



## The Abba Hillel Silver Digital Collection

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and  
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series 1: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

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

---

Reel  
53

Box  
19

Folder  
1287

Russia (Soviet) Anti-Semitism, 1953.

# THE CONGREGATION MISHKAN ISRAEL

FOUNDED 1840

ROBERT E. GOLDBURG, *Rabbi*

ORANGE AND AUDUBON STREETS  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

January 23, 1953

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
Congregation Tifereth Israel  
E. 105th Street and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver,

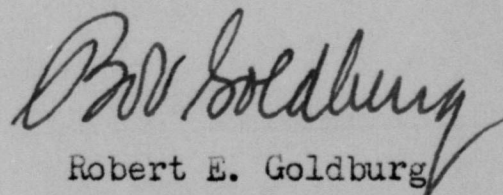
My heartiest congratulations to you upon your birthday and anniversary service. May you enjoy many more years of health, happiness, and service.

This must be a busy time for you so please forgive my inquiry to you on an important matter. I would very much like to know if you accept the current charge of Anti-Semitism against the Eastern bloc. There seems to be frightening evidence of this -- on the other hand, it is difficult to eradicate thirty years of history. Do you believe the many Jewish organizations that have brought the charge acted prematurely, or, in your opinion, is there enough indisputable evidence to justify it?

I'm writing this question to you because above all the Jewish leaders, I respect both your intelligence and integrity. I have long admired your courageous stand on issues of civil liberties and world peace and with the present problem, I did not know where else to turn.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

  
Robert E. Goldberg

REG:AS



January 30, 1953

His Excellency  
Mr. George Zarubin  
Ambassador of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
Washington, D. C.

Your Excellency:

The Jewish world has been profoundly disturbed by reports which have appeared in the public press with increasing frequency ever since the Prague trials, suggesting that anti-Semitic propaganda has now become an instrument of Communist policy. Knowing of the official outlawry of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and of its opposition through the years to all forms of discrimination on the basis of race and nationality, I am at a loss to understand what is going on. So are many other men of good will everywhere who, though they are not Communists, have consistently favored a rapprochement between the East and the West and a working out of a modus vivendi so that all peoples of the world might have peace and a chance to live their lives in accordance with their economic and political preferences.

There have been reports of the revival of the Nazi racial laws in the Soviet Zone of Germany, of anti-Semitic purges and deportations, of an attempt to woo neo-Fascists and neo-Nazis through anti-Semitism in order to win them over to a campaign against the Western democracies. There have been reports that the Jewish population in all Communist countries have been terrified by the anti-Semitic overtones of the Prague trials, and by the charges brought in Moscow against the physicians, most of whom are Jewish. It is feared that the attacks which have been made on Zionism, Zionist leaders, and the State of Israel, might arouse anti-Semitic sentiments and might endanger the security of the Jews who live in the Soviet Union and in the neighboring countries.

In writing to you, Your Excellency, at this time I do not wish to take up the present attitude of the Soviet government to the Zionist movement and the State of Israel. I am persuaded that your government is under a most unfortunate misapprehension. The Zionist movement is not a subversive movement or a movement given to espionage. Your representatives at the United Nations would not have championed the cause of a

His Excellency George Zarubin -2-

January 30, 1953

sovereign Jewish State and would not have voted for its admission to the United Nations if the Zionist movement were of the character which it is now represented to be. Zionism has been a movement of national freedom and liberation. The State of Israel, I am persuaded, is the enemy of no country that is friendly to it. I trust that time and a fuller acquaintance with the true facts will dissipate these unfortunate misconceptions.

But anti-Semitism, racialism and hostility to the Jewish people as such may prove an imminent danger, not alone to the peace of mind and the security, but even to the very lives of millions of Jews living in the Soviet Zone, and will inflame all right-thinking people outside the Soviet Zone so that efforts at creating better understanding will become even more difficult.

In your judgment, Your Excellency, should not some authoritative statement be issued by your government which would clarify the situation, set the record straight and relieve the minds of men of fears and suspicions? From many quarters I have been asked to express an opinion upon the events which have been reported. I should like to base my judgment upon facts rather than on what might be propaganda.

With deep concern and assuring you of my high regard, permit me to remain

Respectfully yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er



March 27, 1953

Rabbi Robert E. Goldberg  
Congregation Mishkan Israel  
Orange and Audubon Streets  
New Haven, Connecticut

My dear Rabbi Goldberg:

Please pardon the long delay in answering your kind letter. As you probably know, I have been on the Pacific coast and in Mexico during the month of February, and my correspondence has seriously lagged.

On the subject of anti-Semitism and the Soviet bloc, all I can do is to send you a copy of the address which I delivered on the occasion of my testimonial at the Waldorf-Astoria on February 5th which states my position as clearly as I can. Nothing that has happened since has given me reason to change my position. All that I can say is that I hope that I am right - for if I am wrong, a terrible fate awaits the two-and-a-half million Jews behind the Iron Curtain.

With warmest regards and best wishes for a happy Passover, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er  
Enc.