



## 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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Mibashan, Dr. A., 1945.



Dr. A. MIBASHAN

Delegado de la "Jewish Agency for  
Palestine" y del Fondo de Reconstrucción  
en América del Sud

Buenos Aires, 14.8.45.  
J. E. URIBURU 158 4º piso

Señora  
Rachel Sefaradí Yarden  
342 Madison Av.  
NEW YORK 17- N.Y.

Estimada y querida compañera:

Como Ud. ya sabe, la Argentina, desgraciadamen-  
te, no pudo ser representada en la Conferencia Sionista de Emergencia  
de Londres, que acaba de terminar.

He recibido su muy atta. de fecha 3 de agosto,  
junto con copias de otras cartas, de las que ha llamado poderosamente  
mi atención, la referente al Brasil y al Congreso Judío Mundial. (No se  
¿de quienes?)

También he leído su dramática carta dirigida  
a la Federación Sionista Argentina y el informe amplio e interesan-  
te sobre el Brasil y los problemas vinculados con el mismo.

En primer término, quiero observar, que la si-  
tuación en el Brasil, por lo menos en lo que se refiere a la dificult-  
dad e impedimentos en el trabajo sionista, me era y es ampliamente  
conocida, por haber tenido personalmente una actuación directa en  
aquel país.

Lo que probablemente Ud. no sabe es, que en di-  
ciembre de 1938, es decir, después de la famosa interdicción o supues-  
ta prohibición de la labor sionista, yo pasé casi un mes en aquel país  
esforzándome para obtener la anulación del decreto o por lo menos de  
sus efectos. Tenía ya entonces la posibilidad legal de hacer tolerar  
el sionismo por parte de la autoridad, bajo un rótulo un poco distin-  
to (refugiados que van a Palestina) y tropecé con la decidida oposi-  
ción de nuestros mejores amigos sionistas, cuya cobardía y temor  
para sus situaciones personales, sobrepasaba toda imaginación. Había  
entrado en trato con hombres de leyes y estaba ya preparado un memo-  
randum de intervención, cuando nuestros queridos amigos sionistas de  
Río, más que los de San Pablo, me declararon que de ninguna manera  
se iban a prestar para apoyar tal intervención. Desgraciadamente yo  
tuve que salir del Brasil en una misión del Keren Hayesod y no volví  
hasta julio de 1940, cuando ya no se podía hacer otra cosa que colabo-  
rar con el Centro Hebreu Brasileiro, el que ya era considerado como  
la única autoridad judía autorizada. Siempre yo hablaba del sionismo  
y Palestina en mis reuniones, pero ya entonces las sombras de la ac-  
tuación del Congreso Judío Mundial en el sentido de la autoridad ju-  
día para todas las labores para el exterior, se perfilaba en todas  
partes. También yo tropecé con una campaña del Joint, pero mantuve

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TRANSLATION

DR. A. MIBASHAN

Delegado de la "Jewish Agency  
for Palestine" y del Fondo de  
Reconstruccion en America del Sud

Buenos Aires, August 14, 1945

J.E. Uriburu 158

Mrs. Rachel Sefardi Yarden  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York 17, New York

Esteemed and dear friend:

As you already know, Argentina could not be represented at the  
Zionist Emergency Conference in London.

I received your letter of August 3rd and copies of other letters  
which have called my attention to the matter regarding Brazil and the  
World Jewish Congress. I have also read the letter addressed to the Zionist  
Federation of Argentina and the report regarding Brazil and the problems  
connected with it.

In the first place I wish to state that the situation in Brazil  
regarding the difficulties and obstacles in Zionist work - is very well  
known to me for I have been in that country and tried to work there. You  
probably don't know that I was in that country in December 1938, soon after  
the prohibition, or the so-called prohibition, against Zionist work. I  
spent there almost a month trying to obtain the annulment of that decree  
or, at least, to cancel out its effects. I had, at that time, legal possi-  
bility of having Zionism permitted under somewhat different name by the  
Government authorities, and I clashed with the determined opposition of  
our best Zionist friends whose cowardice and fear for their personal position  
exceeded all imagination. I had initiated negotiations with law experts  
and I was already preparing the memorandum when our dear Zionist friends of Rio,  
even more than those of Sao Paulo, declared that they would by no means sup-  
port such intervention. Unfortunately, I had to leave Brazil on a Keren  
Hayesod assignment and I did not return until July 1940. By then there was  
nothing else left but to cooperate with the Centro Hebreo Brasileiro (WJC)  
which was already considered as the only Jewish authorized organization. I spoke  
at all the meetings of Zionism and Palestine, but the World Jewish Congress  
as the only authority for all Jewish work - cast its shadow everywhere. I,  
too, happened to come at a time when a Joint Distribution Committee Campaign  
was going on, but I maintained friendly relations with Dr. Lorch, the B'nai  
Brith, the Congregacao, etc. The Brazil problem is not the only one, and  
our defeats there are due not only to the interference of the representatives  
of the World Jewish Congress.

During my last visit to Brazil in 1940, and also afterwards, I  
insisted repeatedly and very energetically that the Keren Hayesod autho-  
rities in New York should open a Zionist office in Brazil under some other  
name, and I offered to take charge of it and to remain in Brazil for six  
months and more, in order to secure for the Zionist movement the right to



work freely or, at all events, under tolerable conditions. Mr. Jaffe opposed very energetically and with an extraordinary stubbornness my going to Brazil as long as we had to have there joint campaigns. More than that, in various letters which I received from New York it was decreed not only that I should not go to Brazil but that no delegate of any value or importance in our set-up was to go to that country. Under the circumstances, Zionism withdrew, so to say, voluntarily from the Brazilian scene, although all the reports which I received from there indicated that with a little patience and resolution a representative with certain prestige and staying there for some time could solve our problem favorably.

The opposition of the Directorate of the Keren Hayesod in the matter of Brazil prevented directly the restoration of Zionism there. This became increasingly more evident, especially after the visit of Miss Smiley and other travelers who informed me regarding their activities, the difficulties and the results which were nevertheless promising.

I am stating these facts in order that you should be acquainted with the historical part of the whole subject, and now I shall touch upon another point.

Our discussion with the World Jewish Congress will have to come out into the open, if things continue in the same manner. In a brief memorandum which I sent to Professor Brodetsky for the Zionist Emergency Conference in London I discussed this matter and tried to make him see that it is a matter of whether the highest Jewish authority is the World Jewish Congress or the Jewish Agency. The fight that the former is leading against the authority and prestige of the latter is today quite obvious and is done without any beating around the bush. If we tolerate that things should go on as they do, the World Jewish Congress will soon take charge or at least pretend to take charge also of the Palestine work.

I am enclosing herewith the text of the memorandum so you may see that I have stated the situation clearly and that I have no illusions whatever concerning the true way of the World Jewish Congress. It only remains to be seen what means the Jewish Agency will take in order to assert its authority and keep its prestige. In my memo you will find also other points on which you will probably agree with me and, therefore, I need not deal here with the details.

I am sending you also the copy of a letter which I sent to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem with my report on the conference of the Zionist Federation of Argentina which took place about the middle of last July. You will see that it was very interesting. I wish that we could activate our Zionist friends during the entire year and not only at conventions.

For the time being I shall close, since I am very busy and shall leave Buenos Aires within two days to undertake a journey into the interior. I shall return to this subject at the next opportunity.

With cordial greetings,

Sincerely,

(Sgd)

A. Mibashan