



## 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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Jewish Agency for Palestine, press releases, 1945.



PRESS RELEASE from

JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

342 Madison Avenue

New York, N. Y. Murray Hill 2-8803

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1/19/45

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York -- At a press interview today, Dr. Bernard Joseph, legal adviser to the Jewish Agency for Palestine made the following statement prior to leaving the United States to return to Palestine. He was gratified to see the sympathetic interest of large sections of the American public, Senators, Congressmen, church dignitaries, the labor movement and community leaders, in the Jewish effort to rebuild Palestine.

The major immediate problem of Palestine remains immigration. The present position is that Jewish immigration into Palestine is restricted to 1500 per month. That number is wholly inadequate, quite apart from the claim of the Jewish Agency that as a matter of principle every Jew requiring or desiring to enter Palestine should be permitted to do so. There is no ground for the suggestion that the Jews of Europe can now remain there. The need for them to get away from that war-ridden continent is as great as ever. Tens of thousands of these helpless Jews, the victims of Nazi persecution, are in dire need of getting away. The only place to which they can go is Palestine. The British Government must be prevailed upon to put an end to these immigration restrictions. They are morally inexcusable and only add suffering to human beings entitled to the world's sympathy and help. The British Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, and other British Cabinet Ministers, had themselves wholeheartedly condemned these White Paper restrictions. The Jews of the United States should persevere in their efforts to get these restrictions abolished.

With regard to the political question as to the future of Palestine, Dr. Joseph said that a final decision upon the claim of the Jewish people to Palestine will apparently be delayed until Germany is defeated. It is, however,

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possible the matter may be discussed when the Big Three next meet. The Jewish Agency for Palestine places reliance on the forthright promise of the President of the United States to help us in our effort to procure the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth. President Roosevelt surely understands the immensity of the Jewish tragedy which can only be solved definitively in one way. We depend on his pledge and the declared sympathy of the American people to help us achieve that solution.

The Big Three will unquestionably strain every effort to work out a just settlement of the world's problems. It is unlikely that they would overlook the importance of Palestine in the development of the Middle East region. They will also know that, as has now been conclusively proved, the growth of Palestine is the result of Jewish toil, skill, and scientific knowledge. Jews throughout the world will eagerly await the outcome of the President's efforts regarding the future of Palestine at the forthcoming Conference. Dr. Joseph said he had had interviews with a number of important American Government officers and had been assured of their friendship for the Jewish People and deep concern for their future welfare.

Dr. Joseph deplored the recent sharp differences which had arisen between local Zionist leaders. It would be unfortunate, he said, if Zionist energy were devoted to a continuation of internal disputes on that subject rather than to practical efforts in this country to further the Zionist cause and the upbuilding of Palestine.

There is much that needs be done and all Zionists should devote themselves wholeheartedly to these vital tasks,

1. The immigration and land transfer restrictions must be removed without further delay.

2. A couple of ships must be found from the vast number owned and controlled by the Allies, to enable us to bring to Palestine the many thousands of orphaned Jewish children and adult refugees who eagerly await the day of their liberation from the scenes of their suffering in Europe.

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3. The public conscience of the liberal minded American public must be kept alive to the right and need of the Jewish People to have its problems solved in Palestine. The Jewish People must be given full opportunity of developing Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth.

4. Steps must be taken to organize large scale American Jewish participation in the constructive programme of economic development of Palestine right after the war, which he outlined to Zionist leaders during his stay in this country. An illustration of this type of endeavor is the shipping company the Jewish Agency is establishing with an initial capital of four million dollars.

5. American Jews should be prepared to provide, after the war, a sufficient number of technical experts, skilled artisans, doctors, nurses, social service workers and others able to help in the great task of facilitating the absorption in Palestine of the wave of Jewish immigrants that will flow there after the war. Dr. Joseph was glad to see the beginning of a Chalutz movement well under way.

6. Greatly increased funds will have to be provided for the United Palestine Appeal, to enable the Jewish Agency to acquire the necessary land and carry out the colonization, housing and industrial plans they have prepared to absorb the large post-war immigration wave.

Dr. Joseph said it had been encouraging to find how genuine and keen was the concern of American Jews for the development of the Jewish National Home in Palestine. He was confident all those who felt the urge to help us in the rebuilding of Palestine would do their utmost to assist in these and other numerous tasks now confronting us.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York, N. Y., January 22 - Dr. Nahum Goldmann, political representative in the United States for the Jewish Agency for Palestine, has received an official communication from the Soviet authorities to the effect that the Soviet Government has no objection to Jewish citizens of the Balkan countries emigrating to Palestine and will interpose no difficulties in their doing so. In view of recent reports that the Soviet authorities in Rumania and Bulgaria are causing difficulties in the emigration of Jewish citizens to Palestine, this expression of the Soviet Government's official attitude is of special interest.

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