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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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Sack, Leo, 1947.

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

LEO R. SACK

June 18, 1947

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

For your files herewith is the
corrected copies of the Resolution and Bill which
Javits plans to have introduced in the House next
week.



Very sincerely yours,

Leo R. Sack

LRS:ME

*see folder
Resolution in Congress*

MEMORANDUM

Washington Office

July 30, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver ✓

Mr. Harry L. Shapiro

For your information, Senator Taft's address in Cincinnati, Ohio
is 603 Dixie Terminal Building.

Leo R. Sack

WRHS



AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

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

Constituent Organizations

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

July 30, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o Dr. Greenberg
R.F.D. #1
Northport, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

If you have a young lady available, I wish you would divest yourself of a letter to Vandenberg, to this effect;

"Dear Senator Vandenberg:


"I understand that the Senate is sending a Committee overseas this summer to study the refugee problem. Because the overwhelming majority of the Jewish inmates of the concentration camps prefer to go to Palestine than to any other place on this earth, I do hope that it will be possible for you to use your good offices to see to it that the Republican members of the Committee are men who are sympathetic to the Zionist cause. If men of good will see for themselves how critical is the situation in reference to these unfortunate people, I am confident that our cause will be strengthened before the Congress."

Doctor, the above is awfully stiff and I do not like it, but you do have the idea, and if you can suggest to Van that he use a little judgment in naming this Committee, it may be helpful.

If, by any chance, you are talking to Taft you might drop the same suggestion to him. I shall mention the matter to Brewster when I see him next. In the meanwhile, poor Mr. Brewster is having an awful lot of trouble and the gossip around the Press Club is that his face may be even redder than it was yesterday before the present hearings are over. I am very much concerned about this, too, because I hate like everything to see Brewster's influence weakened.

Kindest personal regards.

Very sincerely yours,


Leo R. Sack

Copy to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

July 30, 1947

Honorable Robert A. Taft
603 Dixie Terminal Building
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Senator Taft:

I am awfully sorry I was out in Illinois visiting my grandchildren when Congress adjourned, which deprived me of the opportunity to personally thank you for the many courtesies which you extended to me during the past year. I am very grateful to you, not only for this, but for your genuine support of the cause which is so dear to me.

As you know, Senator, I am very keenly interested in your political welfare and I sincerely trust that all will go well with you during the summer.

I hope you will feel that if I can do anything in my power to assist you, I will do so with much enthusiasm and good will.

With my kindest personal regards and best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

Leo R. Sack

Copy for: Dr. Silver

August 1, 1947 ^{Soek}

Honorable Howard J. McGrath
32 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Senator:

I am awfully sorry that I was out in Illinois visiting my grandchildren when Congress adjourned so that I did not have an opportunity to tell you goodbye, wish you a happy summer, and to thank you for your many courtesies.

The other day, as you may have heard, I telephoned your office to inquire whether you had been named to the Special Senate Committee which will study the problem of DPs in Europe this summer. If you had not been named I was hopeful that you would get yourself named. Since then I learned that you were appointed, and I am delighted because it is urgently necessary that men of good-will in whose blood flows the milk of human kindness be included on this Committee.

We are all very much concerned now over the tragic happenings in Palestine, including the British refusal to admit the ship "Exodus 1947" and the government's subsequent inhumane decision to return the ship to France, as well as subsequent horrible happenings, which include the hanging of those three boys and the retaliatory execution by the terrorists of the two British sergeants.

All of these things are having a most unwholesome effect on American public opinion. Unquestionably, Americans were outraged by the return of that ship and they were horrified, too, by the execution of the three boys who participated in the jail break at Acre prison and then the unjustified retaliatory execution of the British sergeants. What the American people fail to take into consideration is that the illegal and inhumane policy of the British in reference to Palestine was the refusal to admit homeless refugees in accordance with the Mandate for Palestine, as well as the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, is primarily responsible for all of the disorders.

Unhappily, every time outraged Jews retaliate, the British use this as a smokescreen to hide their own primary responsibility and their pious denouncements are widely propagandized in the United States. Insofar as the rights of the Jews are concerned and common decency and justice are involved, the American people and our government are prone to forget.

A typical example was the arbitrary British arrest of the American members of the crew of the "Exodus 1947." These men have every right guaranteed under international law as American citizens, but our own State Department has conveniently looked the other way.

I am sure you will be interested in the enclosed copy of a letter which Dr. Silver sent on day before yesterday to Secretary Marshall. I had several copies made in order to forward one to you and to some of our other friends. I hope it will stimulate your constructive interest.

Before concluding, may I call to your attention the report in yesterday's newspapers of the magnificent and generous action taken by the French National Assembly in unanimously passing a resolution urging the French government to call upon the British government to "find a solution" in conformity with the laws of humanity to alleviate the plight of the helpless victims aboard the "Exodus" who were refused admission to Palestine. I am enclosing text of this resolution.

Is it not passing strange, Senator, that our government which is so emotionally, economically and financially interested in the plight of every peoples on earth is so coldly indifferent to what is occurring in Palestine? It is because of this that I and so many of my friends who are aware of your deep interest in this problem are grateful to you.

My kindest regards and very best wishes for a pleasant summer.

Very sincerely yours,

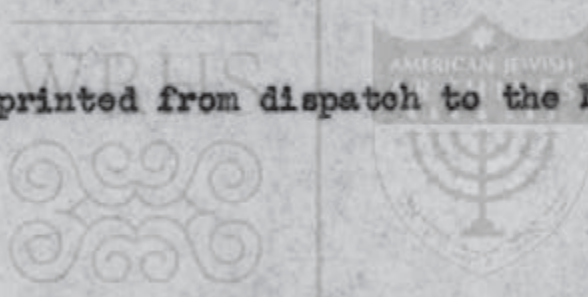
Leo R. Sack

LRS:ME

Text of Resolution unanimously adopted by the French National Assembly July 30, 1947, calling upon Great Britain to solve urgently and humanely the "tragic affair" of the 4,500 Jewish refugees aboard the "Exodus 1947", who were refused admission into Palestine and returned to France:

"The National Assembly congratulates the French Government on its liberal action on the tragic affair of the Exodus. The Assembly asks the government to make known urgently to the British government the emotions which disturb it and its hopes of seeing, as quickly as possible, a solution in conformity with the laws of humanity."

This text reprinted from dispatch to the New York Herald-Tribune.



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

LEO R. SACK

August 1, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
C/o Dr. Greenberg,
R. F. D. # 1,
Northport, Long Island, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

In accordance with your suggestions, conveyed yesterday afternoon through Dr. Akzin, I, today, had a long and very frank talk with Mr. Biffle. I reminded him of my previous conversations on this subject and my forecast as to the reactions of our people because of their distress at the coldly indifferent, if not hostile, policy of the State Department. I cited Lehman as an example. He agreed with me thoroughly and was good enough to say, of his own accord, that "you were absolutely correct, Leo." I told him that what occurred last year will, of a certainty, plague the Democrats next year. He agreed in full.

I left Biffle a copy of the Marshall letter and he promised me that he would deliver it to the President on next Monday or Tuesday and, at the same time, will discuss the entire situation with him with a view, if possible, of having Mr. Truman change his approach and take a more sympathetic interest.

I should not forget that I reminded Mr. Biffle that, prior to the meeting of the U. N., the President positively refused to see you and your associates despite the urgency of this matter and despite the presumptive right of American citizens, speaking for great groups of their fellow-citizens, to discuss such an urgent and important matter with the capital executive.

I also told "Bif" that the President had called off Alben Barkley and others who wanted to speak in our behalf. He seemed shocked. Certainly, he was surprised. "Bif" expressed himself as being in great sympathy with us, aside from politics involved, as a matter of human decency and fair play.

August 1, 1947

I don't know what results all of this will have but I do know that the President listens to Biffle.

I delivered a copy of the letter to Senator O'Mahoney who promised to read it fully and to give it all of his prayerful consideration. Incidentally, O'Mahoney told me that you had written to him as a result of his visit to Marshall. He seemed very grateful. I am glad you did so. O'Mahoney, incidentally, regards Britain's policy as absolutely unjustifiable and he expressed the opinion that the terrorism in Palestine is what is to be expected under the circumstances.

I also delivered, in person, a copy of the letter to Brian McMahon, of Connecticut, who promised again to do what he can and to use his influence as best he can.

Incidentally, in my conversations with Biffle, McMahon and O'Mahoney, I told them about the most gracious action of the French National Assembly and contrasted it with the absolute silence of our own government. I left with Biffle the Herald Tribune story on page one of yesterday morning's paper, quoting the Resolution. He promised to show it to the President.

Senator Vandenberg is out of town and he will be back next week. I will leave a letter in his office with his personal secretary to make sure that he gets it.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have written today to Senator McGrath of Rhode Island.

With my kindest personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Leo R. Sack

LRS/p
Encl.

CC: Mr. Harry Shapiro
Dr. Benjamin Akzin

Copy to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
" " Mr. Harry L. Shapiro,

August 4, 1947

Honorable Arthue H. Vandenberg
139 Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Vandenberg:

I am enclosing copy of a letter which Dr. Silver forwarded last week to Secretary Marshall, and which he requested that I deliver to you, for your information.

Because the situation in Palestine is becoming so increasingly tragic, I do hope and I am sure that Dr. Silver does, too, that you may have an opportunity to discuss it with Secretary Marshall, either before you leave for Rio or while you are there.

At the moment the British are engaged in a violent anti-Semitic campaign because of the irresponsible conduct of the terrorist groups, but neither the British Foreign Office nor the British public will concede that these terrorist activities stem directly from the stubborn British refusal to modify the illegal White Paper.

If our government would insist, pending a decision by the United Nations as to what the future government of Palestine will be, that Britain live up to the terms of the treaty between the United States and Britain in reference to Palestine, all of us are confident that the terrorism in Palestine would disappear overnight. But Britain insists on sanctimoniously violating this treaty and then blame the Jews of Palestine for the consequences. Unhappily, our government fails to take cognizance of this elementary fact.

With kindest personal regards and all good wishes for a bon voyage and a happy stay in Rio.

Most sincerely yours,

Leo R. Sack

P.S. Since dictating the above, I received the enclosed copy of Dr. Silver's statement on Saturday, which is very much worthwhile reading in full.

-LRS

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

LEO R. SACK

August 4, 1947

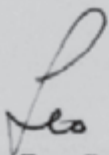
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o Dr. Greenberg
R.F.D. #1
Northport, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

For your information; should you care
to communicate with Senator Taft, he has already left
for Murray Bay, and his address will be: Murray Bay,
Quebec Province
Canada

Kindest regards.

Very sincerely yours,


Leo R. Sack

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

LEO R. SACK

August 4, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

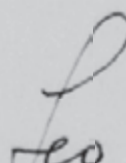
For your information, I had a long talk Friday afternoon with Colonel Robert Ginsburgh, who is the Executive Officer to Secretary of War Kenneth Royall, with a view of stimulating Bob's interest in Zionism.

Although the son of an Orthodox Rabbi, Bob is married to a Christian and is identified with the Unitarian Church. He has been helpful on DP matters, but he has taken no interest in Zionism. I left with him a number of your pieces and some other data and I am hopeful that it will produce results.

He told me that we will find Mr. Royall far more interested in our cause than was Judge Patterson, and that Royall also will take cognizance of the fact that the Jews vote in the United States and not the Arabs.

At an early date Bob and I will arrange a luncheon for you and Royall at some time convenient to both of you, probably in September or late August. Mr. Royall is now in Germany.

Very sincerely yours,


Leo R. Sack

C
O
P
Y
AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
1706 "G" Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

August 6, 1947

Mr. Harry L. Shapiro
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Harry:

Only yesterday I asked Schulson, before leaving on his vacation this morning, to go up to the Capitol to talk with Congressman Christian Herter of Massachusetts, who will head the Committee of Representatives going to Europe this Summer to study conditions. It was not necessary to sell Herter on our cause, but I did want him to know that we are interested and thereby stimulate his further interest.

I am enclosing, for your information, the memorandum from Schulson, which I will appreciate if you will pass along to Eliahu Ben-Horin. It is my understanding that this Committee is not going to look specifically into Zionism except as it relates to investigating the DP camps and Britain's maintenance of troops in Palestine.

I think it will be a fine idea, if you haven't already done so, to have intelligent people from Boston discuss our situation with Mr. Herter before he goes.

Javits is doing a good job for us in this respect, and I hope he gets an opportunity to go overseas with Herter, but this is not certain yet.

Sincerely yours,

Leo R. Sack

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

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

August 11, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o Dr. Greenberg
R. F. D. No. 1
Northport, L. I., N. Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

For the past few days, or ever since the hanging of the two British soldiers, plus the booby-trapping of their bodies, a very definite anti-Zionist wave has been sweeping Washington.

This, I know, is not news to you, but it was news to me when I learned over the weekend and again today of the tremendous increase in anti-Zionist mail reaching Senators from the New England, the Middle Atlantic, and the Southern states.

These letters, I was advised by a man who really knows conditions on the Hill because of his constant contacts with his associates at the Capitol, are not the ordinary run-of-the-mill crack-pot letters, but are letters from men known by the Senators to be responsible men and women in their communities. Many are from lawyers, doctors and other types of professional men. They voice their concern at unrestricted terrorism in Palestine and express the thought that while they are deeply sympathetic to Jewish aspirations, they cannot stomach the illegality and horror of much of what the Irgun is doing. Of course, there are the crack-pot letters, too, but these do not concern Senators. It is the well-written, restrained language of letters from men who are either known personally by the Senators or known by reputation and general standing.

These letters, I was told, are proving particularly distressing to Senators Saltonstall and Lodge, and Hawkes of New Jersey, three good friends of our cause. It happens that I personally have not discussed this situation with either of these gentlemen, but I do not question for one minute the reliability of my source of information. Southern Senators are receiving large numbers of protest letters, too. Heretofore, the volume of mail from the West on this subject has been very

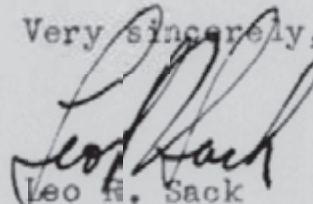
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

August 11, 1947

light, but now, I am advised, protest letters are beginning to come in from the West. I have no means of knowing as to whether or not this is a part of an organized anti-Zionist propaganda. I do not think, however, that the verbal protests which I have heard from men in the Press Club over the past week are part of an organized propaganda. It is more of a revulsion of sentiment, an outrage of human decency such as you touched on in your recent statement. Unhappily, as you well know, those who are outraged never stop to think of the provocation. I am told that until just recently there was growing admiration for the terrorists in that their warfare against the British Empire had commended them to those persons who were willing to regard them in the same light as history now looks upon the revolutionary war patriots, as well as the fighters for Irish freedom. In those days, lots of our people recall, our revolutionists, as well as the Irish fighters, were called hoodlums, too. I hope when you get to Switzerland, that you will discuss this situation as fully and freely as you can with the Committee members from Palestine and throughout the world. If you can succeed in impressing upon the Irgunists the brutal fact that their misguided zeal is causing the pendulum of American public sentiment to swing vigorously in the opposite direction against us, you will have accomplished something worthwhile.

In conclusion, I must repeat that the volume of mail reaching the Capitol and the character of this correspondence is definitely harming our cause.

Very sincerely,


Leo H. Sack

LRS:cw

CC to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Mr. Harry L. Shapiro

August 11, 1947

Honorable Charles G. Ross
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Charlie:

I think you and the President will be much interested in the enclosed clipping from the CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER of Monday, August 4, 1947, which has been forwarded to me from Cleveland.

I do not believe that President Truman is correctly quoted by this man, but nevertheless he is taking advantage of whatever impressions he may have gained not only to place the President in an embarrassing position, but also to cause great distress to those of us who are concerned with the creation of the Jewish Homeland in accordance with the long-time pledges and pronouncements of our government and executive officials.

Very sincerely,

Leo R. Sack

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

LEO R. SACK

August 11, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o Dr. Greenberg
R. F. D. No. 1
Northport, L. I., N. Y.

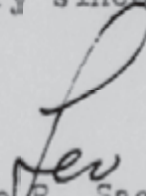
Dear Dr. Silver:

I hope I have a chance to visit with you again in Washington before you sail, but if I do not, may I urge you, as I have just urged Harry Shapiro when he called me over the telephone a while ago, that the greatest possible sort of publicity be given to your statement, "In Focus". In another letter to you today, I have called attention to the growing wave of anti-Zionist sentiments whipped up by the terrorist activities. To offset this, and to partially explain why this situation prevails, your statement is the finest antidote that I have yet seen. Incidentally, the man who is my chief source of information as to the volume of letters coming to the Capitol, read your statement word-for-word, and he described it as "magnificent". This, apparently, is the one word which all of those who have read your statement use. You will recall that Senator Brewster used the term. Last night at a home where I was, two non-active Zionists used the same word.

I suggested to Harry that the ad be used throughout the country as much as possible. I furthermore suggested to Harry that our members send copies of it in personal covering letters, as I have done here in Washington to many people already. I think Dr. Marks should send out a directive to Z.O.A. chapters throughout the country urging that the Z.O.A. take steps to give widespread publicity to your statement as a means of combatting the growing anti-Zionist sentiment. The Z.O.A.'s should supplement the activities of the local Emergency Councils.

With my kindest regards,

Very sincerely,


Leo R. Sack

IRS:cw

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Constituent Organizations

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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

August 12, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o Dr. Greenberg
R. F. D. No. 1
Northport, L. I., N. Y.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Dr. Silver:

As you will recall, when you were in town last week, one of our friends at the Senate mentioned the receipt of some photostatic copies of material pertaining to the late President Roosevelt and King Ibn Saud of Saudi-Arabia. Yesterday afternoon, in response to my request which had your approval at the time, the Senator's secretary telephoned me to advise that I might come up this morning, if I cared to, to take a look-see at the material.

I have just returned to the office after going over the data, and I must confess that I was somewhat disappointed in that there is no direct communication between the late President and Ibn Saud. These letters were taken from the files of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and pertain entirely to the efforts in 1941 of James A. Moffett, Chairman of California-Texas Oil Company, and his associates, including W. S. S. Rodgers, President of the Texas Corporation, to obtain additional monies for Ibn Saud. In those days, Saudi-Arabian oil production, apparently, had not reached the present high levels, and Ibn Saud already was overdrawn from the standpoint, as the oil companies viewed it, of sound business practices. Meanwhile, Ibn Saud was greedily urging larger payments, and the British, who had the chief interest there, were reluctant to give him any more money. So Ibn Saud persuaded James A. Moffett, who in a letter to Jesse Jones dated July 22, 1941, explained that he was advocating the loan because Saudi-Arabia had no direct diplomatic contact with the United States. Moffett predicated his activity on the theory that "direct and immediate aid by the United States Government to the King at this critical time will bolster the British position among the Arabs and the Moslems the world over". He pleaded that "assistance be made direct by our Government to the Saudi-Arabian Government".

Be it said to his credit, however, Mr. Jesse Jones, who was as hard-boiled with federal funds as any country banker in the nation and acquired a reputation for such care, stood firm against the appeals of Mr. Moffett and Mr. Rodgers, and, later, the President of the United States.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

August 12, 1947

On May 28, 1941, Mr. Jones wrote Rodgers in response to a several-page long plea of funds for Ibn Saud that:

"I doubt if anything can be done for the King (Ibn Saud) immediately, if at all."

The correspondence also indicates that while Jones called Mr. Rodgers, a former Texan, "Steve", he was hard-boiled with both Rodgers and Moffett in insisting that there was no legal way whereby he could give United States money to Ibn Saud.

The correspondence does show, however, that even back in June and July of 1941, approximately six months before Pearl Harbor, the late Mr. Roosevelt then was going far out of his way to extend courtesies and to manifest his high esteem and his cordial good will for his "great and good friend", King Ibn Saud. This was a forerunner of Pat Hurley's special visit, after we declared war, to Ibn Saud, at which time Mr. Hurley conveyed the message that Ibn Saud was strongly opposed to Zionist aspirations in Palestine. It also preceded by more than three years Mr. Roosevelt's infamous conference with Ibn Saud at the Suez when he sold us down the river.

There is included in this file, among the oil company letters, a memorandum in Roosevelt's own handwriting and initialed, "F. D. R.", addressed to Jesse Jones. It is as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 18, 1941

Jess:

Will you tell the British I hope they can take care of the King of Saudi-Arabia. This is a little far afield for us.

F. D. R.

This memorandum was a result of a negative reply by Jones to the late Harry L. Hopkins, the President's "man Friday", who on June 14, 1941, on White House stationery in a letter marked personal and confidential to "Dear Jesse", wrote as follows:

"The President is anxious to find a way to do something about this matter. I am enclosing confidential correspondence from the White House so you can see what goes on. Will you return it as soon as you have read it. (The underscoring was written in ink by Hopkins.)

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

August 13, 1947

"I am not sure what techniques there are to use. It occurred to me that some of it might be done in the shipment of food direct under the lend-lease bill, although just how we could call that outfit a "democracy", I don't know. Perhaps instead of using his royalties on oil as collateral, we could use his royalties on the tips he will get in the future on the pilgrims to Mecca.

"The R. F. C. has done some funny things since that man from Houston took charge of it.

Cordially,

(signed) Harry L. Hopkins."

On June 22, Jones replied to "Dear Harry" as follows:

"You wrote me on June 14, hoping that I could find some way to assist King Ibn Saud.

"There appeared no legal way that we could help the King, so with the approval of the President, I suggested to Lord Halifax and Sir Frederick Phillips, also Mr. Neville Butler, that they continue taking care of the King.

Sincerely,

(signed) Jesse Jones."

You will note that Mr. Jones' letter was written on July 22, whereas the President's note to him requesting that he advise the British was dated four days sooner, July 18, indicating that following receipt of Hopkins' letter, Mr. Jones had personally discussed the matter with the President and then received the note in the President's own handwriting.

On August 27, 1941, Mr. Jones, in a memorandum to Harry Hopkins, returned the correspondence forwarded to him in Hopkins' letter of June 14 which he (Hopkins) had requested be returned.

On the bottom of his ordinary office memorandum returning the papers, one of Jones' assistants had typed:

"Reference to United States giving financial aid to King Ibn Saud of Arabia by agreeing to purchase petroleum products to the value of \$6,000,000 annually for five years. It is also suggested that we urge the British Government to increase from 400,000 pounds to 900,000 pounds the payment which they are making to the King in 1941."

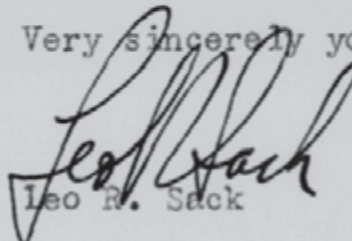
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

August 13, 1947

The R. F. C. file also shows a memorandum in August of 1941 by Jones, apparently at the President's request, to Secretary of State Hull advising him of the matter and telling him that he had suggested to the British with the President's permission that they supply the funds requested by Ibn Saud. I did not see anything in the file to indicate that British advances to Ibn Saud were to be charged up eventually against American lend-lease advances to Britain, as, we understand, actually did occur after we entered the war.

I hope, in order that the Senator will not think his confidence in us has been misplaced, that the above information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Very sincerely yours,


Leo R. Sack

IRS:cw



August 27, 1947

Honorable Adolph J. Sabath
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Judge Sabath:

Thank you very much for advising me that President Truman is continuing to do all in his power to facilitate and speed up the admission of Jewish refugees into Palestine as well as continuing his support of the proposed Jewish Homeland in Palestine.

This confirms similar information received by Dr. Silver before his recent departure to Zurich, Switzerland where he is attending an emergency meeting of the World Zionist Organization.

In this connection, you will be pleased to know that an address by Dr. Silver prompted the following dispatch to "The Day" of New York, under the signature of its staff correspondent Dr. S. Margoshes:

Zurich, August 25:-

"Dr. Abba Hillel Silver today stirred the session of the Zionist Action Committee when, in an address lasting over three quarters of an hour, he defended the position of the American Government during the special Palestine session of the United Nations Assembly. At the same time, Dr. Silver extended the hope that at the September session of the United Nations the American Government will stand on its traditionalist pro-Zionist policy."

His speech, according to the dispatch, was very warmly received.

I was greatly distressed, however, Judge, to learn from you that President Truman views with suspicion -- and some annoyance -- Dr. Silver's friendship for Senator Taft. This relationship, I know from my own intimate knowledge, is of no more political significance than his relationship with Senator Barkley or Senator Wagner or Senator Murray who have for many years given their cordial support to the Zionist cause.

Dr. Silver is an Ohioan and Mr. Taft is one of his senators. But in addition, Mr. Taft joined with Senator Wagner in 1943 in sponsoring the so-called Wagner-Taft Resolution which again placed the stamp of Congressional approval on Jewish aspirations. It is obvious, under the circumstances, that Dr. Silver should feel kindly to Mr. Taft who gave to the Resolution his most active personal as well as political support. May I repeat, however, that his friendship for Mr. Taft is no more nor less than his friendship for those Democratic senators who, too, have given us their warmest political as well as personal support through the years.

As you know, Judge, the Zionist movement in the United States has traditionally been a non-partisan and non-political movement. The first President to give our cause a substantial boost was Woodrow Wilson who joined with David Lloyd George in promulgating the Balfour Resolution. The first politically powerful member of the Congress to champion Zionism was Senator Henry Cabot Lodge who sponsored the famous Lodge resolution back in 1923. It was this measure which initially placed the Congress on record as favoring the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jews.

Dr. Silver has never deviated from this non-political approach. But to the contrary, he has steadfastly insisted that our movement be not affiliated with either political party and that we Jews seek support from men of goodwill regardless of whether they are Democrats or Republicans. I know that Dr. Silver hopes to be able to continue this policy.

I fear, Judge, that Mr. Truman has been badly advised by some people concerning Dr. Silver and this is most unfortunate.

Efforts were made by certain selfish people to prejudice the late President Roosevelt against Dr. Silver and the excuse then was that he was a Republican. That was and is a false accusation.

Dr. Silver is a sincere liberal and in his long career in Cleveland he has always been identified with liberal causes. He was a warm friend and supporter of the late great Newton D. Baker, who during his lifetime represented every liberal movement which developed in Cleveland and in Ohio.

In 1932 and again in 1936, Dr. Silver was an ardent and vigorous supporter of President Roosevelt. In 1940, like thousands of other American citizens, Dr. Silver questioned the advisability of breaking the "no third term" tradition of presidential succession.

In that year, he voted for Mr. Willkie but at no time nor at any place did he speak in behalf of Willkie or advocate President Roosevelt's defeat. He did, however, when questioned on one occasion, declare that he was opposed to the third term and therefore would vote for Willkie. It was this statement, made to a friend and not for publication, which caused the malicious grapevine rumor that Dr. Silver is a Republican. In 1944, the third term tradition having been broken, Dr. Silver again voted for president Roosevelt.

It was my pleasure in October, 1944 to attend the Zionist Convention at Atlantic City when President Roosevelt sent his famous telegram to Senator Wagner and there was not a person among the several thousand present who more warmly applauded the President than did Dr. Silver, nor did anyone, I am confident, send the President a more sincere and gracious telegram of appreciation than did Dr. Silver.

Thus, Judge, I think you will agree with me that this record in no wise shows that Dr. Silver is either a Republican or a political champion of Senator Taft.

Nevertheless, this impression does exist at the White House and unfortunately it is held by President Truman. And this is a very distressing situation.

The Zionist movement, seeking as it does to rehabilitate the most unfortunate people in the world and to establish them again as free men and women in a little piece of this earth where they can escape social, political, and economic pogroms, is entirely too vital to the very life of millions of people in Europe and elsewhere to be jeopardized in the slightest manner whatsoever because of a political misapprehension on the part of a fair minded and generous person like Mr. Truman.

At the same time, this situation means so much to the emotions of hundreds of thousands of American Jews that it is very unfair to us as Jews, to Dr. Silver as the democratically elected leader of our cause, and to the President, himself, that this misunderstanding should prevail.

Under the circumstances therefore, Judge Sabath, in view of the fact that President Truman has advised you of his fears concerning Dr. Silver and you have been gracious enough to pass this information along to me, may I urgently request that you use your best efforts to facilitate a personal conference between the President and Dr. Silver

wherein both men can discuss the situation and become better acquainted with the other's innermost thoughts. As long as the President views Dr. Silver with suspicion, and Dr. Silver in turn is unable to obtain a favorable reply to requests to confer with the President, this suspicion will continue.

I know that great good will come from such a clarification of the present unfortunate situation.

With my great appreciation of your interest and my thanks to you, I am

Very sincerely,



September 9, 1947

Mr. Roy Roberts
The Kansas City Star
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Roy:

This letter does not concern your candidate, Mr. Eisenhower. It concerns my candidate, the Jewish State in Palestine.

As you are aware, Roy, the majority of the United Nations Committee which investigated Palestine has recommended that the Holy Land be partitioned into two States, Jewish and Arab. This solution, while not wholly satisfactory to those of us who feel that the original pledges of Woodrow Wilson and David Lloyd George to establish a Jewish Commonwealth in all of Palestine should be lived up to, nevertheless is acceptable to the overwhelming majority of Jews.

According to the eminent Mr. Arthur Krock and the equally eminent Mr. Joseph O'Mahoney of Wyoming and many others, this Government will give its approval to the findings of the majority of the United Nations Committee. Mr. Truman has not said so in so many words but he led many of his friends to believe that he would put the great prestige of the Government back of the majority report, whatever it might be.

In the meanwhile, our friends in and out of newspapers and in and out of the Government are doing their bit to indicate that the overwhelming majority of the American people would like to see a solution to the tragic problem of the Jews as well as a termination of the strife in Palestine. I believe, Roy, that if the Kansas City Star, out of the milk of its human kindness and out of its statesmanlike approach to the grave issues of the day, will print a good editorial advocating acceptance of the majority report, such an editorial will accomplish a great deal of good.

- 2 -

I hope you will print such an editorial and will send a copy of it along to me for my information and guidance.

In the meanwhile as always, my kindest regards and best wishes,

Very sincerely,

Leo

LRS/rg
cc: Dr. Silver ✓
Mr. Shapiro



Senator Alexander H. Smith
" Alexander Wiley
" Albert W. Hawkes
" Elbert D. Thomas
" Walter F. George
" Millard E. Tydings
" Edwin C. Johnson
" Lister Hill
" Warren G. Magnuson

Senator Wayne Morse
" Leverett Saltonstall
" Glen H. Taylor
" Charles W. Tobey
" Kenneth S. Wherry
" John Sherman Cooper
" Theodore F. Green

September 5, 1947

Copy for Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Mr. Harry L. Shapiro

Senator Elbert D. Thomas
Salt Lake City,
Utah

Dear Senator Thomas:

Because you are so keenly interested in the subject, I am attaching hereto for your information a copy of the Resolution adopted at Zurich, Switzerland, Tuesday evening, September 2, by the General Council of the World Zionist Movement, after the Committee had considered the United Nations Committee report on Palestine.

I am also enclosing for your information a digest of the recommendations of the United Nations Committee as taken from the final handout.

It will interest you to know that at the closing session of the Zionist Council at Zurich, Dr. Silver is quoted by the Associated Press as saying:

"The United States is the key of the tortured problem of Palestine. If the American government will assume the leadership in carrying through a solution in the spirit of the majority report, such a solution is bound to be accepted by the United Nations."

I do hope that at an early opportunity, you will find it possible to make some favorable comment on the recommendations of the United Nations Committee.

With my kindest regards.

Very sincerely yours,

Leo R. Sack

LRS:ME

September 10, 1947

Mr. Leo Sack
American Zionist Emergency Council
1706 - G Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Leo:

In your letter to Mr. Sabath, there is one mistake which I am sure was made inadvertently. You say that I opposed Roosevelt on the third term issue, but that when he ran for the fourth term, I voted for him. I had opposed him for the third term, but I also opposed him for the fourth term. The reason was the same in both instances. I did not believe that a President of the United States should hold office for more than two terms. I would have done the same if the president running for a third or fourth term had been a Republican.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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

LEO R. SACK

September 11, 1947

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

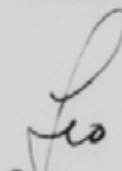
Dear Dr. Silver:

Among the copies of my letters which were awaiting you in Cleveland was one to Vandenberg.

Enclosed herewith is Mr. Vandenberg's reply received this morning. I think it is very significant and I am delighted. In view of the fact that Mr. Marshall is going to work soon on the United Nations report, I believe it would be helpful if you get a chance to talk with Van over the telephone.

I am flying out to Cleveland to see you next Tuesday and should arrive at the Temple in time to buy your lunch. I will return that evening.

Sincerely,



Leo

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

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

September 11, 1947

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

Frank Waldrop, Executive Editor of the Washington Times-Herald, telephoned me a few minutes ago in reference to the editorial which appeared in yesterday's morning and afternoon editions of the Times-Herald. Frank is a long-time friend of mine and his attitude toward us has always been friendly and cordial.

He is inclined to support the solution proposed by the majority of the United Nations Committee report, but he is very fearful that if that solution is imposed upon the Arabs by the Big Powers, it may lead to interminable warfare between the Arabs and the Jews, and which in turn may precipitate a third world war. Right here let me say that there is no question in my mind of Frank's concern, and it isn't mere shadow-boxing with him. Frank feels that this government, the United Nations, and the Jews, too, must take steps to sell the solution, if adopted, to the Arabs.

He feels that one way that this can be done is for the United Nations, or the United States Government, to take a large delegation of Mohammedans, Sheiks and Princes to Berlin and throughout Germany and let them see for themselves what comes from war. Let them, he says, get a first-hand view of the horrible destruction and wastefulness of modern warfare which they cannot visualize in their medieval conceptions.

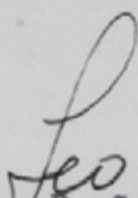
Frank plans to continue his campaign to convince the State Department and the United Nations that they must go further than merely adopting the report; that they must use every legitimate effort to persuade the Arabs that the threats of the Grand Mufti and other Arab spokesmen must not be carried out. I promised to give him my cordial support of such a campaign as an obvious follow-up to the prior and necessary solution as proposed by the United Nations.

I, too, feel that this government cannot afford to set up two states; one for the Arabs and one for the Jews, and then let nature take its course. I do not think that we should discount the concern of well-meaning men like Mr. Waldrop who fear that the Arab world will be inflamed unless this government adopts steps to prevent such a conflagration.

- 2 -

Frank may not have the right idea either but at least his plan has some merit, more merit than I thought when I read it first on yesterday.

Very sincerely yours,


Leo R. Sack



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

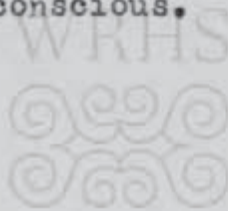
LEO R. SACK

September 12, 1947

Memo to Dr. Silver

Dear Dr. Silver:

Sabath decided to send his own letter (or at least he said it is his) before waiting for our recommendations. It is enclosed. I think, however, he would have been better advised had he not been so publicity conscious.



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

LEO R. SACK

September 12, 1947

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

This morning I was in receipt of the enclosed letter from Senator Green which pleased me very much.

Later in the morning, I went to see his colleague, Senator McGrath, who is in town for a few days. When I told McGrath that Green had written a letter to the President, he smiled and said that he, too, had signed it and had a copy of it in the office. The copy is enclosed. You will note that it is a round robin and it is signed also by the Governor of Rhode Island, the Mayor of Providence, the two Rhode Island Congressmen, and by the Chairman of the Democratic State Committee. A copy of the letter to the President was sent to Senator Austin at the United Nations and another copy to Secretary Marshall as well as to Mr. Hannegan.

My only objection to the draft of the letter to the President is the opening paragraph which indicates that it might have been written at the instigation of Jewish organizations. Senator McGrath agreed that this was a "very valid criticism".

At my request, however, he will see the President upon his return and will personally urge upon him the need for United States support of the United Nations report. Mr. McGrath, for your information, is going overseas in October as a member of a Special Senate Committee to study the displaced persons problem.

Very sincerely yours,

Leo
Leo

*see letter of
T. F. Green*

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

LEO R. SACK

September 17, 1947

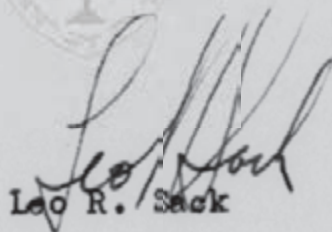
Miss Klein
c/o Dr. Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Miss Klein:

I am mailing you today under Congressman Celler's
frank a copy of the most recent Congressional Directory.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,


Leo R. Sack

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

LEO R. SACK

September 18, 1947

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

The following appears in The Periscope section of Newsweek magazine, September 22, 1947, page 17:

"Truman's Palestine Expert

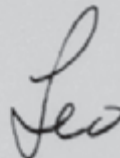
"Former Assistant Secretary of State Maj. Gen. John Hildring, who has been appointed as an adviser to the U. S. delegation to the United Nations, will act as President Truman's direct representative in all matters affecting Palestine. Hildring, who has a reputation for blunt speaking, has been instructed to get British agreement for the immediate admission of 100,000 displaced Jews into Palestine. Incidentally, the UN Palestine committee's majority report will have to be trimmed down considerably before the U. S. delegation votes for it.

"Zionist Protest

"It hasn't been disclosed but the British arrest of three Americans aboard the Jewish DP vessel Exodus 1947 and the death of a fourth has embroiled the State Department in a sharp argument with U. S. Zionists. The Zionist spokesman, Rabbi Silver, wrote Secretary Marshall asking general redress for the Americans; he claimed that British warships had rammed the Exodus in violation of international law and swept it with gunfire. The State Department replied, citing the British version of "violent evasive action" by the Exodus and only two wild shots fired by the British in return. The Zionists countered with an affidavit by a Boston Protestant minister aboard the Exodus, confirming Silver's version of the affray. To this, the department has thus far made no response."

The reference to Hilldring confirms the Washington rumours which I discussed with you a few days ago. At the same time, the suggestion in the article that the United States may tone down the majority report is in line with your apprehensions. The paragraph on the Zionist protest is taken from Dr. Akzin's handout while you were in Switzerland.

Sincerely,



Leo R. Sack



AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
1200 - 18th Street, N. W.
~~XX~~
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

LEO R. SACK

September 23, 1947

Miss Kline,
c/o Dr. Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Miss Kline:

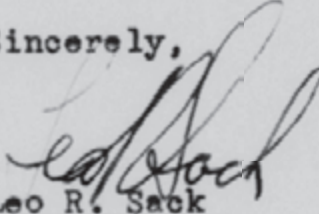
I thought we had heretofore advised you of our
change of address. It is now:

Suite 701, Ring Building
1200 - 18th Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

The telephone number remains Executive 1060.

Thank you for sending me copies of the telegrams
and letters to Dr. Silver.

Sincerely,


Leo R. Sack

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
1200 - 18th Street, N. W.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

LEO R. SACK

September 23, 1947

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am enclosing today's editorial from the Washington Times Herald by Editor Waldrop in reference to the Arabs. It is a far more effective piece than his first one in that while it is serious, it employs ridicule instead of invective.

I repeat what I said to you in Cleveland last week that we have a most important job ahead of us in trying to retain with a minimum of bloodshed the fruits of our victory if and when we win. Indicative of the concern that this is already giving our Government is the fact that George Wadsworth has been called home from Iraq to help sell the proposed majority report to the Arabs. In today's PM, Mr. Bernstein confirms this information which I passed along to you on yesterday.

That the Arab threat cannot be dismissed lightly is indicated in the distressing attention which the newspapers gave yesterday and this morning to the Associated Press story from London alleging that the Arab world has agreed to make "a complete economic and cultural break" with the Western powers if the United Nations should attempt to partition Palestine. The news handling of this dispatch concerns me greatly and I have discussed it with some of my editor friends.

This story was two columns on page one of The New York Times this morning and ran under a two column head all day yesterday on page one of the Washington Star. It can't be dismissed, as I was first inclined to do, with the thought that the editorial policy of these newspapers is anti-Zionist.

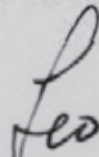
The story is carried by the Associated Press and editors feel that it is of great news significance and is comparable to the accepted custom of attributing important news to a "White House spokesman". If the Arabs have made such an agreement, it is of

great concern to the United States and the rest of the world, particularly us Jews. If the story is proved to be false, it will defeat itself by its own absurdity. In the meanwhile, however, it remains a piece of devastating propaganda and again points the way to the need for our best thinking to win the next round of our battle.

I do not know whether Waldrop has the right idea or not, that is, that the Arabs must be shown conclusively the futility of war. I do know that the constant threats of the Arabs to launch a "Holy War" and the newest threat to make "a complete economic and cultural break" with Europe has given a lot of people here much concern.

I can easily visualize the concern with which Standard Oil and other oil executives, interested in Arabian and middle eastern oil, read this newest threat. I think this situation calls for not only our best thinking but our best efforts to minimize the danger of a war instigated by a lot of mad men and power hungry politicians. You know and I know that already too many people are saying -- and they have been saying it in Washington for more than a year to my own knowledge (and with the actual encouragement of the British Embassy also to my own knowledge) -- that the blankety blank Jews "are about to launch us into another war". Also they are saying, and I heard it again at The Press Club at noon today, that Palestine may develop, like India, another war between religions.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Leo', with a stylized flourish above the 'o'.

Leo R. Sack

September 25, 1947

Mr. Leo R. Sack
American Zionist Emergency Council
1200 - 18th Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mr. Sack:

Thank you for sending me the new
address of the Emergency Council in Washington.
We did not have that information here.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a
letter which Dr. Silver received today from
Congressman McCormack.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Dr. Silver