



## 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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Dewey, Thomas E., 1947.

April 25, 1947

The Honorable Thomas E. Dewey  
Governor, State of New York  
Executive Chambers  
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Governor Dewey:

I am sorry that I was unable to see you in New York. I was eager to have a talk with you along the lines of our last conversation for, as you know, there have been some sharp new developments in the Palestine situation.

Great Britain has referred the issue of Palestine to the United Nations. The special session of U.N. begins Monday. I question Great Britain's motives in referring the matter to the U.N. just as I questioned its motives at the appointment of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. I felt then, and I do now, that it is a device for delay, the object of such delay being to break the morale of the refugees in the DP camps, to scatter their numbers and to force the Jewish people to accept the solution which Mr. Bevin is resolved to impose.

The British Government has already indicated that it will not be bound by the recommendations of the Assembly of the United Nations if they do not meet with its approval. Nevertheless it is important that the United Nations do make just and helpful recommendations. Much will depend upon the leadership which our own Government will take in the solution of this grave international problem. Certainly Great Britain and Russia cannot be counted upon to take this leadership, nor any of the other big powers. The smaller nations will look to the United States for guidance, especially the countries of Latin America. As you know, our Government has time and again, through action in the United States Congress and through public statements by its Presidents, declared itself in favor of the Jewish National Home, and of free immigration and colonization so as to achieve that objective. It has called for the full implementation of the terms of the Palestine mandate.

There is definitely the danger, however, that our Government may wish to maintain a position of "neutrality" and hover on the periphery of this issue. This, of course, would be fatal to our cause. It would play into the hands of our enemies who are certainly not neutral, and who are carrying on the most active propaganda to liquidate the rights of the Jewish people in Palestine. We are turning to our friends who have helped us in the past to support our cause at this critical time.

Governor Dewey

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April 25, 1947

The American Zionist Emergency Council, representing all the Zionist bodies in America, is requesting the Governors of all the States of our Union to help us by signing the enclosed letter addressed to the President of the United States. I know of your own deep and continued interest in our cause and I would be deeply grateful to you if you would add the prestige of your name and office to this letter.

With all good wishes, and hoping to have the pleasure of seeing you before long, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



*Duplicate*

The opening of the United Nations Assembly specially called to consider the Palestine question has brought us to the point at which the United States Government <sup>must</sup> ~~may~~ be expected to take a vigorous stand before that body in pursuance of the well-known and often-proclaimed American policy on Palestine.

It has been wrongly insinuated from time to time that American expressions of support to the Jewish National Home, a support which was affirmed by every President since Woodrow Wilson, confirmed by a formal treaty, twice approved by the Congress of the United States, and advocated by both political parties, are the results of mere partisan electioneering maneuvers. Now that American foreign policy is more firmly ~~anchored~~ <sup>anchored</sup> on bi-partisan agreement than ever before, and the Palestine question has entered on a critical stage, the time has come to prove that the pronouncements which were made on this question are no mere lip service, but truly represent the policy of our government. It is now the privilege and responsibility of the national Administration to translate these pronouncements into action. In doing so, it will enjoy the full support, I am sure, of the Republican Party.

The situation admits of no delay. The governments of the world, accustomed to look to the United States for guidance on many international questions, and impressed by the vigorous stand which our country has been taking lately in defense of the policies which it favors, will watch, from the very beginning of the United Nations sessions, what the attitude of the American delegation will be. Any indication that our representatives are hedging or are seeking to withdraw from the publicly announced American policy to an attitude of hesitant neutrality would be quickly noted by foreign governments. If our government does not wish the Palestine question to become bogged down, and the policy publicly favored by it to be defeated, a clear and positive stand must be taken by it from the very beginning.



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
ALBANY

THOMAS E. DEWEY  
GOVERNOR

May 15, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
Chairman, American Zionist  
Emergency Council  
Temple, East 105th Street at  
Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I know that time is pressing because of the fact that the Palestine question is now before the General Assembly and I do not want to delay my answer to your letter until I have had an opportunity carefully to study the terms of your proposed petition to the President. I have therefore deemed it better to state my own position affirmatively.

As you know, I have, for many years now, vigorously advocated that our country take the position that the tragedies that struck the Jews of Europe before and during the last war and the continued suffering of their survivors make it imperative that the terms of the Palestine Mandate be fully and speedily fulfilled.

I believe that this country should do everything in its power to bring about a decision in the United Nations which will be just, that will see to it that the rights of Jews under the Palestine Mandate be not abrogated; and I believe profoundly that whatever permanent political solutions be arrived at, unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization into Palestine must take place and that there be no hindrances on the development of the Jewish National Home in Palestine.

Obviously, also, it is imperative that some interim arrangement be made whereby the Jewish refugees of Europe will be permitted to go into Palestine in large numbers.

With every good wish, I am

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas E. Dewey".

TED:HC

May 28, 1947

The Honorable Thomas E. Dewey  
Governor, State of New York  
Executive Chambers  
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Governor Dewey:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your fine and helpful statement. It has been given to the press. It will, I am sure, have its affect here and abroad. I need not tell you that we are all profoundly appreciative of your ready and valuable help and cooperation.

The Palestine issue is now in the hands of the United Nations. The Committee of Inquiry will make its report by September 1. It is generally recognized that the report is not likely to propose any new solutions not previously projected in the many inquiries which have been made heretofore on Palestine. It is also generally recognized that the position which our own Government will take, and the leadership which it will give to a just solution, will prove decisive. So far there has been no indication that our Government is prepared to give this leadership, nor has it revealed what it regards as a just solution. When we "mean business" we tell the world in no uncertain terms what our foreign policy is in a given situation. In the case of Palestine, our Government, I am afraid, does not as yet "mean business." Your leadership in the solution of this grave international problem may prove decisive in the next few critical months. I am confident that it will be forthcoming in a full measure which will, I am sure, win the gratitude not alone of our people but of all fair-minded Americans who believe in the essential justice of our cause.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK