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Vandenberg, Senator Arthur H., 1948.

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THE JEWISH NEWS

A Weekly Review of Jewish Events

2114 PENOBSCOT BLDG.



DETROIT 26, MICHIGAN

Randolph 7956

March 2, 1948

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Silver,

We organized a special campaign yesterday to follow through with appeals to Senator Vandenberg. In addition to personal efforts by myself and several others, wires went forth to him under the signatures of 20 presidents of the largest local organizations. We are hoping for a better result than we had in the past. I shall keep you informed on the results.

Yours with all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Philip Slomovitz

16 East 66th Street

New York 21, N.Y.

March 29, 1948

Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I wish to thank you for the time which you set aside to discuss with me the Palestine situation. I am taking the liberty of enclosing herewith a brief memorandum on the problems of trusteeship in Palestine which I hope you will read. There is no "balm in Gilead" in the new proposals of the American government. It only makes confusion worse confounded.

The President last Thursday spoke of a vacuum in Palestine after May 15th. There will be no vacuum in Palestine if the plan of the United Nations is faithfully carried out. There may be increased activity on the part of the Arabs to attempt to alter by force the United Nations plan. The Jewish militia, therefore, envisaged in the plan, must be quickly organized and equipped to meet that threat. Instead of trying to persuade the British government to retain its Mandate in Palestine which neither Jews nor Arabs nor the British people want, all persuasion should be used to get the British government to permit arms to be shipped into the country, stock piled if necessary, under the supervision of the United Nations Commission and to permit recruitment, training and organization of the Jewish militia. Our own government should modify the embargo which it imposed unilaterally so as to permit the Jews, who are carrying out the decision of the United Nations, to obtain arms for defence and to bar arms to the Arab States, who are defying the United Nations decision.

Great Britain has refused to turn over a port to the Jews of Palestine on February 1st, as requested. It should be asked by our government and by the Security Council to comply with this request. The Jews wish and are able to defend themselves if

Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg

March 29, 1948

their hands are not tied. It was not the Jews who first suggested an international police force but the United States last November when they spoke of an international constabulary made up of volunteers. If the Security Council determines that there is a breach of peace in Palestine and wishes to send in an international force to reestablish peace, the Jews of Palestine would welcome such a force and would welcome the presence of United States soldiers in it. If, however, American troops are to be sent to Palestine along with others to enforce a new trusteeship with all that that involves, then I am sure that the Jewish people of Palestine would oppose the new arrangement as determinately as they have the British Mandatory regime in the last ten years.

You have been for partition. You believe it to be the sole and logical solution of the Palestine problem. The United Nations accepted that solution realizing that no other "agreed solution" was possible. Our government, after having voted for it three months ago, has now reversed its policy, thus gravely aggravating the situation and undermining the authority of the United Nations. I feel strongly, as I expressed to you on Friday, that you, as one of the architects of American foreign policy today, should take a hand in the matter. This blundering and improvisation should not be permitted to go on.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

Abba Hillel Silver

AHS:eb

Senator Arthur Vandenberg
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

The undersigned organizations are deeply concerned with the Palestine issue now before the Security Council. We are persuaded that the fate of the Jewish State, which was approved in the partition plan adopted by the United Nations in November, is at stake. We are also persuaded that the authority and the future effectiveness of the United Nations are at stake.

The ambiguous statement of our Government from whom positive leadership was expected, has served only to confuse the situation by proposing a course of action which might lead to endless delay and to renewed fruitless negotiations.

We know you to be a friend and champion of the United Nations, having been one of its architects in San Francisco. We know you to be a believer in partition as the only feasible solution of the Palestine problem. We feel that both causes would be greatly helped if you as a foremost leader of American political life, in a position to influence American policy, would, at this critical juncture, express your views publicly on the recommendation of the UN Commission for an international force, on the revision of the arms embargo, and the organization and equipment of a Jewish militia to maintain law and order when the Mandate is terminated on May 15th. You would thereby be providing guidance and encouragement to those forces who are now fighting to preserve the integrity of the United Nations and to solve a grave international problem.

Respectfully,

American Jewish Conference

American Jewish Committee

Bnai Brith

Jewish War Veterans

American Christian Palestine Committee

United Nations Associates

Clark M. Eichelberger



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P
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UNITED STATES SENATE
Committee on Foreign Relations

May 22, 1948

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

This will hastily reply to your note of May 20th.

I will see what can be feasibly done in response to your suggestion. I was glad to make the statement I did regarding the recognition of the new state of Israel - and I am particularly happy if you liked it. I think we must now proceed to mobilize every resource of the United Nations in behalf of an effective truce. I shall continue to do what I can to be helpful - even though I continue to feel that this can best be done behind the scenes rather than in the newspapers.

Good luck!

With warm personal regards and best wishes,

Cordially and faithfully,

/s/ A. H. Vandenberg