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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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Ichud Party, Palestine, 1942.



LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL  
606 CITY HALL  
PHILADELPHIA

September 26, 1942.

Mr. Emanuel Neumann,  
Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs,  
41 E. 42nd Street,  
New York City.

Dear Emanuel:

As you must realize, I was very happy that you arranged to have Dr. Kliegler attend the Office Committee meeting yesterday. I wish that we of the Z.O.A. Executive Committee had known on Wednesday that he was a member of the Ichud and that he was available to throw light on the rather obscure situation in Palestine in connection with the formation of this group.

If Dr. Kliegler is to be believed, the Ichud does not intend to engage in separatist political action; it does not include non-Zionists; and through its affiliation with the League for Arab-Jewish Rapprochement, it is committed to the principle of unrestricted Jewish immigration in the whole of Palestine, limited only by economic considerations.

His statement that Dr. Magnes did not organize the Ichud, but was invited to join the group and accepted the aforesaid principles, was a revelation to me. His assertion that the Agency itself was willing during the disturbances to accept a bi-national state, with unlimited Jewish immigration, was also surprising. If true, it would seem to indicate that the Agency then thought that bi-national statehood does not necessarily preclude the possibility of unlimited Jewish immigration. Personally, I doubt the possibility of having unrestricted Jewish immigration in a bi-national state and therefore I heartily endorsed the resolution submitted by Bob Szold, which in my opinion was clear, direct and statesmanlike.

I am happy that I voted as I did at the meeting of the Emergency Committee and that I said what I did at the meeting of the Executive Committee, for I am satisfied that the news reports about the Ichud were far from complete or accurate. I am not prepared to denounce as renegades Henrietta Szold, Julius Simon, Dr. Landauer, Dr. Kliegler or any other Zionist who has served our movement and our people - at any rate, not without giving them a chance to



September 25, 1942.

Mr. Emanuel Neumann,  
#2.

be heard. The Executive Committee having decided otherwise, I shall, of course, see that its decision is effectuated.

I am sorry that Judge Rothenberg, Dr. Heller and some of the other members of our Executive were not given an opportunity to question Dr. Kliegler last Wednesday evening, an opportunity which they would have had if you had told me, when I saw you Wednesday afternoon, that Dr. Kliegler was a member of the Ichud and was available for questioning with relation thereto. Certainly, it would have been helpful to the members of our Executive Committee if they had at least heard from Dr. Kliegler what you and I were privileged to hear yesterday.

Cordially yours,



September 29, 1942

Judge Louis E. Levinthal  
Court of Common Pleas #6  
City Hall  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Lou:

I acknowledge your letter of the 25th regarding Dr. Kligler and the Ichud.

1. I, too, am glad that Dr. Kligler attended the Office Committee meeting. The suggestion and invitation first came from Dr. Wise. I acted merely in ministerial capacity. I had no opportunity to see Kligler before the meeting and had only had a brief telephone conversation with him. I did not know that he was a member of the Ichud until he said so at the Office Committee meeting in reply to a direct question which I addressed to him there.
2. I agree with you that Dr. Kligler made out a fairly good case for the Ichud, though there were certain things which he did not and perhaps could not clear up. You will recall that in support of his assertion that the Ichud was in favor of free immigration, he cited a plank of the Ichud platform which spoke of free "economic, social and cultural development" and which he thought was meant to cover the subject of immigration. To my question, why immigration was not actually and specifically mentioned, no adequate answer was forthcoming. Dr. Kligler also stated that the League had adopted a platform which covered the subject of free immigration and that the Ichud was a part of the League. I then asked why it was necessary in that case for the Ichud to adopt a platform of its own if it was part of the League and subscribed to the League platform. I don't recall the answer to that question and I doubt if an adequate answer was given.
3. It struck me, then, that it would be well to discuss the matter further after Dr. Kligler was in a position to supply us with the actual texts of the platforms adopted by the League and by Ichud -- and I think so now.
4. Dr. Kligler's statements with regard to Dr. Magnes were interesting but by no means sufficiently definite to be satisfactory in the light of the successive statements of Dr. Magnes which have appeared in print. Dr. Magnes has previously taken the position that we have no right to enter Palestine except by Arab consent. According to Dr. Kligler, Magnes is in substantial agreement with the point of view of the Ichud on immigration, which point of view (the Ichud's) has not, however, been made clear. A phrase which was quoted in the Times spoke of a "steadily growing Palestine Jewry", which might mean anything, even next to nothing. Dr. Kligler asserted that Magnes had modified his point of view regarding immigration but it is significant and rather damning that in all the long statements he has published expressing dissent from the American Zionist position, he did not once emphasize the right of immigration to Palestine or even deal adequately with the question. All that Dr. Kligler said



about Magnes left me quite unconvinced about such a change of heart.

5. As for the attitude of the Jewish Agency in the past, it is quite possible that the Executive favored a bi-national state with free Jewish immigration. But whether the Executive did or did not favor that position during the riots, which means four, five or six years ago, is not really relevant. For that matter, Ben-Gurion himself at one time favored political "parity" and even advocated it at the Zionist Congress (in 1931). I am persuaded as you are that those who believe it possible to combine a bi-national state with free Jewish immigration are mistaken. But that position is quite different from that which Dr. Magnes had held, inasmuch as he waived the right of free immigration except by Arab consent.

6. I agree with you that it would be folly to denounce such people as Miss Szold, Julius Simon, etc. as renegades. Everyone is entitled to his convictions. But our position, as expressed in our resolutions, seemed to be challenged. Dr. Magnes challenged our position explicitly by direct reference to the resolutions adopted by the Z.O.A. at its last convention, and we are certainly entitled to answer him.

7. It may well be that the resentment expressed in this country (and undoubtedly/also in Palestine) by various Zionist groups has already produced some effect. I noticed in today's J.T.A. a report about conferences between Zionist leaders in Palestine and representatives of the Ichud, and that the latter have promised to observe Zionist discipline, to refrain from unauthorized political negotiations and to clarify and explain their position on the subject of immigration. It is to be hoped that the Ichud will put itself right.

8. I am surprised at the last paragraph of your letter (copies of which I understood you have sent to other members of the Z.O.A. Executive Committee) which might convey the erroneous impression that I deliberately withheld Dr. Kligler from the Z.O.A., knowing him to be a member of the Ichud. I take it that my good faith is not questioned. As I have said, I did not know he was a member of the Ichud until I heard it from his lips at the meeting of the Office Committee. Secondly, I had understood that he would have to spend two or three days out of that week in Washington. Thirdly, it just didn't occur to me to invite him to the Z.O.A. meeting. In the case of the Emergency Committee, I simply followed up the suggestion of Dr. Wise and a letter from Dr. Wise to Dr. Kligler. As you probably know, Dr. Kligler will be here for several months and there will be ample opportunity for further discussions with him, if desired.

As ever,

Cordially yours,

Emanuel Neumann

EN:BP



J.T.A. NEWS

NAZIS ESTABLISH "JUDENRAT" FOR LITHUANIAN JEWS, APPOINT HEAD FOR SLOBODKA GHETTO

LISBON, Sept. 29.(JTA)-- German newspapers reaching here today carry a report that the Nazis have established a Judenrat in the ghetto of Slobodka, a suburb of Kovno, where all the Jews from Lithuania have been interned. A former Jewish official of the Lithuanian Commercial Bank of Kovno, named Chazan, has been appointed head of the Judenrat to be responsible to the occupational authorities for the residents of the ghetto, the report stated.

Newspapers from Hungary reaching here today report that 133 Jews have been arrested during the last week in Budapest on the charge of "disturbing the peace." The report adds that "the police are engaged in eliminating all Jewish interests throughout the country."

A new decree prepared, but not yet published, by the Vichy Government provides for the expulsion of all aliens who entered the unoccupied part of France since September 1, 1939, it was learned here today. The decree is not aimed only at Jews. It will also affect Czechs, Poles, Belgians and Dutchmen.

JUDGE LEVINTHAL CALLS FOR A MAXIMALIST ZIONIST PROGRAM

NEW YORK, Sept. 29.(JTA)-- Calling for a maximalist program in the Zionist movement with an eye to large-scale post-war Jewish emigration, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, president of the Zionist Organization of America, told a press conference here today that "Zionists will have to adopt a new language, new slogans and a new approach."

"We must think in terms of the emigration after the war of at least three million Jews," Judge Levinthal said. "Great funds will be needed for this and the governments of the world will be required to aid in this mass-emigration."

Judge Levinthal said he was "highly gratified" at the overtures towards rapprochement with the Zionists made by the Russian Government and the Jews of Russia. He revealed that recently the Zionist Organization of American had sent a message of felicitations and sympathy to the Jews of Russia through the Soviet Ambassador Maxim Litvinoff and that the latter was very much pleased to transmit the message.

Referring to the newly-formed Ichud Party in Palestine, which has provoked much discussion among Zionists in the United States, Judge Levinthal disclosed that the executive committee of the ZOA has received a cable from Henrietta Szold in Jerusalem, asking American Zionists to defer judgement on the new party until they receive her detailed report on the group. Acting on this cable, the executive committee decided to postpone issuing any statement on its attitude towards the Ichud Party until the actual objectives of the party can be clarified.

Simon Schetzer, Secretary of the Zionist Organization, declared that the coming ZOA convention would register a record-breaking membership for the organization, with close to 50,000 members on the roster. The convention will also learn that the deficit "which hung like a millstone" around the neck of the Zionist organization, has been reduced by more than 50 percent and it is expected that this deficit will be entirely liquidated before another year has passed, despite the strain of the war.

My dear Judge Levinthal:

What is the meaning of this?  
Asks Head Simon

Her H. Phil: Obviously the report is inaccurate. I refer to a question about the Ichud Party. I don't think I gave a factual answer as to the accuracy of the report.

to the referees. I think it is a representative.

The Emergency Committee and of the ZOA Executive. The attached clipping from the Jewish Morning Journal gives a much more accurate report of what I said. 9/30/42



DUTCH CHRISTIANS HELP JEWS DEFEAT NAZIS IN FIST FIGHT IN DESECRATED SYNAGOGUE

LONDON, Sept. 29.(JTA)-- A fist fight between Jews and uniformed Dutch Nazis in a synagogue in The Hague developed into an anti-Nazi demonstration in which Dutch Christians joined the fighting Jews and ejected the Nazis from the synagogue premises, the press here reports today.

The Nazis invaded the synagogue and started to destroy scrolls and prayer books and to demolish ritual articles. Some of the older Jews in the synagogue called for help and young Jewish men from the neighborhood rushed to the place to aid their parents in resisting the Nazis. The battle soon attracted the attention of passing non-Jews and crowds of non-Jewish civilians joined with the Jews and forced the Nazis to retreat.

NAZIS FORBID INTERMARRIAGE BETWEEN JEWS AND NON-JEWS IN OCCUPIED UKRAINE

LISBON, Sept. 29.(JTA)-- Nazi authorities in the Ukraine have issued an order forbidding intermarriage between Jews and Ukrainians, a Spanish-language broadcast from Berlin heard here today reported.

The Berlin radio also reported that "approximately 70,000 Jews have been smuggled into Palestine during the last three months with the connivance - but not the official permission - of the British authorities." This allegation, broadcast in English, was apparently intended for use by Arabs operating as Nazi propagandists in Egypt and Palestine.

ITALIAN PRESS "EXPLAINS" RACIAL LAWS FOR JEWS IN LIBYA

ZURICH, Sept. 29.(JTA)-- Details concerning the bill defining the legal status of Libyan Jews are given in an official communique published in the Italian newspaper "La Stampa," reaching here today.

The statement points out that hitherto the laws promulgated in Italy "for the defense of the Italian race," applied in Libya only to Jews who are "metropolitan citizens" but not to Italian Libyan citizens of the Jewish race. It has, therefore, been considered advisable to amend existing regulations with a view to extending to the Libyan Jews the restrictions imposed in the metropolitan territory.

The bill, now approved by the Council of Ministers, takes into account not only the particular local conditions but also the fact that the position of Jews in Libya must be regulated vis-a-vis the "Aryan" race as well as the Moslems, the statement concludes.

PALESTINE JEWISH AIRMAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION

JERUSALEM, Sept. 29.(JTA)-- On the charge of being illegally in possession of 12,000 rounds of ammunition, a Jewish member of the Royal Air Force was sentenced here by a military court to imprisonment for life, it was announced here today.

Six co-defendants, including five members of the kvutza Givat Brenner, were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from five to twelve years. The sentences are subject to confirmation by the General Officer Commanding in Palestine.



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA  
1720—16TH STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 25, 1942.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

At the Office Committee meeting  
yesterday Dr. Kliegler addressed us from  
5 until 6:45 P.M. I wish it had been possible  
for you to hear him.

I am enclosing copy of letter which  
I have just sent to Emanuel Neumann, which  
speaks for itself.

With kind personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

*Harry S. Truman*



NEW JEWISH PARTY FORMED IN PALESTINE; ASKS LINKING OF ALL SEMITIC COUNTRIES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 25. (JTA)-- An organization with the avowed aim of unifying the Semitic countries, including a bi-national Palestine, and linking an Arab federation of states to the democratic world, was founded here today.

The organization, to be known as "Ichud" (Unity), was established at a meeting of 60 Palestine notables called together by Dr. Judah L. Magnes, president of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and long a proponent of a bi-national Palestine. Among those who attended the meeting were Miss Henriette Szold and Prof. Martin Buber, noted German-Jewish philosopher.

A presidium was elected consisting of Dr. Magnes, Miss Szold, Dr. Buber, Moshe Smilansky, president of the Jewish Farmers' Association, Chaim Kalverisky, former head of the Arab department of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, and others.

In outlining the program of the new organization, Dr. Magnes urged the creation of a committee for the preparation of a plan for a bi-national Arab-Jewish State in Palestine. He also suggested the elimination from the by-laws of the Jewish National Fund of the paragraph which provides that land acquired by the JNF is for Jews only. A number of those present at the conference expressed opposition to the formation of the Ichud organization.



### JEWISH AGENCY LEADERS STRESS IMPORTANCE OF WILLKIE'S VISIT TO PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 25. (JTA)-- The importance of Willkie's stop-over in Palestine was emphasized here today by Jewish Agency leaders who expect to confer with him upon his reaching Jerusalem.

M. Banczyk, vice-chairman of the Polish National Council, arrived in Jerusalem on a special mission. He will remain in Palestine for a fortnight and visit the centres of Polish civilian refugees as well as the military units. He will also confer with the Representation of Polish Jewry in Tel Aviv.

Taking effect on September 15, all licenses issued to civilian owners of motor vehicles in Palestine will be cancelled, an official announcement today stated. Exception will be made only for those needed for the protection of life of the civilian population.

### JEWISH SOLDIERS FROM PALESTINE ARRIVE IN NEW YORK ON SPECIAL MISSION

NEW YORK, Aug. 25. (JTA)-- The first group of Jewish Palestinian soldiers to reach the United States since the outbreak of the war arrived this week in New York, it was announced here today by the Hadassah headquarters.

The group, consisting of six men under British command have come here on