



## 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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Truman, Harry S., 1952-1955.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

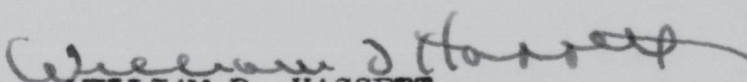
July 10, 1952

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Please accept the President's thanks for your message commending his action in vetoing the McCarran-Walters Bill. In his message returning the Immigration and Nationality Act to the House of Representatives without his approval, he stated his conviction that the bill was a step backward in the immigration and naturalization policy of our country. Unfortunately this action by the President failed by two votes of being sustained in the Senate.

With the thought that you might like to have a copy of the President's veto message for your ready reference, I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy herewith.

Very sincerely yours,

  
WILLIAM D. HASSETT  
Secretary to the President

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
Chairman,  
American Zionist Emergency Council,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Enclosure.



# PRESS RELEASE

from: AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR THE  
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE  
250 West 57th Street, New York 19, N. Y.  
JUdson 6-4500

December 3, 1953

Speech by former President Harry S. Truman  
to be delivered before the Decennial Dinner  
of the  
American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science  
at the  
Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City  
December 3, 1953

Hold for release upon delivery. No portion of this text should be used or  
quoted before delivery.

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This is an occasion dedicated to the memory of Chaim Weizmann. ,  
I knew and respected him as a statesman and as a person. He was one  
of the great men of his time.

He was a pre-eminent scientist, and a leader in the field of  
organic chemistry. Throughout his scientific career, however, he  
worked tirelessly to realize the national aspirations of the Jewish  
people.

Through science, he served the cause of mankind, and the cause  
of Great Britain, his adopted country. His brilliant research in the  
field of explosives helped the Allies to win the First World War. When  
the British Government wished to honor him for this distinguished  
service, he asked nothing for himself. Instead, he asked for recognition  
for the claims of his people. And from this request came the Balfour  
Declaration.

There is much in the story of Dr. Weizmann to remind us of the  
earlier story of Nehemiah, who rose to the position of cup-bearer to  
the Persian king, and then asked and obtained the privilege of rebuilding  
the city of his fathers, Jerusalem.

(more)



The life of Dr. Weizmann is one we have seen ourselves, in our own time, and the life of Nehemiah is almost hidden from us in the past, but both were inspired by the same faith, and the same loyalty to a great ideal. This is the faith that is being celebrated by the Jewish community throughout the world in this time of the Feast of Lights--commemorating the great victory of the Maccabees in their struggle for religious freedom.

I am glad that you have asked me to participate tonight in honoring the memory of President Weizmann. And I am glad to encourage you in the work you are doing to support the Weizmann Institute, a center of science that means so much to the future of the new state of Israel and to the whole Middle East.

The future of Israel is an issue of great concern to many of us here tonight. Whatever our religious faith may be, it is an important matter to all Americans. And I want to talk about it as it concerns the interests of the United States.

As Americans, we look at Israel not only as a newborn and friendly democracy, but also as part of the whole Middle East. Our country has had a long and sympathetic interest in the peoples of that area. Our interest there antedates the creation of Israel.

Not only as a government, but as a people, we have long shown our sympathy for and our desire to help the peoples of the Middle East. Before the Ottoman Empire fell, American missionaries and American educators had established colleges and universities in those countries -- in Egypt, in Lebanon, in Syria, in Turkey. These institutions of learning helped to revitalize Arab culture. Many of the leaders in the movement toward Arab nationalism were educated by Americans.

When the Ottoman Empire broke up, after World War I, President Wilson's Fourteen Points opened the way to the Arab leaders to create new and independent nations in the area. President Wilson even sent a fact-finding mission to the Middle East, which helped to lay the ground-work for the future independence of the Arab nations. Our friendly interest did not cease during the period between the two wars, and after World War II, we used our influence to achieve complete independence for Syria and Lebanon. Through the United Nations, we supported the creation of the newest Arab state, that of Libya.

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Our interest in the creation of an independent state for the Jewish people in the Middle East was consistent with the policies we had been following with respect to the other peoples in the area. It was not an act of favoritism. The United States, by a resolution of Congress in 1922, supported the establishment of an independent Jewish homeland. Twenty-five years later, we sponsored the recommendations of the United Nations Commission which led to the establishment of the State of Israel. We hoped for a peaceful launching of the new state under the protection of the United Nations. We did not anticipate the outbreak of hostilities in Palestine. And we are proud of the great services rendered in bringing about an armistice by one of our most distinguished Americans, Dr. Ralph Bunche.

It is important to recall all these facts at the present time. In the heat of present controversies it is easy to lose sight of the larger perspective -- of the whole of which Israel is a part. It is easy to forget that our country has consistently encouraged the right of the peoples of the Middle East to national independence and self-government. It is easy to overlook the fact that we have helped and continue to help these countries with education and technical assistance.

But these are the facts. And as we have an interest in this area of the world -- an interest in seeing these people achieve self-government and independence and economic and social progress -- so we also have a responsibility.

We have the responsibility of promoting peace between these new nations.

The fact is that we cannot expect new nations to be built without trouble or difficulty or, sometimes, to find their places beside one another without friction and controversy. But since we took part in the creation, we must continue to take part in solving the difficulties. The situation in the Middle East holds out so much for the benefit of the peoples there and for our whole democratic civilization that we must do all we can to help.

It is also important to recall another thing about the history of our policies in the Middle East. Our policies there have never been partisan ones. Our interest in the Arab States has not been a Democratic

(more)



policy or a Republican policy. Our interest in Israel, our friendship for Israel, is the product of a bi-partisan foreign policy. I believe that the first American President to approve the idea of an independent Jewish state in Palestine was John Adams.

American diplomats, including Secretary of State John Hay, encouraged the early Jewish settlers in Palestine in the late 19th century. The first bill for aid to Israel had bi-partisan sponsorship, including the late Senator Taft. American support for Israel's independence today is the support of our whole people, and not the support of one or the other of our great political parties.

On this firm foundation of the past, I am sure we can follow a united national policy that will bring about a happy future.

For it is clear that we must have a united policy and work for a settlement of the present international difficulties in the Middle East. The present tension between Israel and its neighbors is undermining the whole life of the area, and blocking every path to progress. Unless the parties will sit down and negotiate their differences, the present condition of smoldering violence will lead to graver dangers and new disasters.

We should, therefore, do all we can to get the parties to bargain. And we should make it clear that we are concerned to see that justice is done. The people who chose Dr. Weizmann for their leader will not, I am sure, ask for anything beyond the bounds of justice.

It is no service to anyone to tolerate the delusion that the achievements of the last seven years can be wiped out. We should also make it clear that Israel is here to stay.

If the international tension can be lessened, and if agreements can be reached, then the way is opened for the development of the area, for an increase in its prosperity and for the raising of the standards of living for all its people. I am particularly interested in the development of the water resources of the area. I even dare to think that the Jordan Valley may have the benefits of that kind of development which, in less than twenty years, has changed our own Tennessee Valley from an economic headache to a prosperous region.

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When I was President, the leaders of Israel talked with me about their plans for the development of their country. Some of their projects, such as the proposal for increasing the flow and the power potential of the lower Jordan, are breathtaking. But I am convinced that the possibilities are there, and that determination and hard work and the techniques of modern science can bring forth new riches from the soil of Israel. In all this, the Weizmann Institute, which has already blazed the way in research, will have a great part.

The possibilities of this kind of development extend all across the Middle East. The Arab countries are turning to the development of their age-old river resources, and to the restoration of their soil. Through our Point IV programs we have been helping and encouraging this work wherever we can. Our experts have had their casualties in this war against poverty just as our fighting men have had their battle losses. You know that Dr. Bennett, the man I appointed to run Point IV, and his staff were killed in a plane accident on their way to Iran.

These Point IV programs in the Middle East are new. Their results will be felt increasingly as time goes on. I hope we will continue them and expand them. They are the present day expression of the interest and friendship we have had for so many years for the Arab countries. But when real peace comes between the Arab countries and Israel, this work will naturally increase by leaps and bounds. Like good neighbors, these countries can then help each other to help themselves.

It is our duty, therefore, to do what we can to bring about a just and lasting peace in the troubled area of the Middle East. A permanent settlement of the issues there cannot be accomplished by force or coercion. It must be accomplished through the use of the instruments which the United Nations gives us -- the power of world opinion, the moral obligations of the Charter, the tools of debate, negotiation and reconciliation.

We in this fortunate and prosperous country of the United States can never be indifferent to the fate of Israel. This is not a matter that can be weighed on material scales alone. It is not a matter of strategy or defense. Our sympathy for Israel is deeper and more important.

Our sympathy for Israel springs first from our consciousness of our own national ideals. Ever since our own struggle for independence



in 1776, we have aided and supported other peoples in their efforts to achieve independence and self-government. We could not be true to ourselves and to our own history if we did not assist Israel and the other countries in the Middle East to achieve and maintain their independence.

Furthermore, we know that Israel, as a democracy, will stand with the other free nations of the world against communism.

Our sympathy for Israel has another source. All Americans were horrified by the terrible crimes against the Jews committed by Hitler. All Americans today condemn the persecutions inflicted on the Jews behind the Iron Curtain. Israel has given the survivors of these atrocities a new life. Israel today is welcoming Jewish refugees from all over the world. This is a work in which we, as a Nation, have participated. It is a work which pulls at our heartstrings. For Israel, therefore, we have a great sense of admiration and gratitude.

But beyond these things -- beyond the claims of our political beliefs, and beyond our humanitarian principles -- there is another and stronger tie which binds us to Israel. Our religious thought and our religious faith have been molded by the great thinkers of ancient Israel. Throughout our history the voice of the Hebrew prophets has spoken to us. It is a voice both stern and full of hope. It has held before us a set of ethical principles. It is a voice which speaks of God and His nearness to man and of His demands upon the life of man both as an individual and a nation.

The places in the Holy Land are names which have been taught to us in church and Sunday school for generations. But they are more than names -- they are more than villages and hill towns in a land abused for centuries and now in the process of rebirth. They are, rather, milestones in the moral and ethical life of mankind. They have become a part of our deeper spiritual thought because they are enshrined in that Book which is the way of life.

Such ties as these are too great and too strong ever to be denied. We are confident that those who are now creating a new Israel in an ancient land, will be true to the vision of their forefathers and to the light which the Hebrew prophets, so long ago, set before the face of all men.





THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILWAY COMPANY

TERMINAL TOWER • CLEVELAND 1, OHIO

CYRUS S. EATON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

April 21, 1955

Dear Rabbi Silver:

To preserve the papers and records of the Honorable Harry S. Truman, thirty-second President of the United States, and make them available to the people in a place suitable for study and research, the Harry S. Truman Library will be constructed in Independence, Missouri, a suburb of Kansas City. Plans are moving ahead actively, in fact I have been informed that ground will be broken on May 8th, President Truman's 71st birthday.

Funds for the library are being raised through a quiet campaign that has been going forward across the nation. Already close to \$1,150,000 has been contributed. About \$600,000 is still needed. A modest portion of this amount it is hoped can be obtained in Cleveland and in Ohio.

In order to afford the people of this area an opportunity to participate in the project, a civic dinner honoring our former president is to be held in Cleveland early in June. A number of prominent Ohioans of both political parties have asked me to serve as chairman of a committee to sponsor this dinner, and they are joining me in this effort.

To assure the complete success of the undertaking, certainly all sections of the state and of our community life should be represented. I should be delighted to have you join us on the sponsoring committee. No meetings of the committee are planned, but your association and good interest will be warmly appreciated. Will you let me know, please, if we may have this pleasure. I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio



Truman

April 26, 1955

Mr. Cyrus S. Eaton  
The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company  
Terminal Tower  
Cleveland 1, Ohio

My dear Mr. Eaton:

Thank you for your kind letter of April 21st.  
I shall be very happy to be a member of the sponsoring committee of the dinner which you are planning in behalf of the Harry S. Truman Library.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:rms





THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILWAY COMPANY

TERMINAL TOWER • CLEVELAND 1, OHIO

CYRUS S. EATON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

*Truman*

April 28, 1955

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Thank you ever so much. I am delighted that you will join us on the sponsoring committee.

The civic dinner honoring former President Truman will be held on Friday, June 3rd, at the Cleveland Hotel. It is hoped you will be able to attend and that you will interest your friends and associates in being with us on this occasion. Invitations to the dinner are now being prepared and will be sent out in another week or so.

Again my sincere appreciation to you for your willingness to help extend a warm greeting to our former president.

Sincerely yours,

*Cyrus S. Eaton*

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



HARRY S. TRUMAN  
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK BUILDING  
KANSAS CITY 6, MISSOURI

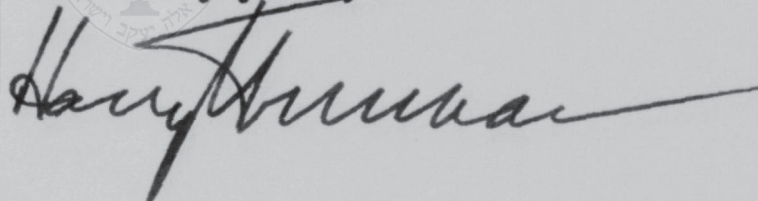
July 7, 1955

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I appreciated most highly your participation in the recent Cleveland dinner for the library which will house my papers and which will be turned over eventually to the Government of the United States.

It was a most heartwarming meeting and completely gratifying.

Sincerely yours,

  
Harry S. Truman

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio