



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

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

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Jewish Agency, 1951-1952.

I. L. KENEN

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 305 Ring Bldg.

WASHINGTON D. C. 1200 - 18th St. NW

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Executive 1060

October 4, 1951.

Dear Doctor Silver:

It seems to me that I should bring you up to date on the grant-in-aid, because I think you may want to be in touch with Senator Taft to thank him for what he has done.

As you probably know, Israel is included in the Mutual Security Program for a special allocation of \$50 million for the refugees coming into Israel -- this balances the \$50 million for Arab refugees. In addition, Israel will share in the economic aid, we believe to the extent of \$18,800,000. However, all this is still an authorization.

We must still go through the appropriation stage, and while we think we shall win, we may encounter some difficulties because there is bloc of southern Congressmen and Senators who are fighting us, with the assistance of some Protestant clergymen, etc. There is also the danger that we shall be cut along with everybody else, since it is rare that an appropriation bill goes as high as an authorization. However, we are making every effort to insure that the authorization for the refugees entering Israel, for the Arab refugees and for the Near East as a whole is appropriated at this time.

You will be interested in the specific role that Taft played. We cleared the House without much difficulty, but when the bill reached the Senate it collided with the tax bill and an economy drive. ^{Re. 47,000} There were proposals in the Armed Services and Foreign Aid Committees of the Senate to cut economic aid by 30%. Thus the Near East was slashed to \$85 million. Our friends in the Committees then persuaded their colleagues to impose the 30% cut not on the Administration's bill, but on the House bill. The result was that the refugee items were included at \$35 million each and the Near East was fixed at \$122,500,000. We made a further effort the following day and we got the refugee items boosted to \$40 million, but with no increase in the total. At this stage Israel, which was to have received \$73,500,000 in the House bill, was getting about \$53 million under the Senate proposal.

I then went to Senator Douglas and appealed to him to lead a fight on the floor to boost the Near East authorizations to the levels approved by the House. After some con-

sideration he said he would try to raise the two \$40 million refugee items to \$50 million and to increase the Near East from \$122,500,000 up to \$160 million. The effect would be to give Israel \$68,800,000. He doubted whether he could try to go all the way to \$175 million since everything else was being cut savagely and he himself favored a reduction of one billion dollars for Europe. In my presence he telephoned Taft and Taft said that he would go along with him on raising the refugee items. He did not know whether he could support the proposal to raise the economic aid. I wrote a long letter to Taft urging him to join in the fight and during the week I was in touch with Saul Danaceau urging that Abe Lutz call Taft. I talked to Julius Klein, and I pointed out to Senator Brewster on Friday, August 31st -- the day of the final vote -- that up to that moment only Democrats had talked about the importance of the Near East and that we were looking to Brewster and to Taft to join Douglas and Company in the final fight.

In the meantime Taft's testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had been made public, and I wrote Taft another letter urging that he repeat his statement on the floor of the Senate. My letters were getting to him, but he was unable to see anyone during this period because he was completely immersed in the tax bill. But Friday, on the day of the final vote, Douglas called me down from the gallery to tell me that he had finally made contact with Taft, that Taft had agreed to put his name on the amendment and that Taft would speak for it. Douglas had told him that he could not make this fight alone.

Late that afternoon, with only about 25 Senators on the floor, our two friends went to work and put on a real fight for the Douglas-Taft amendment. It carried over the natural opposition of the members of the two committees, who in such situations must stand by their Committee reports. However, Connally, thanks to the efforts of Fred Lazarus and some others, did not speak against us. There was no roll call. While I had urged Douglas to ask for one, he was persuaded by some of his colleagues that we would not gain since the pressure for cutting foreign aid was tremendous and many Senators were embarrassed by this conflict. The amendment carried by a close standing vote of about 15-11.

We must still now fight for the full appropriation. I doubt whether we will be able to get any special treatment for the Near East if there are across-the-board cuts. You will recall that Taft once said to us that he would fight for a high authorization, but that once the authorization was included Israel would then have to take its cut along with everybody else.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

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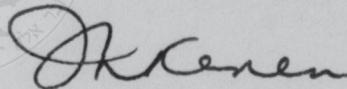
We were all pleased with the \$68,800,000. When it is viewed in context, this is a considerable sum. The Administration offered us \$23,500,000 in a program which provided for \$2,250,000,000 in economic aid. The Senate voted Israel \$68,800,000 while it cut the total economic aid program down to about \$1,310,000,000. Thus Israel's percentage of the economic aid in the Administration bill was 1.04% and was 5.23% in the Senate bill. That percentage has since gone down slightly because in response to Eisenhower's appeals the Conference Committee raised the economic aid figures for Europe by about \$200 million, without changing the Near East.

Under the circumstances it is very clear that the result is the product of bi-partisan support of the best kind, and both our Republican and Democratic friends should be thanked for all that they did. We have naturally told Taft and his colleagues how deeply we are indebted to him, but I know that he will be grateful to you for your thanks and I would urge you to write him at length, if you not already done so.

WRHS

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Cordially yours,



I. L. Kenen

ILK:rb

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

[1952]

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

RHINELANDER 4-4200

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ניו יורק, בשביעי לפברואר.

לכבוד

הד"ר אבא הלל סילבר,
קליבלנד.

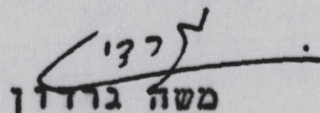
ד"ר סילבר היקר,

היחכן הדבר לבוא ביום ו' הבא, ביום 15 בפברואר, בבוקר לקליבלנד, כדי לשוחח עם כבודך בדבר תצוגת התערוכה של ספרי מוסד ביאליק בקליבלנד? בשעת פגישתנו האחרונה בניו יורק מלפני שבועות אחדים אמר לי, כי תהיה הברירה לבחור את המקום המתאים והמכובד ביותר למטרה זו; לפיכך רצוי היה לברר שאלה זו, וכן את שאלת מועד התערוכה במקום, האם אפשר בפרט שהתערוכה עצמה תעבור ממקום למקום.

אני מניח שכבודו שמע בודאי על הצלחתה הבלתי-שכיחה של תערוכת ספרי מוסד ביאליק, הצלחה שעלתה על כל השערותינו, וזאת במידה שהחלט לקיימה בניו יורק עוד פעם, לאחר שזו חסיים את "טיולה" בשאר ערי ארצות-הברית, ואולי גם קאנדה (עד כה הזמינו אליהן הערים: פילדלפיה, בלטימור, וואשינגטון, סינסינטי, בוסטון, שיקאגו, לוס אנג'לס, טורונטו-ו כמובן הזמנת כבודו לקיימה בקליבלנד).

אחזיק לו תודה רבה אם יוכל להודיעני לפי הכתובת הסוכנות היהודית בניו יורק, הנוכל להפגש באותו יום בקליבלנד, במקום ובשעה המתאימים לו, כדי לשוחח על ענין זה ועל המהדורה האנגלית של האנציקלופדיה המקראית. תודתי על תשובתו נחונה לו מראש.

בכבוד רב ובהוקרה


משה גרדין

מנהל מוסד ביאליק.

FEBRUARY 11, 1952

MOSES GORDON
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
16 EAST 66 STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

I SHALL NOT BE IN CLEVELAND FEBRUARY FIFTEENTH BUT EVERY DAY DURING
WEEK OF FEBRUARY SEVENTEENTH. REGARDS

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

