



## 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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Boycott of British goods, 1948.

## MEMORANDUM

Dr. Silver

From: Dr. Benjamin Akzin

June 1, 1948

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Brit. boycott

A meeting of the committee appointed to explore the advisability and feasibility of a boycott of British goods and services was held on June 1 in my office. There were present Mrs. Greenberg (Hadassah), Dr. Marks (ZOA), Mr. Gellman (Mizrachi), and Dr. Schechtman (Revisionists). The LZOA, the Achdut Avoda, and the Hashomer Hatzair, though invited, did not attend. I informed the meeting that I had asked Mr. Lourie to cable to Palestine for a reaction of the Yishuv to such a boycott movement. A reply, as far as I know, has not yet been received.

1. After a prolonged discussion, it was decided to recommend to the next meeting of the Executive Committee, ~~that~~, unless the Yishuv is opposed to it, the formation of a boycott committee, not officially connected with the Zionist movement, be encouraged. This boycott committee should seek to promote the boycott of some of the more vulnerable British goods and services in this country, viz: scotch, woolens, transportation (ships and airplanes) and films. It should seek to further a boycott of these goods and services by use of the following methods: (a) chain letters, (b) stickers on correspondence, (c) propaganda in the public press.

Consideration was given to the effect of the truce, if any, on the matter. It was the opinion of the committee that, since, according to available information, Great Britain is continuing its efforts to interfere with the territorial and political integrity of Israel, a boycott would still be in order.

The present memorandum is being sent to the constituent parties of the Emergency Council with a view to consideration by them so that the question could be put before the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council.

2. The Committee requested me to bring to the attention of all Zionist institutions and prominent Zionist personalities the fact that, quite apart from any boycott, the use by leaders of the Zionist movement or of the State of Israel of British ships and airplanes in their ocean crossings produces an extremely bad impression upon the Jewish public. The Committee requests all Zionist institutions and personalities to cooperate by refraining from using British ships and airplanes on any such occasions in the future.

BA:AF

Flag corridor

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WRHS

