



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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Jewish Agency, policy, 1947.

DANIEL FRISCH
300 CENTRAL PARK WEST
APT. 5H
NEW YORK CITY

April 17, 1947

To: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
and
Dr. Emanuel Neumann

I feel impelled to put down, in writing, something which haunts my mind of late.

I have just received a report about an address delivered the evening before last by Dr. Nahum Goldmann before the Herzl Society which, as the voluntary correspondents told me, "could have been delivered as well by an agent of Mr. Bevin". It may be that the execution of the four martyrs in Palestine plus this disquieting report make it imperative that I convey these thoughts to both of you.

I am persuaded that the line which is being followed by the two of you in the hope that by being more yielding you will be able to keep the majority of the Executive from jumping with open arms into the Morrison-Grady Plan, is a serious mistake fraught with dire consequences for the cause.

The majority of the members of the Executive, to my mind, seem determined to yield our rights because - like Weizmann - they are convinced that unless we surrender to England, the Yishuv will be wiped out. These people will not be moved to greater resistance to England by your conciliatory policy towards them. On the contrary, they will become strengthened in their determination that there is no one or nothing to stop them from pursuing their fatal policy.

Many of them also hope, no doubt, that in putting the two of you in a position whereby you will have to assume co-responsibility for the inevitable outcome, they will at the same time liquidate any opposition to themselves.

It is my feeling that their assumption is correct because I can see already that the English Government has no better defenders than some members of the Executive. At the same time, large masses of Zionists here and in Palestine are forced to the suspicion that the ZOA is trying to ride two horses simultaneously which bodes no good to anyone.

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Seldom, if ever, in my life did I write anything with so deep a feeling of personal loyalty as I do at this time. I sincerely feel, Dr. Silver, that you stand head and shoulders above any man within the leadership of Jewish life anywhere in the world.

My heart beats with fear lest your innate optimism and self-confidence, both of which qualities are as a rule a blessing in life, should not at this time make you take the wrong turn. God knows, the Jewish people need your authority, your influence, your great capabilities and matchless devotion.

Too few men know better than I the depth of devotion and selfless contribution which Dr. Neumann has made and is making to the Zionist cause.

It would be a great pity if, at this time, this crucial moment, the two leading luminaries on the Jewish horizon would be dimmed by as serious a blunder all be it prompted by a desire for a dubious harmony.

Sincerely and affectionately yours,

Daniel Frisch *DF*