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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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Advertisements, 1949.



# BRITAIN'S NEW WAR AGAINST ISRAEL

**T**HE British Government is launching a new war against Israel—even as direct armistice negotiations between Egypt and Israel are getting under way.

The evidence is clear and unmistakable:

Great Britain has admitted that British troops have been sent to the port of Aqaba in Transjordan. A long-standing truce has been in effect between Israel and Transjordan. It would seem that the British Government is concerned lest this truce eventuate into a permanent peace between the two countries. If the British-dominated Transjordan Arab Legion should re-enter the war at any time in the future, it will be clear that Great Britain alone will be responsible.

There are reports that large numbers of British fighters and bombers are being landed at Mafrak, Transjordan and that British armed strength is being concentrated on the Egyptian-Palestinian frontier. Large units of the British navy are being moved into the area and are maneuvering not far from Israel's shores. In addition, Israeli spokesmen have disclosed that Britain has been training troops in Tripolitania under conditions identical to those to be found in Israel.

British propagandists are trying to make it appear as if current British military moves were "provoked" by the shooting down of R.A.F. planes by the Israelis. It should, therefore, be remembered that the aforementioned British troop movements to Aqaba were first disclosed by Israel almost two weeks ago.

Great Britain has persisted in sending planes into the battle-front areas of the Palestine war, but assumes an air of righteous indignation when the inevitable happens and British aircraft are shot down. It will be recalled that both Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden recently arose in the House of Commons to question the necessity and propriety of sending Royal Air Force planes over such a "dangerous and delicate" area. Nevertheless, Mr. Bevin continued to send British planes into this "dangerous and delicate" area. Why?

Furthermore, it has now been revealed that British arms deliveries to Egypt during the last few months have amounted to £50,000,000 (\$200,000,000) and included shipment of the most modern jet fighter planes, naval vessels, heavy artillery tanks, heavy caliber shells and aviation gasoline. All this took place at a time when Great Britain was publicly avowing "strict neutrality" and maintaining that it was not sending arms to the Arab countries.

## The Political Offensive

These military moves should be considered in relation to the panic propaganda which British officials had attempted to disseminate in this country on the basis of Israel's so-called "invasion" of Egyptian territory and the consequent "obligation" of Great Britain to come to Egypt's aid under the terms of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936. Great Britain had obviously hoped to induce the United States to join a renewed British move to bring about the imposition of sanctions against Israel by the Security Council. In order to achieve this, Britain warned that if she failed to bring about the international action she desired, she would be "compelled" to act unilaterally in support of Egypt.

But—to the great embarrassment of the British—Egypt, while confirming that Britain had offered to provide her with military aid if she would invoke the 1936 Treaty, decided to let the British do their own fighting for a change. Instead of invoking the Treaty, Egypt proceeded to reaffirm her earlier denunciation of it and, at the same time, asked for direct armistice negotiations with Israel.

Great Britain has thus been forced into the open and stands revealed before world opinion in her true role—the real enemy of Israel. She can no longer cloak her own selfish ambitions behind the actions of the Arab states whom she has encouraged to make war on Israel. The Arab aggressors have been defeated, and Britain must either become reconciled to a settlement which will keep Israel's political independence and territorial integrity

intact, or commit British arms and troops to a new war against Israel.

Britain is seemingly choosing the latter course and is currently flooding the American press with distortions and misrepresentations of the situation in the Middle East. We believe, therefore, that the American people would profit from a review of the facts in the war Britain has waged with the primary objective of obtaining the Negev for her own use and exploitation.

## This Is The Record:

1. Immediately after the adoption of the partition resolution by the United Nations General Assembly on November 29, 1947, the British authorities in Palestine systematically and deliberately opened the frontiers of that country to armed Arab bands who entered for the express purpose of engaging in a military struggle with the Jews in order to upset the decision of the United Nations by force of arms.

2. Britain also actively participated in this aggression by supplying the Arab states with financial aid, by creating a stockpile of war supplies and equipment for the Arabs, by providing officers and administrative help to the invaders. Simultaneously, Britain made every effort to prevent the Jews from arming for their own defense.

3. When—despite all of these British maneuvers—the Arab attacks did not succeed and the State of Israel was proclaimed on May 14, 1948, Great Britain encouraged the Arab governments to launch full-scale military invasions of Palestine with the declared aim of over-running and subjugating Israel. The attack was led by the Transjordan Arab Legion, a military force completely equipped, financed and officered by Great Britain.

4. In the early days of the war, when the invaders were on the move, Great Britain did nothing to bring hostilities to a halt, but, on the contrary, maneuvered ceaselessly in the Security Council to keep the Arab states from being punished as aggressors. At that time Great Britain saw no violation of the United Nations Charter, although the action of the Arab states in invading Palestine was explicitly denounced as international aggression by United States Delegate Warren Austin (May 22, 1948). Then the British worked indefatigably to induce the Security Council to refrain from taking the action which was clearly indicated.

5. However, when the tide turned and the Israeli Army repelled the aggressors, there were immediate British moves for truces, Israeli troop withdrawals and—finally, the bitterest irony—attempts to impose sanctions against Israel for successfully defending its own territory.

6. After Israel inflicted a series of decisive defeats on the Arab armies and, in the course of one military engagement, attacked legitimate military objectives on Egyptian soil, Great Britain threatened unilateral military action against the Jewish state.

It is against this background that Britain's current moves should be viewed.

## America Must Take a Stand

Whether or not Mr. Bevin continues his vendetta against Israel depends largely on the stand which our own Government will now take. The United States, which has accorded recognition to Israel and which has pledged itself to support Israel's claims to territorial integrity, will surely not ignore the latest British efforts to renew the political and military offensive against Israel. Nor can our Government overlook the fact that Great Britain's current moves to frustrate the peace which now seems to be in the making between Israel and the Arab states, along with her threats of unilateral military action, flout the United Nations and its efforts to hasten a settlement between the Arab states and Israel.

American interest in peace in the Middle East can best be served by a firm warning to the British Government to desist from its present policy of war and intrigue against Israel.

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