



## 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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American Christian Palestine Committee, 1948.



# To the UNITED STATES and the UNITED NATIONS...

Since the United Nations General Assembly voted for the partition of Palestine on November 29, 1947, a shameful and deeply disquieting situation has arisen to which public opinion cannot remain indifferent.

Openly defying the United Nations, the governments of the Arab States, themselves members of the UN, are deliberately encouraging aggression against the Jews of Palestine. They are using Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Iraq as bases for these operations. They are providing funds, ammunition and military training, and have already launched attacks in force from Syria and Lebanon against Palestinian Jews. In Palestine itself this state of affairs has resulted in unbridled violence by armed Arab bands organized by Haj Amin el Hussein, the same Arab leader who during the war immeasurably aided Hitler in broadcasts from Berlin urging the Moslems of the Middle East to revolt against the Allies.

This campaign of violence has no moral justification. It is directed against a decision of the United Nations made after nearly twenty committees of inquiry had investigated the problem of Palestine over a period of more than twenty-five years. The decision of the United Nations was, moreover, a compromise which granted national states in Palestine to both Jews and Arabs.

The campaign of violence we now witness is not a spontaneous uprising by the majority of Palestine's Arabs. On the contrary, they wish to live in peace with their Jewish neighbors. But they are terrorized by the ex-Mufti's bands assisted by his confederates in Cairo, Baghdad, Beirut and Damascus. Significantly, Arab violence is largely directed against Jerusalem which, according to the UN decision, is to be an international territory because it is sacred to the Christian world.

The campaign of Arab aggression, led by a group of former Nazi allies and their accomplices across the frontiers, is therefore directed not only against the Jews, not only against the peaceful majority of Palestine's Arabs, but against the authority of the United Nations itself.

This is a bold attempt to blackmail the United Nations into submission. It is an attempt by violence to render impotent the first great decision of the United Nations. If this campaign succeeds, it will reduce the United Nations to a debating society. At a moment when world peace is the hope of all men of good will, it will smash the effectiveness of the only instrument for international peace we possess. It will disillusion those millions who had hopes that at last some way other than the holocaust of war could be found to settle international problems.

If the United Nations cannot make its Palestine decision stick, if a handful of willful men can prevent a UN decision from being carried out because they do not like that decision, then no future action of the UN will have more worth than the paper upon which it is written.

For this state of affairs not only the ex-Mufti and his cohorts are responsible. Other powers are not wholly free of responsibility. The British Government, which insisted that it retain sole control over Palestine and sole responsibility for law and order until the termination of the Palestine Mandate, seems either unwilling or unable to maintain law and order. We do not attempt to judge whether this policy is dictated by unwillingness or inability. But the fact remains that the security situation in Palestine is steadily deteriorating.

One thing is certain: while Arab bands attack Jewish settlements, blockade wide areas, and waylay traffic on the highways, British officials and forces have repeatedly interfered with Jewish defense and counter-attack, repeatedly arrested and disarmed the defenders, and repeatedly confiscated their armaments.

The United Nations has not yet taken action against those overt acts of its Arab member-governments which constitute an open defiance of the Resolution of the General Assembly and of the Charter itself. Nor has the United Nations reacted as yet to the fact that the ex-Mufti's bands and the attitude of the British Administration are a clear challenge and threat to the authority of this international body.

Even if the only issue at stake were the safety of the 700,000 Jews of Palestine, American public opinion should have been deeply concerned. Our Government was largely instrumental in bringing about the United Nations decision on partition. What had we in mind when we encouraged the aspirations of the Jewish people to nationhood in Palestine? Was it our intention to leave them there defenseless?

Much more is at stake than our moral responsibility toward the Jews. We repeat, the very future of the United Nations is in jeopardy. This open defiance of the United Nations decision comes from a group of Middle Eastern states which depend upon the UN and the Western world for sovereignty and international recognition, for political and military protection as well as economic development. If we permit such conduct on the part of the Arab States, then the authority of the United Nations will suffer a staggering blow which can result in incalculable harm to men everywhere.

Let us make no mistake about the danger involved in this situation. The conflict may assume world-wide dimensions, or, alternatively, this aggression of the Arab States can be restrained, thus making the Palestine solution a potent factor for peace and stability in the world. America must help to determine whether the effectiveness of the United Nations shall be destroyed or strengthened.

The United States wants peace in the world. It is to its vital interests to uphold the Palestine decision of the United Nations. Our Government should, therefore, actively support the following measures:

1. A stern warning to the Arab States calling for an end to the sabotage of the UN decision.
2. An unmistakably clear declaration to Great Britain that as long as she remains in Palestine, her armed forces can be neither neutral nor quasi-neutral, but must act in defense of public law and the UN decision.
3. Immediate use of the proper UN agencies to provide international military protection for Palestine Jewry and make immediately available the necessary military force to implement the United Nations decision on Palestine.
4. Immediate equipment of the Haganah under United Nations auspices to enable this Jewish constabulary defense force to carry out police powers within Jewish territory in Palestine.

Only in this manner can the United States and the United Nations prevent the threatened conflagration. The delay in implementing the UN decision has encouraged the Arab League and the ex-Mufti in their

defiance of the UN, and has forced the Jewish people to resort to desperate means to provide themselves with arms for their defense and for the maintenance of the UN decision.

## AMERICAN CHRISTIAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE

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# BULLETIN

Issued By

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE

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February 1948

## UNITED NATIONS DECISION IN DANGER

Those who have been traditionally hostile to the idea of a Jewish State have been working behind the scenes in Washington to sell the idea that partition was a "mistake". They term it a mistake for the following reasons: (1) The violent reaction of Arab nations; (2) the danger this presents to our hold on the Near East oil (it is said that Arabian oil is necessary to the Marshall Plan); and (3) the necessity to consolidate the Anglo-American control of the Near East against Russia.

This argumentation has been so widely complicated that it is necessary to analyze each separate attack and examine its validity.

The fact that the Arabs have reacted so violently to the approval of the partition plan does not come as a surprise to anyone. During the several months that Palestine was before the General Assembly, Arab representatives had continually threatened that they would oppose a Jewish State with all the resources at their disposal. Some Arab spokesmen even demanded that all the Jews who had arrived in Palestine since the Balfour Declaration should be expelled from that country. In other words, 600,000 Jews would have to pack up and leave. Arab attacks, therefore, had been anticipated and should not be viewed with surprise.

The so-called danger to American accessibility to Middle East oil engendered by the partition decision is absolute fiction. The old proverb -- "More than the calf requires the milk, the cow must be milked" -- holds true in this case. If the American market for Middle East oil were suddenly cut off, the Arab oil peddlers would be completely out of customers. To whom would they sell their oil? To Russia? Communism today is an even worse bugaboo to the Arab feudal leaders than the so-called menace of Zionism. Nor would England be a substitute customer for Arab oil because His Majesty's Government neither has the money to purchase such petroleum reserves nor does it require them. Great Britain is today setting aside huge stockpiles of oil from the Iranian oil fields in which it has monopoly interests. It thus follows that the only potential buyer of Arabian oil is -- and will continue to be -- the United States.

As to the canard that the partition of Palestine would endanger Anglo-



American control of the Middle East, since the Arabs might seek solace in the arms of Russia, this threat is quite definitely without substance. The world of Islam will not embrace Communism. The feudal anachronistic monarchs and princelings would place their crowned heads on the chopping block if they ever flirted with Moscow. Azzam Pasha, head of the Arab League, Ibn Saud, Abdullah of Transjordan, and Farouk of Egypt have continually reiterated their antipathy for Soviet Russia.

The propagators of these myths have already succeeded in reaching the highest circles in Washington -- with serious results. Most acute is the embargo on the shipment of arms to the "troubled area" in the Middle East. The Jewish community in Palestine, which is the only force in the world now fighting to preserve the United Nations decision, is almost completely deprived of any sources from which it might secure arms to defend itself. The Arabs, on the other hand, have a ready accessibility to armaments from all the countries of the Middle East as well as Great Britain.

The strategy behind this campaign to sell "short" on the partition plan for Palestine can be summed up as follows: Continued civil strife in the Holy Land would demonstrate the "unworkability" of the United Nations partition plan. The only alternative would be the continuation of British control and occupation of the Holy Land, perhaps under a revised Mandate. The Jewish community, bled white by civil strife and invasion, would be too weak to protest.

Here is cynicism at its worst. While condemning Russian imperialism, we are enticed to become partners in a scandalous attempt to sabotage a UN decision and further entrench Anglo-American control in the Middle East. In the words of George Fielding Eliot, writing in the New York Post, January 30, 1948, "If the Security Council does not find effective means of enforcing the General Assembly's decision regarding the partition of Palestine, the United Nations might as well fold up."

The enclosed public statement by several leading members of our Committee presents other facts in the case and calls for support by our Government and the United Nations Organization of the following measures:

1. A stern warning to the Arab States calling for an end to the sabotage of the UN decision.
2. An unmistakably clear declaration to Great Britain that as long as she remains in Palestine, her armed forces can be neither neutral nor quasi-neutral, but must act in defense of public law and the UN decision.
3. Immediate use of the proper UN agencies to provide international military protection for Palestine Jewry and make immediately available the necessary military force to implement the UN decision on Palestine.
4. Immediate equipment of the Haganah under UN auspices to enable this Jewish constabulary defense force to carry out police powers within Jewish territory in Palestine.



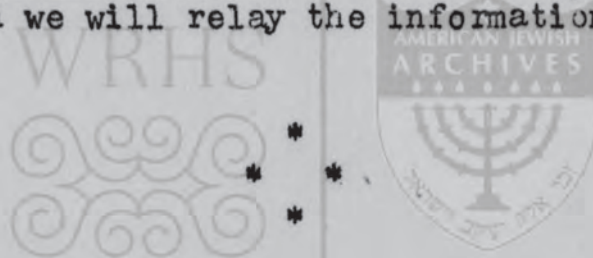
### CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Enlist your entire local ACPC membership to

1. Send letters and telegrams to the President, Secretary of State George C. Marshall; Senator Warren Austin, U. S. delegate to the Security Council at Lake Success; Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; your Senators and Congressmen, calling upon them to support and implement the four measures listed above. Your local Emergency Council leaders will help you organize a local campaign.
2. Secure radio time for talks or sermons on the situation.
3. Write letters to local papers and to denominational and secular magazines.

### CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL FOREST

We regret to report that "Eternal Light" found it necessary to postpone its broadcast about our Children's Memorial Forest project. A new date will be reported shortly and we will relay the information to you.





# AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

342 MADISON AVENUE  
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MURRAY HILL 2-1160

## *Constituent Organizations*

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

May 3rd, 1948

## STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Friend:

The American Christian Palestine Committee will hold its fourth National Seminar at the French Lick Springs Hotel, French Lick, Indiana. This conference is designed to bring about increased understanding of the aims of our Movement on the part of leaders of Christian opinion. It will be a significant event in our nationwide public relations and political program. The Seminar will open on Sunday evening, June 20, and will close mid-day, Tuesday, June 22nd.

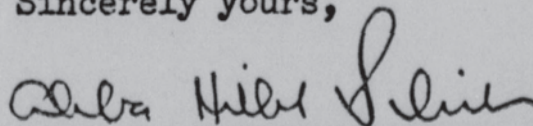
In its efforts to reach the American people, the American Christian Palestine Committee enlists the support of Christian leaders in every community who join with us in educating the general public on the Palestine question. Previous Seminars in Princeton, Ocean City and Highland Park have produced many such men and women, and we have high hopes that the forthcoming meeting in French Lick will be equally successful.

I urge you to assist this project by arranging for the participation of carefully selected non-Jewish representatives, men or women, of your community. Please think in terms of civic leaders such as newspaper editors, college presidents, outstanding professors and prominent churchmen. The individual or individuals selected should have several of the following qualifications: (1) Sympathy with Zionist aspirations, (2) Standing in the community, (3) Ability as a public speaker, (4) Capacity for action. He need not be fully informed on all aspects of the question; the Seminar will provide him with all of the facts. It is suggested that you send a new representative, rather than one who has attended a previous Seminar, unless you feel that further briefing is called for. If in doubt as to whom to send, you might consult with a Christian leader who has already attended one of our Seminars.

Local Zionist Emergency Committees are asked to defray the travel and hotel expenses, the latter amounting to about \$26 for two days, including meals. Please forward to us immediately the name, address and profession of your delegate so that an official invitation may be issued by the American Christian Palestine Committee. Travel reservations should be made as early as possible in order to enable your delegate to arrive at the French Lick Springs Hotel on the evening of June 20, in time for the opening meeting. I know that I can count on you and your Zionist colleagues to cooperate in this important undertaking.

Your early action and reply are requested.

Sincerely yours,



Abba Hillel Silver  
Chairman, Executive Committee

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1948  
TEXT OF CHRISTIAN DECLARATION

The truly great moments of history have been relatively few in our world. Seldom has human idealism culminated in an event which shapes the course of world affairs for generations to follow.

We are celebrating such an event today. A Jewish State has once again come into being on the distant shores of the Mediterranean, in the ancient and hallowed land of Israel. Biblical prophecy has been fulfilled in our time.

We wish to convey to the people and the Government of the Jewish State the deep emotion that is felt today by all true Christians and all true Americans. For two thousand years the Jewish people have withstood attempts to annihilate them. They have endured persecution and discrimination, and they have seen mighty empires bent on their extermination go down to destruction. Throughout those long years, their faith in their ultimate destiny was unbroken; their confidence in the fulfillment of the prophetic vision of the Return to Zion was unshaken.

We welcome this brave people to the community of nations, and we are confident that its contributions to our own age will reflect the high spiritual and moral values which emanated from the ancient Jewish Commonwealth. A nation which has at all times been sensitive to higher truths; a community of God-seekers, of seekers after world morality and the brotherhood of man -- such a nation is indeed an acquisition for the world.

The Jewish State exists. But men of small vision would destroy it. There is no peace in Zion today. The Jewish State stands alone and embattled. As in the days of the Prophet Daniel, and as in the days of the Maccabees, Israel must once again defend by the sword its right to freedom and to peace.

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All of us are involved in this struggle. None of us will escape the awful guilt that would be ours if we should be indifferent to the brutal onslaught on the Jewish State. Behind the Arab aggression against that State stand narrow-minded and selfish interests, some of them -- to our shame -- linked with and supported by the most powerful governments in Christendom today. This must stop. We must at last recognize our inescapable moral duty to grant to the Jewish nation the same right of independent existence which is enjoyed by all other nations.

We are hopeful that strong ties of mutual understanding and friendship will link the new Jewish State with the people and Government of the United States of America. Our own Republic was founded on the ideals enunciated by the Jews of old. Now that a revived Jewish State has reappeared on the map of the world -- a nation inspired by the same principles of liberty and human progress which animate our own country -- it is eminently right that we extend a helping hand to the Jewish State, which is at one and the same time the youngest and oldest of nations.

In this spirit we respectfully urge our Government to recognize the Jewish State at once. Nothing would be more in keeping with American tradition and American self-interest.