



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, confidential files on Palestine,
1946-1947.

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TOP SECRETCONTENTS OF FILE OF CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS ON
PALESTINE SUPPLIED BY DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS FOR
USE OF ANGLO-AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

- 1). Despatch No. 1473 from American Legation at Cairo, Egypt, December 15, 1938, (Unrestricted), transmitting a note concerning Palestine from King Ibn Saud to President Roosevelt, together with additional correspondence, (Cairo Despatch No. 1474, December 17; memorandum dated January 9, 1939, from Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles to the President with draft reply; strictly confidential instructions to Cairo, Beirut, Baghdad, and Jerusalem, transmitting copies of President's reply.)

(State Department file number: 867N.01/1364)
- 2). Memorandum of conversation dated March 30, 1943, between the Egyptian Minister and Under Secretary Welles, together with note dated March 29, on Palestine question handed to Mr. Welles by Egyptian Minister; memorandum of conversation of March 30, 1943, between the Egyptian Minister and Mr. Paul H. Alling of Division of Near Eastern Affairs on this same subject; note of Egyptian Minister dated February 2, 1943; Department's reply of April 6, 1943, to these two communications; and strictly confidential instructions to Jerusalem, Beirut, Cairo, Baghdad, Ankara, and Jidda.

(State Department file number: FW867N.00/628)
- 3). Telegram dated May 26, 1943, to American Legation, Cairo, (strictly confidential), containing message from President Roosevelt to King Ibn Saud stating that in the view of this Government no decision altering the basic situation of Palestine should be reached without full consultation with both Arabs and Jews. (first time this assurance given Arabs by U.S.)

(State Department file number: 890.00/93)
- 4). Despatch No. 1034, May 11, 1943, from Cairo containing a letter dated April 30, 1943, from King Ibn Saud to President Roosevelt on Palestine; letter dated May 29, 1943, from Acting Secretary of State Welles to President Roosevelt; and Department's strictly confidential instructions to American Legations at Jidda and Cairo transmitting the President's reply in which the same assurance as under No. 3 is reiterated.

(State Department file number: 890F.00/89)
- 5). Telegram No. 1605 of October 26, 1943, to Legation at Cairo, (Secret), containing a statement to be given the Acting Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia relative to this Government's position on Arab union, to the effect that we sympathize with the aspirations of the peoples of the Near East to attain full independence and strengthen the ties between them, providing such a development is in line with the Atlantic Charter, etc.

(State Department file number: none)

- 6). Memorandum, February 24, 1944, from Mr. Alling of the Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs to Mr. Wallace Murray of that office and Under Secretary Stettinius relative to conversation between Mr. Alling and the Egyptian Minister together with note of February 24 on Palestine from Egyptian Minister and memorandum of February 26, 1944, from Mr. Murray to Assistant Secretary of State Breckenridge Long and Under Secretary Stettinius summarizing the Arab reaction to the introduction of the Palestine Resolutions into Congress.
(State Department file number: FW867N.01/2315)

Department's reply of March 28 to Egyptian Minister (stating that Arabs and Jews should be consulted) and Department's telegram No. 657 of March 28 to Cairo (restricted, repeated to Baghdad, Jerusalem, Beirut, Damascus and Jidda) giving text of Department's note.
- 7). Telegram No. 503 of March 4, 1944, from Cairo (restricted) containing communication from king of Yemen, Department's note of March 31 to Egyptian Minister containing for transmission to king of Yemen same assurance as above under (6) and telegram No. 692 of March 31 to Cairo (restricted, repeated to Jerusalem, Baghdad, Jidda, Damascus and Beirut) giving text of department's note.
(State Department file number: 867N.01/2231)
- 8). Telegram No. 38 of March 13, 1944, to Jidda (secret) transmitting message to King Ibn Saud from President Roosevelt regarding the Palestine Resolutions and renewed assurances outlined above under (3) and (4).
- 9). Telegram No. 531 to Cairo of March 15, 1944, to Jidda (secret, repeated to Beirut, Damascus, Jerusalem, Jidda and Baghdad) containing a message to the Egyptian Prime Minister in reply to his inquiry regarding press accounts of statement made by Rabbi Wise and Rabbi Silver after seeing President Roosevelt on March 9. Department's telegram, which was approved by the President, renews assurance of consultation with both Arabs and Jews.
- 10). Telegram dated March 3, 1944, from Amir Abdullah of Trans-Jordan to President Roosevelt regarding Palestine Resolutions, memoranda exchanged between the President and Department with respect to preparation of reply and Department's telegram No. 54 of March 3, 1944, to American Consul General in Jerusalem (secret) containing President's reply assuring Amir that Arabs as well as Jews should be consulted.
(State Department file number: None)
- 11). Cairo telegram No. 2362, August 10, 1944, (Plain) summarizing speech of Egyptian Prime Minister on Palestine during which he made public assurances mentioned above.
- 12). Correspondence between Arab leaders and Presidents Roosevelt and Truman arising out of a concerted approach made to President Roosevelt by Arab leaders on Palestine question under date of March 10, 1945:
 - a). King Ibn Saud -- King's letter of March 10 and President Roosevelt's reply of April 5 were made public October 18, 1945, and are the only letters in this correspondence which have been published in this country or by this Government.
 - b). Regent of Iraq -- Despatch No. 657 dated March 12, 1945, from Baghdad (secret) transmitting letter to President Roosevelt dated March 10, from Prince Abdul Ilah, Regent of Iraq and Department's instructions No. 312 of April 21 to Baghdad (unrestricted) containing reply signed by President

Roosevelt on April 12, 1945, (the date of his death) reiterating that in the view of the Government of the United States no decision affecting the basic situation in Palestine should be reached without full consultation with both Arabs and Jews.

c). President of Syria -- Despatch No. 695 of March 14, 1945, (confidential) from American Legation at Beirut transmitting letter dated March 11 (10?), President Shukri el-Kuwatly of Syria to President Roosevelt and Department's unrestricted instruction No. 120 of April 21 to Damascus enclosing reply dated April 12, 1945, from President Roosevelt containing identical assurances as (b) above.

d). Prime Minister of Lebanon -- The corresponding communication in the case of Lebanon was addressed by the Prime Minister of that country to the Secretary of State. Beirut's Despatch No. 692 of March 12, 1945, (confidential) transmitting the letter from Prime Minister is attached together with the Department's confidential instruction No. 368 of April 11 transmitting a reply of the same date from Secretary of State Stettinius containing an identical assurance with that given above under (b).

(State Department file number: 867N.01/3-1245)

4). Amir of Trans-Jordan -- This letter was transmitted through the British Government and did not reach Washington until after President Roosevelt's death. Attached are copies of the Amir's letter of March 10 and of the Department's unrestricted instructions to London and Jerusalem under date of May 21, 1945, transmitting President Truman's reply dated May 17, which contains an assurance identical with that given above under (b).

f). Prime Minister of Egypt -- The Egyptian Prime Minister's letter was also received after President Roosevelt's death. Attached are the Egyptian Minister's note of May 25 to Acting Secretary of State Grew transmitting the Prime Minister's letter of April 31 to President Truman and its enclosures on Palestine together with President Truman's reply dated June 4 and containing an assurance identical with that given above under (b).

13) Memorandum (secret) dated March 22, 1945, from Acting Secretary of State Grew to President Roosevelt containing draft of reply (approved by the President and transmitted to Baghdad in Department's secret telegram of March 24) in reply to inquiry of Iraqi Prime Minister concerning Reuters report of statement made on March 16, 1945, by Rabbi Wise to the effect that the President still adhered to the position taken in his letter of October 15, 1944 endorsing the Democratic platform on Palestine. The reply to the Iraqi Prime Minister points out that while the Rabbi's statement was substantially correct, it referred to possible action at some future time and that in writing his letter to Senator Wagner endorsing the Democratic platform the President was, of course, keeping in mind the assurance made to certain Near Eastern Governments regarding consultation with Arabs as well as Jews. This telegram repeated to London, Cairo, Beirut, Jerusalem, Damascus, and Jidda.

(State Department file number: 867N.01/3 - 1845)

14) Department's telegram No. 163 of August 18, 1945, to Jerusalem, (confidential) repeated to Cairo, Baghdad, Jidda, Beirut and Damascus, giving substance of remarks made by President Truman at his August 16 press conference to the effect that he had discussed Palestine with Churchill and Attlee at Potsdam, that we want to let as many Jews into Palestine as possible but that the matter would have to be worked out with the British and the Arabs on a peaceful basis as he had no desire to send American soldiers to keep the peace in Palestine.

- 15). Copy of memorandum of conversation of October 12, 1945, between the Secretary of State, Byrnes, Under Secretary Acheson, Mr. Loy W. Henderson of the Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs and the Ministers of Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon together with Aide Memoire on Palestine handed the Secretary by the four Ministers, in reply to which Secretary Byrnes stated that there had been no change in this Government's policy on Palestine.
(State department file number: 867N.01/10-1245)
- 16). Department's telegram No. 314 of October 23, 1945, to Baghdad (unrestricted), repeated to Cairo, Jidda, Jerusalem, Damascus, Beirut, containing reply to Oraqi Prime Minister of September 26 inquiring whether it is true that President Truman has requested Prime Minister Attlee to admit 100,000 Jews to Palestine. Reply points out that President and Prime Minister have engaged in exploratory correspondence on this subject, that Palestine was naturally mentioned as one of the possible havens for homeless Jews, but that there has been no change in this Government's previously announced attitude on Palestine.
- 17). Department's telegram No. 254 Bis November 19, 1945, (unrestricted to Jerusalem, repeated to London, Cairo, Jidda, Beirut and Damascus) containing reply from President Truman to Amir of Trans-Jordan in reply to latter's telegram of September 29 and assuring Amir that there has been no change in this Government's policy towards Palestine.

