

Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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 I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated. Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

Reel Box Folder 77 27 1679

United Zionists-Revisionists of America, 1951.

UNITED ZIONISTS-REVISIONISTS OF AMERICA

675 EIGHTH AVE. - NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

Dr. Joseph Schechtman President

Col. Morris J. Mendelsohn Chairman, Executive Board

Leo Wolfson
Chairman, Administrative
Committee

Joseph Beder Chairman, National Council

B. Epstein
Director, Political Department

Adolph Lieblich Treasurer

Dr. Harry Levi
National Executive Director

October 4, 1951

Dear Friend:

No doubt you were eager to follow developments at the 23rd Zionist Congress held recently in Jerusalem. Unfortunately, the news reaching the United States was far from complete and, in many essential aspects, presented a distorted picture of the Congress proceedings. We therefore consider it our duty to acquaint you with the following facts:

- a. Congress failed to formulate a clear, inspiring and forceful Jerusalem program, which would define the aims of Zionism as the redemption of the Jewish People and of the Land of Israel in its historic borders. A desire to appease non-Zionists, anti-Zionists and half-hearted Zionists left the Zionist movement with a nebulous and undecisive program.
- b. Congress failed to take action on the long-overdue reform of the Shekel and election system. The patently unfair regulations now in existence, which give the Shekel-holders in Israel a double number of delegates over the Zionists in the Diaspora, and which led to the domination of the Congress by the minority Mapai party, have been perpetuated contrary to the wishes of the majority of the Congress.
 - c. Congress failed to take a stand on the report of the Controller of the World Zionist Organization, Dr. Schmorack, which exposed a shocking state of inefficiency and corruption in the management of the affairs of the World Zionist Organization. This failure shook public opinion in Israel, and caused apprehension with regard to Zionist Leadership.
 - d. Zionist leadership was weakened by sabotaging the election of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver to the chairmanship of the Actions Committee, and by the exclusion of the Israeli General Zionists from the Executive of the World Zionist Organization.

e. Zionist unity was destroyed when, in accordance with the dictates of the Mapai hierarchy, the Revisionists - and the Revisionists only - were excluded from participation in the new coalition Executive of the World Zionist Organization, not withstanding the fact that all parties, except Mapai, favored the inclusion of the Revisionists on the Executive.

We attach a copy of the declaration made by Mr. Beinesh.

Epstein of the Revisionist-Herut Party at the closing session of the Congress. We believe that the exclusion of our party from the Zionist leadership and the dictatorial domination by Mapai of the World Zionist Organization must be a matter of grave concern to all Zionists. The progress of the Zionist ideal and the welfare of Eretz Yisrael are matters of deep concern to all, transcending partisanship and group interests.

We bring these facts to your attention in the hope that you will enlighten your fellow Zionists on the true state of affairs in the movement. There is only one power that can save Zionism and the future of Israel, and that is an enlightened and forceful Zionist public opinion in America. This is a time when all intelligent and faithful Zionists must stand up and be counted. We trust that you will be among them.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Wolfson,

Chairman National Council

. LW:RL