



## 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, "M", 1948-1949.



*National*

# Masada



## Young Zionists of America

AFFILIATED WITH THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA  
381 FOURTH AVENUE, N. Y. C. 16 - MURRAY HILL 4-6778

October 1, 1948

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman  
American Zionist Emergency Council  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

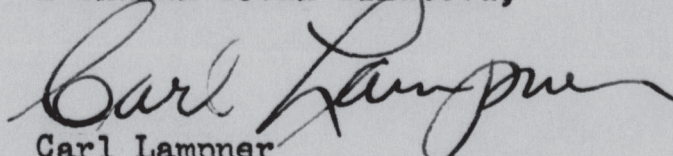
Dear Dr. Silver:

Hot on the heels of Secretary Marshall's reversal of U.S. policy in his declaration of support for the Bernadotte plan, Masada mobilized its entire staff to lead the nation's youth in prompt political actions campaign to gain the support of the American public for the Government of Israel. Five hours after confirmation of the Zionist Emergency Council, 75,000 copies of the enclosed petitions and poster were issued to our chapters throughout the country.

Also, please find enclosed a copy of our latest brochure. This Rosh Hashanah, tens of thousands of Jewish youth who have never had any contact with Zionist organizations, will be urged to join with us in our great work. This is only the beginning in a series of highly intensified membership activities designed to bring to fruition our goal of 25,000 members in Masada.

I would greatly appreciate your comments and suggestions.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu,

  
Carl Lampner  
Executive Director

CL;jh  
Enc.



January 6, 1949

Mr. Harold Manson  
Jewish Agency for Palestine  
16 East 66th Street  
New York 21, New York

My dear Harold:

Here is another "mitzvah" which you can perform. Send a nice message over my signature to the B'nai Zion in honor of its Grand Master, Harry A. Pine, in recognition of his 25 years of service to the organization. Pine is a good man - get some information about his services - and the B'nai Zion have been a fine group of people.

With best wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er  
Enc.



The Jewish Agency for Palestine

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

January 6, 1949

FROM: Harold P. Manson

Enclosed is the text of the memorandum which I read to you today over the telephone. I also prepared a digest of this memorandum in the form of a press release which is being issued this afternoon by the Emergency Council. In addition, Mr. Tuvim has sent a covering memorandum, together with the release, to the local emergency committee chairmen, urging that the release be utilized for propaganda purposes by editors, columnists, ministers, public officials, etc.

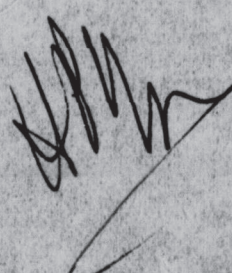
I am sending a copy of the memorandum to Arthur Lourie, as you suggested, and shall be in touch with him tomorrow in order to obtain his comment.

In my judgment, we should mimeograph or multigraph, rather than print this piece in view of the fact that printing usually involves time-consuming procedures, what with proof-reading, etc.

Do let me hear from you concerning this at your earliest convenience so that we may get the document into the hands of our friends in Washington and elsewhere.

Warmest regards.

HPM:SR





MEMORANDUM ON THE BRITISH ROLE IN THE WAR AGAINST ISRAEL

January 6, 1949

The most recent actions by Great Britain with regard to Israel have established conclusively that the British Government is in fact an active ally of the Arab states in their war against Israel.

The Israeli accusation that British troops have been sent to the port of Aqaba in Transjordan has now been confirmed by British sources. Having committed itself to the support of Egyptian warfare against Israel, it would seem that the British Government is now concerned lest peace materialize between Transjordan and Israel. If the British-officered, British-supplied and British-financed Transjordan Arab Legion should re-enter the war at any time in the future, it will be generally understood that Great Britain alone will be responsible.

In addition to the admission concerning British troop movements to Aqaba, there are reports of the landing of a considerable number of British fighters and bombers at Mafraq, Transjordan, and the additional disclosure that Britain has plans to move armed forces to the Egyptian-Palestinian frontier. Furthermore, Israeli spokesmen charge that Britain has been training troops in Tripolitania under conditions identical to those to be found in Israel.

When these military moves are considered in relation to the panic propaganda which British officials have attempted to disseminate in this country on the basis of Israel's so-called "invasion" of Egyptian territory and the consequent "obligation" of Great Britain to come to Egypt's aid under the terms of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936, the picture becomes clear. Great Britain obviously hopes to induce the United States into joining a renewed British attempt to bring about the imposition of sanctions against Israel by the Security Council. In order to achieve this, Britain warns that if she fails to bring about the international action she desires, she will be "compelled" to act unilaterally in support of Egypt.



In view of the fact that the British are basing their position on the provisions of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936, it should be noted that the latest press dispatches from Cairo quote official Egyptian sources to the effect that Egypt will not invoke the 1936 Treaty with Britain, since the late Premier Nokrashy Pasha had denounced it and no Egyptian Government would recognise it as valid. The untenability of the British position with regard to the treaty is further revealed in another dispatch from Cairo to the New York Times (January 6, 1949) pointing out that "the text of the treaty calls for assistance only in case of war and Egypt has never officially considered herself at war. The campaign was described as a punitive expedition against 'Zionist gangs' to re-establish order in Palestine . . .

"The Egyptian Government for its part has made no official move to invoke the treaty," the dispatch continues. "On the ground that the treaty had been imposed by force, Egypt had declared it to be null and void at the time that Mahmoud Fahmy Nokrashy Pasha referred the Sudan issue to the United Nations Security Council and she seems unlikely to go back on this attitude.

"What the Egyptians would like, judging from unofficial statements, is British assistance in the form of arms and ammunition outside the scope of the treaty. Such aid, however, is blocked by the arms embargo," the dispatch concludes.

That Britain is prepared to act unilaterally in lifting the embargo as it affects the Arabs, and in supplying arms and equipment to the Egyptian Army has been made unmistakably clear by British spokesmen during the past few days. This was reported to have been officially conveyed to Under Secretary of State Lovett by the British Ambassador, Sir Oliver Franks.

At this time the American Government and people would profit from a review of the British record in the war against Israel. The pattern emerges as follows:



1. Immediately after the adoption of the partition resolution by the United Nations General Assembly on November 29, 1947, the British authorities in Palestine systematically and deliberately opened the frontiers of that country to armed Arab bands entering for the express purpose of engaging in a military struggle with the Jews in order to upset the decision of the United Nations by force of arms. At the same time, British representatives in Arab countries incited and encouraged the Arab states to greater efforts against the Jews and the United Nations resolution.

2. Britain also actively participated in this aggression by supplying the Arab states with financial aid, by creating a stockpile of war supplies and equipment for the Arabs, by providing officers and administrative help to the invaders. Simultaneously, Britain made every effort to prevent the Jews from arming for their own defense.

3. When -- despite all of these British maneuvers -- the Arab attacks did not succeed in overcoming Jewish resistance and the State of Israel was proclaimed on May 14, 1948, Great Britain encouraged the Arab governments to launch full-scale military invasions of Palestine with the declared aim of over-running and subjugating Israel. The attack was led by the Transjordan Arab Legion, a military force completely equipped, financed and officered by Great Britain.

4. In the early days of the war, when the invaders were on the move, Great Britain did nothing to bring hostilities to a halt, but, on the contrary, maneuvered ceaselessly in the Security Council to keep the Arab states from being punished as aggressors. At that time Great Britain saw no violation of the United Nations Charter, although the action of the Arab states in invading Palestine was explicitly denounced as international aggression by United States Delegate Warren Austin (May 22, 1948). Then the British worked indefatigably to induce the Security Council to refrain from taking the action which was clearly indicated.



5. However, when the tide turned and the Israeli Army repelled the aggressors, there were immediate British moves for truces, Israeli troop withdrawals and -- finally, the bitterest irony -- sanctions against Israel for successfully defending its own territory.

6. Now that Israel has inflicted a series of decisive defeats on the Arab armies and has, in the course of one military engagement, attacked legitimate military objectives on Egyptian soil, Great Britain threatens unilateral military action against the Jewish state.

This, in barest outline, is the British record. It is against this background that Britain's current moves should be viewed.

The Government of Israel has accepted the latest United Nations cease-fire order. But it is clear that the United Nations truce and the accompanying cease-fire orders are meant to be only temporary stop-gaps in order to permit the negotiation of a permanent armistice and peace. To hold otherwise would be to imply that the truce and the cease-fire were instituted for the purpose of permitting Egyptian invading forces to perpetuate their hold on territory lying outside the boundaries of Egypt.

Certainly, the Government of the United States, which has accorded recognition to Israel and which has pledged itself to support Israel's claims to territorial integrity, cannot make itself a party to any such interpretation. The only procedure consistent with the declared policy of the Government of the United States is that of calling upon the parties to the controversy to conclude a permanent armistice, followed by a formal peace on the basis of mutual respect of territorial integrity, with the future of territories lying between the respective boundaries subject to special negotiations.

While the Government of Israel has given repeated assurance of its willingness to meet with Egyptian representatives for the negotiation of an armistice



and a peace, the Government of Egypt has provided no such assurances either to the Israeli Government or to the representatives of the United Nations duly appointed for that purpose and representing the sole official channel for the transmission of such communications. Information coming from British circles regarding the alleged willingness of the Egyptian Government to negotiate an armistice with Israel, like all other items of information regarding the Palestine controversy emanating from British sources, must be viewed with suspicion in view of the origin.

Insofar as neither the United Nations, nor the Government of the United States, nor the Government of Great Britain -- which is allegedly so solicitous of the welfare of Egypt -- has been able to persuade the Egyptian Government to embark upon a course of action which would result in an armistice and peace with Israel, the Jewish State is faced with the fact that the truce is being used by the Egyptians as a mere device to continue in occupation of territory outside the national boundaries of Egypt. In the circumstances, the Israeli Government is naturally concerned with the need to eliminate aggression within its territory and the threat to its existence. Any military action undertaken by Israel designed to expel the Egyptian invaders from its national territory and to eliminate this threat is a lawful and necessary exercise of sovereignty and is fully consonant with the fundamental right of self-defense accorded under international law to all sovereign States and referred to in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

As long as the necessity for such self-defense has not passed, it would be unjust and unfair to interfere with the conduct of military operations by one party only, permitting the Egyptian forces to occupy parts of Palestine but prohibiting Israel from taking action against the bases of the enemy's attack. If this attitude were sanctioned, it would amount to nothing less than assurance



to the aggressor that he may indefinitely continue his attack in the knowledge that he will never suffer a counter-attack on his home grounds.

We cannot believe that the Government of the United States or the American people would for one moment sanction so biased and unfair an approach.

It is generally understood today -- despite the distortions and misrepresentations of British propagandists -- that Israel has no designs on the territory of any of its neighbors and retains but one objective in the current war in defense of its political and territorial integrity: peace. The prolongation of the conflict, and the resulting strain on the young state's economy, has created an unendurable situation for Israel and its people -- a situation which cannot be further continued if Israel is to maintain itself economically. It has no alternative but to compel Egypt to negotiate peace -- and this all-important fact must be considered in connection with Israeli military operations in the Negav.

Finally, it is respectfully suggested that the Government of the United States should refuse to lend itself -- either directly or indirectly, either in its diplomatic relations with the parties to the Palestine controversy or as a member of the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Palestine Conciliation Commission of the United Nations -- to any attempt to restrict the freedom of Israel to eject the Egyptian invaders. Instead, it is respectfully suggested that the Government of the United States, both in its direct relations with the parties to the controversy and as a member of the United Nations, should pursue the aim of achieving an armistice and peace between Egypt and Israel on the basis of mutual respect of the respective territories of the two States.



הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

## The Jewish Agency for Palestine

### MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

January 24, 1949

FROM: Harold Manson

Enclosed are copies of the letters which have gone out with regard to the question of street collections.

Regards.

HPM:SR

Enc





January 24, 1949

Mr. Philip Sokol  
Department of Welfare  
City of New York  
902 Broadway  
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Sokol:

As chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, I have sent the enclosed letters with regard to street collections for Israel to the various organizations concerned.

These letters were sent following the unanimous decision of the American Section of the Jewish Agency that all street collections having to do with Israel -- with the exception of the long-established traditional annual flag and flower days of the Jewish National Fund -- should cease immediately and that groups conducting such fund-raising activities be asked to cooperate in putting this decision into effect.

The leaders of all Zionist organizations in this country have been asked to convey the Jewish Agency's action to their members and to publicize the decision in their official organs. In addition, we have issued a release to the press reporting the action taken. A copy of this release is enclosed.

A list of the groups to which letters have been sent is attached herewith.

We are sure that you will be interested in receiving this information.

Sincerely yours.

Abba Hillel Silver  
Chairman

AHS:MSR  
Enc



(JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE)

January 21, 1949

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Pres.  
Zionist Organization of America  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Neumann:

I wish to call your attention to the action taken by the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine with regard to the various street collections which are being represented as fund-raising efforts for Israel.

It was unanimously decided that all street collections having to do with Israel -- with the exception of the long-established, traditional annual flag and flower days of the Jewish National Fund -- should cease immediately and that the various Zionist organizations in the United States be asked to cooperate in putting this decision into effect.

It was agreed that only if all street collections -- including those carried on by branches of responsible bodies -- are ended, will we be in a position to deal effectively with the unauthorized solicitation of funds on street corners which has proved embarrassing to friends of Israel and has caused much harm to authorized fund-raising agencies.

I urge you to convey the contents of this letter to your membership and to publicize the American Section's decision in your official organs.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Abba Hillel Silver  
Chairman

AHS:MSR



IDENTICAL LETTERS WERE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

Mrs. Rose Halprin, Pres.  
Hadassah  
1819 Broadway  
City

Mr. Leon Gellman, Pres.  
Mizrachi  
1133 Broadway  
City

Miss Sulamith Bernstein, Secy.  
Hashomer Hatzair  
305 Broadway  
City

Dr. Joseph Schechtman, Pres.  
United Zionists-Revisionists of America  
675 Eighth Avenue  
City

Mr. Paul L. Goldman, Gen. Secy.  
Achdut Havodah-Poale Zion  
(United Labor Zionist Party)  
305 Broadway, Rm. 410  
City

Mr. Baruch Zuckerman, Pres.  
Labor Zionist Org. of America -- Poale Zion  
45 E. 17th Street  
City



הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל  
THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE  
16 EAST 66TH STREET, NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

RHINELANDER 4-4200

Cable Address JEVAGENCY

January 28, 1949

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

In view of the strong likelihood that I may shortly be leaving the Jewish Agency -- and professional Zionist activity -- I would like to have the question of my salary settled. The attitude of the members of the Finance Committee (with the exception of Neumann) leads me to conclude that there is no intention of behaving decently -- or even correctly -- where I am concerned. Mrs. Halprin (who seems to dominate not only the Finance Committee, but most other important aspects of the day-to-day activities here) is clearly trying to make things as difficult as possible for me. She would, of course, enjoy it if I were to "plead my case" before the Finance Committee. However, I have no intention of doing so -- and she gathered as much at the meeting to which I was summoned.

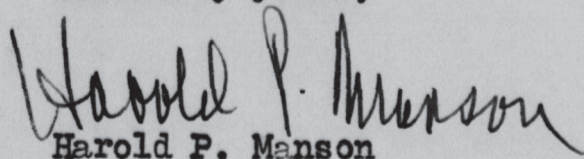
Nevertheless, I believe that the longer this matter is put off, the less chance there will be of a fair settlement -- and I can no longer afford to be unconcerned about such matters.

At the last meeting of the Finance Committee, Neumann asked that the question be deferred for a few weeks because he felt that any action taken at that time would be unsatisfactory. He also wants your influence to count in the decision, when it is made.

This would make sense if I were digging in for a lengthy stay at the Agency. However, everything connected with this set-up is becoming increasingly distasteful to me. I am now marking time until your own decisions are made. As matters now stand, I would welcome a severance arrangement enabling me to leave professional Zionist work now, with the memories of the past five years unspoiled by "the little foxes."

Please let me have your judgement on this matter.

Cordially yours,

  
Harold P. Manson

P.S. This letter was typed by me and there are no office copies.

Washington  
2210 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington 8, D. C.

London  
77, Great Russell Street  
London, W.C. 1

Paris  
143, Avenue de Wagram  
Paris (17e), France

Jerusalem  
Post Office Box 92  
Jerusalem, Palestine