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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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Vinograd, I., 1953, 1958.



ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

# ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA



41 EAST 42nd STREET  
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.  
U.S.A.

תל-אביב, ה' באדר תשי"ג  
20.2.1953

י. וינוגרד  
26 IBN GABIROL STREET  
TEL AVIV  
ISRAEL

לכבוד  
ד"ר אבא הלל סילבר,  
קליבלנד, אוהיו.

מורי ורבי ד"ר סילבר היקר,

הריני מצרף בזה בשניה, את ברכותיה של משפחתי כולה לברכותיהם של רבבות מעריצי כב' בכל קהלות ישראל, כי יזכה אלהי ציון את כב' בעוד שנים רבות של בריאות מלאה, בגוף ובנפש, יחד עם רעיתו האצילה, הבנים הכבודים ויתר אהוביכם.

וכעת בקשה קטנה לי אל כב'. יש בדעתי לכתב את ספר תולדות חיי כבודו. אי לזאת, בקשתי שסוּחה לפני כב', כי יואיל בטובו להמציא לי פרטים רבים ככל האפשר על תולדות חיי, כולל גם פרטים על משפחת רעיתו, הוריו הכבודים מנוחתם עדן, וכן יתר בני המשפחה שהיו להם, לדעת אדוני, קשר עם חיי כבודו, הן בארה"ב והן מעברו השני של האוקיינוס הגדול.

אני מתכוון להוציא את הספר בהידור רב (הובטחה לי עזרתה החמרית והמוסרית של קבוצת מעריצים של גבור רעיוני זה) וחושבני כי כב' יסכים כי טוב יהיה להכניס בו תמונות רבות ככל האפשר מתקופות שונות בחיי כבודו, החל מתקופת ילדותו המוקדמת.

כן אכיר טובה לכב' אם יוכל להמציא לי מראי מקומות, אשר שם אוכל לקבל חמר נוסף על האיש ופעלו. כל חומר הנמצא בארכיון אדוני ואשר כב' יואיל להורות כי יומצא לי למטרה זו, יוחזר לתעודתו מיד אחרי השמוש, בלוויית אלפי תודות. (אגב, את החומר המבוקש, יוכל כב' להמציא לי, כמובן, גם בלשון האנגלית).

אני תקוה כי אדוני לא יראה את החותם מטה כנועז מדי וכמנסה לעבור את הגבול המותר ביחסי ידידות - וזה בגלל העובדה כי בפעולתי זו הנני רואה את עצמי כמשרת הצבור העברי, בישראל ובכל אתר ואתר, אשר כנראה לחברי ולי, צמא הוא לקבל תמונה מקיפה על הדמות המאירה שקמה לישראל בדורנו.

בכל הכבוד הראוי ובדרישת שלום לכב' ולרעיתו מאתי ומאת משפחתי, הנני שלו,

בידידות כנה,



I. Vinograd c/o

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# ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

41 EAST 42nd STREET  
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TEL AVIV  
ISRAEL

February 22, 1953

Miss  
Elizabeth Rice,  
Secretary to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Miss Rice,

In your letter of December 18, 1952, you were kind enough to supply me with some information regarding the anniversary celebrations in honour of my distinguished good friend Dr. Silver, that were to take place during the month of January and at the beginning of February. I, therefore, take the liberty of applying to you herewith, trying to enlist your assistance in carrying out a thing which I have been long dreaming of, that is writing a book on the life of Dr. Silver, the greatest and most outstanding Jew of our time.

As I am so far away from the scene of his activities, I should greatly appreciate it if you would kindly extend to me your help by supplying me with any and all kind of material including your personal impressions and memories of our illustrious friend. I think that you, being his secretary, could really help me bring to light to hundreds of thousands of his admirers all over the Jewish world the fine qualities of the man, as these could best be described by a person who is in daily touch with him like yourself.

I believe you will agree that pictures that you may have might be of great help, as I should like to have this book appear in a manner most attractive to the readers, young and old alike. Should you have material that you could not part with, I am herewith undertaking full responsibility to return to you all such material after having utilized it for that sacred purpose.

I am sure there must have appeared in the American press, especially in your own city of Cleveland,



February 22, 1953

Letter to Miss Elizabeth Rice, Cleveland, Ohio

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many articles containing memoirs written by many of his old friends and I venture to ask you to do your utmost to collect for me all such articles, so that I might make use of these, too, for the said purpose.

I should also be very much obliged to you if you could let me have the addresses of his brothers and sisters, if any, as I should like to contact them as well and get from them some information regarding his childhood.

I should furthermore appreciate hearing from you whether you consider it advisable that I contact also the Assistant Rabbi, Mr. Earl S. Stone.

Hoping that I am not imposing too much on you with this request of mine and thanking you in anticipation, I remain

Sincerely yours,

*I. Vinograd*

I. Vinograd





March 4, 1953

Mr. I. Vinograd  
Zionist Organization of America  
26 ibn Gabirol Street  
Tel Aviv, Israel

Dear Mr. Vinograd:

Thank you for your kind letter of February 22nd. I shall, of course, be very pleased to assist you in any way possible with the book which you are planning to write on the life of Dr. Silver.

I am enclosing herewith three copies of The Temple Bulletin which contain editorials which appeared in our local daily press, as well as a commemorative issue of the Jewish Ledger of Newark, New Jersey, which contains a good deal of background information concerning Dr. Silver. Additional information may be secured from his brother, Dr. Maxwell Silver, 227 Riverside Drive, New York City, and his sisters, Mrs. S. I. Liebow, 27 Duncan Avenue, Jersey City, New York, and Mrs. Jack Matlaw, 46 Ninth Ave., New York City. I am also enclosing some photographs which you may wish to use.

I do not believe that Rabbi Stone, our Assistant Rabbi, can furnish you with any additional information.

As for my personal impressions, I could, of course, write at great length on that subject. I have been with him less than five years, having been hired just one week before the establishment of the State of Israel. It was a most auspicious time in his life when he was very much involved in international affairs; yet, I was almost immediately made aware of his deep and unswerving interest in The Temple and its activities. In the midst of the stormiest sessions of the United Nations, he never lost touch with The Temple, and it never took second place in his thoughts. He somehow managed to keep The Temple and the State of Israel in foremost positions, giving precedence to neither, yet never slighting either.

As an employer, I have never had a more thoughtful or a kinder one. While he is a perfectionist in every sense of the word - and expects perfection from his subordinates - he is never unreasonable and never inconsiderate. Those who work with him here at The Temple, as well as those who have worked with him in the Zionist Organisation, have not only a deep sense of respect for Dr. Silver, but regard him almost with a sense of adoration. I am sure that all of these things, you already know about him.

I am writing this very hurriedly so that I may get it off to you at once. However, if you would like more specific information, I shall be very glad to hear from you again.

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Rice  
Secretary to Dr. Silver



March 23, 1953

Mr. I. Vinograd  
26 ibn Gabirol Street  
Tel-Aviv, Israel

My dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your letter of February 20th and for your good wishes on the occasion of my anniversary. It was nice to have heard from you and from so many friends in Israel and throughout the world.

I am intrigued that you plan to write my biography and that you wish material. My secretary, Miss Rice, informs me that she has sent you quite a bit of material. If there are any additional items that you would want, please let me know and I shall try to locate them. The ~~Marxist~~ Marxist of February 5, 1953, contains a lengthy article on me by Dr. Emanuel Neumann. You must have in your possession a copy of Vision and Victory which also has some biographic material, especially in connection with my Zionist activities in recent years. Friends of my father published in Israel a testimonial booklet on the occasion of his 80th birthday which contains biographic material which may be of interest to you.

With all good wishes to you and to Mrs. Vinograd and to the members of your family, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

# AHS:er



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41 EAST 42nd STREET  
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ISRAEL

April 27, 1953

Miss Elizabeth Rice,  
Secretary to Dr. Silver,  
The Temple,  
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Miss Rice,

Your letter of March 4, 1953, together with the fine and most interesting material you kindly forwarded to me did not reach me before last Friday, April 24, i.e. over 7 weeks after the date of its despatch. Meanwhile I have been informed by Dr. Silver of some material that had been sent out by you, and, seeing that so many weeks had elapsed, I gave it up for lost. I was, therefore, very excited when your letter finally arrived and, as it happened, it was on the very same day on which part of my first chapter on the life of our great friend appeared in the "Haboker".

Thank you very much for the addresses of Dr. Silver's brother and sisters. I am contacting them and hope that they, too, will cooperate. Then my "Simche" will be complete.

You say that, as for your personal impressions, you could write at great length on that subject. I should, therefore, be very grateful to you indeed if you would kindly do so. Needless to say how much it would help me in fulfilling my task. Let me assure you that it will be highly appreciated by thousands and thousands of his admirers throughout Israel, who are looking forward to getting a full description of the great man who has done so much for their independence.

In view of the fact that it took so much time until your letter reached me, may I ask you, dear Miss Rice, that all material you may wish to send to me in the future be despatched by registered airmail?

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April 27, 1953

Miss Elizabeth Rice, Cleveland, Ohio

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May I also request you to kindly try to secure for me a copy of Dr. Silver's book on Messianic Speculations in Israel? This book was published in 1927 and has been out of print since 1934, and is, therefore, unavailable both here and in New York.

Thanking you for your kind assistance,  
I remain

WRHS  
1953



Yours sincerely,

*I. Vinograd*  
I. Vinograd



May 3, 1953

Mr. I. Vinograd  
26 ibn Gabirol Street  
Tel-Aviv, Israel

My dear Friend:

In connection with your request for material about myself in preparation of your book, I am sending you the Yiddish brochure of Mr. A. K. Israeli which contains quite a bit of interesting material.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er  
Enc.



May 4, 1953

Mr. I. Vinograd  
26 Ibn Gabirol Street  
Tel Aviv, Israel

Dear Mr. Vinograd:

Thank you for your letter of April 27th. I am today mailing you a copy of "Messianic Speculations in Israel" which you requested.

As for additional impressions of Dr. Silver, as I wrote you earlier, I have known him for only five years. Yet the nature of my contact with him has been such as to form in my mind certain well defined impressions of him. First and foremost, is his sense of dignity in the individual, certainly in himself. What many people who know him less well have regarded as arrogance and over-assurance, I know to be a belief in the dignity of man, created in God's image.

Beneath his hard and well-earned pride is a warmth, a feeling of humility and a keen sense of humor not always evident to his admirers. The radiance of his personality is not only felt across the pulpit or the rostrum but is evident in his personal relationships with the men and women of his congregation, his colleagues and his intimate associates. What at times appears to be an uncompromising attitude and a rigidity in ideas and thoughts, is his deep sense of conviction in his beliefs and what one might call the warrior in him to fight for what he believes and champions.

Intellectually, Dr. Silver is unique. His command of the English language, his ability to absorb and retain the wealth of knowledge that is his, his eruditeness on any and all subjects, to me are breath-taking and thrilling. Despite his own brilliance and speed in grasping any subject, he is patient and understanding with those of lesser intellectual abilities.

Dr. Silver is a perfectionist about himself as well as for his staff. He gives the best of himself and demands the best of others; yet he is never inconsiderate and is always thoughtful. He is generous to a fault of his time as well as of his material substance. He has always championed social reforms and progressive causes, and despite his firmness of conviction, is always able to see the other side.

Dr. Silver has the amazing ability to put first things first. During the stormy days preceding the establishment of the State of Israel and those immediately thereafter, never once did I see him neglect his congregational responsibilities; yet when he was in New York, I know that he gave precedence to the cause that is so dear to him.



While Dr. Silver is a perfectionist, he possesses the rare gift of delegating responsibility in a truly administrative manner. He is happy and eager for his staff to assume whatever responsibility they are able to, and while he frequently checks up on their progress, he assumes that progress will be satisfactory until proved otherwise. He is an administrator "par excellence".

As for myself, I have had other employers whom I admired and respected in a variety of settings, but for me, Dr. Silver is not only an outstanding human being, but a perfect boss. He has taught me not only a pride in my work and in myself, but the deepest kind of pride in my position as his secretary. It is truly a privilege to be associated with him, and one which I hope to enjoy for many years to come.

I realize that the above is more of a "tribute" than factual material, but it constitutes my own feelings, and for what it is, I hope you can use it.

With best wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

Elizabeth Rice  
Secretary to Dr. Silver





May 15, 1958

Mr. I. Vinograd  
P.O.B. 14035  
Tel Aviv, Israel

My dear friend Vinograd:

Prior to my departure for the United States you gave me a copy of the "Ha-Aretz" which contained an account by Dr. Nahum Goldman of his mission to Washington in August 1946 in connection with the matter of Partition. You asked me to comment on a statement contained in that article that I did not, on that occasion, oppose the proposals of the Zionist Executive on Partition which Goldman brought with him from the Paris meeting.

I do not know whether it serves any particular purpose at this time to go into this matter (now more than ten years old); but for the sake of historical accuracy and that you may have the facts, I am enclosing herewith a memorandum written in September, 1946 by Rabbi Leon I. Feuer who was at that time the representative of the Zionist Emergency Council in Washington, which tells the whole story in great detail.

What is reported in this memorandum is substantiated by the minutes of the meetings of the American Zionist Emergency Council.

After reading Rabbi Feuer's memorandum, I would appreciate if you would return it to me as it is the only copy that I have.

It should be noted, of course, that all the negotiations in Washington, to induce the American Government to favor Partition, led to nothing. The matter had to wait until Great Britain referred the entire problem of Palestine to the United Nations. Thereafter, great pressure had to be exerted upon the American Government to approve of the Partition recommendations of the UNSCOP Report. Even after voting for Partition the American Government, early in '48 reversed its position, called for a



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May 15, 1958

Mr. I. Vinograd  
Tel Aviv, Israel

special session of the Assembly of the United Nations to consider a United Nation's Trusteeship for Palestine. Again extraordinary pressure had to be exerted upon our Government to abandon its opposition to Partition and to recognize the State of Israel when it was finally proclaimed on May 14th.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:sl  
encl.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

