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McDonald, James G., 1956-1960.

JAMES G. McDONALD

5323 EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

NEW YORK 1, N.Y.

BRYANT 9-7565

December 18th, 1956

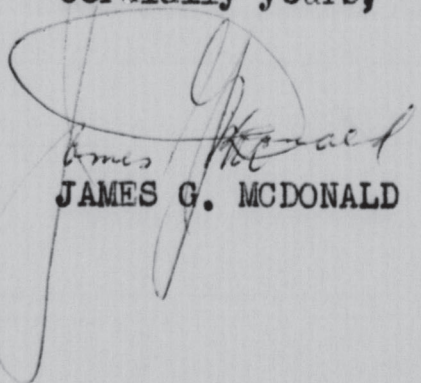
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

It was good that you again spoke out so forcefully last night. I was denied the privilege of hearing you because I had to be at a Bnai Brith meeting, preliminary to an Israel Bond Sales.

If you are going to be in Cleveland on Monday, December 31st, and have any free time, I should like to discuss with you some of the fundamentals of our Government's possible changes in policy, which might hold out hope of breaking the deadlock between Israel and its neighbors.

Cordially yours,


JAMES G. McDONALD

December 21, 1956

James G. McDonald
5323 Empire State Building
New York 1, New York

My dear Friend:

Thank you for your note of December 18th.

I shall be attending the Cardozo Dinner which is being given in your honor on December 30th and will arrange with you then for some time to meet the following day.

With warmest regards and looking forward with pleasure to seeing you in Cleveland, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:sl

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT BY JAMES G. MCDONALD
FIRST UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL

BEFORE AN EXECUTIVE JOINT SESSION OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE ARMED
SERVICES COMMITTEES

Friday, February 8th, 1957

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. Your invitation is an honor which I deeply appreciate.

The task you have assigned yourselves is timely and opportune, because it may yet not be too late to strengthen decisively the forces of democracy in the strategic Middle East against the eroding influences of Russian Communism.

The new Eisenhower Doctrine, despite its limitations, deserves Congressional support.

The doctrine, however, is not enough. The grave situation calls urgently for:

- 1 - The restoration of unity with our allies, even if this involves a confession by the Secretary of State that he is not wholly blameless for the tragic breach.
- 2 - Ending the policy of appeasement of the Arab extremists who, by bold treats, seek to disguise their inherent disunity, weaknesses and need for the West.
- 3 - Reiterated emphasis that only through Arab peace with Israel can there be peace and security for any state in the Middle East.
- 4 - Recognition that Israel-Arab understanding is an essential preliminary to effective measures for the defense of the West's vital interest in that area against Russian disguised or overt aggression.

5 - Refusal to play the Russian game by joining in such measures as the Afro-Asian bloc's proposal for unilateral sanctions against Israel.

The danger from Communism is not now military aggression but rather the intensification of Soviet Russia's increasingly successful subversive penetration of Arab groups, particularly the intellectuals. Nonetheless Congressional authorization to the President to use American armed forces will be a useful warning to Moscow and an indication to the world of American unity.

The President's request for larger funds for use in the Middle East deserves support in principle. But the value of such funds to the recipient countries and the advantage accruing to the United States and its democratic allies will depend upon the degree to which the nearly model utilization of United States funds by Israel in past years can be emulated in the nearby Arab States.

Irrespective of Congressional action on the Eisenhower Doctrine restoration of unity with our allies is vital. A helpful step would be penitent acknowledgement in Washington that our Government has a measure of moral responsibility for the feeling of desperation that motivated the French and British attack on the Suez and the Israel invasion of the Sinai.

The United Nations has been able to do no more than to maintain a series of uneasy truces between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Hence repeated assertions by our Government of its support and dependence on the UN can be no substitute for a clear and firm American policy in the Middle East.

Realism requires also that we recognize that the underlying cause of conflict in the Middle East is today, and has been for eight years, the increasingly intransigent refusal of the Arab states to admit that Israel is here

to stay. So long as the Arab states, led by Egypt and Syria, stridently proclaim their refusal to recognize Israel and their determination to destroy it, Ben-Gurion and his colleagues are not unreasonable in demanding, before the withdrawal of their troops from Gaza and from the Tiran Strait, firm guarantees against renewed Egyptian commando raids and blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba.

Why then the current talk of sanctions against Israel? How can we seriously consider such sanctions within a few days after Soviet Russia's contemptuous flouting of the UN resolution condemning its brutal aggression against Hungary? Is tiny endangered Israel to be punished for demanding guarantees of its safety while Pandit Nehru - ceasing for the moment his lectures on sweetness and light - flouts a unanimous UN decision and absorbs the occupied portion of Kashmir into India? Are we, once again, under Arab pressure, to commit the tragic blunder of breaking with our allies and thus again join with Russia in playing its game?

Your Committee's study of American present policies necessarily involves a consideration of our policies during recent years. Moreover, if your inquiries are to be of the largest value, they must, I respectfully submit, draw lessons, not only from our mistakes but also from those of our allies, Great Britain and France. Perhaps the most important lessons will be drawn from the failures of attempts to appease inflamed Arab nationalism and from Communist Russia's increasingly disquieting successes in the Middle East.

Any objective survey of the democratic West's recent relations with Egypt leaves no doubt that appeasement has failed.

Britain's continued policy of appeasement, in reference to the Suez, was modified when it joined with the United States and most of the other members of the UN, to pass in September, 1951, a resolution denying the validity of Egypt's claim to the belligerent right to deny passage through the Canal to Israel shipping

and to so-called countraband goods bound for Israel on ships of other countries. But when Egypt ignored the UN action neither Britain nor the United States or the UN made any serious effort to secure Egypt's compliance. How much stronger would have been the moral position of the Western powers in 1956 when the Egyptian dictator Nasser seized the Canal, had they earlier insisted that Egypt respect Israel's right to the use of that water-way.

Greater firmness by the UN and the Western democracies in insisting on Israel's right to use the Suez would also have constituted an excellent precedent on the issue of the Straits of Tiran. Despite Israel's repeated protests against Egypt's closure of this entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba, no effective UN or Western support for Israel on this issue was forthcoming. Typical of the UN's hesitation is the Secretary General's highly technical and intricate, if not confusing, reference to the Aqaba issue in his general report to the Assembly of January 25th. The Secretary General's involved phraseology is a dialectician's form of appeasement.

As might have been expected, the continued appeasement of Egypt since 1946 led naturally to the tragic developments of recent months. The abrupt decision by the United States, and by Great Britain, to withdraw their proposals for financial aid in the construction of the High Aswan Dam - so unlike their previous policies of appeasement - was taken by Nasser as the excuse - it could not have been the reason - for seizing the Suez Canal.

It was then that the Western powers, France, Britain and the United States, made their gravest mistake. They permitted Nasser to divide them.

From this unhappy Western disunity Russia alone was the real gainer.

While the Western powers were growing further apart Moscow, with typical adroitness and persistence, was stepping-up its aggression through subversive penetration. I respectfully recommend to the members of the Committee, and to the

Secretary of State, a reading of the concluding chapters of a recent book entitled COMMUNISM AND NATIONALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST by Walter Z. Laqueur. If Laqueur's estimate of the successes of Russian subversive activities is substantially accurate, as I believe it to be, Communist Russia has no need now for military aggression. It can wait, confident that its subversive tactics - if uncountered by the West - will achieve the replacement of Western influence by that of the Kremlin throughout the Middle East.

The Eisenhower Doctrine of additional economic aid can, at best, be only a partial countermove to the Russian communist activities.

In other respects, too, the Eisenhower Doctrine is only a partial program. It does not deal at all directly with the Arab-Israel problem, the immediate and underlying cause of the persistent crisis in the Middle East. In his defense of the administration's program, the Secretary of State explains that the Arab-Israel issues are already being handled by the UN. Implicit in the Secretary's words is the suggestion that the UN, of and by itself, is capable of advancing the cause of peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

The record does not support that optimism. On the contrary, despite all the UN's efforts and its substantial expenditures, peace is as far away, perhaps farther, in the Middle East than at any time since the armistices were signed.

JAMES G. McDONALD

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February 12th, 1957

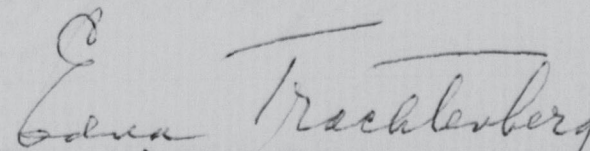
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Mr. McDonald, who yesterday finished his two days' testimony before a joint secret session of the Senate Armed Forces and Foreign Relations Committees, and who is still in Washington, asked me to mail, for your confidential information, a copy of his initial presentation.

He asked me to add that, in his opinion, the recent days' demonstration of senatorial opposition to sanctions has been decisive.

Cordially yours,


(Mrs. J.) Edna Trachtenberg
Secretary to Mr. McDonald

February 15, 1957

Dr. James G. McDonald
5323 Empire State Building
New York 1, New York

My dear Dr. McDonald:

Thank you for having sent to me, through your Secretary Mrs. Trachtenberg, the summary of the statement which you presented to the Executive Joint Session of the Senate Foreign Relations and the Armed Services Committees.

I read it, as I read everything which you write, with profound interest. It is a splendid statement and I am sure it must have made a profound impression upon the members of the committees.

More power to you.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:sl

JAMES G. McDONALD

5323 EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

NEW YORK 1, N.Y.

BRYANT 9-7565

June 27th, 1958

Dear Dr. Silver:

So exhilarating and encouraging was my participation in the Australian and New Zealand Zionist Federation's Tenth Anniversary Israel Appeal that this note may interest you.

Those two small communities - about 50,000 souls in Australia and 5,000 in New Zealand - contributed 300,000 Australian pounds, their largest annual amount.

To appraise fairly this response one must keep in mind that that nearly one half of both communities are newcomers and that neither has more than two or three rich members. Moreover, the richest of these has only just begun to "return"!

Not anywhere else in the world, during my two decades of working with Jewish groups, have I been more deeply moved. Meetings in both countries, e.g., 3,500 children in a motion picture theatre, 6,000 adults in the Melbourne Olympic Auditorium and 4,000 in the City Hall of Sydney, gave me a heartening sense of Jewish devotion to Israel and to Judaism.

I bring back from my new friends "down under" a strengthened faith that the Diaspora, no matter how prolonged the needs, will continue to respond generously to Israel's appeal.

Cordially yours,

*Love.
They want you in the "down
under" communities.*



The Israel Independence Ball
Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Nine
Suite 303, Evans Building
Washington 5, D.C.

David Lloyd Kreeger
Chairman

April 20, 1959

Mr. Justice Frankfurter
The Supreme Court
Honorary Chairman

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

We have always been very proud in the past to have your name appear as a member of the Honorary Committee for the Ambassador's Ball, usually held in the Spring of each year on the occasion of the anniversary of Israel's statehood.

The 1959 Ball will be held on the evening of June 6th, in the City of Washington, and we would be most grateful if we might again place your name on the Honorary Committee. Justice Felix Frankfurter is serving as Honorary Chairman for 1959.

As the first American Ambassador to Israel, I have agreed to serve on the Committee for this important event, and I am sure that Mr. Justice Frankfurter would be pleased if we could add your name to the list of distinguished citizens whose service on the Committee helps to insure the success of the Ball as a fitting tribute to the remarkable growth of the young democracy of Israel. You understand, of course, that your acceptance does not involve obligation of any kind but will unquestionably add a measure of distinction to the event.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your cooperation in the past. It is my earnest hope that you will again accept this invitation to join the Honorary Committee.

Most sincerely,

James G. McDonald
James G. McDonald

P.S. Please reply to me c/o Suite 303, Evans Bldg., Wash. 5, D.C.

April 22, 1959

The Honorable James G. McDonald
Suite 303 Evans Building
Washington 5, D.C.

My dear Mr. McDonald:

Let me thank you for your letter of April 20th.
I shall be very happy to serve as a member of
the Honorary Committee for the Ambassador's Ball
to be given on the occasion of the anniversary of
Israel's statehood.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

JAMES G. McDONALD

5323 EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

NEW YORK 1, N.Y.

BRYANT 9-7565

March 21st, 1960

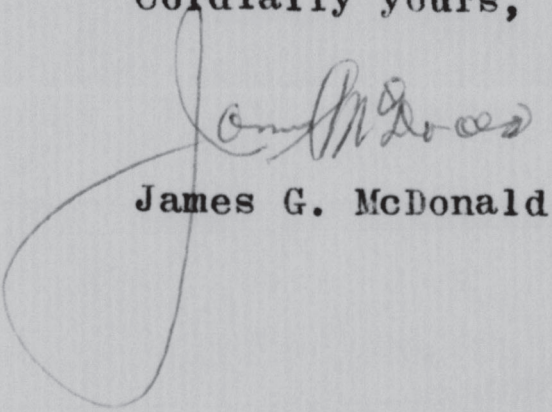
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

It is wonderful news that you are home,
none the worse for your extensive tour of
Europe and Israel.

How right you are about the younger gen-
eration in Israel.

Cordially yours,


James G. McDonald

JAMES G. McDONALD

5323 EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

NEW YORK 1, N.Y.

BRYANT 9-7565

June 7th, 1960

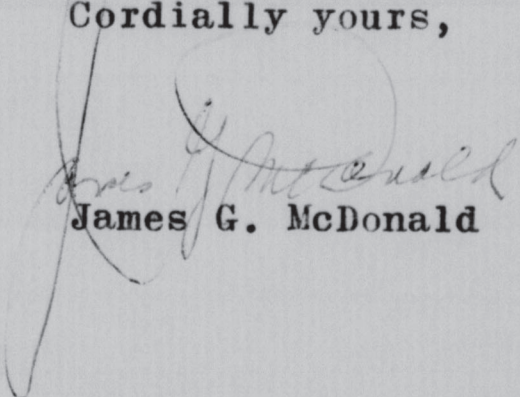
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am intrigued by your program, announced
at the recent ZOA Dinner, to enable the Zionist
movement "to come into its own."

If there is an extra text available perhaps
you will be good enough to let me read it.

Cordially yours,


James G. McDonald

June 29, 1960

Dr. James G. McDonald
5323 Empire State Building
New York 1, New York

My dear friend:

Thank you for your note. The major part of my address which I delivered at the Long Island Zionist Region has been printed in the recent issue of the "American Zionist". I am sure that the Z.O.A. will be able to supply you with a copy. I have no other text with me.

I hope that you are well. It has been a long time since I have seen you. I trust that our paths will cross before very long.

With all good wishes for a pleasant summer, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm