



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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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 Zionist Policy Committee, draft Silver Committee, 1945.



September 13, 1945

Dear Mr. Blank:

The Executive Committee of the ZOA has decided to hold the Annual Convention in November. The city is still to be fixed. The basis of representation, as we understand, will be one delegate for every 200 members, or major fraction thereof, with a minimum of at least one delegate for every district, irrespective of its size.

This convention will be of extraordinary interest and importance in view of the events of the past year as well as the political situation and the whole international outlook. There is strong ground for believing that historic decisions with regard to Palestine will be taken by the Powers during the next twelvemonth. The convention will be called upon to determine the policies of the ZOA in this crucial period and to elect a new Administration which will carry a very grave responsibility.

We have been urged by many of our friends who have collaborated during the past months as members of the American Zionist Policy Committee to convene a meeting without delay in order to review the situation and take common counsel with regard to the coming convention and the problems which we face.

It is also hardly necessary to say that there is a widespread persistent demand that Dr. Abba Hillel Silver be drafted as the next President of the ZOA. This is an extremely serious question and we owe it to the movement as well as to Dr. Silver personally to consider it most carefully in all its aspects and implications.

We have therefore decided to convene a meeting of our friends from all parts of the country to be held in New York at the ..... Hotel on Wednesday, September 26th. There will be at least two sessions, one beginning at 4:00 P. M. and another at 8:00 P. M. It would be advisable to make tentative arrangements to stay over until the next morning.

The proceedings will be strictly private and confidential and we would request you to treat the whole matter as such - including this invitation. We would appreciate your immediate reply indicating whether we may look forward to seeing you at this meeting, which promises to be of very high interest.

Pending this forthcoming conference and such plans for concerted action as may emerge, we call your earnest attention to the following:

(1) It is of vital importance that every district elect as delegates well informed and independent-minded Zionists who are in sympathy with the principles and policies exemplified by the leadership of Dr. Silver and advocated and supported by the American Zionist Policy Committee and its adherents during the past year.

(2) If any district is unable to send from among its own membership the number of delegates to which it is entitled, it should not hastily accept names from other parts of the country, however they may be recommended - unless there is moral assurance that the particular individuals will represent the views and policies favored by the district.

It is highly desirable that you keep in contact with us on these matters and all other questions connected with the forthcoming convention. We are in a position to submit good and reliable Zionists, friends and supporters of our common viewpoint, who would be ready to serve as delegates or alternates.

We take this occasion to advise you that our office is now at 225 Fourth Ave.,



New York City. It will be under the capable management of Mr. Joseph Greenleaf - President of the Mt. Vernon Zionist District - who will be assisted by a group of devoted and experienced Zionists.

Time is pressing. We hope to hear from you without delay.

Cordially yours,

Abraham Goodman  
Honorary Secretary





## COMMISSION ON PALESTINE SURVEYS

Administrative Office

521 FIFTH AVENUE

ROOM 1903

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

October 31, 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

Although we have dropped the idea of a public Draft Silver Movement, there is a good deal being done in the Press. I am enclosing a few items which you may not have seen such as:

1. Editorial in the Jewish Post entitled Roosevelt-Ibn Saud Letters Prove Silver Right
2. An article in the American Hebrew entitled Zionism and American Politics by M. Reichenstein, which I wrote and Mr. M.Z. Frank slightly spoiled.
3. An editorial in the Jewish Ledger, Washington, D.C., which I understand has appeared in all the Biben newspapers. It is excellent. I thanked Mr. Biben for it and will be conferring with him further in the next few days. Other articles are to appear. There will be one next Sunday in the English page of the Day regarding the Roosevelt Myth. Still another article, entitled Wise Men of Yalta is to appear in the Biben newspapers next week.

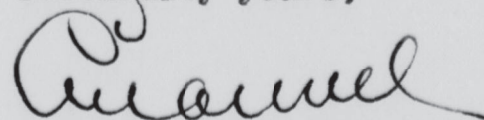
I am enclosing copy of a letter which I have written to Charles Rosenbloom.

I have also suggested to Ben Horin that he write a little pamphlet dealing with our experience with the administration in Washington and pointing up the moral of the Roosevelt letter to Ibn Saud. The pamphlet ought to be a sort of sequel to the leaflet "A Little While Longer", which I ghosted for Leon Feuer, and Lowenthal's pamphlet "Backstairs to Nowhere". The new pamphlet or leaflet could be published and sent out to key men and it need not be signed by Ben Horin.

I think it most important to rub it in now properly, so that the lesson will not be forgotten.

As ever,

Faithfully yours,



EN:BW  
Enclosures

Emanuel Neumann



C O P Y

October 31, 1945

Mr. Charles Rosenbloom  
521 Union Trust Bldg.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Rosenbloom:

I owe you a word of explanation regarding the Draft Silver Committee. We delayed launching it publicly because of the critical political situation. We all felt - Dr. Silver himself most keenly, - that it would be a great mistake to start an agitation regarding his election at a moment when the whole Jewish Zionist public is so tense with regard to the political outlook. Moreover as time went on, it became increasingly apparent that Dr. Silver's election is a foregone conclusion. Resolutions calling for his election have been pouring in from regions and districts throughout the country. I have now been officially informed by Dr. Goldstein, on behalf of the administration group, that they have definitely decided not to contest the election.

It also seems that we will have no difficulty in electing a kind of administration we want - an administration in which we will have an ample majority.

Dr. Silver and all of us, deeply appreciate your readiness to serve and head the Draft-Silver movement, even though circumstances have now made it unnecessary to launch it.

How is your health? Have you recovered sufficiently from the operation to enable you to attend the Convention? I sincerely hope that such is the case. Please let me know.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Rosenbloom and yourself,

As ever,

Faithfully yours,

Emanuel Neumann

EN:BW



*Confidential*

MEETING OF STEERING COMMITTEE OF  
DRAFT SILVER COMMITTEE  
November 1, 1945

Attending were Joseph Greenleaf, Marcus Abramson, Daniel Frisch, Abraham Tannenbaum, Charles Rens, Sol Cohen, Jacques Torczyner; Joseph Greenleaf presiding.

The discussion on the Committee on Committees opened with a report by Joseph Greenleaf which gave the line-up of the Committee as 55 known to favor Dr. Silver and 20 as doubtful. The Chairman of the Committee who is designated by the president must be a good parliamentarian and have the respect of the Convention. It was suggested that someone outside of New York be chosen and the following names were offered for consideration: Elihu Stone, Mortimer May, Leon Feuer, Irving Miller and Abe Goldstein.

It was the unanimous feeling of the meeting that the important post of chairman of the Committee on Nominations be given to Emanuel Neumann.

The matter of the presidium was discussed and the point made that it might be unwise to omit from the list too many names of former Administration adherents. In addition to Wise, Silver, Lipsky, and Goldstein, Neumann, Miller, Daniel Frisch and Mortimer May, Mr. Cohen suggested we add ~~additional~~ names of men we can count on to counteract those of Levinthal and Rothenberg. Abe Tannenbaum noted that since Judge Rothenberg will be in charge of the J.N.F. luncheon, it will not be necessary to assign him a chairmanship to another session. The discussion closed with the suggestion that Dr. Silver be consulted in regard to the composition of the presidium.

The question of who was to be chairman of the Saturday night session was raised and the feeling expressed that since Mr. Frisch would bring up the matter of Constitutional amendments at that time,

it is important that a not unsympathetic person be in the chair.

Irving Miller was the favored candidate with Mortimer May as second choice. Herman Weisman is to open the session as chairman of the Convention Committee and then call upon the chairman of the evening to carry on.

The Sunday afternoon session which will be devoted to elections and a presentation of the political situation, ~~will~~ have Daniel Frisch and Louis Lipsky in the chair, respectively.

*Judge Levinthal  
Judge Rothenberg*

*749 West End Ave*



The Sunday evening session will be an important one from which should come a clear statement on Zionist policy, and Emanuel Neumann will deliver an address on the theme "The Year Ahead", to be followed by prepared statements from possibly six <sup>of "our" delegates</sup> ~~outstanding Zionists~~ <sup>men like</sup> on plans for future activities. It was suggested that Freudenheim of Buffalo and Silverman of Chicago be among those invited to participate. Mortimer May was suggested <sup>as</sup> ~~for~~ chairman of the evening.

Jacques Torczyner stressed the point that the Credential Committee announce in advance of the Convention that only elected delegates will be entitled to vote, and that representatives of funds will not be recognized.

Chairmen <sup>for</sup> ~~for~~ the various Committees were discussed and the following names recommended: Feuer, Torczyner, Abramson, Fliegelman, Goldstock, I. R. Goodman, Leon Fenster, Goldenberg, and Max Levy; others to be added from the delegates.

Daniel Frisch stressed the importance of the delegates from New York and surrounding communities meeting before their arrival in Atlantic City to discuss convention issues. They should be impressed with the need <sup>for group discipline</sup> ~~of~~ group discipline, as well as the importance of being present at all meetings, both Committee and open sessions.

It was urged that a Committee meet with Dr. Silver some time next week and discuss with him all matters of importance pertaining to the Convention.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

*Rose Schimpel*



## COMMISSION ON PALESTINE SURVEYS

Administrative Office

521 FIFTH AVENUE

ROOM 1903

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

November 6

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

With the annual Convention of the Zionist Organization of America almost at hand, our fellow Zionists throughout the country are seriously concerned with the problem of constituting a new administration for the coming year.

There is no room for doubt that the overwhelming majority of the membership earnestly desire that you should accept the presidency of the organization. This is attested by numerous statements, resolutions and messages which have been coming in a steady stream from all parts of the country. Expressions of this character received to date, represent district and regional organizations with an aggregate membership of more than 85,000, and they continue to pour in daily. Actually all indications point to you as the virtually unanimous choice of the Zionists of America for that high office.

This, my dear Dr. Silver, is more than a vindication of your policies and of the brilliant and vigorous leadership you have given the Zionist movement in recent years. It is the expression of a profound conviction that the supreme interest of the movement at this critical juncture, imperatively requires that you assume this added responsibility.

Those of us who have been intimately associated with you in these troublous times and who realize what burdens you have been carrying, have long hesitated to urge this step; but it is our considered opinion that the sacred cause to which you have dedicated your life, calls for this further sacrifice on your part.

The Jewish people is engaged in a desperate struggle, the outcome of which may determine its future for generations to come. The Zionist Organization of America must stand at the forefront of that battle. It can measure up to its historic responsibility only if led by the strongest personality in our midst. The best we have is the least with which we can be satisfied.

Personally I deem it a high privilege that through me, the Zionists of America now address to you, this renewed call to leadership, and the earnest request that you accept the presidency of the Zionist Organization of America, which will be tendered to you at the forthcoming Convention. Confidently we await your reply.

Cordially Yours,

*Emanuel Neumann*  
Emanuel Neumann

EN:BW



Nov. *8th* 1945.

Mr. Emanuel Neumann  
Commission on Palestine Surveys  
521 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Neumann:

I have been deeply moved by your letter of November *sixth*. For a long time I have been made aware of the desire of so many of our friends, that I should make myself available for the presidency of the Zionist Organization of America, but did not see my way to doing so, despite the high honor implied in the suggestion.

*have come to the conclusion that I should*  
However, I ~~feel that I can no longer dis-~~  
regard the ~~insistent~~ demand of my fellow Zionists, so earnestly and repeatedly expressed. At a time like this, fraught with such fateful consequences to our people, none of us has a right to withhold aught that he possesses, ~~even to life itself~~. If the representatives of the movement in Convention assembled, call upon me to serve, I have no choice but to assent.

*also that*  
I feel I owe it ~~also~~ to you and your associates and all who have stood so loyally at my side during ~~the~~ difficult and critical days, to abide by ~~their~~ judgment.

*Your collective*

I have every faith in the boundless devotion of our fellow Zionists, throughout the country and their unshakable determination to carry on the great and decisive struggle for the realization of our ideal, ~~to a successful culmination~~.

Very sincerely yours,

Abba Hillel Silver

AHS:BW



Nov. 8, 1945

Mr. Emanuel Neumann  
Commission on Palestine Surveys  
521 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Neumann:

I have been deeply moved by your letter of November 6th. For a long time I have been made aware of the desire of so many of our friends, that I should make myself available for the presidency of the Zionist Organization of America, but did not see my way to doing so, despite the high honor implied in the suggestion.

However, I have come to the conclusion that I should not disregard the demand of my fellow Zionists, so earnestly and repeatedly expressed. At a time like this, fraught with such fateful consequences to our people, none of us has a right to withhold aught that he possesses. If the representatives of the movement in Convention assembled, call upon me to serve, I have no choice but to assent.

I also feel that I owe it to you and your associates and all who have stood so loyally at my side during difficult and critical days to abide by your collective judgment.

I have every faith in the boundless devotion of our fellow Zionists throughout the country and their



Mr. Neumann

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November 8, 1945

unshakable determination to carry on the great and  
decisive struggle for the realization of our ideal.

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK





Draft Silver Comm

STATEMENT OF AIMS OF THE DRAFT SILVER COMMITTEE

The 48th Annual Convention of the Zionist Organization of America will convene at a time fraught with grave consequences for the future of our people. At no point in Zionist history have the responsibilities which devolve upon us been heavier than at this moment. Through the destruction of nearly all of European Jewry on the one hand and the rapid growth of our movement in this country on the other, American Zionism is called upon to assume a role of unprecedented importance in the World Zionist Movement.

Within American Zionism it is the ZOA that must of necessity shoulder the major responsibility for carrying on our political struggle, for the practical work of the movement and for giving vitality, direction and coherence to the whole Zionist effort. Moreover, there is every reason to believe that the momentous decision of the Powers with regard to Palestine, so long deferred, will be taken in the course of the next twelvemonth. As yet there is not ground for complacency regarding the outcome.

It is under these circumstances that we must approach the task of constituting a new Administration for the Zionist Organization of America for the coming year.\* We, the undersigned, having given our best thought to the total situation confronting us, have come to the conclusion that there is but one satisfactory solution to that question - to draft Dr. Abba Hillel Silver for the Presidency of the ZOA and to elect a strong Administration which will cooperate with him wholeheartedly in meeting the calling demands of the hour. We add the following expression of our views:

It has been demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt that the overwhelming majority of our membership consider Dr. Silver's



political leadership to be imperative. Recognition of this fact has been given by the recent reorganization of the American Zionist Emergency Council. The unfortunate controversy earlier this year, through which our movement suffered so grievously, is a matter of the past and its recollection should be obliterated except for the purpose of drawing a lesson of supreme importance; the necessity of ensuring the most complete coordination between the ZOA and its political arm, the Zionist Emergency Council, and preventing at all costs any possible divergence of policy between the two. This can best be effected by having Dr. Silver serve as President of the ZOA while he is charged with the executive direction of the political work.

The ZOA itself must be fully geared to our political effort as never before. We must not only consolidate the substantial gains of the ZOA in the growth of its membership and the expansion of its activities, but we must now deploy to the best advantage all the human, intellectual and material resources we have gathered. Our membership must not only be large, but well informed, intellectually alive and politically alert. Our official organs must become more effective instruments for that purpose, on a par with leading journals of opinion. Zionist activity should be conducted on such a plane as to attract the elite of the Jewish youth, evoking their loyalty and kindling their enthusiasm by offering them moral and intellectual enrichment. Membership in our organization and its youth affiliates should become not only a matter of duty but a badge of honor and a mark of distinction.

The great potentialities of our movement which are still untapped can be fully realized and developed only by the constant



revitalization of the democratic principle, the source and main-spring of our strength. We must encourage initiative, independent thought and the free expression of opinion. We must improve our organizational procedures to ensure greater democratic participation on the part of local leadership in national policy making and administration.

Above all, now that the fortunes of our people are at a crisis, we must summon to leadership the foremost personalities in our midst. The best we have is the least with which we can be satisfied. No one will question that there is one whose extraordinary gifts most nearly meet the exigency of our situation - the strongest personality on the American Jewish scene - Dr. Abba Hillel Silver.

We are aware that for various reasons Dr. Silver may be hesitant and reluctant to accept the responsibility of the Presidency, but none of them can outweigh the urgent demand of the movement. On behalf of ourselves and our constituents, we call upon him publicly to assume this added burden. Regardless of his inclination, he must be drafted and swept into that high office by the acclaim of the Zionist masses and the unanimous action of the forthcoming convention.