



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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108

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424

Madison Square Garden mass demonstration, 1948.

MAY 16

The Jewish Declaration of Independence

We have decided, relying on the authority of the Zionist movement and the support of the entire Jewish people, that upon termination of the mandatory regime there shall be an end of foreign rule in Palestine and that the governing body of the Jewish State shall come into being.

The state which the Jewish people will set up in its own country will guarantee justice, freedom and equality for all inhabitants, regardless of religion, race, sex or land of origin. It is our aim to make it a state in which the exiles of our people are gathered together and in which happiness and knowledge shall prevail and the vision of the prophets of Israel shall illumine our path.

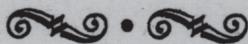
At this hour, when bloodshed and strife have been forced upon us, we turn to the Arabs in the Jewish State and to our neighbors in adjacent territory with

an appeal for brotherhood, cooperation and peace. We are a peaceful people, and we are here to build in peace. Let us then build our state together as equal citizens, with equal rights and obligations, with mutual trust and respect, each with a true understanding of the other's needs.

Our laws are dedicated to defending the liberty of our people. If further trials and battles are in store for us, we shall defend with all our might the achievement upon which we place our hope.

Right is on our side. With us are the hopes of the past generations of our people. With us is the conscience of the world. With us are deposited the testament of the millions of our martyred dead and the resolute will to live of the millions who have survived. The sanctity of our martyrs and heroes rests upon us and the God of our fathers will help us.

Americans of all races and creeds will soon join in observing one of the great events of all time -- a milestone in the history of mankind.



SALUTE THE ARMED FORCES OF THE JEWISH STATE

On Sunday evening, May 16, citizens of New York will back up the valiant defenders of the Jewish State at a great

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in

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WITNESS ADMITS AIDING ARAB CAUSE

Freedman, Testifying in Libel Case, Cooperated on Note to State Department

Counsel for the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League offered evidence yesterday that Benjamin Freedman, anti-Zionist founder of the League for Peace With Justice in Palestine, cooperated with an Arab publicist in preparing a memorandum for presentation to the State Department in behalf of the Arab cause.

Mr. Freedman was on the stand for the third day in Mid-Manhattan Magistrates' Court where his attorney, Hallam M. Richardson, is seeking a criminal libel complaint against the anti-Nazi league. Under intensive cross-examination by Julius L. Goldstein, the witness identified as in his handwriting several notes scribbled on a newspaper clipping telling of a meeting between Arab delegates and then Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

The article, which was published in a New York newspaper on May 11, 1946, had as its heading: "U. S. Reassures Arabs on Any Palestine Shift." It went on to say that Mr. Acheson told his Arab visitors that no policy changes would be made without consultation with them and with the Jews.

Wrote it Was "Worth Effort"

In an adjoining column Mr. Freedman had written: "It was worth all the effort." Alongside a paragraph reporting that the Arabs had read to Mr. Acheson a memorandum outlining their position on Palestine, there was this comment, which Mr. Freedman admitted was in his handwriting: "Prepared by myself and Katibah Thursday."

Later "Katibah" was identified by Mr. Goldstein as Habib Hatibah, editor for the Institute of Arab-American Affairs. In earlier testimony Mr. Freedman denied that he had anything to do with the May 10 conference or with the preparation of the memorandum. However, he admitted making numerous telephone calls to the State Department and to ministries of the Arab states.

The hearing was interrupted frequently to permit other cases to be brought briefly before Magistrate Bushel. At one point, the magistrate broke in to inquire into the status of Mr. Freedman's religious affiliations.

"Let me get something straight," the magistrate said. "The other day you said you were born of Jewish parents but you also speak of studying to be a Catholic. Are you a Catholic?"

"Pressure" Barred Baptism

Mr. Freedman replied that he had taken instructions to become a Catholic but that "certain pressure was brought to bear" that kept him from being baptized. He suggested that the "pressure" was from "Zionists."

"Oh, I see," said Magistrate Bushel. "The Jews put you out and the Catholics won't have you." The audience laughed.

"I was too discreet to go back to the Jesuit priests under whom I studied and press the issue," the witness explained.

On Monday, Mr. Goldstein had read into the record a cable from Mr. Freedman to an Arab associate in Cairo conveying felicitations and support to the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. Yesterday the attorney read a portion of a radio speech said to have been delivered by the Mufti in 1944 from Berlin. It contained the sentences:

"Kill Jews wherever you find them. It pleases God."

Under questioning from Mr. Goldstein, the witness said he had never known of the speech, but he refused to say whether he would have sent greetings to the Arab leader had he known of it.

The hearing was marked by clashes between the witness and Mr. Goldstein and the witness and Magistrate Bushel.

BEDENKAPP REFUSES TO QUIT COUNTY POST

ALBANY, May 6 (AP)—Glen R. Bedenkapp, state Republican chairman, said today that he would not consider resigning the Niagara County chairmanship, to which he was reelected April 26. His resignation "in the interests of the Republican party," was asked today by James F. Glynn of Niagara Falls, a state committeeman.

Mr. Bedenkapp won reelection by a close vote over Assemblyman Jacob E. Hollinger of Middleport. He had said that he would accept the chairmanship only "if a substantial majority desires it," because his duties as state chairman in a Presidential year required much of his time. Mr. Glynn said in his letter to Mr. Bedenkapp:

"You of course realize that when a state chairman in his own county receives only 52 per cent of the vote in which 192 members of the county committee participate, he is not in any way being drafted."

Mr. Glynn maintained that Mr. Bedenkapp's "dual role in state and county has made you neglect your duties in Niagara County."

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