Mr. Sam Felman, and Mr. Adolph Schoenbrun, the outgoing chairman, were delighted that you could accept this date and we all look forward to a most successful affair.

The following are the flights leaving Cleveland for Pittsburgh on May 27th:

Lv CLEVELAND 1:20PM Arr Pittsburgh 2:05PM via Capital #983

Lv CLEVELAND 5:05PM Arr Pittsburgh 5:56PM via Capital #519

For your return journey the following day:

Lv PITTSBURGH 9:05AM Arr Cleveland 9:53AM via Capital #401

Lv PITTSBURGH 2:30PM Arr Cleveland 3:18PM via Capital #415

I would appreciate your indicating which flights you prefer taking so that reservations can be made and confirmed to you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially,

Max Helvarg, National Director  
Community Leadership Division

MH/so

**Go Now - Visit Israel and See Israel Bonds at Work**



**DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION for ISRAEL**

215 FOURTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date** May 21, 1958

**To** Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

**From** Max Helvarg

**Subject** Transportation

The following transportation has been arranged for you:

Leave:	Cleveland	May 27	1:45 pm EDT	Capital Airlines #983
Arrive:	Pittsburgh	May 27	2:25 pm EDT	
Leave:	Pittsburgh	May 28	8:30 am EDT	Capital Airlines #403
Arrive:	Cleveland	May 28	9:17 am EDT	

The ticket covering the above transportation is attached.

PLEASE BE SURE TO RECONFIRM YOUR RESERVATIONS WITH CAPITAL AIRLINES  
IN CLEVELAND AND IN PITTSBURGH.





Pittsburgh, Pa.

May 27, 1958

(L to R)

Standing: Sam Felman (former Pittsburgh Chairman), Attorney Sam Goldstock,  
Sam Baskind (deceased), Rabbi Freehof

Sitting: Mrs. Frank Rubinstein, Rabbi Silver, Mrs. Jacob Wolk





Pittsburgh, Pa.

May 27, 1958

Dr. Silver with Mr. Max Helvarg





Pittsburgh, Pa.

May 27, 1958





Pittsburgh, Pa.

May 27, 1958

Mrs. Frank Rubinstein, Dr. Silver, Mrs. Jacob Wolk



Donald Bond Lecture - Pitts 10<sup>th</sup> Ann. - May 27, 1958

There are certain achievements in science which come to be known as breakthroughs. Supersonic speed was such a breakthrough. So were nuclear fission and the space satellite. In these and similar instances, man battered down barriers which had hemmed him in since the beginning of time. And each breakthrough opened up for man new and unexplored worlds of immeasurable possibilities. Each, as it were, was a new day of creation.

In human history too, there are such breakthroughs -- political, social and economic breakthroughs. The Renaissance was such a one. The American Revolution, the French Revolution, and for the Soviet Union and its people, the Russian Revolution. With their occurrences in history, mankind began to move in radically new directions. And the world was never the same again.

In Jewish history, likewise, there have transpired events of such critical and decisive character, that they, too, must be regarded as breakthroughs. The Exodus from Egypt was such a breakthrough. The giving of the Law at Sinai, and the prophetic movement to which it gave rise, was such a breakthrough for the religious development of Israel, and of mankind generally. The return from the Babylonian captivity, the victory of the Maccabees -- each one of these momentous events inaugurated a new era and each opened windows upon new horizons for our people.

In my judgment, one of the most significant breakthroughs in Jewish history were the United Nations Resolution of November 1947, and the Proclamation of the State of Israel in May 1948. These events broke down the 2,000 year-old barrier of the Galut which had hemmed in our people and wedged them in helplessly. It opened a new age of freedom, of political and spiritual independence. It changed everything, including ourselves. We began to think differently and to act and to speak differently. We found ourselves experiencing a complex of new sensations which had been alien to our people for centuries. We discovered unsuspected reservoirs of energy and resources within ourselves, a capacity to undertake and execute projects which formerly we had been persuaded were beyond our powers.



Successful revolutions are nearly always the "open sesame" to great and daring new enterprises. They nearly always bring to the front large numbers of heretofore unknown or unenlisted people, who materialize suddenly, and suddenly assume a vital role in the prosecution of great, new enterprises. Where there were only few, mighty hosts now loom up.

All this happened to us following the breakthrough of ten years ago. These ten years have been tremendous years, glorious in dynamic planning, in unprecedented deeds and achievements, in valorous defense. No decade in Jewish history is quite comparable to it. So many fears have been proved groundless. So many hopes have been exceeded. So many myths have been exploded.

These ten years were years of testing. The world and we ourselves waited to see whether the Jewish people possessed the stamina, the perseverance, the sagacity, the sacrificial loyalty which are requisite for the building of a State. And through ten years, and with mounting wonder and admiration, the world and we ourselves witnessed an unfolding drama of national ingathering and construction, of courage, vigor and valor, such as mankind had seldom, if ever, witnessed. During these ten years Israel has made good in a breathtaking way, not in the perfection of objectives, but in elan, in swift progress, and in the daring spirit of its enterprises. Israel has made good in shop and field, on land, sea and air, in city, town and village, in swamp and wilderness, in schools and centers of higher learning and research, in social services, in a revived language and culture. Israel has made good on the battle-field! - to the amazement of friends and the confounding of enemies.

I went to Israel a little over a month ago, to participate in a great celebration -- the national rejoicing in the founding of the State ten years ago.

I need not tell you that the rejoicing was boundless - moving - spontaneous -- a whole people pouring out its pent-up emotions in a glorious, unprecedented Hallelujah for its freedom, its independence - its achievements in ten years and its confident hopes and eagerness for the future.

I was seldom so stirred and exalted!

Though not among them, I had lived through with them, as it were, these ten



years of their trial, their struggle, their danger, their war and their victory. I knew their heroic struggle of ingathering, of planning and building, of tackling great and compelling tasks with inadequate means, of working all the time under pressure and tension and insecurity - against boycotts and blockades and border raids.

Is it any wonder then, that on the 10th Anniversary of their State, the State which they built with their sweat and defended with their blood - is it any wonder then that they should rejoice boundlessly, dancing in the streets, singing through the day and the night from Metulah on the northern border of Galilee to the outpost of Filat on the Gulf of Aqaba? Is it any wonder than that with parades and pageants and with flaming torches and with fire-works and with bands of music and with the more solemn rituals of public prayer and special services of thanksgiving they should voice their happiness? They recited the \_\_\_\_\_ thanking God that He caused them to live and sustained them and enabled them to reach this day! And I joined with them as you may well imagine - in their joy and in their glad thanksgiving.

No one in Israel was unaware of the terrible national tragedies which preceded the establishment of the State ten years ago in 1948. No one was unaware at any moment of the six million Jews who were done to death during the second World War. And many of those who celebrated had left behind them, in the lands from which they had fled, kinsfolk, parents, children, relatives, in nameless graves, victims of Nazi madness and brutality.

And no one in Israel could forget the brave men and women, the soldiers in the war of Israel's liberation -- the thousands of them who fell in battle, following the declaration of the establishment of the State when the armies of six neighboring Arab nations invaded Israel, determined upon its total destruction. So that the day preceding the 10th Anniversary celebration was set aside in Israel as a \_\_\_\_\_ a Memorial Day. And in every town, village and hamlet in the land, Memorial Services were held for the martyred dead and for the fallen heroes.

And it was only at the close of that Memorial Day, a day of mourning, that



the torches were kindled on Mt. Hertzl in Jerusalem and as a signal, similar torches were kindled on all the mountain heights in Israel announcing that the day of national celebration and rejoicing may now begin - as if to say \_\_\_\_\_ those who sow in tears may now reap in joy.

And it is not only against this background of tragic memories that this jubilant celebration was held, but also in the face of hostile Arab attempts to spoil, as it were, this day, for Israel. The government of Israel had arranged for an Independence Day Military Parade in the stadium of Jerusalem. The kind of parade that France, for example, holds on its Bastille Day, on the 14th of July, or the Soviet Union in the Kremlin Square on its Anniversary Day, and other countries, on their national holidays. At the last moment, the government of Trans-Jordan tried to create an international incident out of it all, because Israel had brought into Jerusalem for this parade, a certain number of tanks and heavy artillery. This, Trans-Jordan maintained, was in violation of the armistice arrangement. Trans-Jordan was officially informed by the government in Israel that these tanks and artillery would not carry any amunition, and that they would remain in Jerusalem only for the duration of the parade - the few hours. But Trans-Jordan threatened and invoked the United Nations and appealed to the United States. Representations, official and unofficial, were made, and there was one moment when our own State Department was ready to issue an order to American citizens in Israel, tourists, most of them, not to attend the celebration in Jerusalem. It would, of course, have created bitter resentment and considerable panic among the people.

Fortunately, better counsel prevailed in Washington. No such order was issued, the Israeli Government stood firm, and everything went off without any incident whatsoever. It was part of the cold war to harrass the new State of Israel. But the massed armor in that parade, and the superb discipline of the military on display might well have served as a warning to all political adventurers in the Arab world that any planned adventure against Israel would prove terribly costly to them and utterly futile. Israel is prepared to defend itself completely.



In Jerusalem I attended yet another memorable celebration. The dedication of the new Campus of the Hebrew University. As you know, the Hebrew University lost its Campus on Mt. Scopus in the War of Liberation. And that Campus is now isolated as an enclave, surrounded by Trans-Jordanian territory. In the years following, the Hebrew University had to find, improvise - quarters in a dozen or more buildings scattered throughout Jerusalem. It was a trying and makeshift existence, both for students and faculty, lacking adequate laboratories and lecture halls and its famous library and student dormitories. It was a University in exile in its own land. Less than four years ago it was decided to build a new Campus. And with the energy and tempo so characteristic of everything in Israel -- its most amazing, the dynamism that we find in that little country -- with that energy it was sooner to build their new Campus. And last week, four years after the first stone was cut - the first foundation laid - last week they dedicated it. A rocky hillside, west of Jerusalem, was converted into one of the most beautiful Campuses in the world, and I say this without exaggeration. Fourteen buildings have been completed, many others are in the process of construction, including the new library building which will house a million and one-half books, including some of the rare treasures of the world -- including especially, the famous Dead Sea Scrolls. The Hebrew University now has some four thousand students from some forty countries, including the United States and a faculty of nearly seven hundred, many of them natives of Israel, many of them from all parts of the world including our own country. It was a beautiful dedication in an out-of-door amphi-theater built into the mountainside of Jerusalem. The music and the singing were provided by an orchestra and a chorus made up of faculty members and students of the University and at dusk torches were kindles symbolizing life and learning and the thousands who participated in the celebration each kindled a small taper so that the whole hillside glistened with light. I speak of this ceremony of dedication because to me it is very important. The Prime-Minister, speaking on that occasion very wisely quoted that famous verse from the Bible

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NOT BY MIGHT AND NOT BY STRENGTH BUT BY MY SPIRIT. He called attention to the fact that the young State of Israel needed might and needed strength, military



strength, for defense. The time had not yet come for the beating of swords into plowshares -- but basically it is upon the spirit and the mind of the young nation that its future depends. Israel will have to live in the days to come on its brains. Israel is a small country and will remain a small country. But a small country can be a great country. The greatest cultural contributions to mankind were made by small people who lived in little countries -- Greece for example, and Holland and England, centuries ago. And fortunately, the brains are there. They need training. They need to be taught how brains can be applied to modern science to create wealth and power and greatness.

And so that while I was greatly impressed as everyone is, with the physical expansion of the country - with its remarkable growth in agriculture and industry - we visited in Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba -- I was in Eilat seven years ago -- in fact I recall that I helped to unload the first cargo ship that entered Eilat in the Gulf of Aqaba from South Africa. There were exactly five houses in Eilat seven years ago, a wilderness of rock and sand and blinding sun. (Today, we flew down to Eilat -- five thousand people live there today. Many lovely homes - a first-rate hotel, schools, cultural centers, a developing Harbor -- and while we were there a great tanker of oil from Persia entered the Harbor and they began the piping of the oil through pipelines now reaching from Eilat to Ber Sheba through the refineries of Haifa. It is breathtaking to contemplate the swift tempo of development of that little country, Ber Sheba. Ten years ago Ber Sheba had forty families, today Ber Sheba has forty thousand inhabitants. It is the Capital - the central city of the Negev -- a modern city with modern buildings -- with everything that a modern, civilized human being requires for living. I say, that while one cannot help but be tremendously impressed by this place in physical expansion and growth, I, for one, was equally impressed and perhaps more so, by the development of the scientific and the cultural -- the schools and colleges, research centers -- in Israel, for it is upon them, in the last analysis, in my judgment, that the continued growth of the country depends.

I was also deeply gratified by a visit which we paid to the new and beautiful



Campus of the Technion in Haifa on Mt. Carmel overlooking the beautiful Bay of Haifa. The Technion is Israel's Case School of Applied Science. It has now some three thousand students and a faculty of over five hundred. It concentrates on the sciences, civil, electrical, mechanical engineering, physics, mathematics. Recently faculties of aeronautics, metallurgy and mining have been added.

I also visited the famous Weizman Institute at Rehovot - an institute, an older one, dedicated to scientific research and pure science. One hundred and fifty scientists, some of the world famous, are at work, along with their technicians and laboratory assistants. And a new Institute of Nuclear Sciences was recently added to the Campus and is soon to be dedicated.

The sweetest experience which we had was in visiting Kfar Silver, an agricultural training school in the Negev not far from Ashkelon, the coast. It covers an area of some four hundred and fifty acres. There are one hundred twenty students, boys and girls, living and studying in this agricultural school, receiving a four year's training in scientific farming -- children from Israel and children from all over the world -- some of them have just recently come there. Often, some of them had lost their parents in the old world. This was the day when they were dedicating a new dormitory which had been given to Kfar Silver by a Mr. Foster of Massachusetts, a beautiful dormitory, and I spent the day, Mrs. Silver and I spent the day with the children at Kfar Silver. Next year they plan to have one hundred and sixty students -- within four years the maximum of three hundred and twenty students. These boys and girls put on a little pageant that day with song and dance and with scenery which they themselves had contrived and painted and drawn, of the story of a Jewish family and its experience as they fled from Hitler's Europe and through illegal immigration means finally found their way into Israel. It was deeply moving -- an unforgettable experience.

There is no doubt in my mind that the people in Israel have made good. They certainly have not been found wanting. But not only they in Israel have not been found wanting, but the rest of the Jews of the Diaspora as well. Their loyalty was steadfast and their support proved unfailing. Whatever pattern of nobility history



may come to confer upon this generation of Jews for their rare dedication to a cause, will be shared, I am persuaded, equally by our valiant people within the borders of Israel and by their faithful brothers and sisters, co-workers beyond the borders.

What have these last ten years given our people? Not only a sanctuary of redeemed life and reborn hope for hundreds of thousands of our brethren, refugees for whom the rest of the whole, great wide world had no place. Not only an emergent new civilization, a rare blending of the old and new, not only a land risen from the ruins, the waste and the ravages of centuries where one beholds at every turn the strength of youth, the eyes of youth and the hopes of youth. But these last ten years have also restored to our people its lost pride, the confidence which the cruel centuries almost succeeded in destroying. The last ten years saved us from fatal despair after the Nazi horrors which caused the spirit of our people to languish, almost unto death. These last ten years have healed us and made us whole again. They have restored to us the sense of national worth and national mission. History has led us back after many dangerous and desperate detours to the royal highway of our national destiny.

Is our work done after these ten magnificent, exciting, heroic years? Our work will not be done until the ingathering is completed, until the national economy of Israel is stabilized, until its borders are made secure and its enemies cease from threatening and harassment.

Many of the major problems of ten years ago remain unsolved. The Palestine war is not ended. Only a troubled armistice exists, but no peace. The presence of United Nations' forces on the borders is proof, if proof were needed, that no peace exists. Blockades and boycotts continue in force against Israel. Israel's security is constantly threatened by the vast stores of arms which the Arab nations are acquiring, mostly, though not exclusively, from Soviet sources, by the unabated war-mongering Arab propaganda and by the transparent, hostile objectives behind the recent federalizing of Arab States. Israel has been compelled by circumstances to divert much of its limited national income from social construction to defense. The Arab refugee problem has not been solved. Israel has been waiting long for a peace conference, which the Arab governments have consistently spurned, where the subject of the refugees could be discussed and concrete proposals agreed upon.



These problems mean one thing -- among others. Our work is not done! The second decade will clamor for their solution. Until they are solved those who initiated the effort of building a State are committed to see it through. And the God of our Fathers Who looked with favor upon this generation of pioneers and builders will, we prayerfully hope, prosper our hands in the work which lies ahead and the hands of those who will follow us.







DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR ISRAEL

*Pittsburgh Office*

# *State of Israel Bonds*

606 Clark Building, Pittsburgh 22, Pa. — Phone: GRant 1-7929

May 28, 1958

GUSTAVE BISGYER  
City Manager

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th St. & Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

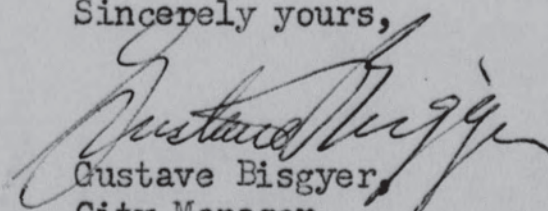
It was a great treat having you come to Pittsburgh for Israel Bonds last night.

This is the morning after and the comment has been most enthusiastic. In addition to the fact that we raised slightly over \$160,000 it was interesting to note that you brought out representatives from varied segments of the Pittsburgh community. I believe I mentioned that there were many Rabbis present who wished to pay their respects to you as well as many of our outstanding leaders.

We know what a busy schedule you have and what a real sacrifice it is for you to come to Pittsburgh. Personally and on behalf of the committee may I tell you how grateful we are to have had the privilege and pleasure of having you with us. Thank you again for one of the most inspiring addresses we have had in this city for a long, long time.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

  
Gustave Bisgyer,  
City Manager,  
State of Israel Bonds



# Predicts Amazing Future for Israel

Israel's next ten years will amaze the world. The nation will double its current 2,000,000 population and achieve technological and economic standards undreamed by its founders.

This optimistic prediction was made here last night by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, noted religious leader from Cleveland.

He spoke at the Israel tenth anniversary dinner sponsored by the Pittsburgh Committee for State of Israel Bonds at the Penn-Sheraton.

**DR. SILVER** said the new nation's many skilled immigrants, including a high percentage of scientists and teachers, are making new gains possible.

He added that although the hostility of the Arab nations is still a grave threat to Israel, the nation will survive and grow because:

"Its people have courage and an irresistible drive."

**ISRAEL**, Dr. Silver said, is of great value to America and other Western nations because "it represents the only dependable country in the unsettled Middle East."

Dr. Silver warned, however, that America must not make the mistake of taking Israel for granted "as we did our neighbors in Latin America."

"We have often made the tragic mistake of ignoring our friends and catering to our enemies. We refused to give weapons to Israel when she needed them but we gave them to Tito and Franco."

**DR. SILVER** said the United Arab Republic formed by Nasser of Egypt is not an immediate threat to Israel. He explained:

"The Arab union has taken Egypt's attention away from Israel for the time being. There is, however, no real settlement of the problem. If



**DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER**

*... anniversary speaker*  
Sun-Telegraph Photo

Nasser wanted to he could settle the dispute in an hour by sitting down and talking to the Israel leaders."

Heading the Pittsburgh committee are Samuel J. Felman, chairman, and Mrs. Lester Nolan, women's division chairman.



# Rabbi Warns Against Indifference to Israel

**Visiting Zionist Addresses Group  
Celebrating 10th Year of State Here**

Our country must not take Israel for granted the way we have taken Latin-American nations for granted, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver declared here yesterday.

"We have a tragic failing of ignoring our friends and catering to our enemies," the veteran Zionist spiritual leader and scholar said in an interview with newsmen.

## **Sponsored by Bond Group**

Dr. Silver, came here to address the Israel tenth anniversary celebration attended by nearly 600 community leaders, under the sponsorship of the Pittsburgh Israel bond committee, in the Penn Sheraton.

A tall, heavysset man with a shock of iron gray hair, Dr. Silver is rabbi of the Cleveland Temple.

He believes a United Nations force will have to be kept in the Middle East until "there is a permanent peace settlement."

## **3 Million Jews in USSR**

There are an estimated 3,000,000 people of Jewish faith in Russia, he said, whose "cultural and spiritual life has been pretty well suppressed." If the Soviet would open their gates "many would probably like to emigrate" to Israel. Asked if the Russians allow any to leave, Rabbi Silver remarked sadly, "The Soviet government doesn't allow anyone to leave."

Israel is due "for a few years' breathing spell" from Arab pressure, he believes. Give them 10 more years of peace and their progress will amaze the world. When I said that of Israel 10 years ago, people laughed at me," he remarked.







**SAMUEL J. FELMAN**

**DR. A. H. SILVER**

*Looking forward to 10 years of Israel progress.*

# Nasser Arms Worry Called Bar To Peace

**Israel Bond Drive Leader Visits City,  
Says Mideast Squabble Could Be Settled**

If Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser would stop worrying about receiving weapons from Russia, friction among Arab nations could be tied in a bag and tossed into the Mediterranean Sea within an hour.

But President Nasser is concerned more about having a large supply of guns

and ammunition than bettering the cultural and scientific aspects of the United Arab Republic.

## Heads Bond Drive

That's the opinion of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, head of the State of Israel Bond Drive throughout the United States, Canada, Latin America and Western European countries.

**"There is no direct competition between Egypt and Israel that should hold these two nations apart," Dr. Silver told a press conference last night.**

"Israel's prime minister, Ben-Gurion, is willing to sit down and talk over problems with Nasser, but he won't give in. It all could be settled within an hour . . . an hour of sincere thought and discussion."

## Zionist Leader

Dr. Silver, a leader of the American Zionist movement and past president of the Zionist Organization of America, was main speaker at the spring dinner of the Israel Bond Drive Committee of Pittsburgh, which some 600 guests attended.

After a recent trip to Israel during the celebration of the country's 10th anniversary of freedom, Dr. Silver looked forward to another 10 years of further development and growth.

**He pointed out the "amazing industrial and agricultural advances in the last 10 years . . . things that I foresaw, but people just laughed at."**

Dr. Silver also said that immigrants were flowing into the small country from all parts of the country. One town, he said, increased from 10 families to well over 5000 people within seven years.

Among the immigrants are many skilled tradesmen, all adding to the progress of Israel's industrial, agricultural and commercial expansion.

## Bonds Aid Progress

**"The thing that has been keeping this progress rolling," Dr. Silver said, "is this present drive of Israel Bonds."**

Asked whether sentiment

was universal among all Jews, Dr. Silver said, "By and large, all Jews are very helpful throughout the world."

**"But, of course, we have 'Tories' now just like the United States had in 1775."**

A highlight of the spring activities for the Israel Bond drive, the dinner was headed by Dr. Solomon B. Freehof of Rodef Shalom Temple and Samuel J. Felman, chairman of the Pittsburgh Committee for the State of Israel Bond Drive.