



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

Reel

39

Box

14

Folder

950

Jewish Agency, "N," "O," and "P", 1948-1949.

Dr. A. A. Silver

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Charles Röss

September 13, 1948

From: Dr. S. Bernstein

Activities of the Palestine Bureau

During the Period of

MAY 15TH - SEPTEMBER 15TH

On the eve of the establishment of an Israeli Consulate in New York City., having on our files about 1,400 applications for entry permits to Israel, we advised all applicants that those who are prepared to go without delay should reregister immediately with our office in order to enable us to secure for them the necessary visas. In response to our notification, the following numbers reregistered with us for speedy issuance of their entry permits:

1) May 15th - June 15th	263
2) June 15th - August 15th	153
3) August 15th - September 15th	<u>39</u>
Total	455

However, we have been able to secure visas for only 100 of them -- those already in possession of valid passports issued previously -- from the Israeli Consulate who cooperates with us in the most friendly manner. The others were categorically denied passports from the Department of State. Right now there are at least 300 persons clamoring vainly for passports and day by day applicants come to our office showing letters from the State Department to the effect that they cannot receive passports now but have to wait until things are "normal in the Middle East."

By and large we can classify the applicants in three categories:

- A) SETTLERS - i.e. people with substantial means.
- B) TOURISTS - of whom a great many may apply there for permanent residence.

In the case of tourist applicants who are non-American citizens and hold passports of Eastern European countries

of Certificates of Identity in Lieu of Passport, they are required to submit a U.S. re-entry permit before the tourist visa to Israel is issued to them.

C) DEPENDENTS, STUDENTS, SKILLED LABORERS and others.....

While about 25% belong to the category of settlers, the balance of the applicants can be ascribed to the other two categories, the entire capital of the settlers reaching very high figures.

In accordance with arrangements made by us with the Israeli Consulate in New York, we are handling our applications in the following manner:

- a) Settlers We are submitting to the Consul all the necessary information, documents, etc., concerning the economic and financial status and other qualifications of the respective applicants, confirming that they are so financially situated that they are able to carry out their future plans with regard to trade and industry in Israel. While not insisting on the immediate transfer of the entire capital to Israel, it is required that a certain substantial amount be taken with them right away. Machinery and all kinds of industrial equipment may be included in the amount given as capital by prospective settlers.
- b) Experts and Skilled Laborers Persons in this category up to the age of 40-42 will be granted visas for permanent residence without the requirement of capital. Substantial proof by competent authorities are to be submitted in confirmation of statements as to background and experience.
- c) Dependents Applicants who desire to go to Israel to join their children living there and to be supported by them cannot receive visas by the Consulate in New York; their children or other close kin such as brothers, sisters, etc. in Israel, prepared to support them after their arrival in the country, shall apply to the Government in Tel Aviv which then shall inform the Consul here of their decision.
- d) Students The Consul agreed to our suggestion to restore the authority of the American Friends of the Hebrew University in New York and the Friends of the Haifa Technion, that upon their approval of the eligibility of the student applicant, the visa should be granted to him or her at once without referral to the authorities in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem for decision. The Consul further agreed to our suggestion that students of prominent Yeshivos in the United States desirous of going to Israel in order to enter any of the well-known Yeshivos there shall receive the same consideration given to prospective students of the other schools.

It should be noted that we are receiving numerous applications from Canada, New Foundland, Panama, Cuba and Mexico -- mostly from former D.P.'s who arrived in those countries in the past year. Similarly we are in receipt of applications in

THREE

behalf of refugees in Shanghai, about whom we are now dealing with Consulate, with a view to supplying them with the necessary facilities to enable them to go to Israel. With the exception of Shanghai, wherein we have to wait for a decision of the Government in Tel Aviv, we have been able to secure entry permits for persons in the mentioned countries without delay.

TRANSFER OF MONIES

In view of the recent arrivals in Israel from other countries in great numbers, the amount of monies sent by American relatives to them has reached rather considerable proportions. In the last 4 - 5 months, over \$60,000 was transmitted by us to individuals in Israel.



September 30, 1948

Dr. Emanuel Neumann
521 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

My dear Emanuel:

I spoke to Major Fielding Eliot about the contents of the enclosed letters and the attitude of Mr. Douglas. He himself had spoken to Mr. Douglas and differed very sharply from what is reported in the letters. Douglas had told Eliot of the hours that he spent with Mr. Bevin to persuade him that the Jewish state is a "fait accompli".

With all good wishes, I remain

As ever yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

INCOMING CABLE

TELAVIV, OCT. 3, 1948

LC SILVER NEUMANN GREENBERG
JEWAGENCY NEWYORK

BIRKAT SHANAH TOVAH

MINC POALEAGUDA

ROBERT R. NATHAN ASSOCIATES, INC.
CONSULTING ECONOMISTS

NO. 3 THOMAS CIRCLE
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.
NATIONAL 8630

December 17, 1948

Mr. Hammer -

In addition to the attached, Mr. Nathan will send to you on Monday his initial memorandum to Dr. Neumann written several weeks ago.



Mildred Peterson
Secretary

December 17, 1948

Mr. Berl Locker, Chairman
World Zionist Organization
c/o Sulgrave Hotel
60 East 67th Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Locker:

I was very happy to meet with you personally to explain our production plans for the new "Israeli Filmnews Review," ISRAEL TODAY. Since Palestine Films Inc. was organized two years ago, we have produced the first prize winner at the Venice Film Festival, HOUSE IN THE DESERT; FREEDOM BOUND in English and Yiddish for the National Committee for Labor Palestine, and two Filmnews Reviews, ISRAEL REBORN and ISRAEL IN ACTION, both of which are being distributed exclusively by the United Palestine Appeal. ISRAEL REBORN has already been distributed theatrically in some 2,000 theatres throughout the U.S. At the present time, my company is completing a short film for the United Jewish Appeal, a feature film in association with the National Committee for Labor Palestine, also a documentary for Hadassah and a documentary for the Jewish Agency in the evolution of the Israeli Army from the earliest days of the Haganah.

Referring to the specific subject of our discussion, namely, the Israeli Filmnews Review of ISRAEL TODAY, we plan this series as an objective and analytical attempt to interpret the history of the State and people of Israel to the outside world. This new educational medium will be specifically designed to spread information, provoke discussion and satisfy the ever growing interest in the development of Israel. This new series will comprise nine 15-minute 16mm, (non-theatrical,) sound films and include such subjects as:

- The Israeli Army, Navy and Air Force in Action
- How D.P.'s Become Israeli Citizens
- How Jews and Arabs Work Together
- Religious Holiday Celebrations in Israel
- Israel's Own Merchant Marine
- Cooperative Communities of Israel
- Science and Invention in Israel
- Arab and Christian Minorities of Israel
- Democracy at Work in Israel
- The State of Israel in International Affairs

The plan of distribution of this series is based upon an effort to secure a sufficient number of subscribers throughout the world. We have been fortunate in securing the direct support of the National Jewish Welfare Board and the cooperation of the leading Jewish national bodies in the U.S.A.

Our objective is to secure a minimum of 200 subscriptions at \$600 each throughout the world. This would insure a production budget of \$120,000 which would enable us to proceed.

We believe that the realization of this plan would have an incalculable value as an instrument of information, education and public relations for Israel and the Zionist movement in general. We consider it appropriate to request the World Zionist Organization to participate in this undertaking and to help assure its success. This request is in two specific directions:

1. That the WZO accept a minimum of 50 subscriptions at \$600 or 200 Israeli pounds - totalling \$30,000 or 10,000 pounds for the first year of the series. These subscriptions to be confined to territories throughout the world excluding the U.S. and Canada. We would, naturally, suggest that Zionist offices in each designated territory be the recipient of this series as a subscriber. We can make additional language versions in any language at an average cost of \$600 or 270 pounds, per version.
2. With reference to the U.S. and Canada, our company is - with the assistance of the National Jewish Welfare Board and Zionist organizations - attempting to acquire a minimum of 150 annual subscriptions insuring an income of \$90,000. Experts in the field have indicated that this is a realistic objective. Every effort is being made to attain this objective within the shortest possible time. Ideally, we would wish to produce and release the first issue of the new series by March 1949. As the promotional work involved is of a very extended nature requiring personal contact throughout the country - which we are undertaking - we request the WZO to underwrite 50 of these 150 subscriptions on the assumption that our company will on its own initiative secure a minimum of 100 subscriptions with the assistance of the aforementioned organizations by March 1949. In the event of the WZO being called upon to take up all or part of these 50 subscriptions, we will deliver prints accordingly in the U.S. and Canada in conformity with our general distribution plan. We would submit a monthly report of progress of the distribution of the series.

In conclusion we wish to point out that the successful realization of this project would assist greatly in the development of the motion picture industry in Israel which is the overall objective of our company. We trust that the proposal contained herein will receive your immediate and favorable consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Norman Lourie
President

NL:nt

December 17, 1948

Memorandum

To: Dr. Emanuel Neumann
From: Robert R. Nathan
Subject: Proposed Budget for the Economic Department, Jewish Agency.

Before submitting specific figures on personnel and costs I wish to emphasize that this Department should be initiated with a rather ambitious conception concerning its functions and its work. From the very beginning everyone involved should understand that this should not be just another little branch which rolls along putting together a bit of data here and a bit of data there and doing a little good-will missionary work. The opportunities and the responsibilities which can and should attach to such a Department are huge.

The economic development of Israel is obviously of tremendous importance. Only by a rapid and all-embracing expansion of economic activity in Israel will it be possible for the hundreds of thousands of immigrants who are coming there to become self-sufficient and self-supporting rapidly. Without such results the continuing burden will be an unbearable one. On the other hand, to achieve such results the flow of investment funds to Israel must be unprecedentedly and fantastically large. It is my conviction that many hundreds of millions of dollars of investment must flow into Israel over the next few years from private sources. There isn't any doubt but that governmental loans will be made available over the next, say, three to five years in the magnitude of hundreds of millions of dollars, but there will still be huge needs from private sources and an outstanding job must be done to induce this flow of investment. Also, large scale tourist trade can and will provide huge amounts of needed foreign exchange. Also, we all know that Israel over time must have an export trade as well as import goods and equipment. Therefore, all of the functions which are assigned to the Economic Department are extremely important ones and should be recognized as such right from the start.

It is my conviction that, given a short period to get under way, the Executive must demand outstanding results from the Economic Department. If the Department doesn't do an outstanding job then there should be no hesitation about changing its emphasis or changing its

2--Dr. Neumann

In considering the kind of a budget to be set up, it is easy on the one hand to present an insignificant, puny program which cannot possibly do the job and fulfill the requirements which the Department must meet. On the other hand, it is equally easy to jump off the deep end and come forth with an elaborate budget and organization which may be so cumbersome as to be utterly and totally ineffective and wasteful.

My own suggestion is to try to hit some intelligent and reasonable middle ground whereby the budget will be adequate to provide a reasonably effective working staff and will not result in its starting out with such restrictions of personnel and funds as to make the entire job impractical. I am impressed with the importance of getting under way promptly on a rather broad front. Speed is essential. First of all, we know that the needs are great and are increasing. Equally important I think we should recognize that the Jewish community in this country needs some leadership and needs some guidance quickly in the economic field. The time and the attitudes are ripe for vigorous leadership and guidance. For instance, my own impression at the Chicago meeting of the U.P.A. was to the effect that large numbers of individuals are sincerely and sympathetically interested in the economic matters in Israel and want to take a real part therein. However they just don't know where to turn and it seems to me that unless we mobilize these sentiments and interest and resources promptly we will be losing great opportunities. Those who may be interested today and are in a position to cooperate, may not be in the same position tomorrow. Likewise as people start in a certain direction others tend to follow and therefore we will get the benefit of the tide of interest and enthusiasm on the part of American Jewry.

It is my understanding that the fiscal year for the Jewish Agency ends on September 30th or October 31st. I have begun to work on your behalf as of December 15th and even though Mr. Hammer has indicated to me that everything is not firm and final concerning an aide in Washington, I have asked Mr. Greshkoff to get busy on some matters which I have assigned to him. I have also told Mr. Hammer to secure Mr. Peter Bernstein's services in New York promptly. In the meantime I am looking around for additional personnel and hope to put them on almost immediately. That means that we will have from nine to ten months left for the present fiscal year. The budget which is submitted below is on an annual basis:

3--Dr. Neumann

Budget for the Economic Department

<u>A. Office of the Director</u>	<u>Per Year</u>	<u>Total Per Year</u>
Director of Economic Department	\$20,000	
Assistant Director	10,000	
Two Secretaries (at \$3,000)	<u>6,000</u>	\$36,000
 <u>B. Business and Investment Office</u>		
Industrial & Management Engineer	\$12,000	
Three Specialists (averaging \$8,000 per year)	24,000	
Two Business Analysts (at \$4,000)	8,000	
Two Secretaries (at \$3,000)	<u>3,000</u>	\$53,000
 <u>C. Tourist Promotion Office</u>		
Specialist and Organizer	\$8,000	
Assistant	4,000	
Secretary	<u>3,000</u>	\$15,000
 <u>D. Promotion of Israeli Products</u>		
Sales Promotion and Organization Specialist	\$10,000	
Secretary	<u>3,000</u>	\$13,000
 <u>E. Economic Information</u>		
Economist	\$10,000	
Special Writer on Economic Matters	8,000	
Two Assistant Writers & Economists averaging \$5,000)	10,000	
Two Secretaries (at \$3,000)	<u>6,000</u>	\$34,000

F. Traveling, Publications and Printing Costs

Traveling. For this purpose a reasonably sizable amount should be available because all of the jobs can by no means be done in New York. Funds should be available for some of the staff going to Israel from time to time and also for traveling elsewhere in the Hemisphere, although some of the above staff should be available all of the time in other countries. It is suggested that the total of \$20,000 be set aside for this purpose. This would include not only actual transportation cost but also maintenance during periods of travel.

Printing. The amount necessary for printing and publication would depend upon two factors. First, it would be determined by the cooperation from Israel and the type and quantity and caliber of the reports and publications made available over there. Secondly, it would also depend upon the kind of information department which is set up separately in the Agency. I would assume that the information department could take care of distribution and contact work so that the information group within the Economic Department would be concerned primarily with the preparation of material and gearing the material to the needs of the American and Western Hemisphere communities. None the less it appears to me inevitable that a rather sizable budget must be available for this purpose because much material must be prepared and distributed which is particularly applicable in the United States and the Western Hemisphere. For instance, processed reports should be prepared on each type of project in Israel seeking private investment funds in the United States so that each report can get fairly wide distribution among potential investors in this country. There will be large numbers of such reports and they should be prepared well and attractively. Even if an individual is not particularly interested or doesn't particularly respond on a specific project, none the less the impression which he will get from the quality of the report which he receives on a specific project may so incite and stimulate his interest that he will be inclined to be very watchful for other projects and perhaps take the initiative in indicating his own interest and financial ability to participate in other projects. Also, included in the proposed amount for this purpose I would suggest that some funds be set aside for trips by American publishers and organization representatives to Israel, since some of these may have to be subsidized, and as long as they are in the specific economic field it seems to be appropriate that the budget of the Economic Department should cover such outlays. I would suggest a minimum of \$25,000 be set aside for this purpose.

5--Dr. Neumann

SUMMARY

The above figures aggregate \$199,000. It is my proposal that the Executive be requested to approve a maximum budget of \$150,000 for the balance of the current fiscal year. Again may I assure you and the members of the Executive that this is not going to be a research organization for the sake of research nor will its emphasis be on research. It is going to be an operating body whose function and whole whose objectives are pointed in the direction of achieving tangible results. It should and will be staffed with the outstanding people who can be obtained from every possible channel, and I'm convinced that the yield in terms of investment results achieved in tourist traffic and sale of Palestinian products will be incomparably great as compared with the investment involved here. Of course this is a somewhat tentative budget which may have to be revised as time goes on but I would suggest that it be approved generally at this moment so that there will be no further delay in getting under way.



PALESTINE FILMS INC.

NORMAN LOURIE, President

JOSEPH KRUMGOLD, Vice-President in Charge of Production

January 4, 1949

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman
American Section
Jewish Agency for Palestine
16 East 66th Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Silver:

Once again I take this opportunity of writing you in connection with the production series, ISRAEL TODAY, which has been under consideration for some time.

With the passage of months our company has now crystallized its intentions for 1949 and it is most urgent that a decision be reached as soon as possible in regard to the question of whether this series is to be produced during the coming year or not.

I had occasion to speak with Mr. Locker prior to his departure for Israel. I believe he was greatly impressed with our plans. Our conversation has been summarized in the attached copy of my letter of December 17th. In terms of this letter two specific requests have been made to the World Zionist Organization in regard to our project. I would ask you to give consideration particularly to the second request which refers to the United States and Canada. Mr. Locker urged me to approach the American Section of the Jewish Agency in this connection and it is for this reason that I now address you accordingly.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to Dr. Neumann and would ask whether we could get together early in the New Year in order to come to some understanding about this matter. I believe that this project has incalculable value as an instrument of interpreting Israel to the American world, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. With very warm regards.

Sincerely,

Norman Lourie
Norman Lourie

NL:nt

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram	
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	SERIAL
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

WESTERN UNION

1206

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE	DEFERRED
CODE	NIGHT LETTER

JOSEPH L. EGAN, PRESIDENT

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

WUA155 PD=SI NEWYORK NY FEB 8 149P=DOCTOR ABA HILEL SILVER,
 CHAIRMAN JEWISH AGENCY=
 BEKESHER LEBAKASHATEINU LEHAKTZAVA AWAKESH LEHAZMIN OTI
 LEYESHIVATH HASOCHAUT KDEI SHEUCHAL BAALPE LEHAGEN AL
 BAKASHATENU ZU STOP MATZAVEINU KATASTROFALI ATEM MUCHRACHIM
 LAAZOR SHALOM=RXXX POALEI AGUDATH ISRAEL BENJAMIN MINTZ

147 WEST 42=147 42=302P..

**A NEW
CURTIS
SERVICE**

Telegraph your order for America's favorite magazines—HOLIDAY, 1 yr., \$5 • the Post, 1 yr., \$6 • LADIES' HOME JOURNAL, 1 yr., \$3. All prices U. S. only. No charge for wire. Pay Western Union clerk for subscription or when billed by publisher.

Publisher will, on subscriber's request, refund full amount paid for copies not previously mailed. Prices subject to change without notice.