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Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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Zionist Organization of America, "F," "G," "H," "I," "J," "K," and "L",
1947-1949.

ERICH O. GRUNEBAUM
120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 5

June 10, 1947.

Handwritten: R.H.S.
11/14/47

The President of the
Zionist Organization of America,
41 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

It might seem presumptuous that a man, who has never been in the councils of your organization, should write to you a letter like the following. Probably most of the thoughts expressed therein, regarding the most urgent problem of Zionism, have been discussed already and, maybe, rejected by men more experienced in detailed knowledge of the situation. Nevertheless you may be interested to hear the opinion of a man who, fairly removed from the open clash of conflicts, has been pondering over these problems long and often. Having been an active Zionist, though in a small way, and a regular member of the Zionist Organization for 20 years here as well as in Europe, qualifies me, I feel, as a serious worker for the cause of the Jishuv, to raise my voice.

In all these years I have read many books and articles. I have listened to many speeches and I do not criticize what has been written or said by the leaders of the Zionist movement. If I have anything to add to what has been said and written, it is only the question: Do all these utterances give us enough material to solve the problem constructively?

For 50 years it has been the battlecry of the Zionists "Palestine has to become a Jewish territory!" But in view of the conflicting promises which have been given in connection with this territory to different groups during or after the first world war, this position is, to say the least, disputed. However, since that time no further constructive idea, how to solve this problem, has been made from the Jewish side. Is not this perhaps one of the reasons why the Jews since many years have become the object and not the subject of action in connection with the Palestine question? The quota of immigration, even before the White Paper, was determined by England; the famous White Paper, the restrictions of the immigration quota to 1500 persons a month now, the Anglo-American Investigation Committee including their report, the United Nations' Investigation: in all these cases WE ARE THE OBJECT. In no way can we consider the Jews the masters of the situation. Should we not

try to some extent to get the initiative back in our hands? Is this all not also in part the reason why a great part of the Jewish youth in Palestine has drifted to other leaders lately?

This is what I meant when I said before: Are we doing enough and should not more productive propositions come from the Jews besides our old battlecry? Though I naturally do not pretend to have found the solution for all our difficulties, I would like to develop a few ideas which might contribute to it in some way.

Dr. Abba H. Silver in his very eloquent speech before the United Nations Assembly stressed very strongly the necessity for an increase of the quota of Jews to be admitted into Palestine and the absolute necessity of doing so now! It was only a little while later that in just as eloquent words the speaker for the Arabian world spoke for the immediate stoppage of all immigration whatsoever, that meant that even 1500 persons who are now admitted monthly should be excluded in the future.

This is a head-on collision of two absolutely opposing views, and it is pretty obvious that this fact alone is a very good excuse for the British Government to do nothing at best. It is since a long time that I have sought for a solution to this seemingly insoluble problem.

Since the persecution by Hitler, first in Germany and later in other European countries, hundreds and thousands of Jews have gone to Palestine who never before had been connected with Zionism. They have gone there as capitalists on a special £ 1000 quota, they have gone there on regular quota and have gone there in exchange for Germans abroad. Many felt happy in their new surroundings and, while not yet Zionists when they arrived, have been converted to Zionism by facts. But many could not assimilate or re-assimilate there. In my own small circle of acquaintances I know of quite a few who, after they once had won their freedom from Hitler, used this to re-immigrate to other countries. I even know of quite a few cases where people have returned to some of the European countries after these had regained their freedom. While I feel strongly that everybody should be allowed to live as he chooses and where he likes, it is very regrettable that quotas for Palestine have been used, and therefore lost for the future, by people who did not contribute to the building up of Erez Israel. If I draw a conclusion from the small circle I know, to the greater number of Jews from Europe, I am pretty sure that the numbers who have transmigrated from Palestine to other countries must be not inconsiderable.

If we face the fact that the Arabs would not consent now, if ever, to an increase of Jewish immigration, if we face the fact that the British will not like to stir up anything prejudicing their position at this stage, would it not be possible to build them a bridge with the help of these lost quota numbers? If we could tell the British, and perhaps even the Arabs, that at this moment we will be temporarily satisfied till the end of the United Nations Investigation with just the re-establishing of a status as it has been before, by permitting as many Jews to come to Palestine in addition to the present quota as have voluntarily left before! The British might save their face, explaining to themselves and to the world that really nothing is changed. And while the Arabs surely will oppose, this opposition could be overcome, if the British could be persuaded to use this bridge.

I know this does not solve any fundamental problem. Yet for those Jews now interned in Cyprus, it will mean a lot. And for those who are in D.P. camps in Germany, who are constantly losing hope and faith in the future, the fact that a few thousand of them are really going to Palestine, would spiritually uplift also those who are left behind. Quite realistically seen, it is also very important that at this stage of our history the Jishuv is strengthened by every Jew legally admitted, even if this additional number is not great. But should partition be the final decision, it is highly important that as many Jews as possible should actually reside in Palestine now or soon!

How to solve the fundamental problem and really make Palestine into a homeland for the Jews, has naturally been the main object of my thoughts. The following observations are, to this end, proposed for your consideration:

There is no doubt about the fact that the Arabs are very much afraid of their status as a minority connected with the possibility of encroachments of their rights. To some extent this fear might even be understandable. A great part of the Arab people have lived under the domination of other races or under alien rulers for many centuries, and some of them are subjected to this domination even now. The experiences they have gathered, let us say in Tripolis or old Turkey etc., have not always been too pleasant, and we therefore should have some understanding for their fears. Might not a clear and detailed proclamation by the Jews of a status, which they would grant every minority living in their midst, alleviate those fears?

Except for some generalities which have been mentioned briefly in certain documents, published by the Jewish Agency, nothing very concrete in this respect has ever come to my knowledge. However, we should work out a minority status, protecting the Non-Jews living in future in our midst. Such a status should surpass anything which has ever been devised as a protection of minority rights anywhere else. It should certainly be better than anything proclaimed after the first world war for many of the newly formed states.

It should really be a shining example to the world. Not only would this be in conformity with the Jewish biblical tradition, it would also serve as proof to the world that the Jews in 2000 years of Galuth have learned their lesson and can still make a real contribution to world progress.

This would not only be in our favor as far as Palestine is concerned, it also might benefit those Jews who will continue to live in the Diaspora. Maybe, the Arab High Committee will not be very pleased or satisfied with such a detailed protective "Bill of Rights", but I am pretty sure that with regard to the rest of the world, especially as far as the nations now sitting on the U.N. Investigation Committee are concerned, this will be of highest propaganda value for the Jewish cause. It might even quieten the fears of some of the Arabs, and it will be a great boon to those Jews who are now living and will continue to live in Arab countries.

And yet, we will need more to solve the problem. Jewish leadership at no time, to my knowledge, has denied the rights of those Arabs who settled in Palestine centuries ago and, as mentioned afore, their rights should be even better defined. Also all investigators who have worked on the solution of the Palestine problem have recognized these rights. However, we know that hand in hand with the Jewish immigration since the Balfour Declaration went a substantial Arabian immigration into Palestine. The latter immigrants have not the same inherited birthrights as the older Arabian settlers and they did not come out of idealism like the Jews. They were simply attracted by the higher standards of living and by the higher wages paid, owing to the tremendous investments the Jews have made in Palestine. Do these people, nevertheless, have the same claim to Palestine as those Arabs who have settled there centuries ago, and do they deserve the same consideration? If they do, they take away space which cannot be occupied by Jewish settlers. If they do not, what should be done?

I read with great interest the book of Dr. Lowdermilk, whose interesting project, to my mind, has never been used sufficiently as propaganda for the Zionist cause. In a short paragraph Dr. Lowdermilk mentions that, what he has said about the possibilities of irrigation in the Jordan valley, might lend itself in even greater measure to the irrigation of the valleys of the Euphrat and Tigris. After all, the countries bordering these rivers used to be the granaries of the ancient world. Might not the Jews get up and say: We Jews are willing not only to build up Palestine, we also will contribute to the development of all Asia Minor! We will contribute our money and our manual and intellectual means, small as they are, to the development of tremendous irrigation schemes of the Euphrat and Tigris for the benefit of the Arabs. If the other nations will join hands with us, we can at last get at the fundamental needs of the Arab world. Then Palestine would become just insignificant in comparison with those vast, new possibilities.

The only condition for our contribution should be that certain parts of the lands, thus gained, should be reserved for those Arabs who have come to Palestine since the first world war. If some other Arabs from Palestine should wish to join them, I do not think, the Jews would object.

This would be a different scheme than those carried through in Europe, where Poles have been uprooted east of the Curzon Line, or Slovaks sent out of Hungary and then left to their own destiny. Again the Jews would show the world how we would like human individuals to be treated. We would provide means of living and a place to go to for people to whom we scarcely have any obligation. But it might make friends for us among the Arabs whose friendship we will always need, and it will be an immense contribution towards peace in the Near East.

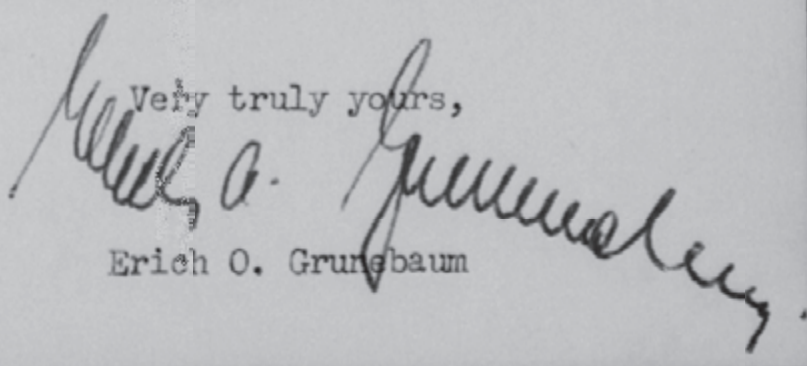
A short while ago the press carried the news that Great Britain had approached the United States with the request for a substantial dollar contribution for the benefit of the Arabian states. From the fact that this news-item disappeared as suddenly as it had appeared, I gather that the State Department did not react very friendly to this suggestion. However, if World Jewry should announce a proposition like the above, promising a real contribution for the benefit of their Arabian neighbors out of their meagre means, I am sure, the rest of the world, including the U.S. and, maybe, even Great Britain would greatly welcome such a way out of their dilemma and contribute to it, and so might many other wellwishing friends of the Zionist cause who are now wondering how a solution for their difficult problems is to be found.

I would like to add that this last idea of mine is in no way in conflict with the previous suggestion, concerning the rights of minorities. This is not a forced expulsion, this is not a plan in line with Hitler's methods. This is just a plan with the aim of creating more room for additional Jews in Palestine by offering a greater inducement to the Arabs to settle among their own friends.

If any of these ideas would be considered a contribution to this problem, I would be more than happy. If all of them would be rejected by your Council, I would under no circumstances take that amiss, because the main principle, underlying this letter, is the thought that more and newer ideas ought to be developed from the Jewish side, as otherwise, after the U.N. Committee has concluded its investigation, we are again just a pawn and an object of history.

Knowing of the pressure under which you are just now working, this letter does not require an immediate answer. If, at a later date, with more time and leisure, you can give me your reaction to my ideas, it would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,


Erich O. Grunbaum

Dr. Paul Lazarus,
Rabbi,
15, Massada Street,
Ha'ar Hacarmel,
Haifa,

Haifa, 11th February, 1948.

Dr. Abba Silver,
Rabbi,
Cleveland (Ohio).

Dear Dr. Silver,

I beg to enclose, for your information, a memorandum on the place of Religion in the future Jewish State which might serve as a basis for discussion.

It expresses solely my personal view. I have been Assistant Rabbi to Dr. Elk in his Liberal Congregation "Beth Israel", Haifa, for eight years. My experiences during this period move me to put into writing my ideas on this subject in this decisive hour, as I am conscious of the responsibility which now rests with every liberal Rabbi of this country.

There is certainly no need to explain to you, dear Dr. Silver, the situation of liberal Judaism in Palestine. You are aware of the fact that not one of the three small liberal congregations has been recognized and that not one of the three liberal Rabbis may officiate. At the best we are permitted to officiate at a marriage ceremony under the supervision of some orthodox Rabbi. Only Dr. K. Wilhelm, my colleague in Jerusalem, has by mere accident been granted, while the late Chief Rabbi Kook was in office, to officiate at weddings, but even this privilege is not de jure. My fear that a liberal Judaism in Palestine will be made impossible for generations has led me to make these few observations. My concern has been increased by the notices so far published in the press, by the composition of the preparatory committee (Mapai and Misrachi), by the counter-proposal on the part of the Chief Rabbinate which

II.

is to be expected to go even further, and by the religious indifference of the masses.

I know quite well that there are hardly any prospects for changing anything, but my conscience as a Jew and as a liberal Rabbi demands of me to say what is in my mind. As I regret to foresee clearly, there is a clerical state on its way in this country where any different trend of religion and any vital religious development will be prevented.

As to myself, may I add that I have graduated from the Rabbinical Seminar of Breslau, and that I started my work as an Assistant Rabbi in Essen (Germany) and then held the office of Rabbi of Wiesbaden Town and Country from 1910 to 1939. During this period I was a member of the Council of liberal Rabbis of Germany. My three colleagues in Palestine, i.e. Dr. Elk of Haifa, Dr. Rosenberg of Tel Aviv and Dr. Wilhelm of Jerusalem, as well as Dr. Leo Baeck of London will gladly furnish any information as to my person.

1918

I remain, dear Dr. Silver,

Yours most sincerely,

Dr. Paul Lehmann

RELIGION IN THE JEWISH STATE.

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(Principal points for discussion)

by Rabbi Dr. P. Lazarus, Haifa.

I. Conditions up to now -

their disadvantages and their risks as to future arrangements.

The Orthodox Rabbinate (there is at present no other recognized rabbinate in Palestine) is the authoritative body possessing considerable legal and juridical competences. This body as the decisive and solely competent authority regulates the matters of personal status, i.e. marriage, divorce and the law of inheritance in accordance with Talmudic law, which - as conceived by the Rabbinate - derives from divine inspiration and is, therefore, according to this opinion not subject to principal changes by men. Many, inwardly not in agreement with these prevailing conditions, have yet so far submitted to them for reasons of national solidarity.

- a) Thus the conscience of individual Jews - unwilling to live in accordance with this orthodox conception - is being put to a severe test;
- b) There will not be any room for non-orthodox demands. Thus any vital development of religion and its functions (e.g. marriage law) is made impossible.

II. The following principal demands are therefore to be put forward.

a) Separation of Church and State.

This would mean to us

- b) that all citizens of the Jewish State would enjoy complete freedom of conscience and that the unrestricted practicing of religious services of all kinds would be guaranteed to everybody by the state.
- c) that the compulsory membership of the "Knesseth Israel" ought to be abolished.

III. Explanatory Remarks:

What does "Separation of Church and State" signify?

We must first of all realise that "Separation of Church and State" is a political slogan, but not a clearly defined conception of indubitable content.

- a) Religion is part of a people's culture. We ought, therefore, to aim at a community where every person belonging to it is enabled to live in accordance with his individual religious requirements. He, with other like-minded, must be enabled to organize themselves in a congregation that is a corporate body and has therefore the right of taxation of its members.

- b) Another form of separation of Church and State would be the elevation of a religious association beyond the legal status of a private association, thus granting it the complete freedom of developing its affairs. The state is neither to interfere with its management nor to lay claim to the right of supervision or control. In spite of renouncing any governmental control the state takes over the obligation to provide for the ministers, i.e. the rabbis: An ideal solution, by which the state takes on itself all duties while renouncing all rights, a solution as has been achieved in Belgium and in Luxembourg in our time.
- c) If none of these aims is to be attained, North America should serve as a model, a country where the state has discontinued any connection with the church and where joining religious congregations is entirely free and left to the discretion of the individual. The congregation then is a free association not a corporate body anymore. Membership is acquired by a personal declaration. Care should be taken, however, - as the American law has done - that these congregations for reason of finances "ought not to be subject to the law of association", but, that some specific legislation ought to be devised for them; even though - as in America - the state does not recognize these congregations as corporate bodies.
- d) The congregations organize themselves on a democratic basis; they are free and manage their affairs according to their own free will, elect their boards and appoint their rabbis.
- e) These rabbis are to be recognized by the state as well as all their rabbinical functions. It should be stressed at this point that the rabbi ceases to function as a registrar and that the right to conduct the registries is taken over from him. Only such persons may officiate as rabbis as can produce certificates as to their training and as to having passed an examination (Hattarat Horaah) at a recognized rabbinical college in Europe or America or such as have undergone some rabbinical training of equal standard. All these rabbis irrespective of their "Weltanschauung" (trends) enjoy the same status.

IV. Advantages of these proposals:

The organisation of such congregations is based solely on the individual piety. One interested in religion becomes a member of the congregation. The scope and achievements of these congregations will thus be measured by the true devotion and the firm belief of their members and vice versa. Such a congregation can develop freely in every respect, as no authority interferes with its internal affairs in any way.

V. Difficulties and disadvantages of the solution, suggested in III c.

- a) On the one hand there is not to be a complete breaking with Jewish tradition; on the other hand the religious freedom of the individual Jew is to be guaranteed.
- b) The objection might be raised that it is not in accordance with the dignity and the importance of religion in the life of a people that adherence to religion cannot find its expression but by founding private associations. It may further be objected that such a congregation lacks steadiness, lives only for the moment, that expenses are not dependent on requirements; but that requirements may depend on the income. That, furthermore, such a congregation may be dependent on the generosity and magnanimity of some well-to-do, who may wish for an increase of their influence on the management of the congregation in recognition of their particular contributions. And there is, finally, another risk, namely that the indifferent may get lost entirely.
- There is, however, an answer to all these objections: All three Liberal Congregations in Palestine have even now to contend with these difficulties, so that for us there would be no change for the worse in this respect.
- c) The objection that everything should be avoided that may start a so-called "Kulturkampf" may in my opinion be considered of no bearing, as nothing can ever be achieved without a struggle. Yet, the responsibility, which rests with all liberal-minded religious Jews is too great, in order to renounce - without a struggle and maybe for generations to come - securing a position for Liberal Jewry in the Jewish State.

Conclusion.

It is another important fact that in those countries in which separation of church and state has been carried out long ago, above all in North America, there is a vitally pulsating religious life. -

Jewish history shows us as well that the Jewish congregation of all times has come into being and persevered on a foundation of spontaneity and liberality.

Nowhere in the Jewish world is there a single religious trend that holds such a strong legal power as Jewish Orthodoxy in this country. We are threatened with the danger of the coming Jewish State becoming a clerical state, in which to live will grow into an unbearable burden for many.

True democracy, on which every modern state should be built, demands in the first place liberty and freedom in all spheres and not in the least in that of religion.

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF DETROIT

1044 PENOBSCOT BUILDING
PHONE CHERRY 6559

RECEIVED	
DATE	REFER TO
	DATE
FEB 27 1948	
ANSWERED	

February 25, 1948

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Zionist Emergency Committee
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Dr. Silver:

I take great pleasure in forwarding to you the enclosed resolution that was passed unanimously by the delegates who attended the First Annual Conference of the Michigan Zionist Region here in Detroit on February 15, 1948.

Sincerely yours,

Saul Gottlieb
Saul Gottlieb
Director
Michigan Zionist Region

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ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

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"If we will it, it is no dream." —HERZL

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Executive Director

ADALBERT FREEDMAN
701 Peters Building
Atlanta 3, Georgia

April 20, 1948

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
Chairman,
American Section
The Jewish Agency For Palestine
16 East 66th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Dr. Silver:

It gives me pleasure to enclose the text of a Resolution which was unanimously passed by the Florida Zionist State Conference held in Orlando on Sunday, March 28th.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

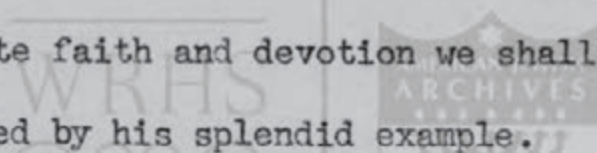
Respectfully yours,

Adalbert Freedman
Adalbert Freedman

AF:sl
Enclosure

FLORIDA ZIONIST STATE CONFERENCE - A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that we convey our heartfelt greetings to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, on the occasion of this First Annual Florida Zionist State Conference. We pledge to him our loyal and sustained cooperation in carrying out whatever directives and instructions he may issue in these critical days when the fate of Palestine hangs in the balance. With complete faith and devotion we shall march onward to victory, inspired by his splendid example.



May 3, 1948

Mr. Adalbert Freedman
Executive Director
Southeastern Region ZOA
701 Peters Building
Atlanta 3, Georgia

My dear Mr. Freedman:

Please express to the members of the Florida Zionist State Conference my profound appreciation for the Resolution which they adopted on May 28th. It is most encouraging and, in these difficult times, very strengthening.

With confidence and courage, we may all move forward to the achievement of our great ideal.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Most cordially yours,

Abba Hillel Silver

NEW JERSEY REGION

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

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NEWARK 2, N. J.
MARKET 3-3748

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SAMUEL E. PRINGER
PALESTINE ECONOMIC

IRVING I. RUBIN
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

May 10, 1948

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Hotel Sulgrave
60 East 67th Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am very glad to extend to you our most cordial invitation to honor us with your presence at our Regional Convention which will be held at the "Ostend Hotel" Boardwalk at Boston Avenue, Atlantic City, N.J., May 28, 29, 30. You are well aware of the loyalty and devotion of the many thousands of our Zionists in this State and your presence will be an invaluable source of unbounded inspiration to continue our work for our Cause.

We sincerely hope that you and Mrs. Silver will find it possible to be our most welcome guests. Looking forward to having you with us on the above mentioned dates, I am, with kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Louis A. Falk
Louis A. Falk
President

LAF/1

May 17, 1948

Dr. F. M. Falkman
14128 Superior Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Falkman:

I am herewith enclosing five dollars (\$5.00) received yesterday from Mr. David Zussman, 10830 Tacoma Avenue, as a contribution to the Z.O.A.

WRHS
Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Elizabeth Rice
Secretary to Rabbi Silver

C O P Y

RCA
RADIOGRAM

1948 MAY 27

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LC NEUMANN COMPAL SURV NEWYORK

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MAIL EXACT TERMS



CC: DR. SILVER

Blue Heaven

HOSIERY CO.



457 EAST PENN STREET
LONG BEACH, LONG ISLAND

JUNE 21, 1948

RABBI HILLEL SILVER
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEAR RABBI,

I HAD THE GREAT PRIVILEGE OF PERSONALLY MEETING WITH YOU AT THE LAST SEVERAL CONVENTIONS IN ATLANTIC CITY.

I AM A CLOSE FRIEND OF LONG STANDING OF MR. JULIUS HABER WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ENROLLMENT AS A MEMBER OF Z.O.A. TWENTY YEARS AGO.

IN 1943, I, AS CHAIRMAN, PERSONALLY ORGANIZED THE MT. EDEN ZIONIST DISTRICT IN THE BRONX WHICH TODAY HAS A MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 700.

DURING 1946 I HAVE MOVED MY RESIDENCE TO LONG BEACH, L. I. AND AT THAT TIME THE DISTRICT ENROLLMENT WAS LIMITED TO APPROXIMATELY 350 MEMBERS. I VOLUNTEERED TO DEVOTE MY EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP. WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ALMOST DOUBLING THE NUMBER OF Z.O.A. MEMBERS.

I AM OF THE OPINION THAT LIFE MEMBERSHIPS IN THE RANK OF ZIONISM CAN BE STIMULATED TO A GREAT DEGREE. HOWEVER, I DO REQUIRE YOUR PERSONAL COOPERATION. CAN I TAKE THE LIBERTY OF STATING THAT RABBI HILLEL SILVER WOULD HONOR OUR DISTRICT WITH HIS PRESENCE AT THE INSTALLATION OF 50 LIFE MEMBERS?

MR. ABE KRUMBEIN, WHOM YOU PERSONALLY KNOW, HAS CONFIRMED THE THOUGHT OF COMMUNICATING WITH YOU RELATIVE TO THIS MATTER. DURING THE LAST 2 WEEKS I HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED 25 PAID LIFE MEMBERSHIPS WHICH I HAVE IN MY POSSESSION. IF YOU COULD POSSIBLY HONOR US WITH YOUR PRESENCE, I CAN PLEDGE A MINIMUM ENROLLMENT OF 50 LIFE MEMBERS.

OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT IS CAPTAIN CLARENCE D. FASTENBERG, AND OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER IS RABBI SOLOMON D. GOLDFARB WHO

RABBI HILLEL SILVER - PAGE 2 - JUNE 21, 1948


ALWAYS EXPRESSES HIS ADMIRATION FOR YOU DURING HIS SERMON.

I REALIZE THAT YOU ARE VERY BUSY BUT WOULD BE VERY
HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU AT ANY CONVENIENT DATE. I SHALL AWAIT
YOUR REPLY.

WITH ZIONIST GREETINGS, I AM

RESPECTFULLY,

WRHS


Harry Fisher


הנהלת ההסתדרות הציונית

THE EXECUTIVE OF THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION

המחלקה הארגונית

ORGANISATION DEPARTMENT

200

Ref. No.

מספר :

י ר ו ש ל י ם

J E R U S A L E M

P. O. B. : 92 : ד . ת

CABLE : ZIONIT, JERUSALEM : מלגרות

CODE : BENTLEY'S SECOND : 1 1 ק

TELEPHONE : 4671 : 1150 ס

24th June, 1948.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ZIONIST GENERAL COUNCIL

Dear Sir,

Re:- Meeting of the Zionist General Council

It will be remembered that at the last session of the Zionist General Council, which took place in Tel-Aviv in April last, it was decided to call another meeting as soon as possible, in order to consider the situation in the light of latest developments. The Executive has, therefore, decided, in agreement with the Presidium of the Zionist General Council, to convene the next meeting on 6th July, 1948, in Tel-Aviv.

The above date has been fixed with the intention to use the four weeks of the cease-fire period which started on 11th June, the extension of which is not yet certain.

The provisional agenda of the meeting has been fixed as follows:-

- a) The situation in Palestine;
- b) The functions of the Zionist Organisation and its institutions after the establishment of the State;
- c) The 23rd Zionist Congress.

The Executive has the honour to invite you to this meeting. A notice to this effect has been communicated to you by cable. As only a short time remains until the date of the meeting, you are respectfully advised to speed up preparations for your participation in this meeting. In the case of your not being able to attend the meeting you are, under the Constitution, entitled to appoint a substitute from among the deputy-members of your group elected by Congress.

With Zion's greetings,

Yours faithfully,

THE EXECUTIVE OF THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION

Dr. L. Lauterbach

Dr. L. Lauterbach
Executive Secretary

June 30, 1948

Mr. Harry Fisher
Blue Heaven Hosiery Co.
457 East Penn Street
Long Beach, Long Island

My dear Friend:

Please pardon the delay in answering your kind letter. I have been traveling about a good deal.

You are to be congratulated upon the splendid efforts which you have been putting forth in increasing the membership of the Z.O.A., and more particularly, in obtaining life members. I wish I could tell you that I would be able to come to your district to install your 50 life members. It would give me great pleasure indeed, but I am sure you fully realize how desperately pressed I am for time to the extent that I have been compelled to neglect my work here in Cleveland.

My schedule for the next few months is quite indefinite. There is a possibility of my having to go to Palestine to attend a meeting of the Actions Committee. I have been compelled to decline many invitations which normally I should be most happy to accept.

I hope that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you at the Z.O.A. Convention in Pittsburgh.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

שערי ציון

THE GATES OF ZION

A QUARTERLY REVIEW OF
JUDAISM AND ZIONISM, POLITICAL AND COMMUNAL AFFAIRS

Published by the Central Synagogue Council of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland

75 Great Russell Street,
London, W.C.1

JL/FL

19th July, 1948.

Rabbi Dr. A.H. Silver,
19810 Shaker Boulevard,
Shaker Heights,
Cleveland,
Ohio, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Silver,

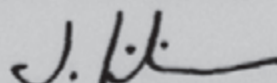
Enclosed please find the 8th issue of "The Gates of Zion", the quarterly review of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland. With this issue our review completes the second year of its existence. I need hardly tell you that our review is a militant Zionist publication which is fighting for our ideals under British conditions with an outspokenness unequalled by any other Zionist publication in this country.

I beg to draw your kind attention to comment "The Proclamation of Israel" on page 24.

Once again may I ask you to contribute something to our review. I know how busy you are, but I also know what an enthusiastic fighter for Zion you are. I know that it was you who inspired American Jewry with the ideals of Zionism and made the Zionist Movement in the United States a mighty force. Several years ago I wrote about you that it was Providence itself which gave us such a man who, with his devoted Jewish genius and fiery prophetic passion has been able to make American Jewry an avant guard for the fight for Zion after the destruction of the stronghold of Zionism on the Continent of Europe. And so please let us have your contribution, which will greatly strengthen our movement and will enhance the reputation and influence of our publication.

With best wishes,

Yours in Zion,



Dr. J. Litvin,
Acting-Editor.

Ben Shuler
cash
Barbara
Munro

~~ed. Blooming~~

- 1/ Get pgh. Special
- 2/ Va - bank - Am. Exp. Co.
- 3/ List of ~~callers~~ during August.
dates

4/ Silverman. Model -

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(b) Membership Com -

- 6/ ~~Model~~
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 - ② Membership Com.
 - ③ Open of School - Better
Summary J. by Sep. 1
 - ④ Alumni Board - Tues.
Sp. Sept. affair ~~board~~
- Program -

MAZDA OIL CORPORATION

PRESIDENT
JULIUS C. LIVINGSTON

SUITE 404 PALACE BUILDING
P. O. BOX 1797
TULSA 1, OKLAHOMA

TELEPHONE 3-2442

July 30, 1948

*A.H.S.
8/1/48*

Dr. Sidney Marks
Zionist Organization of America
41 East 42nd Street
New York City

Dear Sidney -

The enclosed letter speaks for itself. I know that I can count on you to help us achieve our desire in bringing Dr. Silver to the convention. The Region needs him more than I can ever tell you.

I know that you will excuse me for not writing more but I just got back from Dallas and am snowed under.

Looking forward to hearing from you real, real soon,
I am

Affectionately yours,

Julius Livingston
JULIUS LIVINGSTON

JL:CMH

July 30, 1948

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi -

I returned from Dallas yesterday where a few of us met concerning the plans for the Southwest Zionist convention which will be held in that city starting the evening of September 18th, Sunday the 19th and Monday the 20th.

As you know, Sidney Herold, president of our Region, is in Europe and he has asked Dr. Levinson and me to sort of pinch-hit for him. I know that I am speaking Mr. Herold's mind, as well as the Committee and all others, in the hope that your busy schedule will permit you to be our most honored guest at the banquet to be held Sunday evening September 19th. The hotel is holding for us for the next few days the choice of a small banquet hall or a larger hall that will hold a little over a thousand people. Before we can make our decision on which hall to use it is necessary to know if you can be with us, because if you can come down we want to make arrangements for the larger banquet hall.

Excuse me for detailing these matters to you but I want clearly to paint our picture to you. Our Region needs your presence more now than at any other time. There are a great number of our most ardent Zionists that feel that the ZOA as an organization has achieved its program and they feel they should no longer have to give of their substance or their time. Dear Rabbi, I know of no one in the entire National picture who can stimulate these men to understand that the fight is not over, the political situation not cleared up, and we need their support more than at any other time to achieve and clinch what we have been dreaming and hoping for.

And then again, dear Rabbi, you have so many friends in this area who look to you not only for leadership and instruction, but somehow there is a personal warmth when you break bread within our own house, and you have not been with us for some time, and I earnestly request and hope that you can accept this engagement and lead us in the challenge that is before us at this time. We need you, believe me, dear Rabbi, more than ever.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

- Page two -

The airplane connections are excellent from the East to Dallas and you would not have to be away too long, although we would like to have you with us for as long as you can possibly stay. We would certainly love to have you bring Mrs. Silver with you. We feel that the rest and visit to the great Southwest would be an excellent tonic for both of you at this time.

Most sincerely,



JULIUS LIVINGSTON

JL:CMH

MAZDA OIL CORPORATION

PRESIDENT
JULIUS C. LIVINGSTON

SUITE 404 PALACE BUILDING
P. O. BOX 1797
TULSA 1, OKLAHOMA

TELEPHONE 3-2442

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- Page two -

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Most sincerely,

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

JULIUS LIVINGSTON

JL:CMH

August 2, 1948

Mr. Julius Livingston
Masda Oil Corporation
404 Palace Bldg.
P.O. Box 1797
Tulsa 1, Oklahoma

My dear Friend:

I appreciate very much your kind letter of July 30th, and I assure you that I should very much love to come to the Southwest Zionist Convention. I am, however, leaving for Israel this Wednesday to attend the sessions of the Zionist Executive and the Actions Committee. I do not know when I shall return. I am, therefore, unable at this writing to commit myself to any engagements in September. I would suggest that you communicate with my office again the early part of September to learn definitely when I am returning and whether I would be free to come out to Dallas during the weekend of September 19th. I assure you that I should be very happy to come as it is at all possible.

Please remember me to all my good friends.

With best wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

DANIEL FRISCH
300 CENTRAL PARK WEST
APT. 5H
NEW YORK CITY

August 4, 1948

Dear Dr. Silver:

It is several days since I spoke to you on the telephone. Ever since that conversation I have time and again vacillated between the impelling need to write you further on the matter and the apparent wisdom not to, since I have been long enough in public life to know that feelings unrevealed and thoughts unspoken are never a source of irritation or regret.

Despite the fact that you - to all intents and purposes a King in Israel - are subjected constantly to a great deal of flattery, I have a feeling that your ability to discern between verbiage and utterances which spring from a deep devotion contributes in no small degree to the position you so gloriously hold.

Succinctly, I have felt that ever since the ascendancy of Dr. Neumann to the presidency, I am being pushed around with the likely ultimate objective of being pushed out.

I am Freudian enough not even to attempt to explain such an attitude, especially so since I know that neither my sense of loyalty nor my record of service would justify it in the least. It is true that by nature - and we are inescapably what we are - I cannot draw my inspiration but from people kissed by the invisible lips of destiny and therefore could not bring myself during all this time - be it by word of mouth or pen - to speak but of one guiding genius of American Zionism - you. Neither did I, unlike all others, even attempt to couple the two names, as had become the practice of official spokesmen. Not that I am unaware or unappreciative of the matchless contribution in thought and service that Dr. Neumann has so unselfishly made to the cause. But, as I said above, I am a one-man man.

Dr. Silver, I don't know how many people are aware of it - that in addition to that touch of greatness which makes you what you are, you are one of the smartest men parading on the highway of Jewish destiny. Dan Frisch is aware of it. You therefore must know, and I am persuaded do know, that I cannot entertain the thought at this juncture of the ZOA, with special emphasis on the next convention, of being either pushed around or pushed out.

What is more, I do not intend to stand for it - except that to me you stand above all these circumstances and I shall be willing to listen and perhaps abide by your judgment.

DANIEL FRISCH
300 CENTRAL PARK WEST
APT. 5H
NEW YORK CITY

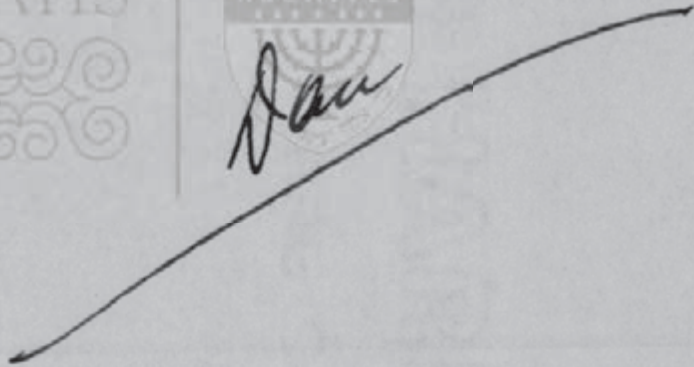
- 2 -

I am persuaded that you will give this matter serious consideration, to the end that whatever the solution it should not come to the pass of *"no/stand still"*

I would consider it a great favor that upon my arrival in Palestine I should find that you have given this problem some thought and that you will be able to evolve a pattern in which the cause will be served and I will not be hurt. Just as I would not permit it - were it in my power - that you should be hurt, cost what it may.

Trusting that you and Mrs. Silver will have a most pleasant journey, I am

Yours in lifelong loyalty,



SOUTHWEST REGION

Zionist Organization of America

Charter 4-5242

*

712 Scanlan Building

*

405 Main Street

*

Houston 2, Texas

1625 Slattery Building,
Shreveport, Louisiana.
March 7th, 1949.

OFFICERS

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L. A. FREED, HOUSTON
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•

JULIUS M. ISRAEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
Cleveland,
Ohio.

My dear Friend:

Many thanks for your letter of
March 4th.

I expect to be East some time in April, and to attend the Weizmann dinner. If you should not be in New York around that time, I wonder if it would be convenient for you to see me in Cleveland? There are so many matters in connection with the Zionist Organization that I wish to discuss with you, and which cannot be dealt with adequately by correspondence.

In the meantime, the thought has occurred to me that some form of special recognition should be given to the able, devoted and wonderfully understanding service of Eliahu Ben-Horin. You are more familiar than I am with what he has done in the past, but his latest service in respect of relations with the Catholic Church has resulted in such outstanding accomplishment that I would hate to see Eliahu go unnoticed or unrewarded. What are your ideas on the subject?

I wonder whether you have any comments about my resolution which I sent you from Dallas demanding the dissolution of the Jewish Agency? I fail to see where it has any further excuse for existence. And worse, its further existence can

#2.

only make for injury to our cause. The State of Israel has been set up. We have our own definite obligations to that State, and to its people. But we have achieved our purpose of creating in Israel a free and independent State. What excuse, therefore, is there any longer for an intervening body between the Jews of America and the Jews of Israel? I can see only danger in the continuance of the Agency.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Sidney L. Herold
Sidney L. Herold
President
Southwest Region

SLH/mb

P. S. At this time, when we need a really big man to head our movement, I am wondering - and hoping - that maybe Silver could be redrafted.