



## 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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Hoover, Herbert, 1943.

Louis Lewenthal

C o p y

San Francisco, Cal.

August 6th, 1943

Dear Arthur --

I have just returned from a rather long interview with Herbert Hoover. He listened to me quite attentively and I think I made a decided impression.

He told me during our hour and a half conversation the following:

- (1) That in his opinion Palestine cannot become a Jewish Commonwealth when the Arabs are evacuated to other countries in the Near East.
- (2) That this evacuation cannot be voluntary, but must be compulsory, imposed by the British or the United Nations.
- (3) That the British are afraid to impose such compulsory evacuation because of the repercussion on the "Arab world".
- (4) That he has no faith in the British promises with regard to Jewish Palestine; that the "Empire" is the first and paramount concern of the British people; that the Labor Party is also devoted to the Imperial interests of Britain (that no Labor meeting concludes without the singing of "Britannia rules the waves"); that Britain at the end of this war will insist on retaining all the territory it has had and has acquired; that a small oligarchy of 15 million rule not only the 50 million of the British Isles but one-quarter of the area of the earth and one-quarter of the earth's resources; and that despite all our day-dreaming idealists Britain will continue to be self-righteously imperialistic after the war.
- (5) That Britain should give an accounting to the world as to the Mandates of Kenya and Tanganyika - that about 5,000 Englishmen live there, that there are many inland valleys which would be habitable by the refugees, that there are great copper mines and other natural resources in the area, and that Britain seems to be keeping this rich area "for future imperialistic purposes" of Britain.
- (6) That in 1937 he suggested to a group of his Jewish friends that if 100 million of dollars were contributed by them he would undertake to get a billion from governments to develop Kenya and Tanganyika for refugees.
- (7) That he took up the matter with Stanley Baldwin and enlisted his sympathetic interest and that he was interrupted by further plans.
- (8) That he made up his mind recently that he ought to open up the question publicly, knowing full well that he was "sticking out his neck".
- (9) That he made a six minutes speech and has received about 500 letters about it (400 were from non-Jews who praised the speech, because they had feared that the Jews in this country would urge the lowering of immigration bars to permit millions of Jewish refugees to enter here, and that they had no faith in Palestine as a haven for more than a few tens of thousands).
- (10) That Jews have attacked him for the speech, but he believes that actually he will be of great service to the Jewish cause. Indeed, (as an after-thought, I believe) he said that Britain will be so fearful about being required to give up the very rich Kenya and Tanganyika area, that it will much prefer to make a real Jewish State of Palestine, and will even force the Arabs to evacuate to the Arab countries, investing the necessary funds to develop these undeveloped lands so as to receive the Arabs from Palestine.

I not only gave him the memorandum you sent on to me, but I reviewed all the points made in it in the course of our conversation. I also gave him James S. MacDonald's article in the New Palestine. He seemed to be impressed. He didn't know who the Committee which sponsored his address really were. I am sure he regrets his speech, and that he is a much wiser man than he was before I saw him.

San Francisco, Cal.  
August 6th, 1943

I have just sent him a note thanking him for his patient and gracious reception of my point of view, and I also sent him a copy of the pamphlet "Palestine — A Jewish Commonwealth In Our Time", just published by the Z.C.A.

The trip has been exciting and hectic, but I believe quite worth while. It's the first opportunity I have had for the writing of a letter to anybody. Please make copies of it for Simon Shetzer and for such of the members of the Political Panel or the Office Committee as you and Dr. Goldmann think should have them.

With kind regards,

Cordially,

Louis E. Levinthal

