



## 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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41

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1008

Jewish National Fund, 1931-1932.





# קרן הקיימת לישראל

## Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael

### JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND

Telephone 663 : טלפון

Codes : Bentley : R. Messe : קוד

רשומה באנגליה

Telegrams : Keren. Jerusalem. טלגרמות

הלשכה הראשית · ירושלים · ארץ-ישראל  
HEAD OFFICE · JERUSALEM · EREZ-ISRAEL

P.O.B. 283. 19th July, 1931  
Jerusalem

ירושלים  
ת.ד. 283

1006/91 E/P

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I am taking this opportunity, after a strenuous Congress, to write to you with reference to your participation in the scheme which I presented at the Washington Conference of the Jewish National Fund last February. To my regret my words on that and other occasions in America in regard to developments in Palestine and England, have proved only too true. The MacDonald letter, which was published just before my Washington address, has proved as unsatisfactory as I then feared, and already we are faced with the first fruits of the land policy initiated by the Shaw Commission and followed up in the Simpson Report and White Paper. The issue is clear. Either we acquire the land which is vital in order to consolidate strategically and economically, as well as to improve, the areas in our possession - either we do this with our means by regular way of purchase, or we risk being left with an uncompleted work on our hands. Our enemies have made the land issue the most vital of all and if we do not respond to the challenge, we shall simply remain among those "who cry and are not answered."

The new legislation which has been enacted in such haste is, of course, intended to make more difficult the purchase of land by Jews. But it does not render the acquisition of land impossible, either legally or practically. We can buy the land, indeed those areas which are most essential for us, namely in the coastal plain, - and in fact we are buying land. The Arabs, even those outwardly hostile to us, are willing to sell, perhaps more willing now that they fear they may not be able to do so later.

But we can only buy within the limits of the funds placed at our disposal and we are sensitive to the necessity of not over-mortgaging our assets, the future donations of the Jewish people. Consequently we are compelled to move slowly, whereas time demands rapid action.

At the Congress discussions took place with reference to the settlement of the so-called "middle class" settlers, the man who has some means of his own in addition, of course, to Halutz immigration. Only plantation land is suitable for the adult man of means, and that



is only obtainable in the coastal plain, the region where I have proposed American Jewry should redeem its own tract.

In the case of those communities which have seriously launched their effort for a Nachlah, I propose on my return to Jerusalem in September to offer a specific plot of the size they have undertaken to redeem. I can, of course, only do this in anticipation of the receipt of the full amount of the redemption price, and I trust that in the case of Cleveland there will be no doubt of the full sum needed being raised year by year. Of particular importance is the time element. The sooner we can convert preliminary options into contracts, the safer we shall feel in regard to their essential issue.

The entire political history of our movement in the past ten years has proved that in the last analysis our position in Erez Israel depends upon our effort there and primarily this is true in regard to land. Had we previously acquired national land in Trans-jordan, that region would not have been cut off from the National Home to-day. Do not let us make the same error in regard to the coastal plain. Let us act now and make the future safe for Jewry.

I beg you therefore to leave no stone unturned in order to expedite promptly the filling of the commitment you and your community have undertaken to the Land of Israel, and I shall be glad to hear from you of the steps taken.

With best wishes for the coming New Year,  
Yours in Zion,

*M. Ussishkin*

President.



WIRE FROM PHILADELPHIA

Sept. 23d, 1931

Local Zionists extremely anxious you address dinner  
meeting Keren Kayemeth League Campaign \$25000  
evening to suit your convenience week of October 5th  
Would deeply appreciate your coming.

Louis E. Leventhal, Chairman  
805 Widener Bldg.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Answer collect

Sept. 23d, 1931

Regret very much can not accept your kind invitation  
Am heavily dated up for the month of October.  
Kindest regards.

A.H. Silver

*Card*



RECEIVED AT

Cedar  
0132

STANDARD TIME  
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

# Postal Telegraph

(THE MURRAY SYSTEM)



ALL AMERICA  
CABLES

COMMERCIAL  
CABLES

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BLUE	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
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LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER

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S PHILADELPHIA PENN 23 852A

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

THE TEMPLE CLEVELAND OHIO

LOCAL ZIONISTS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS YOU ADDRESS DINNER MEETING  
KEREN KAYEMETH LEAGUE CAMPAIGN TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS  
EVENING TO SUIT YOUR CONVENIENCE WEEK OCTOBER FIFTH WOULD  
DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR COMING

LOUIS E LEVINthal CHAIRMAN EIGHT NAUGHT FIVE WIDENER  
BLDG PHILADELPHIA..

1931 SEP 23 AM 9 00

TP

TELEPHONED  
FROM MAIN OFFICE  
Time 9:22 a.m. Date 9-23-31  
To JR By No. 7  
mail

card





הקונסיל של קרן הקימת לישראל דקליבלנד, אה"י

CLEVELAND COUNCIL OF  
**JEWISH NATIONAL FUND**  
1124 EAST 105TH STREET  
CLEVELAND, O.

September 24, 1931

Dear friend:

A city wide conference of outstanding Clevelanders and delegates of representative synagogues, lodges, and vereins, for the purpose of organizing the NACHLATH CLEVELAND LEAGUE and to lay the foundation for a campaign for raising funds to purchase land in Eretz Yisroel for the establishment of this colony in the name of Cleveland Jewry, will be held next Tuesday evening, September 29, 8:15 p.m., at the Jewish Center. Officers and an executive committee will be elected and campaign plans discussed.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America, will be the outstanding speaker of the evening.

It is with pleasure that I am inviting you to participate in this conference, and with the hope of greeting you Tuesday evening and securing your wholehearted support in this work, I am

Sincerely yours

*Harry S. Davidowitz*  
Chairman, Nachlath Cleveland Committee

HSD:K



# Keren Kayemeth League

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

111 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Telephone: ALgonquin 4-2495



BERNARD STONE  
*National Field Director*

October 14, 1931.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
c/o The Temple,  
E. 105th & Ansel Rd.,  
Cleveland, O.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I expect to arrive in Cleveland on Monday next, October 19, at 8:35 A.M., per New York Central Line and will remain in Cleveland until the twenty-ninth. During the period which I will be in Cleveland I am entirely at your disposal for the purpose of assisting in making the forthcoming campaign for the Keren Kayemeth League successful. Please do not hesitate to use me to the fullest possible extent.

I have made reservations at the Hollender Hotel.

With kind regards and hoping to see you shortly, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*Bernard Stone*  
National Field Director.

BS:VM



קרן קימת לישראל

## JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

HEADQUARTERS:  
30 NORTH DEARBORN STREET  
TELEPHONE DEARBORN 6783  
CHICAGO

JEANNETTE B. RUBIN, *Executive Secretary*

January 22, 1932

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
c/o The Temple,  
Cleveland, O h i o.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

On Sunday evening, February 7th, the various Zionist organizations of Chicago have united under the auspices of the Jewish National Fund in holding a double Anniversary evening in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Bilu, and the 30th Anniversary of the Jewish National Fund.

We would very much like to have you present with us as the principal speaker of the evening, and we hope that your plans will permit you to come.

We would appreciate it very much if you would wire the National Fund office immediately upon receipt of this letter as to whether you will be able to be here, so that we can make the proper releases to the press.

Yours very truly,

H. STEINBERG,  
Chairman of the J. N. F.

ARTHUR J. GOLDBERG,  
Chairman of the Festival  
Evening.

H.S.  
AJG:ES



*card*

Jan. 25th, 1932

Mr. H. Steinberg.  
Chairman, Jewish National Fund,  
30 N. Dearborn St.,  
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Steinberg:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind invitation to address the Jewish National Fund Celebration in Chicago on Sunday evening, Feb. 7th.

I should very much like to come. Unfortunately I find it very difficult to leave my own pulpit on Sunday, as well as to forego the many other congregational activities which take place on that day.

Wishing you every success and with kindest regards, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR



## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SIGNS

DL = Day Letter  
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LCO = Deferred Cable  
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The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.  
Received at 2016 East 105th St., Cleveland, Ohio. Telephone Cedar 1867 1932 JAN 26 PM 1 52

.HR95 19=ZA CHICAGO ILL 26 1241P

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE=

YOUR LETTER RECEIVED WE SHALL POSTPONE MEETING FOR ANY  
DATE TO SUIT YOUR CONVENIENCE PLEASE WIRE COLLECT REPLY  
IMMEDIATELY=

H STEINBERG.

*Reg cannot come any day in Dec  
1st open Sat Monday Mar 7  
A. H. Silver*



WE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1201-S

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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East 105th St., Cleveland, Ohio. Telephone Cedar 1867

## SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

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LCO = Deferred Cable

CLT = Cable Letter

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*He who writes  
must wait -*

**TELEGRAPH**

**your  
reservations**

1932 JAN 26 AM 11 20

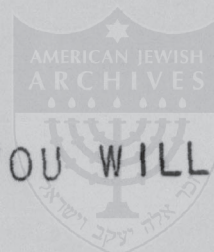
HH29 13= ZA CHICAGO ILL 26 1006A

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE=

PLEASE WIRE COLLECT WHETHER YOU WILL BE WITH US SUNDAY  
EVENING FEBRUARY SEVENTH=

ARTHUR GOLDBERG CHAIRMAN FESTIVAL EVENING JEWISH  
NATIONAL FUND.



THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE



CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER
Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.	

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1207-A

CHECK

ACCT'G INFMN.

TIME FILED

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

Jan. 27th

1932

To Mr. H. Steinberg

Street and No. 30 N. Dearborn St.

Place Chicago, Ill.

Regret cannot come any day in February. First open date, Monday, March 7th.

A. H. SILVER

Sender's address  
for reference

TELEGRAMS MAY BE TELEPHONED TO WESTERN UNION FROM  
ANY PRIVATE OR PAY-STATION TELEPHONE

Sender's telephone  
number

an  
**Answer**  
is  
expected

by the sender of this  
message. Please give  
it to the messenger or  
telephone it to . . . .

WESTERN UNION  
2477-D

WE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1201-S

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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ast 105th St., Cleveland, Ohio. Telephone Cedar 1867

1932 JAN 29 AM 11 04

HW65 29 DL=ZA CHICAGO ILL 29 951A

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE=

MONDAY MARCH SEVENTH INCONVENIENT DATE ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR  
OPENING ZIONIST LECTURE COURSE HERE THAT EVENING CAN YOU  
ARRANGE TO BE HERE WEDNESDAY MARCH 9TH FOR NATIONAL FUND  
FESTIVAL=

H STEINBERG..

Answer 1/29/32

Regret exceedingly have no other date free in March.

THE QUICKEST SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY A. H. SILVER



קרן קימת לישראל

## JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

HEADQUARTERS:  
30 NORTH DEARBORN STREET  
TELEPHONE DEARBORN 6783  
CHICAGO

JEANNETTE B. RUBIN, *Executive Secretary*

March 1, 1932.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

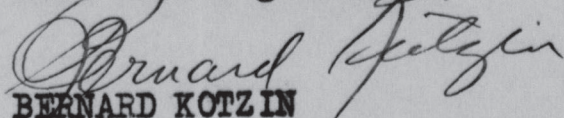
The Jewish National Fund of Chicago would like to arrange a symposium sometime during the latter part of this month or in the month of May. I have been instructed by the Committee on Affairs to extend to you an invitation to take part in this symposium. We shall arrange this affair in accordance with your calendar.

It would help us greatly in choosing another speaker for the program if you would be good enough to suggest whom you would select to discuss whatever topic is decided upon with you. It is taken for granted that the topic will be a Jewish one.

Our Committee feels that if it is at all possible you will help us in this undertaking because the work of the Jewish National Fund has always had your fullest cooperation.

Awaiting a most favorable reply, I am

With Zion's greetings,

  
BERNARD KOTZIN

Chairman Committee On Affairs

BK:JBR



KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL

JERUSALEM

1007/92 E/P

2nd March, 1932

Confidential

Mr. Robert Szold,  
President, Zionist Organization of America,  
New York .

Dear Mr. Szold,

I feel the necessity at the present time to write you somewhat at length with reference to the conditions under which we are now compelled to carry on our work.

I need hardly state that we have reached a critical period. It is true that the threatened Ordinance for the restriction of Jewish land purchase have not yet taken shape, but they are in draft, awaiting the completion by the Director of his Development Scheme. Meanwhile our difficulties have increased, not least because of the insecurity which has been engendered in regard to property not yet cultivated or settled. Since the riots of 1929 and the subsequent Shaw Report, with its allegation that Jewish land purchase were the causes of the trouble, fellaheen and Bedouins have been maliciously occupying our land on all kinds of pretexts. As the Authorities maintain for the most part a passive attitude towards these offences, many of which remain unpunished, the illiterate Arabs are led to believe that Jewish property, at least if unsettled, is not entitled to Government protection against trespassers. Naturally Arab politicians take advantage to stir up trouble in this way, since every illegal occupation of Jewish land by Arabs serves to foment a spirit of unrest which they as favourable to their cause, since all these cases provide some apparent support for the allegation that a landless class of Arabs is being caused by Jewish purchases. The recent case of Wadi Hawareth is typical. Instead of removing the Bedouins who forcibly and illegally squatted on our land, the J.N.F. was required to lease land to the Government for the use of those Bedouins. It was only in view of the complications which were foreseen as a result of our resisting the demand of the Government, that we agreed to it, emphasizing the illegality of the demand and securing the most favourable conditions possible, as explained to you in a separate communication. In consequence of these conditions, the passivity of the Government on the one hand and the persistence of trespassing on the other, we ourselves have necessarily had to initiate a land occupation program. Although we provide in some cases for the cultivation of the land, we could not, obviously, undertake actual settlement. We now have over 60,000 dunams of land awaiting settlement, which we have leased to various groups for deep ploughing and extensive cultivation. Such work cannot always prove profitable and they have involved us in very large expenditure. Since the riots of 1929, £22,000 have been expended in this way, a sum with which a considerable tract of land



might otherwise have been acquired. But such valuable tracts as those at Wadi Hawareth and Haifa Bay might have been lost to us in spite of our legal purchase of same, had we not spent this additional sum upon their occupation. In order that such investment should be really profitable we should have to add much bigger sums, which are not at our disposal. Our resources have been severely strained of late. The large purchases made some years ago were only possible by making arrangements for paying the purchase price in instalments, and as long as our receipts maintained a certain level, about £280,000 p.a., or increased from year to year, we were able to pay such instalments and even acquire further lands, by paying a deposit of 25-30% of the price. During the past year, however, our receipts dropped by 18%, and during the present year the decline has persisted. In addition we are faced with the difficulty that a number of European countries have prohibited the export of capital, and our contributions in those places are locked up. Consequently we have to reduce our budgets, to restrict reclamation work to the minimum and to conclude such land transactions only, failure to complete which would mean loss of both the land and investments. It is under such conditions that we are faced with the additional outlay involved by the occupation of unsettled areas. Naturally our most serious concern is the payment of our liabilities, and when it is recollected that we commenced the year with a debt of £180,000 the gravity of our task will be appreciated.

There was particular pressure upon us to complete at least those purchases for which contracts had been made and which affect very important areas, such as the balance of the Wadi Hawareth land, land at Shattah, Kumie, Semakh, Beisan and the Sharon. The cancelling of these purchases would have been a terrible disaster, not only because of the loss of the monies paid on account, and the fines for non-fulfilment of contract, but also we would probably never have been able to purchase these lands again. Nevertheless, although these lands are so important to us from the point of view of land policy, we were on the other hand compelled also to complete the acquisition of lands required for early settlement, such as for the 1000 Family Scheme. In consequence we have of late been engaged in negotiating with the vendors for the prolongation of our contracts by paying certain amounts for the present and deferring the balance to later years. So far we have been able in this way to safeguard every dunam of land for which contracts were signed. But we have still a long way to go in order to complete these transactions, and many thousands of pounds are still required. So long as the Government has not put in force its restrictions on land transfer, we must save what we can. And when it is recollected that I am referring to such valuable tracts as in the districts of Beisan, Semakh and the Sharon, the significance of our action will be understood.

We have been able to acquire certain lands for the 1000 Family Scheme, which is now to be carried out; 11,000 dunams in the vicinity of Rehoboth, Nes Ziona, Petah Tikva, Magdiel, Herzlia and Kfar Saba have been bought for agricultural labourers employed in these villages. The cost of these lands is very high owing to their proximity to populous centres of agricultural settlement. The lands we have now bought will, however, facilitate the settlement of 500 families.

I cannot report any additional purchases, since our financial stringency forbids our entering into further liabilities, notwithstanding that we realize fully how essential it is to increase now our land reserve. And yet, in spite of the difficulties involved in maintaining possession of our land, it is obvious that our position will be sevenfold worse if



Rehoboth, Nes Ziona, Petah Tikva, Magdiel, Herzlia and Kfar Saba have been bought for agricultural labourers employed in these villages. The cost of these lands is very high owing to their proximity to populous centres of agricultural settlements. The lands we have now bought will, however, facilitate the settlement of 500 families.

I cannot report any additional purchases, since our financial stringency forbids our entering into further liabilities, notwithstanding that we realize fully how essential it is to increase now our land reserve. And yet, in spite of the difficulties involved in maintaining possession of our land, it is obvious that our position will be sevenfold worse if we fail to increase our land reserve now, and have to face legal restriction of transfers. The Arabs are still willing, and in some cases economically obliged, to sell, and hardly a day passes without our receiving offers from them. For they, too, fear that they will be unable to sell when the new Land Ordinance comes into force. It is, therefore, possible to acquire further lands by Jews, although we do not know that this will be so in another five or ten years. That we dare not wait has been amply shown already in the case of our Haifa Bay lands, which, had we not acquired them some years ago, would probably be unobtainable to-day, and which are already proving of the utmost value in view of the economic developments now in hand in connection with the port, the pipe-line, the Bagdad-Haifa railway, the aerodrome for the London-India route, etc. Our property in the neighbourhood has given us a certain control over the future expansion of Haifa. In the same way we must assure ourselves control in the intensive citrus zone in the maritime plain, where we have made a beginning with the purchase of Wadi Hawareth, of which we now have 30,600 dunams. We hope that a series of settlements will shortly be begun here among others for middle class settlers who have means of their own. We must add further to our property in this region.

In conveying to you both the difficulties and the achievements of the Keren Kayemeth, I am confident that this information, for your confidential knowledge, will strengthen your determination to assist us. On the one hand large possibilities still await us - on the other hand reduced resources restrain us from taking advantage of them. I am confident that you will be with us in our determination not to give up, in spite of all.

Yours sincerely

(signed) M. Ussishkin  
President



Carol

March 4th, 1932

Mr. Bernard Kotzin,  
Jewish National Fund,  
30 North Dearborn St.,  
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Kotzin:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind  
letter of March 1st.

I never participate in symposiums. I  
therefore regret my inability to comply with your  
request.

With kindest regards and best wishes,  
permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR



הקונסיל של קרן הקימת לישראל דקליבלנד, אה"י

CLEVELAND COUNCIL OF  
**JEWISH NATIONAL FUND**

1092 ~~1124~~ EAST 105TH STREET

CLEVELAND, O.

March 8, 1932.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,  
c/o The Temple,  
Ansel Rd. and 105 Street,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi:

At our successful Jewish National Fund Conference held yesterday evening, called for the purpose of making arrangements for the fiftieth anniversary of the Chovevei Zion and the thirtieth anniversary of the Jewish National Fund, it was decided to invite three speakers to represent the three Zionist factions, in order to demonstrate the unity in the Jewish National Fund movement.

According to our decision, we hope that you will speak in the name of the General Zionists, Rabbi Meyer Berlin in the name of the Mizrachi, and Zalmon Rubashow in the name of the Radical Zionists.

The Jubilee is scheduled to be held on May 8. I have already advised Mr. Klein of the date. Will you please let me know, by return mail, whether you will accept our invitation.

I am also sending at this time a letter to Mr. Klein giving him the facts, which are self-explanatory, for the reason we could not present a JNF check to Mr. Sokolow, and am sure that this will convince him that it was impossible for us to do so, and I hope the District and the National Fund will carry on in the same harmony as before.

Sincerely yours,

*Samuel Ismach*

Samuel Ismach, Chairman  
Jewish National Fund

SI:MG