



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
103

Box
36

Folder
217

American Council for Judaism, 1945.

C
O
P
Y

TELEGRAM

"2NP 53/52 NL paid 5 ex.

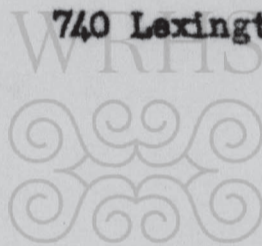
New York, Nov. 2

George Sokolsky, Sun

The American council for Judaism and the Devin-Adair company publishers invites you to meet Rabbi Elmer Berger, author of the Jewish Dilemma and Lessing Rosenwald, President of the council at the Harmonie club 4 East 60 Street, Thursday November 8th from five to 6:30 o'clock please reply.

Olga Ross, Executive Director American Council for Judaism,

740 Lexington Ave.



C
O
P
Y

TELEGRAM

NOVEMBER 5, 1945

MISS OLGA ROSS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM
740 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK NEW YORK

I SHALL NOT ATTEND THE RECEPTION WHICH YOU ARE GIVING RABBI BERGER AT THE HARMONIE CLUB ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8 AT 5:00 P.M. I DISAPPROVE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION AND OF RABBI BERGER'S POSITION AND HIS BOOK. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR MEN TO DISAGREE WITH REGARD TO THE JEWISH STATE IN PALESTINE AND TO VIEW OBJECTIVELY THE WISDOM OF THAT PROPOSAL. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ANY JEW AT THE TIME OF POGROMS AGAINST HIS PEOPLE ON THE PART OF FANATICAL ARABS AND WHEN MILLIONS OF THEM ARE STILL HOMELESS AND SOME IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS BECAUSE THEY ARE HOMELESS TO JOIN IN ANY CAUSE EVEN BY IMPLICATION WHICH ADDS TO THEIR WOES AND MISERIES AND WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES BRUTALITY AS MORAL AND DECENT. DO YOU RECALL THE NOBLE AMERICAN REACTION TO THE KISHINEFF POGROMS?

I INQUIRED OF A LARGE NUMBER OF CHAPLAINS IN OUR ARMED SERVICES AND FOUND THAT WITHOUT EXCEPTION THEY WERE OPPOSED TO YOUR ORGANIZATION AND TO RABBI BERGER'S POSITION. I PREFER TO ACCEPT THE JUDGMENT OF RABBIS IN THE UNIFORM OF THE AMERICAN ARMED SERVICES. INCIDENTALLY I WAS INFORMED THAT NONE OF THE RABBIS ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR MOVEMENT OF MILITARY AGE HAD JOINED THE CHAPLAIN CORPS OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE WAR. IS THAT TRUE? IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT IF THAT IS TRUE IT IS PARADOXICAL THAT RABBIS WHO LOVE PALESTINE SHOULD BE WEARING THE UNIFORM OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE WAR AND RISKING THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY WHILE RABBIS WHO HATE PALESTINE ON THE GROUND THAT IT INVOLVES DUAL CITIZENSHIP SHOULD HAVE FAILED TO SERVE THE UNITED STATES IN THIS WAR. DOES ONE NEED TO CURSE HIS MOTHER TO PROVE HIS PATRIOTISM? IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOUR POSITION IS IMMORAL AND IS A TOTAL NEGATION OF THE RELIGION YOU PROFESS.

GEORGE E. SOKOLSKY

November 7, 1945

Mr. George Sokolsky
300 West End Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear George:

Your secretary was kind enough to send me a copy of the telegram which you addressed to the American Council for Judaism in connection with the reception which they are tendering to Rabbi Elmer Berger. I need not tell you that I had great joy in reading it. May I suggest that a copy of it be sent to Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Executive Director of the Committee on Unity for Palestine which has been fighting the Rosenwald-Berger gang. They will make the proper use of it.

I enjoyed reading your column last week on Palestine. I wish that "The Sun" would come out with a strong editorial when Prime Minister Attlee arrives in the country. Whatever is done in our favor in the next week or ten days would be tremendously helpful. In this connection I should like you to read a copy of the telegram which we sent to President Truman a few days ago. It is self-explanatory.

Would it be possible to get Mr. Herbert Hoover to issue a public statement backing up the President's request for one hundred thousand certificates for the displaced Jews of Europe to make it possible for them to go to Palestine? For many reasons that would be desirable. Equally helpful would be a statement by John Foster Dulles. *

With all good wishes, and trusting that you are well,
I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

300 WEST END AVENUE
NEW YORK 23, N.Y.

TRAFALGAR 4-2786

December 24, 1945

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105 Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

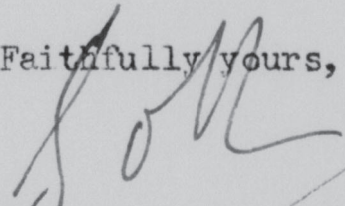
Dear Abba:

With regard to your letter to me of November 7, in which you make certain suggestions, most of these have been carried through in one form or another.

I would, as a permanent proposition, suggest to you that you make an analysis of the public relations method of the Zionist Organization of America and also that you form a special committee for reaching certain particular individuals. It is like what they have in charitable drives where they have a special gift committee for the larger donations. I think that, as an organizational method, that is necessary. And when you are here some time, I should like to discuss it with you.

With best wishes and congratulating you on the high honor that has come to you and telling you now that I, for one, accept your leadership in Jewish life, I am

Faithfully yours,


George E. Sokolsky

GES:HP