



## 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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Jewish Agency, "D" and "E", 1948-1949.



c/o A. Epstein,  
25 Nachmani Street,  
Tel Aviv.

*on The office  
road in Rome*  
18th September, 1948  
No. 7

The Executive Director,  
Z.O.A.  
41 East 42nd Street,  
New York.

*E.N.  
9/27/48*

I feel it necessary to call your attention once more to the need for adequate welfare services among those who have come here from abroad to help in the present emergency.

*disquieting*  
I was informed today again by an active worker from abroad that his co-nationals here have complained rather bitterly. In respect to certain items as, for example, deficiencies in food or cigarettes he said this also applied to the local population. But he said that his fellow-nationals complained of being treated in a surly manner and that even their very presence here was not only unappreciated but resented. Some thought that they were suspected of trying to take away the jobs of the local personnel, whereas many had given up very good jobs in order to come here. Of course, their ignorance of Hebrew has also been a source of a certain amount of disregard, if not contempt. These signs are ~~incomprehensible~~ but I am sure that the complaints have not been exaggerated.

This situation can obviously lead to very unfortunate results, and one of the ways of remedying it is to have here people of the type of welfare officials who know Hebrew and who can act as a bridge of understanding between the newcomers and the "natives" as it were.

*E.M.E.*  
E. M. Epstein.



**AIR MAIL**

הסוכנות היהודית לארץ-ישראל  
THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

Telegrams : "JEVAGENCY" JERUSALEM

Telephone : 4671 (9 LINES)

Codes : BENTLEY'S

20th September, 1948.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE

P. O. Box 92

Jerusalem

10235/6/2/3889

Ref. No.

Dr. A.H. Silver, Chairman  
Executive of the Jewish Agency,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Silver,

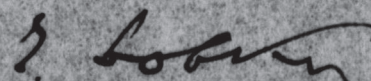
I should like to inform you that in order to facilitate close associations with the various youth organisations in the U.S.A., the decision has been taken to send a representative of the Youth and Hechalutz Department to the U.S.A.

Mr. Gershon Asculai, who has been appointed to serve as representative of the Youth and Hechalutz Department in the United States, is now on his way to New York.

Gershon Asculai has had a long experience of conditions in this country and of youth affairs. He is fully acquainted with the activities and plans of the Youth and Hechalutz Department. It will be his job in America to keep in close contact with all Zionist youth movements irrespective of their political affiliation. I trust that through this appointment, the Youth Movements in the U.S.A. will be still further strengthened to the advantage of all concerned.

Any assistance extended to Mr. Asculai in the discharge of his duties will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



E. Dobkin

Head of the Youth and Hechalutz Department



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ELIAHU DOBKIN

S635P

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October 22, 1948

Mr. Arthur Lourie  
Jewish Agency for Palestine  
16 East 66th Street  
New York 21, New York

My dear Mr. Lourie:

I am sending you the enclosed information about Mr. Simon M. Davidian who wishes to obtain a visa for Israel. He was in to see me. I am sure that you will do whatever you can to facilitate his trip to Israel.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er  
Enc.



34 Alfazi, Rehavia, Jerusalem

December 27, 1948

Dear Sidney,

I do not know whether you are aware that a censorship of mail-in and out- as well as of cables, is now in force. For some time it was not admitted publicly but now we have to indicate on envelopes with outgoing mail the language of the communication, and incoming letters are now re-sealed with gum slips stating that they have been opened by censor. This of course causes ~~delay~~ delay. There is some speculation as to whether the precaution is purely military or not. As regards transatlantic phone conversations as they are conducted by Wireless anyone tuning in to the required wave length can hear whatever is said.

There has also been some bitter annoyance because of the behavior of Income Tax assessors which has been expressed vigorously in Haaretz. It seems that they have been demanding data and documents much beyond their competence under the existing law. Shops have been entered and an estimate made of counter takings, for example, and other similar methods. Representations have been made to the head of the Department who is considering them. Economic circles have pointed out that such methods will hardly encourage private capital to come here, which is pertinent because there is actually a Government Committee sitting to consider ways and means of attracting investments from abroad! Incidentally Israel investors have pointed out that any concessions or attractions offered to private capital must be available to local as well as foreign investors, which seems only fair.

Economic problems remain extremely serious. It seems that the Treasurer is opposed to subsidies in order to keep prices down of essential commodities, which is the system adopted successfully by Britain. The workers are against stabilising of wages, so we are in a cleft stick. The cost of living keeps rising with wages following suit. Mr. Hoofish has been charged with finding a solution but he is not a new man and one wonders if he will propose or accomplish anything new. Sooner or later we shall have to pay for the inflation. It would of course be healthier if the economic issue could be divorced from politics.

Election campaigning is becoming more intense. In Jerusalem on Saturday there were 20 meetings and in Tel Aviv many more. The compilation of the Slate of each party cannot be postponed now and this is giving rise to internal debate in most parties. Apart from the selection of the candidates what is important is their respective place on the list, for the number of candidates elected is counted from the top and no one can tell how many seats a party will gain. After a long discussion in the Executive Committee, the General Zionist decided to place Fritz Bernstein at the top of their List and not Israel Rokah. The voting at 2 a.m. was 22 and 17 but quite a few of both sides had gone home. Rokah had been invited to attend the meeting, as did Bernstein, but he declined. There is now proceeding negotiation with him and other respecting the rest of the Slate. If Rokah accepts second place the Jerusalem Branch wants Auster to be third. (Rokah as well as Auster has dissociated himself from the proposed Mayors List.) Sapir, Shoshanna Persitz, Krinitzki, Serlin, etc. are other candidates. Both the General Zionists and the Progressives are expecting about the same number of seats - ten each, but I doubt if there will be 20 for both. Greenbaum will not get it, it is believed, more than enough to elect himself, but they are General Zionist votes taken away, as well as the WIZO, Sefardim, etc.



The Progressives also have their difficulties about the Slate. Rosenblueth is to be on top but there was not agreement about number two. Granovsky claimed it, and when denied, absented himself from a function of the party. Altho he is also a member of the Oved Zioni, Kolodni expected this place. The outcome is not yet known.

I expect that you have been hearing from Dr. Goldstein. He told me this morning that he is very unhappy about the General Zionist split. Both groups have invited him to Receptions, but he feels that if they cannot get together ~~for~~ for such a purpose, he cannot go to either separately. I have already reported that there is much sentiment in favor of re-union, but it is generally believed that it can, if at all, only be accomplished after the elections. Mr. Tumkewitz has arranged a Hanuka function under the auspices of the Merkaz of the Confederation in Tel Aviv which ~~might~~ might be a neutral meeting place.

The 4-party Religious bloc has held together so far, sponsored by an array of Rabbis, but the Histadruth has succeeded in organizing a Workers Religious party of Histadrut members of potential members, who were not satisfied with the union. The Jewish and Arab Communists have joined forces which makes their slogan "We will not give up the Negev" a bit peculiar. The Revisionists and Herut have not yet come together. Indeed not much is heard from the Revisionists, since it is the World Union which turned down the merger and not the Israel sector.

There is guessing about the Arab vote, some 40,000 if all entitled to do so exercise the franchise. I hear that Mapai and Mapam expect to get the Arab workers support, but the other elements will be puzzled. The suggestion that the orthodox Arabs will vote for the Religious bloc sounds somewhat bizarre.

As for the new olim all the opposition parties will exploit their dissatisfaction.

I would not yet attempt a forecast of results. Surprises may be in store for us. Naturally the superior organization and financial resources of Mapai and Mapam are bound to tell. There are however indications that the middle-class is realizing what is at stake and may rally to the centre parties - if not to Herut. Daily contacts with the machinery of Government and the Army are not only disappointing but, often exasperating. Officials, mostly untrained, do not serve the public but special interests, or are simply incompetent. This prejudices the unorganized as well as members of the smaller parties, and one hears grumbling from all sides. This may well express itself in the polling. On the other hand, there is always the attraction to those who suffer to join the strong parties just in order to get the protection they lack - this applies to the Liberal professions, etc.

Mr. Agronsky has officially joined the Mapai and is now engaged in electioneering for them. This follows his joining the Board of management of "Davar" the Mapai morning paper. He has taken pains to try and divorce the "Post" from his action by inserting a notice in it that the paper is not the organ of the Government or of any party. Of course the fact that this notice appears just now is significant. Actually Agronsky and the "Post" have followed the Mapai line whenever Yishuv affairs were an issue in the paper, but his public identification with the party makes more obvious the link. One does not know the nature of the agreement with "Davar." It is announced that joint news services will be organized and it is clear to those who know that the financial position of the "Post" has seriously declined, that economies and increased revenue must be a motive. At the same time we cannot overlook that another presumed General Zionist has sought



his career in the winning party and this, under the State, must be expected. It happened also in British politics when the tide turned in favor of Labor, and Liberals went over to that ~~party~~ party.

The "Post" shares up to 51% were acquired from Bernard Roenblatt by the Jewish Agency, and I have not heard that it ever disposed of them. A private investor bought up most of the other shares. Agronsky told me there was a question of whether the "Post" should continue, whether there was need of an English daily and if so in Jerusalem. He thought there was. I agree with him, but I am very sorry that the "Post" will now - despite its disclaimer - hardly be expected to champion any other view or interest but that of Mapai and "Davar."

To my mind therefore the question should be asked whether it is not necessary to issue in Israel another English publication which would present the General Zionist outlook and reach our friends abroad, as well as all those other interests, Jewish and Christian and Moslem, here and in the Middle East. It is Agronsky's intention to produce an English "Weekly Post" for abroad. Naturally it must be expected that this Weekly Post will follow the line of the daily.

We badly need to revive the "Palestine (Israel) Review" which did present our problems in a digestible form as well as provide an intelligent background of Israel life. The "Review" was badly affected commercially during the war and appears now only irregularly. It has no debts, however, and could with a modest capital outlay be quickly brought back to its vigorous period as a Weekly. I would suggest that this proposal be considered now before other facts make its adoption, if desired, more difficult.

I enclosed another cutting on UPA. This is from Hamishmar of 24th Dec. It takes a somewhat different line than formerly, not trying to blame the Jewish Agency here (which means for it Mapai) for not preventing the controversy. But it adds that the dispute is not yet settled and that Dr. Goldstein is at variance with the Agency here on the matter.

Some time ago I suggested that a message of encouragement should be sent to the General Zionist Party here by the ZOA. This would be of distinct value. I know that not all the ZOA administration may be of one mind, but it is surely wise to strengthen the Party now ~~in~~ when it goes to the polls, even the later there may be a re-union with the Progressives. It is indeed necessary to demonstrate to the prospective voters for the party here that it has the moral and practical support of the General Zionists abroad and especially of the important ZOA. This may well mean a considerable difference in the polling. A well-drafted message cabled across which could be broadcast to the whole electorate would be of immense help.

I hope you received the two numbers so far issued of the Bulletin of the General Zionists in English. Perhaps some of the material could be quoted in the ZOA press and Yiddish papers. I am told that there has been a favorable response by mail from the recipients of the Bulletin, and would welcome your reaction.

I shall just repeat that I have sent you several batches of local clippings on the UPA dispute and trust they have duly arrived.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Elias Epstein



for his information

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE  
JERUSALEM

ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT

A SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT FOR THE PERIOD  
DECEMBER 1948 - JANUARY 1949.

1. Publications :

The first issue of the monthly "The Israel Export Journal" published on behalf of the Economic Department in co-operation with the Manufacturers' Association has been released.

In addition, special supplements on behalf of the Economic Department to economic papers as enumerated below have appeared :

- (a) "Israel Economic Review" supplement to the monthly, "Israel Economist";
- (b) "Israel Business Review" - Supplement to the monthly "Commerce" (Palnews);
- (c) "Success in Israel" - Supplement to the magazine "Israel Airports".

The following are in printing:

- (a) The first issue of the monthly - "Israel and Middle East" with the Supplement of the Economic Department - "Israel at work";
- (b) The first Booklet of the serial - "Israel Business Booklets" especially destined for business men abroad. The Booklet titled "What you should know" edited by Dr. A. Ben-Né contains general information regarding the economic life of Israel.

The preparation of a central business card-index containing by now over 4000 addresses is progressing.

A campaign for subscriptions of economic periodicals published in cooperation with the Economic Department has started abroad.

2. Exhibitions:

On the initiative of the department, the U.J.A. for South America has decided to arrange a Travelling Exhibition in the countries of the Latin Continent. The Exhibition will be opened on the 15th of May, 1949, in Rio-de-Janeiro, and will go over to San Paulo, Buenos-Aires, Montevideo and Santiago de Chile. The Economic Department has been entrusted with the preparation and organisation of this exhibition.



The Department is negotiating with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Trade & Industry of the Israeli Government regarding plans of participation of the State of Israel in International Fairs. The question of Israeli participation in the Fairs taking place in the near future at Paris, Lyon, Milano, Stockholm and Posnan is under consideration.

The Economic Department has started negotiations with the Ministries for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Manufacturers' Association of Palestine and the Labour Organisation concerning the participation of Israel in the permanent Industrial Exhibition to be opened at Moscow at the end of February. A cable of the Israeli trade attaché at Moscow strongly supporting this plan has been received at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Both the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Trade & Industry have declared at the initial stay of the negotiations that though attaching to the participation of Israel in this Exhibition a great importance they are not able, owing to financial reasons, to take part in the a/m Exhibition. The Economic Department, however, prepared a plan of arranging an Israeli Pavillon in the Moscow Exhibition, which has been approved by various factors. Efforts are being made for the realisation of this plan so as to enable the participation of the State of Israel in the said Exhibition.

The Department is continuing its activities connected with the plan for the construction of a monumental building in Jerusalem in which World Congresses of Jewish Organisations, Exhibitions of the achievements of the World Jewry, National "Festspiele" etc., will take place. These activities are being conducted in close cooperation with the Department for the Development of Jerusalem of the Jewish Agency. A special Committee of Architects has been requested to work out the necessary plans of this building. In connection with this enterprise, a financial project based on a certain contribution of the Jewish Agency and the Keren Kayemet Le'Israel, a loan to be obtained from Assurance Companies and mobilized private capital (on condition of certain guarantees regarding dividends that will be secured) - has been worked out.

In connection with the Jubilee of the Hebrew Technical College, the Department is contemplating the arrangement of a World Exhibition in 1952 at Haifa, under the slogan: "THE TECHNIQUE AND KNOWLEDGE FOR UPBUILDING OF THE STATE". Preliminary negotiations regarding this undertaking have started with the Board of the Technicum and other institutions in Israel. Steps have already been taken to sound the views of International Exhibition Authorities to this plan.

## 2. Tourism :

A Statute for the "Israel Touring Club" has been prepared by the Economic Department. The legal registration has been delayed because of the negotiations between the Jewish Agency, and the National Funds with the Ministry for Migration aiming at the setting up of a common Institution for Tourism. As the negotiations have failed to bring forward satisfactory results, the Statue of the "Israel Touring Club" will be handed over for registration in the course of the next days. The registration being certified accordingly, the Department is going to open the first club in Tel-Aviv (premises have already been rented) and later on in Jerusalem and Haifa.



Circular letters re the establishment of Israel Touring Clubs abroad have been released by the Economic Department. The Department is also in contact with various institutions and individuals abroad regarding the opening of Touring Clubs in their respective countries.

The Department is negotiating with certain capitalist circles from abroad re erection of rest-camps for the benefit of tourists in Israel. These camps will be composed of prefabricated houses, the imports of which, together with the necessary equipment, will be considered as the investment in this enterprise. The capital required for the operating of this undertaking will be mobilized in Israel. Negotiations concerning the rest-camps are being led also with the Municipalities of Tel-Aviv and Ramath-Gan.

The Economic Department and the Tourist Department of the Ministry for Migration of the Israeli Government have agreed upon a commonly organized conference of Hotel owners in Israel. While this conference is under the auspices of the two a/a authorities, the Economic Department is charged with the organization of the said conference.

The Economic Department is also conferring with the Tourist Department of the Ministry for Migration re a census of all hotels in Israel in order to obtain the exact number of proper accommodation of rooms available for tourists.

The Department is in contact with the Workmen Traveling Association (London) re organizing of touring groups in Israel. In connection with this project, the Department has contacted the Labour Organisation in Israel.

#### 4. Mobilizing of Capital:

The 'Industrial Information Bureau' of the Economic Department in cooperation with the Manufacturers' Association of Palestine has been opened and is already functioning. Its task is to accumulate the necessary material and inquiries of the existing industrial enterprises in Israel requiring additional capital for investments. The Bureau will contact capitalists and potential investors from abroad visiting Israel with the respective industrialists here. The offices of the Bureau are situated in the Manufacturers' Association Building in Tel-Aviv. The Management of the Bureau consists of representatives of the Economic Department, Mr. Necht (Manager of the Industrial Bank), Mr. Bentzen (Manager of the Manufacturers' Association), Mr. Elia (of the President of the Manufacturers' Association). Mr. H. Zuckerman has been appointed as director of the Bureau.

The Department is negotiating with the *Chamber of Commerce re* ~~Trade Institute re~~ setting up special Information Offices concerning trade of Israel.

Close contact has been established by the Department with capitalist circles from abroad who visited Israel. The Department has dealt, in particular, with potential investors, who recently visited Israel, giving them advice and guidance, and acquainted them



with the country, its conditions and opportunities. The Department has served with economic information representatives of Jewish financial circles from China, Belgium, England, Sweden, Tripoli, etc. A number of projects for investment of capital is already being negotiated.

/AH



[1948]

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NLT RABBI SILVER JEVAGENCY

NEWYORK

ON EVE 5709 SECOND YEAR ISRAELS INDEPENDENCE WE EXTEND FROM WAR  
SCARRED JERUSALEM FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO YOU AND COLLEAGUES  
EXECUTIVE MAY COMING YEAR BRING VICTORY AND CONSOLIDATION INDEP-  
ENDENCE SOVERIGNTY AND BE ONE IN WHICH ISRAEL TAKE DUE PLACE AS  
FREE PEOPLE IN FAMILY OF NATIONS  
EXECUTIVE JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION E DOBKIN  
ACTING CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE

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מחלקת  
דיוק סילס

כ"ט בטבת תש"ט  
30.1.49

לכבוד  
מר בנו וייזר,  
ניו-יורק.

א. ב.

שאלת הטיפול בטחוני העולה השונים בארצות  
אמריקה הלטינית, עוד יבוא לדיון ובירור נוסף. אולם, לאחר  
שקדתי בארצות אלו שבאמריקה הדרומית, ובדקתי את מצב הרברים  
לאשורו, הגעתי לכלל מסקנה, שלגבי המחלקות שבהנהלתי - מחלקת  
הארגון, התעסולה וההסברה, הנוער והחלוצ - שמל מסדרנו האזורי  
בבואנוס-איירס בשבע הארצות הבאות: ארגנטינה, ברזיל, צ'ילי,  
אורוגוויי, בוליביה, פרו ופרגוויי.

לעומת זאת יטמל המסדר המתנהל על ידיך בכל ארצות  
אמריקה המרכזית וכן בוצצואלה, קולומביה, גויאנה וקובה.

המסדר בבואנוס-איירס ייקרא המסדר לארצות אמריקה  
הדרומית ואילו המסדר בניו-יורק ייקרא המסדר לארצות אמריקה  
המרכזית.

הנני מבקשך לנהוג בהתאם להוראה זו.

בכבוד רב,

3/8

א. דובקין

העתק:  
לפר ב. לוקר, יו"ר ההנהלה,  
" א. סיל ופ. בן-משה,  
לחברי ההנהלה בניו-יורק,  
למח" ההסברה, הארגון,  
החלוצ והנוער.