



## 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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Re: Jerusalem, 1949.



December 16, 1949

Rabbi Jerome Unger  
American Zionist Council  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York 17, New York

My dear Rabbi Unger:

I received your Bulletin #15 signed by Louis Lipsky addressed to the local committees of the American Zionist Council with reference to the decision of the United Nations on Jerusalem.

I am constrained to write to you that paragraphs 2 and 3 represent a kind of self-deception based on an unrealistic appraisal of what actually took place, which will not be helpful in the trying days ahead. The impression conveyed by your bulletin is that the American government has been consistently with us in opposition to the internationalization of Jerusalem. This, of course, is not the case. While the American government voted against the resolution in the "Australian" form in which it was finally adopted, it made it very clear throughout the sessions of the Assembly that it did favor internationalizing the area - the Conciliation Commission Plan in a modified form. Furthermore, while voting against the so-called "Australian" resolution, it is clear that it did not take the initiative nor exert diplomatic pressure on governments within the sphere of its influence, which the American government knows how to do when it is vitally interested in having a measure voted up or down at the U.N. The disastrous extent of our diplomatic defeat at the U.N. becomes apparent when one recalls that in 1947 we had to win the approval of two-thirds of the members of the U.N. In this instance all that we needed to have the hostile resolution defeated was one-third plus one of the voting members.

The article in "The Nation" on December 17th - The Jerusalem Story - is a far more realistic appraisal of what took place, and I am disturbed that the Zionist Council has not forthrightly faced the situation and is not telling the Jews of America the plain facts of life in order to guide them intelligently for future effective action.

To assure the Zionists of America that our cause has received full support by the American Delegation at the U.N. and that "the assurances given by President Truman have been faithfully kept", and that "we are confident that the position taken by the American Delegation in the U.N. Assembly will be maintained with integrity, vigor and effectiveness in the Trusteeship Council" (in the face of Dean Acheson's declaration yesterday that the American government will back up the Trusteeship Council in the matter of the internationalization resolution), is to confound and unwittingly to mislead them and to make the unreconciled forces opposed to us in the State Department secure in their political maneuver which left us defeated, and at the same time, left them possessed of the approbation and acclaim of the Jews of America.

I find in all this an unhappy echo of the sort of politics which we played in the Roosevelt era to our great hurt.

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:er

ABBA HILLEL SILVER