



## 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, statements, 1947-1948.



PERSONAL AND PRIVATE

January 7, 1947

Mr. R. H. S. Crossman, M. P.  
Town End Farm  
Radnage, High Wycombe, Bucks  
England

Dear Crossman:

I hope that the special dispatch to the NEW YORK TIMES under date of January 3 from London by Charles E. Egan gives an inaccurate impression of your article in the NEW STATESMAN AND NATION about the attitude of the American delegation at the recent Basle Conference.

I express this hope because:

1. Whatever "intransigency" may have been developed during the past months by Jewish leadership in this country or elsewhere has been primarily the result of the failure of His Majesty's Government to carry out any of the recommendations of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry.
2. It is a great mistake to assume that any single individual in this country, Dr. Silver or anyone else, has moulded Zionist opinion as expressed by the majority of the American delegation at Basle. The hardening of that opinion here was the outgrowth of the feeling that the British record in and towards Palestine last May has been such that it would be naive to assume that mere reasonableness will weigh with the British authorities.
3. I do not understand what you could have meant if you wrote that the "outlook, tactics and policy" of the United States delegation was more American than Jewish.
4. It would be quite unfair to suggest, as the TIMES quotes you in effect as having said, that American Jewry has become a self-assertive power with a financial stranglehold on the Zionist movement. It is my considered opinion, after an opportunity to discuss problems of Palestine with American Zionist and other Jewish leaders in nearly every section of



Mr. Crossman

- 2 -

January 7, 1947

the country (as I have gone about speaking for the UJA and other Jewish groups), that no American Zionist leader, no matter how eloquent or able, could survive as a leader if he tried to persuade American Zionists to use their financial power to exercise a stranglehold on the Zionist movement or on the policies of the Jewish community in Palestine.

I make no defense of Dr. Silver personally. He is accustomed to speak for himself, and moreover, I have a fixed rule not to engage in the controversial discussion of Jewish personalities. But were this not the case, I have so long been an admirer of Dr. Weizman for whom I cherish a deep personal affection, I would not wish even in a personal letter such as this, to seem by inadvertence to be unsympathetic to him.

I hope that when I have had a chance to read your piece as a whole that I will feel that there was no need to write this letter at all. Nonetheless, I have written it because I am anxious that you should know the impression which the TIMES report of your article made upon one of your former colleagues - one who, as you know, admired your courage and creative work on the Committee.

WRHS  
Cordially yours,

James G. McDonald



m:c



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To MOSHE SHERTOK

\*CABLE\*

1-10-47

19

Care of or Apt. No. ZIONIBURO

Street and No. LONDON

Place

WRHS



THE DATE YOU MENTIONED IN YOUR CONVERSATION SO CLOSE TO DATE OF FORMAL MEETING

AS TO LEAD TO MISINTERPRETATION AND CONFUSION. I HAD HOPED THAT INFORMAL

DISCUSSIONS COULD BE HELD PRIOR TO ANNOUNCED DATE. IF NOT THEY SHOULD BE POSTPONED

TO LATER DATE WHEN THEY WOULD BE CLEARLY DISSOCIATED FROM THE ANNOUNCED CONFERENCE

REGARDS.

SILVER

Sender's name and address  
(For reference only)

Sender's telephone  
number



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H4 INTL=CD AROSA VIA RCA 173 JAN 13

1947 JAN 13 AM 7 34

NLT SILVER THE TEMPLE=

CLEVE=

HAVE CABLED JERUSALEM AND LONDON QUOTE FOR ALL MEMBERS  
EXECUTIVE DEEPLY PERTURBED DEVELOPMENTS CONNECTION PROPOSED  
TALKS WHICH ASSUMING EVERY ASPECT FULL DRESS FORMAL  
CONFERENCE CONCURRENT AND LINKED ANGLO ARAB CONFERENCE STOP  
THIS INEVITABLY INTERPRETED AS OBLIQUE ACCEPTANCE INVITATION  
CONFERENCE WHILE BRITISH GOVERNMENT MEDIATOR BETWEEN HOSTILE  
GROUPS CONFERRING IN DIFFERENT BUILDINGS STOP WILL NOT AGREE  
PLACE OURSELVES POSITION CIRCUMVENTING CONGRESS DECISION STOP  
IF REAL CHANGE SITUATION WE SHOULD FOLLOW DEFINED PROCEDURE  
SUMMONING COUNCILS SUBCOMMITTEE IF NOT SHOULD REFUSE BECOME  
PART OF CONFERENCE BY INDIRECTION WHICH WOULD REDUCE  
PROCEEDINGS CONGRESS AND COUNCIL TO EMPTY FARCE STOP IF AND  
WHEN GOVERNMENT HAS SOMETHING NEW TO TELL US SUFFICIENT  
DELEGATE TWO OR THREE MEMBERS RECEIVED SUCH INFORMATION  
CONFIDENTIALLY AND REPORT WHOLE EXECUTIVE THIS COULD BE DONE  
TOMORROW OR NEXT MONTH BUT NOT CONCURRENTLY CONFERENCE STOP  
FOR PRESENT CERTAINLY NO JUSTIFICATION SPECTACULAR  
CONCENTRATION OUR LEADERS LONDON EXPECTATIONS JEWISH WORLD  
ON INSUFFICIENT GROUNDS STOP REQUEST IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION  
AND CABLE UNQUOTE CABLE ME TEXT YOUR MESSAGE=  
EMANUEL.



CABLES SENT SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 12, 1947 -- 9 A.M.

CABLE SENT TO LOCKER BRODESTSKY GOLDMANN AND SHRAGAI  
ZIONIBURO  
LONDON ENGLAND

Press here carries report" Jews may join Palestine talks, and that Great Britain will act as go between for Arab and Jewish groups meeting separately but simultaneously in London. Despite Jewish boycott of Conference Britain will carry back and forth Jewish and Arab proposals and counter-proposals."

that  
This suggests Agency is going to Conference through back door. This as you know was clearly not the intention of Congress resolution. Informal discussions we e to pave way in hope of obtaining concessions which would change situation and permit us to attend Conference. Strongly urge that informal talks with those of our people who are in London be carried on at once or should be postponed until after Arab British Conference. Please consult my cable to Shertok last Friday. Regards

Silver



CABLE SENT TO EMANUEL NEUMANN 10:40 A.M. - JANUARY 13, 1947

EMANUEL NEUMANN  
HOF MARAN  
AROSA SWITZERLAND

RECEIVED BOTH YOUR CABLES. SENT YESTERDAY FOLLOWING CABLE BOTH TO LONDON AND  
JERUSALEM QUOTE PRESS HERE CARRIES REPORT QUOTE JEWS MAY JOIN PALESTINE TALKS AND  
THAT GREAT BRITAIN WILL ACT AS GO BETWEEN FOR ARAB AND JEWISH GROUPS MEETING  
SEPARATELY BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY IN LONDON DESPITE JEWISH BOYCOTT OF CONFERENCE BRITAIN  
WILL CARRY BACK AND FORTH JEWISH AND ARAB PROPOSALS AND COUNTER PROPOSALS <sup>and Press</sup> UNQUOTE  
THIS SUGGESTS THAT AGENCY IS GOING TO CONFERENCE THROUGH BACK DOOR. THIS AS YOU  
KNOW WAS CLEARLY NOT THE INTENTION OF CONGRESS RESOLUTION. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WERE  
TO PAVE WAY IN HOPE OF OBTAINING CONCESSIONS WHICH WOULD CHANGE SITUATION AND PERMIT  
US TO ATTEND CONFERENCE. NEW ARRANGEMENT IS PERFECT FACE SAVING DEVICE FOR GOVERNMENT  
AND DEFEAT FOR US. STRONGLY URGE THAT INFORMAL TALKS WITH THOSE OF OUR PEOPLE  
WHO ARE IN LONDON BE CARRIED ON AT ONCE OR SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER ARAB  
BRITISH CONFERENCE. PLEASE CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO OTHER MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE.  
REGARDS UNQUOTE RECEIVED THIS MORNING FOLLOWING LETTER FROM BYRNES QUOTE REFERRING  
TO OUR RECENT CONVERSATION I ADVISED AMBASSADOR INVERCHAPEL OF YOUR VIEWS AND  
REQUESTED THAT HE COMMUNICATE THEM TO MR. BEVIN STOP I ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO ADVISE  
MR. BEVIN THAT I EARNESTLY HOPED THAT HE COULD DO SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF YOUR  
SECOND SUGGESTION IN ORDER TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATES TO ATTEND  
THE CONFERENCE UNQUOTE THE SECOND SUGGESTION REFERS TO MOVING OF REFUGEES AND  
IMMEDIATE SENDING OF THREE OR FOUR BOATLOADS AS FIRST INSTALLMENT STOP ACTION  
OF OUR PEOPLE IN LONDON TO AGREE TO INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WILL PERSUADE BRITISH  
GOVERNMENT THAT NO CONCESSIONS ARE NECESSARY REGARDS

ABBA



FAST



DIRECT



# RADIOGRAM

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*Via RCA*

ABBA HILLEL SILVER WILLARD HOTEL WASHINGTONDC 1947 FEB 5 AM 10 04

IMPORTANT HEREAFTER THAT I BE FIRST RECEIVE DIRECT INFORMATION  
FROM YOU STOP AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW HAVE DEFINITE BOOKING ELIZABETH  
THIRTEENTH WOULD IMAGINE DESIRABLE CONFERENCE SHOULD HEAR REPORT  
FROM ME AND ITS DATE SET ACCORDINGLY

AMANUEL

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

2-7-47

19

To EMANUEL NEUMANN

Care of or Apt. No. PICCADILLY HOTEL

LONDON ENGLAND

Street and No.

Place

STRONGLY URGE THAT WE DO NOT MAKE ANY HALUKAH PROPOSALS. MOST UNWISE

AND CONTRARY TO SPIRIT OF CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS STOP. PRESS AND LEADING

PERSONALITIES SHOW RESENTMENT TO ULTIMATUM. HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO BE

HERE FOR WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON SEVENTEENTH. KINDEST REGARDS.

ABBA

Sender's name and address  
(For reference only)Sender's telephone  
number



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AP News Dispatch - June 4, 1948

New York, June 4--(AP) - Industrialist Gerard Swope has declined a British Government decoration, saying he is "without respect" for Britain's policy on Palestine.

Swope declared yesterday that he had turned down an award as an "Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire."

He said in a letter to British Ambassador Sir Oliver Franks that in the last year "in spite of the repeated recommendation of several commissions of your own Government, of an American-British commission, and then finally of the action of the United Nations of a separate state in Palestine, the vacillating, reprehensible and non-constructive attitude of your Government has left me without respect for its position."

