



## 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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Silver, Dr. Abba Hillel, resignation from the Jewish Agency  
Executive, 1946.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF AMERICA

41 EAST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MENDEL N. FISHER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 16, 1946.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
Hotel Commodore,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am writing this letter to you as I feel impelled to do so by the events which have transpired in the last few weeks. I am the last one to offer gratuitous advice which I know you must get abundantly. As Zionist issues are crystallized there is, of course, a tendency and a feeling to react to them, but I always try to exercise self-control and avoid sending unnecessary mail. In the very nature of Zionist leadership I know how many letters you get giving you all kinds of advice.

I feel very, very strongly that you should go to Paris. It is my conviction that the meeting will be a most important one and your absence at this juncture would be unfortunate. The recent events in Palestine have shaken us all. It is unthinkable that the leader of American Zionism should absent himself from the first meeting which is being held after what has transpired in Palestine, a meeting which I feel may turn out to be a great and historic one. There are, of course, compelling reasons why the meeting should have taken place here, but whatever the reasons are, after I left the meeting of the Executive last night, I thought the matter over thoroughly and I decided for myself to send you this communication, for whatever it is worth, and to add my very weak voice to the plea that you should go to Paris, knowing it will be a great sacrifice on your part to leave the country at this time.

I usually write you official communications. This is the first time I am writing you personally, impelled by a conviction which is stronger than the words contained in this letter, to urge you to go to Paris and take part in the meeting there. The issues that have been raised can and must be settled. I doubt very much whether it will be achieved by committees in the absence of important leaders. It should be possible with a complement of American representatives in Paris to arrive at a decision on the important issues which confront us. The times are too critical and divisiveness at this juncture is tantamount to catastrophe.

A great many things have been said and done which are cause for alarm, but in the light of enemy number one, which is Great Britain,

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- 2 -

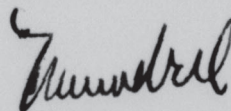
and I am not one of those who believe that we should write off Great Britain with the stroke of the pen, we have to exert the maximum of strength in our Paris deliberations. What was absent in Mr. Ben Gurion's dissertation last night, and that surprized me even though I was touched by his sincerity, was a political formulation such as we have a right to expect. We are a political movement, and I regret very much that the recommendations made did not go to the core of the problem. Herzl's legacy to us was Political Zionism and we must continue the battle until our objectives are achieved.

It is for this reason that I as a Zionist and speaking only in my own capacity believe that we must bring to the fore in Paris our political program. There is still a great deal to be done in the United States and we must continue to wage the battle until we achieve our goal. What I have said in this letter is not anything new, but I write you out of the sincerity of my heart and in the hope that I, among many others, will move you to go to Paris.

I also feel very strongly that Emanuel Neumann should accompany you unless you feel it is essential for him to remain here.

With cordial greetings and best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Mendel N. Fisher.

MNF:dl

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# RADIOGRAM

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Following Cable phoned from Mr. Neumann 's Office

AMERICAN JEWISH  
OFFICES

*Via*

PARIS AUG 8

MR. EMANUEL NEUMANN  
521 FIFTH AVE.  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

JUST RECEIVED SILVERS REPLY WHILE REEVALUATING IMPORTANT SILVER'S ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON ASK YOU URGE HIM COME WITH YOU TO PARIS

RABBI FISHMAN

FULL-RATE MESSAGE UNLESS MARKED OTHERWISE

Sender's Name and Address

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Form 100-50-TA 248-S

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C O P Y

WRHS

*Via*

JB53 F26 PARIS 48 448P 9

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER

342 MADISON AVE NEW YORK

CONSIDERING PRESENT CRITICAL SITUATION WE BEG YOU SUPPORT GOLDMANN CONNECTION  
PARAGRAPH TWO EVEN IN CASE HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS YOU AND EMERGENCY COUNCIL DESERVES  
CRITICISM OUR FUTURE AT STAKE UNITED EFFORT MOST IMPERATIVE STOP YOUR COLLEAGUES  
AND FRIENDS

FISHMAN GOLD SHAPIRO

FULL-RATE MESSAGE UNLESS MARKED OTHERWISE

Sender's Name and Address

(Not to be transmitted)

Form 100-50-TA 248-S

G-2527 X-1-00-001 JUL 10, 1967

FAST

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DEFERRED		SERIAL SERVICE	
RADIO LETTER		NIGHT MESSAGE	
PRESS		NIGHT LETTER	



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C O P Y

STRAIGHT MESSAGE

AUGUST 9, 1946

"Via RCA"

FISHMAN GOLD SHAPIRO  
HOTEL CALIFORNIA  
16 RUE de BERRI  
PARIS, FRANCE

CANNOT UNDERSTAND YOUR CABLE STOP HAVE IN NO WAY INTERFERED WITH GOLDMANNS MISSION  
HERE NOR DO I SO INTEND STOP GOLDMANN HAS NOT SOLICITED MY COOPERATION IN ANY WAY  
STOP AFTER ADVISING ME OF PARIS RESOLUTIONS HE HAS NEITHER INFORMED ME OF WHOM HE  
WISHED TO SEE IN WASHINGTON OR HAD SEEN NOR HAS HE INVITED ME TO ACCOMPANY HIM STOP  
I HAVE NOT SEEN ANY PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON SINCE GOLDMANNS ARRIVAL STOP HE  
HAS ACTED SECRETIVELY ON HIS OWN THIS IS PERFECTLY AGREEABLE TO ME BUT I SHOULD NOT  
BE HELD IN ANY WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OUTCOME OF HIS MISSION STOP ON HIS ARRIVAL  
HE MET WITH EMERGENCY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE AND AGREED WITH US ON ~~THE~~ GENERAL PROCEDURE  
TO BE FOLLOWED CONCERNING WHICH I CABLED BENGURION STOP GOLDMANN HAS NOT CARRIED  
THROUGH THIS AGREEMENT STOP SUGGEST YOU AND MY FRIENDS IN PARIS NOT LISTEN TO  
IDLE GOSSIP KINDEST REGARDS

SILVER

FULL-RATE MESSAGE UNLESS MARKED OTHERWISE

Sender's Name and Address

(Not to be transmitted)

C O P Y

BARTLEY C. CRUM

Via Air Mail

August 27, 1946

Dr. Nahum Goldman  
Zionist Emergency Council  
521 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Nahum:

I think I should bring you up to date on developments after you left for Paris.

Bob Hannigan, the Postmaster General, gave a dinner party at which I was fortunate enough to sit next to the President. I talked with him for about two hours on the Palestine situation; also with Secretary Wallace and Attorney General Tom Clark. The following day I had a long visit with Secretary of the Treasury Snyder on the same subject.

There can be no doubt about the fact that the President and the members of the Cabinet were equally impressed with what you had to say. There is, however, one phase of the matter which disturbed me. All of them asked me if, in my opinion, the proposal of the Jewish Agency met with the approval of the leaders of American Jewry. They wondered why Dr. Silver was not with you when you talked.

I told them that I believed that the Palestinian Jewry's wishes would be respected by the leaders of American Jewry and did my best to get out of their minds any thought that there might be division within the ranks of world-wide Jewry on the subject of Palestine.

Later on, I had a luncheon with the entire editorial staff of the New York Herald-Tribune and again I ran into the question of what was the position of American Jewry in relation to the proposal you made. One of the editors of the Herald-Tribune said that he was confused because all of the propaganda groups in America were against partition; whereas the proposal as reported in the Press seemed to indicate that the Jewish Agency now favored partition.

The job of interpreting whatever comes out of discussions and negotiations to American Jewry will fall, in major degree, upon the leaders of American Jewry, and therefore it does seem to me to be of extreme importance that Dr. Silver should be brought publicly into the picture so that the American Government will know that if it adopts a given course of action, it will have the backing of the American Jewish citizens.

Warm personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

BCC:jh

Bartley C. Crum

hk-8/30/46

Mr. K. J. EDERSHEIM

Mr. I. L. HAMBURG

ADVOCATEN EN PROCUREURS

POSTGIRO NR. 75922

TELEFOON MR. E. : 96852

TELEFOON MR. H. : 97881

" Private 96953

IN ZAKE:

AMSTERDAM-Z., the 1 st, September 1946.  
VAN MIERVELDSTRAAT 11

DUTCH GROUP OF GENERAL ZIONISTS

To Dr. Abba H. Silver,  
New York, Washington,  
-----Cleveland.-----

Copy to Dr. Emanuel Newman.

Dear Dr. Silver,

We read your resignation as a member of the J. A. Executive and we want to inform you at once, that we are placing ourselves behind you with all our strength in your struggle. While full of admiration for your firm attitude and deep Zionist conviction at the London Conference in August 1945, I have still the most pleasant remembrance of our personal conversations on this occasion and I am sure that nobody could take the lead of our struggle better than you. We hope you will, without delay, take that lead, not only in the U. S., but all over the world. There's no hour to be lost.

Although we only represent the Dutch General Zionist, the Dutch Z.O. as a whole - which includes the members of all parties - can be held to oppose strongly to every partition.

We fully appreciate the reasons for your resignation. We are <sup>ee</sup>dubly shocked by what has happened and for which no condemnation is strong enough. Nevertheless, your resignation removed the strongest obstacle on Weizmann's way and we fear seriously that within three weeks the Executive will have definitely agreed to partition, be it unauthorized and contrary to the London resolutions. We do not know the details of the conflicts and cannot, therefore, give any advice, yet we recommend to you to consider most seriously every chance to influence by your presence and that of your supporters the members of the Executive during the negotiations. Not all of them are equally enthusiastic for partition and constant and positive influence still may change their minds. If you also think it advisable to convene a provisional meeting of non-partitionists f.i. at Paris during the London Conference, we shall be willing to take our part in the preparations.

The British are obviously trying to get some partition accepted by us before the opening of the U.N. Assembly on the 23 th, September, where the Mandate will have to be superseded by a trusteeship. Probably many members will refuse to vote for a trusteeship which is depriving the Jewish people of rights, obtained by the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate. In this respect our position possesses a strength, not to be underestimated,

Mr. K. J. EDERSHEIM  
Mr. I. L. HAMBURG  
ADVOCATEN EN PROCUREURS  
POSTGIRO NR. 75922

TELEFOON MR. E.: 96852  
TELEFOON MR. H.: 97881

AMSTERDAM-Z.,  
VAN MIERVELDSTRAAT 11

To Dr. Abba H. Silver.

-2-

IN ZAKE:

**XX** if we do not give up our rights.

Now we know the Dutch Z.O. to be in a very difficult position. The doors to their Government are open, they can very well represent our case, if necessary follow the Dutch delegation to New-York. They are publishing a leading article "Conflicting provisions in the Palestine Mandate?" in the Dutch Law Journal of this week, for the use of the Dutch Government and their delegation to New-York. But they feel unable to approach their Government at the moment, where they know rather sure the Executive is giving up our rights. Within two weeks, however, the delegations are leaving for New-York. This raised the questions I am asking you now:

- 1) The Zionist Federations are still bound by the London resolutions, which oblige us to fight for the establishment of Palestine, undivided and undiminished as a Jewish State, in accordance with the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate. Do the Z.O.A. intend, as long as contrary directives have not been given by the Executive (supposed they were competent to it) to pursue their political activities with the U.S. Government and Congress on the basis of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate?
- 2) If so, would the Z.O.A. recommend Z.O.'s and Federations in other countries to approach their Governments on the same basis before the leaving of their delegations for New-York, if possible to follow these delegations? If so, it seems us necessary that the Z.O.A. would send with the utmost speed detailed advice to all Z.O.'s and Federations concerned: many of them will not have sufficient knowledge of the formal situation ( superseding of the Mandate, plural Trusteeship under Article 81 of the Charter, etc.).

This cannot, of course, be separated from the campaign in the Zionist world.

*for* We urge instantly that the Z.O.A. should take the initiative, in an encouraging and passionate appeal to the dejected Movement, *for* the formation of a solid and interfractional organisation for the reservation of our obtained rights to the development of Palestine, undivided and undiminished, ~~as~~ a Jewish State. This appeal should be made and this organisation start with a solemn act and really world-wide publicity, if possible with participation from the outset of other Zionist bodies. It will not fail to have its influence on world opinion, if it becomes

Mr. K. J. EDERSHEIM  
Mr. I. L. HAMBURG  
ADVOCATEN EN PROCUREURS  
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AMSTERDAM-Z.,  
VAN MIERVELDSTRAAT 11

To Dr. Abba H. Silver.

-3-

IN ZAKE:

manifest, that the J.A., while negotiating on partition, do not represent the opinion of hundreds of thousands American Zionists and probably much more. It will have its influence on the Executive's attitude and it will give the Jewish people the feeling that there is again a strong political Zionist will. Perhaps it will even not be entirely unwelcome to the Executive. And towards Governments it will have a great moral strength, as it demands the upholding of our once obtained rights in the new statute for Palestine.

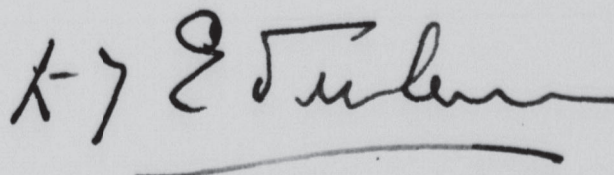
This movement should become as soon as possible an all-party movement and perhaps a World Election List should be set up, if still possible. In 1937 we started too late and party discipline strangled us.

We are well aware that all this requires an efficient machinery, also in Europe and Palestine. It requires organisation, officials, money, travelling possibilities and constant information of the whole Zionist world, purposely kept in the dark. And before all: it requires the highest speed. The Executive as well as the British do all they can to place us before an accomplished fact within three, perhaps two weeks.

We are standing behind you, as we did always in the past. The coming weeks, if not the coming days will be decisive for our future. Do n't lose an hour. Your task is gigantic: to rally, to encourage the despaired Jewish people, to organise, to say the horrible truth, yet not to stiffen our Zionist adversaries and...to act with immense speed. Yet I am sure: you and the Z.O.A. will succeed.

Yours truly:

DUTCH GROUP OF GENERAL ZIONISTS:



(K.J. Edersheim)

Chairman.

*Even in that event we should have to continue our efforts to prevent ratification by the Zionist Congress.*

C O P Y

Chaplain (Major) Aaron Decter

1702 Georges Lane - Philadelphia, Pa.

8 September 1946

My dear Dr. Neumann:

I have returned recently after almost 2½ years in the European Theatre to find conditions rather stagnant in many communities. Despite the tragic crisis in the life of our people, I find the same timidity and indifference to political activity by Zionists that I experienced before I left for overseas.

In a number of communities I find the same political machines still entrenched, only this time paying lip-service to Dr. Silver. If Dr. Silver's militancy has not succeeded, it is because his lieutenants throughout the country are holding back -- they seem to be too timid. If other Zionist leaders who have conferred only recently in Paris have been cautious it is because they not only reflect but exploit the shyness and fears of many of our Zionists.

The times challenge us to a greater mobilization of forces - not only for an increase in numbers, but for the utilization of those increased numbers in such manner that no doubt will be left as to where American Jews stand on the Jewish State issue. If the adverse Jewish vote will affect 'Democratic' public opinion and that of the State Department, then we should mobilize for it. If the same thing can be accomplished by five million or more letters, then we should mobilize for it.

I am one of Dr. Silver's personal admirers. From 1940-43 I also identified myself with your own militant efforts in the Zionist Emergency Council. But a general and his staff, no matter how brilliant and devoted, cannot win a campaign without the whole-hearted loyalty and devotion and above all, the 'militant acts' of the rank and file.

It seems to me that Dr. Silver's resignation from the Agency Executive is not only a signal loss to our people, but a direct challenge as well to the real loyalty and activism of our Zionists. The fate of our people will be decided whether we are indifferent or activist. The decision will be in our favor only if we today break through all the postponements and all the delay, even if we expose ourselves mortally in so doing.

Under any circumstances, Jews will never be secure under entrenched reaction. Our only chance of survival is in a militant struggle.

If there is any way in which I can be of service, please do not hesitate to call on me. With every best personal wish, I am

Sincerely,

(signed) Aaron Decter

Rabbi Aaron Decter

Dr. Emanuel Neumann  
Zionist Emergency Council  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York City, N. Y.

September 11, 1946

Rabbi Aaron Decter  
1702 Georges Lane  
Philadelphia 31, Pa.

Dear Rabbi Decter:

I was delighted to hear from you once more even though your letter was written in a none too happy frame of mind. Undoubtedly there is a good deal in what you say with regard to the attitude of some Zionists, but of course it varies in various communities. The divergence between the more militant and activist elements in Zionism and the more conservative and more timid is an old one, and the struggle between the two tendencies will probably continue indefinitely.

But in these circumstances it is good to know that you are back on the scene and so full of spirit and determination. I am sending your letter on to Dr. Silver and I am also hoping that we will have an opportunity and occasion to meet again soon. I hope that your Zionist zeal and devotion can be fully utilized in the interest of our cause at this critical moment. Many thanks for your offer of service. We will certainly avail ourselves of it. If and when you happen to be in New York, please give me a ring and perhaps we can have a chat together.

With kindest regards, as ever

Faithfully yours,

Emanuel Neumann

EN/M