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Press matters, miscellaneous, 1947.

LOS ANGELES TIMES-- JUNE 3rd, 1947

PROFESSOR GIVES SOME OPINIONS ON PALESTINE

Prof. Leon Roth, for 20 years a philosophy professor at the Hebrew University in Palestine and formerly an instructor at the University of Manchester, arrived here yesterday. He will speak tomorrow night at Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin's Wilshire Boulevard Temple.

"I am an Englishman," Prof. Roth said in an interview at the Biltmore. "No partition of Palestine is possible without leaving two sore spots that eventually will lead to violence. It is a question of absorptive capacity. It is impossible to have unrestricted immigration.

"The problem of European refugeeism and Palestine are two different problems. Probably the suggested 100,000 Palestine immigrants in the near future is about right; but even that will be a strain. Palestine is a small country. You Americans think everything is big.

"The United States might return to the hospitality it had up until the first World War. You seem to have lots of room. I have just been through Texas. No, I have not met Ben Hecht, and really, I do not care to. Why shouldn't Australia take the immigrants? It is a disgrace they don't. Canada, too.

"Also, we have too many American yellow journalists in Palestine. They are nothing but scaremongers. We live in a Hollywood atmosphere. As for the politicians, it would be better if they were at the bottom of the sea.

"I still think the English are really decent people, jolly decent people. Their rule is to be preferred to that of the United Nations as it is now constituted. As Aristotle said, "What is everybody's business is nobody's business."

"Dr. Roth's view's are his own, not necessarily those of the university's," cut in a member of the local committee.

"Quite so, quite so," said Dr. Roth, rising abruptly. You know, I do say what I think. I always have."

American Zionist Emergency Council

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
Murray Hill 2-1160

AIRMAIL

June 5, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

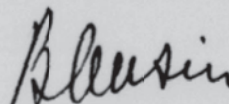
Enclosed please find copy of an interview published in the June 3rd issue of the LOS ANGELES TIMES and sent to us by Mr. Theodore Strimling of the Los Angeles Emergency Council.

You will probably want to take action in this matter in your capacity as Member of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

Don't you believe, however, that the matter should also be put on the agenda of the next meeting of the Executive Committee, with a view to a resolution from that body to be addressed to the appropriate authorities in Jerusalem?

Please let us know if you want us to send a copy of this interview direct to Jerusalem.

Sincerely yours,



Benjamin Akzin

Enc.
BA: sr

Copy

Department of State
Washington

August 29, 1947

My dear Leo:

By reference from the White House, I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 11, 1947, to the Honorable Charles G. Ross, enclosing the clipping of a newspaper article in which certain remarks relating to Palestine were attributed to the President.

You may rest assured that the President did not make the statement attributed to him in the article.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of the State:

Loy W. Henderson
Director
Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs

The Honorable
Leo R. Sack,
American Zionist Emergency Council
1706 G Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

Wisdom of Solomon?

By Peter Edson



THE United Nations committee report recommending partition of strife-torn little Palestine into Jewish and Arab states is a good bit like the judgment of old King Solomon in the case of the two harlots who claimed to be mother of the same child.

Gold-star Sunday School scholars all know the story. The two women came before the king.

"And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.

"And the king said, Divide the child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other."

Up to this point the parallel is perfect. Here is a high committee from 11 nations having no direct interest in Palestine. They are set up like 11 King Solomons to pass judgment on the case.

* * *

PALESTINE is the child. The Jews and the Arabs, like the two mothers of Bible times, both claim it. The 11 Solomons say, "Divide the child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other."

The Jewish Zionists are apparently agreeable to this decision. But the Arabs are yelling bloody murder.

According to the Bible parable, this might be taken to mean Palestine rightly belongs to the Arabs. For the rest of the narrative goes like this:

"Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.

"Then the king answered her and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.

"And all Israel heard the judgment which the king had judged: and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment."

There is no indication the judgment of the UN committee on the infant Palestine is going to have any such happy ending.

If the U. S. Government were to agree to partition of Palestine, it might be doing itself a great disservice. To agree to partition would probably satisfy a noisy but well-heeled minority of American Zionists who actively have financed open revolt and bloodshed against British authority in Palestine. But to agree to partition would alienate the Arab world and might lead to a still bloodier religious war. In the touchy state of Near Eastern affairs today, American national interest needs strong support from the Arab world.

* * *

PARTITIONING of Palestine would offer no lasting solution to the Arab-Jewish conflict. It merely would give the Zionists a beachhead from which to seek further expansion.

There has been too much partitioning of the post-war world as it is. Liberated India is partitioned into Hindu India and Pakistan. China is unofficially partitioned into Communist and Nationalist halves. Germany, Austria and Korea are partitioned into Communist and Allied zones. All Europe is partitioned by an iron curtain.

Instead of achieving one world, the drift is all in the other direction—dividing it instead of uniting it.

Now, if ever, is needed the wisdom of God in modern King Solomons.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

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Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

1706 "G" STREET N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.
EXecutive 1060

September 8, 1947

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

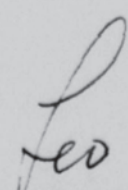
Attached hereto is a literal stinker of a piece by Peter Edson which appeared in today's Scripps-Howard Washington News.

Peter Edson is Washington columnist for the Newspaper Enterprise Service, Inc. with headquarters in Cleveland, which serves, according to my report, more than 800 newspapers, mostly small-town dailies and weeklies throughout the country. Edson, unhappily, has long been indifferent to and suspicious of Zionism. He took Dr. Akzin to task, as I recall, more than a year ago when Akzin discussed our cause with him.

As I see it, it would be perfectly useless for me or any other member of the staff to try to argue with him. It will not be useless, however, nor profitless for you to telephone Mr. Fred Ferguson of Cleveland, the President of NEA and howl to high heaven because of the obvious injustice and unfairness and mischievousness of the piece. If you do not know Fred, Louis Seltzer will 'phone him, at your request, and arrange an introduction.

This done, you should request Ferguson to carry a piece, written by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, or President of the American Section of The Jewish Agency, as you prefer. The point is, however, that such a request from you will be heeded, I believe, by Ferguson and will offset much of the damage done by Edson.

Very sincerely yours,


Leo R. Sack

CC-Mr. Harry L. Shapiro

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
1706 G STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

LEO R. SACK

September 9, 1947

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

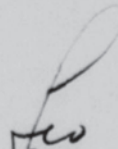
I wrote to you yesterday about the Edson story in the NEA Service.

Knowing Edson's reaction, I was not inclined to discuss the piece with him but it concerned me so much and it worried me so much last night that this morning I talked to him. It was just as I expected. He can see no good or any justice in our claims to a Jewish State nor in the proposed United Nations settlement. On the other hand, like so many others who have fallen for British propaganda, he feels that the British course is the correct course and that the British were wholly within their rights in returning those unfortunate people to Hamburg and manhandling them when they refused to go ashore peaceably.

As a long time reporter, I object strenuously to going over a reporter's head to his editor but under the circumstances I feel that you should complain directly to Mr. Ferguson and urge him to carry a piece by you in reply.

Mr. Ferguson, incidentally, is spending his time now in New York and Louis Seltzer will have to make the contact for you over the long distance telephone.

Sincerely,


Leo

America's Guilty Silence

PM 9/9/47

Support for the creation of a Jewish State in Palestine has been a stated part of our foreign policy for the last 25 years.

There has never been any secret about this policy. Presidents have proclaimed it. Senators have proclaimed it. Congressmen have proclaimed it. Men who were on their way out of the White House, and Governors who hoped that they were on their way in, have proclaimed it.

Moreover, this country's policy makers have three times committed the U. S. A. in formal documentation to interest in the future of Palestine with relation to the Jews.

The first time was in our support of the Balfour Declaration, which called for the creation in Palestine of a National Home for the Jews.

The second was when our Government became one of the signatories of the international agreement which gave Palestine to Britain in mandate for the carrying out of the Declaration.

The third time was last year, when six U. S. members of the Anglo-American Commission, all six appointed by the President, joined with British members in urging immediate admission to Palestine of 100,000 Jews.

No, there is nothing secret about the place of Palestine in our foreign policy.

But if there is nothing secret, there is definitely something very unique.

I don't know of any item of our foreign policy about which we have talked more and done less.

Not a single Jew has reached Palestine because of this country's efforts. Not a single step has been taken by the mandate power—Britain—in compliance with the terms of the mandate as a result of U. S. pressure. Nor has a single measure, enforced by the mandate power in violation of the terms of the mandate, been lifted through U. S. urging.

Our 25 years of asserted pro-Zionist policy have been 25 years of pure unadulterated wind. They have been 25 years of sound without even honest fury, signifying nothing. It's no good trying to argue that there is nothing we could have done.

When a lone Bulgar politician, who happens to be a spokesman for a Bulgarian political party which we favor,

gets into trouble in his home country, our State Dept. galvanizes into frenzied action, and stiff official protests are lodged in Sofia and Moscow.

Is our international commitment to protect democracy in Bulgaria on a different level from our international commitment to protect Jewish rights in Palestine?

When there is a smelly election in Hungary, Washington bureaucrats and politicians, many representing states whose elections have been smelling up the American political scene for more than half a century, become everything except inarticulate with fury. And the State Dept. note-writers have themselves another heyday.

But when 4500 Jewish refugees are bludgeoned and pummelled off the gang-planks onto German soil by British troops, there is no need for the note-writers to reach for their pens. Washington has nothing to say.

It has nothing to say, even though this crime is being committed at the very moment when an official UN body—that UN of which President Truman twice in the last week vowed the U. S. A. would support unto the very last—released the full text of a majority report calling for the immediate entry of 150,000 Jews into Palestine.

It has nothing to say even when, in an incredible refinement of cruelty, the British post German policemen around the Hamburg docks to guard against trouble while the people of the Exodus are unloaded. What grim humor these British have!

Nothing to say? I'm wrong.

From the side of their mouths, and in the dark corners of the labyrinthian State Dept. complex, our policy makers whisper urgent orders to the British: "Don't you dare take your troops out of Greece until we are ready! Don't you dare!"

And the British don't dare.

For the U. S. A. is not nearly so helpless as Washington might sometimes want you to think. We have some mighty fine weapons—short of war, if you please—which even the British must respect, once we make up our minds to use them.

We have billions for loan.



We have tariffs which can make or break a nation of tradesmen.

We have Marshall Plans and Truman Doctrines.

We have atom bomb secrets.

We have men and money and guns which can be used to threaten or to help, as we see fit.

No, we are not a weak nation. We are not even a timid nation. We are only, when it suits our purposes, a hypocritical nation.

These last 25 years of noble posturing have been fine. A lot of Americans have no doubt been elected to a lot of offices on the strength of them. But enough is enough.

If the White House and/or the State Dept. has changed its mind about American foreign policy re Palestine, let it say so and give its reasons. Continued silence can only mean that Bevin was right when he charged publicly last year that the U. S. Government wasn't really

interested in Palestine, it was interested only in votes.

On the other hand, if Jewish rights are still a concern of our policy makers, more noble posturings are going to fool no one.

Crime at Hamburg: is the cure at Lake Success? The honesty of American policy is on trial before the American people and before the world.

—VICTOR H. BERNSTEIN

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

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Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
MUrray Hill 2-1160

September 9, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

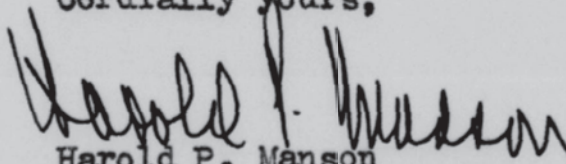
Dear Dr. Silver:

I think you will agree with me that the enclosed editorial by Victor Bernstein which appeared in today's PM constitutes one of the most effective comments yet made on the current situation.

I would like to have this piece reprinted, but in view of the basic question of policy vis-a-vis the American Government which is involved, I prefer to await your judgment before taking any action.

With kind regards, I am

Cordially yours,


Harold P. Manson
Director of Information

HPM:SR
Enc

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Zionist Organization of America

342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
MURRAY Hill 2-1160

AHS

British loan

September 10, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

A couple of weeks ago a thick volume was produced by Harper & Bros. for the Council on Foreign Relations, entitled "The United States in World Affairs 1945-1947". The author of the book is John C. Campbell and it carries an introduction by John Foster Dulles. Both because of the auspices of the Council on Foreign Relations and because of John Foster Dulles' association with the book, I think that you might be interested in the following quotations from this volume relating to Palestine.

In the chapter dealing with "Mandates and the Trusteeship System" there is the following statement:

"...Obviously, Britain did not intend to turn over its mandated territories to international administration but wished rather to exchange the name of mandatory for that of trustee."

In another chapter, discussing the Near and Middle East, the author has to say the following about American policy in that area.

"...Under these circumstances the United States, so far as it had a defined policy, pursued a line roughly parallel to Britain's. We had favored independence for the Arab peoples; we did not mind if that independence was restricted by the diminishing element of British tutelage in some countries. Anything which would give the area greater internal strength and cohesion as protection against Soviet penetration was regarded as desirable. Without being willing to assume much responsibility, we were ready to talk over with the British and French possible solutions to pressing problems in Syria and Palestine. We wished to develop the Middle East's resources and to increase our trade in friendly competition with Great Britain, loosening if we could the ties of the sterling bloc. Some called it a policy of 'underwriting the British Empire'."

September 10, 1947

An illuminating admission with regard to the effect of Britain's Palestine policy on British-American relations and especially on the loan to Britain is offered in a chapter dealing with the reconstruction of world trade. Here is the quotation in point.

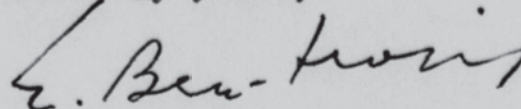
"...Try as it would to keep the British loan in an economic and financial framework, the administration could not keep political considerations out of the debate. Anti-British feeling played its part. British 'imperialism' came in for its share of criticism. Ireland's traditional place in discussions of British-American relations was now taken by Palestine. Criticism of British policy there reached a high point during the House debate, provoked largely by Foreign Secretary Bevin's statement at the Labor Party Conference on June 12th that the Americans supported Zionism 'because they did not want too many of them (Jews) in New York'. At that point, the administration feared defeat of the loan. (My italics - EBH) It argued strongly that the two questions should be separated and was fortunate in finding some support among Zionist groups. The day after the British Government denied him a visa for Palestine, Rabbi Stephen Wise said, 'I shall not permit my abundantly justified indignation against the Palestine Government, and its lawless practices, to change the fact of my support, as an American, of the British loan. The issue should be decided solely on its merits.' The statement was read on the floor of the House by Representative Bloom, who took the same position."

Towards the end of the book, one finds there again an admission that Britain does not intend to leave the Middle East. Speaking of the weakening of British positions in the Middle East and of the idea current at the time in Britain of substituting bases in Africa (Kenya-Nigeria-South Africa triangle) for the strategic stronghold in the Middle East, the author says:

"...The British were by no means giving up the Near East. They showed no signs of getting out of Cyprus and Transjordan. They were not giving up Palestine, even though submitting the question to the United Nations for discussion."

Hoping that you may find this information useful, and with my very best wishes for Rosh Hashanah, I am

Sincerely yours,



Eliahu Ben-Horin

September 12, 1947

Mr. Harold Manson
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

My dear Harold:

I see no reason why the article of Victor Bernstein on
"America's Guilty Silence" should not be reprinted.

With all good wishes for a very happy new year,
I remain

AHS:BK



Most cordially yours,



AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
1706 G STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

LEO R. SACK

December 3, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
Commodore Hotel,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

To supplement your knowledge of the state of the union, I am enclosing herewith tear sheets from this morning's Congressional Record with (a) the speech of Mr. Rankin in the House on yesterday and the very apt rejoinder by Mr. Rooney (Dem.) of Brooklyn, and (b) the speech by Mrs. Bolton which was by way of report on her recent trip through the Near East. I have marked those passages in Mrs. Bolton's address pertaining to Palestine and some of the Middle Eastern countries which will be of interest to you.

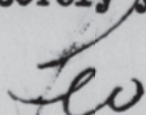
For your additional enlightenment, there is enclosed from this morning's Washington Post, Drew Pearson's column with his statement that Mr. Truman, himself, laid the law down to Lovett. I had been advised heretofore that he acted through his secretaries but it is quite possible that, being a man of action, he picked up the telephone himself. Anyway, there is no doubt whatsoever in my mind that it was the President who laid the law down to the State Department.

In this morning's Post there is also an additional interesting editorial plus some letters to the Editor, all a consequence of the very splendid editorial the Post carried last Friday entitled, "Holy Shenanigans."

I am also enclosing, for your information, in the event you did not see it in New York, an Associated Press story from this morning's Times-Herald which was printed also in last night's Washington Star on the question of Russia and Palestine. The story was planted by someone in the War Department and it indicates that the Department has not yet gotten over the fears it had entertained during the past few years.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,


Leo R. Sack

LRS/mp

Encl.

CC: Mr. Harry Shapiro

Dr. Silver

December 3, 1947

P. S. Rankin's quotation from the late "beloved" Henry Morgenthau reminds me of what I think it was Robert Louis Stevenson wrote that, "words better unsaid come back to grieve us when you think they are dead." I imagine that now many of our leading Jews are sorry that they were so vehement in their opposition to the Jewish State.

I am also including speeches by Javits and Klein made yesterday in the House.



ALEXANDER WILEY, WIS., CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM LANGER, N. DAK.	PAT MCCARRAN, NEV.
HOMER FERGUSON, MICH.	HARLEY M. KILGORE, W. VA.
CHAPMAN REVERCOMB, W. VA.	JAMES O. EASTLAND, MISS.
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FORREST C. DONNELL, MO.	J. W. FULBRIGHT, ARK.
JOHN SHERMAN COOPER, KY.	J. HOWARD MCGRATH, R. I.

HAROLD R. WILDE, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

December 11, 1947

Mr. Leo R. Sack
701 Ring Bldg.
1200 18th St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Sack: *Leo*

Thank you for your letter of the fifth giving me excerpts from the interview given by Dr. Silver to the New York Evening Post.

He certainly did a good job of it.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

Howard
J. Howard McGrath
United States Senator

McG:RD

DECEMBER 15, 1947

STRAIGHT WIRE

MAJOR GEORGE FIELDING ELIOT
NEW YORK POST
75 WEST STREET
NEW YORK CITY

YOU WILL RECALL THAT FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF YOUR COLUMN OF
DECEMBER 3RD CONTAINING STRICTURES MADE AGAINST ME, I CALLED
YOUR ATTENTION TO THE ACTUAL FACTS IN THE SITUATION. IN VIEW
OF THE FACT THAT YOUR CRITICISM WAS BASED UPON AN ALLEGED STATEMENT
OF MINE WHICH, UPON INVESTIGATION, YOU DISCOVERED WAS NOT MADE BY
ME, I HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT YOU WOULD WISH TO SET THE RECORD
STRAIGHT. I WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU WERE TO LET ME KNOW IN
WHICH OF YOUR COLUMNS THE CORRECTION WAS CARRIED. REGARDS

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

HPM:SR

L'CHAIM

When Dr. Abba Hillel Silver was asked for a statement immediately after the historic decision he broke down in tears . . . All he could say at the moment was "L'Chaim" to a kind hand that handed him a drink . . . The usually emotional Emanuel Neumann was more stoic . . . Both Silver and Neumann, according to unconfirmed rumors, plan settling in the Jewish state immediately upon its official formation.

NATHAN ZIPRIN
Editor

Arts Feature Syndicate, Inc.

WORLDWIDE NEWS SERVICE

103 Park Avenue

New York City

MURRAY HILL 5-2550
CABLE: SEVENARTS, N. Y.

December 17, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Enclosed you will find a copy of an item which we syndicated to approximately forty Anglo-Jewish newspapers throughout the United States and Canada.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan Ziprin

Nathan Ziprin, editor

Seven Arts Features

