



## 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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Bloom, Congressman Sol, 1943.



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AKS File  
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REPORT ON  
CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY ICKES

Secretary of the Interior

Washington, D.C. Nov. 24, 1943

Present: Mr. Ickes, Dr. Goldmann

Judge Fisher of Chicago had telephoned to Mr. Ickes and arranged that Dr. Goldmann see him. Although in the meantime Dr. Wise had already seen Mr. Ickes, it was thought that in view of Judge Fisher's arrangements, Dr. Goldmann should also see him.

Dr. Goldmann told Mr. Ickes that the Zionists were concerned about the role which Palestine may play in the negotiations with Saudi Arabia about American oil concessions. They fear that Ibn Saud may ask this government for concessions about Palestine as a quid pro quo for granting oil concessions to American firms. Since Mr. Ickes had participated in these negotiations, in his capacity as oil administrator, and as he is a genuine friend of Zionism, Zionists felt that he would be able to tell them whether their anxiety was justified.

Dr. Goldmann told Mr. Ickes that the State Department had hopes that Ibn Saud might be ready to make concessions to the Zionist demands concerning Palestine and that one of the aims of Col. Hoskins mission was to sound out Ibn Saud on that question. Zionists are, naturally, skeptical about the chances for such a position to be taken by Ibn Saud, but were glad to have the State Department sound him out.

Mr. Ickes said he knew nothing about conversations which the State Department had with Ibn Saud; they do not consult him about such matters, and he only deals with matters affecting the oil interests. He said, however, that he could assure Dr. Goldmann that as far as he knows, and certainly with respect to all the negotiations in which he participated, the question of Palestine did not come up. The problem is with the British, concerning the oil concessions in Saudi Arabia, which are said to be fabulous. He did not believe that any commitment has been, or is going to be made by this administration, with Ibn Saud regarding Palestine. Abe Fortes was scheduled to go with the mission to Saudi Arabia, but he is not going. A mission of geologists is making the trip. Mr. Ickes has given the geologists strict instructions to make no commitments or statements, but merely to explore the oil resources.

Mr. Ickes said he knew that Mr. Murray was going to London and understands that Zionists were worried at the fact that Murray and Hoskins were going there. However, he can do nothing about this and thought that the matter should be brought to the attention of the President.

During the conversation, Mr. Ickes as most friendly and frank.

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