



## 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  
102

Box  
35

Folder  
135

British immigration policy, White Paper, 1944.



[March? 1944]

ON MARCH 6TH WE RECEIVED THE ATTACHED CABLE FROM OUR LONDON OFFICE TOUCHING ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT QUESTIONS DEALING WITH PALESTINE. THE CABLE STATED THAT THE VIEWS THEREIN WERE GIVEN BY "BRITISH OFFICIAL CIRCLES" WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING ANY NAMES. AS THE CONTENTS WERE IMPORTANT, I CABLED THE LONDON OFFICE INQUIRING AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE ANONYMOUS OFFICIAL CIRCLES. THE REPLY SAID THE INFORMATION HAD BEEN ISSUED BY THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

THE NEXT MORNING (APPARENTLY AFTER THE INFORMATION APPEARED IN OUR LONDON BULLETIN AND WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OTHER THAN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION), I RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE BRITISH INFORMATION OFFICE HERE ASKING ME WHETHER WE HAD RECEIVED A CABLE FROM LONDON CONTAINING A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, AND IF SO, WOULD WE PLEASE NOT PUBLISH IT. THE BIO MAN EXPLAINED THAT THE INFORMATION WAS NOT INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION BUT WAS A SURVEY ON PALESTINE QUESTIONS PREPARED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION FOR INTER-DEPARTMENTAL USE. HE SAID THAT THE STATEMENT WAS GIVEN TO OUR OFFICE IN LONDON "BY MISTAKE" AND THAT OUR OFFICE HAD NOT BEEN TOLD THAT ITS CONTENTS WERE NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

BY THE TIME THE BRITISH INFORMATION OFFICE CALLED ME, PART OF THE STATEMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN PUBLISHED IN OUR NEW YORK BULLETIN WHICH WAS MAILED OUT ON THE PREVIOUS EVENING. THE STORY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH CHURCHILL MIGHT HAVE PERSONAL FEELINGS ABOUT PALESTINE, HE WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW THE GENERAL LINE OF THE BRITISH CABINET WITH REGARD TO THE PALESTINE ISSUE. I EXPLAINED TO MR. BERLIN OF THE BRITISH INFORMATION OFFICE THAT IT WAS TOO LATE TO WITHDRAW THE STORY FROM OUR BULLETIN SINCE PART OF IT HAD ALREADY BEEN PUBLISHED AND WAS IN THE HANDS OF OUR READERS. I HAD THE STORY DICTATED OVER THE TELEPHONE TO THE BRITISH INFORMATION OFFICE FOR MR. BERLIN'S INFORMATION.

WHILE I WAS TALKING TO THE BRITISH INFORMATION OFFICE, A CABLE CAME IN FROM OUR LONDON OFFICE READING:



"REYESTERDAY'S OFFICIAL PUBLICATION REPALESTINE LEARN AUTHORITATIVELY  
DOCUMENT CITED WAS ACTUAL SURVEY SITUATION PREPARED MINISTRY OF  
INFORMATION FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE NOT FOR PUBLICATION CIRCULATED BY  
ERROR TO ONE TWO CORRESPONDENTS"

LATER IN THE DAY I MET MR. BERLIN AND HE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE DOCUMENT  
WAS INTENDED AS A "LINE OF GUIDANCE" FOR PRESS ATTACHES IN THE BRITISH EMBASSIES IN  
NEUTRAL COUNTRIES WHO RECENTLY HAVE RECEIVED MANY QUERIES BY NEWSPAPERS ON THE  
BRITISH ATTITUDE ON THE PALESTINE ISSUE.





PW3 VIA PREWI

PW46 LONDON 246 6 1715 COLLECT  
PRESS SUPERNEWS NEWYORK (SUBJ CCTN)

WHITEPAPER POLICY BEEN DEFENDED BRITISH OFFICIAL CIRCLES REPLYING NUMEROUS QUESTIONS RECENT  
DAYS REPALESTINE PROBLEM STOP UNALL IMMIGRANTS ALLOWED SUBWHITEPAPER ENTERED PALESTINE CIRCLES  
OUTPOINTED BECAUSE EXNECESSITY CONTROL IMMIGRATION ACCORDANCE CCOUNTRYS ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY  
SUITABILITY IMMIGRANTS NECESSITY DETECT INFILTRATION SPIES FIFTHCOLUMNISTS

2

STOP STRUMAERS PATRIERS UNADMITTED BECAUSE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS STOP RECHURCHILLS ARCHIBALD IN-  
CLAIRS ATTITUDE PROWHITEPAPER CIRCLES STRESSED IN DEMOCRACY EXBRITISH TYPE SUCCESSIVE GOVERN-  
MENTS CONSIDER THAT THEYVE COLLECTIVE AS DISTINCT EXINDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY STOP STATESMEN  
CANNOT ETDONT ALLOW PERSONAL PREDILECTIONS STAND WAY EXCONTINUITY EXDECISIONS EXSTATE STOP  
THIS PARTICULARLY TRUE REAL EXFOREIGN POLICY STOP COMMENTING MANDATES COMMISSION ATTITUDE  
PROWHITE PAPER SAID ATTITUDE COMMISSION WEAKENED EXSUBSEQUENT INTERCHANGE EXIVEWS WHEREIN  
MEMBERS COULD NO AGREE WHETHER POLICY WHITEPAPER ACCORD MANDATE OR MANDATE UNWORKABLE IN CIR-  
CUMSTANCES THEREFORE SANSUNANIMOUS RECOMMENDATIONS SENT MINUTES PROCCOUNCIL LEAGUE SITUATION  
REMAINING INDETERMINATE REOUTBREAK WAR STOP JEWARMY UNBEEN RAISED MAINLY READMINISTRATIVE  
DIFFICULTIES WHICH PROARISE IF EVERY RACE RELIGIOUS MINORITY BRITISH EMPIRE PRORaise OWN  
ARMY STOP THIS ESPECIALLY TRUE EXSMALL UNITS STOP ALSO DIFFICULT IDENTIFY GATHER EXWORLD OVER  
JEWS WISHING SERVE SUCH ARMY UNPROMENTION WELDING ARMY PROSINGLE UNIFIED WHOLE STOP SERVICES  
JEUNITS EXPLOITS EXINDIVIDUAL JEWS SEEM EXDESPASSIONATE STUDY EXPAPERS RECEIVE THEIR DUE  
COMPARED OTHER RACES OCCUPY LESS SPACE BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY NUMERICALLY INFERIOR PROOTHER RACES  
EXBRITISH EMPIRE STOP ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY CANNOT EXACTLY EXTIMATED EXJEWISH NONJEWISH RESEARCH  
SINCE DEPENDS AVAILABILITY JEWISH CAPITAL WELLS RECONDITION EXGOODWILL WITHIN WITHOUT COUNTRY  
STOP RELATIONS INTERJEWS ARABS BEEN BETTER SUBTURKISH RULE SINCE ARABS THEN UNFEARED ESTABLISH-  
MENT EXPREDOMINENTLY JEWISH STATE ALTER BITTER FEELINGS EXARABS DUE IMMIGRATION FURTHER  
EXACERBATED EXEXTRAVAGANT CLAIMS EXMANY ZIONIST LEADERS

SUPERNEWS

221 PXMC



P CAML 1139/ED  
JERUSALEM 215 18  
NLT ARTHUR LOURIE 342 MADISON AVE NEW YORK CITY N Y

April 26, 1944

APPLIED 3/1 SCHEDULE QUARTER APRIL JUNE 6000 PLUS 500 YOUTH ALIYAH 500  
OTHER CATEGORIES MILLS MIGRATION COMMISSIONER JERUSALEM TOOK VIEW MUST  
RESERVE REMAINING CERTIFICATES WITHIN WHITEPAPER LIMITS TO COVER COMMITMENTS  
PREVIOUSLY MADE FOR PERSONS OCCUPIED COUNTRIES ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY THESE  
CONJECTURAL WE CHALLENGED NECESSITY RESERVE THESE SO CALLED COMMITMENTS  
STOP ENTIRE QUESTION INCLUDING SCHEDULE APPLICATION DISCUSSED BY MOSHE  
SHERTOK LONDON WITH COL SECRETARY 30/1 STOP LATTER ANNOUNCED UNPUBLISHABLE  
DECISION DISREGARD COMMITMENTS AMOUNTING 18000 BUT AFTER DEDUCTION RESERVE  
1000 FOR WIVES CHILDREN RESIDENTS PALESTINE ELIGIBLE EXCHANGE SCHEME WILL  
DEVOTE WHOLE BALANCE FUGITIVES ENEMY COUNTRIES SAVE APPLICATIONS APPROVABLE  
INDIVIDUAL CASES OTHER COUNTRIES STOP SHERTOK ARGUES PRIORITY FUGITIVES  
UNQUESTIONABLE BUT CHANCES ESCAPE UNCERTAIN MEANWHILE INADMISSIBLE DELAY  
REHABILITATION VICTIMS SAVED AND OTHER JEWISH SUFFERERS EVENTUALLY SECRETARY  
AGREED LIBERAL INTERPRETATION RULING INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS ALSO AGREED  
KEEP MATTERS ELASTIC REVIEW POLICY LIGHT ACTUAL ESCAPE FROM NAZILANDS STOP  
WE CABLED LONDON REGARD THIS DECISION VIRTUAL CESSATION IMMIGRATION FROM  
NONNAZI COUNTRIES PRECARIOUS DEPEND ON LIBERAL INTERPRETATION NECESSARY  
OBTAIN URGENTLY CERTIFICATES FOR ALL REFUGEES ITALY SPAIN ADEN TANGIERS  
CASABLANCA TURKEY TOTALLING MINIMUM 6000 QUESTION IS ARE AUTHORITIES  
PREPARED GRANT THESE CERTIFICATES WE NOT PREPARED APPLY FEW HUNDRED CER-  
TIFICATES BASIS INDIVIDUAL NAMES EITHER AUTHORITIES AGREE GIVE SCHEDULE  
OR NOT PLEASE CLARIFY STOP EXECUTIVE CONSIDERING ACTION ESSENTIAL VIEW THIS  
NEW SITUATION.

BERNARD JOSEPH

British Immigration  
Policy  
(White Paper)



Report on Dr. LeSourd's Trip to Washington  
August 17th and 18th.

- - - - -

The purpose of my trip to Washington was primarily to obtain an appointment with Secretary of State Hull for the presentation by members of the Executive Council of the American Palestine Committee<sup>of</sup> a series of proposals dealing with the emergency created by the new situation in Hungary.

I first discussed the plan with Senator Wagner, who approved the idea and gave me a letter to Mr. Hull asking him that every courtesy be extended to me.

When I went to Secretary Hull's office, I talked with Mr. Morris N. Hughes, one of his secretaries. Mr. Hughes suggested that in advance of our conference with Mr. Hull, we confer with Mr. George E. Warren, who, he said, is in direct charge of Palestine affairs.

When I went to Mr. Warren's office, he was leaving for the Treasury Department to send a wire to the British Government confirming the State Department's collaboration in a joint assurance to Horthy's Government that England and the United States would take care of all Jews who were released from Hungary.

On the next day I discussed the situation with Mr. Warren at length, and as a result of information thus obtained, specific proposals were drawn up for presentation to Mr. Hull.

While I was in Washington, I conferred also with Senator Connally who discussed with me the advisability of a special resolution by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He seemed to feel, however, at the end of our conference, that such a resolution would have little value in view of other pending resolutions. He said quite frankly to me that it was unfortunate that various resolutions presented in the Senate and House always included a reference to the Commonwealth which, he felt, raised questions upon which there was wide disagreement. He agreed with me, however, that the Jewish Homeland had made a decided contribution to Arab life.



Representative Bloom was out of the city, but I talked with his secretary who assured me that everything possible was being done by Mr. Bloom and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to speed the acceptance of Horthy's offer.

On my return to New York, the proposals were drafted and then I called Mr. Hughes for an appointment. He said that he had talked with Mr. Warren, who felt that his interview with me had been sufficient, but I insisted that the Committee wished to discuss the proposals with Secretary Hull. He then asked that these proposals be sent to Mr. Warren who would help us put them in the best possible form for presentation to the Secretary. It was decided, however, that the proposals would not be sent to Mr. Warren and instead we sent a wire to Mr. Hull requesting a conference for President Marsh, Dr. Atkinson and Justice Maxey, stating in that telegram that we would confer with Mr. Warren before our interview with him.

More than a week passed before we heard from Mr. Hull. A letter from him, dated August 29th, states that in view of the pressure of business, it will be impossible for him to see us personally but he had made an appointment for us with Mr. Adolf A. Berle, Assistant Secretary of State, for Tuesday, September 5th, at 4:00 p.m. if that time was agreeable to us. The time is not wholly satisfactory, but I have written Mr. Hull thanking him for his courtesy and telling him that we would get in direct touch with Mr. Berle after contacting all the members of the Executive Committee.

-----

9/1/44 Appointment made with A. A. Berle for Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> at 4<sup>00</sup> P.M.



**PRESS RELEASE**

**AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE**  
1720—16th Street, N.W., Washington 9, D. C. • MI 4480

NEW YORK OFFICE:  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York, N. Y. Murray Hill 2-4917

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEMORANDUM ON RESCUE OF JEWS SUBMITTED TO STATE DEPARTMENT

BY CHRISTIAN SPOKESMEN

- - - - -

BERLE GETS FIVE-POINT PROGRAM

- - - - -

Washington, D. C. — A five-point program for the rescue of Hungarian Jews, including a recommendation that Palestine certificates should be made available to refugees in Southern Italy in order to make room there for such additional refugees as may escape via Yugoslavia, has been submitted to the State Department. This was announced today by Dr. Howard M. LeSourd, director of the American Palestine Committee.

Dr. LeSourd disclosed that the five-point memorandum was presented to Assistant Secretary of State Adolf A. Berle by a delegation consisting of Rev. Frederick Brown Harris, Chaplain of the United States Senate, Rev. Richard E. Evans, member of the executive committee of the Christian Council on Palestine, and himself.

The American Palestine Committee's memorandum urges:

"1. That every facility be provided to enable the immediate emigration to Palestine of those Jews at present in Hungary who are actually in possession of Palestine certificates. These are estimated to number at present only approximately 4,000 out of an original figure of 8,000, the balance having already been deported to death camps in Poland.

"2. That arrangements be made for the large scale grant of immigration certificates into Palestine for Jews in Hungary up to the limit of the available

(more)



transportation facilities; the previous restrictive policies of the British Government in this regard should not be allowed to stand in the way of saving the lives of these helpless refugees.

"3. With a view to releasing the pressure on the crowded refugee camps in Southern Italy and thereby making room for such additional refugees as may escape via Yugoslavia, Palestine immigration certificates should be provided for all such refugees in Southern Italy as may wish to go to Palestine. The present position is that these refugees are physically safe, but morally and materially deteriorating. If they are enabled to go to Palestine, they would be given the opportunity to begin their lives afresh, and at the same time additional possibilities of escape would be opened to other refugees.

"4. That every help and encouragement be given to the International Red Cross in its task of organizing and effecting the work of rescue.

"5. That if additional funds beyond what the Red Cross and private agencies have at their disposal are necessary for the purposes of the work of rescue, action be taken forthwith by our Government to arrange for the allocation of such necessary additional monies."

The American Palestine Committee is "the vehicle for the expression of the sympathy and good will of Christian America for the movement to reestablish the Jewish National Home in Palestine." Included among the Committee's 4,000 members are 60 Senators, 200 Congressmen, 26 Governors, as well as many outstanding leaders in the fields of education, journalism, industry, commerce and labor.

The text of the Committee's memorandum follows:

"The American Palestine Committee, founded by Senator Robert F. Wagner and the late Senator Charles L. McNary, and comprising Senators, Congressmen, Governors, educators and other non-Jewish leaders of American public opinion to the number of more than 4,000, expresses through its Executive Council its satisfaction that the Governments of the United States and of Great Britain have accepted the offer of the Hungarian Government for the release of Jews from Hungary, and will make arrangements for the care of such Jews leaving Hungary who reach neutral or United Nations territory.

(more)



"The offer of the Hungarian Government included permission to depart for all Jews in possession of immigration certificates for Palestine, and of all children up to the age of ten with visas for unoccupied Europe and overseas. Reports now reaching this country make it clear that the Nazi government will seek to prevent the transit of Jews between Hungary and neutral havens in Switzerland and Sweden. It thus becomes a matter of urgent importance that if full use is to be made of the Hungarian offer, as many Jews as possible shall be admitted through the Balkans and Turkey into Palestine. The failure of the United Nations to take full and immediate advantage of the Hungarian offer will be disastrous and under Nazi pressure might -- if it has not already done so -- result in the countermanding of that offer and the resumption of large scale deportations of Jews to the death camps of the Nazis. In the light of these facts the American Palestine Committee urges:

"1. That every facility be provided to enable the immediate emigration to Palestine of those Jews at present in Hungary who are actually in possession of Palestine certificates. These are estimated to number at present only approximately 4,000 out of an original figure of 8,000, the balance having already been deported to death camps in Poland.

"2. That arrangements be made for the large scale grant of immigration certificates into Palestine for Jews in Hungary up to the limit of the available transportation facilities; the previous restrictive policies of the British Government in this regard should not be allowed to stand in the way of saving the lives of these helpless refugees.

"3. With a view to releasing the pressure on the crowded refugee camps in Southern Italy and thereby making room for such additional refugees as may escape via Yugoslavia, Palestine immigration certificates should be provided for all such refugees in Southern Italy as may wish to go to Palestine. The present position is that these refugees are physically safe but morally and materially deteriorating. If they are enabled to go to Palestine, they would be given the opportunity to begin their lives afresh and at the same time additional possibilities of escape would be opened to other refugees.

"4. That every help and encouragement be given to the International Red Cross in its task of organizing and effecting this work of rescue.

"5. That if additional funds beyond what the Red Cross and private agencies have at their disposal are necessary for the purposes of the work of rescue, action be taken forthwith by our Government to arrange for the allocation of such necessary additional monies.

"The oppressed Jews of Europe look to the United States for salvation; and such non-Jewish organizations as the American Palestine Committee have a special obligation to assist them in every way possible in their extremity of need. We are confident, Mr. Secretary of State, that under your wise and energetic leadership, as well as that of our President, the joint action of the British and American Governments in seeking to save the remnants of this tortured people will achieve success."