



## 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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Hebrew University, 1942.



*Please Return*

JACOB BLAUSTEIN

AMERICAN BUILDING  
BALTIMORE, MD.

December 11, 1942

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I regret that due to pressure of war oil duties, my correspondence has had to be neglected somewhat, and this is the first opportunity I have had to reply to your letter in which you disapprove of the Committee continuing its conversations with the Hebrew University along the lines outlined in the memo the Council sent you.

To answer the specific points you mention:

- (1) You say 'It is not the function of the Committee to determine how much money should be raised in this country for the Hebrew University.'

It was not intended by the questions in the Council memo for the Budget Research Committee to determine this, but to suggest to the American Friends of the Hebrew University that it should review the proposed annual budgets of the University and develop policies on the basis of which the amounts to be raised in this country can be determined.

- (2) You say it is not 'the function of the Committee to suggest to the Hebrew University how to go about bringing about better relations between the Jews and the Arabs.'

It was not intended by the question of the Council memo for the Budget Research Committee to do the above, but to suggest that the American Friends revise their propaganda in line with the realities.

Now as to the major point involved, i. e., your statement that the proposals for a so-called continuing contact with the agencies studied by the Budget Research Committee along the lines suggested in the Council memo is inviolation of the defined functions and tasks of the BRC:

I call your attention to the fact that under the terms of the BRC's delegation of authority, it is restricted only in making recommendations on goals and quotas to its member agencies. There is no reason why we should not discuss these questions with the organizations we study as long as we do not attempt to make recommendations on these matters to the Council's member agencies.

You are apparently concerned that the conversations might be a subterfuge for attempting to fix budgets and American quotas. I assure you this is not the case. What we are after, principally, is to help develop standards of relationship between the giving communities, the American fund-raising bodies, and the actual programs which the communities help to support overseas.

At the April meeting of the BRC, this question of 'continuing conversations' with the organizations we study was discussed and there was general agreement that there should



be continuing conversations. The only question was whether same should be handled by the BRC as a whole or by its subcommittee concerned with the particular study. For obvious practical reasons, it should be the latter; the subcommittee, of course, reporting to the BRC and not urging anything upon the organizations we study contrary to their wishes, without specific authority from the BRC to do so.

Also, replies to specific questions which have been submitted by mail to the members of the BRC, indicate a clear majority in favor of 'continuing conversations'. Therefore, I think we have no alternative but to do so.

I am hoping this reply will disabuse any misgivings you had, and that you will see the right of what we are doing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,





Copy

December 14, 1942

Mr. Jacob Blaustein  
American Building  
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Mr. Blaustein:

Thank you for your letter of December 11th which came in response to mine written on October 13th.

I regret that I find your answers to the specific points which I raised no answers but circumlocutions. I furthermore disagree fundamentally with your contention that the Budget Research Committee in its functions is restricted only in the matter of recommendations on goals and quotas, and that it is free to do everything and anything else it pleases. The B.R.C. has been delegated to perform specific functions in certain definitely restricted areas and should confine itself to those activities. I am not concerned merely with the fact that the "conversations to be initiated might be a subterfuge for attempting to fix budgets and American quotas". I am concerned with what seems to be the clear trend among some Council leaders to affect and determine the programs, policies and organization of national and international bodies which have been raising funds in American-Jewish communities. I am calling your attention to this fact this early, just as I tried to call your attention early in the day to the implications of "advisory budgeting". This tendency, I am afraid, will lead again to very sharp conflict. You ought to know by this time that the fact that you managed to get a clear majority of a Council Committee for proposals which the Council leaders themselves make, is less than relevant to the issues involved.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

(Signed) Abba Hillel Silver

AHS:BK