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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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News reports, miscellaneous, 1943-1944.



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Release: Friday, January 15, 1943

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\* THE WEEK IN EDITORIAL PARAGRAPHS \*  
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THE OSTRICHES

Zionists, who frequently charge Great Britain with the sin of appeasement, have indicated during the past week that they themselves are not free of it. As though the fate of the Jewish National Home were the private hunting ground of a clique of reform rabbis, a number of them met in Baltimore to arrive at an "understanding" with regard to the American Council for Judaism, the rabbinically conceived device to smash Jewish aspirations in Palestine. The disclosure of the sordid motives and methods of the American Council had aroused nation-wide revulsion, enhanced by the horror which gripped Jews in the wake of the Nazi slaughter of millions in Europe. The overwhelming majority of American Jews were prepared to consign this misbegotten organization to the limbo it deserved. But it remained for a group of Zionist rabbis, undoubtedly well-intentioned even if misinformed, to send a portion of Zionist hopes to the same grave.

The facts are these: it was proposed to the anti-Zionist rabbis who formed the American Council for Judaism that they abandon this institution and, in return, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, which seems to be Zionist in its membership in the main, would incorporate into its by-laws a provision that never again would the Conference express any views pro or con on the subject of the Jewish National Home in Palestine. That is the "peace" which the secret negotiators have achieved.

What the Central Conference of American Rabbis does with its by-laws is its own concern, but no service has been rendered to the Jewish community in deliberately shutting off a legitimate channel of support which the Jews of the world as well as the Jews of Palestine had the right to expect an organization of rabbis to offer.

Did those well-intentioned Zionist rabbis who came to an "understanding" with their anti-Zionist colleagues obtain from the latter individual and collective pledges that they would not, through other devices, attempt to sabotage Jewish hopes in Palestine? Was there any promise that -- the American Council for Judaism inevitably doomed to frustration because of the sheer negativeness of its aims -- there would not later be an attempt to create a similar device with another name? All that the Zionist rabbis have achieved is to prove that the high-sounding peace and social justice program adopted at the recent Cincinnati Institute is a mockery and that rabbis who are pledged to the championship of democracy have destroyed the democratic process in their own organization.

(Continued on Page 2a)



It was desirable that the American Council for Judaism should be viewed on its own merits and that American Jewish public opinion should pass judgment upon it. Instead an honored burial is being prepared for it, while its authors scheme for some new outlet for their anti-Zionist convictions, triumphant that they have already dealt Zionism a mighty blow by having shut off the Central Conference of American Rabbis from an expression of opinion by its overwhelmingly Zionist-minded membership.

It is likely that the Zionist rabbis, splendid personalities all, were animated by the desire to save the C.C.A.R. but apparently they have not understood that they have served Zionism as badly as the founders of the American Council for Judaism.

With the drafting of the postwar peace in the offing, it is inevitable that there shall be a drawing of lines in American Jewish public life. It should come sooner rather than later, so that when the peace is written Jewish public opinion will have been crystallized. A London newspaper commenting on the confusion among the United Nations said: "It would be absolutely fatal if for their heraldic symbol the United Nations were to adopt an ostrich dormant in a heap of sand." That is the symbol which has evidently been chosen by a handful of Zionist reform rabbis who should know that opinion is never clarified by stifling it and that any scheme which subverts the democratic process in Jewish life is a contribution to the further confusion and aimlessness of Jewish communal planning.

Let public opinion make clear to these well-intentioned Zionist rabbis that they would become the most effective members of the American Council for Judaism, which they abominate, if they should go through with a "plot" which is essentially as unfair to Jewish hopes in Palestine as the original plot by self-described anti-Zionists.

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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE DELEGATION SEES HALIFAX; ASKS ABROGATION OF WHITE PAPER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- A delegation of the American Jewish Committee, composed of Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president, and Jacob Blaustein, chairman of its general committee, today presented an 11-page memorandum to Lord Halifax, British Ambassador to the United States, requesting the abrogation of the White Paper which closes the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration after March 31 of this year.

The memorandum declares that Great Britain's refusal to abolish the White Paper would constitute an act of "discrimination against the Jews." While not urging "at this time determination of the final constitutional status of Palestine," the American Jewish Committee asks for annulment of the 1939 White Paper which "violates the Mandate for Palestine entrusted to Great Britain by the League of Nations in 1922."

"The primary purpose of the Mandate," the memorandum states, "was the establishment of a national home for the Jews with the understanding that nothing be done to prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status of Jews in any other country. This promise of a homeland within Palestine was specific and admitted, the memorandum emphasizes, "and not controversial as is the question of the creation of a Commonwealth."

Judge Proskauer's Statement to the British Ambassador

Presenting the memorandum to the British Ambassador, Judge Proskauer said: "In handing you this memorandum I wish, on behalf of the American Jewish Committee, to make it indubitably clear that we ask that nothing should be done that would, in any degree, interfere with the Allied prosecution of this war for freedom. I also ask you to note that this memorandum is wholly unrelated to any plan for the organization of a Palestinian state.

"We urge abrogation of the White Paper primarily on the ground that abolition of that prohibition against immigration and land purchase which is directed against Jews, as such, would be an act wholly consonant with the historic friendship of Great Britain, which has made its leaders pioneers in the establishment of equal rights for Jews within the confines of their own country and staunch spokesmen for justice when oppression and persecution brought misery in other lands."

Lord Halifax Says Jewish Immigration to Palestine Isn't Being Stopped

Lord Halifax thanked Mr. Proskauer for his memorandum and said he would send copies of it to London. On the subject of the White Paper, Lord Halifax could add nothing to previous statements by the British Government. He drew attention however, to the announcement recently made in the House of Commons by the Colonial Secretary upon the subject of Jewish immigration into Palestine, and pointed out that any statement to the effect of such immigration being stopped next March was totally without foundation.

"The memorandum refers to the historic friendship of the people of Great Britain and their successive governments for the Jews. This remains a fact. Along with her



Allies, Great Britain is now devoting all her effort to the defeat of those, whose cruelties to the Jewish race have revolted the conscience of the world," Lord Halifax said.

#### Conflict Between Mandate and White Paper Cited in Memorandum

The American Jewish Committee in its memorandum, points specifically to the "limitation of immigration and land purchases" as counter to the intent and purpose of the Mandate of Palestine. These limitations, the memorandum states, are a direct violation of Article 15 of the Mandate which declares that "no discrimination of any kind shall be made between the inhabitants of Palestine on the ground of race, religion or language. No person shall be excluded from Palestine on the ground of his religious belief."

The American Jewish Committee charges that "by providing for the cessation of Jewish immigration and in barring the Jews from land purchases in large areas of Palestine, the White Paper is not only inconsistent with the Mandate's terms but would make Palestine a country in which Jews are discriminated against on the basis of race or religion."

The memorandum relates how the immigrants "utilizing their own enthusiasm and energies and drawing on the encouragement and support of Jews throughout the world, had brought Palestine to great heights of development. Arabs as well as Jew had benefited from the highways, modern housing, exemplary hygienic provisions and from the introduction of economic efficiency and modern agricultural methods."

#### Committee Quotes Churchill's Opposition to the White Paper

The American Jewish Committee quotes from the address Mr. Winston Churchill made in 1939 opposing approval by the House of Commons of the White Paper: "...the provision that Jewish immigration can be stopped in five years' time by the decision of an Arab majority...is a plain breach of a solemn obligation.....This pledge of a home was not made to the Jews in Palestine but to the Jews outside Palestine," Mr. Churchill was quoted as saying. "Now there is a breach, there is the violation of the pledge, the abandonment of the Balfour Declaration."

The events of the past four years, the memorandum continues, have served to emphasize Mr. Winston Churchill's vision and wisdom in stating that the agitation against the Balfour Declaration "is fed with foreign money and ceaselessly inflamed by Nazi and by Fascist propaganda..."

#### UNRRA WILL NOT DEAL WITH REFUGEE PROBLEMS DISCUSSED AT BERMUDA CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The House Foreign Affairs Committee, in its report made public today on participation of the United States in the work of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, made it clear that the UNRRA "does not encompass the political questions presented to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, established at the Evian Conference, nor does it deal with the vital and tragic problems considered at the recent Bermuda conference on the fate of refugees in Europe."

"One of the policies adopted by the Council is that the UNRRA's resources shall be dispensed fairly on the basis of relative needs of the population and without discrimination because of race, creed, or political belief. It will be the responsibility of those charged with the task of distribution to see that this principle is adhered to," the report of the House Foreign Affairs Committee emphasized.



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Release: Friday, January 21, 1944

A BEHIND-THE-NEWS ARTICLE ON A SITUATION THAT IS TOP  
AMERICAN-JEWISH NEWS

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B  
B THE BOYS BEHIND THE BLIZZARD B  
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B By DAVID E. GOLDBERG B  
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Who is this "small group" behind the flamboyant ads on a Jewish army and Jewish rescue appearing in the metropolitan press? Who are these people who have been charged by the American Jewish Conference with "disservice" to the Jewish cause and who have an aptitude for attracting big names? In the following article, Mr. David E. Goldberg, assistant editor of the Independent Jewish Press Service, presents the background story on these people. This article should not be regarded as an Independent Jewish Press Service editorial.

. . . The Editor

Both the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference, representing sixty-five national membership organizations and every Jewish community in the country, and the American Zionist Emergency Council, constituting the major Zionist groups in the United States, have recently issued statements attacking the Emergency Committee To Save the Jewish People of Europe, the Committee for an Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews, the American Friends of a Jewish Palestine and the American League for a Free Palestine, all of which made their debut through sensational advertisements in the big dailies. These organizations, it is charged, are "a series of 'fronts'" and "paper organizations," and their founders and leaders are "a small group of persons" who are "members of a small political party which has been in conflict with constituted Jewish leadership."

"The Boys behind Everything"

This article on the "boys behind the ads," as they have been dubbed by the Jewish journalistic fraternity in New York, is based on biographical material sent by them at the request of the writer, on impressions obtained at their press conferences, as well as on interviews with Palestinians in this country representing official Jewish Palestinian bodies.

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The "small group" constituting the nucleus of these various organizations refers to itself as "The Palestinian Delegation." They say they represent the "Irgun, the Hebrew Underground Army of Palestine." Definite information on this Irgun, whose full name in Hebrew is Irgun Zvai Leumi (National Military Organization), is not easily obtained. It started under influences smacking strongly of Zionist-Revisionism. According to Palestinians in this country, the Irgun, at its height in 1937-38, had about 8,000 members in all of Palestine and it has since declined. According to one of "the delegation," the number in 1939 just before the outbreak of the war was 10,000.

During the riots of 1936-39 in Palestine, bands of Arab terrorists, many of them imported from outside Palestine, sought to demolish Jewish colonies and, by terror, put an end to Jewish enterprise in the Homeland. In this crisis the Vaad Leumi, the elected Jewish National Council, adopted a policy of havlaga, meaning self-restraint, which expressed itself in "active defense but no retaliation." The policy was motivated by the determination of the Jews to live in peace with their neighbors and by the belief that the local Arab population was largely passive. Retaliation would only involve the Jews in blood-feuds with Arab neighbors with whom many Jewish colonies lived in peace through the whole troubled time. It is noteworthy that the estimate of casualties of the Fascist-inspired Arab terror places the number of Arabs killed by Arabs higher than the combined figure for Jewish and British victims. For the purpose of defense the Hagana, self-defense league, was enlarged and all the colonies were armed.

The Irgun would not observe this discipline. It conducted a campaign to put an end to the policy of havlaga and it is charged that it committed acts which seriously compromised the position of the Jewish community in Palestine.

#### "Dynamic Leader"

The person in the forefront of the group is Peter H. Bergson, whose real name is Hilel Kook, a relative of the late Chief Rabbi Kook of Palestine. In advertising the speakers for their public meetings, the group describes him as "the dynamic Jewish leader." In appearance he is of medium height, slight in build, with a sandy, blondish complexion and a little mustache. He is thirty-two years old and studied topography at the Hebrew University.

At press conferences this young man has expressed contempt for the political strategy of World Zionist leadership and of Jewish leadership generally. Deriding them as individuals, he claims that they do not understand what to do in the present plight of Jewry. According to the statement of the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference, Bergson's understanding of what is to be done confuses "propaganda for performance and advertisement for achievement."

A "Palestinian who has never been in Palestine" is Samuel Merlin who figures as "the ideological force" behind all the activity. He is a large chap, who talks slowly and deliberately with sudden flare-ups. He is a native of Bessarabia, and went to Paris at the age of twenty, where he became the secretary to the late Vladimir Jabotinsky, the founder of Zionist-Revisionism. Merlin, it is said, now serves as the strategic brains for the "series of 'fronts'" of the Irgun.

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Two of the "Palestinian delegation" are now in the United States Army. According to information received from Army recruiting officials, the Army is not accepting volunteers now for ordinary service, which these men entered, and all recruiting is done through Selective Service channels. All press releases from "the boys" said that they had volunteered.

One of those now in the Army is Dr. Alexander Hadani, who is described by them as their "political adviser." He was born in Latvia in 1910 and studied at the Universities of Leipzig and Heidelberg. He spent several years representing the Irgun in various countries in Europe prior to World War II.

The other one in the Army, Y. ben Ami, whose real name is Isaac Rosen, is one of the two on the "Palestinian delegation" born in Palestine. Inheriting a modest fortune, he studied archeology at the Hebrew University, and when he tired of the quiet life -- he joined the Irgun. In 1939 he was one of the first to come here and helped in setting up the first of their committees, the American Friends of a Jewish Palestine.

#### Eri Jabotinsky the Scion

The remaining important figure among "the boys" is Eri Jabotinsky, son of the founder of Revisionism. Young Eri has not been in the forefront and has not received any prominence. He studied engineering in France and worked as an electrical engineer at the Jordan Power project. It would appear that his love still is engineering and he is in these politics more for "the sake of the family name" than for anything else.

The prominence which this group has managed to achieve is very precarious. Through national advertising, through emotional slogans plus a bold front, they have captured some of the best "names" in American education, arts and liberal politics. The very fact that the leading Jewish organizations in this country with mass membership have felt it necessary to come out and denounce them shows that they have made considerable inroads.

Their "stock in trade" has been "rescue." Real rescue work of large numbers of individual Jews is going on even now. The methods and details must remain secret, but the Palestine Labor movement and the Jewish Agency, through channels open to them, have been saving lives. While putting all their emphasis on rescue slogans, they have admitted to this writer that they are doing nothing within Europe where real rescue work can be done. The Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference in its statement on the Emergency Committee To Save the Jewish People of Europe, describing it as one of the Irgun "fronts," charges that "they have conjured up the illusion of activity with press agentry."

The way for this "small group" was left open by the recognized Jewish leadership which neglected a very important element -- its mass following. The great mass of Jews in this country know nothing of whatever has been done in the way of negotiations, of shipments of food, and of such rescue work as it is now safe to reveal. The leadership has gone ahead thinking that their following would trust them implicitly and would not have to be informed of what is or is not being done. "The boys" have been able to step into the vacuum thus created.

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# J T A D A I L Y N E W S B U L L E T I N

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## ROOSEVELT ESTABLISHES REFUGEE RESCUE BOARD; JEWISH LEADERS HAIL MEASURE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Jewish leaders today hailed the Executive Order issued by President Roosevelt yesterday late in the afternoon, under which the President set up a War Refugee Board consisting of Secretary Stimson, Secretary Hull and Secretary Morgenthau, to take action for the immediate rescue from the Nazis of as many Jews and other persecuted minorities of Europe as possible.

The order was issued parallel with a statement from the White House emphasizing that "it was urgent that action be taken at once to forestall the plan of the Nazis to exterminate all the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe." The President's order said that the functions of the new board "shall include, without limitation, the development of plans and programs and the inauguration of effective measures for (a) the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, and (b) the establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims."

### Diplomatic Status Be Given To Special Attaches Abroad

President Roosevelt also instructed the State Department to appoint "special attaches with diplomatic status" on the recommendations of the board, and that these shall be "stationed abroad in places where it is likely that assistance can be rendered to war refugees." The President also directed that "the board and the State, Treasury and War Departments are authorized to accept the services or contributions of any private persons, private organizations, State agencies or agencies of foreign governments in carrying out the purposes of this order."

The board, the President announced, will have a full-time executive director to arrange for the prompt execution of the plans and programs developed and the measures initiated to effect the rescues. Mr. Roosevelt added that he expected to obtain the cooperation of all members of the United Nations and other foreign governments "in carrying out this difficult but important task."

In establishing the new board, which will function directly under him, the President declared in the executive order that "it is the policy of this government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war." He added that the board will be charged with direct responsibility to him in seeing that the announced policy is carried out.

In delegating Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War; Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, and Henry Morgenthau, jr., to take concrete action to save what he termed "civilian victims of enemy savagery," the President said that they will cooperate in this work with the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, which in recent months has been moribund, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and other interested international organizations.

### The Full Text of President Roosevelt's Executive Order

The full text of the Executive Order issued by President Roosevelt establishing the War Refugee Board reads as follows: "Whereas it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who



are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

"Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States as President of the United States and as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, and in order to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of such victims of enemy oppression, it is hereby ordered as follows:

"1. There is established in the Executive Office of the President, a war refugee board. The Board shall consist of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War. The board may request the heads of other agencies or departments to participate in its deliberations whenever matters specially affecting such agencies or departments are under consideration.

"2. The board shall be charged with the responsibility for seeing that the policy of the Government, as stated in the preamble, is carried out. The functions of the board shall include, without limitation, the development of plans and programs and the inauguration of effective measures for the rescue, transportation and maintenance and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, and the establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims. To this end the board through appropriate channels, shall take the necessary steps to enlist the cooperation of foreign governments and obtain their participation in the execution of such plans and programs.

Board Authorized to Obtain Shipping Facilities:

"3. It shall be the duty of the State, Treasury and War Departments within their respective spheres, to execute at the request of the board, the plans and programs so developed and the measures so inaugurated. It shall be the duty of the heads of all agencies and departments to supply or obtain for the board such information and to extend to the board such supplies, shipping and other specified assistance and facilities, as the board may require in carrying out the provisions of this order. The State Department shall appoint special attaches with diplomatic status, on the recommendation of the board, to be stationed abroad in places where it is likely that assistance can be rendered to war refugees, the duties and responsibilities of such attaches to be defined by the board in consultation with the State Department.

"4. The board and the State, Treasury and War Departments are authorized to accept the services or contributions of any private persons, private organizations, State agencies, or agencies of foreign governments in carrying out the purposes of this order. The board shall cooperate with all existing and future international organizations concerned with the problems of refugee rescue, maintenance, transportation, relief, rehabilitation and resettlement.

"5. To the extent possible the board shall utilize the personnel, supplies, facilities and services of the State, Treasury and War Departments. In addition the board, within the limits of funds which may be made available, may employ necessary personnel without regard for the Civil Service laws and regulations and the classification act of 1923 as amended, and make provisions for supplies, facilities and services necessary to discharge its responsibilities. The board shall appoint an executive director who shall serve as its principle executive officer. It shall be the duty of the executive director to arrange for the prompt execution of the plans and programs developed and the measures inaugurated by the board, to supervise the activities of the special attaches and to submit frequent reports to the board on the steps taken for the rescue and relief of war refugees.

"6. The board shall be directly responsible to the President in carrying out the policy of this Government, as stated in the preamble, and the board shall report