



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.

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Wagner, Senator Robert, 1944?.

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BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

WESTERN UNION

1223

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NT = Overnight Telegram

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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W18/GBR130/Z BAGHDAD PAGE TWO

BY MEANS OF SUCH IMMIGRATION TO REALISE THEIR ASPIRATION OF TRANSFORMING
THAT ARAB COUNTRY INTO A JEWISH NATIONAL STATE THIS IS THE CLEAR AND
OUTSTANDING FACT TO WHICH I BEG TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION SO AS TO PUT AN
END TO THE WRONG IMPRESSION UNDER WHICH SOME OF THE NOBLE AMERICAN PEOPLE
ARE LABOURING IT IS A FACT AGREED UPON BY ALL THAT PERMITTING UNRESTRICTED
AND UNCONDITIONAL IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE CAN ONLY BE EFFECTED AT THE
EXPENSE OF THE ARABS THE STONS OF THAT COUNTRY AND BY TURNING THEM OUT
OF THEIR NATIVE LAND THIS CANNOT BE DONE WITHOUT CAUSING DISORDER AND DIS*

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Copy
W18/GBR130/E BAGHDAD VIA RCA 452/451 20 NIL FIL VIA LONDON DLT SENATOR
WAGNER WASHINGTON DC

WRHS
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT YOU HAVE INTRODUCED INTO THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROPOSAL THE PURPORT OF WHICH IS TO OPEN THE DOORS OF PALESTINE TO JEWISH REFUGEES WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTIONS OR CONDITIONS I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM YOU THAT THE ARAB PEOPLES WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FAMOUS FOR THEIR PROTECTION OF THE WEAK SHARE YOUR HUMANITARIAN FEELINGS AND YOUR SYMPATHY TOWARDS THESE VICTIMS FLEEING FROM OPPRESSION NEVERTHELESS THE PROPOSAL TO FLOOD PALESTINE WITH THESE JEWISH REFUGEES IS IN FACT NOTHING BUT A POLITICAL MOVE ON THE PART OF THE ZIONISTS WHO ARE ATTEMPTING

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W18/GBE130/2 BAGHDAD PAGE FOUR

PROPAGANDISTS IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO CONVINCE THOSE WHO WILL LISTEN TO THEM AS STRONG EVIDENCE THAT THE ALLIES ARE NOT FAITHFUL TO THEIR PLEDGES AND UNDERTAKINGS AND THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE ARE INDIFFERENT TO THE FATE OF ARAB PEOPLES IN VIEW OF THAT I HAVE STATED ABOVE I FEEL IT MY DUTY TO FORWARD THIS REQUEST FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF YOUR PROPOSAL AND I HAVE NOT THE LEAST DOUBT THAT YOU CAN DO THIS FOR THE SAKE OF STRENGTHENING GOOD RELATIONS. BETWEEN YOUR COUNTRY AND THE ARAB NATIONS AND ADVANCING OUR COMMON INTERESTS RESPECTS BAGHDAD 20/2/44 ADDRESSED SENATOR WAGNER

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W18/00R130/E BAGHDAD PAGE THREE

TURBANCES WHICH WILL CERTAINLY LEAD TO BLOODSHED AND DEVASTATION HOW CAN SUCH A TRAGIC RESULT BE RECONCILED WITH THE HUMANITARIAN MOTIVES WHICH MOVED YOU TO INTRODUCE YOUR PROPOSAL IN THE SENATE THE AIMS OF ENDEAVOURS OF THE ZIONISTS TO SECURE A JAMORITY OVER THE ARAB POPULATION IN PALESTINE IS I BELIEVE CONTRARY TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE ATLANTIC CHARTER IT IS UNNECESSARY FOR ME TO POINT OUT THAT THIS CHARTER AND OTHER DECLARATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WERE AMONG THE IMPORTANT FACTORS WHICH CAUSED THE ARABS TO COME AND STAND SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS IF THIS RESOLUTION IS FINALLY ADOPTED I AM AFRAID THAT IT WILL BE USED BY AXIS

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VIA RCA BAGHDAD (NO FILING TIME) DLT SENATOR WAGNER WASHINGTON D C

I AM QUITE SURE THAT WHEN YOU INTRODUCED YOUR RESOLUTION IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE CALLING FOR THE LIFTING OF ALL RESTRICTIONS UPON THE IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE OF JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NAZI PERSECUTION YOU DID SO IN THE INTERESTS OF HUMANITY THE ARAB PEOPLES SHARE WITH ALL OTHER PEOPLES THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY FOR THESE UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS OF ENEMY OPPRESSION NEVERTHELESS I FEEL IT IS MY DUTY AS PRESIDENT OF THE IRAQI SENATE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF JEWS IN PALESTINE HAS BECOME A POLITICAL RATHER THAN A HUMANITARIAN OBJECTION VIEW OF THE ANNOUNCED AIM OF THE ZIONISTS TO OBTAIN THROUGH IMMIGRATION A JEWISH MAJORITY IN PALESTINE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONVERTING IT FROM AN ARAB COUNTRY INTO A JEWISH NATIONAL STATE THESE PLANS OF THE ZIONISTS ARE IN THE OPINION OF THE ARAB WORLD IN

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W18/GBR130/8 BAGHDAD PAGE FIVE

WASHINGTON REPEATED SENATOR TAFT WASHINGTON THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE WASHINGTON AND THE IRAQ LEGATION WASHINGTON.

MUHAMMAD RIDHA SHABIRI? PRESIDENT IRAQ CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

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WOULD NOT BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HUMANITARIAN MOTIVES WHICH MOVED YOU TO INTRODUCE YOUR RESOLUTION AND WOULD CONFLICT WITH THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THE ATLANTIC CHARTER. MOREOVER IT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE EFFORTS OF AXIS PROPAGANDISTS TO PERSUADE THE ARAB PEOPLES THAT THEIR GREAT ALLIES HAVE NOT BEEN SINCERE IN STATING THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THEY ARE FIGHTING AND THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLES HAVE IN REALITY NO INTEREST IN OR SYMPATHY WITH THE ARAB PEOPLES. I AM CONVINCED THAT ANY INCREASE OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE WOULD EVENTUALLY RESULT IN BLOODSHED AND CERTAINLY IN DISTURBED CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE HAPPINESS OF THE JEWS SETTLED IN THAT COUNTRY OR TO THAT OF THE ARABS. I MAY ADD THAT THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN GIVEN DEEP STUDY FOR MANY YEARS BY OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELFARE OF PALESTINE AS WELL AS BY ARAB AND JEWISH LEADERS. IN 1939 THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

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SHARP CONTRADICTION WITH THE STRIT OF THE ATLANTIC CHARTER PARAGRAPHS TWO AND THREE OF WHICH DECLARE "THEY DESIRE TO SEE NO TERRITORIAL CHANGES THAT DO NOT ACCORD WITH THE FREELY EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE PEOPLES CONCERNED" AND "THEY RESPECT THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLES TO CHOOSE THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH THEY WILL LIVE IN THAT CHARTER AND IN THE DECLARATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WERE CLEARLY ENUNCIATED THE PRINCIPLES WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE RALLYING OF THE ARAB PEOPLE TO THE CAUSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS I SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOU WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO WITHDRAW YOUR RESOLUTION SINCE I FEEL THAT ITS PASSAGE MAY FURTHER MISLEAD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE INTO THE BELIEF THAT AN INCREASE OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE WOULD BE A HUMANITARIAN POLICY AND ASSIST IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF THE JEWISH REFUGEES PALESTINE IS OVERPOPULATED ALREADY AND IT IS ONLY BY DISPOSSESSING ARABS THAT ROOM CAN BE MADE FOR THE JEWS SUCH RESULTS

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PAGE FIVEA. N. WILLIAMS
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BOTH CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM HALLOWED BY ITS ASSOCIATIONS WITH FOUNDERS AND LEADERS OF
BOTH OUR FAITHS ADDRESSED SENATOR WAGNER WASHINGTON COPIES TO CHAIRMEN OF THE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE WASHINGTON AND SENATOR WASHINGTON IRAQ LEGATION
WASHINGTON



(SIGNED) JAMIL AL MADFAI

PRESIDENT IRAQ CHAMBER OF SENATORS

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QUOTE WHICH HAD IN 1920 BEEN APPOINTED THE MANDATORY OVER PALESTINE BY THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS END QUOTE AFTER LONG DELIBERATION ISSUED A DECISION EMBODIED IN THE POPULARLY KNOWN 1939 WHITE PAPER WHICH LAID DOWN WHAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE A FAIR SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE ALTHOUGH NOT FULLY SATISFACTORY TO THE ARABS IT HAS IN FACT SUCCEEDED IN SECURING PEACE DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS IN WHAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN A WAR RIDDEN COUNTRY IT IS MY SINCERE ADVICE BASED ON MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE FEELINGS OF ALL ARABS BOTH IN IRAQ AND NEIGHBORING STATES THAT IN THE INTEREST OF OUR COMMON CAUSE NO CHANGES BE MADE IN THE POLICY OF THAT WHITE PAPER SO FAR AS JEWISH IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE IS CONCERNED IN CONCLUSION I BEG YOU TO REMEMBER THAT WHAT TOUCHES PALESTINE TOUCHES ALL ARABS FOR QUITE APART FROM THE FACT THAT IT IS NOW INHABITED BY ARABS IT IS A HOLY LAND TO ALL ARABS

Draft statement to be issued by Senator Wagner
for publication in Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish papers.



STATEMENT BY SENATOR WAGNER

I feel it my duty to address myself publicly and frankly to the Jewish community and the leaders of Jewish public opinion in this country. My record as a defender of Jewish rights and in support of the Zionist cause and other Jewish causes is sufficiently well known. For that reason I am confident that what I have to say will be received as the utterance of a sincere friend of the Jewish people and will not be subject to any misinterpretation.

For the past three years, since early 1941, I have served as Chairman of the American Palestine Committee. I have not only served as its Chairman but actually took the initiative in bringing about its organization. I did so on my own responsibility but with the knowledge and approval of the leaders of the Zionist movement, with whom I personally and the Committee have ~~acted~~ kept in close contact ever since its organization. From the start our Committee was remarkably successful in enlisting the support and adherence of outstanding figures in American public life, from among members of Congress, Government officials, the clergy, academic circles, writers and intellectuals and civic and business leaders. The membership roll of the Committee includes two-thirds of the members of the U. S. Senate, more than 200 members of the House of Representatives, more than 20 Governors of state, leaders of both political parties as well as of the great labor organizations, and thousands of other members throughout the country. I doubt whether any other cause or movement can show among its supporters such a cross-section of American opinion as is represented in the American Palestine Committee. The record of the Committee is also well known on every important issue which has arisen regarding Palestine. It has taken a clear and vigorous stand and has given its fullest support to the legitimate demands of the Jewish people and the Zionist leadership on the question of a Jewish military force, on the admission

of refugees to Palestine, on the revocation of the White Paper, on the demand for a Jewish Commonwealth.

More recently I, together with Senator Taft, introduced a Resolution in the Senate calling for the free entry of Jews into Palestine and its establishment as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth, and though action on the Resolution has been deferred at the request of the War Department, we have seen to it that the Resolution is neither withdrawn nor tabled nor killed. It is alive and will be kept alive, to be taken up again at the first favorable opportunity.

Moreover, our Committee has carried on a ceaseless campaign of education on behalf of the Jewish National Home through the press, through public dinners and meetings, through speeches delivered by our members in all parts of the country, by speeches on the floor of the Senate and of the House of Representatives. In all modesty I believe I can claim that the American Palestine Committee has contributed greatly towards the creation of a climate of opinion favorable to Zionist aspirations. Our activity has become a political factor widely commented upon and seriously reckoned with not only by our own government but by other governments as well.

My attention has now been drawn to the fact that a new body is being organized under the name of "American League for a Free Palestine." Many members of the American Palestine Committee have received invitations to join this new organization and have come to me perplexed and confused. They do not understand any more than I do why they are asked to join a new organization having substantially the same object in view, and why any such organization is necessary at all.

It is obvious, of course, that the initiators and promoters of this new organization, described as non-partisan in character, are a group of Jews who for some reason which I do not understand are not associated with any of the responsible Jewish organizations which have long been

recognized by the Christian public as representing the Jews in this country, such as the American Jewish Congress, the Zionist Organization, the American Jewish Conference, the Bnai Brith, etc.

I do not question the right of any group of Jews or of any individual to undertake to initiate such a movement on their own responsibility and to appeal for Christian support, but as a friend of the Jewish cause, I am deeply concerned and distressed over the increasing and bewildering multiplicity of committees purporting to act on behalf of the Jewish people and undertaking political activity in Washington. We have been approached in the past by the Committee for a Jewish Army and the Committee to Rescue the Jewish People of Europe, and many of us were disposed to cooperate with them out of sympathy with these causes, despite many misgivings. This last attempt, however, to set up a new Committee or League for Palestine is the most distressing evidence of our disunity and rivalry that we have yet had. It is obvious that such a body must necessarily "compete" with the American Palestine Committee for public support. It must either duplicate our activities or else nullify our efforts by following a divergent policy. All of this can only result in confusion and possibly in alienating the sympathies of many persons who are unable to follow the complicated currents in internal Jewish affairs.

If there are any persons, whether Jews or Christians, who wish to help the cause of a Jewish Palestine, I see no reason why they should not come to us and offer their cooperation and work in close harmony with the American Palestine Committee. I would point out that there is in existence a Christian Council for Palestine consisting largely of Christian clergymen. While they constitute a distinct entity, they maintain the closest relations with our Committee and cooperate on common programs and projects. An illustration of such cooperation was the successfully conducted National Conference on Palestine held in Washington on March 9th. I therefore say to my Jewish friends throughout the country: Beware of splitting up your energies and dissipating

your influence by establishing competing and conflicting organizations.

The direction of public effort and action on behalf of Palestine requires a high degree of responsibility and prudence as well as courage and vigor. The cause may be endangered by divergent policies or ill-considered action. After twenty years of undeviating support and service of the Zionist cause, I issue this solemn warning and advice: Unite your forces; refrain from fragmentation; avoid confusion; do not discourage your tried and trusted friends. However dark the moment, I am confident that we shall see the dawn of a new day and the successful outcome of our struggle.

