



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series II: Harold P. Manson File (Zionism Files), 1940-1949, undated.

Sub-series A: Main Manson File, 1940-1949.

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23

Steinhardt, Ambassador Laurence, 1941.



December 15, 1941

C O N F I D E N T I A L

AHS File

TO: The Members of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee

FROM: Mr. Emanuel Neumann

re: SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR LAURENCE STEINHARDT

Ambassador Steinhardt was formally associated with the Zionist movement young man years ago, but was always rather far removed from Jewish and Zionist life. Personally, I have had close contact with him for a period of years in connection with my professional and business activities.

Last week I had a telephone conversation with him and have also heard from others who have spoken with him and can now report the following:

1. Mr. Steinhardt is about to resign his post but may be requested by the President to undertake some other responsibility in connection with the war situation.
2. Contrary to the opinion of American military experts here and abroad, he had entertained a high opinion of Russia's military capacity and has been proved right. This fact should give him high standing with the President and he most probably enjoys his esteem.
3. From his observations in Russia and from the few days he spent in Palestine, he has been strongly influenced in favor of Zionism. In Palestine he had urged the formation of a Jewish army both on military and civil authorities. The military seemed favorable but Sir Harold MacMichael and Lady MacMichael were vehemently opposed.
4. Mr. Steinhardt is reported to have made an important statement to the President with reference to the situation in Palestine, very favorable from the Zionist standpoint.
5. I have gained the impression that Mr. Steinhardt is prepared to be of active service to our cause generally.
6. He has agreed to meet a small group of Zionist leaders at lunch to discuss Zionist problems. This will be arranged in the near future as soon as he has finished rendering his reports to the State Department and the President.
7. I have also invited him to address the U.P.A. Conference in Cleveland on January 18th and he is considering the invitation favorably.
8. If my impression of his pro-Zionist position is confirmed at the luncheon conference when it takes place, and if he does not take on a new official position, I would suggest that we consider inviting him to serve as a member of a political advisory committee, on which other pro-Zionist friends shall be invited to serve.