



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and  
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

### **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.

---

Reel  
107

Box  
37

Folder  
367

Crossman, Richard, 1947.



January 10, 1947

Mr. Richard H. S. Crossman, M.P.  
House of Commons  
London, S.W.1

Dear Mr. Crossman:

I remember with a great deal of pleasure the breakfast we had together at the Waldorf-Astoria during your visit to the United States last fall. Your understanding of the Palestinian problem, your sympathy with Zionist aspirations and your optimism concerning a satisfactory solution gave encouragement to us and through us to the whole Christian movement in America.

In the light of our most pleasant visit then I was amazed at the excerpts from your article in the New Statesman and Nation as they were quoted in the New York Times of January 4th. It was not that you had changed your point of view but that you failed to understand as we do the attitude of the United States delegation to the Zionist Congress. You attacked the "outlook, tactics and policy" of this delegation as being more American than Jewish. It seems to me that it would be a matter of commendation rather than attack if the American delegation seemed to lift their Zionist appeal from a purely nationalistic plea to an attempt to solve a world problem.

As you know, America is very much concerned that this whole question of Palestine be solved on a basis of which you seem to be a most able exponent. If solved justly it can be the means of reducing greatly intolerance within the nations of the world and international frictions which are threatening world accord.

Instead of apparently condemning American Jewry because they have become a self-assertive power, we think they should be praised because they have at last taken an active part in the solution of the Palestine question. I do not think they are using their gifts as a means of buying power, for through the years they have been the largest contributors and have never sought control on that basis. Leadership now has been forced upon them because of the breakdown of the old leadership



Mr. Richard H. S. Crossman, M.P.

January 10, 1947

and their inadequacy to get from the British Government a satisfactory solution.

If you knew Dr. Silver as we know him you would realize that he is no "ambitious politician whose primary aim was to oust Dr. Chaim Weizmann". Dr. Weizmann in all his negotiations since the end of the first world war has been defeated in every conference and has never been able to get any concessions from his own government. There is nothing but the highest regard among both Christians and Jews for Dr. Weizmann. He is beloved by everyone and there is nothing personal in the feeling of Americans that Dr. Weizmann can no longer be trusted with the destinies of Palestine. The esteem in which he is held has not been diminished one iota.

No one knows better than you the necessity now for a strong, aggressive, firm hand both in Palestine and in the political affairs of the world. We in America still believe that the British Government will move rapidly now toward a solution of the problem. We believe their sense of fair play will lead them to keep in mind basic justice for the Jews. When that solution comes whatever feelings have been ruffled by the delaying tactics of the British will be quickly smoothed out. The longer the delay the more difficult will be the smoothing process.

We of the American Christian Palestine Committee wish with you that during the coming conferences in London the British Government may move with vision to a solution that can be permanent to the problem of the Jews in Europe and the Near East.

Most cordially yours,

Howard M. LeSourd  
Director

HML:LM