



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
377

Irgun, 1947.

80-09 35TH AVENUE
JACKSON HEIGHTS
NEW YORK, N. Y.

ILLINOIS 7-4695

October 28, 1947

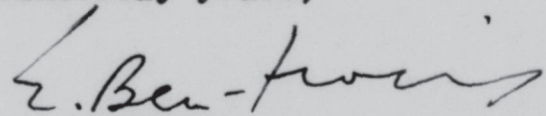
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I enclose a copy of a personal and confidential letter which I wrote to Mr. Meir Grossman. I believe that I raise there a question of utmost importance from many viewpoints. I wish I could be sure that they would follow my advice. I would be very much interested in your comments on it.

With my very best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Eliahu Ben-Horin

EBH/lb

Encl

October 27, 1947

(EBHsm letterhead)

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Meir Grossman
243 W. 70th Street
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Grossman:

I am sure that you, too, gave thought to the question of the future of the Irgun, if and when a Jewish State is decided upon. I spent a couple of sleepless nights thinking of the situation which will arise the moment partition becomes a fact, and I sincerely hope that Beigin will do the right thing and do it in good time. Otherwise, bloodshed and a possible catastrophe seems to me to be inevitable.

The right thing for Beigin to do, in my opinion, is immediately upon the materialization of partition, to proclaim the self-liquidation of the Irgun, ("Although he, Beigin, was dead against partition, but he realizes that a Jewish State was coming into existence. The Irgun's objective was to fight the British Army of Occupation but not a Jewish State and its constituted authorities. Therefore, he, Beigin, dissolves the Irgun, leaving for himself and his comrades the right to fight for their opinions according to the normal democratic processes.")

I have little doubt that unless Beigin does exactly that and does it speedily, he and his people will be mercilessly exterminated. Furthermore, it will be done with the moral approbation of the predominant majority of the Yishuv. On the other hand, however, should Beigin follow the course indicated above, any persecution of him and the other leaders of the Irgun will be morally untenable and will find no support in popular opinion.

I wish I could communicate my thoughts on the subject to Beigin but I know no way of doing that. I do not know whether your thinking coincides with mine, but I wanted to draw your attention to the situation which is bound to arise. With this end in view, I take the liberty of sending copies of this letter to several leading Revisionists, namely: Dr. J. Schechtman, Dr. B. Netanyahu, Dr. David S. Shecket, and Mr. Zvi Koletz.

- 2 -

With my kindest regards to you and Mrs. Grossman,
I am

Sincerely yours,

Eliahu Ben-Horin

EBH/lb

