

Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Series II: Harold P. Manson File (Zionism Files), 1940-1949, undated. Sub-series A: Main Manson File, 1940-1949.

Reel Box Folder 107 37 348

American Zionist Emergency Council, general, 1947.

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

1105

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PRESIDENT

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VLT RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILER EAST=

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1947 FEB 1 PM 6 04

APPRECIATED BEING INFORMED ABOUT HOOVER ARRANGING TO SEE
HIM REGARDS:
=BERNSTEIN.

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED

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WESTERN UNION

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ACCOUNTING INFORMATION

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

1-3-47

To David Ben Gurion

Care of or Apt. No. ZIONIBURO

Street and No. LONDON

Place_

I AM TO SEE SOME PEOPLE MONDAY. IT WOULD HELP ME IF YOU WOULD PHONE

OR CABLE CLEVELAND DIGEST YOUR CONVERSATIONS. REGARDS

SILVER

CABLE

Sender's name and address
(For reference only)

Sender's telephone

The Francomia Hotel 20 West 72 St N.V. City.

Robbi & A. Hild Lilver bleveland.

year fr Lilver,

Jewry will meet on Feb. 17th at Washington to discuss latest political developments and to thoughten the hishar in its impending grine struggle. It is a matter of apology my humble desire to be invited to that meeting working here. It is a meeting working here.

had it in mind and mild give the required in a lowered.

veored that I came here not only to assist in raising funds, but also to do what little I can for the 2 in it cause. I would be only too glad to be in contact with the 2.0. A. Europency Countil or Solvey (formally as a Member of the Actions Committee) but I hopeed to say that so far nobody has cared to make use of my survives.

I write to gen quite caudidly on the subject because I believe that I may do so considering that leing layerted here by the hapai people is enough for

There to get a fairer deal from the representative Zionist enthanities which are above the parties and neak for all of us - my own party I am confrident that no more detailed explanations are required and that you will be kind enough to look into the mather and to make me that in there critical days when I am away from home I should have suces to information and be a partner to any deliberations to which I other parties es judie bodies are invited. I am not regulfully CHIVES four Y. Sen Harver

SKIDMORE COLLEGE SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

February 16, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver Conference of Zionists Hotel Statler Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am a stranger to you, but out of my feeling of desperateness at the present situation in Palestine, I venture to make a suggestion to you.

Do you think that it could be suggested Secretary Bevin that he might buy Arab support for a Palestine settlement that would be fair to the Jews by offering the Arabs something that they badly want elsewhere in the Near East?

It seems to me that Bevin has completely failed to utilize this obvious trait in Arab psychology -- their love of bargaining and dickering. And yet Bevin insists on obtaining Arab consent ahead of time to any plan that he will seriously consider for Falestine. Since the Arabs will not spontaneously withdraw their claim to all or even to a part of Palestine, and since Bevin seems slated for a long stay in the Foreign Office, why could he not try to win the Arabs over by offering them something that they value even more than they do little Palestine -- such as immediate independence for Egypt, or control over all, or a part of, anglo-Soudan, or wore influence along the North African coast, or even (though I hate to mention this last) another seat in the United Nations?

Up to now Bevin has been considering Near East problems in the typical Anglo-Saxon, Western-democratic manner -- each problem by itself on its own merits. But if these problems were lumped together, and a little spirit of horse-trading were injected into the proceedings, so that the Arabs would feel that they were getting something in exchange for relinquishing their hopes in Palestine -- he might be successful.

I have a feeling that by this time Bevin would be rather glad to rid himself of the whole matter, provided only that the solution did not anger the Arabs, of course. He may even value somewhat American public opinion -- although of course much less than he does Arab opinion -- and may hope to keep us Americans in a somewhat friendly mood. Hence my suggestion.

I know that the Arab-English conference is over. But the mails are still operating, and there are diplomatic officials in all the Arab capitals, as well as in London. So that if this suggestion should happen to strike Mr. Bevin as a possible way out of a difficult situation, he could try it out.

What do YOU think? Is it worth your considering either by yourself or with the others in your Washington conference? If you seed think it feasible, how could the idea be communicated to the British Foreign Secretary? Through the Zionists in London? or how?

I should be glad to do anything that you think might help -- such as writing letters to the NY Times and Herald-Tribune, as well as to the London Times. (The Herald-Tribune occasionally prints my letters.) Or it might be effective

SKIDMORE COLLEGE SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

if I, a non-Jewish American citizen, wrote to Bevin myself -- although I fear that my letter would get no further than the desk of the stenographer of an assistant under secretary! However, I am ready to try anything.

If this suggestion, on the other hand, seems useless to you, disregard it, and turn your energies to more important considerations.

With best wishes for a satusfying conference,

Sincerely yours,

Joseph S. G. Bolton Professor of English?

P.S. I am a member of the American Christian Palestine Committee.

Professor Joseph 3. G. Bolton
Skidmore College
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

My dear Professor Bolton:

Permit me to thank you for your thoughtfulness in
writing to me. I read your letter with much interest. Your
suggestion is very intriguing, but I cannot say how Mr. Bevin
will react to it. On the subject of Palestine he seems to be
especially obtuse and stiff-necked. His one obsession seems
to be Soviet penetration into the Middle East and the fear of
doing anything which would antagonize the Arabs and drive them
towards the Soviet. He has over-ridden the objections and
the arguments of many leaders in his own party who have cautioned
him against his wrong-headed policy.

I can see no reason why you should not write to the pritish Ambassador in Washington who has a sympathetic and open mind on the entire subject. You might request him to transmit your suggestion to Mr. Bevin. I should be interested to learn their response to your suggestion.

with all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 21, 1947

Doctor Abba Hillel Silver 19810 Shaker Blvd. Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Doctor Silver:

When I talked with you over the telephone last Tuesday morning, you suggested that I send a copy of Senator Martin's letter to President Truman and also his letter to General George C. Marshall.

I am enclosing the letters which have been mailed. I am sure you will find them of interest.

With kindest regards,

I am

Sincerely,

George I. Bloom Administrative Assistant

Enclosures 2

MEMORANDUM

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date February 21, 1947

From Dr. Benjamin Akzin

At the request of Mr. Ben-Horin who is absent from the office today, I saw Dr. Velikovsky with whom you had recently conferred, and at which time you had asked him to meet with Mr. Ben-Horin.

Dr. Velikovsky advanced the need of referring the Palestine question to the international Court in the Hague. He wondered whether the Jewish Agency could do it, and if not, whether America or another country could raise the issue.

Other suggestions of his were as follows:-

In connection with Arab threats of a Holy War, we should direct public attention to the fact that the Koran advocates the right of the Jews to Palestine; he gave me a few quotations to that effect.

Senator Pepper should be asked to explain to Soviet circles that liberal groups in this country are being alienated by Russia's evasive policy on Palestine.

Large-scale immigration of Arabs should be suggested to American and British Government circles, as a means to develop Iraq and to make it more of a barrier against Soviet penetration.

Because of its psychological effect on the Arab countries, a few Jewish atom physicists should be invited for short periods of work at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

We should emphasize in our public relations work the decadence of the Arabs; in this connection he mentioned the fact the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem was forced to give up his theological studies because of his homo-sexuality.

A group of Senators should visit and investigate conditions in Palestine; he would like very much to accompany them, if necessary at his own expense.

He mentioned that there are still very rich oil deposits in Saudi Arabia, the location of which is known to him, and which are not covered by the Arab-American oil concessions.

I told Dr. Velikovsky that I would advise you and Mr. Ben-Horin of our conversation, and that Mr. Ben-Horin would get in touch with him in the course of next week.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL PORTLAND 9, DREGON

February 24, 1947

Dear Abba:

Who am I to give you any political advice? You are now our leader and I am just a Yokel from far west but, still, I have an idea that I am going to pass on to you for whatever it is worth, with apologies in advance if you thought of it yourself long ago.

I have heard that Bob Taft sits on top of the heap that will control political action for some time to come, and that one of the strong influences upon him is Owen Brewster. Would it not be advantageous to our cause if you could woo and win this pair of wiley professional politicians? I believe their pressure upon Britain to restore the mandate to its pre-1939 status will be crucial before dropping the entire matter in the lap of the United Nations.

I know you get lots of gratuitous advice, but I just feel that if you turn on the charm and glamour for this pair in Washington, their support would be of inestimable value right at this critical moment. If you have a minute drop me a line with your reactions to my suggestion.

I will see you in Montreal in June. Meanwhile, don't get a loch in kopf.

Devotedly yours,

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

The Temple

E. 105th St. and Ansel Road

Cleveland 6, Ohio

February 28, 1947 Mr. George I. Bloom, Administrative Assistant to The Hon. Edward Martin U. S. Senate Washington, D.C. My dear Mr. Bloom: Permit me to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me copies of the letters which Senator Martin addressed to President Truman and Secretary Marshall. They are indeed moving and impressive communications. Please convey to the Senator my profound appreciation for what he has done. I had the great pleasure of meeting the Senator on Wednesday in Washington and I hope that I shall have the opportunity in the not too far distant future to see him again and to talk over with him some of the matters in which his counsel will be greatly helpful. with all good wishes, I remain Most cordially yours. AHS: BK

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Constituent Organizations

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America Mizrachi Organization of America Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America Zionist Organization of America 342 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y. MUrray Hill 2-1160

June 11, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you for your letter of June 6, 1947. The Middle East Conference of New York University went off quite successfully. The attendance was fair throughout, counting from 100 to 150 people or more. There was a considerable number of people from the academic world as well as from the oil industry. The latter came, of course, to the session devoted to oil. The reports in the daily press were not so good, and this was probably due to the fact that the publicity was handled by the New York University Publicity Department itself, and not by us. Our cooperation throughout had to be kept undercover, but in the organization of the Conference we had practically full freedom of action -- with the approval and knowledge of Professor Lengyel, the initiator of the Conference -- whereas, the publicity had to be left to the New York University people themselves. However, the main value of this Conference will materialize when the whole proceedings are published in book form, as it is intended to be. We are now working on it. When the book appears, it will probably be the most influential weapon in the hands of Blanche Shepard in sponsoring similar programs in other universities.

The spirit of the Conference itself was excellent throughout. I do not have to enlarge on the presentations of men like Lowdermilk, Harlow, Mowrer, Fohs, Brewster and Ben-Horin. But even Baroody, the Arab, gave a very fair appraisal of the economic problems of the Middle East and admitted both the economic and military weaknesses of the Arab States.

Buxton, while following the line of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, gave a very pro-Jewish and pro-Zionist presentation of the problem, and appeared as a champion for immediate large scale immigration into Palestine. I don't hesitate to say that on the whole it was a very satisfactory affair.

June 11, 1947 Dr. Abba Hillel Silver - 2 -May I use this opportunity in order to remind you once again that I am still waiting for your reaction to my memorandum on "Middle East Trends". I would greatly appreciate your letting me know whether I may count on your approval of the idea, as an idea, and whether you would allow me to sound out a few people as to their attitude. With kindest regards, I am Eliahu Ben-Horin EBH/1b

DEER LODGE LAKE LOUISE, ALBERTA as from 10 E. 40 St., N. Y. 29 June Chairman, American Zionist Emergency Committee Dear Sir, I have just received from Jerusalem a copy of your cable about myself. I emphatically repudiate your charges. They are untrue to fact, slanderous and damaging. They should never have been made and should be withdrawn. Your Los Angeles witch-hunters should clean out their own stables. I should be glad to know what "action" has been taken with regard to the Zionist lady who "contributed the cost" of the two-page Ben Hecht advertisement in the Hollywood Reporter of June 2 "as a public service". My remarks even as printed (and I was talking about the plans for the Medical School although no hint of that appeared in the published report) served as a very modest counterblast to that abomination. I should have thought that my record of twenty years' fruitful work in Jerusalem would have been enough to make you pause before making such wild accusations. I am critical of present policies, but I have earned the right to be so; and it is foolish to try and stifle criticism by such unworthy means as you have adopted. Yours truly. Leon Roth /gn

MEMORANDUM

July 28, 1947

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

FROM: Franz J. Katz

The end osure warrants your kind, immediate attention. Mr. Harry Shapiro is fully conversant with all pertinent details, including my opinions and suggestions on the subject.

Mr. Emanuel Neumann has received a copy of this letter and of the enclosures as well.

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Piece No. 19

Entered at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under No. 817 -

From the Minister of Syria in Washington to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Syria, Damas

The term most descriptive of President Truman is that he is more Jewish than the Jews. His plan, of which I have just learned a part, aims at the establishment of a Jewish Government in Palestine, in the shadow of which the Arabs would live, instead of the Arab-Jewish state envisaged by the British White Paper.

It is clear that the American diplomatic representatives, particularly Mr. Wadsworth, have advised the President against such a solution, because of repercussions unfavorable to the American position in the Orient, but the President seems decided, in spite, of everything, to grant a Government to the Jews.

This does not mean, however, that the President expects to set up a state overnight, but is looking for a solution within the next four years. I think he has come to an agreement on this subject with several countries, including France. At present, only Great Britain, having refused permission to the entry of 100,000 Jews per month, is opposed to the plan.

I again bring to your attention that France is again engaged in playing a vicious game against us. De Gaulle perhaps wents to wreak vengeance on all Arebs.

> The Minister Plenipotentiary sig. Nazem Koudsi

October 19,1945

MEMORANDUM

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date July 9, 1947

From Mr. Joseph P. Sternstein

Subject: Advertisement in PM on Sunday, July 6th, 1947

Mr. Shapiro requested that I send you this memorandum concerning the facts surrounding the insertion of the advertisement by the national Young Zionist Actions Committee in the week-end edition of PM.

In accordance with the policy of the American Zionist Emergency Council, the Executive Board of the national Young Zionist Actions Committee decided that its campaign against the dissident organizations would be waged in an affirmative rather than a negative manner, namely, that it would present the positive achievements of Haganah rather than indulge in generalizations and name-calling of the other side. This policy was pursued in every public presentation of the case by the Young Zionist Actions Committee.

On Monday, June 30th in the New York Post and on the following day in the newspaper PM appeared an advertisement from the American League for a Free Palestine which in a vicious and vituperative tirade opened an out and out attack on the Jewish Agency and Haganah. I am enclosing a copy of that ad for your perusal. It became evident that this was the opening campaign on the part of the Bergson boys to launch a frontal attack on the authority of the Jewish Agency and of the work of the Haganah. This impression is buttressed by the literature which they distributed in front of Carnegie Hall on Thursday night, a sample of which I am also enclosing.

From these two items it can be readily seen that there is being initiated an open campaign in this country for the specific and avowed purpose of describing discrediting the Agency and Haganah, something more than a presentation of the activities of the Irgun and Stern groups in Palestine.

The members of the Young Zionist Actions Committee felt that a vigorous rejoinder had to be made even though it was for the record. It would be intolerable were no response to be made to their campaign and the ad of Young Zionist Actions Committee was intended as such a rejoinder.

I had seen the ad before it was printed and assumed responsibility on my part for giving approval. In view of the short time available, the text was not shown to Mr. Shapiro, Mr. Manson or Mr. Tuvim and they were unaware of the insertion of this ad. My own reaction, now that there is an opportunity for some Yishuv Ha'Daas, is that some of the terminology was somewhat intemperate. I trust that you will appreciate, however, my own anger and deep resentment at the ads and campaign of villification which is now being openly waged by the Bergson boys.

There is no doubt that such intemperancy willnot be repeated in

the future and it is not in keeping with the long range policy of the Young Zionist Actions Committee. It was passed as an exceptional and extraordinary measure.

I trust that this information would provide sufficient background for the advertisement and the motivations which impelled its insertion.

In conclusion, permit me again to make it perfectly clear that the Executive staff of the Emergency Council should in no wise be held responsible for this act. It was the impetuosity of young people in whom righteous anger provoked some rashness of action.

JPS:EB Encls.



SUMNER WELLES

Bar Harbor, Maine August 8, 1947

My dear Dr. Silver:

I was sorry to learn in talking with Mr. Ben-Horin yesterday that you had not learned in time of my inability to be present at the Anniversary Dinner in New York held early last month. After you had been kind enough to extend to me the invitation to be present, my doctor told me that he wished me to remain quiet up here in Maine this summer, to do no traveling, and to undertake no public addresses until after my return home the end of September. Mr. Epstein came to see me a day later and, in order to avoid any delay. I asked him to be kind enough to communicate with you directly and immediately concerning these facts so that you might be advised that my doctor's orders made it impossible for me to go back to New York to attend the Anniversary Dinner. Mr. Epstein subsequently told me that he had conveyed this message to you. I am more than sorry that there should have been any misunderstanding.

I send you my best wishes for a successful outcome of the meeting which you are now about to attend in Zurich, and I hope that I may have the chance of seeing you after you get back.

with my kind personal regards, believe me.

Yours very sincerely,

rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
Care of American Zionist
Emergency Council,
342 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.

To

Dr. Emanuel Neumann

Date

September 19, 1947

From

Benjamin Akzin

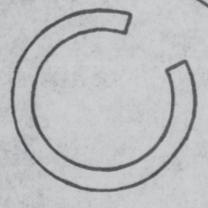
This morning's news about Gen. Hildring's appointment strikes me as the first bit of genuinely good news regarding the American attitude.

In this connection I would like to draw your attention to the following:

Hildring is not only a man who personally favors our position. In his case, there is no need to fear that a pre-Jewish official has been asked to carry out an anti-Jewish policy. He has resigned from government service because he wished to enter private business which would pay him better. There was no reason for him, therefore, to accept this temporary job unless he was given a reasonably free hand to carry out the policies with which he is in sympathy.

In view of this appointment, it was be particularly important to discuss with him the combined questions of a shorter interim period and of entrusting the temporary administration and policing of the country to a committee of small nations with the help of local militias, on the lines of my memorandum to Dr. Silver of September 10th.

BA: ST



MEMORANDUM

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date October 17, 1947

From

Eliahu Ben-Horin

There is in Washington, D.C. an Institute of Ethnic Affairs, Inc. - a comparatively recent formation. This institute publishes a monthly News Letter, and in its October issue I found a short piece on Palestine which is really excellent in its penetrating analysis of one aspect of our Palestine realities which seldom draws much attention. It seems to me that you may be interested in reading it. I therefore enclose a copy of it.

My very best regards.

2.13-H

EBH/1b

Encl

NEWS LETTER

of the Institute of Ethnic Affairs, Inc. October, 1947

Vol. II No. 8

LESSON IN PALESTINE

The report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine should be read as a whole, and more than once. It is a document extraordinary in its sincerity and its intellectual adequacy.

.... There is an aspect of the Jewish effort in Palestine which is too rarely commented on. That is its profound and complex voluntarism. People who have come together from many lands, and who are moved by ideas and purposes held in common, are engaged in voluntary cooperation through nearly the whole range of human affairs. Such is the industry of Palestine, consumptive and productive; and the schooling, the health service, the social insurance, the organization of leisure. Here is the "social contract", realized in the present; here is society, functioning in its every branch outside of, independently of, the political state. And what ensues? Releases of spiritual energy, unexceeded in this century; volitional perserverence; experimentalism, and industrial and social inventiveness, pursued by an entire people. Zion through its formative first generation has been compelled to do without political statehood -- to do without the power and instinct of compulsion of the political state. And this circumstance has been momentous for history.

Now, almost certainly, a critical change is at hand. The political state is at hand; within the Near East situation. It is inescapable. Will Zionism prove able to intensify and increase its voluntary cooperation when adjusting its social organism into statehood? A question greater than the Palestinian issues hangs on this question. Some would say that it is the deepest world question of all: deepest in relation to human creativity, deepest in relation to ethnic strivings and conflicts, deepest in relation to world order and peace.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE Z.O.A. TO THE EMERGENCY COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Israel Goldstein _
Judge Louis E. Levinthal _
Dr. Emanuel Neumann /
Rabbi Leon Feuer =
Daniel Frisch Rabbi Irving Miller
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ALTERNATES

Elihu D. Stone Numa Torczyner

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Israel Goldstein /
Judge Louis E. LevinthalDr. Emanuel Neumann /

PAN FRUCH

Dr. Sidney Marks - by invitation

10/27/47

December 24, 1947 Dr. Israel Goldstein 270 West 89th St. New York, N.Y. My dear Dr. Goldstein: As you know, I will be away from the country for about four months. In my absence I should very much like to have you serve as Acting Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council. You are fully acquainted with the work and with the present situation and I am confident that you will carry on most effectively. I have written to Mr. Shapiro at length as to what I believe are the things which we should watch in the next few months. He will undoubtedly discuss the whole matter with you. As there is to be no meeting of the Emergency Council before I leave, the confirmation of your appointment by the Emergency Council should take place at the next meeting. With all good wishes, and hoping to see you in New York on Monday, I remain Most cordially yours, AHS: BK