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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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Jewish Agency, Ben Gurion, David, 1947-1948.



From A.L.

ה ע ת כ

לונדון, 22.1.1947

לכל חברי ההנהלה

בפגישת חברי ההנהלה בלונדון הבקר נחשוררה  
השאלה על הסחרות מדיניות של חברי ההנהלה - בראיונות  
עם באי כוח העתונות, במסיבות פוליטיות וכדומה. מצד  
אחד הכירו החברים שאין טעם ותועלת למנוע מחברי ההנהלה  
הבעת דעותיהם במסיבות מפלגתיות וצבוריות יהודיות  
מאידך גיסא נראה לכולנו שלא רצוי שחברים בודדים ימסרו  
הצהרות מדיניות בלתי מוסמכות או סותרות זו את זו  
האחריות הקולקטיבית ואחדותה של ההנהלה היא תנאי יסודי  
לקיומה ולאפשרות פעולתה היעילה, ויש למצוא דרך אשר  
תמנע הצהרות בלתי רצויות, מבלי לצמצם חופש הדיבור של  
חברי ההנהלה.

בטרם שננסה קו מסוים בנידון זה על דעת ההנהלה  
כולה - אנקש מכל חבר ההנהלה להביע בהקדם האפשרי את  
דעתו - כיצד להבטיח את המבוקש על ידי כולנו, כלומר לקיים  
חופש הדיבור של חבר ההנהלה בתנאי שלא תיפגע האחריות  
הקולקטיבית של ההנהלה. מה הם התנאים והמסיבות אשר בהם  
אין חבר ההנהלה צריך להביע דעתו בלי סמכותה וידיעתה של  
ההנהלה כולה. ומה הם הדברים שאסור לחברי ההנהלה לפרסם  
ברבים בדרך כלל.

החברים בירושלים ובארצות-הברית מחבקשים לשלוח  
חשובתם בדואר האוויר המוקדם ביותר.

בב"ח

(חחום) ד. בן-גוריון



MEETING BETWEEN THE RIGHT HON. ERNEST BEVIN AND  
MR. DAVID BEN-GURION, FOREIGN OFFICE, 12th FEBRUARY, 1947, 9.45 a.m.

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Present: The Right Hon. E. Bevin  
Mr. D. Ben-Gurion  
Mr. H. Beeley.

MR. BEN-GURION: I asked for this interview because I had the impression that a great part of the talks and discussions at the meetings between the Government and the Jewish Agency were rather futile. I believe that you do not attach any real importance to a great many things which were discussed and that the really important things were not even mentioned. It was only at the last meeting that you hinted at something important in connection with the Negev.

I do not know why you attach such an importance to the Palestine problem. I have heard you say several times that you are willing to stake your career on the solution of this problem, and I am wondering why, being overwhelmed with pressing world problems, you give up so much of your time to discussions on Palestine. It seems that in spite of it being a little country, you attach to it great importance, and it seems to me that it might be a good thing to try and clarify the really serious issues concerning Palestine. If there were no Jews in Palestine, I think you would have left the country a long time ago, as you had to leave the Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and as you are now about to leave Egypt. I want to find out your needs and apprehensions in Palestine, whether it is not possible to harmonise your needs with our needs, and whether it is not possible to remove the apprehensions by discussing frankly the most important problems.

MR. BEVIN: We have no interests in Palestine. We have no needs there, not even strategic needs. We can leave it entirely. Our interest is merely to have peace in the Middle East, and this is not a matter only for the Middle East; it is a world need. The peace in the Middle East is being disturbed by the



~~...presumptuous to talk about  
the one side and a small people, who has not even a state or a  
government~~

situation in Palestine, and we want to find a settlement for that problem in order to assure peace in the Middle East. If this will prove impossible, as both sides seem to be uncompromising, we will leave it altogether. It is not our business. We must not carry this burden alone. As for ourselves, we have no interests there.

MR. BEN GURION: Well, you ought to know British interests best, and if you maintain that you have no interests in Palestine, I certainly will not take upon myself to say that you have interests. But I want to tell you that if you happen to have interests in Palestine, as I always thought you had, we have a deep concern in those interests, and I want to tell you why we are interested that England should be able to preserve her position in the world, and in that part of the world. It is not a matter of gratitude for the Balfour Declaration. There are deeper reasons. For us it is a matter of community of interests and ideals, although it is perhaps presumptuous to talk about community of interests between a great world Power and Empire on the one side and a small people, who has not even a state or a government of its own, on the other side.

MR. BEVIN interrupted: I do not want that Great Britain should play politics as a world Power. I believe in world peace and in the equality of all peoples.

Mr. BEN GURION: But the fact remains that there is a great distance between you and us regarding power, and still we believe that we have something in common, in interests and in ideals. When I say ideals, I say it although in our time ideals are not very highly thought of, but for us ideals are a great thing. We have suffered for our ideals and they mean a great deal to us. We in Palestine, even when we shall have there several million Jews, we shall be a small nation. But we will be a European nation there, the only European nation in that continent. We have a special type of civilisation which we are anxious to preserve, as much as we are anxious to preserve our national identity, and



we must preserve our links with Europe. Europe always meant, to a large extent, England, and now even more so. Europe is now divided into two parts: one part of Europe is Russia, the other goes, more or less, with England. There are many Russian Jews in Palestine. I myself was born in Russia and, as you know, Dr. Weizmann is a Russian Jew, and there are still some things in Russian civilisation which we cherish. But we again find ourselves in the unenviable position that in case of a conflict we have no choice. We had no choice in the last war. The Arabs had a free choice: they could be with you; they could be with Hitler; they could be neutral. They were mostly pro-Hitler. We had no choice. If there will be a new conflict, we shall again have no choice. I hope there will be no conflict, but if there will be one, we shall have no choice. Our very existence is impossible under a totalitarian regime, whether of one type or another. Jews in Russia enjoy complete equality; anti-Semitism is a crime; a Jew can reach the highest positions of state, and some of them have reached them. Yet, the Jewish people, under the conditions prevailing in Russia, is being spiritually extinguished.

Mr. BEVIN asked: Can they not profess their religion?

Mr. BEN GURION: It is not only a question of religion. If there is a religious Jew, he is not as free in Russia as in other countries. He is not free. He cannot think for himself. The Russians can endure it. They were in the same position in this respect under the Czarist regime as under the present regime. The Jew is an intelligent being. He cannot stand being told what to say and what to think. I met Jewish officers of the Red Army who were taken prisoners in Germany and who escaped from the Russian Army. They did not want to go back, and they told me that if the doors of Russia were opened, the majority of Jews would leave, for they are living in a prison. There are perhaps a million and a half Jews there, but they do not exist as such. If I were sitting now not with you but with Mr. Molotov and he would make an anti-Zionist declaration, I would not be allowed to discuss it



with him. I would not be allowed to argue. There are perhaps four times less Jews in England than in Russia, but they can oppose your policy. They can fight against it. The Jews in Russia have no self-expression. They do not exist spiritually. Last year the Russian Government sent two Jews to American Jewry. When they were asked what is the attitude of the Russian Jews to Zionism, one of them answered that if Stalin would be pro-Zionist, the Russian Jews would be happy. There is no discrimination against Jews in Russia, but such a regime means extinction for the Jews as a people and as intelligent free human beings. Under such a regime in the world the Jewish people would disappear. Our existence and survival depends on whether in the world the Anglo-Saxon ideals of liberalism - and I do not mean the Liberal Party - tolerance, respect for human freedom and dignity, free expression of political views, will prevail. And if there should be - and I pray that it should never come to pass - a conflict between these two ways of life, we again have no choice. We belong to that world, the world of freedom and tolerance, and respect for the individual human spirit.

Even if there were no Labour Government in England, ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ it would be in our interest that England and America should maintain their place in the world. But we have even deeper common interests and ideals with British Labour. Jewish Palestine is mainly a Labour Palestine. Of every four Jews, including children, one is an organised worker. While our movement is not entirely identical with yours, ~~xxxx~~ they have many things in common, most of all the combination of socialism with freedom and democracy. It is of vital interest to us that the position of Great Britain in the world in general, and in that part of the world where we are going to live in particular, should not be weakened and, therefore, in a Jewish Palestine, it would be in our interest to satisfy all the legitimate needs of England, if she has any in that part of the world, whether it is in the Negev or in any other part. When you mentioned at our last meeting the importance of the Negev, I guessed what you had in mind. I may have been wrong, but I thought that it is a question of petrol, or perhaps of a canal to Akaba. I do not



see why this cannot be reconciled with Jewish settlement in that area.

Mr. BEVIN interrupted: Yes, there is the question of oil in the Negev, and certainly you are interfering. Whenever we want to explore it, make inquiries, you are poking (your nose) in and you are establishing townships where we have to do some work. Yes, there were plans of a canal. But I don't think that they will have to be carried out. (Turning to Beeley) Isn't that so? (Beeley muttered something, but it was not clear whether it was yes or no).

Mr. BEN GURION: I cannot see why a Jewish State cannot meet these or any other needs.

Mr. BEVIN interrupted: But there is a terrible anti-British feeling among American Jews. There is a violent agitation against Great Britain. Whole pages in the press are taken up with slandering England.

Mr. BEN GURION: I will have perhaps later something to say about American Jews. But I would like to return to the Middle East now. If, as you say, peace in the Middle East is your main interest and therefore you look for a settlement of the Palestine question, all those proposals you have made so far, they do not make for a settlement. If you think that Palestine must some time be independent -

Mr. BEVIN interrupted asking: Do you think Palestine should not be independent?

Mr. BEN GURION: No, on the contrary. I am sure that Palestine will some day have to be independent, and then you will be faced with this dilemma from which there is no escape: either you will have to put 700,000 Jews under Arab domination -

Mr. BEVIN interrupted: But why? Cannot a constitution be devised in such a way as to avoid this?

Mr. BEN GURION: If Palestine is to be really independent and neither the former Mandatory Power nor any other foreign Power will interfere, then I suppose Palestine will be a



democratic state every-one will have only one single vote. The Jews will not have more than one vote, if any. They are a minority and they will be under Arab domination. There is no escape from that. But it is not only that a third of the population of the country will be, against their will, under the domination of the Arabs. The Jews have created a special type of civilisation. They have a special position for the worker, for the woman, and I cannot imagine that world public opinion, or public opinion in Great Britain, should agree to place this population against its will under Arab domination. Therefore, the only other alternative is a Jewish State.

Mr. BEVIN: But I am told by the law officers that according to the Mandate there must not be a Jewish State, nor an Arab State.

MR. BEN GURION: At this talk I would not like to argue juridical points. If this question would be put before an impartial tribunal and it would be made only a question of law and justice, I would be prepared to plead and to prove that this was the intention of the Mandate, and that it could have no other intention. But I would not like to do it here. We have argued such points at the larger meetings. I want to deal here with the practical questions and I say: if the Mandatory Power, or any other foreign regime, will not more interfere at all in Palestine and the country will really be independent, then this decision will have to be made: Either 700,000 Jews will have to be placed under Arab domination, or they will have their own state.

Mr. BEVIN: Mr. Beeley told me this morning of your plan of partition. This will place 600,000 Arabs in the Jewish State, and he is not quite sure whether this would be right. The Arabs have a claim of democracy and self-determination, and there is a great deal of sympathy for that in the world.

Mr. BEN GURION: If right only would rule the world, we would be perfectly willing to submit our case to a world tribunal and we would then ask not for an adequate territory within Palestine, but for the whole of Palestine, and I am convinced that if it were a



question of right, we would receive Palestine in its entirety. But I am now discussing this matter from a more practical point of view. We, and you, and perhaps also the Arabs, cannot wait very much longer. You mentioned peace in the Middle East. A settlement of the Palestine question is one of the needs of the Middle East. We need it, perhaps you also need it. And if an immediate settlement is necessary, we must make a compromise and we must give up part of what we believe is our country. The Arabs in a Jewish State will perhaps be in a better position than the Arabs in an Arab state. I argued this point at the last meeting and I do not want to repeat it now.

Mr. BEVIN: But you never told us what you really want. I had talks with Dr. Weizmann, with Dr. Goldmann, and I had a talk with Rabbi Silver in America. He asked me for a tip <sup>on Partition</sup> in order to have the Congress with him. But you never laid your cards on the table. You never told me what you really want. You will have to appear before the world. You will have to tell the United Nations what it is you want. What is your partition? I am dealing with all kinds of peoples in the world. They all say clearly and openly what they want. There is only one people which never discloses what is in its mind: the Russians. You say you are a Russian. You act just like them.

MR. BEN GURION: This we learnt not from the Russians but from you. You have made proposals, but all the time you mentioned only principles. You never told us plainly and clearly what it is you are offering us. What is the area of the Jewish provinces in the Morrison Plan? Only at the last meeting you told us that we could see the map, and immediately we told you, and we have shown yesterday to your representatives, that if a compromise will be made, what is the area we have in mind.

Mr. BEVIN: But we cannot force a Jewish State upon the Arab world. There will be war. We have no authority from the United Nations. We have no help. These Americans, they are always pressing us. President Roosevelt, he made far-reaching commitments to the



Arabs. He made promises to Ibn Saud. We never did that. Even the White Paper did not go as far as that. Now they are giving us advice, telling us what to do. But when we asked them whether they would give us military help, they said NO. It is all because of their elections, some time it is elections in New York, and another time it is elections for the Senate. But they refuse to take any responsibility. They want us to carry the whole burden. But we cannot fight the whole Arab world.

Mr. BEN GURION: The American President does not stand in need of my defence. But I believe that you are not entirely just. Of course, elections play a big role in America, but I really believe that it is not only a matter of elections. President Truman practically stands no chance of re-election, yet he still sticks to his Palestine policy. And it is not only the one party. Both parties practically demand the same thing.

Mr. BEVIN: Both parties want to take advantage of it for election purposes.

Mr. BEN GURION: No. There were occasions when leaders of both parties went to the President, signed petitions, and neither party could have had any advantage. There is genuine sympathy and understanding for the position of the Jews, for the merits of their case.

Mr. Bevin: But we cannot do it alone. We will have to submit our proposals to the United Nations.

Mr. BEN GURION: We are not in the United Nations. You are one of the founders; you have the right of Veto. But we will find ourselves in the terrible position of having to oppose your request for such a trusteeship. This trusteeship proposal, if it is to be taken seriously, means the placing of the Jews after five years under Arab domination. I believe that our objections will find support in many quarters, not only in America, among different peoples, in Latin America and in Western as well as Eastern Europe. Public opinion in the world will realise the cruel injustice of such a betrayal, and I doubt whether such a trusteeship will be approved.



Mr. BEVIN: We will not submit these proposals to UNO, if we will not reach an agreement here.

Mr. BEN GURION: In that case you must look for another solution, if you are really anxious to settle this problem. But it must be settled with finality.

Mr. BEVIN: Shall we force the Jewish State upon the Arabs with British arms? If there were an agreement between you and the Arabs on that, we would do it.

Mr. BEN GURION: I cannot tell you that the Arabs will agree to that beforehand. They might have done so at one time. You lost a unique historic chance. When you came into power, your prestige stood very high among Jews and Arabs. If you had then called together the Arabs and the Jews, and you had first of all told the Arabs that the White Paper cannot remain, as you had always been against it, and you declared in Parliament that you will not be bound by that policy, and that you were elected on a platform for a Jewish State and therefore the White Paper must immediately be abolished - this might have been possible. You might then have said that you were not willing to force upon either the Jews or the Arabs any regime, and that they must sit together and find an agreed settlement. Then it might have been done, since one can hardly imagine that any other settlement could be reached by mutual compromise. But you have lost that opportunity, and it is no use discussing the past now. I am not sure that all the Arabs will now agree to it beforehand, but your view that the Arabs will fight, allow me to tell you, does not correspond to the facts as they are known to us.

Take the Arab states. There are at least three which will not oppose a Jewish state, although they may not say so publicly. Take Egypt, the biggest state in the Arab League. They have more than half the population of the entire League. They are interested in a settlement of the Palestine problem. Some of their statesmen support a Jewish State in Palestine on the basis of partition. They believe it is an Egyptian interest to settle the Palestine problem. They may quarrel with you over the Sudan, which is no



concern of ours. But they will not quarrel with you over Palestine. On the contrary, some of them believe that the setting up of a Jewish State will make it easier to settle their differences with you in Egypt.

Mr. BEVIN interrupted: I was told that Sidky Pasha is for partition. I immediately made inquiries and Sidky denied it.

Mr. BEN GURION: I cannot believe that Sidky would tell us one thing and you another. There must be something wrong there, and I shall perhaps be able to give you evidence of his attitude. But it is not only Sidky. I doubt whether there is any Egyptian statesman who would quarrel with Britain if you settled the Palestine problem by setting up a Jewish State.

Then there are two other states which not only will acquiesce but in their hearts will be very much for it. First, there is Transjordan. Here is a case of a state which is definitely not "viable". It is an artificial creation, and they are as much willing to settle the Palestine problem by partition as some of the Jews. Then there is the Lebanon. The official representative may be against it, but for a great part of the population of the Lebanon, for the Christians, it is of vital importance to have a Jewish State on their border. This would safeguard their own existence as a distinct nation in the Arab world. I know Jamali, from Iraq. He is perhaps the only extremist, and he really supports the attitude of the Palestine delegation. But I know other Iraqi statesmen, for instance Nuri Pasha, the present Prime Minister. He understands the necessity of coming to terms with the Jews. He realises the importance for the Arab world of co-operation between Jews and Arabs.

Take the position of Syria. Only a few days ago Jemil Mardam in answer to an article by the Mufti's paper in Palestine that they would bring the Palestine question before UNO, declared that the Arab states need peace and tranquillity. (Beeley nodded in confirmation) Syria is in a terrible economic position. There are difficult minority problems. The ruling group really is a minority. Nobody will take seriously the suggestion that Syria would make war against



England. When France was still Mandatory Power in Syria, she gave away part of Syria to the Turks, the Sanjak of Alexandretta.

I cannot see that the Syrian Government will make war over Palestine, or any other Arab state. Did Egypt break ~~xxxxxxxx~~ off relations with Turkey because of Alexandretta? Are not all the Arab states anxious to have the best relations with Turkey? Can any one really claim that if you settle the Palestine problem in the only possible way, by setting up a Jewish State, that Egypt, or Syria, or Iraq will make war on England? I cannot speak with the same certainty about the attitude of Ibn Saud, but I can hardly believe that he will break off relations with England and America because of that. You may be right that none of them will give his prior consent, but if you decided upon this course, some of them would be glad, the others would be acquiescent. What they all need is to be able to deal with their own problems, and not to be occupied constantly with the Palestine quarrel.

Mr. BEVIN: I am willing to consider such a plan. The Cabinet is sick and tired of the whole problem, but I will submit it to my colleagues. I am anxious to settle this problem. Can you let me have what you said in writing?

Mr. BEN GURION: I will do so gladly. But just as the whole talk is private and informal, not committing anybody, what I will submit to you in writing will also be private and informal. But I want you to know what I believe is in the mind of our people. If a Jewish State, including the area which I have outlined yesterday, that is, the whole of Galilee, the whole of the Negev, with the exclusion of the central part containing some 600,000 Arabs, will be set up, our people will accept this compromise, although they will not be very happy about the operation. I have not got the Jewish people in my pocket. Nobody has. But I know more or less the mind of my people, in Palestine and in any other country, also in America. I am not American, ~~xxxxx~~ and I am not an American Jew, but I must tell you that you were wrong about the attitude of American Jews. You were there a short time and you



have seen certain advertisements in the papers. You found there bitterness among Jews. It was not anti-British feelings, it was bitterness against the policy of the White Paper. The advertisements which you were shown are those of an irresponsible group. You must not generalise. No responsible Jewish body in America has anything to do with that group. And I can tell you this: If Palestine Jewry will accept a settlement, even if it is not ideal and just, but practical and it will meet our urgent and most vital needs, then I believe Jews all over the world will accept it. Jews in America, as all Americans, are divided. They are ~~xxxxxxxx~~ democrats, republicans, socialists, as all other Americans. But so far as they are Jews, they follow Palestine. The same applies to English Jews and to Jews in other countries. As British subjects, they have their different views, as other British subjects. But as Jews they are tied to Palestine. Palestine is already the main spiritual force in Jewish life.

Then there is the question of the interim period. We do not want to hurry you in taking a decision. I know you have to go to Moscow. We are perfectly willing to wait until you come back. But it is a serious problem. What is going to happen in the meantime? The present position in Palestine is impossible, for us and for you.

Mr. BEVIN: There is this terrorism. And the Jews in America, they are collecting money for terrorist acts, for illegal immigration. I really cannot understand it. America is a friendly country. How can citizens of such a country support terror and illegal actions?

Mr. BEN GURION: It is only a small group, the same group who is responsible for those advertisements which you were shown, who is supporting the terrorist groups. As for what you call "illegal immigration", you will hardly find a single Jew who would regard this as illegal.

Mr. BEVIN: But it <sup>be</sup> is against the law.

Mr. BEN GURION: May/technically against the law. You were a leader of labour and you ought to know human nature. Do you



expect a Jew in Germany, when he has an opportunity to go to Palestine, to his relatives, his people, his country, that he should not go because technically he is breaking the law? Should a prisoner of war not escape if he has an opportunity to do so, because he is breaking the law?

Mr. BEVIN: But we are in a very humiliating position in Palestine. We have to keep there an army of 100,000 troops. We have to put our people in fortresses. It is humiliating. We cannot do it. We cannot go on like this.

Mr. BEN GURION: This is due to a wrong policy, to the White Paper. Must the White Paper go on?

Mr. BEVIN: The White Paper was approved by Parliament. But the White Paper is wrong. I am against it and I told that to the Arabs. But how will you stop the terror in Palestine?

Mr. BEN GURION: If we will have authority, we will be able to stop it. Now the police is yours, and you want us to do their work? We cannot do it. When we will be the Government, we will deal with these terrorists.

Mr. BEVIN: But cannot this illegal immigration be stopped? Must we be in the position of having to send these people away? It is humiliating for us.

Mr. BEN GURION: There is only one way out: to have large immigration.

Mr. BEVIN: But I offer you 4,000 monthly. If not for the Americans, you would have had a large immigration for a long time. I gave you 1,500 and I wanted to give you more later on. Then the Americans intervened and made it impossible.

Mr. BEN GURION: Mr. Bevin, at this talk I did not want to discuss with you details, and therefore I do not want now to object to the number of 4,000 per month. But it is not only a question of <sup>substantial</sup> ~~large~~ immigration. There is also this insult the racial discrimination, the land laws, which must be removed immediately.

The meeting lasted one hour and 10 minutes.



AHS

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shertok jewagency newyork

MAY 4, 1947

23/50 ROSENHEIM CABLED RABBI LEWIN ON 31ST APRIL QUOTE AGENCY  
RENOUNCED THEIR CLAIM(S) FOR A JEWISH STATE AND DEMANDS WITH US MANDATE  
AND CANCELLATION (OF) WHITE PAPER ONLY UNQUOTE IS THIS TRUE PLEASE  
TELEGRAPH PARAGRAPH (REFERRING TO) YOUR TELEGRAM OF 29TH EXECUTIVE OF  
JEWISH AGENCY AGREE TO YOUR NEGOTIATION(S) RECONSTRUCTION ENLARGED  
JEWISH AGENCY BUT ALL MEMBERS...DEFINITELY OPPOSED 50 50 PRINCIPLE

BENGURION





MAY 5, 1947

N223 INTL CDE JERUSALEM VIA WU CABLES 17 5 1100  
SHERTOK JEWAGENCY NEW YORK

REFERRING YOUR TELEGRAM #30 WASHINGTON D.C. RABBI LEWIN DENIES  
ABSOLUTELY DEMANDS SEPARATE APPEARANCE AGUDAH DAVID BEN-GURION





Dr. Silver.

COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM JERUSALEM MAY 20, 1947

GATHER MOST RELIABLY NEW WATER LAW WILL BE PROMULGATED THIS WEEK. CONTROL AREAS WILL BE ARBITRARILY FIXED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN HIS DISCRETION AND WILL ENTITLE HIM TO PROHIBIT EXTRACTION OF WATER IN SUCH AREAS EXCEPT UNDER LICENSE. EVEN EXISTING WELLS WILL BE SUBJECT TO LICENSE. ANY CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS MAY BE ATTACHED TO LICENCES IN PARTICULAR THE FOLLOWING THOUGH WITHOUT PREJUDICES TO THE GENERALITY OF THE RESTRICTIVE POWERS GRANTED:

THE WATER COMMISSIONER MAY SPECIFY THE AMOUNT OF WATER EXTRACTABLE AND FIX THE RATE AT WHICH AND THE TIME DURING WHICH WATER MAY BE EXTRACTED. HE MAY FIX FURTHER THE PLACE, THE USE AND PURPOSE OF DISTRIBUTION OF THE WATER AND IS GIVEN RIGHTS OF CANCELLATION. THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO ASCERTAIN THE WATER CAPACITY OF ANY WELL AND THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY LICENSE IN ABSTRACTION IS DEEMED "PREJUDICIAL TO THE REASONABLE CONSERVATION CONTROL OR EXPLOITATION OF UNDER GROUND WATER SOURCES". THE VERY WIDE POWERS CONFERRED BY THE LAW WOULD ENABLE HIM TO PREVENT INTENSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT WORK AND THE BETTER AND MORE INTENSIFICATION OF LAND. MOREOVER BY A PROCRASTINATION ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ~~IT~~ IT IS POSSIBLE TO STRANGLE DEVELOPMENT. IT WOULD EVEN BE POSSIBLE TO PREVENT DEVELOPMENT BY IRRIGATION OF AREAS IN JEWISH POSSESSION THEREBY RENDERING IMPOSSIBLE AN INCREASE IN THE CAPACITY OF THAT AREA TO MAINTAIN A LARGER POPULATION.

Ben Gurion



JERUSALEM

APRIL 26, 1948

RECEIVED MAY 1, 1948

LC SHERTOK JEVAGENCY NEWYORK

ON RECEIPT YOUR CABLE TWENTYSECOND EXECUTIVE CONVENED RESOLVED INFORMED ASSEMBLY  
THAT IF ARABS CEASE FIRE IN WHOLE PALESTINE WE WILL CEASE FIRE IMMEDIATELY IT  
BEING CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT FREE ACCESS HOLY PLACES AND FREE MOVEMENT ALL ROADS  
BE GUARANTEED IN OUR VIEW SECOND PART FORMULA GRANTING EACH SIDE RIGHT RESCIND  
AGREEMENT IF IN ITS VIEW SITUATION SO REQUIRES NULLIFIES EFFECT CALL FOR CEASE  
FIRE DURING SPECIAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS

BENGURION





cable sent May 15 - 1948

David Ben Gurion, Prime Minister ~~Israel~~

Tel Aviv - <sup>State of</sup> Israel -

I <sup>salute</sup> ~~send~~ you & members of <sup>the</sup> government <sup>& nation</sup> ~~State of~~ Israel -  
on this glorious moment in our history - marking the  
reestablishment of the Jewish State & its recognition by  
the gov of the United States - Am Jewry will continue to  
stand firmly behind the Jewish State - thru whatever  
difficulties may confront it. I am confident that the  
good will of the Am. people which has hailed with deepest  
satisfaction the procl. of the Jewish State will also  
stand by you in the <sup>future</sup> - Hagak be mitchazek

Abba Hillel Silver

NYC.

I sent you fol. wire "hand out"



David Ben Gurion [h.v.]  
83 Ave de la Grande Armée  
Paris France.

Our friends wish to know what line  
to take when they meet jointly next  
Wednesday. They will of course press  
for immediate unqualified immigration  
of one hundred thousand. But if  
impelled to consider permanent  
arrangement they wish to know  
which of the two alternatives they  
should press for. Shall it be report  
of twelve as basis or report of six.  
Feeling here among our friends is  
~~the~~ unless genuine viable partition  
with independence is possible, the first  
alternative is preferable - assuming  
that no negative commitment on  
ultimate Jewish State is incorporated. Disturbing  
report from Paris in Times this  
morning that Zionist leaders are  
prepared to accept division ~~scheme~~ report  
of six with negligible modifications.  
Cable or telephone immediately -  
Mayflower Hotel  
Plymouth Mass.  
my telephone address A.