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Jewish National Fund, 1949-1950.



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

41 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Vanderbilt 6-3780

September 22, 1949

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Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Rd. at East 106th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

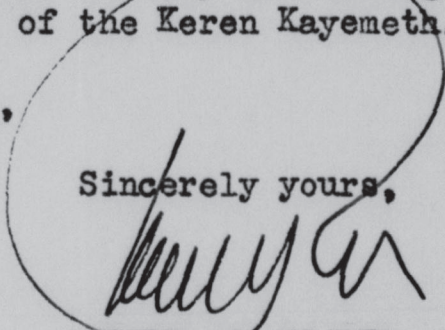
Welcome Home! I look forward in seeing you very soon. If you do not come to New York, I may be in Cleveland as I am anxious to have a chat with you.

Please accept for yourself, Mrs. Silverman and the children our very best wishes for the New Year.

I should be deeply grateful to you if you would be good enough to send me a message that I could transmit by cable to the Keren Kayemeth who will hold a "Call of the Land" convention in Jerusalem on October 5th, also marking the Yahrazeit of Menahem Ussishkin, indicating the important task of the Keren Kayemeth in the State of Israel and with particular reference to our interest in Jerusalem. It will be most helpful if you will send on the message to me in the next few days. Such a message will be very heartening to the Yishuv and to our colleagues of the Keren Kayemeth.

With affectionate greetings,

Sincerely yours,


MENDEL N. FISHER
Executive Director

MNF:grc



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

41 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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October 6, 1949

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Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Rd. & East 106th Street
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

First of all, I wish you, Mrs. Silver and the children a very, very Happy New Year.

I am returning the letter that you sent from Mr. Kotler. He honored me with a similar document on the early morning of Rosh Hashana. Similar letters have been received by various leaders.

Altogether \$40,000 was raised for the project. The word "colony" could not be employed because it was never our prerogative to establish colonies. We not only fulfilled all our obligations but went even further than that. We received approximately \$40,000 to establish a Nachlath. The correspondence we have from Mr. Peres himself, who has since passed away, definitely indicates that it was a Nachlath. Upon our request, the KKL established a Shekhunat Peres.

Let me quote a cable that I sent after having received Mr. Shankman's illuminating document, and the reply.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1949

"IMPERATIVE CABLE DETAILED INFORMATION RE NACHLATH PERES OF MEMPHIS GIVING SPECIFIC NUMBER OF DUNAMS ACQUIRED LOCATION OF PROJECT ALSO PROGRESS SETTLEMENT stop THIS INFORMATION ESSENTIAL BROCHURE PUBLISHED CIRCULATED WIDELY ZIONIST LEADERS ACCUSING US MISREPRESENTATION FAILURE TO LIVE UP OUR AGREEMENT"

JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 4, 1949

"RE YOURS THIRTIETH SHEKHUNAT PERES RESIDENTIAL QUARTER SIXTY DWELLING UNITS ESTABLISHED ON LAND NAHLAT HARDWIG PERES ONEHUNDREDNINETY DUNAMS LOCATED RAANANA"

As for the motivation, Mr. Shankman is a good Zionist. He seems to have a complex, however, on the subject matter of a colony and wishes to give the impression that the JNF here or the KKL in Jerusalem did not fulfill its obligations. We did more than that. I replied immediately to Mr. Kotler's letter and we are now preparing a document setting forth all the facts.

With warmest and affectionate greetings,

Cordially yours,

MENDEL N. FISHER
Executive Director

MNF:grc

MEMPHIS ZIONIST DISTRICT

1016 ~~DERMON BLDG.~~
426 FALLS BUILDING

PHONE 37-9326

MEMPHIS, TENN.
September 22, 1949

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
19810 Shaker Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver,

As the newly elected President of the Memphis Zionist District it has very strongly been brought to my attention that there is no Hardwig Peres Colony nor Memphis Peres Colony in Israel.

It has also been forcibly brought to my attention that the Jewish National Fund or its representatives have for a number of years misrepresented the existence of a Memphis Peres Colony in Israel in raising money for the Jewish National Fund. While we in Memphis are wholly in sympathy with the "Fund", at the same time we do not feel that misrepresentation should be made regardless of how noble the purposes.

This matter has taken such hold in Memphis that an article regarding it was made public in our 14th Annual Barbecue and Dance Souvenir Booklet, a copy of which is herein enclosed. Your particular attention is called to this article on Hardwig Peres. You will take note that specific names are used. The Memphis public at large has become aroused to the point that, if necessary, proper action will be instituted to search this matter out to its fullest.

Heretofore our letters have gone unanswered and unacknowledged, and I must urge upon you the importance of this correspondence, so that it will not become necessary to take any drastic action to have our questions answered to the satisfaction of the many hundreds of persons in Memphis, who have contributed large sums of money with the specific direction and understanding that it would be earmarked for a Memphis Peres Colony in Israel.

Respectfully yours,

MEMPHIS ZIONIST DISTRICT

By

Louis Fatter
President

LK/pkh
Enc.

October 7, 1949

Mr. Louis Kotler
Memphis Zionist District
426 Falls Building
Memphis, Tennessee

My dear Mr. Kotler:

Upon receipt of your letter of September 22nd, I made inquiries in the office of the Jewish National Fund in New York. Mr. Fisher informs me that he has written to you and given you some of the necessary information. Judging by the cable which was received from the headquarters of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem on October 4th, a copy of which you have undoubtedly received, the matter does seem to take on a different character than the impression I first gathered from your letter. I trust that the matter will be straightened out to everyone's satisfaction.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

41 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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October 13, 1949

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Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th St. & Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

Since you have received word from Mr. Louis Kotler, President of the Memphis Zionist District, regarding the Nachlath Peres project, you will be interested in the enclosed letter addressed to Mr. Kotler by Dr. Israel Goldstein.

A documentation of all the correspondence is now being prepared and will be forwarded to you. We are sending you Dr. Goldstein's statement because it represents the facts in the situation.

Sincerely yours,

MENDEL N. FISHER
Executive Director

MNF:EG

Regards,

October 12, 1949

Mr. Louis Kotler
Memphis Zionist District
426 Falls Building
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Mr. Kotler:

This is to acknowledge your letter of September 22nd, regarding the Nachlath Peres project. As I recall it, the JNF at no time undertook to establish a colony, but only undertook to name a tract of land. It had no right to establish colonies, which means buildings and equipment; as this activity did not come within its purview. The JNF was limited to land redemption. The project therefore bore the name of "Nachlah" which means an area of land.

I am informed by Mr. Fisher that in deference to the wishes of the Memphis people a strong appeal was made to the office of the Keren Kayemeth in Jerusalem, not one but several times, to create a Shechemah, which means a neighbourhood. According to the information which I have received, the Keren Kayemeth in Jerusalem has cabled that Shechemath Peres has been established.

I am afraid that the misunderstandings arose from the fact that your people in Memphis began using the term "colony" which was not authorized by the JNF office.

Needless to say, I am sorry that misunderstandings have arisen, especially since I had the pleasure of knowing the late Mr. Peres and of counting myself as one of his admirers.

I would respectfully suggest that you and your colleagues bear in mind that whatever monies were raised were applied for land redemption which was the major concern of Mr. Peres. From that point of view I believe that the irritation has been far out of proportion to the intrinsic merits of the situation. The important thing was that the money was used for the purpose for which it was intended. Moreover, there is now a Shechemah which bears the name of Mr. Peres.

I am not authorized to speak for Judge Rothenberg, who is now the president of the JNF, or for Mr. Fisher. No doubt, they are communicating with you directly, but I did feel that I owed it to you, the JNF, and to myself, to give you my reaction.

With all good wishes for the New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN

IG:CL



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

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March 23, 1950

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YEHUDA TUBIN

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road at East 106th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

I take special pleasure and delight in informing you that you have again been elected one of the Honorary Chairman of the JNF.

As one who has worked with you and at your side over a period of years, I know of your deep interest and concern in the work for the JNF. It is my hope that I shall have the privilege and the opportunity of taking counsel with you from time to time in the discharge of my responsibilities as the head of the Fund. One of our major tasks now is to protect the integrity and the independence of the JNF.

The next time you are in New York, I should very much like to see you.

With warmest and affectionate greetings,

Cordially yours,

DR. HARRIS J. LEVINE
President

HJL:grc

March 27, 1950

Dr. Harry J. Levine
Jewish National Fund
41 East 42nd Street
New York 17, New York

My dear Friend;

Thank you for your kind letter of March 23rd and for informing me about my election as one of the Honorary Chairmen of the Jewish National Fund.

It was with real pleasure that I read of your election to the Presidency of the J.N.F. I could think of no better choice and I want to extend to you my felicitations and all my good wishes. When I am next in New York, which I hope will be soon, I shall look forward to seeing you.

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er



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YEHUDA TUBIN

March 31, 1950

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

Your note of March 27th has made me very, very happy. I need your help and guidance in the heavy burdens that are mine.

I do want to see you on your next visit to New York. That you have written me in such a friendly and comradely manner is most heartening.

With all good wishes for a happy Passover,

Sincerely yours,

DR. HARRIS J. LEVINE
President

HJL:grc

Jewish National Fund



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MENDEL N. FISHER

October 25, 1950

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Rd. at E. 106th St.
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

It was nice to be with you and with the Zionist Society whom I addressed briefly. I am deeply grateful to you for the warm and cordial reception you and your associates accorded me and particularly for the fine reference that you made to the importance of the Jewish National Fund.

As you undoubtedly know, we had a wonderful Conference with 91 organizations represented in Cleveland. We need the help and the cooperation of the Zionist Society in connection with our annual function which is to be held on December 17th. I am sure that a word from you to your associates of the Zionist Society, particularly to the JNF Chairman, asking for all-out cooperation in making this annual function a success would be tremendously helpful to us.

I am very happy that in connection with my visit, I had the pleasure of seeing you, even though briefly. I hope to see you soon in New York.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Harris Levine
DR. HARRIS J. LEVINE
President

HJL:SS