

#### Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Zionist Organization of America, Committee on Unity for Palestine, 1945-1946.

#### LEDERER, LIVINGSTON, KAHN & ADSIT

160 NORTH LA SALLE STREET

CHICAGO I

CENTRAL 3985

March 16, 1945.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

CHARLES LEDERER

PHILIP C. LEDERER LEO H. ARNSTEIN

ARCHIE H. SIEGEL FRANK H. MARKS SIMON J. COLLONS LEONARD SCHRAM LOUIS SHELDON JOHN A. GRAF ALBERT B. LIDY

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON HARRY H. KAHN HAROLD C. ADSIT

JOSEPH M. MINOW BENJAMIN HARRIS, JR.

SHERMAN P. COHEN BERNARD H. RASKIN BERNARD D. EICHNER

You may not recall me but I have met you on a number of occasions. You may recall on one occasion I met you on an airplane going from Cleveland to Chicago during a severe storm and when we got off the plane I was able to give you a lift to your destination.

The thing I write you about, however, is something entirely different. I have been a Zionist for almost 25 years, or at least I thought I was. I have been a member of a local Zionist organization and have paid dues regularly. In a discussion which arose today I was asked to define what Zionists mean when they say they desire to have established in Palestine a Jewish state. I understand, of course, that such a state would guarantee freedom of religion to its denizens. Would such a state grant citizenship to people other than Jews? Would people other than Jews be eligible to hold office in the political structure of the state, even the highest? Assuming that such a state would adopt a constitution, would there be any provision made for a state religion? In what respect would a Jewish state differ in its constitutional and political structure from that of the United States or Switzerland? I was asked that if this Jewish state, in its general constitutional and political structure, were not materially different from that of the United States or of Switzerland, would it not meet obstacles which could be avoided if the same were not designated a Jewish state?

You may be assured that your answers are solicited purely to enable me to have a better understanding of the aims of Zionism and they will not be used for publication.

Very sincerely your

A Harry H. Kahi

41 EAST 42nd STREET NEW YORK 17. N. Y.

DR. FELIX A. LEVY
Chairman

RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD Vice-Chairman

OSCAR LEONARD
Secretary

April 19, 1945

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple E. 105th St. & Ansel Rd. Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver

I am enclosing the draft of an Appeal to the Conscience of America, on which I should appreciate your signature and your comments. We intend to have this signed by as many rabbis as possible and we shall send it to the entire membership of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Rabbinical Assembly, the Rabbinical Council, and the Union of Orthocox Rabbis.

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to permit us to use your name as one of the sponsors of this appeal. We are addressing this request to all those who sponsored the statement "Zionism an Affirmation of Judaism" which was signed by over 700 rabbis in 1942.

The time has come for a new and powerful Rabbinical statement to be issued. We intend to give it the twidest publicity both by direct mail and through the public press. I respectfully urge you to let me know by return mail that we can include your name among the signatories to this Appeal.

With Zion's Greetings,

Cordially yours,

Executive Director

Rabbi Arthur J. Helyveld

AJL;rl

A parable which Christianity gave to the world holds up to justifiable scorn the figure of the unworthy Levite who finding a stricken brother lying by the road "passed by on the other side".

The sin of this Levite was not the sin of cruelty or malice against his fellow. It was even more heinous It was that he saw the plight of his trother and HE IGNORED IT.

Five million human beings - men, women and children, innocent of any wrong - have been slain because they were Jews. It is true that all the peoples of -urope suffered at the hands of the Nazis. But the Jews, first in suffering, are last in the hope of rehabilitation. When peace comes, the Poles, the Czechs, the Hollanders and all other peoples will be free and go home. They will sit in the councils of nations.

Not so the Jews of Turope. More than a million and a half Jews who have survived the Hitler slaughter are naked, hungry, sick - - without hope for the future. They are <u>literally</u> homeless.

Their eyes are turned to the ancient homeland of their people - Palestine. This is the land which the nations of the world pledged to the Jews at the close of the last war. This is the land which the Jews have rebuilt and reclaimed from the desolation and barrenness in which they found it. This is the land which gave freedom to 600,000 Jews and which promises the opportunity for normal, creative living to the hundreds of thousands in Europe who look to it longingly.

but in the faces of men and women who desperately need and rightfully deserve a homeland, the world has closed the gates to that haven which has already been promised to them and with which their historical connection is indisputable.

The people of America cannot callously "pass by". The people of America cannot ignore the unparallelled injustice of this situation.

Palestine has room and room to spare for the Jews who seek entry into it. No single non-Jew will be dispossessed or deprived of his rights. Our world will be the richer for having made of Palestine a bridge-head to the future for the entire Middle East.

You - as an American - can help.

Now that the nations of the world assemble once again to plan a peace which we pray shall this time be just and enduring; you can turn to the leaders of the nations and demand

that there be full justice for the Jevs of "urope;

that they be sided to emigrate to Palestine quickly- in accordance with their need;

that the pledges of the Balfour Declaration and the League of Nations mandate be fulfilled;

that those conditions be created which will insure the concretization of a Jewish aspiration shared by numberless whristians of great vision -- Roosevelt - wilson - Smuts - Balfour - Lloyd weorge - and myriad others -- the aspiration that Palestine shall be a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth

April 20, 1945 Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Executive Director Committee on Unity for Palestine 41 East 42nd St. New York, 17, N.Y. My dear Rabbi Lelyveld: I read the enclosed draft of an appeal to the conscience of America which is to be signed by the hundreds of Rabbis who signed "Zionism - An Affirmation of Judaism" in 1942. I should of course be very happy to sign any such appeal, but frankly I think the draft should be entirely re-written. It is not in keeping with what you have in mind. It should be far more dignified and impressive and should not be written in the form which is reminiscent of advertisements. The style and the approach should be altogether different, coming as it will be, from the Rabbinate of America. Has this appeal which you are planning been cleared with the Zionist Emergency Council? It should be. The matter of its timeliness should also be considered. With all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

41 EAST 42nd STREET NEW YORK 17. N. Y.

DR. FELIX A. LEVY Chairman

RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD Vice-Chairman

OSCAR LEONARD
Secretary

April 25, 1945

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I appreciated your comments on the first draft of our Appeal.

It has been rewritten as you suggested and I believe you will find the revised version attached to this letter much more to your liking.

I have, of course, cleared this matter with the Emergency Council and we shall keep in close contact with them as it develops.

My warm good wishes. I hope I shall have the privilege of seeing you in the not too distant future.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld Executive Director

aren Legrald

AJL:rl

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At this decisive moment in history, we direct this urgent plea to the conscience of America as well as to the world statemen gathered at San Francisco - - a plea on behalf of the Jewish survivors of Nazi bestiality.

for our congregants troubled by the plight of their Buropean brethren and for our Christian friends who share their concern for justice, mercy and the preservation of the human values parametrize in our common religious heritage.

We speak as Jewish spiritual leaders versed in the traditions of our faith and as Americans cherishing the ideals of our land. We find, in both, the imperatives which make it impossible for us to close our eyes to suffering or to ignore injustice.

Five million human beings - man, women and children, innocent of any wrong - have been slain because they were Jews. It is true that the Jews were not the only people who suffered at the hands of the Mazis. But the Jews, first in suffering, are last in the hope of rehabilitation.

Then peace comes, the Poles, the Grechs, and the Dutch will be free and go home. They will rightfully sit in the councils of nations. But for hundreds of thousands of Jews who have survived the Hitler slaughter the future holds little promise. They are naked, hungry, sick. The poison of anti-Semitism which the Masis left behind, has made them literally homeless.

Their eyes are turned to the ancient homeland of their people - Palestine. This is the land which the nations of the world pladged to the Jews at the close of the last war. This is the land which the Jews have

Now that the nations of stable once again to plan a peace which we pray shall this time be just and enduring, we call upon you to turn to the leaders of the nations and demand

that there be full justice for the Jews of Europe;

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that they be aided to emigrate to Palestine quickly - in accordance with their desire and their need;

that the pledges of the Balfour Declaration and the League of Nations mandate be fulfilled;

that those conditions be created which will insure the realization of a Jewish aspiration which has been shared by numberless Christians of great vision - Franklin Delano Roosevelt - Wilson - Smuts - Balfour - Lloyd George - Churchill - and a myriad others - the aspiration that Palestine shall be a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.



May 8, 1945 Mr. Harry H. Kahn 160 North La Salle Street Chicago 1, Ill. My dear Mr. Kahn: Please pardon the long delay in answering your letter. I have been away from the city a good deal of the time and my correspondence has lagged. I am wondering whether the enclosed copy of "Unity for Palestine" will not give you the information which you desire on the subject of the Jewish Commonwealth. If you need any additional information I would suggest that you write to the Zionist Organization of America, 1720 16th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. With all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

of the Zionist Organization of America

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

Dr. Felix A. Levy Chairman

RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD

Executive Director

OSCAR LEONARD
Secretary

October 8, 1945

Dear Colleague:

We have directed to the people of Great Britain the Appeal which you signed and which was originally addressed "to the Conscience of America". Except for minor emendations obviously necessary, the text was not changed.

The rapidity with which political events are moving made it necessary that we take quick action. We are certain this step has your approval. However, we wished you to be informed as to this new use of our statement.

With Zion's Greetings,

Cordially yours,

Dr. Felix A. Levy, Chairman

Obsthure Liceyveld

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld

Executive Director

of the Zionist Organization of America

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

Dr. Felix A. Levy Chairman

RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD Executive Director

OSCAR LEONARD
Secretary

October 29, 1945

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple E. 105th Street Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I want to transmit the attached letter from Mr. Abe Waldauer in Memphis, Tenn., in which he urges that you attempt to schedule a visit to that community.

Rabbi Fineshriber addressed a large meeting there two weeks ago and according to the reports I have had, did a great deal of damage in both the Jewish and the general community.

Mr. Waldauer would be happy to have you set your own date and I know that he would arrange the kind of city-wide meeting that would make your visit worth-while.

Cordially yours,

authur J. Felyreld
Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld

Executive Director

AJL:rl

Comm on Unity for Pal. 45-46 November 1, 1945 Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Executive Director Committee on Unity for Palestine 41 E. 42nd St. New York 17, N.Y. My dear Rabbi Lelyveld: Thank you for your letter of October 29. I wish I were free to go to Memphis. But as you know, I am so over-burdened with work that I cannot in justice to myself or to my work take on additional lecture engagements. I think if you could send Rev. Wendell Phillips to that community, it would be very helpful. with all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS:BK

### MEMO from

THE COMMITTEE ON UNITY FOR PALESTINE
41 EAST 42nd STREET NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

January 9, 1946 Rabbi Elmer Berger, Executive Director The American Council for Judaism, Inc., 1001 Keystone State Bldg., 1321 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa. Dear Rabbi Berger, Your letter to Mr. Andrews of this Corporation has been referred to the writer for reply. In your letter you enclosed a statement submitted by Mr. Rosenwald to the President and invited any comment on this memorandum we might feel free to send you. We are glad of this opportunity you have presented to express our convictions on the migration of the Jews of Europe and other lands to Palestine. We would like to make three comments, and we hope that our language reflects the sincerity we feel. The British Government made a solemn commitment in 1917 to "establish in Palestine a national home for the Jewish people". This undertaking was publicly endorsed later by the rest of the civilized world, including the Congress of the United States in 1922. Acting on their faith in these international pledges, Jews from every corner of the world have created in Palestine a progressive modern community, a potential haven of refuge for their oppressed peoples and an outpost of democratic life in the midst of the autocratic East. For you to advocate as you do the "repudiation of official declarations on Palestine" is to deny the faith of the solemn pledges of this country and of England and to sabotage the confidence of the people of the world in the future of Palestine. We had enough of that under Hitler. 2. The present plight of your fellow Jews in Europe is pitiable. Five million of these human beings, because of the mere accident of being born Jews, were starved, beaten, tortured and gassed to death under conditions of appalling brutality by the atrocious Nazis. A small remnant of a million and a half now live like so many cattle, homeless and penniless, afraid to leave the scenes of their former tortures, the Nazi concentration camps and slaughter houses, because to return to their villages means certain

death. All during the Nazi terror, the one haven of refuge where these Jews could have found security and help, Palestine, was closed to all but a handful by the British Government. And now that the future of the pitiful remnant in Europe is even more hopeless, the British Government, blind to its oft-renewed promises and deaf to the pleas of our President, has stopped all Jewish immigration completely. In this tragic situation, your cautiously worded phrases about the "control of immigration by properly instituted international commissions" and "taking a poll among displaced persons to determine the lands of their choice" bear the stamp of insincerity and heartlessness.

3. It would far better befit you and the men and women of your organization, as Jews, as American citizens and as members of a common humanity, to forsake the false and inhuman position you have taken in obstructing the forces of world brotherhood. Men of good will of every race and creed the world over have dedicated themselves to find some way through the maze of international negotiations to open the gates of Palestine to the pathetic victims of Nazi hate and brutality. This crusade calls to men of your influence and leadership to make common cause with the outcast and persecuted of our post-war world.

The writer remembers an occasion in World War I when he was a soldier in France and his unit was visited by Mr. Rosenwald's father as the unofficial representative of President Wilson. What a kindly, genuine, good man he was and how much cheer and comfort he brought to a group of homesick young soldiers. We wonder what he would think of Mr. Rosenwald's present action.

Faithfully yours,

MARION S. DIMMOCK

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON MARION S. DIMMOCK

An outstanding architect and lecturer, Mr. Marion S. Dimmock has traveled extensively in the Near East. He has spent quite some time in Palestine, especially in Jerusalem where he designed and supervised the construction of the Jerusalem YMCA in 1932. His stay in the Middle East enabled him to study the problems of the Arab and the Jew and the possibilities of revitalizing that ancient world. Born in Richmond, Va., he was educated at the University of Virginia and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Dimmock is a member of the Board of Deacons of South Congregational Church and is active in young people's affairs at the church. He is a veteran of World War I, having served in France as a lieutenant in the field artillery.

January 28, 1946 Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld Zionist Organization of America 41 E. 42nd 5t. New York 17, N.Y. My dear Rabbi Lelyveld: I am enclosing herewith a memorandum of Mr. David Gessow of Philadelphia which contains what I think is a very good analysis of the propaganda of the American Council for Judaism, and some very helpful suggestions as to how to counteract it. I would suggest that you communicate with Mr. Gessow. He seems ready to be of service to the cause. With all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK Enc.

February 5, 1946 Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Executive Director Committee on Unity for Palestine of the Zionist Organization of America 41 E. 42nd St. New York, N.Y. My dear Rabbi Lelyveld: You may recall during our conversation here in Cleveland the suggestion was made that you contact informally some of our Zionist friends in the Reform Ministry whose congregations will send delegates to the forthcoming convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Cincinnati, which takes place on March 8. I have been told that an effort is being made to line up the anti-Zionist forces at this convention to force through some unfavorable resolution. It is important that our friends in the Reform Ministry be put on the alert, and that they talk to their delegates before they go to the convention so that if the question comes up on the floor for action, they will vote for the neutrality of the Union on the subject which was officially adopted by its Executive, as well as by the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Please let me know what you do in the matter. With all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

of the Zionist Organization of America

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

DR. FELIX A. LEVY Chairman

RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD Executive Director

OSCAR LEONARD Secretary

February 6, 1946.

Der. abba Hillel Silvery The Temple. Cleveland, Oliv.

Dear Dr. Silver.

as you probably have learned, I have become the Field Herestor of the Committee on levity to work with Rubbi helyweld. I have resigned my pulpit in Paughbæpaie, hu York.

On March second, my farmer congregation is giving me a testimonial dinner. I happen to Know that the congregation is sending you an invitation. Realizing that you will probably be unable to attend the dinner, may I ask you to be good enough to send a message forthe occasion? I shall appreciate it very much.

With warm regards, I am Sinarely yours,

A ZIONIST-SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT TO FOSTER RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR UNITED JEWISH ACTION IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BALFOUR DECLARATION.

Seattle, Washington February 13, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Your letters of the last two-week period have caught up with me here, and I hope you will forgive me for answering them in one cover-all reply.

I have read with a great deal of interest memorandum of Mr. David Gessow, which you forwarded to me, and I am writing to him immediately to thank him for his offer of services and to make an appointment with him in order to discuss his memorandum personally after my return east and to capitalize on his willingness to do specific work for us.

I am conveying to Rabbi Miller your reactions to my conversation with Mr. Nathan Straus. You will recall that our second choice among the names which we discussed in our conversation last month was Mr. Edger Kaufman of Pittsburgh. Perhaps Mr. Charles Rosenbloom would be willing to make an approach to him. If you think it advisable, I could probably arrange to go with Mr. Rosenbloom to call on Mr. Kaufman after my return east early in March. Mr. Ira Hirschmann, too, is one of the possibilities, and I mentioned it to some of the men on the Emergency Council Staff who know him better than I do. I am sorry to say that the suggestion did not meet with a favorable response.

I also noted your letter with regard to the coming convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Cincinnati. In accordance with the plan which we agreed upon in our conversation, I spoke via long distance telephone with several of our Zionist rabbis who are strategically located, conveying to them the picture of the danger that faces the office in Cincinnati. I also undertook to convey to them confidentially, the position which you have taken with regard to the Union's official neutrality reserved. I spoke with Leon Feyer in Toledo, Elkan Voorsanger in Milwaukee, Daniel Davis in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and several other men to each of whom I assigned a list

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver -2-February 13, 1946 of names of rabbis whom they agreed to call. Voorsanger has already reported to me the successful results of several calls which he made. I have also spoken on this matter with our rabbis in every community that I have visited. They seem to be universally aware of the danger and I feel certain that we have, to some extent, awakened them to the necessity that they have full delegations committed to the neutrality program. Do you think it may be advisable to have an informal caucus meeting of our friends in Cincinnati before the convention opens? I have been having most encouraging results on my tour this far, and I shall send you a copy of my report on this trip in the very near future. My very cordial greetings, Sincerely, Chrom Celyoned Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld AJL:PP

Last night in Portland, there was brought to my attention the printed statement of principles of a new committee "for the preservation of Reform Judaism." I do not know whether you have already seen it, but I am undertaking to secure a copy of the printed statement so that I may forward it to you. It is a statement drawn up in Chicago by a group of members of the American Council for Judaism, including Judge and Mrs. Sloss, Bernard Gradwohl of Lincoln, Nebraska, Norman Buckner of Pontiac, Michigan, Jacob Ogle of Ashland, Kentucky, and a few others of the same ilk. It parrots the basic principles of Beth Israel in Houston, Texas, and calls for a campaign to have them made obligatory in every Reform congregation. I don't believe we have much to worry about in this direction, but I thought you would be interested in the information in case it had not been brought to your notice. I feel that one good result of this new organizational effort will be that it will further divide the forces of the non-Zionists at the forthcoming Cincinnati meeting.





ALL

February 20, 1946 Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Exec. Dir. Committee on Unity for Palestine of the Zionist Organization of America 41 E. 42nd Street New York, N. Y. My dear Rabbi Lelyveld: Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 15. I would suggest that you contact Mr. Edgar Kaufman of Pittsburgh, perhaps Mr. Rosenbloom will pave the way for you there. Let me know what success you have. With all good wishes, I remain Very sincerely yours, AHS: GR

April 5, 1946 Mr. Nathan Straus, III 10 Park Avenue New York, New York Dear Mr. "traus: All of us who are enlisted in the cionist cause are gratified and encouraged by the news of your recent enrollment in our movement. I know from a conversation which I was privileged to have with your father, that you do not wish this to remain a mere paper affiliation, and I am sure that you are eager to become active in our work. I am, therefore, taking the liberty of writing to request the favor of an opportunity to talk with you concerning a project which I feel certain will win your interest. Perhaps you will find it possible to take lunch with me Monday or Tuesday of next week. Won't you drop me a line, or call me at Murray Hill 2-3205. Sincerely yours, Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld Executive Director AJL:rl

Silver Hotes on Rabbi Lelyveld's Trip to Chicago, Milwadose, St. Peul April 10th - 14th 1946 The chief purpose of my visit to Chicago was to attempt to organize Chicago: a functioning Committee on Unity for Palestine. With the assistance of Mr. Milton Silberman and Mr. Charles Levin, a dinner meeting was arranged at the Standard Club which was attended by twenty-five men, each of whom was active in one of the Reform congregations in Chicago, and a Zionist. I addressed this group on the need for an active campaign of Zionist education in Chicago's Reform Jowish community. pointing out to them the fact that the American Council for Judaism is now engaged in setting up a full-time office in Chicago with a Pull-timo Regional Director. our chairman, Dr. Levy, presided at the meeting. The group constituted itself a Provisional Committee on Unity for

The group constituted itself a Provisional Committee on Unity for Palestine to act until a Committee is formally set up at the time of the Z.O.C. Annual Conference on May 26th. Mr. Silberman's plan is to have one of the vice-presidents of the Z.O.C. especially assigned to head this Committee.

The Provisional Committee is attempting to make plans for parlor meetings to be addressed by Rabbi Unger during his visit to Chicago at the work of April 23rd.

I have also undertaken to secure mailing-lists of all the Chicago Reform congregations and they have already forwarded to the National office the lists of Sinai Temple and South Shore Temple, both of which lists are now being itilized in direct-mail campaigns.

The Committee will also try to arrange a series of parlor meetings for Rabbi Unger to follow immediately on the 2.0.0. Conference on May 26th, utilizing the entire week of May 27th.

#### Milwadoo: April 11th

I was received in Milwankse by Mikan Voorsanger and Robert Hess, and met with the executive group of the Zionist District in a dinner meeting at the Schroeder Hotel.

The Council presents no threat in Milwaukse at the present time, having but twenty-five members and no leadership despite the fact that the senior rabbi of the Reform congregation, Rabbi Samel Hirahberg, is a member of the Council. The active rabbi of the congregation is the associate rabbi, Rabbi Joseph Baron, who, although nominally a Zionist, has given no active support whatsoever to the Zionist emuse in Milwaukse. We agreed, however, that although the Council presents no threat, there is a great deal to be done in the way of increasing our influence and building our membership in the Reform segment of the community. This work will be particularly important in view of the probability of increased Council activity once the Regional office in Chicago begins functioning.

They will attempt to arrange a concentrated series of parlor meetings

Following the dinner meeting. I addressed an open meeting of the Milwankse Zionist District, attended by some 200 men and women, whose response was most enthusiastic.

St. Paul: - April 12 - 14

On my arrival in St. Paul, I was met by Mr. Mac Wolf and Mr. Oscar Berris, President and Secretary of the St. Paul Zionist District.

In canvassing the St. Paul situation with them and with Rabbis Walter Plant and Harry Margolis of Mt. Zion Temple. I found that although there is no active Council for Judaism chapter in St. Paul. there is a large group in the community which is Council-minded. and which could be appealed to by the anti-Zionista. Rabbi Margolis is an enrolled Zionist, but has done little with his own congregation. Those with whom I tilked felt that it is important to do a job on the Reform group in both St. Paul and Minneapolis.

My suggestion to them was that they attempt to plan an intensive series of parlor meetings for June 4th, 5th, 6th. early in June

In the evening I spoke from the pulpit of Mt. Zion Temple at the regular Friday evening services. My coming had been well-publicated by both the Congregation and the Zionist District, and the Temple was full, a condition which I was assured was unusual in this Congregation. I spoke on the "Religious Emplications of Zionism", calling of course for support of the full Zionist program and my address was well-received.

I spent a few hours on Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Levy (Miriam Levy). Mrs. Levy is the Chairman of the St. Paul Zionist Emergency Council, and a fine, intelligent young leader. Mrs. Levy was particularly concerned about the damage which Dejany, of the Arab Office, had done in a series of addresses the week preceding in St. Paul, and we discussed a memo which she had prepared for the Twin Cities Jewish Council in an effort to convince that group of the necessity for a functioning permanent Zionist office in the Twin Cities. Although, I personal y was skeptical about the possibility of getting the Community Council to back a Zionist office, I was assured by a number of people in the Twin Cities that it is not at all impossible that an effort of that sort might be successful.

Hr. Ben Berger, President of the Minneapolis Zionist District was my host at dinner and we discussed the Expansion Fund, Shebel Drive, as well as Unity Committee work.

On Sunday morning, I addressed the Expansion Fund Brunch which was the primary excuse for my entire trip. Despite the fact that more than 100 invitations had been sent out, only 20 people came. They seem to have been the right people, however, inasmuch as the fund-raising effort in which my talk culminated, resulted in a total of \$1400 for the Expansion Fund. Mr. Wolf and Mr. Berris assured me that during the ensuing week

they would make personal contact with those 70 people who had been invited to the Brunch and had not come, and that they would attempt to maintain, among that group the \$70.00 average which we had achieved at the Brunch.





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THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS OPNICERNING ITS SERVICE

April 23, 1946 Mr. Edmund I. Kaufman 702 H. Street, N. W. Washington, D. C. Dear Mr. Kaufman: I was delighted to learn from Miss Greenhouse of the United Jewish Appeal of your willingness to take an active part in the work of this Committee in response to the invitation of our Chairman, Dr. Felix Levy. As Dr. Levy undoubtedly told you, we are reorganizing the Committee itself in order to sharpen the effectiveness of our work. In this connection, we are asking about twenty-five people who are interested in our program to join us in an informal dinner meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City on the evening of May 6th. On that occasion we want to introduce Mr. Mathan Straus III, who has accepted the vice-chairmanship of the Committee, to our group, as well as to discuss our educational campaign for counteracting anti-Zionist propaganda in the Jewish community and bringing our Zionist message to that segment of American Jewry which has hitherto been non-Zionist. I hope you will find it possible to be with us, as we count heavily on your counsel and cooperation. I am eager to have an opportunity to explore this entire matter in person with you before May 6th, whether in New York or Washington, at your convenience. Do you plan to be in New York City at any time during the coming week? Or may I come to see you? I am scheduled to address a luncheon meeting in Baltimore on Sunday, May 5th, and I could be in Mashington at any time on May 4th or in the afternoon or evening of the 5th. With every good wish, Cordially yours, Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld Executive Director AJLidn

of the Zionist Organization of America

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

Dr. Felix A. Levy
Chairman

RABBI ARTHUR J. Lelyveld
Executive Director

OSCAR LEONARD
Secretary

April 23, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple 105th Street and Ansel Road Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

In accordance with our recent conversation about Mr. Mathan Straus III and the possibility of drawing him actively into our work, I had lunch with Mr. Straus last week and persuaded him to accept the vice-chairmanship of the Unity Committee.

I believe that when we talked about him, we considered him as a possible chairman for the Committee, but at that time we were not aware of his youth (he is still "under thirty").

He is personable and well informed and eager to serve the Zionist cause actively. I laid before him, in particular, the need to counteract the effect of the American Council for Judaism in the circles in which he is most active— the New York Temple Emanuel group and the Westchester County set. I also told him of the Council for Judaism's effort to organize youth and veteran groups in the New York City area, and we agreed that his name and his personality would be most useful to us in that particular field.

I would like to arrange a small informal dinner for the Unity Committee in the near future as an occasion at which to present Mr. Straus to our group and also to discuss the reorganization of our Committee and the intensification of its work. We have selected May 6th as the date for that dinner, inasmuch as Dr. Levy will be in New York at that time. Will you be in the city at that time and will you find it possible to join us?

of the Zionist Organization of America

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

-2-

Dr. Felix A. Levy Chairman

RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD Executive Director

OSCAR LEONARD
Secretary

With regard to the National Chairmanship, you will recall that the next name which we had under consideration was that of Mr. Edmund Kaufman of Washington. Dr. Levy called Mr. Kaufman and asked if he would like to take "a more active part in our work". Mr. Kaufman was in New York and had Miss Greenhouse of the United Jewish Appeal call to tell me that he would "be glad to accept the assignment Dr. Levy had offered him". I intend to follow this up by a visit to Mr. Kaufman immediately after the holidays.

My warm personal greetings. I hope you had a very happy Pesach and that the holidays brought you some opportunity to rest.

Cordially,

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Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld Executive Director

AJL:dn

of the Zionist Organization of America

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

Dr. Felix A. Levy Chairman

RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD Executive Director

OSCAR LEONARD
Secretary

April 24, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple 105th Street and Ansel Road Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

We are asking about twenty-five people who are interested in our work to join us in an informal dinner meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City on the evening of May 6th.

On that occasion we want to introduce to our group, Mr. Nathan Straus III, who has accepted the fice-chairmanship of our Committee, as well as to take counsel together on the policy and program of our educational campaign to counteract anti-Zionist propaganca in the Jewish community and to bring our Zionist message to that segment of American Jewry which has hitherto been non-Zionist.

I hope you will find it possible to be with us. May we make a reservation for you?

With every good wish and Zion's Greetings,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld

Chima Leey reck

Executive Director

AJL:dn

Memorandum

### COMMITTEE ON UNITY FOR PALESTINE

From: RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD

SUITE 600 ----

41 East 42nd Street \* MU 2-3205 \* New York 17

Date: April 30, 1946

In the April 8th "Information Bulletin" of the American Council for Judaism, an article by Mr. Samuel Adelman concluded with this statement:

"We welcome Dr. Finkelstein into our labors."

This reference to one of American Judaism's outstanding leaders, Dr. Louis Finkelstein, was without foundation and an impudent misrepresentation of his position with respect to Zionism and Palestine.

We are, therefore, sending you, with the permission of Dr. Finkelstein, the attached copy of a letter from him on this subject. In the article to which his letter refers, Dr. Finkelstein says, among other things:

"The Jewish community in Palestine, alone among all the communities of the world, effectively opened its arms to the stricken without thought for its own material needs, and gave the homeless sanctuary and healing for the spirit, as well as for the body. To oppose this effort to restore the Jewish settlement of the Holy Land is to repudiate a cardinal tradition in Judaism."

We shall be happy to send you at your request an off-print of Dr. Finkelstein's complete article.

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA
NORTHEAST CORNER, BROADWAY AND 122ND STREET
NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 24, 1946

Dear Rabbi Lelyveld:

I have your letter of April 8th inquiring about an article by Mr. Samuel Edelman which appeared in the "Information Bulletin" of the American Council for Judaism.

My stand on Zionism and Palestine has been clarified in a number of publications, among the most recent of which was the article published in "The New Palestine" on May 21st, 1943 called "Reflections on Judaism, Zionism and an Enduring Peace". Nothing that I said on February 25th to the Rabbinical Assembly could possibly be interpreted as a deviation from this definite stand.

I should be very glad to have you circulate both this letter and the article to which I refer as widely as you think necessary under the circumstances.

With all good wishes,

11/h

ever

Cordially /as

Louis Finkelstein

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld Executive Director Committee on Unity for Palestine 41 East 42 Street New York 17

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Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld Committee on Unity for Palestine of the Zionist Organization of America 41 E. 42nd Street New York, N. Y.

My dear Rabbi Lelyveld:

Thank you for your letters. I am pleased that you are arranging an informal dinner to present Mr. Strauss. I am sorry that I will not be able to attend this meeting.

You may be interested in the enclosed postal card which I received.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS: GR

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

## WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

(22)

JOSEPH L. EGAN, PRESIDENT

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:ARTHUR LELYVELD.

ZOA 50.

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BK

of the Zionist Organization of America

41 EAST 42nd STREET NEW YORK 17. N. Y.

DR. FELIX A. LEVY
Chairman

RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD

Executive Director

OSCAR LEONARD
Secretary

May 17, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th St. and Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

You may recall our conversation some months ago in your home when I expressed my feeling that my value as a propagandist for the Zionist cause is diminished by the fact that I must give a negative answer to the frequent question as to whether or not I have visited Palestine. At that time you expressed the opinion that it might be possible for me to go in connection with the Congress this summer.

I am, as you will well understand, still eager to make this trip. Apart from my wish to substitute 2/67 for 2/2/2 I feel that my visit would have valuable public relations results in our Unity work during the year ahead.

While the budget of the Unity Committee for traveling has been underspent thus far and would easily cover this item should it have the Inner Committee's approval, I wender whether I might not be able to render some service to the secretariat of our delegation, which would be additional justification for my going.

I am sending copies of this letter to Dr. Neumann and to Mr. Follack and I would be deeply grateful for some word of reaction from you.

My warm personal greetings.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld Executive Director

Cham legreld

AJL:rl



A NEWSLETTER FROM THE Z. O. A.

### COMMITTEE on UNITY for PALESTINE

FORTY-ONE EAST FORTY-SECOND STREET
DR. FELIX LEVY RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD
CHAIRMAN EXEC. DIRECTOR

NEW YORK 17, N. Y. RABBI JEROME UNGER FIELD DIRECTOR

MAPPING THE CAMPAIGN TO WIDEN THE AREA OF ZIONIST INFLUENCE

June 14, 1946

Current And Coming From Our Press:

#### "WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT OUT OF LIFE?"

Produced as another weapon in the running battle against the anti-Zionists, this pamphlet also can ærve as a primer for non-Zionists. It is a sort of Zionist "calling card" for presentation to undecided American Jews. The striking layout and content of the booklet drew immediate and favorable comment. A typical letter was that from Arnold Jacoby of New York, who called it a "masterpiece" and added that "both Mrs. Jacoby and I enjoyed every line." The pamphlet was sent to all on our mailing list but additional copies may be obtained upon request for local distribution.

#### "LITTLE MAN FROM DACHAU"

The men and women of Dachau, Columnist Al Segal says, have the right to command anti-Zionists and non-Zionists "to get out of the way and keep still." Put into a handy-sized pamphlet, the article by the author of "Plain Talk" was enclosed with the last issue of the Unity Bulletin. Copies may be obtained from Committee headquarters. "Little Man from Dachau" is our second reprint from Segal's syndicated columns; you'll recall his "Matter of \$2"-- which blasts the Council for Judaism because it has done nothing for anything but only is against "political Zionism."

#### "BULLETIN" MATTER

The Inquiry Committee's report on Palestine required, and received, full coverage in the May issue of the Unity Bulletin. Thus our scheduled piece on Brandeis had to be shelved until the next issue, due within three weeks. With its usual perversion of Zionist history, the anti-Zionist Council for Judaism recently attempted to depict the late Supreme Court justice as a babe in the Zionist woods.

#### "ONLY ONE THOUGHT: PALESTINE"

Enclosed is Edward M. M. Warburg's story of the surviving European Jews and their one goal--Palestine. The interview is reprinted from the New York Post. Please place your order now for a supply to be distributed in your community.

#### "A BETTER TOMORROW"

Accepting the vice-chairmanship of the Unity Committee, Nathan Straus III said: "I am deeply anxious that a true picture of the meaning and importance of Palestine shall become available, both to those people who have a distorted picture now, and to those who have given no thought to the problem up to the present time." Mr. Straus, a 29-year-old navy veteran, wrote a statement summing up his views. That statement, we believe is a "true picture of the meaning and importance of Palestine," and we intend to make it available in pamphlet form.

#### PFFTTT1

The headline in the May 24th issue of the Jewish Post of Indianapolis read: "Council Attempt to Organize Veterans Abortive." The first two paragraphs of the article from a special correspondent were:

"NEW YORK--An attempt by the American Council for Judaism to organize New York war veterans behind their organization backfired at Temple Emanu-El last Thursday evening, when a group of some sixty vets, attending by invitation, vigorously repudiated the anti-Zionist assertions of Elmer Berger, who addressed the meeting.

"No formal vote was taken, but any intention of the Council sponsors to enroll members or organize a veterans' group was abandoned when it quickly became clear during the question period that the great majority of the veterans present dissented. Other speakers included Rabbi Nathan A. Perilman of Temple Emanu-El and Henry A. Loeb, who presided."

In other words, the meeting was a fizzle as far as the Council was concerned.

Here are two other pertinent paragraphs from the Post's article:

"Queried as to the positive religious program of the Council he (Rabbi Berger) said: 'The Council is not interested in a religious program, but in a political and social program. I don't know if the Council will ever adopt a program of religious activity per se. It may or not.'"

That should be interesting reading for those Jews who were sucked into the Council because they had been led to believe it was an organization to promote Judaism!

"An attempt by one of the audience to introduce a resolution expressing the view of the assembled veterans that every effort should be made to expedite the sending of 100,000 refugees to Palestine, and the creation there of a Jewish National Homeland was roundly applauded, but the resolution was rejected by the chairman on the grounds that the meeting could not accept a statement that was contrary to the accepted program of the American Council for Judaism."

In other words, play according to our rules, or we won't play.

am very happy to say that I am in accord with the majority of the aims of the Z.O.A."

The letter writer, Franklin A. Alter of Davenport, Iowa, attended a parlor meeting at which Rabbi Unger spoke. Mr. Alter also mentions in his letter the "friendly discussion" of the differences of opinion which at that time "existed between myself and the Z.O.A." The moral is obvious: shouting at a man does not make him a Zionist, but "friendly discussion" often leads to his becoming one.

A report of a Unity for Palestine parlor meeting addressed by Rabbi Lelyveld in Charleston, West Virginia, comes from Samuel D. Lopinsky, who arranged the session. There were approximately fifty persons present and the audience consisted almost entirely of non-Zionists, anti-Zionists and a few neutrals. The antis included members of the Council for Judaism. Mr. Lopinsky says:

"As a direct result of this meeting we have obtained some new members from those present, and I feel certain that the most rabid anti-Zionist was weakened in the cause of the Council...

<sup>&</sup>quot;I am enclosing a list of those who were in attendance so that you may follow up with literature."

#### PRESS NOTES

Two Unity Committee news releases appeared recently in the Anglo-Jewish press. Many newspapers used a picture of Dr. Felix A. Levy congratulating Mr. Straus upon his acceptance of the vice-chairmanship of the Committee. The caption included an excerpt from the latter's statement upon taking office.

Papers of the following week gave prominence to Rabbi Lelyveld's charge that the Council for Judaism was supporting the British imperialist policy in urging adoption "as a whole" the report of the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee. Speaking in Brooklyn, the Unity Committee director accused the anti-Zionist Council of lining up with "those who are deliberately stalling" the transfer of 100,000 European Jews to Palestine. The New York Times also carried the story of Rabbi Lelyveld's denunciation of the Council's position on the report.

Incidentally, a demand that the Council withdraw its letter to President Truman was voiced editorially in the Anglo-Jewish press. The Jewish Post termed a "grave blunder" the Council's request that none of the Inquiry Committee's recommendations be implemented separately. In its news columns this paper headed the story of the Council's letter to President Truman like so: "100,000 Would be Held Up by Council Wishes."

The May issue of the Unity for Palestine Bulletin, you'll recall, pointed up this situation—that the Council for Judaism was supporting the British policy of delay in connection with the transfer of 100,000 European Jews to Palestine.

#### TO UNITY COMMITTEE VIA AP

Saul Richman, former Associated Press Radio editor, has been appointed to the Unity Committee headquarters staff as Executive Assistant in charge of public relations. He worked on several California newspapers before joining AP at San Francisco in 1943. He resigned from the news service's Salt Lake City bureau upon accepting the Committee position.

### A WORD FROM

# Professor

# ALBERT EINSTEIN

THE MOST RENOWNED SCIENTIFIC THINKER OF OUR TIME WRITES OUT OF HIS OWN EXPERIENCE ABOUT THE DANGER OF ANTI-ZIONIST ACTIVITY

ALBERT EINSTEIN
112 Mercer Street
Princeton, N. J.

Ich freue mich sehr darüber, dass die Manifestation des American Council for Judaiem eine energische Gegnerschaft findet.

Diese Bewegung erscheint mir als ein erbärmlicher Versuch, durch Verrat der natürlichen jüdischen Ziele, durch Mimitry und durch 100% Americanism Gnade und Schonung von unseren Feinden zu erlangen.

Dies erscheint mir unwürdig und auch unwirksam. Es ist ein Verfahren, das auf der Gegenseite nur mit Geringschatzung, ja Verachtung begegnet werden wird, und nach meiner Meinung mit vollem Recht. Wer nicht aufrecht zu seiner Sache steht, hat auch auf die Achtung anderer keinen Anspruch. Die Bewegung ist übrigens eine miemlich genaue Bachbildung des Vereins deutscher Staatsburger Jüdischen Glaubens seligen Angedenkens, der in der Zeit der Bedrängnis sich natürlich nach aussen hin als völlig ohrmächtig erwies und nach innen einen sersetzenden Einfluss hatte, indem er den inneren Halt unterminierte, der allein unser jüdisches Volk in den Stand setzte, die Zeiten schwerer Prüfung zu überwinden.

A. Gintein.

"I am very happy indeed to hear that the platform for which the American Council for Judaism stands is meeting with militant opposition. This organization appears to me to be nothing more than a pitiable attempt to obtain favor and toleration from our enemies by betraying true Jewish ideals and by mimicking those who claim to stand for 100% Americanism. I believe this method to be both undignified and ineffective. Our opponents are bound to view it with disdain and even with contempt, and in my opinion they will be justified. He who is untrue to his own cause cannot command the respect of others. Apart from these considerations, the movement in question is a fairly exact copy of the Zentralverein Deutscher Staatsburger Juedischen Glaubens ('Central Association of German Citizens of Jewish Faith') of unhappy memory, which in the days of our crucial need showed itself utterly impotent and corroded the Jewish group by undermining that inner certitude by which alone our Jewish people could have overcome the trials of this difficult age."

- A. EINSTEIN

Write to the

### COMMITTEE ON UNITY FOR PALESTINE

41 EAST 42nd STREET . Suite 600 . NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

From: Unity from Palestine Committee Room 600, 41 East 42nd Street New York 17, N. Y.

MAT CAPTION:

NATHAN STRAUS III TAKES ZIONIST POST

Nathan Straus III of New York (right) is welcomed as Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Unity for Palestine of the Zionist Organization of America by the Committee Chairman, Dr. Felix A. Levy of Chicago, noted Reform Rabbinical leader. Mr. Straus, member of one of American Jewry's outstanding families, accepted the vice-chairmanship at a dinner in his honor at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, saying: "I am deeply amxious that a true picture of Palestine shall become available, both to those people who have a distored picture now and to those who have given no thought to the problem up to the present time".