



## 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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Implementation of partition, 1947.



# AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.  
MURRAY HILL 2-1160

## *Constituent Organizations*

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Mizrachi Organization of America  
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America  
Zionist Organization of America

September 10, 1947

### AIRMAIL

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th St. & Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Further to the conversation of yesterday morning, I would like to submit to you the following thoughts:

The American Government, when thinking about the interim period, contemplates a dilemma. On the one hand, it sees the prospect of the country being policed by British troops only; on the other hand -- by American troops, alone or together with others. Clearly, the American Government does not want to send any troops to Palestine. Therefore, it is reduced in its opinion to the contingency of sole British control.

This, however, makes the entire scheme dependent on British consent. If the Americans are reduced to the need of begging the British to continue policing the country, the British are obviously in a position to dictate the terms on which they will be willing to do such policing.

This brings up the need to present the American Government with a different alternative. Since a joint control by the Great Powers would be rejected with horror because of the state of U.S.-Soviet relations, the only contingency is one of interim control through a committee of a few "neutral" states.

I think you are mistaken if you dismiss this notion out of hand as one which would be clearly unacceptable both to the American Government and to the neutral states.

(a) If the United States (and for that matter, Britain) are ready to consider that after a short interval Palestine would be held by Jewish and Arab forces only, without British forces, there is no logical reason why they should object to the withdrawal of British forces prior to the interim, as long as the troops that would take their place would not be those of the Soviet Union.

(b) As far as the neutral countries are concerned, it is not correct that such temporary control would be regarded as a heavy burden. Swedish, Danish, and other neutral officials, supported by a small number of troops, have in the past been sent to areas of plebiscite and international



tension; and the countries concerned, far from being reluctant to undertake such tasks, rather accepted them with pride. Of course, it would be understood that the financial burden of maintaining such forces would not fall on the states concerned, but would be taken care of by the United Nations. The number of troops concerned need not be large at all, since in connection with the carving-up of the country, the neutral commissioners would be able to organize local militias consisting of Jews and Arabs respectively, so that neutral personnel would consist mainly of commissioned officers who would welcome this adventure. Finally, the briefer the interim period, the easier it would be to obtain the consent of the neutral countries; and there is really no reason under the sun why the interim, which is in fact needed only in order to set in motion the electoral procedure, should take more than a few months. If we, ourselves, show the tendency to think in terms of years, that is because we, ourselves, may be a little panicky when faced with the unfamiliar task of setting up a state. If you study the organization of provisional governments in various newly-constituted states of the twentieth century, you will see that the machinery never took more than a few months.

In making these observations, I am not at all sanguine about a decision that would entrust the control of Palestine to a neutral committee. What I am trying to get at is that instead of the alternative "English vs. American troops" which will send the State Department on its knees before the British pleading with them to undertake the task, I want to present the State Department with a choice of three methods: "British vs. American vs. neutral control". In that case, should the British show themselves coy about "bearing the burden" on terms other than their own, the State Department would be able to tell them that it would support the idea of neutral control. Faced with this argument, the British are no longer in a position to dictate terms, while the American Government is free from a prospect which is as unsatisfactory to it as it is to us.

I do hope that you will give this matter your serious thought before you have your conference with Secretary Marshall, so that, during that conference, you could already offer him this way out of a seeming impasse.

Sincerely yours,

*Bakzin*

Benjamin Akzin

BA: sr

*A happy New Year! BA.*



AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

~~XX~~ 701 Ring Building  
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

LEO R. SACK

December 1, 1947

"Confidential"

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
c/o Commodore Hotel  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Silver:

For your information, Senator McMahon asked me over to his house early yesterday morning and during our visit he said this to me:

"Mike Elizalde is now worried. He directed the Filipino delegate to vote for partition without any instructions from Roxas. When he issued his instructions on Friday he did it on his own initiative. Now that it is over and because he reversed the attitude of Romulo, he is a little bit worried." McMahon urged him not to worry; that if Roxas complained he would obtain intervention for him in a "very high place."

As I told you on the 'phone last week, McMahon saw Elizalde at the Burning Tree Country Club on Thanksgiving afternoon and took him to task for the Philippine speech the day before. Elizalde, at that time, was very much chagrined and told McMahon then that he would see to it that the Philippines did not vote against us although all that he could promise at that time was that they would abstain.

After that, McMahon talked with him twice and urged that he play ball with this country. The vote Saturday afternoon was the result.

Sincerely yours,

*Leo*

Leo R. Sack



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*9 East 40<sup>th</sup> Street, New York*

TELEPHONE LEXINGTON 2-8210

AHS  
Implementation  
of Partition

December 16, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
Jewish Agency for Palestine  
16 East 66 Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I enclose copy of telegram, self-explanatory, which I sent to a number of influential citizens, Christian and Jewish (listing of their names attached).

My purpose is to make this group available to support, where it may be necessary, the efforts of the American Zionist Emergency Council and the Zionist Organization of America, to implement partition.

The prestige of U.N. and U.S.A. is, I think, as much at stake as justice to the Jewish people.

Naturally I will want to coordinate my efforts with those of A.Z.E.C. and Z. O. A. and will welcome whatever suggestions you have to make.

Sincerely yours,

*Dean Alfange*

DEAN ALFANGE

DA:dn

cc: Dr. Silver -  
Cleveland Address



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# WESTERN UNION

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A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

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Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

COPY

December 15, 1947

FOR VICTORY  
BUY  
WAR BONDS  
TODAY

GROUP DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS OF ALL RELIGIOUS FAITHS BEING ORGANIZED AS COMMITTEE TO ARM JEWISH PEOPLE OF PALESTINE. THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT SEEK TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE BUT WILL SUPPLEMENT EFFORTS OF ACCREDITED ZIONIST GROUPS TO CREATE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF NEED TO EQUIP A JEWISH MILITIA FOR SELF-DEFENSE AND TO PREVAIL UPON OUR GOVERNMENT TO ASSUME THE LEADERSHIP WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF UNITED NATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PARTITION OF PALESTINE. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SERVE ON THIS COMMITTEE.

DEAN ALFANGE



MR. JAMES G. McDONALD - Foreign Policy Assn.  
MR. BARTLEY C. CRUM  
PROFESSOR S. RALPH HARLOW  
MR. ADOLPH A. BERLE - Chairman, Liberal Party  
MR. GENEROSO POPE - President, Colonial Sand and Stone Co.  
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DR. JOHN L. CHILDS - Professor of Philosophy - Columbia University  
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MR. WILLIAM GREEN - President, A.F. of L.  
MR. PHILIP MURRAY - President, C. I. O.  
HON. CLAUDE PEPPER - Senate Office Bldg.  
MR. WILLIAM G. HELIS - President, Greek War Relief Assn.