



## 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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107

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37

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352

Arms embargo, 1947-1948.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

~~KINDLY RETURN TO NORTHWEST~~ 701 Ring Building  
WASHINGTON 6, D. C. 1200-18th St. N.W.

LEO R. SACK

December 9, 1947

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

The following is for your information:

Loy Henderson said this to me today when I questioned him as to the real meaning of the arms embargo to the Middle East, announced last week:

"Why, there's nothing new to this. This order was issued six weeks ago, but it was just announced the other day because of all the talk that is coming out of the Middle East about the Arabs are going to do this and are going to do that. Actually the order was issued before General Marshall went to Europe. Here is what has been happening. For quite a while recently, the various Arab nations have been ordering small quantities of small arms and ammunition from the United States. The necessary approval was given to these orders as a routine matter, but when the Arabs began talking so big up at Lake Success and making threats, we decided, with General Marshall's approval, to place an embargo. Now, the material specified in those orders will not be shipped because although the orders had been approved, the necessary licenses have not been issued." Mr. Henderson said this means that even though the Arabs had placed orders for arms and ammunition, they will not get these supplies.

While on this subject, Loy said to me, "I am a little bit annoyed at all the talk that has been in the newspapers to the effect that we have been supplying the Arab countries with great quantities of lease-lend arms and ammunition. Actually, we have not given away more than \$80.00 (eighty dollars) of arms and ammunition to any country since the war and we have never issued lease-lend arms and ammunition since the war to any Arab country." Henderson was very emphatic about this. His remarks were prompted, he said, specifically because of the story in PM, which was also reprinted in some of the Jewish newspapers.

As to the present situation, Mr. Henderson told me that the daily dispatches which are being received in the Department from Palestine indicate that they are picturing a situation which does not exist. "The whole place is not in a turmoil," Henderson said, and he continued, "of course, there is sporadic shooting, but on the whole, our Consulate General advises that peaceful conditions



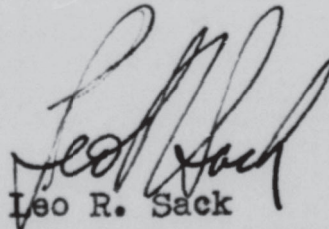
are prevailing throughout the country and despite exchanges of shooting the country as a whole is going about its business." Henderson said, however, that the Consulate has advised that the situation may change at any time and that a real fear exists that "The Arabs may organize for trouble."

Because of this, I was told, the Department is considering the necessity of issuing a suggestion advising "American women and children to pull out of the country." Such an order, he said, would not be issued on the basis of present conditions but is under consideration for use in the event "really serious" troubles develop. He told me there are about 4,000 American nationals in Palestine, most of whom are Jewish men, women and children who still retain their American citizenship. There are, however, more than 100 American citizens attached to the American missions. These include women and children.

Henderson went on to tell me that should really serious trouble develop and the Department recommends that American nationals leave the country it will not be mandatory for them to leave and they will not be deprived of the protection to which they are entitled as American citizens. The procedure which would be followed in Palestine is identical with the procedure which is followed throughout the world whenever war clouds become black.

As to the conference of the Arab nations in Cairo today, Henderson said "it is inconceivable to me that any country would try to send an army into Palestine." It was his thought that if the Arabs really tried to go through with such threats that the Security Council of the United Nations would immediately go into action and perhaps call upon other member nations, in the absence of security police, to employ their own troops to preserve order.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Leo R. Sack

P.S. Since talking to you over the telephone I called Mr. Henderson and passed along your suggestion that the State Department give publicity to the fact that their reports indicate that despite the headlines in the United States, conditions throughout the country are peaceful. We also contacted some friends in the State Department press room to plant the story.

-LRS.



AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL  
1720 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

LEO R. SACK

December 12, 1947

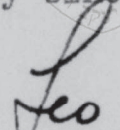
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
19810 Shaker Boulevard,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

For your information: in my mail this morning I received, belatedly, the enclosed text of the Arms Embargo hand-out of the State Department. The details of the actual shipments carried in this announcement did not appear in the daily newspapers.

With personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

  
Leo R. Sack

LRS/p  
Encl.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR THE PRESS

DECEMBER 5, 1947  
NO. 949

In view of the current disorders in the Middle East, the United States is discontinuing for the present licensing of all shipments of arms to the troubled areas. The shipments of arms and ammunition licensed to the countries of the Middle East area effected during 1946 and the first ten months of 1947 are as follows:

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>
Egypt	arms ammunition	\$ 50.00 658.10	\$ 709.63 22.17
Lebanon	arms ammunition	x x	800.00 2,020.00
Syria	arms ammunition	x x	x x
Saudi Arabia	arms ammunition	x x	2,060.00 306.44
Transjordan	arms ammunition	x x	x x
Iraq	arms ammunition	432.00 x	x x
Palestine	arms ammunition	x x	x x



Similarly this policy extends to this type of article which may be located outside the United States, including transfer and retransfer of lend-lease arms and ammunition and the sale of United States surplus arms and ammunition.

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# WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

1220

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

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CLAC95 PD=NEW YORK NY 10 1240P=

:DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

:19810SHAKER BLVD SHAKERHTS CLEVE=

1948 JUL 10 PM 2 17

RECEIVED WIRES AND MESSAGES FROM LABOR ZIONIST GROUPS  
BALTIMORE WASHINGTON PHILADELPHIA ETC. ABOUT SPONTANEOUS  
PREPARATIONS FOR DEMONSTRATION NEAR DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION  
PROBABLY TUESDAY REQUESTING PRESIDENT LIFT EMBARGO AND  
THAT PRESIDENT AND STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS FOR UN SANCTIONS  
AGAINST ARABS. TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY REACH YOU BY PHONE  
CLEVELAND. COULDN'T REACH SHAPIRO EITHER. BECAUSE SHORTNESS  
TIME FOR PREPARATION AND BELIEVING THIS IS IN LINE AND  
SPIRIT PROPOSED ACTION EMERGENCY COUNCIL, WE ARE PUTTING  
MACHINERY IN MOTION TO ORGANIZE IT PROPERLY. WOULD BE MOST  
HAPPY IF OTHER ZIONIST GROUPS JOIN IN DEMONSTRATION. WILL  
COMMUNICATE WITH OFFICE EMERGENCY COUNCIL MONDAY MORNING  
. MEANTIME YOUR INSTRUCTIONS REMARKS SUGGESTIONS MOST  
WELCOME EITHER TODAY TO B. FRYMER, 317 BEACH 34 ST.,  
FAR ROCKAWAY, N.Y. OR TOMORROW CALL GRAMERCY 7-8880=  
DR BERL FRYMER EXECUTIVE SECRETARY POALE ZION 45  
EAST 17 STREET NEW YORK, PINCHAS CRUSO SECRETARY POLITICAL  
COMMITTEE DAVID WERTHEIM=

MO 9-3100

Shops - M.4, 4-6700

317 34 7-8880=

COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



Do not believe your action Philadelphia  
advisable. Emergency Council does not  
approve independent action on part of  
any "contributor" member of Council such  
as you contemplate. Stop Emergency  
Council working in Phil. for proper  
plans covering all important issues.  
~~and~~ Demonstrations such as your conduct  
which may have harmful effects. Advise  
you to call it off.

Abraham Hillel Silver.