



## 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 Zionist Emergency Council, press releases, 1949.



RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE CONVENED AT THE  
HOTEL PARK SHERATON, IN NEW YORK CITY, JANUARY 18, 1949, BY THE  
AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

#331(?)

1/29/49

1. The American Jewish organizations attending, representing the vast majority of American Jewry were shocked by the unwarranted military activities of the British Government on the borders of Israel. It is regrettable that these activities were responsible for the death of British pilots and tended to prejudice the pacification efforts of the United Nations and the establishment of friendly relations between Israel and its neighbors. It is our earnest hope that there will be no further activities of this nature and that all parties concerned will refrain from any action that might threaten the territorial integrity of Israel and the peace of the Middle East.

2. The Jewish organizations attending, express their gratitude to the President and Government of the United States for the unequivocal position taken by them in connection with recent British moves in the Middle East. By its insistence that nothing be allowed to interfere with the armistice negotiations at Rhodes and that peace between Israel and the Arab States must be based on mutual respect of their territories, the United States has enhanced its position as the leader in the fight for peace and justice in the world.

3. The Jewish organizations attending, send a message of solidarity and encouragement to the people and the Government of Israel. Israel can be assured that in the just struggle to maintain its independence and territorial integrity, no less than in the effort to absorb and rebuild the lives of all those to whom Israel offers the only hope for a productive life, and to consolidate the country on the basis of peace, justice and progress, it will have the unfailing support of the Jewish community in America.

4. The Jewish organizations attending, call upon their affiliated groups and upon the American Jewish community in general to continue their joint efforts to draw the attention of American public opinion and of the leaders of the American people to the need of securing Israel against any further attempts to interfere with the attainment of peace, progress and territorial stability in the Middle East.



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**PRESS RELEASE from AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL**

*Associated Organizations*

Zionist Organization of America • Hadassah • Mizrahi Organization of America • Labor Zionist Organization of America-Poale Zion  
United Zionists-Revisionists of America • Hashomer Hatzair • Achdut Havodah-Poale Zion (United Labor Zionist Party)

342 Madison Avenue • New York 17, N. Y. • MU 2-1160

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER CONGRATULATES ISRAEL

FOR ITS ROLE IN ACHIEVEMENT OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI ARMISTICE

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LAUDS DR. BUNCHE AND BRIG. GENERAL RILEY FOR

"NOTABLE PART" TAKEN BY THEM "IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE"

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New York, February 25 -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, today expressed the congratulations of the American Zionist movement to the government of Israel for the successful completion of the negotiations at Rhodes culminating in the Egyptian-Israeli armistice.

In a wire sent to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok, Dr. Silver, in behalf of the Council, which represents all official Zionist bodies in the United States, lauded the "magnificent stand taken by Israel in pursuit of an honorable peace."

The Zionist leader expressed the hope that "this first armistice which consolidates the territorial position of Israel and stretches a hand of peace across Israel's borders presage similar agreements with the rest of Israel's neighbors and result in durable peace and friendship between them."

Dr. Silver also paid tribute to the role taken during the negotiations at Rhodes by the two leading American figures in the UN Mediation body -- Dr. Ralph Bunche and Brig. General William E. Riley -- "who labored so hard and so ably in the cause of peace."

The full text of Dr. Silver's wire follows:

(more)



HON. MOSHE SHEROK  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
KIRYA, TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL AND ZIONISTS OF AMERICA  
I HAVE THE HONOR TO TRANSMIT TO YOU AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF ISRAEL  
OUR HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS ON THE HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI  
ARMISTICE.

WE ARE HAPPY OVER THE NOTABLE PART TAKEN IN THE ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS BY  
THE MEMBERS OF THE ISRAELI DELEGATION AT RHODES AND BY OUR TWO FELLOW CITIZENS  
ACTING UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR DR. RALPH BUNCHE AND BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM E.  
RILEY WHO HAVE LABORED SO HARD AND SO ABLY IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

THE MAGNIFICENT STAND TAKEN BY ISRAEL IN PURSUIT OF AN HONORABLE PEACE IS  
WORTHY TO TAKE ITS PLACE ALONGSIDE ITS HEROIC DEEDS DURING THE WAR. MAY THIS  
FIRST ARMISTICE WHICH CONSOLIDATES THE TERRITORIAL POSITION OF ISRAEL AND  
STRETCHES A HAND OF PEACE ACROSS ISRAEL'S BORDERS PRESAGE SIMILAR AGREEMENTS  
WITH THE REST OF ISRAEL'S NEIGHBORS AND RESULT IN DURABLE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP  
BETWEEN THEM.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, CHAIRMAN  
AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL



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2/17/49  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER URGES AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO PROTEST

DEATH SENTENCES IMPOSED UPON 7 JEWS BY IRAQ

FOR ALLEGED PRO-ZIONIST ACTIVITIES

- - - -

ZIONIST LEADER, IN WIRE TO SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN ACHESON,

CALLS FOR "ENERGETIC REPRESENTATIONS" BY U.S.

- - - -

New York, March 16 -- The American Zionist Emergency Council, representing all Zionist groups in the United States, today disclosed the text of a wire sent by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, its chairman, to Secretary of State Dean Acheson, inviting the attention of the United States Government to the death sentences imposed upon seven Jews by the Government of Iraq "allegedly for pro-Zionist activities."

(In a broadcast originating from Radio Baghdad it was disclosed that seven Iraqi Jews were sentenced to death last Friday for supporting Zionism. The names of five of the sentenced Jews were listed by this source; identification of the others was not made. The broadcast said that fourteen other Jews will be tried shortly on the same charges.)

In his telegram of protest, Dr. Silver expressed the hope that "energetic representations by the U. S. Government will succeed in saving human lives and in preventing similar outrages on the part of the Iraqi Government."

The Zionist leader made a reference in his wire to Secretary of State Acheson to a similar communication sent by him in behalf of the Council on

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September 15, 1948. At that time the Government of Iraq had sentenced to death Shafiq Ades, a prominent Jewish merchant in Baghdad, and fined him 5,000,000 dinars. Mr. Ades was subsequently executed by the Iraqi Government.

In his prior message to the State Department, Dr. Silver warned: "If unchallenged, this (Ades sentence) will set an extremely dangerous precedent opening the way for wholesale persecution and oppression of national and religious minorities in the Arab lands."

After quoting from this communication, Dr. Silver pointed out: "Unfortunately, the efforts of the U. S. Government in the case of Shafiq Ades proved unavailing and the reported death sentence on seven more Iraqi Jews appears as a further step in a systematic campaign of destruction of the Jewish population in Iraq."

The full text of Dr. Silver's wire follows:

SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WRHS



PRESS DESPATCHES FROM BAGDAD ANNOUNCE IMPOSITION OF DEATH SENTENCES UPON SEVEN JEWISH CITIZENS OF IRAQ ALLEGEDLY FOR PRO-ZIONIST ACTIVITIES. THIS PRESUMABLY CORRECT NEWS FOLLOWS THE TRAGIC JUDICIAL MURDER OF SHAFIQ ADES OF BAGDAD OF SIMILAR CHARGE LAST SEPTEMBER. RESPECTFULLY RECALL TO YOUR ATTENTION MY TELEGRAM OF SEPTEMBER 15, 1948 ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY OF STATE QUOTE AM CERTAIN THAT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT WISH TO REMAIN INDIFFERENT IN FACE OF SUCH SHOCKING SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE DANGER OF QUASI-LEGAL ASSASSINATION. IF UNCHALLENGED THIS WILL SET EXTREMELY DANGEROUS PRECEDENT OPENING THE WAY FOR WHOLESALE PERSECUTION AND OPPRESSION OF NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN THE ARAB LANDS UNQUOTE AS WELL AS SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MR. SATTERTHWAITE AND OUR WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE MR. LEO SACK. UNFORTUNATELY THE EFFORTS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT IN CASE OF SHAFIQ ADES PROVED UNAVAILING, AND THE REPORTED DEATH SENTENCE ON SEVEN MORE IRAQI JEWS APPEARS

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AS A FURTHER STEP IN A SYSTEMATIC CAMPAIGN OF DESTRUCTION OF JEWISH POPULATION  
IN IRAQ. RESPECTFULLY HOPE THAT THIS TIME ENERGETIC REPRESENTATIONS BY U.S.  
GOVERNMENT WILL SUCCEED IN SAVING HUMAN LIVES AND IN PREVENTING FURTHER SIMILAR  
OUTRAGES ON THE PART OF IRAQI GOVERNMENT.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, CHAIRMAN  
AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

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#341 - 3/16/49





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**PRESS RELEASE from AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL**

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4/19/49  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN ZIONISTS WILL CELEBRATE FIRST ANNIVERSARY  
OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE ON MAY 4

- - - -

CELEBRATION WILL FEATURE MUSICAL AND SPEAKERS PROGRAM

AT CARNEGIE HALL; MEMBERS OF NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

WILL BE LED BY IZLER SOLOMON, GUEST CONDUCTOR OF ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

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New York -- The American Zionist Emergency Council announced today that the first anniversary of Israel's statehood will be celebrated in the United States on May 4th. The date -- corresponding to the 5th day of the month Iyar on the Hebrew calendar -- has been designated by the Israeli Government as the official time of the anniversary celebration.

The Council, which is the public relations spokesman for all official Zionist parties in the United States, will stage a number of events of celebration on that day. Chief among them will be a musical program and meeting at Carnegie Hall on the evening of May 4th.

It has been announced that 75 members of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra will perform a program, suitable to the celebration, under the baton of Izler Solomon, conductor of the Columbus Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr. Solomon, who will leave for Israel on the following day, was the guest conductor of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra last summer at the time when the Jewish State proclaimed its independence. During the eleven weeks he spent in Israel, Mr. Solomon conducted thirty-three concerts. He took his orchestra to army camps and played

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for combat troops in the field, within earshot of enemy lines.

The Vinaver Chorus, well-known New York choral group, will sing a number of traditional Hebrew melodies. The chorus will be led by Chemjo Vinaver, its director.

In addition to the musical portion of the program, there will be featured several important addresses by American, Israeli and United Nations leaders. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the Council, will deliver one of the main addresses of the evening.

It has been disclosed that officials of the Israeli Government and members of all United Nations delegations have been invited to be present as guests of the Council.

#343 - 4/13/49





**PRESS RELEASE from AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

150,000 PERSONS JAM MADISON SQUARE PARK TO HEAR DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN,  
CHIEF RABBI HERZOG, MAYOR O'DWYER, DR. SILVER AND OTHERS  
DURING HISTORIC OBSERVANCE OF ISRAEL'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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SPEAKERS URGE EARLY ADMISSION OF ISRAEL INTO UNITED NATIONS;  
DR. WEIZMANN LAUDS HELP EXTENDED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT AND  
"PERSONAL SYMPATHY AND EFFORTS" OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN

-----  
CARNEGIE HALL CELEBRATION FEATURES ORCHESTRAL NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES BY  
DR. SILVER, ISRAELI DELEGATE AUBREY EBAN, U.S. SENATORS LODGE (MASS.)  
AND DOUGLAS (ILL.); "VOICE OF AMERICA" RECORDS FULL PROGRAM  
FOR TRANSMISSION TO ISRAEL

WRHS  
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES  
New York, May 4 -- One hundred and fifty thousand persons, in a cheering and  
jubilant mood, jammed Madison Square Park to pay tribute to Israel -- and its  
leaders -- on the occasion of the Jewish State's first anniversary of independence

Marked by the appearance of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Mrs. Weizmann and their son  
Benjamin, the huge throng, waving thousands of Israeli and American flags, fre-  
quently burst into prolonged cheers and applause during the high points of several  
speeches.

Dr. Weizmann, visibly affected by his great ovation, told the assemblage  
that it "puts on me a heavy burden to live up to these expectations; I can only  
promise to do my best." The Israeli President called sharp attention to the  
consistent flow of immigrants into his country and the economic burden of as-  
similating the newcomers.

While the mood of the crowd was festive -- several of the speakers, including  
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Mayor William O'Dwyer and Ted O. Thackrey -- pointed up  
to the grave problems now facing the new State. These problems, as outlined by  
the speakers, include the housing and absorption of the hundreds of thousands of  
Jews now entering Israel.

A great welcome was extended to Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog, Chief Rabbi of  
Israel, who, in a spirited address, pledged that the Jewish State "would carry  
out its promises to safeguard in Jerusalem those places of religious significance  
which are sacred to the Islamic world and to Christianity."



At a dramatic juncture of the outdoor meeting at Madison Square Park Dr. Emanuel Neumann, President of the Zionist Organization of America, introduced resolutions, adopted unanimously, which expressed the gratitude of the vast assemblage "to the President of the United States whose part in bringing about this historic event has enhanced the cause of justice and the name of our country."

Dr. Neumann, chairman of the meeting, recalled the long and historic struggle of the Zionist movement to the period leading up to the Proclamation of Independence issued last year in Tel Aviv on the 5th day of Iyar.

In the evening at Carnegie Hall, marked by a special musical program before an overflow audience, Senators Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., of Massachusetts and Paul H. Douglas of Illinois, called for the admission of Israel as the 59th nation of the United Nations. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council and one of the principal speakers at Carnegie Hall, sounded a word of caution at the celebration by noting that "there are still many difficult problems which continue to confront the new State."

"No permanent peace has as yet been signed, the boundaries of the country have as yet not been fixed, the final status of Jerusalem still remains to be determined. In this connection it should be realized that the State of Israel is in favor of maximum guarantees to safeguard the Holy Places which are sacred to the three great religions of mankind. The solution does not seem to lie in the direction of the internationalization of the city of Jerusalem because of the manifold difficulties involved in implementing such an arrangement, but rather in some adequate international supervision of the immunity of the sacred places," Dr. Silver emphasized.

Senator Lodge termed the creation of Israel last year the "most convincing demonstration of valor, courage, far-seeing intelligence and lofty idealism" in history.

"What has happened in Israel," Senator Lodge declared, "is good not only for the Jews, but is good for the whole human race because, in rising from the depths of despair and suffering in which they were plunged...the Jews have demonstrated a degree of tough and unbeatable courage which is surely one of the traits which gives man his spiritual dignity and proves the value of human personality."

Senator Douglas maintained that Israel could lead the way to the "social and economic rehabilitation in the Middle East", adding that "money is needed to do this." He pointed to the urgent need for trained technicians. Making an eloquent plea for Israel's admission to membership in the United Nations, Senator Douglas declared that Israel "has similarly won the right to have and hold the new portion of the City of Jerusalem. The area was built by Jews. It was defended by them against hopeless odds. And in the absence of the Old City, it is the closest approximation to the city that forms the heart of Jewish dreams and prayers and hopes. A state of Israel without at least the New City of Jerusalem would be as soulless as a body without a head," the Senator from Illinois said.

The program at Carnegie Hall was recorded by "The Voice of America" for transmission to Israel.

The great outdoor meeting at Madison Square Park in the afternoon was opened with the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" and "Hatikvah", led by Miss Olga Paul. Rabbi Joseph Lookstein of the Mizrachi Organization of America delivered the invocation.

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Speaking in Yiddish, Dr. Berl Frymer of the Labor Zionist Organization of America -- Poale Zion pledged in the name of his organization that "for us the fight is only beginning."

"We shall not rest until the Zionist vision of the complete solution of the Jewish problem, economically, politically and culturally, is attained. That will be the fruition of our historic heritage, a monumental contribution to universal peace and to the security and welfare of all humanity," Dr. Frymer concluded.

Chaim Gunner of Hashomer Hatzair recalled that it was "chalutzit that transformed the Jewish dream of Shivat Zion...into the reality of Israel."

"It was this spirit that inspired the leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Revolt, who six years ago today were entering the third week of their historic struggle. It is this spirit which must now find its place among the Jewish youth of America, the last great reservoir of world Jewry," Mr. Gunner stated.

In behalf of her organization, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein of Hadassah pointed out: "We have dedicated ourselves to bringing good health to the immigrants who are coming in at the rate of 1,000 a day."

"Our new hospital in Beersheba will serve the new settlers of the Negev. The Medical School in Jerusalem, which is to be opened on May 17 under the joint sponsorship of Hadassah and the Hebrew University, will crown our 37-year history of health work, training physicians in modern medical techniques so that they may be able to carry their services to every village and town in Israel," Mrs. Epstein declared.

Yehuda Tyberg of Achdut Havodah--Poale Zion addressed the overflow crowd in Yiddish. He stated: "On this day of national festivity we bow our heads in memory of the heroes of Israel who fell on the battlefields and did not live to see the day of fulfillment of their dreams. We bow our heads before the graves of the heroes of the Haganah and the Palmach, who, with their bodies, paved the way for our national redemption. We especially commemorate the millions who fell at the hands of the Nazis. They have raised the flag of revolt against the common enemy so that we could now live and enjoy freedom."

Paying tribute to the founders and former leaders of Zionism, Haiyim Lubinski of the United Zionists-Revisionists of America stated: "Theodor Herzl who conceived the idea of a Jewish State, Max Nordau who sought to translate it into reality by mass immigration, and Zev Jabotinsky who, in creating the Jewish Legion, taught us that ultimately the victory of Jewish arms in the Land of Israel must decide the fate of Israel. We salute and pay tribute to his pupils who fought in the underground for the freedom of their nation."