



## 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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Welles, Sumner, re: United States Policy, 1941-1943.



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MINUTES OF INTERVIEW WITH ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE

SUMNER WELLES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 1941 -

11 A.M. STATE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. As a matter of courtesy, I informed Mr. Welles of the interview which I had with Ambassador Cumanisky the previous week.

2. I then informed Mr. Welles of the fact that we were considering the holding of a Zionist Conference in the fall for the consideration of Zionist problems, to which we may wish to invite 25 or 30 leading Zionists from other countries; and I inquired whether the State Department would facilitate the holding of such a conference by granting permission to Zionist leaders to visit America for this purpose, it being understood that their stay here would be temporary.

Mr. Welles first inquired whether the Conference would take place in New York, to which I replied that we had not yet considered the place since the plan for the Conference was still tentative. Mr. Welles then said if we would submit to him the list of names, he would see to it that visas are granted. He went on to suggest that we give some consideration to the question whether the holding of such a Conference, which would probably attract considerable publicity, might have repercussions among the Arabs in the Near East where Axis propaganda was still giving concern. In this connection he said it was not precluded that Turkey might become involved and the Near East situation again become critical. The Arab issue would of course come to the fore again.

I assured him that we would give careful consideration to the point. We had no intention of doing anything which might aggravate the situation or cause embarrassment; but on the other hand, deference to Arab sentiment might be carried too far. Normally we would be holding a biennial Zionist Congress this year, but since that is impossible, we felt it may become necessary to provide an opportunity for an exchange of views between representatives of the various parts of the movement.



Mr. Welles said that it is of course for us to decide whether to hold this conference, and repeated that he would take care of the list as soon as we submit it.

3. I then referred to the statement he had made on a previous occasion that it was extremely unlikely that the British Government would attempt to make any major political changes in the Near East affecting Palestine without previous consultation with the American Government; and that if the American Government were approached on such a matter, it would inform the representatives of American Zionism and give them an opportunity to express our views. I pointed out that more recently there had been indications that the British Government may be contemplating steps involving the status of Palestine, and added that there was some apprehension in our circles lest under stress of war, commitments might be made affecting the Jewish National Home and possibly prejudging the post-war settlement. I inquired whether it would be possible for the State Department to address itself to the British Government on this subject in order to secure assurances which would allay such apprehension.

Mr. Welles replied that there was nothing in the information which had reached him which would give rise to such apprehension, but that it was entirely possible for him to take the matter up with the British Government and that he was prepared to do so through Ambassador Winant.

I thanked him for his readiness to act and said we should like to consider the matter further and perhaps submit a memorandum setting forth our position.

Mr. Welles said he would be very glad to have such a memorandum which would be useful to him in taking up the question with the British Government.



4. I took the occasion to inform Mr. Welles that we were thinking of observing the twenty-fourth anniversary of the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, on November 2nd through public meetings and other appropriate means. These meetings would serve both to give expression to our solidarity with the British cause and our support of the foreign policy of the United States, and at the same time give expression to our hope and conviction that the intent of the Balfour Declaration would be fully carried out.

Mr. Welles remarked that we would no doubt bear in mind the point he raised in connection with the proposed conference; namely, the possible repercussion which our propaganda might have in the Near East.

As I left, Mr. Welles said he expected to receive in due course, the list of names, and our memorandum.

Emanuel Neumann





(Excerpts)

MINUTE OF INTERVIEW WITH ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE SUMNER WELLES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 1941 - 11 A.M. STATE DEPT.,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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FILE: UPA-USA 1941 to 1942  
Folder: Emergency Committee

MURRAY HILL 2-1160

## *Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs*

41 EAST 42nd STREET  
ROOM 1121  
NEW YORK CITY

August 6, 1941

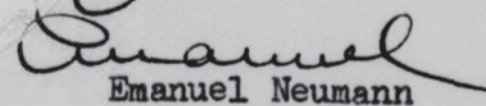
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

I am sending you herewith for your own information minute  
of the interview I had with Under Secretary Welles on July 30.

With kindest regards, I am as ever

Yours,

  
Emanuel Neumann

Enc.



COPY

AHS Fil

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

41 East 42nd Street  
Room 1121  
New York City

August 6, 1941

re: Welles,  
U.S. policy

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

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With kindest regards, I am as ever

Yours,

(Signed) Emanuel

EMANUEL NEUMANN

WRHS





Duplicate

AHS Fi6

re: Welles,  
U.S. policy

August 7, 1941

Hon. Sumner Welles,  
Under Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Supplementing the recent meeting which Mr. Emanuel Neumann on behalf of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs had with you, I have the pleasure of submitting herewith the memorandum which he undertook to submit on our behalf. We hold ourselves in readiness for a conference with you touching this problem should you find it necessary further to discuss the matter with us.

I am, dear Mr. Secretary, with most hearty  
greetings

Faithfully yours,

Stephen S. Wise



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COPY

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MURRAY HILL 2-1160

## *Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs*

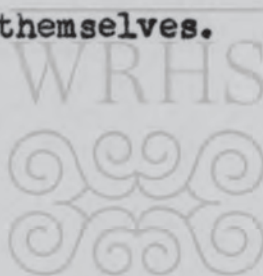
41 EAST 42nd STREET  
ROOM 1121  
NEW YORK CITY

August 7, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
c/o The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

Enclosed herewith is copy of the memorandum submitted  
to Under Secretary of State Welles, together with covering letter,  
which speak for themselves.



Cordially yours,

*Emanuel*  
Emanuel Neumann



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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Washington

September 5, 1941

My dear Dr. Wise:

On behalf of Mr. Welles, who is on leave, I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 7, 1941, referring to his recent conversation with Dr. Emanuel Neumann on the subject of the future of Palestine. The receipt is also acknowledged of the memorandum enclosed with your letter, in which reference is made to Mr. Welles' previous conversation with you and Mr. Nahum Goldmann.

In thanking you for these communications we desire to express our appreciation of the readiness of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs to discuss the problem further should it be necessary to do so.

I am, my dear Dr. Wise,

Sincerely yours,

A.A. BERLE, JR.

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Ph.D.,  
Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y.



Minute of conversation with Congressman Sol Bloom  
Washington, D. C. December 8, 1943  
Present: Congressmen Bloom; Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Shulman

AHS File

re. U.S.  
Policy -  
Palestine  
Resolution

The Rogers-Gillette Resolution: Congressman Bloom said that the evidence of Dr. Wise before the Committee was excellent.

He said that Mr. Breckenridge Long had made an extensive report to the Committee, which is to be published in complete form, so that the public may be informed of the efforts of the British and American governments and the Intergovernmental Committee concerning the rescue of Jews. The report indicates that every conceivable effort was made and, therefore, there is really no necessity for the Commission proposed in the Rogers Resolution. Moreover, the setting up of such a Commission would practically put all the responsibility for rescue on the American government, releasing the British and other governments from their responsibilities in this matter; in addition, it is contrary to the policy fixed at Bermuda to enlarge the Intergovernmental Committee and to channelize all the rescue work through it. He believes that the Committee will not report the resolution out, and that will be the end of it.

He reiterated his opinion that it would have been a grave error to tie up any amendment on Palestine with this Gillette Resolution, as the amendment would meet the same fate.

Separate Resolution on Palestine: Mr. Bloom said that the Zionists must first of all make up their minds what kind of a resolution they want: it cannot be a joint resolution, which must be signed by the President and which has the binding character of a law and the President would never do that now; it might be a concurrent resolution which would not require the signature of the President, and has only a moral importance as an expression of public opinion. Such a resolution, if passed in the Senate, would have to be brought up on the floor of the House with a request for unanimous consent to have it brought up. If one member of the House objects, this procedure cannot be used, but the resolution goes back to the Committee of Foreign Affairs, and comes up on the floor when it appears on the calendar of the House, which means a delay of many months; moreover there would then be discussion on it and all sorts of nasty anti-semitic speeches are possible.

Mr. Shulman then showed Congressman Bloom the draft of a resolution calling for two separate things: a Jewish Commonwealth, and, secondly, the abrogation of the White Paper and the freedom of immigration.

✓ Congressman Bloom said that the first demand was all right, but he warned against the second, because the moment immigration is discussed, some Congressman will feel that they cannot ask for immigration into Palestine, without asking for immigration into this country and would object to it. He advised that there be only one demand in which immigration should be tied up with the Commonwealth. He asked whether Zionists would be satisfied to have a joint resolution merely reaffirming the 1922 resolution, which he thought could be passed and the President would have no alternative but to sign it.

Mr. Shulman and Dr. Goldmann explained that a simple reaffirmation would be meaningless.

Congressman Bloom then said that in view of these facts, he would advise against introducing any resolution now. From what he knows of the Palestine problem, he is firmly convinced that as soon as the war is over, there will be a satisfactory solution to it. He said that the movement was in very



"good shape," and questioned the advisability of stirring up trouble by introducing a resolution at this moment.

Mr. Shulman and Dr. Goldmann said that they could not immediately accept his opinion, but would first sound out some friends in the Senate.

Bloom repeatedly said that Barclay would be the most important person to consult. He asked Mr. Shulman and Dr. Goldmann to keep in touch with him and they promised to take no definite action before consulting him.

NG

Washington, D. C.

