



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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Editorials, miscellaneous, 1945.

A BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT

Prime Minister Churchill's statement in Parliament yesterday that the Palestine question will not be considered at the forthcoming conference in San Francisco and that this question, which ~~is~~^{for} Jews is a matter of national existence, will be deferred until after the war, is the bitterest disappointment and most severe blow which we ~~are~~ could receive. This statement destroys all hope that the Palestine question was discussed at the Yalta Conference ^(at the meetings in Malta and Egypt) and that Roosevelt and Churchill "solved" the Palestine question ~~at the conferences in Malta and Egypt~~ in the spirit of Jewish aspirations. After ~~the~~^{many} hopeful reports this is a shattering blow.

Churchill's statement indicates that ^{consideration of} the question is being postponed entirely, and if this does not preclude the possibility that after the war there will be attempts to solve the Palestine question in the proper spirit, it is nevertheless clear that meanwhile the field has been left to the Arabs and to other opponents of the Jews. ^{the Palestine question will not even be raised} If in San Francisco, where all small nations will gather and where the fate of the world will actually be determined, ~~the Palestine question will not even be raised~~, that makes it almost impossible for a broad and open discussion of the question later, unless this ~~will~~^{is to} be done in a very small circle - where the problem can be dealt with according to the wishes of individuals rather than the wishes and ~~the~~ demands of the great wide world.

In addition to ^{all} this we have the report that the Arabs are ~~ostensibly~~ formulating a plan ^{ostensibly} for five years of Jewish immigration into Palestine in order to show the world how "benevolent" they are. This amounts to pouring salt on our wounds.

^A~~The~~ question - and ^{by} no means ~~a~~ simple one - must be posed now: What did President Roosevelt do and how did he behave ^{at} ~~in~~ all of these conferences? Did he, after all ~~the~~ ^{his} promises and commitments, give his consent to that which Prime Minister Churchill now says? Or does he have in his pocket Churchill's pledge that after the war all Jewish demands in Palestine will be met?

The time has come when we must speak clearly to the world and demand equally clear language! Do they really intend to betray us? Is a conspiracy against our national existence now being prepared? Just as there was ~~another~~ ^{once} a conspiracy of silence on the horrible crime which had been committed against us - a crime which is still being committed? We can no longer be kept in the dark.



To Mr Shapiro from S. Ummarsky
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The American's Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support the constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.—William Tyler Page.

Arabs Offer Compromise

A few days ago the Foreign Ministers of Arab States finished drafting a constitution for a League. While doing so they decided to recommend a compromise solution for Palestine. Their compromise is reported to include the principle of equal civil and political rights for Jews and Moslems, leaving the power of veto to the Christian Arabs of Palestine. If the compromise were accepted, Palestine Moslems would agree to a plan for early immigration of some 300,000 Jewish refugees. With the 700,000 now in residence in Palestine, the Jewish racial bloc would be raised to equal the total Moslem group.

This offer is a definite compromise which will in no way satisfy Zionists who want Jewish immigration to be unconditional and unlimited. But it is a tremendous concession from Arabs whose younger enthusiasts are possessed of fanatic nationalistic ideas and resent any amount of immigration as lessening their control politically and economically. Zionists will not accept this compromise. They have worked too long and too hard for a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. It has been their dream, their ideal. No humanitarian aware of what Europe has done to the Jews since Hitler's rise to power can fail to sympathize with their cause.

Jews who have settled in Palestine have found it the answer to their prayers. They have been happy, prosperous and thoroughly satisfied except for the impending threat of the British White Paper. With unlimited immigration they see unlimited possibilities for a homeland to which they could give their devotion, their talent, and their lives. Public opinion in the United States has been overwhelmingly for a Zionist State. Both major parties adopted the doctrine as party planks in the last election. The need has been recognized here for a proper sphere for development of natural dynamic energy inherent in the Jewish race.

If there were no other interests to be considered, Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth undoubtedly could develop into a stabilizing unit of the family of nations. But Christians, Jews and Moslems all have an interest in Palestine by the very nature of its historical background. No place equals it for religious significance. It has been the Jewish community, however, that has been responsible for lifting this one section alone of all the Near East out of its miserable condition of decay and waste. The whole area is rich in resources, capable of supporting millions of inhabitants by industrial, commercial and agricultural means. The Jews have set a pattern for progress by modern methods.

This very progress has antagonized and scared the Arabs, who have been disunited except for this single tie in their antipathy to Jewish expansion. They lacked leadership, coordination, and, it seemed, ambition. They had no spokesman with whom to discuss the problems for future settlement. Success of their coalition in Cairo indicates that leadership is growing, and leadership of the right kind. Their first business upon organization shows they accept the presence of the Jewish community as a continuous force. Their gesture is a tremendous departure from previous uncompromising hostility. They are beginning to take a share in rebuilding the world. Part of this altered attitude comes from increased knowledge, and part is a bowing to the inevitable.

Whether their offer has been made in a genuine spirit of compromise, or just to placate the Allies, a beginning exists which should be nurtured carefully by both Zionists and Arabs. It is a basis upon which discussions can progress. Another link may yet be forged to join the United Nations. Whatever can be done with justice in the interest of peace, must be accepted for its value to the whole world. Without settlement of the Near East dispute, we have in that zone all the elements for future wars, just as in the past the Balkan muddle confused European issues. The Near East comprises a large area important strategically in the world's economic and political structure. By Pan-Arabic initiative the deadlock has been broken. It is not a possible solution of the Jewish Commonwealth, but it is indication that the Arab world wishes to be integrated with the United Nations.

Looking Ahead

Among the possibilities of the peace which all of us hope will not be long delayed it is estimated that a million motor cars a year can be sold abroad following restoration of normal economic conditions. Prior to the raid by Hitler and his gangsters there was large scale production of automobiles in Great Britain, France, Italy and Germany. Imported cars like the Rolls-Royce, the Fiat and the Mercedes were the pride of those who could afford the social prestige which they were supposed to enhance, though standard American cars were the superiors of the foreign product.

No cars have come off the assembly lines in those countries since 1939, hence the expectation of a big foreign market, as the automobile industry in the United States will be in a position to resume business long before foreign factories can get under way, with the exception of Great Britain. However great the task of reconversion from the manufacture of planes, tanks, trucks, etc., in this country, it will be far more difficult in those countries that have felt the heavy hand of the brutal invader. Many factories have been destroyed, and those that survived will find it hard to get material

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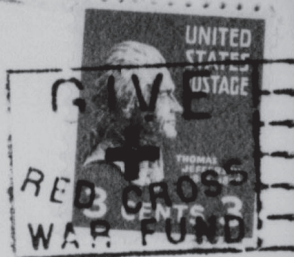
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