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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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Ickes, Secretary, 1943.

Murray Hill 2-1160

# *American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs*

## CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Mizrachi Organization of America  
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America  
Zionist Organization of America

41 EAST 42nd STREET  
ROOM 1121  
NEW YORK CITY

Office of Dr. Wise  
40 West 68th St.  
New York City

March 23, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

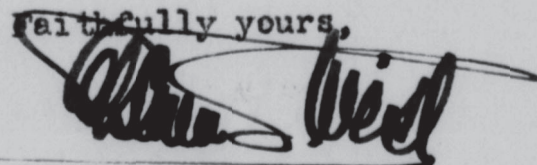
Dear Silver:

I just read your letter to Dr. Goldstein and I want you to know I feel exactly as you do. There was a time when Ickes' speeches were fine for us. They are no longer. And saddest of all is to think of the reason for what is become their utter worthlessness and even irrelevance.

I think the matter should be carefully discussed at Philadelphia so that we do not again make the mistake of inviting anyone of the Administration to speak for us unless we can be sure, as in the case of Barkley, that he will say something.

With most cordial greeting and looking forward to seeing you next Wednesday, I am

Faithfully yours,



SSW:FE

Stephen S. Wise



קרן  
קימת  
לישראל



# JEWISH NATIONAL FUND, Inc.

41 EAST 42nd STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: VANDERBILT 6-3780

**President**

ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN

March 26,  
19 43.

**Honorary Chairmen**

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SOLOMON GOLDMAN  
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ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
ROBERT SZOLD  
STEPHEN S. WISE

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
East 105th St. at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

**Honorary**

**Vice-Chairmen**

H. RAPHAEL GOLD  
GUSTAVE KLAUSNER  
HARRY A. PINE  
ELIHU D. STONE  
THEODORE STRIMLING

I am in fullest agreement with the sentiments you expressed in your letter of March 22nd.

**Secretary**

LOUIS SEGAL

**Treasurers**

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**Executive Director**

MENDEL N. FISHER

The Jewish National Fund took all the precautions necessary in connection with Secretary Ickes' appearance in Boston. A full memorandum was sent to him telling him exactly what was expected. He was also told in very plain language that there was a great deal of dissatisfaction with the address he delivered at the U. P. A. Conference. Our memorandum was intended as the basis for his address. We made it very clear that we wanted him to speak on the Keren Kayemeth and in support of the Zionist cause as a whole. No words were minced in our memorandum.

It will be of interest to you to know - and this is what is most aggravating - is that Secretary Ickes in the first instance prepared a speech in which the words "Jewish commonwealth in Palestine" were used. I quote from Ickes' original manuscript which contained the following paragraph in which he pays tribute to the J. N. F.:

"Since the turn of the century, the Jewish National Fund has diligently purchased land in Palestine in order to help create a commonwealth there for Jews."

On page 8 of his manuscript the following sentence appeared:

"At the same time the United Nations should declare, once and for all, that Palestine shall be a home for those Jews who wish to abide there."

After the copy was mimeographed, for some mysterious reason not known to any of us, an order came to change the text. The telegram, fortunately or unfortunately, never reached the J. N. F. Office and the J. T. A., therefore, used the text of the speech in its original form. When Secretary Ickes reached Boston he came there with a publicity man who released another speech, in modified form. We happen to have both



Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

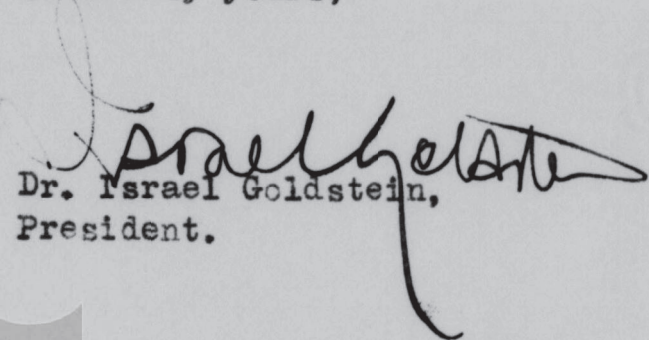
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March 26, 1943.

speeches here and I shall be glad to show them to you when you are in New York.

Under the circumstances, I think you will agree that we all did what prudent men could do. This has always been our policy. We never believe in using prominent personalities merely because they are attractions, unless they are in complete sympathy and harmony with our work. On that basis we have used Senator Barkley extensively and with success, and recently we have also used Senator Pepper rather extensively. We prepare the background material for them and also tell them rather frankly what is expected of them. They never make an appearance without our giving them a full memorandum, repeating again and again what is expected of them.

Sincerely yours,

  
Dr. Israel Goldstein,  
President.

IG:d1





*Seig Knox*

MEMORANDUM

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date Dec. 8, 1943

From Mr. Henry Montor

Judge Fisher of Chicago telephoned to me this afternoon to say that he had had a very excellent discussion for more than an hour with Secretary of the Navy Knox in Chicago.

Judge Fisher did not want to talk at too great length over the telephone but he did give me the following:

At the close of the discussion, Secretary Knox said that he was going to speak to the President on the subject. He declared that he was also going to talk to "some of the Jews who do the cause a great deal of harm in Washington."

During the discussion the name of Judge Rosenman was mentioned by Secretary Knox. He inquired what his attitude was. Judge Fisher said that as far as he knew, Judge Rosenman was not believed to be a member of the group to which the Secretary had referred. However, Judge Fisher said that it would not hurt for Secretary Knox to make clear to Judge Rosenman that he was very much interested in the cause.

At one point Mr. Knox said: "Harry, I'm going to watch this Palestine situation with the same care as if you yourself were sitting in on Cabinet meetings. If there is such a percentage as 1,000, that is the extent of my sympathy with your cause. It cannot possibly be that the whole world will win the war and that the Jews will be excepted," Mr. Knox declared. He added: "I want to be kept continually informed about developments with respect to Palestine. Do not worry about the thought that you will be annoying me. If necessary, I want you to write to me every day giving me any new facts that may develop with which I should be familiar."

Mr. Knox said that there need not be any worry about Mr. Wallace Murray or Col. Hoskins. They had gone abroad under special instructions which he said did not cover the Palestine situation.

Mr. Knox who is a member of the board with Secretary Ickes of the Petroleum Reserves Corporation, declared that insofar as the Government is concerned, no commitments had been made with respect to Palestine as a tie-up with the oil situation. In fact the Palestine question was never even discussed.

Judge Fisher said that he would give me more details when he met us in Cleveland on Saturday.

HM/md