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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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Zionist Organization of America, Frisch, Daniel, 1946.

DANIEL FRISCH
INVESTMENTS
FIVE HUNDRED TWELVE INSURANCE BUILDING
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
—
LINCOLN 6569

*300 Central Park
West 2 K
New York City.*

January 7, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

I am spending a few days in this city and surrounding territory in the interest of the Expansion Fund. I have obtained quite a few large contributions, including one of \$1,000.00.

For Zionist and personal reasons, I write this letter most reluctantly. I have grown very fond of you, and though I am seldom afforded the opportunity to spend time with you, I feel much closer to your mission, to your work and to your personal destiny than I would care to put down on paper, lest a fleeting thought might try to whisper to your soul that I am attempting to flatter you.

My hesitancy to put my feelings down on paper is strengthened by my awareness of the fact that a personage such as you is subjected to a terrific bombardment of verbiage. To come to the point, may I say that it is the purpose of this letter to inform you that I will not be in a position to accept the chairmanship of the Shekolim campaign, should you be inclined to honor me with it.

There are many factors which would make me hesitate, at this point, to accept such a responsibility; all of which would most likely vanish if you would attempt to insist that I accept. There is one main factor, however, which became pressing during the last few days, and which I know you would not wish to disregard. It is the factor of my health.

I do not know if Dr. Newman had a chance to tell you how much of the burden of the Z.O.A. I carried upon my shoulders since the convention. Believe me, with the exception of Dr. Newman, who is doing the work of five individuals, I shouldered responsibilities second to none. I do it gladly for the cause and also for the privilege of being associated with you.

However, during the last few days, I've begun to feel very tired and just went through an over-all physical examination, the result of which was a stern warning that I must get away for a few weeks from everything. Accordingly, I am compelled to journey

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Dr. Silver

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1/7/46

to a warm climate from the end of this month until the middle of March. I owe it to my family as well as to myself.

This business of Shekolim is a much bigger job in terms of personal endeavor than appears on the surface, if it is to get results. The job must be tackled immediately by a person who has the vigor, the understanding, determination and loyalty which the task demands.

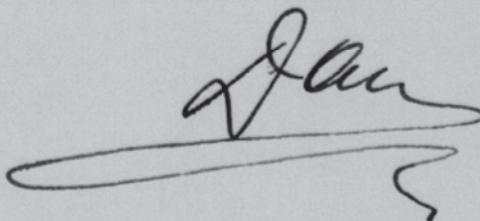
I wish, also, to take this opportunity to say that I was somewhat surprised by the choice of Mr. Rosenbloom as head of the UPA. I say this with all due regard, believe me, for Mr. Rosenbloom, his loyalties and his matchless standing in the arena of American Jewish life.

His approach, however, to the Zionist problem in America in general, and to the Jewish National Fund in particular, is such which makes me question the wisdom of the choice. Having appointed him, it appeared to me that his co-chairman should have been at least a person imbued with the inviolability and sacredness of the J.N.F. as the symbol and pattern of Zionist thought and continuity. In the selection of Mr. Sonnenborn and, again with all due regard and affection for him as well as Mr. Rosenbloom, no such person was appointed.

I know full well that you are brilliant, devoted, and far-seeing enough to consider these matters before the appointment and probably have in mind certain safe-guards. As long as I am not directly aware of your trend of thought in the matter and because of my inclination always to be frank and outspoken, I could not resist expressing to you my feelings and thoughts in the matter.

I anticipate seeing you during the weekend and remain until then with affectionate greetings,

Your friend always,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dan', with a long, horizontal, wavy underline.

January 9, 1946

Mr. Daniel Frisch
300 Central Park West 2K
New York, N. Y.

My dear Daniel:

Thank you for your letter of January 7th. I am sure that we will have an opportunity over this coming weekend, when I shall be in New York, to talk over some of the matters referred to in your letter.

It has occurred to all of us that you would be the right man to head off the Shekolim campaign. The campaign would really not get under way much before the 1st of April, although the blue print of the campaign should be ready before that time.

We will want to spend the next few months in an intensive membership campaign for the ZOA, and it would not do to confuse the minds of our people with two campaigns. If you could get an active committee representing the various regions in the country and meet with them and our field staff, I think the job can be done without burdening you too much. However, we will talk about it when I see you in New York.

As far as the national chairman and associate chairman of the U.P.A. are concerned, I think that Rosenbloom and Sonnenborn are excellent choices. Rosenbloom's Zionist record is an open book; his generosity is well known, he was head of the Pittsburgh Jewish Welfare Fund Campaign for a number of years, during which years Pittsburgh reached its maximum in giving, and he has been known to the U.P.A. for many years. You may recall that I strongly urged him in place of Heller two years ago.

Sonnenborn has been a bulwark in U.P.A. Councils. He is thoroughly familiar with the work, he has set in on negotiation committees with the J.D.C. and has well represented us. He has a good name and a fine appearance, and represents in a way a section of the Jewish laity which we have been trying to draw in more and more into the inner councils of our movement.

As far as protecting the rights of the J.N.F are concerned, please be sure that they will be amply protected. You and I, and the other friends of the J.N.F, will not permit any of its legitimate interests

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January 9, 1946

to be infringed upon. Also, the Board of the U.P.A. will be so constituted that nothing harmful to the J.N.F will take place.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR



ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

1720-16TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

NEW YORK OFFICE
41 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

March 5, 1946

300 Central Park West
Apt. 2 K - Schuyler 4-8564
New York City

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
19810 Shaker
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

I returned to New York last Saturday after an absence of four weeks. As you may recall, I wrote to you eight weeks ago that it was imperative or to quote my doctor, "vital" that I get some rest.

Since our Convention, I have been at the Zionist office daily, as if holding a paid job, not to speak of evenings and nights, and it began to tell on my health which is generally second-rate at best.

The purpose of this letter is to chat with you briefly, if I may. Here it goes:

Dr. Neumann has left for Palestine, which I knew he contemplated doing after having appointed Rabbi Miller as Chairman of the Interim Committee of the Executive. For several months I kept on talking to Neumann day in and day out, that the business of the forthcoming Congress, the shekolim campaign, and the voting, is the most vital piece of work confronting our group from many a point-of-view. Early in the year, when Neumann spoke to me about the Chairmanship of the shekolim campaign, I had suggested to him that I be sent to Palestine in some official capacity, for several weeks which would have been in my judgment, a very good strategic move. However, it was not done. Then my state of health compelled me to write to you on January 7th advising you that I shall not be able to take the chairmanship.

Neumann told me later and repeated it when we saw each other in Miami, that he contemplated asking Dr. Goldstein to serve. The middle of last week I received a mail notification that the Interim Committee has selected me to serve as chairman of the shekel campaign, Dr. Goldstein having declined. I wired immediately that I am not able to accept, that my decision was final and that you should be so advised.

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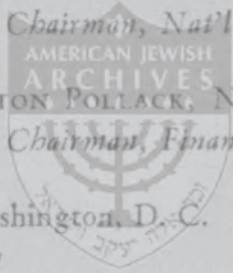
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Executive Committee
(In addition to National Officers)

Dr. A. H. Silver

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March 5, 1946

Upon my return during the week-end, I found that Torczyner was appointed chairman of the shekolim campaign. I do not hesitate putting on paper that while I think that Jacques is one of the most promising, most energetic, most devoted and most capable young men in the arena of Zionist leadership, he is definitely not the proper person to be the head of the shekolim campaign. This situation requires your personal and expert handling.

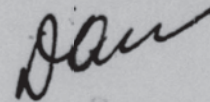
I had a several hour talk with Israeli during which conversation he quoted you as having said that you have a feeling I let you down by my absence from New York.

If you would know me as well as I would like for you to, you would realize that such attitude is not in my makeup nor part of my behaviorism.

I think that I understand as much as anyone else within your entourage, what is going on and as I said to you repeatedly of late, I sincerely admire you and that I deem it a privilege to be one of your close collaborators and shall continue to do so as long as you will feel likewise. I told Israeli that I intend to throw myself wholeheartedly, unstintedly and fanatically, into this business of the next Congress now, during the shekel campaign, during the voting, before the Congress and at the Congress, to the end that destiny which seems to point toward you as one of the chief factors in chartering the immediate future of the Movement, shall have its way. I shall first do and then listen.

This is not a letter in the accepted form, but rather some thinking aloud in the hope that these words which come from my mind and sould will find thair echo in yours.

Affectionately yours,



Daniel Frisch

df:rk

Air-Mail
Special Delivery

March 7, 1946

Mr. Daniel Frisch
300 Central Park West
Apt. 2 K -
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dan:

Thank you for your good letter of March 5. I am glad that you are back for I missed you greatly in the work of the ZOA.

I was afraid for a time that the ZOA affairs were being neglected. Upon my return from Palestine I was, myself, incapacitated by illness. The leaders of our movement were plunged into the work connected with the hearings of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. Since then you were compelled, by conditions of your health, to go away on a vacation. Neumann had left for Palestine, and the ZOA has been faced with three grave tasks -- the Membership Campaign, the Expansion Fund and the Shekel Campaign.

I am personally not in position to give to all these tasks my close personal attention, inasmuch as I must carry on also the work of the American Zionist Emergency Council, besides many other tasks. I am, therefore, very happy to know that you are back on the scene and that you will give our work, and more especially all the work connected with the Shekel Campaign and the next Congress, your close attention and supervision. Since neither you nor Goldstein would take the chairmanship of the Shekel Campaign, I do not know what else the Interim Committee should have done other than what they did do. I think that with your guidance and help, Torczyner will do an excellent job.

I am going to be in New York on the 19th of March for meetings of the Emergency Council and of the Executives of the ZOA. Please get in touch with me in the morning so that we could get together and spend some time in talking over many things in which we are mutually interested.

With all good wishes and thanking you for writing to me,
I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

April 9, 1946

Mr. Daniel Frisch
300 Central Park West
Apt. 2K
New York, N. Y.

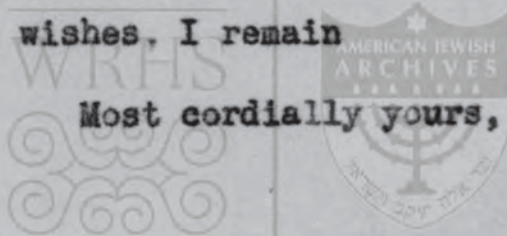
My dear Daniel:

You may be interested in a copy of the enclosed
cable which I received today from Emanuel Neumann.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR
Enc.



April 15, 1946

Mr. Daniel Frisch
Zionist Organization of America
41 E. 42nd St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Daniel:

I am enclosing herewith a letter from Dr. S. Margoshes of "The Day" who has just returned from Poland. He was in to see me in Cleveland and told me about his contacts with the Zionists in Poland. This morning I received from him the enclosed two letters. My impression is that this organization called "Ichud" represents the federation of all the General Zionists in Poland. As their letters indicate they are in need of financial help. The other parties have already received financial support both from the United States and through Palestine. I wish you would go a little further into this matter with Mr. Margoshes and think through the problem of how we can best help them. You may then wish to bring in a recommendation to the next meeting of the Executive of the ZOA.

With all good wishes for a very happy Pesach, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

41 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

[undated]

COPY OF TELEGRAM

DANIEL FRISCH AND DR. HARRIS J. LEVINE CO-CHAIRMEN
ANNUAL ORDER DAY OF BNAI ZION

REGRET EXCEEDINGLY DISTANCE PREVENTS MY BEING WITH YOU ON THIS ANNUAL ORDER DAY
TENDERED IN HONOR OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DYNAMIC LEADER*
SHIP AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO THE CAUSE OF ZION MAY HIS HANDS BE STRENGTHENED IN
THE PATHS WHICH LIE AHEAD PLEASE CONVEY MY WARM HEARTED GREETINGS TO THE ENTIRE
MEMBERSHIP THE BNAI ZION ON THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND MAY OUR COMMON EFFORT BRING
A QUICK REALIZATION OF OUR HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS FOR A JEWISH COMMONWEALTH IN
ERETZ ISRAEL.

HERMAN ZVI QUITTMAN.

WRHS
AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVE
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