



## 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  
104

Box  
36

Folder  
229

American Zionist Emergency Council, miscellaneous political,  
1946.

February 5, 1946

Mr. Emanuel Neumann  
Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Emanuel:

And so now Norman Bentwich has come out as a stooge for the Colonial Office. He, too, makes the grandiose act of self-sacrifice for the Jewish people -- when nobody has asked him to do it. The Jews are now to sacrifice their national pride and prestige (as if that is all that is involved) for the sake of the greater cause. After the war, we shall be asked to sacrifice the "Zionist" State (the new name for the Jewish Homeland) for the sake of peace in the Near East or world peace generally. Everybody is either sacrificing us or is asking of us to sacrifice ourselves...

What is behind Professor Bentwich's betrayal?

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



Fakory (?)  
NOTE OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN F, DR. SILVER AND MR. LOURIE

Hotel Pierre, August 1, 1946, 2:30 P.M.

F started off by saying that morally we had suffered severe damage as a result of recent events in Palestine and that it had given strength to our enemies and troubled our friends. In this connection, he intimated that he had been receiving a good deal of correspondence. He felt, also, that our attitude on the loan had not been helpful. He went on to suggest that in view of the consultations which would be taking place following the return of the Cabinet Committee, it might be important to prepare a document for presentation within a matter of a week, the purpose of which would be to inform the President on a number of matters which to us were elementary, but of which he was not possibly sufficiently aware. It was of great importance that this document should be one submitted by American Zionists speaking as Americans. F referred to this point on two or three occasions in the course of the conversation.

Among the matters which he thought might be incorporated in this document, he mentioned the statement in Congress by Webster on Kossuth and, more particularly, Theodore Roosevelt's statement following the Kishiniev pogroms. The purpose of this, as I understood him, was to show the extent to which the American Government was prepared to concern itself with the Jewish or similar problems, even if no direct American interest was involved. He also referred to the reference in the Feisal correspondence to the future cooperation of Jews and Arabs, and suggested further that there be included the quotation from Mark Twain which was to be found in F's own article in "Foreign Affairs" some years ago. He indicated that there should be reference to the 1924 Anglo-American Convention, but merely in the sense that this was the legal expression of the deep interest of the United States in the Jewish National Home issue.

As regards the question of policy, F stated that no doubt Dr. Silver and he would differ. He felt [REDACTED] that our line should be to support in a general way the Report of the Inquiry Committee. The President had a high opinion of that Report.



He felt that it was his report. He was proud of it and if given encouragement he would press it. Dr. Silver said that far from taking issue with F's view, he had been thinking along the same lines. To crystallize the situation in Palestine by some form of partition at this stage was premature and must be avoided. At the same time, he stated that F would not suggest that the Jews should sign a document which in specific words said that the possibility of a Jewish State was excluded. F said that of course he understood that it would be impossible for Jewish leaders to do that, but, in his view, what was or was not a Jewish State was really a question of words. What was required was that we should give our general support to the Report without necessarily associating ourselves with everything in it, and that was a matter of wording.

There was further talk on the proposal for a written document and F agreed with Dr. Silver that instead of submitting a formal statement, it might be as well to bring our views to the attention of those concerned verbally and informally.

F referred once or twice with some feeling to the cowardly attitude of the Times, and he remarked that on many occasions he had, when so moved, written letters which it had not been possible for him actually to send for publication, but the production of which at least gave him a certain sense of relief. Dr. Silver suggested that it might be useful if on such an occasion he would let us have the letter and we would get someone else to sign it.

F referred to the fact that the Grady Committee, after three weeks' acquaintance with the subject, had suddenly become "experts" by comparison with the Anglo-American group who had made a thorough inquiry on the spot over an extended period. He thought that public attention should be drawn to this absurdity.



Bernstein

November 25, 1946

Mr. T. E. Bromley  
British Embassy  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

For the sake of good order, I desire to repeat to you what I told you today over the long distance telephone in behalf of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, asking that you kindly convey the message to Mr. Bevin with whom he recently conferred twice at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria: - -

Dr. Silver is of the opinion that if Mr. Bevin could give him an assurance - not necessarily an official one - to the effect that the British Government are prepared to consider favorably the proposition made to them by the Jewish Agency for Palestine, it would have a rather beneficial effect on the attitude of the World Zionist Congress taking place on December 9th in Basle, Switzerland. If the delegates receive such word from him, Dr. Silver is confident that the overwhelming majority of the Congress would give the Jewish Agency the green light to enter into the London Conference, a fact which would greatly impress the Jewish population in Palestine and lead to the creation of a thoroughly peaceful atmosphere there.

(cont.)



TWO

On the other hand, should he - Dr. Silver-  
not be in a position to give the word of  
assurance to the delegates, he is afraid that  
the Congress would inevitably be thrown into  
chaos, giving way to a great many undesirable  
effects among Jews in Palestine and America as  
well.

Dr. Silver is sailing on Thursday, November 28th  
after midnite on the Queen Elizabeth and if there is any  
message you may desire to deliver to him, you may reach him  
by phone in Cleveland, Ohio - DREXEL 1090. Kindly note that  
beginning with Wednesday, November 27th, in the afternoon  
until the sailing of the boat, Dr. Silver will be in New York  
where he may be reached at Murray Hill 2-1160 or by calling  
me (my office - Murray Hill 2-3205, home - TRafalg er 7-1159).

Faithfully yours,

Dr. S. Bernstein