



## 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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Torczyner, Jacques, 1950-1951.

JACQUES TORCZYNER  
2 West 46th Street  
New York, N.Y.

August 29, 1950

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
19810 Shaker Blvd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

As you certainly know, I have been in close touch with Dr. Neumann and Harold Manson on the latest developments. It would be presumptuous on my part to try to influence your decision but I take the liberty of giving you several reasons which I feel militate for your going to Israel. I am fully aware of the dangers and also of the inopportune timing both of the invitation and the conference.

1) The situation in Israel is really very bad. Your presence in Israel will give a lift to the people and also to our friends in Israel. If, through your conversations with the leaders of the government and the general Zionists in Israel, our friends will join the government, you will have strengthened their position in Israel and our position outside of Israel.

2) Your presence in Israel will prevent any change of attitude to say the least, of the present President of the Z.O.A. If our main purpose is your strength and that of your supporters at the Congress, your presence will align behind you the Z.O.A. delegation which otherwise would be floundering and succumb to the red carpet which will be rolled out before it.

3) While it is very possible that the decisions made at this conference may not be accepted by you or that you may feel that they are harmful for the best interests of Israel, your presence will enable you to express your point of view. Not to go and to present objections *a posteriori* will be resented and harm your position.

4) If you attend the conference it means your return as the spokesman of American Jewry. It will lift the hearts of the thousands upon thousands who for two long years have suffered in silence. It means the rallying of all forces for the cause which we serve.

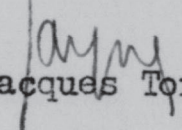


I always feel "les absents ont toujours tort.",  
this time more than ever.

I know that there are pertinent arguments for  
not going and whatever decision you will make we shall  
respect it. I only send you this note as one of those  
who has been fighting with you for the past seven years,  
and feels very strongly that this is the crucial moment  
for your return to active leadership.

Please extend my best personal regards to  
Mrs. Silver.

Cordially yours,

  
Jacques Torczyner

JT:STK





August 30, 1950

Mr. Jacques Torczyner  
2 West 46th Street  
New York, New York

My dear Jacques:

I received your letter of August 29th and I thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing to me. I am enclosing herewith copy of the telegram which I sent yesterday to Ambassador Eban. It is self-explanatory. I assure you there were no other reasons for my not going except the physical reasons of inescapable prior commitments which I have made here and which I could not at the last minute change. As you know, I was gone practically the entire summer and now I am facing a heavy task of opening the season's activities of The Temple - school, services, etc. - with no one to assist me inasmuch as my assistant, Rabbi Nodel, accepted a call to Portland during the summer and is now gone.

A few of my friends postponed the weddings of their sons and daughters until my return. They would be deeply grieved if I disappointed them at the last minute. A testimonial dinner is being given to the retiring president of my Temple next Wednesday and the date was set some time ago to be sure that I would be present. It is quite impossible for a man in my position to make these sudden decisions. I have responsibilities towards a great organization which has been very generous to me in the past five years and which has allowed me to take off a great deal of time for Zionist activities here and abroad.

I was in Europe all summer. If the Prime Minister wanted to confer with me, I could have been easily reached. He did not have to wait for suggestions from various quarters to invite me at the last minute to attend a conference to which many others were invited weeks before an invitation was extended to me. But, as I say, I would have gone anyhow, realizing how grave the situation is, if it were at all possible. I indicated clearly in the telegram that I am prepared to come after the Holy Days if I am wanted.

With all good wishes for a very Happy New Year, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er  
Enc.



JACQUES TORCZYNER  
2 West 46th Street  
New York, N. Y.

September 6, 1950

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
19810 Shaker Blvd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

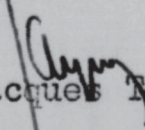
Thank you very much for your letter of August 30th. The latest news in the J.T.A. indicating that the congress will be postponed, and that Dr. Goldmann has a new brilliant idea of calling an American Zionist congress, shows that the general plan of destruction of the Z.O.A. is still continuing.

Dr. Neumann gave me your letter concerning funds for our friends in France and I will see to it that all that is possible will be done to help Mr. Rosenblum.

Now that the congress has been postponed until May we have more time to plan and prepare it but I fully agree with you that Dr. Neumann should visit South America as soon as possible.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy New Year. The whole world situation is such that next year will be a very crucial one and I hope that we shall not see a third world war so soon after the end of the second. Berthe joins me in wishing Mrs. Silver, your sons and yourself a happy new year. Best personal regards,

Sincerely,

  
Jacques Torczyner

JT:STK



JACQUES TORCZYNER  
2 West 46th Street  
New York, N. Y.

September 11, 1950

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
19810 Shaker Blvd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

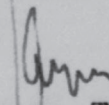
Dear Dr. Silver:

After our telephone conversation I remembered that the Committee on Congress Problems will have to meet anyhow because the list of delegates of the Z.O.A. will have to be submitted by October 6th, notwithstanding the postponement of the Congress. While nobody knows ~~of~~ what importance the Congress will have in 1951, the list of delegates is a very important question.

From reports from people who have come back, I have the impression that the Government of Israel is more determined than ever to eliminate the Zionist movement.

With my best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
Jacques Torczyner

JT:STK



JACQUES TORCZYNER  
2 West 46th Street  
New York, N. Y.

December 11, 1950

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
19810 Shaker Blvd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

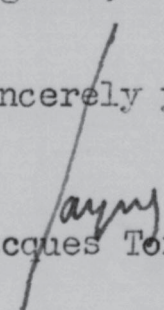
I am in receipt of your letter of December 5th and wish to inform you that the announced letter of Mr. Schiff was not enclosed. I am sending you on the attached list the assignments that were given to the various members of the Committee and the meager results of fund raising up to this date.

Dr. Margoshes will have informed you that the lists for the Congress must be in by January 15th. The Shekel Board has not met and its Chairman, Mr. Ress, is in Israel. There is no office for the moment and as long as there is no meeting of the Shekel Board, no decision of the Agency can be implemented.

The work that Mr. Ilutovich is doing at the Z.I.N.S. is very effective and I hope that we shall be able to continue it.

With my best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
Jacques Torczyner

JT:STK  
Enc.



REMARKS:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver solicits:-

A. M. Luntz  
Mortimer May  
Albert Schiff —  
I. S. Turover \*

- - Rec'd \$250 with promise  
of another \$250.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann solicits:-

A. S. Kay  
Milton Pollack  
Archibald Silverman  
Theodore Strimling

Mr. David Moskowitz solicits:-

- - Rec'd \$100.00

Louis A. Falk  
Morris Jacobs  
Jacob Sincoff  
Paul Kaminsky

Mr. Mendel N. Fisher solicits:-

Leo Kagan

Mr. Jacques Torczyner solicits:-

Benjamin Dofit  
Joseph Greenleaf -  
Philip Lassar  
William Sylk  
Jack Verdi  
Charles Wolf -  
Irving Libman  
Samuel Greenblatt  
Milton Lukashok -

- - Rec'd \$250.00

- - Rec'd pledge

- - Rec'd pledge





JACQUES TORCZYNER  
2 West 46th Street  
New York, N. Y.

January 29, 1951

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
19810 Shaker Blvd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

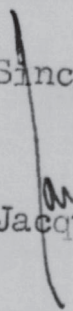
Dr. Margoshes informed me, confidentially, about the Congress list and I noticed that Mr. Charles Ress has been omitted. I hold no special brief from Mr. Ress but it will look rather awkward for the Chairman of the National Shekel Board, put there by the Z.O.A., not even to be a delegate to the Congress. I am sure that a word from you to Mr. Browdy will settle this matter.

I heard about the wonderful work you did while in Washington and I sincerely hope that you will be able to go to Israel during the month of February.

I would be very grateful to you if you could send me a dozen copies of your "letter to Truman" as I have exhausted all the copies I could find in the offices of my friends. I know that you will address the Bronx Region on Wednesday, February 7th and I would appreciate it if I could see you that day as I want to discuss several matters with you.

With my best personal regards for Mrs. Silver and yourself, I am as always

Sincerely,

  
Jacques Torczyner

JT:STK



JACQUES TORCZYNER  
2 West 46 Street  
New York, N.Y.

April 3, 1951

Dear Dr. Silver:

Please find enclosed excerpts from a  
letter which I received from M.Z. Frank.

I hope to see you this weekend. Best  
regards to Mrs. Silver and yourself.

Very truly yours,

JT:EP

Jacques Torczyner



Excerpts from a letter written by M.Z. Frank to Jacques Torczyner on March 27, 1951

..... It looks to me that a certain floating ambassador outsmarted himself once more this time. I have a sneaking suspicion that the story in Haaretz about B.G.'s refusal to invite Silver was planted there by Nahum in order to discredit Silver. All of a sudden, the Medzini and Gelblum propaganda for Silver in Haaretz stopped and Goldmann began to get the line. Then came this item. Of course, you, people are experts at overdoing the heavy-handed type of publicity and of depending too much on "manufactured symptoms of public approval", as I once wrote to Silver. Ginsburg's despatch in Haboker about the indignation in U.S.A. looked like another story planted by the other side. It looked funny to me for Browdy (probably through Margoshes' pen) interceding for Silver.

Nevertheless, the Goldmann trick is boomeranging. The Browdy cable was first displayed--and quite prominently--in the afternoon Hador, official organ of Mapai, and the next morning in Davar, with Haaretz silent. Then, this morning, came the report of B.G.'s reply to Browdy, headlined in Davar as a denial of a lie in Haaretz. Gelblum in Haaretz had a long dispatch about on the one hand it was this and on the other hand she wore a glove and the upshot of it was that the Agency would have to give way to Eban and ok an invitation to Silver. The Jerusalem Post, of all papers had an inspired story whose tone was conciliatory to Silver. What was stressed particularly was Silver's part in helping get the grant and in the bond issue.

But the key to the whole situation is to be found in Ben Gurion's reply to Verl Locker at the recent convention of Mapai--about a week ago. He said: "If you insist on a status, you'll get it, but what you need is a status with the Jewish People and a program of real work." B.G. and most of Mapai know very well they can't get it from Locker Goldmann and Company. They think there is a chance of getting it from Silver but Silver has to act in a way that will convince them. The alliance with Rokach did not help. But it is not such a serious blunder as to nullify the effect of a real contribution and of a show of real standing with the Jewish People.



Don't believe that baloney that B.G's inferiority complex because he is short and Silver is tall is the decisive element in the matter. Don't believe that there is a High Command in Mapai that gives orders to Rose Halpern to yell ouch when Silver steps on her toes.. . . . .

