



## 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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Goldmann, Dr. Nahum, general, 1943-1944.



# The Jewish Agency for Palestine

New York Office: SUITE 708, 41 EAST 42ND ST., NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • MUrray Hill 2-5967

Washington Office  
1720 SIXTEENTH ST., N. W.  
Michigan 4480

November 9, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have your letter of November 5th. To begin with, I should like to put you straight on the facts.

I met with Judge Rosenman last week for the purpose of securing his help in connection with my priority for Palestine. He had offered such help some time ago. When we met, however, he was anxious to discuss some of our problems, which we did. I do not see what possible harm was done by discussing them nor how I could avoid such discussion, once the issue was raised by him. If I had thought that this was "unilateral" activity, I would not report thereon nor would I send you a minute of the conversation. Such mutual information, I think, ought to be considered quite useful.

As for Congressman Bloom, I told you that he had asked me to give him a draft of a memorandum which he desired to submit, in his own name, to the son of Ibn Saud. You will recall that I had discussed this with you and you had agreed that it would be useful. Ibn Saud's son was in Washington last week and is about to leave for London. It was therefore deemed urgent that the draft be given to Mr. Bloom. The memorandum itself was prepared by Mr. Lourie and corrected by you.

So much for the facts.

Since you have raised the question, I think it would be useful to have some clarity on the subject. You seem to be under the impression that every conversation in Washington constitutes a state affair. I think that everyone of us, having developed friendships and acquaintances in Washington, should endeavor, as often as they can get access, to meet with these people even if Zionism is not always the subject of discussion. The fault, I am afraid, is not that these people are seen too often, but too little. Their memories are not very enduring. It is quite another matter when these people are met officially for some specific purpose resulting from previous discussion and decision of our committee when it is definitely determined who should be seen and by whom. In the latter category, I am afraid, that your visit to Lord Halifax is a case in point. Such



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an audience certainly should have been discussed in advance and determined upon. I am not questioning the wisdom of seeing him alone although I venture to say that you should have given consideration to the continuity of our association with him both on the part of Dr. Wise and myself. But certainly, whatever the decision, it should have been taken in advance and in consultation with us.

There is another difficulty which is inherent in the long intervals between your visit to New York and Washington. It is a very serious problem and the sooner you will face it, the better it will be for all of us and the less friction there is likely to be. It is not a question of "jurisdiction" or in keeping with arrangements. For my part, I am scrupulously trying to avoid anything that might give the impression of "independent" action. Everything I do or say is part of the record before and after the event. With the best of good will, it is not possible everytime a situation arises to phone to Cleveland to ascertain your views on the subject.

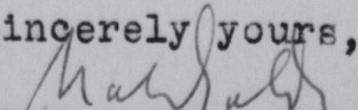
I do not want to prolong this letter unnecessarily. But if we had adhered to the arrangements of meeting at least once every two weeks (and that is very little) to outline a program of action such a situation would not arise. Even then it may be necessary for you or Dr. Wise or myself to depart occasionally from the course of action decided upon if the exigencies of the moment require it. There must be sufficient mutual confidence to realize that none of us is "running" to see people just for the pleasure of seeing them.

I have no objection to your bringing up the matter before the Executive Committee although I fail to see what useful purpose it will serve. We have problems far more serious than this seeming "jurisdictional dispute." I suggest, that as arranged, you, Wise, Lipsky, Montor, Weisgal and I meet next Monday morning to thrash this business out. If we cannot find a modus satisfactory to all, of course, there is no other alternative than submitting the whole question to the Executive Committee. I personally would regard it very regrettable.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Messrs. Montor and Weisgal.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

  
Nahum Goldmann



AHS File

November 10, 1943

Dr. Nahum Goldmann  
American Zionist Emergency Council  
41 East 42nd St.  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Goldmann:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of November 9. I should like to set you straight on a few facts.

If you will consult your calendar, you will find that meetings of the Emergency Committee have been held regularly as agreed upon, every first and third Monday. The only deviation from the practice was Monday, November 1, when no meeting was held because a special meeting of the Emergency Committee was held five days prior to that time, on Wednesday, October 27, at which time we discussed the action of the American Jewish Committee.

Furthermore, I should like to remind you that while it is not possible every time a situation arises, to phone Cleveland to ascertain my views, you haven't been particularly burdened with such long distance conversations to my best knowledge. Nor is it necessary. You can always contact Mr. Montor who is in daily communication with me, and sometimes two and three times a day. All that I want is that we have a central clearing house for contacts which members of our Emergency Council make with public officials in Washington so that we know beforehand who goes to see whom, and why.

As to the matter of my visit to Lord Halifax, over which you seem to be exercised, and exercising others, I will have occasion to speak of it when we meet next Monday.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



AHS File

C O P Y

Grosvenor House  
Park Lane, W. 1.

30th January, 1944

Meyer Weisgal, Esq.  
Jewish Agency for Palestine  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York City

Goldmann

Dear Meyer,

I am now ten days here. The flight was very short and comfortable. From Scotland I went to London by train as a guest of the Air Ministry in a very good sleeper. I met Chaim looking well and in rather good spirits. The report of Mrs. Lindheim was, as I thought, rather exaggerated. It was foolish of her to tell us that Chaim expects a decision any day. What he told her was that everything is possible. It may come any day but it may also take still months until it comes. I personally, after taking stock of the situation, am rather inclined to believe that a decision has not yet been taken, but I may be wrong. Nobody knows what the decision will be. It may be a partition, it may be something better, but, anyhow, there is reason to be moderately optimistic.

I discussed with Chaim and the Executive the question of the American Delegation and you certainly saw my cable to Arthur. In my opinion there is no need for an Delegation now. It is no use for Wise, Silver or Lipsky to come now and sit around waiting for a proposal which may or may not come. Whenever such a proposal will be made to us I am sure that one or two of them will certainly get air priority to come over right away and after all we do not have to give our reply within 24 hours, but can always say that we have to wait for our American Colleagues. As for the other Delegation as chosen by the Emergency Council, I do not see what they will do here. In the meetings of the Executive, dealing with the Ben Gurion crisis, they won't sit in as my colleagues from Palestine will not agree to it, and as for political questions, there is nothing concrete yet to be discussed. I think it was a mistake of Chaim's to have urged a Delegation under all circumstances and he is inclined now to accept my view. I hope that after my cable the Delegation will not hurry to come. If and when a proposal will be made, there is a good chance that a real conference of Zionist leaders of various countries will be called and that will be the time for the American Delegation, including party representatives, to come.

The Palestine Delegation will probably arrive this week or next to solve the Ben Gurion crisis which will be a hard nut to crack and I do not know what kind of concrete proposal they will bring. We will wait and see. I use the time in making speeches, the usual statements to the press and seeing some of the governments in exile and others on rescue problems. I hope to be back in a few weeks. I certainly won't stay here indefinitely waiting for something to happen.



Otherwise life is interesting, the food not too bad and the temperature in the hotels tolerable. I moved to the Grosvenor Hotel as I could not get a suite at the Dorchester. I have seen George Becker who is here with the O. W. I. Norman Edward is also here. I hope that you are writing to me regularly and that the letters will arrive. I am glad that the President has appointed the War Refugee Board and that Mr. Morgenthau is in it. I hope that they will find a good Executive Director.

I hope that your health is alright and that you are furnishing the office and making it as dignified as possible.

I have discussed with Chaim the question of Andre's contribution. He agrees to your proposal concerning the distribution. There is no urging necessity for you to send money. Do so after you have received the contribution from Meyer.

You can show this letter to Wise, Silver and Arthur.

With hearty greetings to Shirley and to the gang,



Yours,

(signed) Nahum Goldmann