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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

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

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Zionist Organization of America, "C", 1949.



TELEGRAPH YOUR
VALENTINE
Greetings

FEB.
14th

Beautiful BLANK - SPECIAL ENVELOPE

6023
(1949)

EASTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1220

SYMBOLS

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|--------------------------|
| DL = Day Letter |
| NL = Night Letter |
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| Ship Radiogram |

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N.CB527 LONG NL PD=CHICAGO ILL 7=

1949 FEB 8 AM 12 12

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER, CARE ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL=

742 MADISON AVE NYK=

*NBN Jewish Agency
76 E 66 St*

A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA, ESPECIALLY AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE CONDUCT AND UTTERANCES OF ITS PRESIDENT EMANUEL NEUMANN AND PAST PRESIDENT DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER, WAS ADOPTED BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF CHICAGO IN SESSION AT THE CONGRESS HOTEL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6TH 1949 WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT TELEGRAMS BE SENT TO JEWISH AGENCY MEMBERS IN NEW YORK INCLUDING DR. NEUMANN AND DR. SILVER ADVISING OF THIS ACTION=

MILTON SILVERSTEIN PRESIDENT=

6 1949=.

DAY LETTER

FEBRUARY 11, 1949

MILTON SILVERSTEIN, PRESIDENT
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

DEEPLY APPRECIATE ACTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY
COUNCIL ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF CHICAGO EXPRESSING ITS
CONFIDENCE IN THE ZOA ADMINISTRATION AND ITS LEADERSHIP.

WARMEST REGARDS

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Mrs. Frank Cohen 88 Central Park West New York 23, N. Y.

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March 12, 1949.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I enclose a letter for your perusal, which I should ask you to consider confidential and return to me.

Not only was I much disturbed, but as a member of the Reconstructionist Editorial Board, I felt constrained to protest against a position taken without consultation of the members of the Board.

I send this to you so that you may know that there are many who support you and appreciate your work for Israel.

Sincerely yours,
Ethel Cohen.

March 17, 1949

Mrs. Frank Cohen
88 Central Park West
New York 23, New York

My dear Friend:

I appreciate very much your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of the letter which you addressed to the Chairman of the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation. I read it with keen interest and great pleasure. I have just finished reading again the letter of Mr. Cohen which was published in the Reconstructionist. It is certainly strong and forthright. And what a lame and insipid answer is that of the editors.

American Zionists are rapidly catching on to what is going on. They are beginning to understand what is behind the shabby facade of "national discipline", "the unity of the Jewish people", and the "authority of the Jewish Agency", etc. A group of Mapai leaders in Israel (not all of them by any means) and their willing accomplices in the United States (inclusive of the Hadassah leadership of whose political machinations the rank and file of Hadassah, I am sure, are not aware) are out to capture the organized Zionist movement in the United States. Failing which, they are out to destroy the autonomy of all Zionist bodies and agencies in this country and if not, to liquidate them so that the coast will be clear for their undisputed domination of American Jewry which will then be used, they hope, as an unfailing reservoir to finance Mapai control of the government of Israel.

As you know, I am no enemy of the Mapai or of the Histadruth. The present Zionist administration has scrupulously refrained from intervening in the internal political and economic affairs and policies of Israel, but the leaders over there, working through their stooges here, have not hesitated grossly and shamelessly to intervene in the affairs of the Jewish community of the United States and in the autonomous Zionist institutions which American Jews have built up through the years. It is this campaign of usurpation and liquidation that we have been fighting, and I am glad that both you and Mr. Cohen have so clearly grasped the issues and have joined in the good fight.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

Malamut's



MAX MALAMUT
Managing Director

Srl Cohen
BREAKERS HOTEL

BOARDWALK AT
NEW JERSEY AVE.
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

March 25, 1949

My dear Abba:

This is confidential.
I learned yesterday that
negotiations are now going
on thru Dewey Stone
for a rapprochement
between the Progressive
Group and the Administration.
It slipped ^{out} thru a
remark by Irving
Miller.

Are you and Neumann
aware of it? Is it done
with your tacit
understanding or is
it another Planned

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MAX MALAMUT
Managing Director

BREAKERS HOTEL

BOARDWALK AT
NEW JERSEY AVE.
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

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doublecross?

Last night the
Long Island Zionist
Region Administrative
Committee met. Over
100 members attended.
It was called in order
to air a protest
by Judah Richards (son
of B. G. Richards) against
Ben Friedman, President
of the Region, for signing a
Statement as President
in favor of the ^{30th} administration
in the U. S. P. dispute.

HOT AS WELL AS COLD SEA WATER BATHS

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Managing Director

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3

The meeting voted
confidence in the
President and passed
a ~~motion~~ motion repudiating
the Richards group for
their tactics. Richards
received three votes.

I am being approached
by many to urge you
to accept the Presidency
amongst them Chas. Cowen,
Israel, Jacques and
others.

My advice ~~too~~ is
stick to your decision

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not to run.

You have nothing to
gain and everything
to lose. My advice
also is not to endorse
any candidate. Wait till
the convention and see how
things will develop.

A man may have twenty
or thirty individuals.
Presidents endorse him.
But it does not tie any
delegate.

In my own Region, which
is for you, the greater
number will vote for the
opposition candidate if
Frish runs. I do not

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even know how strong
in his own ^aRegion. A
number have expressed
opposition, although they
are heart and soul with
you.

Keep all this to
yourself and guide
yourself accordingly.

I am here with ~~my~~ Anna
for a few days rest from
the Income Tax Rush.

Kindest regards to
Virginia and the boys.
Anna wishes to be remembered.

As ever yours
Lol.

HOT AS WELL AS COLD SEA WATER BATHS

SOLOMON COHEN
ACCOUNTANT AND AUDITOR
11 WEST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK CITY
PHONE LONGACRE 5-6880

april 11, 1949.

My dear Abba:

The reason for my phoning you last night was because Ben Doft told me that one of the people who had called him and spoke in your name that it is your wish that Doft withdraw the L. S. Zionist Region resolution endorsing Miller from The New Palestine. And that same person made sure that Miller be apprised of your wishes. And, quite naturally, Miller is much upset about it.

I could not believe it the truth of it when Doft told it to me. I felt that someone, primarily interested only in Krivich's candidacy was anxious to get the resolution suppressed or withdrawn.

I was therefore very elated to hear from you to the contrary. And I so conveyed it to Doft who is am sure relayed it to Irving. It would be a fatal mistake if a Region resolution was suppressed. Surely the opposition would make most use of it. And we in doing.

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Long Island could offer no defense.
And as the entire question of national
politics will be discussed at a
Special meeting of the Administrative
Committee of our Region ^{on April 25th} the CPZ
group would easily succeed in
arousing the membership against
such censorship. This is their cry:
The New Palestine suppressed anyone
else's point of view.

I had a ~~lot~~ long telephone conversation
with Irving Miller to-day. I gather
from him that he is not inclined
to accept the chairmanship of the
Emergency Council. He feels very
bitter, claiming that he was misled
by promises by you that you
would come out for him and
that he should bid his time. That
is the reason he did not start
a campaign.

I have the assurance - at least
he hinted - that he will not be a candidate,
as he does not want to hurt the

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(3)

administration. That is just the opposite what Frisch did. He shouted from the housetops that come what may he will be a candidate - irrespective of the wishes of the administration.

This, too, must be said: in the U.P.A. controversy ^{Muller} ~~the~~ certainly carried the fight while Frisch was silent. Evidently he ~~did~~ not want to stick his neck out. What's true should be said: Frisch fought bitterly against you until he saw where the wind was blowing and then he jumped on the bandwagon. He will doubtless jump to the other side when it will be in his interest.

You remember ^{how} ~~when~~ I warned you about ~~Muller~~ when you became National Chairman of the U.P.A. The same applies to Frisch.

You know that I am not a great ³⁻⁰⁵ ~~3-05~~ of Muller, but the truth must be

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said: From the first moment he stood solidly behind you, and fought with you thru thick and thin. He is deserving of receiving some consideration.

As to the Frisch candidacy - almost all who were your staunchest supporters are against him. Out of loyalty to you they will vote for him. Period. But they feel very better. Frisch ~~will~~ win - but that will be the end, I am afraid.

During the coming campaign he will be the easiest target. All they have to do ~~it~~ is quote some of his speeches. And the literature that is already being prepared against him as I gather - will be of such a nature that a great number of the uninitiated will just fall for it hook, line and snooker. I feel this is the beginning of the end. I only hope and pray that I am wrong.

Somehow or other I can not imagine a Frisch as president of the J. O. O. He is not Presidential timber. If

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course, neither was Truman, but
he became President ~~because~~
because of an accident - Roosevelt
died.

In the L.I. Region a number
of leaders who always supported
you but are not attached by
bonds of loyalty have expressed
themselves openly that if Frisch
is a candidate they will vote for
the opposition candidate. I know
that I will have quite a job
in my own Richmond Hill in
keeping the delegation in line.
And you know how strongly they
were always for you!

Maybe it would be an idea to
call all our friends to a conference
within a few days - without Miller,
Frisch or May - and have ~~an~~
a heart to heart discussion and
then come to a decision. Of
course if you will insist ~~on~~ on

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I wish we will all follow you.
But it needs a lot of thought.

Again I hope and pray that I
am wrong. So many times you
have proven ^{yourself} to be right.

Forgive me for being outspoken.
You know what feelings prompt me
to do it. Busch or Miller don't
count. It is you and you only.

Let me hear from you by
return mail.

As ever,

Sol.

FRANK COHEN

521 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

April 22, 1949

Dear Friend:

With three of my associates I have just returned (Tuesday, April 12) from Israel. We covered the country very intensively in different directions, traveling singly and in couples depending on the specific purpose. We were assisted there by some two dozen individuals and heads of private organizations, praesidiums of colonies and settlements and officials of municipalities.

I, personally, had several concentrated conferences with the heads of the country, including Prime Minister Ben Gurion, Finance and Trade Minister Eliezer Kaplan, President of the Assembly Mr. Sprinzak, leaders of political parties. Some of the conferences ran well into the night or the following day.

We represented no one but our own associates. We were responsible to no one. We went on our own, and therefore could and did see what we wanted.

We went because of a fear complex that has gripped me, a fear that the new state may head for an economic crash after the excitement of immigration is over. The trip laid naked what I feared. But it has also pointed up the cure: a large dose of experience, unified direction, broad vision, and an over-all plan - a very, very large program but very simple, always remembering that it is a small country with a comparatively small population.

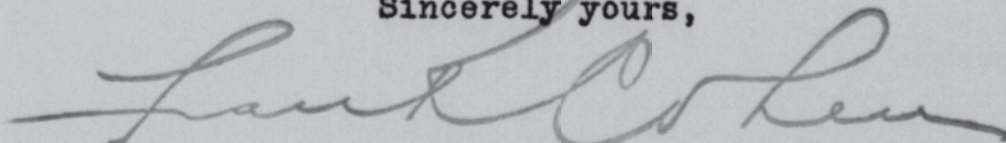
My associates, many of whom are non-Jews, are willing to help me carry on to what we think will be a contribution toward the solution as quickly as possible. The first step calls for a break-up of the artificial high cost of living, high cost of home construction and easing of the tight currency situation. Fortunately, it is a small country and one good, big, non-partisan shove can break the jam, but it must be a good big one and in the right direction.

My reason for sending the enclosed questionnaire is that I think the considered and thoughtful opinion of a fair cross section of Jewry may save much time and thousands of dollars.

Since time is of the essence, I should appreciate a prompt reply.

Thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours,



FRANK COHEN

fc/ss

FRANK COHEN - 521 FIFTH AVENUE -- NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

April 22, 1949

Please do a fellow a favor and read the following questions very carefully. Please do give them your considered thought. We want nothing from you except a quick answer.

The attached letter will explain our purpose.

Please address all replies to Room 2601, 521 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

Thank you.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1 - If you were able to, would you advance to a specific home owner in Israel, as a first mortgage, 60% of his total requirements for him to build a home, if the construction were properly supervised, the costs accurately and efficiently controlled on a United States level as set up for members of the U.S. Federal Reserve System?

This money is to be repaid monthly over a twelve year period, bearing 3½% interest per annum.

This would give a direct connection with an individual family in Israel. It has certain sociological benefits over and above a financial transaction.

OR

2 - Would you rather advance to a municipality, colony or settlement any sum of money for a period of fifteen to twenty years? This would be in the form of a purchase of a bond paying 3½% interest per annum with semi-annual payments on principal. This money is to be used for their housing and public utilities program.

OR

3 - Would you rather advance to the Government of Israel directly any sum for a period of twenty-five years? This would be in the form of a purchase of a government note paying 3½% interest with an annual sinking fund on principal. This money would be used for their housing and utilities program and as a reserve against their currency.

Your answer will not bind you to anything. This is not a solicitation for anything but a reply. You may make any comments you desire. You may discuss it with any of your friends. If you do, then please note their opinions accordingly.