



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.

Reel
47

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Folder
1153

Manson, Harold, 1954-1955.

של ארצות הברית



ההסתדרות הציונית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

November 10, 1954

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am enclosing one of the postcards which we are distributing to our key people throughout the country in connection with your appearance on TV on Friday evening. I belong to that small minority which has thus far resisted the intrusion of TV into their private lives and I remain (not unhappily) without a set. But for this occasion we are having ourselves specially invited to the home of friends who are blessed with the contraption. I am sure that you will do whatever you can to bring the subject of Israel and Zionism into the conversation, as you indicated over the telephone. This is particularly important for the Zionists, whom we are urging to tune in.

I feel that I should call your attention to a letter which arrived in the National office from Houston, which complains that your recent appearance in that community on behalf of the Tercentenary had "negative repercussions" for the ZOA there. The alleged omission of reference to Israel and Zionism in your address is, according to this letter, being widely discussed and "the rumor in Houston is that Rabbi Silver is a Zionist no more..."

I call this to your attention, not because I take such ridiculous talk seriously, but in order to illustrate how sensitive our people are on such matters, which I am able to understand.

With warmest regards to Mrs. Silver and yourself, in which Josie joins me, I am

As ever,

Harold P. Manson

HPM/br

של ארצות הברית

ההסתדרות הציונית



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

November 30, 1954

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have received an invitation, transmitted by our Speakers' Bureau, to address the Cleveland Zionist Society on Sunday, December 26th.

Do you know whether this is to be a regular meeting of the Society or a special event?

I would welcome your advice on this matter.

With warmest regards to Mrs. Silver and yourself, I am

As ever,

Harold P. Manson

HPM/br

P.S. Did you see the spread in the New York Times of November 29th on Josie's father and his village?

של ארצות הברית



ההסתדרות הציונית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

December 6, 1954

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 3rd.

I shall, of course, accept the invitation to speak at the December 26 banquet of the Cleveland Zionist Society, and plan to arrive in Cleveland in the early part of that day.

With warmest regards to you and Mrs. Silver, I am

As ever,

Harold P. Manson

P.S. We have seen Raphael on a few occasions and expect to get together with him for dinner one day this week. He is, as you probably know, practically a next door neighbor of ours now and we hope to be seeing more of him.

HPM/br

Dr. Emanuel Neumann

December 7, 1954

Harold P. Manson

You are no doubt aware that the last volume of Toynbee's Study of History, which was published recently, contains a negative — indeed, one could almost say hostile — evaluation of Zionism and of Israel's establishment. I find this very disturbing, in view of the tremendous prestige which Toynbee enjoys today, not only in academic circles, but among the "middle brows." (As you probably know, TIME, LIFE and other magazines of large circulation would have us believe that Toynbee is one of the intellectual giants of all time.) Moreover, you will recall that the front page review in the book section of the New York Times singled out anti-Zionist and anti-Israel passages which were quoted at length.

I have long felt that Toynbee should get his come-uppance, even before the appearance of his latest volume. I am not aware that his view of Judaism as a "fossilized" philosophy has been effectively refuted. All of which leads me to the conclusion that a scholarly, but pungent, refutation of Toynbee's views must be written without delay. I have in mind a pamphlet which we could circulate among educators, editors and others throughout the country who are likely to be exposed to Toynbee's opinions. We could also circulate such a pamphlet among our own people along with a request that they circulate it among the leaders of the intellectual life of their respective communities.

I believe that Marvin Lowenthal is best qualified to write such a pamphlet in our behalf. I have had a preliminary conversation with him on this matter (together with Leon Feuer, who strongly urged that this idea should be carried out) and he is prepared to undertake this assignment with great enthusiasm.

Unless there is disagreement with this suggestion, I shall request Marvin to begin work on this assignment next week.

Warmest regards.

HPM/br

cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver ✓
Mortimer May
Abraham Goodman
Rabbi Leon I. Feuer
Harry Torczyner
Jacques Torczyner
Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein
Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg
Dr. Sidney Marks
David E. Hirsch
Ernest E. Barbarash

December 2, 1954

Mr. Harold P. Manson
Zionist Organization of America
145 East 32nd Street
New York 16, New York

My dear Harold:

Replying to your letter of November 30th, the banquet of the Cleveland Zionist Society on December 26th is their annual Chanukah banquet - a very fine event. If you can see your way clear to accept the invitation, we would all greatly appreciate it.

I have seen the spread in the New York Times and derived much pleasure from it.

With warmest regards to you and Josie, I remain

Cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:rms

Dr. Emanuel Neumann

December 28, 1954

Harold P. Manson

Our Book Department recently called my attention to a forthcoming biography entitled "Ben-Gurion of Israel" by Barnet Litvinoff, which is being published by Praeger and which will be appearing very shortly. The publishers had asked our Book Department to engage in a wide spread promotional effort -- the mailing of circulars, etc. Fortunately, Miss Bloom, on Sidney Marks' advice, submitted the page proofs to me before proceeding with the matter.

Even a very quick run-through ^{of} the book convinces me that it is not only replete with distortions, but that the author set out to misrepresent the role of American Zionism and its leadership in the establishment of Israel. Thus, another "re-writing of history" has been added to the growing shelf of books on the birth of Israel and those who brought it about.

Of course, I have informed Miss Bloom that the ZOA book shop should under no circumstances engage in the promotion of this book.

Warmest regards.

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
H. P. Manson

HPM/br

cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver ✓
Mortimer May
Abraham Goodman
Rabbi Leon I. Feuer
Jacques Torczyner
Harry Torczyner
Dr. Sidney Marks
Leon Ilutovich
Ernest E. Barbarash
Edna Bloom

Dr. Emanuel Neumann

December 28, 1954

Harold P. Manson

As a supplement to my earlier memo concerning Litvinoff's biography of Ben-Gurion, I am making these additional observations only to you and Dr. Silver.

This only serves to underline the importance of producing a definitive book on the subject from our side. Both of us have at various times approached this task, only to be side-tracked by immediate responsibilities. The present circumstances in my work do not permit me even to contemplate the production of such a book at this time, let alone do it; and I imagine that the same holds true for you.

But a solution simply must be found. As I told you last summer, I would be very happy to dedicate myself to such a task -- if this were made possible. But in the meantime, other responsibilities have been suggested, which I have taken on, and which, as you know, leave me no time for anything else.

What is the answer?

Warmest regards.



Harold

HPM/br

cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver ✓

של ארצות הברית

ההסתדרות הציונית



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

January 19, 1955

George Allen

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

Following the report concerning George Allen's forthcoming appearance at the conference of the AFME, I initiated inquiries at the State Department in order to be absolutely sure of the facts. I regret to say that I received word last night that the report was correct and that Allen will appear at the AFME meeting. The editorial reaction which I have prepared for the coming issue of The American Zionist (a copy of which is enclosed) was of course inevitable in the circumstances.

On another matter -- Alex Bein, the biographer of Herzl, is in the country in connection with some of the work envisaged by Neumann's Department in the Agency. Bein tells me that one of the things that he would like to achieve during his stay here is the setting up of a central archive on the history of American Zionism. In this connection, he is trying to track down and gain access to the files of the most important American Zionist leaders, and he asked me to apprise you of his plans in this respect. He plans to be in Cleveland during the early part of February, at which time he would like to meet with you on this question.

I might add that, while Neumann seems to be encouraging all of Bein's efforts during his stay here, he told me prior to his departure for Israel that he has already taken steps to set up an American Zionist archive or research bureau under the aegis of his department in the Agency, with Abraham Duker doing the work. There are prospects for confusion and overlapping here, which should be eliminated before you agree to turn over any of your private files to anyone. (I mention this for your private information, and would prefer that this ~~fact~~ should grow out of any conversation that you may have with Bein, rather than mentioned as coming from me.)

With warmest regards, I am

As ever,

Harold P. Manson

HPM/br
encl.

Mr. Allen's Unfortunate Debut

There are no iron-clad rules by which one can evaluate the significance of changes or shifts in the personnel of governmental departments. Such shifts have at times been carried out demonstratively in connection with radical changes of policy; but they have just as often proved to be routine reshufflings, especially in the case of State Department and Foreign Service personnel, and thus devoid of any special meaning.

The recent designation of Mr. George Allen as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs in place of Mr. Henry A. Byroade, who becomes our Ambassador to Egypt, was accompanied by widespread reports that a re-appraisal of our Middle Eastern policy is being undertaken by the State Department. This inevitably encouraged critics of the present policy to hope that the shift would inaugurate a wiser American approach in the Middle East. The mistakes and failures of the past few years surely need to be corrected, and American self-interest in the area requires not only a reconsideration of the arms shipments to Arab states, but the inclusion of Israel's security within the framework of our policy.

These hopes have certainly not been strengthened by the report we received as we went to press -- Mr. Allen will make his first public appearance as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs in New York on January 27 at a conference of the American Friends of the Middle East. This is really a shocking development. Mr. Allen must surely be aware that this organization is the propaganda arm of the combined anti-Israel and anti-Zionist forces in this country. We have no idea of what he will say, but we do know that he will be speaking from the same platform as Dorothy Thompson, Elmer Berger,

(more)

Philip Hitti and Co. -- and this is reason enough for indignation. What a way to make a debut in a highly sensitive post!

Mr. Allen -- and his superiors in the State Department -- should recognize that a serious blunder has been committed and that it must be rectified without delay.

h p m



Dr. Silver

January 25, 1955

Mr. Ira Hirschmann
654 Madison Avenue
New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Ira:

The draft we discussed is enclosed. Please feel free to alter it in any way you deem appropriate.

I am also sending you a copy of the last issue of the American Zionist. The editorial is on page 4.

Would you be good enough to send me a copy of the final text after it is sent off. I take it for granted that you will keep me posted on anything that may develop from this effort, and I will of course keep you informed from this end.

With warmest regards, I am

As ever,

Harold P. Manson

HPM/br
encl.

D R A F T

Dear -----:

Upon returning to my desk after an extended trip I was astonished to learn that you have been scheduled to speak at a conference of the American Friends of the Middle East on January 27 here in New York. I must confess that I am very upset over this development, which could seriously impair the effectiveness of the new tasks which you have just undertaken.

The American Friends of the Middle East is an instrument for anti-Israel and pro-Arab propaganda, although it professes a concern for all the peoples of the Middle East. Its conferences have been characterized by some of the most violent attacks on Israel ever uttered in this country and by a wholly negative approach to the Arab-Israel problem. Your appearance on such a platform will surely be exploited by the Arabs and their supporters and condemned by Israel's friends throughout the country. Indeed, you have already become the subject of such a controversy, as you will readily see from the enclosed editorial in the official organ of the Zionist Organization of America -- a publication which reaches 100,000 homes. You surely realize that such a reaction was inevitable in the circumstances.

Knowing something of your approach to Middle Eastern problems I cannot believe that you took this step on your own initiative. In all frankness I must say that those who may have urged it upon you have placed you in a most difficult position at the very beginning of your new and highly important post.

I hope that you will not object to my candor in this matter which, believe me, grows out of feelings of personal friendship and deep concern for your success in your new task. I feel that steps must be taken at once to repair the damage that has been done and I hope to have the opportunity of discussing the matter further with you at your earliest convenience.

Meanwhile, I remain, etc.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

DATE: January 26, 1955

FROM: Harold P. Manson

SUBJECT:

On the Allen matter -- it has been reported that Allen has indicated his willingness to speak at the Washington meeting of the combined Jewish organizations in March and he may also appear under the auspices of the American Christian Palestine Committee.

I shall, of course, be in touch with you again when I have received word of definite confirmation on the above. If such "rectification" takes place, it will be another example of the old "impartiality" line which equates responsible American Jewish opinion with the wholly negative approach of the AFME crowd. Of course, this would be better than no appearance by Allen on our side, following his AFME speech. But I don't think that it should occasion any dancing in the streets -- unless, of course, Allen says something of real significance concerning future American policy.

Warmest regards.



HPM/br

C O P Y

~~Confidential~~

February 8, 1955

Do Silver

His Excellency, Mr. Abba Eban
Embassy of Israel
1621-22nd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Aubrey:

I have your letter referring to the editorial in the American Zionist.

I would probably have been consulted if I had been on hand at the time the editorial was planned and in that case, I may very well have advised against printing it. But I must, in all honesty, add that I am not quite sure that I would have done so.

Wasn't it, after all, a bit of ineptitude for Mr. Allen to have delivered his first public address under the auspices of the AFME with their notorious record?

You point out that high officials of the Israel Embassy have also accepted invitations to speak. I do not question the Embassy's policy in that respect, although -- frankly, and strictly off the record -- I have had my doubts against its wisdom, as I did about Professor Bergman's lecturing under their auspices. I know the arguments in favor of this policy; but I am also conscious of the indubitable fact that the AFME extends such invitations for the purpose of wrapping up their poisonous activity in a mantle of "impartiality" and "objectivity"; and such appearances by Israelis may help to lend them respectability and make them acceptable even in the eyes of friends of Israel, certainly in the eyes of waverers.

Be that as it may, and it may remain a moot question in the eyes of American Zionists, isn't there a difference in the case of the head of the Middle Eastern Division of the State Department now assuming his official duties?

I was happy to learn that he made a wholly innocuous speech. Is there not a slight possibility that he might have spoken differently but for the fact that the American Zionist press is on the alert, ready to jump, and that he was forewarned by this particular editorial?

Finally, assuming that the editorial policy of the American Zionist is somewhat "out of line", is it not, on the whole, preferable that American Zionists should have and be known to have exercised a degree of independence in their tactical approach to current problems, rather than be regarded in the light of local agents of the Israel Government? This, I am aware, touches a much broader problem, which, of course, merits most careful consideration. Some day I hope to have the pleasure and privilege of discussing the whole problem with you tete a tete.

Meanwhile, if the editorial in question should harm, rather than help the cause, I would greatly regret it.

With warm personal regards and all good wishes, as ever,

Faithfully yours,

(signed)

Emanuel Neumann

P.S. I appreciated hearing from you personally and always will.
cc: Harold P. Manson

I have reason to believe that this is definitely the case.
HPM

February 8, 1955

Mr. Harold Manson
Zionist Organization of America
145 East Thirty-second Street
New York 16, New York

My dear Harold:

I received the enclosed letter from Mr. Abraham G. Duker. I do not know what the Theodor Herzl Foundation is and whether Mr. Duker is writing this history of American Zionism with your knowledge and that of Dr. Neumann. Please let me know.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:rms

enclosure

Abraham G. Duker
315 W. 98th St.
N.Y. 25, N.Y.

M E M O R A N D U M

To : Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

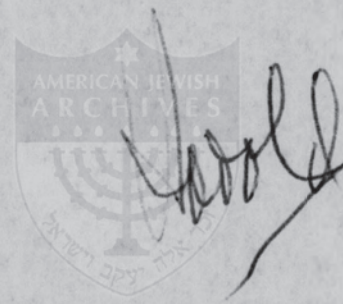
February 11, 1955

From: Harold P. Manson

You will, I am sure, be interested in seeing the attached report on the AFME conference prepared for me by James H. Sheldon.

I shall also relay supplementary material on this matter that may be of interest to you.

Warmest regards.



HPM/br
encl.

COPY

NON-SECTARIAN ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE

COPY

TO CHAMPION HUMAN RIGHTS, INC.

165 West 46th Street
New York 36, N.Y.

January 31, 1955

Prof. James H. Sheldon
Administrative Chairman

Mr. Harold P. Manson
Zionist Organization of America
145 East 32nd Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Harold:

I enclose herewith some advance items in connection with our report on the Third Annual Conference of the American Friends of the Middle East, viz.:

(1) Complete program of the Conference. (Note: there were one or two changes in this which appear in the detailed report. For example, Miss Simons did not appear, and Mr. Littell appeared only at the opening session of Panel No. 1. Also, Dr. Hutchinson's paper was read for him, instead of being delivered personally, because he was ill.)

(2) Official roster as issued by AFME office. This did not purport to include everyone attending the conference, but was supposed to list the distinguished guests and persons invited by the office.

(3) News release announcing the election of Rev. L.R. Elson as Chairman of the National Council of AFME.

(4) Report of findings by committee on "American Public Opinion and the Middle East." I would especially direct your attention to Section III, page 2.

All in all, I would say that the Conference marked an increase in the influence and contacts of AFME. At the same time, however, it was characterized by much greater caution in all references to Israel, along with references to the necessity for being cautious in this regard in order to avoid attack.

With regard to the three speakers concerning whom we were especially disturbed (Allen, Littell and Richards), there are one or two observations which can be correctly made on the basis of the oral reports which I have already received.

Mr. Littell, although refusing to accede to our strenuous suggestions that he stay away from the Conference, attended only the first session of the round table for which he had been scheduled as the major participant. At the second session (where findings were supposed to be worked out) he did not appear and no official explanation was given for his absence. Moreover, the paper which he delivered was a highly technical and legalistic one, regarding conditions governing American investments in the Middle East and neither side could take any comfort from his participation. I believe that our intervention was probably responsible for bringing this result about.

(more)

The AFME officials, while obviously happy at having Mr. George V. Allen present, were also obviously very disappointed in what he had to say.

To begin with, Mr. Allen did not accede to the repeated urging of AFME that he prepare a news release to be handed out. As a result, his extemporaneous speech secured very little publicity.

In the second place, Allen confined himself to an almost completely non-partisan discussion of historical aspects of Middle Eastern life, which gave no particular comfort to any group involved.

As a result, AFME officers were openly disgruntled, in conversation with each other and with members of the Conference whom they knew. One of the AFME publicity people said in the presence of one of our representatives that Allen had fallen down on the job "because the Zionists got to him and muzzled him."

All in all, I think that the intervention with Allen was decidedly successful in making it impossible for the AFME group to derive any real comfort or aid from his visit.

As to Richards, he also failed to accede to repeated requests from AFME to provide advance text of his speech for the press. As a result, his long speech was in the nature of a "Fourth of July" oration, thickly interlarded throughout with jokes about life in the Southern United States. During the first part of his speech, he talked of visits to various parts of the world other than the Middle East and during his second part, he kept referring to the theme that we must consider first "American interests" regardless of special interests of any country -- especially in combating Communism in the Middle East. Although at one point he decried Zionist propaganda (but without naming the source), his whole speech was less partisan than had been anticipated.

On the other hand, this Conference showed that AFME and its allied interests are ~~####~~ engaged in an enormously effective propaganda program and they openly congratulated themselves on the relative improvement of their propaganda position as compared with the declining propaganda successes of the Zionists during the past year. (See fourth enclosure noted above.)

The AFME Annual Report showed expenditures of \$476,000 last year, almost entirely devoted towards direct or indirect pro-Arab propaganda. This figure also leaves the suspicion that a considerable additional amount of money was spent by other agencies with which AFME "cooperated" in some of its endeavors.

At the closing session, a recommendation was adopted that a special Pro-Arab propaganda lobbying committee be set up in Washington to combat Zionist activity there, on the theory that AFME itself is a tax-exempt organization not supposed to be engaged in "lobbying." This was an action which certainly should be given careful attention in the future.

Within three or four days I shall forward to you a copy of our detailed report on the entire activities of this Conference. The present letter is merely intended to cover a few highlights.

With best wishes,

(signed)

JAMES H. SHELDON

encls.

THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

"American Public Opinion and the Middle East"

Report of Findings Committee

Excerpt

III. Public Opinion and the Arab-Israeli Situation

There has been an effective, intense, articulate and organized mobilization of public opinion in America regarding Arab-Israel relations. This has resulted from the high degree of articulation of the Zionist movement in this country. Zionist propaganda is reasonably effective and has had some considerable effect on so-called "opinion makers." The many devices used by this organization have done much to give an appearance that American public opinion is closely tied to Zionist opinion.

In a measure this was true, in fact as well as appearance until 1953; fortunately for the past two years more factual information has been made available through the press and other media. American public opinion can no longer be said to be either Zionist-dominated or largely Zionist-influenced. The Zionist propaganda machine has seemed more lately to be bogged down in a mire of boredom; Americans just won't stand superlatives about any person or place for too long; we are easily bored. Zionist failure to realize this -- together with such well-publicized incidents as Kibya and the introduction of the American public to the objective truth of the situation by numerous columnists and organizations -- has created the present questioning state of American public opinion. However, there is no assurance that this state of affairs will continue to maintain. Our Arab friends should ask themselves a few questions:

- a) Are Arabs effective in selling their own case?
- b) Are the Arab-Americans in a position to be more effective?
- c) Are the embassies of the Arab countries giving good and effective materials and in turn carrying on effective informational services?
- d) Can the new Arab Information Office achieve a unified and a viable approach to the situation?
- e) What are the relative values of informational services as compared with lobbying?

The Palestinian situation is by no means the only situation in the Arab World which needs the full light of publicity and the resultant support of public opinion in America. The most heated issue in this connection now before the American public is arms aid for the Arab states. The Zionists have been able to cloud this issue by alleging the security of Israel is involved. Prominent, and often unsuspecting, clergymen and civic leaders have been inveigled into allowing their names to be used in what seemed an effort to prevent further war in the Middle East. These are pertinent questions at this point:

- a) How far can special interests go in thwarting American efforts against Communist expansion in the Middle East without arousing the condemnation of general public opinion?
- b) How can unsuspecting clergy and other men of good will be protected against unscrupulous propaganda machines?

March 17, 1955

Mr. Harold Manson
Zionist Organization of America
145 East 32nd Street
New York 16, New York

My dear Harold:

I am enclosing herewith some clippings which
you requested. There must be others, but I
have not yet been able to locate them.

With warmest regards, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:rms

*enclosed clippings re
Morton - Morgenthau
controversy*

של ארצות הברית

ההסתדרות הציונית



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

March 17, 1955

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Just to let you know that I conveyed to Emanuel Neumann your views about the project which Abe Duker has been assigned to undertake on behalf of Neumann's Herzl Institute at the Jewish Agency.

Neumann stressed that he does not envisage that Duker should write the history but merely gather the material in his (Neumann's) behalf. According to his plan, the actual writing of the book will be undertaken only after the material has been collated, ~~and~~ the author has not yet been determined, although he continues to hope that he will be able to write the history himself. In other words, he feels that he is taking advantage of his position in the Agency to get the preliminary work done on the type of book that we had in mind all along -- and to do this at the Agency's expense. He added that Alex Bein is also participating in the gathering of material and that there is full cooperation between Duker and Bein on this.

Neumann asked me to pass this information along to you and I am, of course, doing so.

I suggest that we try to think this through together when you are next in New York, so that we will know how to proceed.

With warmest regards,

As ever,

Harold P. Manson

HPM/br

P.S. Under separate cover I am sending you a number of copies of the Tercentenary issue of the ZOA Program and Education Bulletin, which features your address of February 21st.

של ארצות הברית



ההסתדרות הציונית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

March 21, 1955

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have asked Eliahu Salpeter of Haaretz and Isaac Remba of Haboker to send you -- as speedily as possible -- the clippings from their respective newspapers concerning the Great Indispensable One which I mentioned in the course of our telephone conversation today.

Thank you very much for the 1949 clippings*, which I am returning herewith to your files.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

With warmest regards, I am

As ever,

Harold P. Manson

HPM/br
encl.

* clippings returned to files

של ארצות הברית

ההסתדרות הציונית



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

March 22, 1955

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

In writing to you yesterday I forgot to mention something which may be of interest to you in connection with the Temple Museum.

If you remain interested in acquiring fine contemporary art for your Museum you would wish to know about the current exhibition at the Whitney Museum -- a retrospective show of the paintings of Jack Levine and Hyman Bloom. It is the former's work, particularly some of his most recent paintings, that I call to your attention. There is a series of small oils depicting Jewish historic figures -- Saul, David, Solomon, Maimonides, etc. -- beautifully painted and bursting with emotion. I think that Levine belongs in the front rank of today's painters and is surely one of the very best artists in America. While he has been -- and, I presume, remains -- a leading exponent of the "social consciousness" school, he has not permitted political dogmatism to serve as the end in itself. I believe that his humanism is fundamentally Jewish and the series I have referred to may represent a deeper affirmation of his ties to the Jewish past, though I don't know that this is the case, never having met the man.

If you are interested you may wish to drop into the Whitney when you are in town next week. None of the paintings are on sale, since they have been loaned from various collections. But I imagine that Levine has done -- or will do -- others of this nature.

Incidentally, you may like the earlier Bloom paintings, but I suggest that you avoid his later works -- unless, that is, you are intrigued by disemboweled cadavers and corpses in various stages of decay.

Ever best,

Harold P. Manson

HPM/br

של ארצות הברית



ההסתדרות הציונית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

*returned
4/29*

April 28, 1955

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have only now received the February and March clippings from HA'ARETZ, concerning which I wrote to you some weeks ago. Although they are dated and somewhat academic, these items may still be of interest to you.

After you have read them, will you be good enough to ask your secretary to return them to:

Mr. Eliahu A. Salpeter
Ha'aretz
1711 - 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

With warmest regards, I am

Cordially,

Harold
Harold P. Manson

per BK.

HPM/br
encl.



של ארצות הברית



ההסתדרות הציונית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

May 3, 1955

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

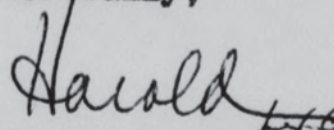
Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you for forwarding the copy of Mr. Dewey's letter to you. I have transmitted copies to Dr. Neumann, May, etc.

I noted with interest that, while he was unable to accept the invitation in connection with the ZOA Convention in Washington, he leaves the way open for a dinner in New York. I am urging our friends here to give this their serious consideration.

With warmest regards, I am

Cordially,


Harold P. Manson

HPM/br

Dr. Emanuel Neumann

~~Confidential~~

May 6, 1955

Harold P. Manson

I phoned Congressman Celler today concerning the participation of a prominent Democrat in our Convention on Saturday evening, June 18.

Celler was delighted with the idea of our extending an invitation to Governor Harriman and promised to help us in this respect. He suggested that, in the first instance, an appropriate letter should be sent to Harriman and that a carbon copy should be forwarded to him simultaneously. He will then make the necessary personal approaches in our behalf.

I believe that such a letter should be sent immediately. It could be signed by the President -- or by yourself, since you have had some previous personal contact with Harriman.

As you will see from the attached copy of my letter to Katzen, I have also set in motion an effort to obtain a leading spokesman of the Administration.

I assume that you will be in touch with me on the matter of the letter to Harriman.

Warmest regards.

HPM/br

encl.

cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver ✓

Mortimer May

Abraham Goodman

I.S. Turover

Harry Torczyner

Jacques Torczyner

Rabbi Leon I. Feuer

Dr. Sidney Marks

~~Confidential~~

May 6, 1955

Mr. Bernard Katzen
c/o Republican National Committee
1625 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bernie:

In accordance with our telephone conversation of this morning, I am writing to you concerning the forthcoming National Convention of the Zionist Organization of America, which will be held in Washington, D.C. from Thursday, June 16 through Sunday, June 19.

We are planning to hold the major session on Saturday evening, June 18, at which time the Convention will be addressed by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. I know that I need not dwell on the desirability of an appearance by one of the foremost leaders of our Government on that occasion. The delegates, who will represent all sections of the country, will undoubtedly be looking forward to such an appearance by a leader of the Administration as reflecting the traditional and oft-repeated support for the Zionist Movement and its aspirations which has been expressed by the Republican Party and its greatest spokesmen. If Vice-President Nixon or another member of the Cabinet, such as Mr. Stassen, would address the Convention, we will, of course, be delighted.

In keeping with the tradition of bi-partisan support for the Zionist cause which has prevailed in our country, the Convention Committee also plans to invite a prominent Democrat to speak. The names of Governor Harriman and Adlai Stevenson have been mentioned most frequently in this connection.

Knowing that you are profoundly conscious of the importance of this matter, I look forward to hearing from you as speedily as possible.

With all good wishes and warmest regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Harold P. Manson

HPM/br

Dr. Silver

June 9, 1955

Mr. Maxwell Rabb
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rabb:

I expect that we shall be speaking to each other by telephone before the end of the day, but I do not wish to delay the transmission of the enclosed material which is self-explanatory.

As you know, the 58th Annual Convention of the Zionist Organization of America will be held at the Willard Hotel in Washington from June 16th through June 19th. Needless to say, a message from President Eisenhower to the Convention would be warmly received by the delegates, who will represent all sections of the country, and we trust that an appropriate message will be sent by him.

In accordance with the procedure followed last year, I am enclosing a suggested draft together with a photostatic copy of the message which the President sent to our 57th Annual Convention. The President would surely wish to say no less on this subject than he has on previous occasions. I know that the delegates will be looking forward to a message which will give full expression to President Eisenhower's known friendship for Israel and for the Zionist Organization of America.

Hoping to receive early and favorable word from you on this important matter, I am, with all good wishes and kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Harold P. Manson

HPM/br
encl.

DRAFT OF MESSAGE

To: Mr. Mortimer May, President
Zionist Organization of America
Willard Hotel
Washington, D.C.

I am very pleased to send my greetings to the Fifty-Eighth Annual Convention of the Zionist Organization of America devoted to the theme of America-Israel Friendship.

The Zionist Organization of America has rendered outstanding service to the Jewish people and to our cherished American ideals. Among its many constructive achievements is the part it played in the creation of the State of Israel. No less significant is its current contribution to mutual understanding between the people of Israel and the United States, and its effort to strengthen the common interest of both countries in peace and progress. Israel is a staunch friend of our way of life and as such her welfare and security are of vital interest to the American Government and people.

As one who had occasion to witness at first hand the tragedy of the Jewish people in Europe, I am happy to know that their remnants are today living and working productively in Israel. The deep concern of the United States in Israel and the other lands of the Near East has found frequent expression in the material and moral support which we have extended to them. The continuation of our assistance program for the Near East should contribute greatly to the solution of the pressing problems that today beset that region.

The Government of the United States is bending every effort to bring about peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors, which is of vital importance to the free world. The problems which have thus far stood in the way of a solution, though difficult, are not insuperable. Your Government is striving to foster constructive negotiations to resolve them. This would prove to be a blessing for both Israel and the Arab states, which must inevitably share common tasks and purposes in the Near East.

C O P Y

C O P Y

Dr. Silver

JOSEPH SASLAW
420 LEADER BUILDING
CLEVELAND

June 22, 1955

Zionist Organization of America
145 East 32nd Street
New York 16, N.Y.

Attention: Mr. Harold P. Manson

Dear Mr. Manson:

On Friday, June 17th, three other delegates from Ohio and myself were requested to see the Senators and Representatives from Ohio regarding the Israel problem. We visited the following:

1) Senator George E. Bender. For your information Bender is well versed on the Israel problem and is very friendly towards the cause. His executive assistant Sol Stillman is an ardent Zionist, a brilliant man and understands the problem, and I am sure that Bender will support the cause. Bender told us he had dinner with Ambassador Eban a few nights before and that he was very much impressed by him, and will do anything he can to help Israel. I told him I know he is a friend of Israel and that the main purpose of our visit was to see that he influences other senators and representatives and tells them all about Israel.

2) Senator John E. Bricker. We visited Senator Bricker and I told him the purpose of our visit. I particularly stressed the financial aid to Israel and in seeing that no arms should be sent to Arab countries who might use same against Israel.

He frankly admitted to me and to the delegation that he did not know much about the problem; that he spends most of his time on the committee for finance and banking, and asked me to send him a resume of the problems confronting Israel.

He then turned to us and stated he would like us to support the Bricker Amendment and that he was amazed to find that most of the Jewish people are against the Amendment. That Pearlman came to testify against the Amendment and that it hurt him very much. Mr. Bricker stated he had a talk with the president of B'nai B'rith and was amazed to find how much antagonism there is against his Amendment. He also stated that all the American Legion Chapters are for his Amendment with exception of the Jewish Veterans. He was quite bitter about it and did not try to pretend otherwise.

I took several pieces of chocolates made in Israel and gave them to him. The bell rang and he was called to the floor of the Senate and I noticed that he took one of the pieces of chocolate with him when he went.

While visiting the Senate Building our delegation met Vice president Nixon in the corridor, who stopped and talked to us. He stated he would have liked to attend the convention but had other engagements. However, he was very friendly and suggested to us that if we need anything, use his office.

We then saw Congressman Michael Feighan, whom I know personally, who stated he is for help to Israel and understands the problem.

We also saw Cong. Charles Venik of Cleveland, who is also a personal friend of mine and a fellow Democrat, who promised to support the cause of Israel to his best ability.

This is the report I am making of my contacts with the Senators and the Congressmen. If you believe it is necessary to send a resume of the problems confronting Israel to Senator John Bricker of Ohio, kindly prepare one in concise and short form and send it to me, and I shall be glad to transmit it to him.

If you have any other suggestions, let me know.

Sincerely yours,

/s/
Joseph Saslaw

June 23, 1955

Mr. Joseph Saslaw
420 Leader Building
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Saslaw:

Thank you very much for your excellent report on the visits of yourself and other delegates from Ohio to Senators Bender and Bricker and to Representatives Feighan and Vanik. The information you have transmitted is indeed very valuable.

The most important aspect of your report is, of course, the section concerning Senator Bricker. I believe that the manner in which we should proceed with respect to Senator Bricker is a matter of the highest importance, and before supplying you with any written material for transmission to the Senator, I would like to obtain the advice of others, particularly of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. I am therefore taking the liberty of sending him a copy of your report, as well as of this letter. I am also sending copies to Mr. I.L. Kenen, Executive Director of the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs, who will undoubtedly be deeply interested in your report and will, I am sure, be in touch with you.

Senator Bender's long-standing friendship is, of course, a well-known and gratifying fact. It was also good to learn that both Rep. Feighan and Rep. Vanik have pledged their support for Israel.

Permit me to express our sincere commendation for the effective manner in which you have handled these very important matters.

With all good wishes and kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HPM/br
cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver ✓
Mr. I.L. Kenen

Harold P. Manson

של ארצות הברית

ההסתדרות הציונית



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

July 8, 1955

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Palace Hotel
Brussels, Belgium

Dear Dr. Silver:

I hope that you and Mrs. Silver are having a fine holiday -- in an atmosphere which is pleasanter than the one inflicted on us here for the past week. It has been almost unbearably hot and humid, and I can assure you that you picked the right moment for an ocean voyage.

I assume that Daniel will be meeting both of you before he takes off for Israel. If he has not yet left, please convey our fondest regards.

Having now read your book in its entirety, I am ^{thoroughly} convinced that it is an extremely important, one could even say monumental, work. I can understand now why there was some question as to the particular "audience" for which it was intended, for the fact is that, like most of the important books that have been written, it belongs not merely to a group of specialists, but to any intelligent person who is interested in the subject. I believe, therefore, that after the editorial work has been completed, the book -- if properly projected -- should have a wide appeal and that this will in no way impair its status as a serious contribution to Jewish scholarship and to contemporary thought in general.

As you will see from the enclosed pages, which represent my initial editorial efforts on the first chapter, I managed to begin the work which I promised to undertake in relation to the book. Apart from the specific suggestions and changes which I have set down and the general comments which I have appended, I would like to make only a few additional observations of a general nature at this time. While the title, "Where Judaism Differed" is quite good and has ^{the} virtue of stating precisely what the book is about, I suggest that we keep our minds open on the subject, so that if something more striking (but not cheap) should occur to us, you will feel free to use it. (For example, I had thought of "A Peculiar Treasure" -- but it has already been used for a book of a very different type by Edna Ferber) If a better title materializes, "Where Judaism Differed" could be used as a Sub-title.

(more)

Have you given any thought to the possible use of Sub-heads? While this does not strike me as essential for most of the chapters in the book, I felt that in some instances -- particularly in the first chapter -- the use of sub-heads would be helpful to the reader.

I think that my ^{first} editorial activity -- on chapter 1 -- will probably turn out to be ~~the~~ toughest job, since the first chapter presents certain special problems. In the rest of the book your conclusions derive from fully-documented arguments, but at some -- not all -- points in the first chapter the unpersuaded reader may feel that he is expected to take your word for what Judaism is, and is not, without fuller evidence for some of these statements. I think I know where this problem originated: You obviously wished to begin with a general opening statement on the nature of Judaism, which would be more fully developed later on. Some of your statements (which those who share our views on the subject would accept implicitly) ~~as a whole may~~ ^{however, may} be regarded as "dogmatic" assertions by "detached" individuals, whom we also would like to ~~attract~~ ^{attract} to the book. Since first impressions are important in these matters, a particularly thorough effort is called for with respect to chapter 1.

I believe that my editorial work may have contributed ^{toward} the solution of this problem, but you will undoubtedly have some further ideas along these lines.

I am abiding by your request to refrain from making major corrections on my copy of the manuscript and have set down my suggestions on a separate schedule, apart from minor changes in punctuation. However, if on the basis of the enclosed notes you should feel it might be safe to permit my pencil to move more freely on the manuscript, please let me know.

With respect to my own projected book -- Neumann was not, ^{quite} as uncooperative as I had anticipated on the idea of my taking a leave of absence for approximately four months in order to get the bulk of the work done. The "only" question remaining is ~~one~~ ^{that} of my arranging to be adequately replaced during that period. I am trying to work this out, though I must confess that I have not been able to come up with anything -- or anyone -- definite as yet. Of course, May, to whom I mentioned the matter over the telephone, was quite panicky about the whole thing. He told me that he is coming to New York next week, at which time he wishes to discuss this question with me (meaning, try to talk me out of it).

If you have any further ideas on it, please let me know.

Josie and I expect to be leaving on our vacation on August 1st and I hope that it will not be necessary for me to return to New York before the end of August. If you wish me to continue to work on your book in the course of the summer, I hope to have ample time to concentrate on it during August, quite apart from what I may be in a position to do on the run during July. Our address during the month of August will be: Fair Harbor, Fire Island, N.Y.

I bring this Megillah to a close with Josie's and my warmest wishes for an altogether pleasant vacation and our fondest greetings to you both.

As ever,

Harold

Harold P. Manson

HPM/br
encl.

של ארצות הברית

ההסתדרות הציונית



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

July 18, 1955

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Hotel La Palma
Locarno, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Silver:

I received both your cable and your letter of July 14th today, and I conveyed your acceptance of the October 30th date to our friends here, who were, of course, happy to get this news.

My editorial notes on Chapter Two are enclosed. I gather that you have not yet been able to go over the notes to Chapter I thoroughly, since -- as I learned from Mrs. Sparrow, with whom I have been in touch concerning your calendar -- you have not had a copy of the manuscript with you, and the notes can be fully understood only in relation to the manuscript itself. Mrs. Sparrow told me that she was airmailing the manuscript to you today. I assume that upon receiving it you will go over my notes to the first two chapters and then let me know whether you are in general agreement with my approach. It is important for me to know this -- and to have your reaction to the additional comments I made in my letter of July 8 -- in order to determine the scope of my future editorial efforts.

I was somewhat over-optimistic when I wrote that after Chapter I there would be less editorial work (unless, that is, you would prefer that my efforts in this respect be less, and not ~~more~~ extensive). For example, you will find that in Chapter 2 I ventured to add certain sentences and paragraphs where I thought these were necessary. Your reaction will, of course, serve to define the nature of my work on the rest of the book.

I believe that I am getting a clearer picture of what we should be aiming for so far as the book's "appeal" is concerned. While everything should be done to increase its clarity and readability, it should not be "popularized" in the sense that is applied to current "popular" books on religion. It is simply not that kind of a book, and to try to convert it into something of this type would do violence to the whole character of the work. In other words, one should assume from the outset that its appearance on any best-seller lists would be in the nature of a pleasant surprise; and efforts to broaden its appeal by making it as intelligible as possible to thinking persons should therefore not be equated with a hope for "popular" success in the usual sense. One should, I think, try to make it be in the general class of the two books -- by Muller and Wilson -- which I called to your attention when you were in New York. After editing along these lines, I believe that one of the good publishing houses will put it out.

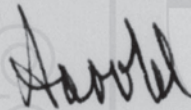
After my talk with Neumann on the matter of my own projected book, I met with May, Goodman and Torczyner on this subject. They have agreed to my taking a four-month leave of absence, beginning some time in the Fall, once a satisfactory new staff arrangement is made. Involved in this is their present intention of giving Barbarash his severance (though this may turn out to be a temporary state of mind) and their readiness to transfer Hirsch from Program & Education back to the Long Island Region. This means that I must try to find two good men. If I succeed in this, I would then have to break them in, following which I could get away for about four months.

We had a pleasant visit from, and dinner with, Raphael a few days ago. He seemed both fine and busy. He plans to visit us on Fire Island during August.

Josie and I were happy to learn that you, Mrs Silver and Daniel have been enjoying your holidays, and we send you our fondest greetings.

Mail that is likely to reach New York before July 29th should be addressed to me here, or at my home address: 25 Tudor City Place, New York 17, N.Y. (although all important letters will be forwarded to me). From August 1 - 29 the address will be : Fair Harbor, Fire Island, N.Y.

Ever best,



Harold P. Manson



hpm/hm