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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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United Jewish Appeal, United Palestine Appeal, "K", 1939-1940.

TRANSLATION FROM HEBREW

From A. Kaplan
Jewish Agency

Jerusalem, 2.10.39

To the Jewish Agency
London

I have before me your letters in regard to the London Budget and your request to give immediate instructions to the APB to transmit £16,000. I have already written before, and am compelled to write again, that it is not possible for us now to give instructions to deduct substantial amounts from our account every month. Some days ago I gave instructions to pay out the amount due for October and I wired you accordingly. I am desirous to do everything possible in order to make prompt payment also in future. But I consider it necessary to explain our financial position to you.

The Jewish Agency received during September £24,000 which includes £8,000 received from South Africa on account of the next few months. With this amount our Treasury had to meet all the large demands made upon us. Suffice it to mention that this month we have spent over £10,000 on relief alone and about £5,000 on illegals, and we have also entered into obligations for tens of thousands of pounds in connection with supplies and security. And the position is growing worse daily. On the 1st October we had at the Bank £5,000 and we very often have to spend more than that in one day.

Such a position deprives us of any possibility to authorise here any budget not only for one year, but even for a number of months, and we cannot do this for London either.

To add to our difficulties we are receiving various requests from a number of countries for financial help for refugees, for travelling expenses to Palestine etc. etc. Especially heavy are now the demands from people in Poland. Scores of old Zionists are appealing for help, to save them and their families who have been left without a penny. I understand their position quite well, and I know equally well how difficult it is at present to launch a large campaign for Palestine; and nevertheless and in spite of all it is imperative that such a campaign should take place, and failing that I am very much afraid of the way matters will develop even in the next few weeks.

Dr. Hantke has submitted to me his estimates for the income from all countries with the exception of the United States, as well as an estimate of the various obligations of the Keren Hayesod. And from these estimates I received the "good" tidings that the KH will not remit to the Agency treasury, again with the exception of the U.S., more than £3000 per month. You can therefore understand my state of mind and the conditions for our work here. We have informed all the councils and the workers' organizations, that we shall be unable even this month to continue our grants to the unemployed and the destitute, at any rate to the same extent as we have been doing hitherto. This announcement has resulted in certain reactions. The workers applied to the local councils and to the municipalities. On Friday I was invited to Mr. Johnson, at the H.C.'s request, who endeavoured to explain to me the position of the Government treasury, and that the Government could not undertake any additional burden at the present. I insisted that we could do nothing. Finally he offered to participate to the extent of 50:50, and said that upon our participation depended also the Government's help. I have not yet given him any reply for I do not see how we can pledge ourselves even to the extent of one half.

I have tried to explain the position to you. Mr. Shertok has

taken detailed material with him. I myself am not very pessimistic about our position. It seems to me that the most difficult times will be the next few months, and if we are able to tide over these months and can mobilise large funds for constructive work, we shall be able to maintain our positions and even extend them to a certain extent. But it is clear that the next few months will be very difficult and dangerous ones unless help arrives in good time.

I would ask you therefore to see matters in their true light and that you should ~~endeavour~~ endeavour to do everything possible in order to mobilise financial means. We can respond to the extent of our means only.

I have written to the Keren Kayemeth. With regard to the Zionist Organisation I can say nothing now. It has remained without any means whatever.

Yours sincerely,

E. Kaplan



COPY

RCA

RADIOGRAM

JERUSALEM October 12, 1939

DLT MONTOR UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL
111 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

^R
HERMANN ADVISES TRANSFER FIFTY THOUSAND STOP RELIEF QUESTION
AGGRAVATED LAST FEW DAYS STOPPAGE BUILDING ACTIVITIES AND
ALLIED INDUSTRIES CRISIS ORANGE TRADE DECREASED WORK HARBOUR
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LAST MONTH RELIEF 30,000 SOULS ALL SECTIONS YISHUV STOP
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according to the Torah of Israel.

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על פי תורת ישראל

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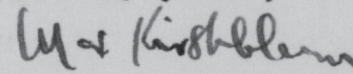
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

We thankfully acknowledge your telegram, in which you inform us that you are ready to receive our committee, at your Temple, this Tuesday night, October 17th, at 8 P.M.

It shall indeed be a pleasure for our committee to take advantage of your courtesy.

Sincerely yours,



RABBI MAX KIRSHBLUM
Executive Secretary

MK:RW

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

OCTOBER 14, 1939

RABBI MAX KIRSHBLUM
MIZRACHI ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
1133 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N.Y.

THERE MUST BE A MISTAKE. I SUGGESTED WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 18TH FOR OUR MEETING. I AM NOT FREE ON TUESDAY EVENING. KIND REGARDS.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

C
O
P
Y

OCTOBER 16, 1939

JERUSALEM

LC GOLDMAN ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

111 FIFTH AVENUE NEWYORK

DECIDED DELEGATE DR. LANDAUER AMERICA REPRESENT US FINANCIAL
ECONOMIC MATTERS TRUST HE WILL RECEIVE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE

EXECUTIVE KAPLAN

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

111 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 25, 1939

HAIFA

DLT

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL FOR SILVER LIPSKY

111 FIFTH AVENUE NEWYORK

YOURS SIXTEENTH CHOICE REPRESENTATIVE TECHNICUM

DELICATE MATTER DIFFICULT EXPLAIN TELEGRAPHICALLY

SAMUEL ARRIVES DECEMBER WHEN BARDINS MISSION

LIKELY TERMINATED LETTER FOLLOWS

KAPLANSKY

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE

P. O. Box 92,

Jerusalem

Ref. No. 6382/E/213

10th November, 1939.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
American Zionist Organisation,
111, Fifth Avenue,
New York.

My dear Dr. Silver,

Mr. Kaplansky has told me of the conversation he had with you in Geneva on the financial position of the Hebrew Technical Institute in Haifa and that you had agreed to a representative of the Technicum visiting the United States for the purpose of organising a group of friends there for rendering financial assistance to the Institute, especially at this difficult period.

Allow me accordingly to introduce to you Professor R. Samuel, who is proceeding to the United States on behalf of the Hebrew Technical Institute for the purpose mentioned above, but not for launching a campaign.

As you know, the Hebrew Technical Institute was opened by the Zionist Organisation. During the last few years the Institute is being supervised by a special committee of the Executive of the Jewish Agency and the Vaad Leumi. The Technical Institute managed to balance its budget without any help from the United States. During this period the Executive of the Jewish Agency contributed to the budget a sum of £P.1,000 per annum which, of course, was only a nominal contribution in order to emphasise the connection between the Technical Institute and the Jewish Agency. During the period of the disturbances the financial position of the Institute became serious and, therefore, Mr. Kaplansky approached you with a request for assistance to be organised in America towards the upkeep of the institution.

The outbreak of the war has made things even more serious. The Institute has in its Technical College about 500 students, while another 300 attend its Trade School. The bulk of them hail from Poland. The position of these students is at present most distressing as they can, of course, no longer receive any remittances from their families. As a result, the Institute not merely has to face the non-payment of a large part of its tuition fees which constitute a substantial sum item of its income, but has actually to worry about the maintenance of those students who no longer receive remittances from their families. In addition, the war has resulted in the loss of a considerable sum of money which was raised in Poland and could not be transmitted before the outbreak of hostilities.

The result of all these adverse circumstances is that although the budget of the Institute for the present year has been cut down to the bone, a deficit of £P.10,000 is anticipated for the current budget year, which of course endangers the very existence of the Institution. There was some doubt whether it should be opened at all this year, but after much deliberation it was decided that it should not be closed and that every effort should be made to keep it going. In spite of its own straitened financial position the Executive of the Jewish Agency has decided to appropriate a larger amount than in previous years towards the budget of the Institute. Dr. Landauer will have told you that in our plan of activities submitted to the Allocation Committee a sum of £P.5,000 is included for the Institute. I am not sure whether the Committee will accept our proposal, but even if they approve there would still be a deficit of about £P.5,000. Formerly, the Institute used to raise contributions from friends in various countries of Europe, but for obvious reasons this is not possible at the present time. The Management Committee has, therefore, readily agreed to the suggestion that a special delegate should be sent to the United States in order to organise there a group of friends.

Professor Samuel has been an intimate friend of mine for more than 20 years. He was a classmate of Chaim Arlosoroff, and has, since his early youth, belonged to that group of Zionists who can be relied upon in any emergency. I should be sincerely grateful if you could make him comfortable during his stay in America and I trust that he will find himself supported by all friends in the States.

Yours sincerely,

El. Kaplan
Eliezer Kaplan.

November 20, 1939

Mr. Louis E. Kirstein
Wm. Filene's Sons Company
426 Washington St.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Kirstein:

Rabbi Silver has requested me to send
you the enclosed copy of a letter which he sent
to Mr. Albert Lasker.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.

התכניון העברי בחיפה
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HAIFA, 14th Dec., 1939
חיפה, ת.ד. 910 P.O.B.

Rabbi Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
Chairman, United Palestine Appeal,
111, Fifth Avenue,
New York City,

U. S. A.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

The enclosed letter to Lipsky, explaining our attitude in the question Bardin-Samuel, is addressed also to you. I do hope that you as well as Lipsky will bear with me for not taking your undoubtedly well meant advice. I pray your indulgence, and am sure that this little discussion will not cast any shadow on your kind and helpful relationship towards the Technion and our delegate Prof. Samuel. I attach the greatest value to your personal assistance, so generously offered at our exchange of views during Congress in Geneva, and I trust that you will give the full measure of your support to Prof. Samuel. El. Kaplan's letter to you, on behalf of the Executive, strengthens your hands from the constitutional point of view.

2. I very well recall what you told me in Geneva, that it was no more necessary to dispatch delegates to America, as the Community Chests could be dealt with by correspondence. I owe you a word of explanation why we are sending Samuel after all. As a matter of fact, under the impression of your opinion, I have delayed his departure. But meanwhile the war has brought home to us two things. Firstly, it has inflicted very heavy losses on the Technion and completely upset our budget. Now it is impossible to go by easy stages, as suggested by you in Geneva, we must try to achieve substantial results before the end of this year, if we want to survive. Secondly, in view of the many appeals competing for the attention of Jewish America and the host of delegates invading your continent, it is difficult to believe that our "small, still voice" would be heard

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14.12.1939

מיום Rabbi Dr. A.H. Silver, N.Y.

למכתבנו אל

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amidst the din of war, if not supported by personal intervention. Then you know from Dr. Bardin's talks with Mr. Lurie, how this experienced man has insisted on the appeal coming not from Haifa, but from a representative committee in the States. Thus, after nearly three months of thought, we have decided that Samuel must cross the ocean.

3. I thank you beforehand for everything you will do for the Technion. Be assured of our gratitude and of our resolve to deserve your confidence and help.

With all best wishes and cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,

S. Paplansky

Principal.



1/5
SK/wt

13.12.1939.

By Air Mail

Mr. Louis Lipsky
c/o The Zionist Organisation
of America,
111. Fifth Ave.
New - York City
U.S.A.

Language: English.

My dear Lipsky,

Forgive my being late in explaining my cable-reply of Oct. 22nd to your and Dr. Silver's cable received here on Oct. 19th. But the members of my Governing Board outside Haifa had to be consulted. We all very much appreciate the goodwill and active interest in the Technion which has inspired your advice to appoint Dr. Bardin as delegate of the Technion, instead of sending a special envoy. Still, I beg you to believe, that our decision to send Prof. Samuel to America has been taken after a full and careful consideration of this very delicate and difficult matter. Prof. Samuel's mission involves sacrifices on his part, as well as on the part of this Institute. Prof. Samuel is first and foremost an academic teacher and a scientist, and it is not an easy matter for us to divorce him from his scientific work for several months. Besides, his journey means a heavy financial outlay, and if we could avoid it, we would have done it gladly.

You know from our correspondence for the last two years, and particularly since our consultation in London in November 1938, that long before the war it was our intention to send Prof. Samuel to U.S.A. It is therefore superfluous for me to emphasize that our choice is not influenced by any personal motives and contains no reflection upon my friend and colleague Dr. Bardin. It is a question of the character and method of our action in America.

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13.12.39.

Mr. Louis Lipsky, New-York.

2

2. Dr. Bardin is intimately connected with a part of our work, he is the Principal of our Technical High School and of our Nautical School. He is not directly associated with the work of our College, the main body of the Technion. His interest lies primarily and quite naturally in the upkeep and development of the schools for which he is responsible. He could not act for the Technion with the same knowledge, authority, and warmth as a man who is intimately associated with the College. Dr. Bardin's action would be mainly propaganda for the Technical and Nautical schools, leaving the Technion in the background. Not for lack of interest in the fortunes of the College, but he could not help it: it is only human and natural that in Dr. Bardin's work, as in his heart, those branches of the Technion which are his life's work should occupy the central place.

3. The Technion is very little known in America. For years the Reali School of Dr. Biram has been mistaken there for the Technion; even in a recent publication of the Palestine Pavilion in the New-York Exhibition, the picture of the Beth-Sefer Reali is given as a photo of the Technion. It would endanger the scope and character of our work in America from the outset, if the impression would be created that the Technion is mainly a Technical High School and a Nautical School. Dr. Bardin has meanwhile agreed to serve as a representative of the Palestine Maritime League, which wants to raise in America their share in the maintenance of the Nautical School. If Dr. Bardin will appear at the same time as delegate of the Technion, we are very much afraid that the identity of the envoy will create confusion in the minds of the public. The Technion proper will be identified with the Schools of which Dr. Bardin is the head, and moreover with the Palestine Maritime League.

In order to avoid such blurred ideas, we consider it essential that the Technion should be represented by a member of the academic staff of our College. The fact alone that it is a professor and a scientist of international reputation who speaks and acts on our behalf, will put our action on a proper level and give it the right setting. It is not merely a question of prestige. It is, in my view, a fundamental condition for the success of our action that we should not approach the same circles which are generally appealed to on behalf of Palestine institutions. It must be our common concern to break new ground and to reach such categories of people, who have not been sufficiently touched by Zionist propaganda. The Technion offers such an opportunity. It can appeal to Jewish engineers and other technical professions, it can attract men of industry and of technical science. Only a man of the standing of Prof. Samuel, could hope to penetrate into such circles and to enlist their support.

4. I know that you in America hate the multiplicity of appeals and delegates coming from this country. You are rightly in favour of union and common action of all our institutions. I quite agree with this aim. We would, for instance, prefer to appeal jointly with the University. But the truth is, that the University will not

ever

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13.12.39.

Mr. Louis Lipsky, New-York.

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even consider such an offer, as long as we have no organisation in America or elsewhere, and Jerusalem is not afraid of our competition. It is perhaps very sad that we are not free from "power politics" in our own sphere, but such plans must wait until we can negotiate with the University on a footing of equality. (I wish to add, by the way, that our relations with the University are cordial, and negotiations with a view of coordinating both institutions have been going on for some time past).

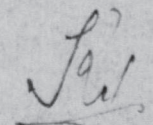
5. For all these reasons we have come to the conclusion that we have no alternative but to carry out our original decision and to send Prof. Samuel to America. He left for San Francisco three weeks ago and will arrive in New-York probably by the middle of January. He is equipped with a letter from the Jewish Agency Executive, which confirms that our action is undertaken with the full knowledge and consent of our highest authorities. Prof. Samuel enjoys the confidence of Prof. Einstein, and Dr. Weizmann, too, thinks highly of him.

I need not repeat on this occasion how vitally important this action is for the Technion. You probably recall my memorandum of Jan. 1939. In the meantime, the situation has been aggravated by the war and by the destruction of Polish Jewry. Don't forget that 60% of our budget have been covered in the past from student's fees. To give you an idea of the loss we have suffered already: we lost in Warsaw £ 7.500 paid to the Palestine Office to our account by old and new students; the reduction in our income for this year is estimated at another £ 5.000, over and above our ordinary, chronic deficit.

I am confident that you as well as Rabbi Silver will give your full and hearty support to Prof. Samuel. I hope he will succeed in forming a reliable organisation of the Friends of the Technion, and in establishing lasting contact with the so-called Community Chests. Then it will not be necessary for us in the future to send away a valuable member of our academic staff for a mission of this kind. I do hope that you will take personal interest in this action on which the very existence and future of the only Jewish Technical College in the world depends.

With many sincere thanks and kind regards,

I am,
most cordially yours


Principal.

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DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER

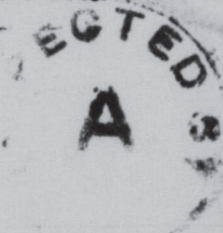
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1940 MAR 19 PM 3 46



May 1, 1940

Mr. Louis Kirstein
426 Washington St.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Kirstein:

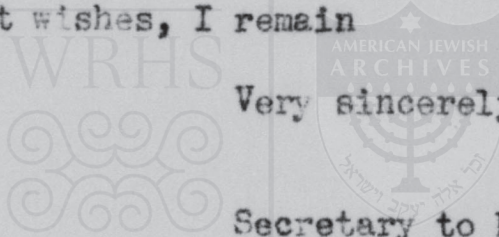
Rabbi Silver has requested me to send you
the enclosed copy of a letter which he sent to
Mr. I. Edwin Goldwasser.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.



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May 24, 1940

Mr. Edw. M. M. Warburg,
United Jewish Appeal,
261 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Warburg:

Do you recognize the picture I have pasted on this letter? Sure enough, it is Jiminy Cricket. Yes, the conscience of a wooden man.



No doubt you have seen the picture "Pinocchio" and know all about Jiminy. The reason I have pasted this on the letter is because it typifies the people listed below. They seem to have a wooden conscience, or maybe none at all.

I have called on each one of them at least once (some more often), and have written them numerous times without the courtesy of a reply. I think they are ducking to save a few dollars, which they think is better in their pockets than saving some of the starved, the beaten, or the wounded abroad.

Otto Golluber has volunteered to join me in contributing to the fund any amounts that I have sent back to tightwads as insufficient. In the following cases there was nothing to send back, so we are contributing \$25 each, as that is the smallest amount we would accept from anyone in our business.

Here are the firms:

Schlesinger & Gintel
Mr. Frank Meer
Belfast Manufacturing Co.
Mr. Salim S. Dweck
Labe Importing Co.

@ \$25.00 each equals \$125.00 (checks herewith)

Very truly yours,

P.S. We have sent back to other firms a total of \$850 and have set minimums for each of these firms, as the least that we will take. Before closing the matter we are going to call a meeting of our Committee to give it further consideration and will report to you next week.

C
O
P
Y

EDMUND I. KAUFMANN
Homer Building
Washington, D.C.

June 3rd, 1940

Dear Friend:

Before having our Boat Trip this year, there are a few facts which I would like to present to you and I will thank you to give them your earnest and immediate attention.

From 1925 to 1933 the Boat Trips were more or less a social outing; although even then, men attending were urged upon returning home, to do their share in their respective communities by taking active part in civic non-sectarian projects. From 1933 on, the trips could no longer be considered a social outing. Men were gathered together for the main purpose of discussing our own affairs, for in 1933 great confusion existed in our fund raising and fact-finding organizations. During that year and afterwards I made an investigation of our various organizations and then I visited several of our large cities for the purpose of informing leaders of the duplication of work and inadequacy of our giving. Also since 1934, I constantly objected to the size of our combined quota for overseas work, -- I felt that it was entirely too small.

On each of the succeeding Boat Trips, and also at the Columbus Clam Bakes, I discussed with all the frankness I possess, the true conditions of our organizations. Men who did not give adequately to our recognized philanthropic organizations received no more than the one invitation, and as I look back now over a period of seven years, it is heartening to find that the major part of the men who attended the Boat Trip saw their duty and performed it. Their subscriptions and their efforts were doubled many times and the very men who attended the Boat Trips are the ones who today are taking an active part in their local drives.

Although last year we sailed with 170 men, we had to reject 40 acceptances from men who sent them in too late to be accommodated. The Boat Trip this year has been scheduled for June 22nd. We have 120 acceptances at the present writing and from our former experiences, I know that we will receive more than we can accommodate.

The depressing news that we have heard in the last few days may be the forerunner of greater catastrophies. The situation not only abroad, but here, is grave. We are all disturbed and I have a feeling that our country may soon demand of us sacrifices in the way of giving and service which may make the Boat Trip hard for us to attend. The feeling of some of my associates is that the Boat Trip has now served its purpose and that we may properly give up the idea of having a trip this year.

This letter is being sent to you for your approval and for the purpose of deciding if we should give the trip, as we deem it too momentous a decision to make without consultation. Therefore, I would like to have you express an opinion as to whether the trip should or should not be given this year.

I have a complete list of all the men who attended the Boat Trips in the past and I shall watch with pleasure their efforts nationally and locally.

With affectionate greetings, I am

Cordially,
(signed) E. I. Kaufmann

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL *for* REFUGEES *and* OVERSEAS NEEDS • INTER-OFFICE MEMO

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver **From** Mr. Samuel Blitz

Date June
10, 1940

I believe you will be interested in seeing the attached copy of a letter written by Mr. Alfred Kohlberg, Chairman of our Handkerchief Division.

Mr. Kohlberg, who gave \$5000 last year, contributed \$10,000 this year. As indicated by the enclosed letter, he is conducting an aggressive campaign in his industry. I think he would appreciate receiving a word of encouragement from you.



June 25, 1940

Mr. Alfred Kohlberg
1 West 37th Street
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Kohlberg:

The director of the United Jewish Appeal in New York has informed me of the splendid leadership which you have given to the campaign in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal as chairman of the Handkerchief Division, and that you personally have made a most generous contribution to the campaign. May I tell you how deeply we appreciate your services and your generosity. In these critical times it is most heartening to find Jewish lay-leaders of your caliber who step forward and assume the fullest measure of responsibility.

With all good wishes, permit me to remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK