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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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American League for a Free Palestine, 1946.



Cable Address: "FREEPALES"

The American League for a Free Palestine is a non-sectarian organization supporting the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which seeks:

1. Recognition for the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine as a nascent nation.
2. To rebuild Palestine in its historic boundaries, with the Arab population as equal partners — as a Democratic state based on the principles of the Four Freedoms and the Atlantic Charter.

American

25 WEST 45th STREET  
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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League for a Free Palestine inc.

HON. GUY M. GILLETTE, President

July 30, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, President  
American Zionist Emergency Council  
Hotel Commodore  
Lexington Avenue and 42 Street  
New York, New York

My dear Dr. Silver:

I am writing to draw your attention to the fact that officials and members of the Zionist Emergency Council and the Zionist Organization of America are conducting a large scale campaign of vilification against this organization, a campaign which is bound to hurt the cause of the Hebrew people and the cause of Palestine.

As an example I wish to cite the concerted efforts which were being made to intimidate Colonel James Roosevelt who has recently become president of our Westcoast Division. Telegrams in the name of Senator Wagner were sent to him, telling him he would besmirch the glorious name of his father by joining our organization. In a telephone conversation with Senator Gillette, Senator Wagner denied having seen the telegram and stated that all he knew was that he gave permission to invite Colonel Roosevelt to join the American Christian Palestine Committee. Scores of Zionist organizations are pestering Colonel Roosevelt, as they do numerous other personalities on the Westcoast — Jews and non-Jews alike — who have joined the League.

Colonel Roosevelt has not resigned, despite all the mud throwing, and is continuing his activities with the League, but we believe that at this time of the supreme test for the fate of our people and the future of Palestine it is shocking that considerable Zionist funds and energy are being expended to harass an American effort on behalf of Palestine.

It seems that all the bitterness against British treachery, all the disappointments by the State Department's unqualified support of the British, are being directed to fight us. This is particularly true at the Westcoast.

Somehow we cannot believe that you are aware of these facts and these foul tactics, especially in the light of your courageous statement and stand on the current plan to establish a ghetto in Palestine. Zionists and all other friends of Palestine

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Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

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July 30, 1946

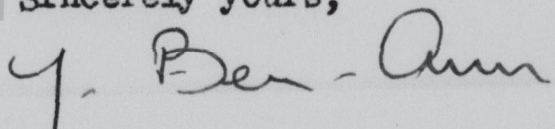
need now every ounce of energy and every dollar at their disposal for a supreme effort to get President Truman and the American government to back us rather than the British, no matter what the views of your organization are concerning our efforts to aid the Hebrews by establishing a Provisional Government of Palestine in the near future. There can be no possible justification in the disgraceful things which are still being committed against us by Zionists and Zionist officials.

There is a great resentment among the rank and file of the American League membership against these tactics, and considerable pressure that we react with a strong attack upon the Zionist leadership. It has become increasingly difficult for us to fight -- as we persistently did in the past -- such a partisan campaign.

We therefore urge you, as the leader of the Zionist movement in this country, to instruct Zionist officials and leaders at the Westcoast as well as generally, that they cease their smear campaign, that they cease harassing every non-Jew who joins the fight for Palestine under the banner of the League, for their present conduct definitely harms the cause of the tormented Hebrew people in Europe.

I should greatly appreciate an early answer from you, and hope that your foresight at this crucial time will prevail over narrow partisanship.

Sincerely yours,



Y. Ben-Ami  
Executive Director



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