



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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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, Palestine Economic Bureau,  
1946.

February 6, 1946

Mr. David Tannenbaum, Director  
Economic Bureau  
Zionist Organization of America  
41 E. 42nd Street  
New York 17, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Tannenbaum:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I received from Mr. Zuckerman of The Marine Trust Limited of Tel-Aviv. The letter is self-explanatory.

I wish that you would take the matter up with Mr. Szold and see what action can be taken. Please communicate with Mr. Zuckerman after you will have discussed the matter with Mr. Szold, and tell him that I have referred the matter to you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR  
Enc.



# PALESTINE ECONOMIC BUREAU

הלשכה הכלכלית הא"י של ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

OF THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
President, Zionist Org. of Amer.

DR. DAVID TANNENBAUM  
Bureau Director

February 13, 1946

Dr. Abbe Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
E. 105th St.  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

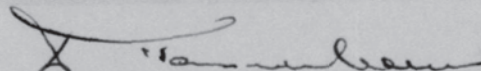
Dear Dr. Silver:

I have received the letter you sent me which was written to you by Mr. Zuckerman of the Marine Trust Ltd. Tel Aviv.

We have had some previous correspondence in connection with this and I have been in consultation with Mr. Robert Szold on the matter.

The Jewish Agency is doing something along these lines and the entire subject will be discussed at a meeting of the Economic Coordinating Committee which will be held this Friday.

Sincerely yours,



DAVID TANNENBAUM  
Director

dt/c



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DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
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March 13, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio

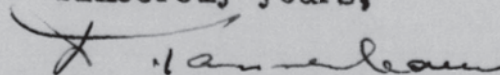
Dear Dr. Silver:

Your letter of March 8th raises a point which is of considerable importance. The editorial on the proposed loan to Britain was passed by Emanuel Neumann before it appeared. I believe that Manson also knew about it, though I am not certain of this. The difficulty arises out of the fact that I, and perhaps others, have no way of knowing what the position of the Emergency Council is on such matters.

I have recently approached the Department of Commerce asking them to take a favorable position in requesting the Palestine government to unblock Sterling balances held by American nationals in that country. This does not imply conversion rights. The first reaction of the Department is favorable and they are prepared to press the matter with the Departments of State and Treasury.

However, now, before pursuing the matter further, I shall discuss it with Harry Shapiro, though I have already taken it up with Neumann. I will appreciate any directions from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,



DAVID TANNENBAUM  
Director

dt/c



PALESTINE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
Zionist Organization of America  
41 E. 42 St. NY 17  
MU 2 3205

March 25th, 1946

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of the news release announcing the first post-war tour of Palestine arranged by the Palestine Economic Bureau of the ZOA, in cooperation with TWA. This trip will represent the inaugural flight of the regular service between New York and Palestine. It is an historic occasion bringing Jerusalem within 36 flying hours from New York.

The Bureau has arranged in cooperation with the Jewish Agency, for a complete tour of Palestine. We will spend about 30 days in the country. Every opportunity will be given the visitors to see the remarkable development of Eretz Israel and to become familiar with the vast economic possibilities resulting from the expanded economy of the Homeland.

Due to restricted accommodations, the trip will be limited to about 30 industrialists and business men. The round trip fare will be about \$1450 (including federal taxes). Expenses in Palestine including hotels and trips, will be about \$20 per day.

We will leave New York in a TWA Constellation plane on April 25th and return about May 27th.

In addition to the fare charged by TWA, the Bureau will make an extra charge of \$100 per person in order to cover in part the expenses incurred by the Bureau in arranging the trip.

Please give this announcement the widest publicity. You might be able to have your local paper publish the enclosed news release. In view of the limited time before the trip, it is necessary for anyone interested to communicate with the Bureau AT ONCE, either by phone - Mu 2 3205, or by wire. The Bureau will be prepared to assist in securing passports and necessary visas.

Yours very truly,

*David Tannenbaum*  
DAVID TANNENBAUM  
Director

dt/c

encl.



March 25, 1946

Mr. David Tannenbaum  
Director, Economic Bureau  
Zionist Organization of America  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York 17, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Tannenbaum:

In connection with the Shekel Campaign and the Congressional elections, I would make the following suggestions:

1. It is important that we have a Yiddish writer close to the Jewish Press, who would look after our interests in the Yiddish Press. It is in this area where the other parties will concentrate. We have found Mr. Auerbach a very dependable and able man. If he is a General Zionist, he is the man for us. Please contact him and arrange for his services immediately. As soon as Mr. Auerbach or another such individual is engaged, he should call together Jewish writers who are in sympathy with General Zionism and outline with them a systematic presentation of our program in the Yiddish Press.
2. Our major strength lies in the middle-size and smaller communities of the United States. It is there where most of our strength will come from, if the work is properly organized. The ZOA is strong in those cities. The other parties are weak. This, of course, does not mean that we should neglect the large cities, such as New York, Chicago and Philadelphia, but we can build up great strength in areas where we have more or less a clear field.
3. It is of utmost importance that we organize an effective tour of speakers to visit our districts throughout the country in the next two months.

I am waiting to receive a report from our Conference today, following which I may have some other suggestions to make to you. Please keep me informed of what action you are taking in these matters.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR



# PALESTINE ECONOMIC BUREAU

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DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
President, Zionist Org. of Amer.

DR. DAVID TANNENBAUM  
Bureau Director

March 27, 1946

## AIRMAIL

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have just succeeded in completing the arrangements with TWA for a flight to Palestine on their new service which they have inaugurated to Cairo.

We are planning to take 30 businessmen on this trip. A tour of the country has been arranged in cooperation with the Jewish Agency. We plan to stay in Palestine about 30 days, leaving here April 25th and return May 27th.

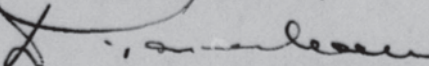
Despite the very short time available for making arrangements, I believe that we shall have a very representative group of business men who are seriously considering investing funds in Palestine and establishing business connections. The indirect results of this trip, I believe, will be as beneficial as the direct results, to Palestine.

TWA has agreed to call this trip the inaugural flight. The round trip fare will be about \$1450 ( including federal tax ) and the hotel accommodations and trips in Palestine will cost about \$20 a day. We are making an extra charge of \$100 per person to defray the costs incurred by the Bureau.

There may be some business men to whom you would want the Bureau to give preference. If there are any such people, would you be good enough to let me know so that we can communicate with them at once.

I think it would be very helpful if we have a letter from you endorsing the trip, which we could use for publicity purposes. I am enclosing a draft which might be acceptable to you.

Sincerely yours,



DAVID TANNENBAUM  
Director

dt/c  
encl.



April 4, 1946

Mr. David Tannenbaum, Director.  
Palestine Economic Bureau  
41 E. 42nd St.  
New York 17, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Tannenbaum:

In arranging the meeting for ZOA speakers -- a meeting which I hope will be very successful -- I am sure you will also keep in mind the fact that meetings must be arranged for these speakers. Has word gone out to our districts asking them to arrange for meetings within the next few weeks and informing them that speakers would be available? I believe that this should be done prior to the meeting on the 14th so as not to lose any time.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



April 4, 1946

Mr. David Tannenbaum, Director  
Economic Bureau  
Zionist Organization of America  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Tannenbaum:

The arrangement which you made for bringing over by plane a quantity of flowers from Palestine is a very fine thing. I would suggest that you connect this activity entirely with Pesach and eliminate the Easter angle. Put it down as Passover Greetings sent from Palestine to the Jews of America by way of flowers. I do not wish to see this thing presented as another "good-will gesture" to the non-Jews.

Send the flowers around to the leading synagogues of the United States in the eight or ten principal cities, to be used on their altars on Passover. The plan of distribution should be carefully worked out so as not to offend anyone.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR



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MEMORANDUM

PALESTINE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
41 East 42 Street  
New York 17, N.Y.

From: David Tannenbaum

Date: April 4, 1946

To: Harry Shapiro

CONFIDENTIAL

At my suggestion, Mr. Sidney Ross met with Mr. Sheuer, his friend, to discuss the position of Palestine in connection with the proposed loan to Great Britain. Mr. Sheuer was a member of the American negotiating committee and sat in on all of the conferences. Mr. Sheuer is a member of the Ethical Culture Group and is not particularly interested in Palestine or Zionism.

- 1) Palestine was not discussed during the conferences and was mentioned only once and that unfavorably, by Lord Keynes. The Americans made no comment of any sort.
- 2) The British convinced the Americans that any arrangements to be made with the Empire or satellite countries is a British "internal affair" and therefore the matter of devaluation or scaling down of British liabilities to the Empire, will be handled exclusively and without interference by America, despite the effect this may have on purchases in this country.
- 3) The feeling among the American negotiators was that there will be freeing of at least a portion of Sterling for exchange into dollars within the year after the loan goes into effect, as the loan agreement provides.
- 4) The impression gained was that the American negotiators were totally unfamiliar with the problems of Palestine and the possible market in Palestine for American merchandise which could be purchased with the dollar balances accruing to Palestine.
- 5) The impression was confirmed that the State Department was not particularly anxious to expand American sales in the Middle East.
- 6) The question of blocked American accounts in Palestine was not discussed.
- 7) Mr. Sheuer might be available for consultation provided specific information or problems were to be discussed, though his lukewarm attitude towards Palestine must be taken into consideration.



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OF THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
President, Zionist Org. of Amer.

DR. DAVID TANNENBAUM  
Bureau Director

April 5, 1946

Dear Sir:

Response to the first postwar Businessmen's Tour of Palestine by TWA plane has been most gratifying. Inquiries are coming in from all over the country. Our rolls are practically completed. However, we request that you continue to give the tour the widest possible publicity.

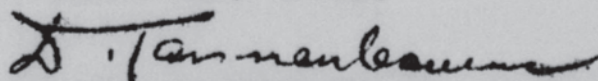
The importance of the tour to Palestine is graphically emphasized in a letter from Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, President of the Zionist Organization of America, a facsimile copy of which we are enclosing. May we ask that you do whatever you can to have this letter inserted in your local press?

We are also enclosing several copies of a flyer, which will fit into any envelope, describing the trip. We would highly appreciate your forwarding them to businessmen who might be interested in joining the tour.

We wish to stress again the vital time element involved. Immediate response is imperative for those who wish to participate in this history-making tour so that arrangements can be completed for passports and visas.

Thanking you for your kind cooperation, we are

Yours very truly,

  
DAVID TANNENBAUM  
Director

dt/c

encls.



April 7, 1946

Mr. David Tannenbaum, Director  
Economic Bureau  
Zionist Organization of America  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Tannenbaum:

1. How many Shekolim receipt books have already been distributed by the ZOA? We have only three more weeks for the sale of Shekolim.
2. There should be a quick check-up by telegram of the fifteen or twenty largest communities to learn whether the General Zionists have already organized their Shekel Sales Committees, and what progress is being made.
3. Have we a field secretary permanently stationed now in Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles who is devoting himself exclusively to the business of selling Shekolim through the General Zionists? If not, this should be done at once. These are the three largest centers of Jewish population. I am particularly concerned about Chicago, where our ZOA forces are not very strong. It might even be advisable to send two men into Chicago. Time is of the essence.
4. The ad in the Yiddish papers is excellent.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR



Charge to the account of

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM	NIGHT LETTER
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Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

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A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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

NEW YORK CITY  
April 15, 1946

## WANT A REPLY?

"Answer by WESTERN UNION"  
or similar phrases may be  
included without charge.

RE FLOWER PRESENTATION VIEW YOUR ATTENDANCE COUNCIL MEETING 18th.  
WILL ARRANGE FOR PRESENTATION. YOU AND DR. WISE IN NEW YORK 1:45 PM  
COUNCIL OFFICE. PLEASE WIRE IF AGREEABLE.

David Tannenbaum

Recd. 12:20 PM



# PALESTINE ECONOMIC BUREAU

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

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
President, Zionist Org. of Amer.

DR. DAVID TANNENBAUM  
Bureau Director

June 21st, 1946

## SPECIAL DELIVERY AIRMAIL

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I had hoped to have an opportunity of seeing you again and to discuss in some further detail the situation in Palestine as we found it, the results of our trip, and further plans of the Bureau. The last point needs immediate attention. I have taken up this matter with the Inner Committee and it feels that you should be consulted before any definite steps are taken. I believe that this is of sufficient importance to warrant my coming to Cleveland, if this will be most convenient for you. I should like to do this the early part of next week if it fits into your plans.

Meanwhile I should like to give you a brief summary of the accomplishments of the Delegation in Palestine. You will understand that the projects indicated below are in the initial stages and do not represent consummated programs. All of them however, have sufficient basis to warrant further expenditure of time and effort on the part of the Bureau. For many of the projects, the Bureau was able to form the nucleus of a group *in this country* with whom negotiations can now proceed based upon the additional information secured and the contacts established in Palestine.

1. The establishment of a woolen plant in Palestine which would handle fibre from its raw state to the finished product. A group in Palestine is prepared to participate financially and Mr. Ben Ami of Nathanya is prepared to cooperate in providing factory space in that community. \$3,000,000 - \$5,000,000 is involved.
2. Arrangements were made with Solel Boneh to provide blocks of marble for export to this country to be used primarily for monuments, synagogue and church construction. About \$1,000,000 would be required.
3. Preliminary negotiations were undertaken with Mr. Rokach of the municipality of Tel Aviv, looking toward the granting of a concession to construct a gas plant in that city. This can be undertaken with joint Palestine-American capital and American installations and management.

cont.



Dr. Silver

June 21st, 1946

4. Steps were taken to mobilize substantial amounts of institutional money to provide low cost, long term mortgage funds for housing. If this materializes, \$10,000,000 - \$25,000,000 will become available.
5. Two members of the Group, experienced in the hotel business, are in active negotiation for the purchase and construction of hotels in Haifa and Tiberias. Management would be American. No outside capital will be required. \$600,000 - \$700,000 is involved.
6. One member of the Group agreed to finance the export of seeds and flower bulbs to this country. He is prepared to invest \$100,000 in this project.
7. Several members of the Delegation representing the Greek - Sephardic community here, took the initial steps looking towards the settlement of 100 - 200 of their compatriots in Palestine. They and their associates in this country, would provide the necessary funds. Arrangements were made with the Agency to allocate certificates to these people, when certificates are available. A leading member of this group unfortunately took seriously ill in Palestine and the project will therefore have to be carried through from this end. An initial sum of money, about \$50,000, was immediately made available for use to aid new Greek immigrants.
8. A limited number of items, exportable to the United States, were found by members of the Delegation. During the first week since our return, an initial order was secured by one of our Group residing in Michigan.
9. One member of the Delegation, president of the leading laundry and linen supply service in the United States, since his return, has arranged for two individuals to go to Palestine looking towards the establishment of a modern laundry and linen supply service in Tel Aviv and Haifa. An investment of approximately \$100,000 - \$150,000 is involved in each case. The Bureau is arranging for their transportation and visas.

Every member of the Delegation felt that it was necessary to increase the investments of American Jews in Palestine. They all felt that this was the proper time to launch an effort of sufficient importance to attract leading businessmen and to carry the full weight of American Jewry in Palestine, it was felt that a minimum of \$25,000,000 would be required for this purpose. I have definite suggestions as to how this might be done which I should like to discuss with you personally.

I feel that the Bureau ought to undertake certain efforts looking towards mobilizing important businessmen, both Jewish and non-Jewish, to exert pressure upon the government to persuade it to intervene with the Palestine authorities to eliminate discrimination against American business. I feel that one of the effects

cont.



Dr. Silver

June 21, 1946

in Palestine would be an orderly reduction in the cost of living which is essential if the economic position in Palestine is not to be seriously impaired.

It is my feeling that the activities of the Bureau should now be expanded. For the coming year, our major interest in addition to carrying on our normal routine work, should be in three directions.

1. Fostering the establishment of branch factories.
2. Organizing an economic and industrial exhibit.
3. Creating an investment company as indicated above.

These are some of the matters I should like to discuss with you. I would appreciate it if you could let me know either by phone or wire, when it will be possible for you to see me.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

*David Tannenbaum*  
DAVID TANNENBAUM  
Director

dt/c

*Home address*  
*25 West 68 St. N.Y.C.*

*Tx. 7-7554*



[Undated]

Dr. David Tannenbaum  
Palestine Economic Bureau  
Zionist Organization of America  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Tannenbaum:

The Industrialists' and Businessmens' tour of Palestine which the Palestine Economic Bureau is conducting, is truly an historic event. I want to take this opportunity of congratulating you on launching it, and those far-seeing individuals in the business world on their participation in it.

The tour will accomplish much, I am sure, to cement the ties which bind America to Eretz Israel. It will open up new vistas of cooperation. The flow of commerce which I hope will ensue from this first post-war air tour of the Holy Land cannot help but benefit both American business and Palestine industry.

The tour of the Palestine Economic Bureau, highlighting the fact that Jerusalem is now less than two days from New York by plane, emphasizes Palestine's geographic importance. The phenomenal industrial and commercial growth of the Yishuv in the past decade and the magnificent contributions to the war effort well justify the confidence of American businessmen in Palestine's continued economic development. This American-Palestine cooperation will provide ample opportunity for constructively absorbing many thousands of the new immigrants who will arrive in the Homeland.

My best wishes for a productive and pleasant visit.

Sincerely yours,