

Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated. Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

Reel	Box	Folder
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Zionist Organization of America, "H," "I," "J," "K," and "L", 1948-1949.

Western Reserve Historical Society 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106 (216) 721-5722 wrhs.org

20th September, 1948.

AHS

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Rmanuel Neumann, Zionist Organisation of America, New York.

Dear Fuanuel,

I cm enclosing my letter of 14th September which I held up mailing to you hoping that I might save the situation regarding the volunteers without bothering you.

I can see that without the backing of the American and Canadian Zionists I will make no progress.

I have had boys - intelligent ones - sit in my office and tell us that their experience in Israel has been so disillusioning that they would rather return to a Masi Canada than to hear any more of this country.

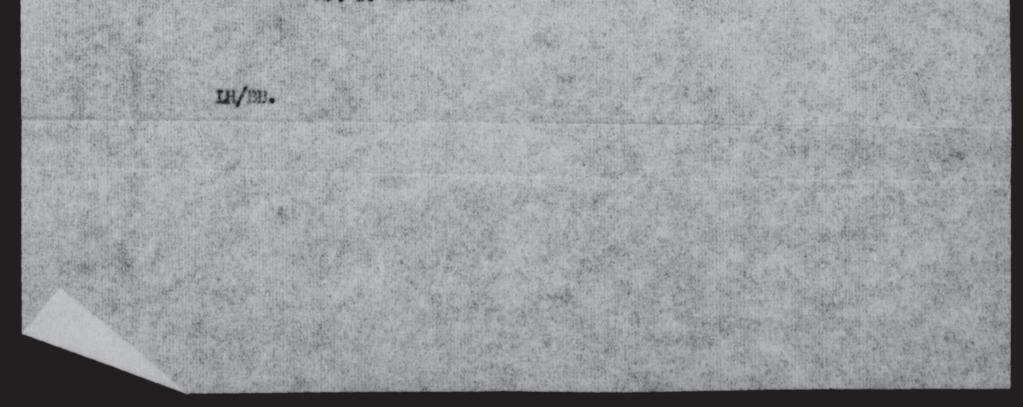
Meanwhile, I understand that a representative of the Youth and Hechalutz Department of the Jewish Agency is going to the States to propagandize American youth to come to Israel. If we are failing so miserably with the men that are already here I think it is ridiculous to spend additional money to bring over new men. Let us clear this situation up here first.

If the funds for the L1.5.- a month pocket money for the men are not available by the end of this month, I will have to close the American and Canadian Offices and just don't want to be around to see what happens.

Best personal regards,

Lee Harris.

COpy to : Mabbi Silver. Judge Leventhal.



14th September, 1948.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Zionist Organisation of America, New York.

Dear Emanuel,

I am enclosing copy of a letter to Mr. Shkolnik (translated into English) on the situation regarding the volunteers.

The men have already threatened public demonstrations and mass appeals to the Consuls.

Dr. Israel Goldstein had a chat with some of the boys when he was here, and got some idea as to their state of mind. He left without telling me what he had done or who is following-up on the matter.

I am calling this situation to your attention so that no one can say that they did not know what was going on. After all the Z.O.A. has an important stake in these matters

If you want me to make some constructive suggestions, I suggest that:-

(a) The Z.O.A. find the funds for the budget I proposed in my letter of the 7th September, 1948 to enable our Offices continue to pay the men their LI. 5.-

(b) That the Z.O.A. cable Ben Gurion that you have empowered me to investigate the matter and stand behind me on all recommendations which I make to the Government of Israel for the handling of the situation. I have been designated Civilian Adviser to the Security Department on these matters, but the backing of American and Canadian Zionists would strengthen my position.

I might say that the whole situation has gotten me mentally and physically upset and that against my will I am being dragged away from the affairs of the Bank and being forced to devote practically all my time to the situation.

Best personal regards,

<u>P.S.</u> It might be a better idea for Judge Leventhal to be made responsible for seeing this thing through if he agrees to.

P.S.S. I suggest you also contact Mrs. Sacks who has left for Canada for the Canadian Zionists to take the same steps.

Copies to: Rabbi Silver; Judge Leventhal; D. Frisch; Mortimer May.

LH.RS.

Translation from Hebrew.

Mr. Levy-Shkolnik, Security Office, Tel Aviv.

Dear Mr. Shkolnik,

This is to acknowledge your letter Ref. 71/SK of 12th September, 1948, appointing me as Adviser on all Gahal Volunteer matters to Misrad Habitachon.

I would be derelict in my duty were I not to tell you that I feel the situation with regard to these men has now reached a point that they contemplate measures which will result in all sorts of unfavourable comment in the public press.

If any steps are to be taken to keep the situation from deteriorating, I suggest it be done without delay.

I will be glad to state my views in a short memo, if you are interested.

Sincerely yours,

(Lee Harris)

Copy to Mr. Jacob Dori, Chief of Staff (in Hebrew).

Copies (English) to: Judge L. Leventhal; Dr. E. Neumann; Rabbi H. Silver; Mr. D. Frisch; Mr. I. Goldstein; Mr. M. May.

LH.RS.

MEMORANDUM RE GANARI_VOLUNTEERS.

BASIS OF FOLICY.

The basic difficulty as regards these men is that the Army considers them more or less as just so many soldiers. Actually, they are citizens of countries other than Israel and have certain rights which not even the Army can take away from them. More important, they are factors in Zionist propaganda in the countries of their origin and must be handled with this in mind.

It is, therefore, suggested that the following be done :-

DETERMINATION OF FOLICY.

A Committee for Gahal Volunteers which will determine policy be constituted to be composed of the following:-

- a) Civilian Adviser to Security Department for Cahal-Volunteers;
- b) Staff Personnel Officer for Cahahl-Volunteers (ATA 4);
- c) Representative from the Jewish Agency Youth Isnigration Department:
- d) Representative of Air Corp;
- e) Representative of Navy;
- f) Representative from among the men themselves.

The Advisory Committee for Gahabl-Volunteers will send its reports directly to the Chief of Staff.

CHART OF ORGANISATION. See enclosure 1.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS.

a) All men whom the Board for Discharges cannot by any means persuade to remain in Israel, either in the Army or in a Hibutz, etc. should be sent home.

b) The recommendation submitted to the Chief of Staff two weeks ago that units should be formed comprising two-thirds Cahal Volunteers and one-third men from Israel be carried out without delay.

c) Centralised offices should be set up immediately in the Town Major's Office at Hayarkon Street, which will house the following:-

- (a) The Assistant Personnel Officers for Gahahl Volunteers;
- (b) The Welfare Officer (Rabbi Goldberg) for Gahahl Volunteers.

d) The LI. 5.- monthly pocket money to the men should continue for the month of October until funds can be arranged from their respective countries of origin.

There should be a desk for Gahahl Volunteers at the soldiers

club, which should be sanned by American wesen, such as Mrs. Greenberg and Mrs. Davidovitz, regardless of the fact that they are not members of the Women's Organisation.

f) All men who have been discharged should be sent to Tel-Litvinsky while awaiting transportation.

g) All men awaiting transportation home should be encouraged by the Welfare Officer at the Discharge Camp at Tel-Litvinsky to see the country by means of trips arranged by the Soldiers Welfare.

h) All men on arrival in their country of origin should report to those responsible for recruiting, so that they can be kept track of and used for Zionist propaganda if possible.

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i) The decisions of the Board for Discharges should be transmitted to the men concerned in writing.

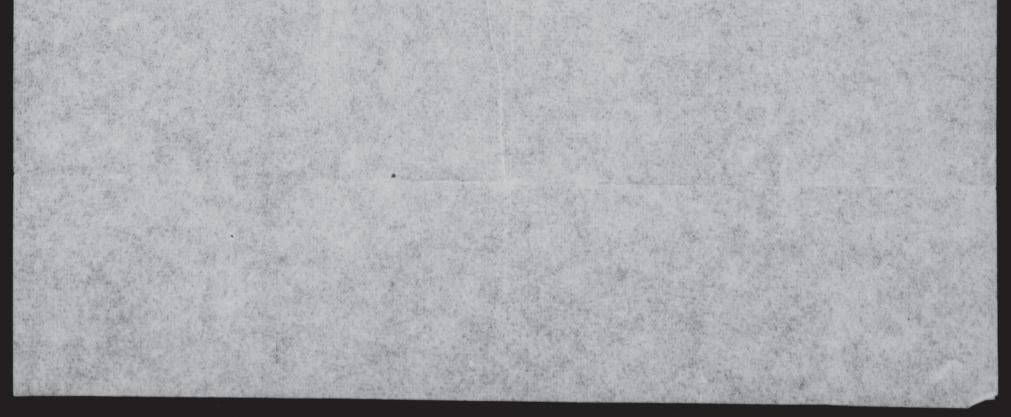
j) Questions of political affiliation of the men should not be considered by the Board for Discharges.

> Lee Harris Civilian Adviser to Security Dept. Gahal-Volunteers

LH.RS.

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SIDNEY L. HEROLD SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

February 7th,

1949

My dear Chief:

If there is any interrogatory in this letter that you do not care to answer - for any cause whatever - please ignore it, and I shall understand perfectly why you have not answered it.

But as one who knows how much the present independence of Israel is due to you and your efforts, and who is thoroughly ognizant of what would today be the situation had certain influences been permitted to control, I am extremely anxious to know whether you have any preference for the Presidency of the 7ionist Organization of America at the coming convention; and, if so, who that individual might be.

As I said in the beginning, please ignore this letter if it asks a question which you do not care to answer. If, however, you should care to answer it in confidence, you may be assured that that confidence will command my unqualified respect.

With best wishes,

Sincerely, Zhender Zhey Zhender

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Cleveland, Ohio.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Zionist Organization of America

Charter 4-5242

712 Scanlan Building

405 Main Street

Houston 2, Texas

1625 Slattery Building, Shreveport, Louisiana. February 24th, 1949.

OFFICERS

CHAS. BENDER, BRECKENRIDGE L. A. FREED, HOUSTON HONORARY PRESIDENTS

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SAM SINKIN, SAN ANTONIO VICE-PRESIDENT

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ABRAM L. GELLER. HOUSTON SECRETARY

•

JOSEPH SWIFF, GALVESTON TREASURER

•

JULIUS M. ISRAEL

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman American Zionist Emergency Council, 342 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

You will find enclosed a copy of the resolution adopted unanimously by the Board of Directors and Administration of the Southwest Zionist Region at a meeting held in Dallas on February 20th, 1949.

Sincerely yours,

2 there

Sidney L. Heroid President Southwest Region

SLH/mb

TEXT OF RESOLUTION PASSED AT MEETING OF BOARD SOUTHWEST REGION ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA DALLAS, TEXAS FEBRUARY 20th, 1949.

The realization of the dream of centuries in the creation and firm establishment of the State of Israel fills us with pride and joy, but with the sobering thought of the duties that still lie ahead of us.

It is, therefore, with a feeling of gratitude that we declare, as a matter of public record, our appreciation of the great part played in this historical accomplishment through the genius of the statesmanship of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and of Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

History will record the wisdom and courage which they displayed as the leaders of American Zionism in the policies initiated by them, and which culminated in the scuttling of the infamous British regime.

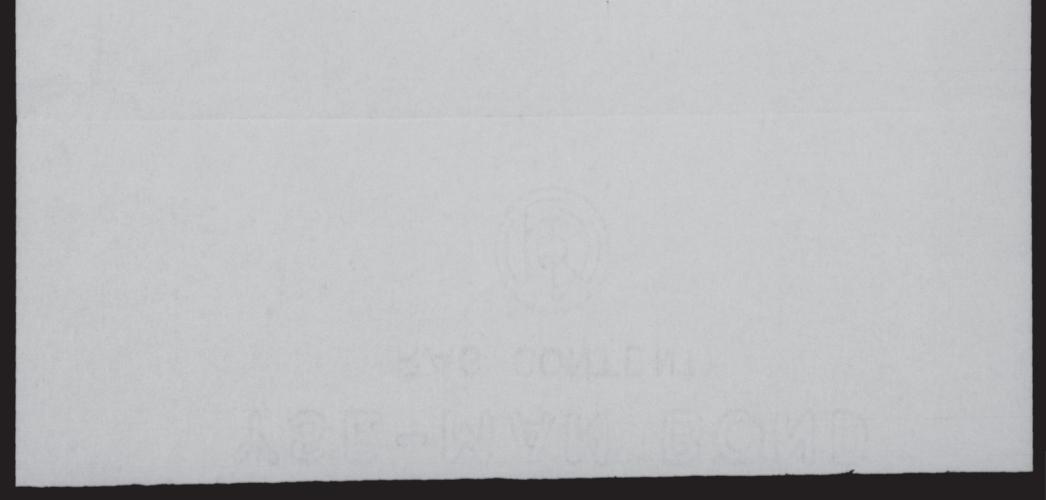
In this great work, neither of our distinguished leaders have had thought of aught except a heartfelt desire to help the Jewish people and to see the fulfillment of the Jewish dream. In their devotion to

the cause of Zionism, they have given of themselves tirelessly and unstintingly, and have earned the gratitude of all sincere Zionists.

The fight for Jewish survival continues under their administration and the Southwest Region of the Zionist Organization of America hereby voices approval of their work. It also calls upon all dissidents in the movement to desist obstructing their efforts and creating chaos and confusion in the movement. In the present controversy over Henry Morgenthau and Henry Montor, this Region approves the action taken by the present ZOA administration.

To both Dr. Neumann and Dr. Silver we extend our thanks and appreciation for the fine work done.





LAW OFFICES

EDMUND A. KOBLENZ 93 STATE STREET ALBANY 7, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE 3-6689

March 4, 1949

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple 246 East 105th Street B Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Doctor Silver:

In accordance with our telephone conversation of last evening I am submitting to you my ideas as to a plan of action that I feel should be followed by the ZOA.

I am basing this plan upon my analysis of certain facts and assumptions as I understand them to exist.

Firstly, it is my belief that our objectives must be to

- (a) Secure the maximum amount of financial assistance for Israel, and
 - (b) To retain control of the ZOA to insure its continued function as the greatest resevoir of strength for the moral, political and economic aid that Israel will need.

Secondly, I fear that the amount of money that can be raised in the 1949 campaign will be far short of the goal, and much too inadequate to meet Israel's needs, and will have to be supplemented by undertakings such as the Israel Corporation of America.

Thirdly, I feel that the present management of the UJA campaign will attempt to use the ZOA as a whipping boy to detract from its own shortcomings, and also will attempt thereby to increase the political strength of the CPZ. (At this moment the impression has already been created that the ZOA is unfriendly to the UJA, and the suspicion is prevalent that our best efforts will not be exerted in the 1949 campaign.)

Fourthly, I believe that a new approach is necessary in the various Zionist communities to overcome the falsifications and misrepresentations that the opposition is continuing to spread. I am afraid that the districts themselves are not up to this task. Their methods are, I feel, obsolete and inadequate.

Dr. Silver

Therefore, I suggest that the Committee of Zionist Contributors should be vitalized and built into a real operating functioning organization. It should create a network throughout the country of ZOA people to function in each community along with the UJA. This group should be organized under the auspices of the ZOA, and should be guided on a national level by the ZOA. In each community it should draw upon the active local Zionist - UJA people as its members and workers. Its function should be two fold-

-2-

- (a) It should assist in the actual campaign of the UJA, and
- (b) Should simultaneously undertake the sale of the securities of the ICA. It is my belief that many people will be hesitant about continuing to give of their capital to this year's campaign. Some of these people however, may be induced to make investments in ICA rather than make outright gifts. I fear that our people would find themselves in an untenable position in their own communities if they attempted to promote the sale of ICA at the same time that the drive is taking place as a separate measure. This unhappy position would be overcome by working the sale as an adjunct of the drive.

By setting-up this organization, I am confident a four-fold purpose will be accomplished.

- (a) A greater return will be realized by the UJA and by the ICA.
- (b) The most effective weapon in the hands of the opposition will be stilled.
- (c) We will have a new and more effective outlet for the dispersal of our own messages and ideas as well as a new group that will be better indoctrinated in a true Zionist approach.
- (d) We will have a nucleus for an organization to sell and promote any other undertakings similar to the ICA.

I might further suggest that if these ideas are at all acceptable to you that haste in the establishment of this organization is necessary. Otherwise, the field of activity will be preempted by the UJA, and any maneuver by the ZOA however helpful it might eventuallybe, would be frowned upon and attacked by the opposition. Dr. Silver

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In any event, should you have a moment to spare, I would appreciate your comments on these thoughts.

Yours sincerely mull Edmund A. Roblenz

EAK: BK



March 4, 1949

Mr. Sidney L. Herold Shreveport, Louisiana

My dear Friend:

I did not answer your letter of February 7th because I was so busy with other matters, and away from town. You ask me whether I have any preference for the presidency of the Z.O.A. in the coming Convention. I have not. So far, three men have been spoken of as possible candidates - Daniel Frisch, Mortimer May, and Rabbi Irving Miller. I wonder whether you have any recommendations.

I suppose that our friends ought to be getting together before long to discuss the subject of the next president and to agree upon the candidate. Do you plan to come East at any time in the near future?

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

"ELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS, "ZIONIBURG, LONDON."

XX

המרכז הציוני בברימניה הנדולה ואירלנדיה THE ZIONIST FEDERATION OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

PRESIDENT: CHAIM WEIZMANN, ESQ., PH.D., D.SC., LL.D. LAVY BAKSTANSKY, LL.B., B.SC. (ECON.). NON. VICE-PRESIDENTS General Secretary, THE RT. HON. LORD MELCHETT. SIR SIMON MARKS. D.Sc. 75, GT. RUSSELL STREET, THE REV. J. K. GOLDBLOOM. LONDON, W.C.1. CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE: BARNETT JANNER, ESQ., M.P. LONDON VICE-PRESIDENTS: PROF. SELIG BRODETSKY, M.A., PH.D. JANUS COHEN. ESQ., B.A. 8th April 1949. BERL LOCKER. ESQ. FRED NETTLER. ESO., J.P. MRS. REBECCA D. SIEFF PROVINCIAL VICE-PRESIDENTS : SAMUEL DAVIES. Esq. J. HALEVY, ESO., M.Sc. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. J. HALEVY, ESG. M.SC. DI. HOUL HILL LT.-COL. HARRY MORRIS, M.P.Zionist Organisation of America, DR. WALTER PINNER Zionist Organisation of America, S. SAMUELS. ESQ. 41 East 42nd Street, NEW WORK 17 N.Y. PAUL GOODMAN. ESQ., F.R. HIST NEW YORK 17. N.Y. U.S.A. HON. SECRETARY : MAURICE COHEN, ESQ., LL.D.

Dear Dr. Silver,

Mr. Israel Cohen, formerly Secretary of the World Zionist Organisation, will attain his 70th birthday at the end of April. The Zionist Federation proposes to arrange a reception in his honour on May 2nd.

I am asked by the Honorary Officers of the Federation to invite you to send a message of greeting to Mr. Cohen on that occasion, and I should be happy if that message were addressed to the Federation at your earliest convenience.

I need hardly point out the great services which Mr. Cohen has performed and is performing for Zionism, and we hope that you will associate yourself with the Zionist Federation's celebration of his birthday.

Yours sincerely. (Dr.) L. Schafler London Secretar

Herold Cousin & Herold

Law Offices Slattery Building P.O. Box 1467

S.S. Horold Sumter Cousin S.S. Herold Jr. R.E. Halliburton

Shreveport Louisiana

April 19th, 1949.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Having had the privilege of being secretary to Mr. Sidney Herold for twelve years, I am of course well aware of the great admiration and affection he feels for you.

This man, whom we of the Southwest look upon as a saint, wiseman and courageous fighter, is so modest that he would never intimate - even to his closest friends - the love and affection bestowed upon him by all citizens of his own home town. Thinking that you would like to share in our appiness at the concrete expression of this feeling, I am attaching two clippings from our local newspapers.

One clipping is the card inserted in the Shreveport Journal by the Four Square Bible Class. This is one of the largest Bible Classes in the country, and is composed of men of every Protestant denomination. To my knowledge, they have never before so saluted any individual in this community.

The other clipping is an account of the testimonial banquet which was held in Mr. Herold's honor, and at which the announcement was made that a new colony would be founded in Israel and named for him.

With best wishes, and the prayer that God will preserve your health and happiness so that you may continue the good fight,

Sincerely yours,

Mary Bronsell Mary Bronsell

April 22, 1919

Mr. Sidney L. Herold Slattery Building P.O. Box 1467 Shreveport, Louisiana

My dear Friend:

From mutual friends in Shreveport I learned that a testimonial banquet was given in your honor recently in your community by your friends and admirers, that a plaque in your honor was presented to you, and that a new colony will be established in Israel in your honor. I cannot tell you how delighted I was to learn of this highly merited honor which has come to you, and with which I should like to be associated in every way. What particularly moved me was a clipping which I received from a Shreveport journal of April 13th in which warm tribute is paid to you by the Four Square Bible Class of the Christians of Shreveport.

To be thus hailed by Jew and Christian alike in a community which has had you under close observation for so many years is indeed an experience which comes to few men and which you will prize, I am sure, all the days of your life.

You have been a blessing to our people and to America. I have been proud and honored to know you as a friend and co-worker.

Most cordially yours.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

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Herold Cousin & Herold

S.S. Horold Sumter Cousin S.L. Herold In: R.E. Halliburton

Law Offices Slattery Building P.O. Box 1467

Shreveport Louisiana

May 9th, 1949.

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

Just a line to tell you how much I enjoyed my conversation with you in New York, and how much I am always inspired after hearing you.

I left New York rather ill, but spent several days in Washington instead of coming home.

In Washington, I learned much of interest to me. None of this probably is unknown to you, but I am looking forward to talking to you at the convention about some of these matters dealing with the economics of Israel.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Zoney Theod Sidney L. Herold

SLH/mb

STATEMENT

read by Dr. Israel Goldstein at the Session of the Zionist General Council in Jerusalem on 15th May, 1949.

In the name of the World Confederation of General Zionists I wish to make the following statement with regard to the resignations of Dr. Silver and Dr. Neumann.

The Confederation has indicated to Dr. Silver and Dr. Neumann that it would be greatly pleased if they withdrew their resignations and resumed their places in the Executive of the Jewish Agency.

The replies from them left no doubt that under the existing circumstances they will not withdraw their resignations.

With great regret therefore the Confederation feels obliged to recommend to the Actions Committee that these two places be considered as vacant. It recommends that only one of these places be filled now and that it be filled by a General Zionist for the Jerusalem Executive in view of the fact that Dr. Goldstein must return to the U.S.A. in September, and that the second place be left vacant in the hope that the Z.O.A. may make its designation for that place at the next meeting of the A.C.

The Confederation wishes to put on record its profound appreciation of the historic services rendered by Dr. Silver and Dr. Neumann to the Zionist movement in the most decisive period of its history and their memorable contributions to the fulfilment of political Zionism by the UN decision for the establishment of the Jewish State.

The Confederation believes that in this statement of appreciation it expresses the view of the entire Zionist movement and trusts that it may be recorded as the official minute of the AC as a whole.

THE EXECUTIVE OF THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION

ORGANISATION DEPARTMENT

Ref. No. : 300

104/4530

JERUSALE M P.O.B.: 92: ... CABLE: ZIONIT, JERUSALEM : INITIATO CODE: BENTLEY'S SECOND : T 1 P TELEPHONE: 4671 : 11970

24th May, 1949.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Silver,

I am directed to inform you that your resignation as member of the Executive was brought before the Zionist General Council at its session which ended on May 15th, a.c., and that the Council adopted the statement submitted by the World Confederation of General Zionists, of which a copy is enclosed herewith.

I am, dear Dr. Silver,

With Zion's greetings, Yours sincerely,

Dr. L. Lauterbach Executive Secretary

IL/JS

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

LONG ISLAND ZIONIST REGION

161-10 JAMAICA AVENUE, JAMAICA 2, NEW YORK . TELEPHONE: JAMAICA 6-6232

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Dr.Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

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Executive Director DAVID E. HIRSCH

Assistant Director PHILIP E. KATZ June 20,1949

Dear Dr.Silver:

I have the pleasure of forwarding to you the enclosed resolution adopted at the 15th annual convention of the Long Island Zionist Region held at the Jamaica Jewish Center on June 12th, 1949.

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PEK:RS encl. Sincerely,

PHILIP E. KATZ Associate Director

AMERICAN ZIONIST COUNCIL

Constituent Organizations

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Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America Hashomer Hatzair Labor Zionist Organization of America-Poale Zion Mizrachi Organization of America United Zionist Labor Party (Achdut Avodah-Poale Zion) Zionist Organization of America Zionists-Revisionists of America 342 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y. MUrray Hill 2-1160

June 21, 1949

Miss Elizabeth Rice c/o The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Miss Rice:

The Long Island Zionist Region has adopted a resolution in tribute to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and has sent us a copy for our files.

Will you be good enough to mail this resolution and any other letters or expressions of tribute to Dr. Silver to me so that I can include these with similar material in a volume we are preparing.

Your prompt cooperation will be appreciated. Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Beatrice Cohen Office Coordinator Seut $6(\sqrt{3}) 49$

BC:SR

Mr. Philip E. Katz, Associate Director Long Island Zionist Region 161-10 Jamaica Avenue Jamaica 2, New York

My dear Mr. Katz:

I am deeply grateful for your note of June 20th and the enclosed resolution adopted at the 15th annual convention of the Long Island Zionist Region. Its sentiment is most heartening to me. Please extend to the members of the Long Island Zionist Region my profound appreciation for their thoughtfulness.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er