



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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.

Reel
101

Box
35

Folder
97

Partition rumors (British policy), 1943.

FROM: JACOB LANDAU
JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

NOVEMBER 30, 1943

WE CABLED TO OUR CORRESPONDENT, VICTOR BIENSTOCK, IN CAIRO, INFORMING HIM THAT THE COLONIAL OFFICE HAD DENIED THE STORY THAT A NEW PARTITION SCHEME WAS BEING OFFERED.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE REPLY:

"I HAVE YOUR CABLE OF THE 18TH. THE PARTITION STORY CAME TO ME FROM A MOST AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE AND THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF ITS ACCURACY DESPITE WHAT IS SAID IN LONDON. I'M SORRY I CAN'T WRITE AND NAME THE SOURCE, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, BUT YOU CAN TAKE MY WORD FOR IT THAT ITS A DAMN GOOD ONE.

"THERE'S NOTHING OFFICIAL YET ABOUT THIS PLAN. ITS JUST A PROJECT THAT HAS BEEN PUT BEFORE A NUMBER OF ARAB LEADERS FOR THEIR REACTIONS, ETC., BY PERSONS WITH WHOM THEY'RE ACCUSTOMED TO DEALING OFFICIALLY. IT HAS NOT BEEN PUT BEFORE THE JEWISH AGENCY THOUGH, I BELIEVE, THEY HAVE BEEN INDIRECTLY INFORMED OF ITS DETAILS.

"I WAS GIVEN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHEME FOR MY PRIVATE INFORMATION AND I AGREED NOT TO USE IT AT THIS PREMATURE TIME UNTIL I GOT AN OKAY ON IT.

"ROUGHLY, THE PLAN PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH REGION IN PART OF PALESTINE - I DON'T HAVE THE POLITICAL DETAILS BUT I ASSUME IT WOULD BECOME A STATE - AND THE INCORPORATION OF THE REST OF PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN IN A GREATER SYRIA. THE JEWISH REGION WOULD EMBRACE THE TERRITORY SOUTH OF A LINE RUNNING EAST-WEST APPROXIMATELY AT NATHANIA AND OVER INTO TRANSJORDANIA, INCORPORATING PART OF THE TRANSJORDAN IN THE JEWISH REGION. THE REGION WOULD INCLUDE ALL PALESTINE AND THE NEGBE BELOW THE LINE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JERUSALEM WHICH WOULD BECOME SOME SORT OF INTERNATIONALLY-ADMINISTERED ENCLAVE. THE REST OF PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN WOULD BECOME PART OF SYRIA.

"THIS WOULD MEAN THAT HAIFA AND SOME OF THE MOST FERTILE TERRITORY IN PALESTINE - ALL THE BEST COLONIES, IN FACT - WOULD BE OUTSIDE THE JEWISH AREA.

"I'LL GET THE REST OF THE DETAILS EITHER FOR A STORY OR FOR YOUR INFORMATION IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO. MEANWHILE, YOU CAN DISREGARD LONDON COMMENT ON THE STORY IN GOOD CONSCIENCE. THE RIGHT HAND DOESN'T ALWAYS KNOW WHAT THE LEFT IS DOING."