



## 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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Dodds, Harold W., Princeton University, 1946-1947.



C O P Y

COPY

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
Princeton, New Jersey

October 31, 1946

Dear Sirs:

In reply to your letter of October 16, the conference to which you refer is entitled Near Eastern Culture and Society and is one of a series of fifteen conferences of scholars from all parts of the world which are being held throughout the year as part of our bicentennial celebration.

This particular conference will be attended by perhaps fifty or sixty scholars carefully selected for their scholarly competence. The program will be concerned with the history and culture of the Near East. The three main topics are: "Islamic Art and Archeology: New Approaches in Research"; "Arabic Literature and Religion: New Approaches in Research"; "Interaction of Islamic and Western Thought in Retrospect and Prospect."

The subject of Zionism is not to be a part of the program. The purpose is a conference restricted to recognized scholars. To place on the program a speaker to represent the Zionist's point of view would not be in keeping with the character or purpose of the conference.

Incidentally, I may add that no names of speakers or topics of this conference have as yet been announced to anyone anywhere, and I am therefore at a loss to understand the sentence in your letter as follows: "From the names of various speakers who have been invited to address the conference, as well as from the subjects for discussion, it seems that the conference is likely to be used as an anti-Zionist forum." I repeat that this is not the intention, and I can only assume that you have been misled in some way as to its nature.

Sincerely yours,

Harold W. Dodds

Dr. Stephen S. Wise  
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
American Zionist Emergency Council  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York 17, N. Y.



[1947?]

November 14, 1947

Dr. Harold Willis Dodds  
President, Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Dodds:

We wish to thank you for your letter of October 31 and are glad to have your assurance that there is no intention that the Princeton Conference should offer a forum for the expression of anti-Zionist views.

We note that the three main topics of that part of the Conference which will deal with the Middle East are "Islamic Art and Archeology"; "Arabic Literature and Religion"; and "Interaction of Islamic and Western Thought in Retrospect and Prospect." It is possible that the information on which we had based our letter to you is out of date and no longer holds good. But we had been given to understand that one of the major topics for discussion would be "The Arab Peoples in Their National and International Relationships" -- a subject which can hardly fail to concern itself with the Palestine issue; and that among the leading participants would be Dr. Gosti Zureyk, of the Syrian Legation, Dr. Habib A. Kurani and Dr. A. E. Prince.

From what we know of the views of each of these gentlemen, it seemed to us likely that there would be a one-sided presentation of the problems involved, and it was for that reason that we had ventured to write to you in the belief that you would feel it appropriate that another point of view should also be presented.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen S. Wise      Abba Hillel Silver  
Joint Chairmen, American Zionist Emergency Council

WS:LNF



C O P Y

C O P Y

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
Princeton, New Jersey

November 26, 1946

Dear Sirs:

In reply to your letter of November 14, I think you can rely on Princeton University not to become a propaganda agency for either pro- or anti-Zionism. Of the three gentlemen you name as taking part in the program Professor Prince has been dead for some time and Dr. Kurani has nothing to do with the session to which you refer. I have seen the outline of this session, and it contains no reference to Zionism. The question may of course arise in discussion, but again we are relying on the representative membership of the Conference for a balanced discussion.

Sincerely yours,

Harold W. Dodds

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise  
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
American Zionist Emergency Council  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York 17, N. Y.



DRAFT

Dr. Harold Willis Dodds  
President, Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Dodds:

In a letter to you dated October 16, 1946, Dr. Stephen Wise and I suggested that the program and direction of the proposed Conference on "Near Eastern Culture and Society" to be held in connection with the bicentennial of Princeton University was such as to make it likely that the Conference would be used as an anti-Zionist forum in which the Zionist point of view was likely to receive little, if any representation.

In your reply of October 31, you emphasized that this was not the intention and that you could only assume that we had been misled in some way ~~as to its~~ nature. We were glad to have this assurance on your part.

It is with corresponding regret that we read the enclosed report in the New York Herald Tribune of the meeting of March 26, headed "2, of Near East, Ask Rights for Palestine Arabs - Delegates to Bicentennial at Princeton Cite Fear of Zionism's Ambitions."

signed by Dr. Silver