



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

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Are we moving towards peace?, 1953.



1) A very sig. event in inter. scene - whose implications - vast - (but as yet unclear - unpredictable).

A sudden shift has taken place in Soviet policy towards West made itself manifest in various way -

① The Korean dead-lock has been broken. The controversy which delayed a truce - over the issue whether prisoners of war should be publicly repatriated <sup>appears</sup> seems to have been resolved. The Chinese & N. Koreans yielded on this point - the only point in the way of an armistice - and accepted the position of the U.N.

An agreement has already been signed on the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners.

It seems likely that the war in Korea, which could very well have been the spark to set off the 3rd W. War, will soon come to an end.

All this, of course, could not have happened without Soviet knowledge and approval.

② At the U.N. the Russians suddenly agreed to on the selection of a new Security Council for the U.N. - after an <sup>unusually</sup> ~~unusually~~ <sup>unusually</sup> delay which seemed to suggest the deliberate ~~creation~~ <sup>manipulation</sup> of another East-West deadlock.

And at the U.N. too, Andrei Vishinsky, asked for the resumption of negotiations on the question of disarmament and atomic energy control.

New tone - <sup>less propaganda</sup> less vituperation, volleys of rudeness, provocations in speech - a friendlier and more reasonable approach <sup>also in many ~~aspects~~ <sup>aspects</sup></sup>

③ A Conference of the 4 powers was suddenly called to avoid further incidents on air borders -



The authoritative statement and act have now been given.

(5)

Resumes diplomatic relations with Israel

2/ These shifts - have raised many hopes and many fears.  
They point definitely to a new Proe Jewish or part - But the  
world ask the question (Why?)

The most surprises: To make the West drop its defense -  
To weaken Nato - create disunity  
To encourage - ease up on their defense  
program

To split the marrow of Germany and its  
inches in Eur. Defense Community  
To bring all. sec. on European U.S. by  
encouraged Am. people to reduce their  
emergency defense production

Then what are his surprises:

Further of old policy of 'appeasement  
'which place' - crashed need  
+ lead it to unite of. Hence  
increased armament of West  
Further in Korea  
Used for consolidation - win friends  
Am unity Communist' cards

3/ ~~What~~ The whole world is speculating - Only future -  
Wider Course - Pres. Eisenhower - "take them at face value  
until they have proved" "we take at face value  
every offer that was made to us until it was  
proved not to be worthy of being so taken"

4/ It is clear - "only a change in tactics" - under new  
leadership - not abandoned - May be taken advantage  
to further the interests of Israel - strengthen UN -



(4) Now, the most significant indications of shift - was the sudden and (2) dramatic reversal, the Soviet part - in the case, the 15 Doctors - <sup>6 Jewish</sup> who had been accused of plotting the death of prominent Russian leaders - Zhidakov - Schenbakhov and others.

You will recall - Prague conspiracy <sup>in collaboration with</sup> Joint Zionists - espionage - wrecking. Confessions Violent press campaigns

But suddenly - the Ministry of Internal Affairs - announces that the entire case against the physicians had been fabricated - that illegal methods were employed to extract ~~confessions~~ <sup>confessions</sup> - that the former Minister of State Security <sup>had</sup> been guilty of political blunders and publicity, and that a certain Ryumina, who was head of the investigation and connected the plot of the doctors had been arrested.

Pardon - Remarkable - First Time in fallible

Public acknowledgment ~~Confessions~~ - "methods of investigation - inadmissible and strictly forbidden by Soviet law - were employed to extract confessions."

West has always suspected it - since Lawrence trials in '30 - Prague - when men publicly accused Eos - & confessed to the worst preparation crimes -

Stalin - watches

Antisemites - seemed to have crept in - "Joint" - "Zionist" - "Jewish bourgeoisie" - Pardon to inspire national hostilities.

~~Some~~ Some were driven to conclusion Hellfire.

My speech - Feb 5



and set in motion diplomatic activities - League of Nations (4)

(a) Lower our guard - (Nails) - will not be caught in a  
trap ① Unprepared King ② Unprepared Gen. ③ Austria from Treaty  
④ War in the Balkans ⑤ China's Republic ⑥ Foreign -  
Forbidden for free nations to abandon their coalition, & their  
military preparations - ag. aggressors -  
altho - it will be necessary now to re-think their position  
with in reference to the Eur. Defense Community - with  
a re-armed West Germany - as on, its principle  
members

(b) For it is clear - part of Peace Officers - Unprepared King  
- as a neutral - outside of Eur. Defense Area - ag.  
against Soviet  
Our policy - has been - warm - a landmark - Jewish  
Unprepared - with East Gen. Chancellor - left inadequate  
Dr. Konrad Adenauer - 4.500 M -

(c) My position Jewish

5/ Let us talk peace - officers - for a neutral, united & disarmed  
Germany - ~~for friendship with~~ ~~for meeting 2 heads~~

6/ Peace - small threat - Stock-market tumbled - Peace will bring  
depression -

7/ Am. capitalist sees - must rely on us - then it holds  
so - the sooner the better + (A Soviet award!)

Can further - 160M - same picture - reconverted to  
mass. trans production goods - Same letters

7/ Near to Peace - 53 L. Refer to my last



- 3 -

now been mobilized into an association called the American Friends of the Middle East. With few exceptions, they are the American enemies of the State of Israel. The leading spirit of that group is a lady who formerly did a very profitable business as a lecturer on Zionist platforms and who, in her unregenerate days, and before she went nativist, declared: "The Jews were prepared to fight for the Allies, and did fight for them. The Arabs were not - they bargained with threats. It is never good to give into blackmail, for there is never an end of that sort of thing. And again she declared: "Palestine is a very small part of the whole Middle Eastern complex and Arab world. Its loss for the Arabs would be negligible if they could really exchange it for their own security and opportunity for national development."

This security and opportunity are now theirs. Why has not one single Arab statesman of courage and stature arisen among them to set the problem of the Middle East for them in its true perspective, to raise the sights of his people away from that little corner of Israel on which they concentrate with such rancor and dudgeon as if bewitched, to the vast undeveloped territories everywhere about them, to their resources and potentialities which, if wisely exploited in cooperation with the people of Israel whose destiny is forever linked with the peace and prosperity of that region, could rescue their miserable masses from backwardness, poverty and disease and raise the level of life, health and education of all the peoples living there today, and countless millions more.

The Arab opposition has gathered strength; and now from the East comes another vehement wind of opposition. The Soviet Union has turned violently anti-Israel and anti-Zionist. From Moscow, Warsaw, Prague, Bucharest and Kaunas, a chorus of charges and anathemas has been sounding off against our Movement and the government of Israel, identical with the unbridled denunciations which have been visited upon American imperialism, Titoism, Trotskyism and all forms of deviationism.

In a sense, a developing negative attitude on the part of the Soviets toward the State of Israel was inevitable. As the State of Israel found itself drawn more and more in its sympathies towards the free democracies of the West, which was the logical consequence of the inherent democracy and love of freedom of its people, whose tradition is, after all, not the Muscovite-Romanoff tradition of absolutism, but the Sinaitic tradition which proclaimed "liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof," and, as the State of Israel, acted in cooperation with other free nations in the United Nations on all matters which involved



basic principles of the Charter, the Soviet attitude was bound to become increasingly more critical and resentful. And I assume that the Movement as well as the State of Israel were prepared for such an eventuality. But what was unthinkable and unpredictable - and monstrous - have been the gross and unauthenticated imputations of espionage, conspiracy, subversion and medical murder against an historic movement of national liberation and humanity which, unlike Communism, has never worked in conspiratorial darkness, and which has never been the enemy of any people or government which has been friendly to it. It is inconceivable that the Soviet Union would have instructed its representatives at the United Nations less than five years ago to champion the cause of a sovereign Jewish State and to vote for its admission to the United Nations if the Zionist Movement were of the character which it is now represented to be - up to 1947, a paid agent of the British Intelligence, and since then, of the United States Intelligence.

There is no point in speculating here about the complex of motives which are responsible for this amazing about-face - even allowing for the traditional unfriendliness of Communism towards Zionism which antedated the reversal of its position in 1947. The kettle of a Communist mass trial usually boils more than one fish, but what a fantastic stew of juridicial rigamarole is this, by which lifelong professional anti-Zionists are hanged because they are Zionists, and Zionists are charged with fostering anti-Semitism, and the American Joint Distribution Committee is charged with being an international Jewish bourgeois nationalist organization, set up by the American Intelligence Service to exterminate the top-ranking officials of the U.S.S.R.! Perhaps their attitude will change again when the present political or party exigencies will have been served, or when the unsavory grotesqueness of this whole canard will have set their own teeth on edge.

But, at the moment, our Movement and the State of Israel are confronted with the fact that a very powerful bloc of states has allied itself with the Arab bloc in open opposition. This is a very serious matter to contemplate, especially in relation to the total stoppage of Jewish emigration from those countries to Israel in the foreseeable future.

There may be even more serious overtones to this anti-Zionist, anti-Israel campaign launched by the Communist states. It may carry over into an all-out campaign against the Jews of those countries who number some two-and-a-half million souls. I should prefer not to be forced to conclude that the Soviet Union has definitely gone anti-Semitic, or that it has adopted anti-Semitism as an instrument of Communist policy. Some of my friends whose judgment I value



greatly are convinced that this is actually the case. If so, then another appalling tragedy of fearful and staggering proportions is in store for our people. I would prefer to be more deliberate in judgment. I am frank to acknowledge that it is difficult to understand what is going on, as do many other men of good will everywhere who, though they are not Communists or fellow-travelers, have consistently favored a rapprochement between the East and the West and a working out of a modus vivendi so that all the peoples of the world might have peace and a chance to live their lives in accordance with their own economic and political preferences. They have favored such a rapprochement because they were persuaded that Communism, unlike Fascism and Nazism, was committed to basic human equality and was opposed to racialism and to the exploitation or extermination of groups or nationalities regarded as inferior or undesirable. There was the record of the official outlawry of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and its opposition to all forms of discrimination on the basis of race or nationality.

On the other hand, the anti-Jewish nuances of the Prague trial and the violent references to the menace of Jewish nationalism in the Soviet press are unmistakable. Certainly, this loud concert of official denunciation of Jewish nationalism, and the widely disseminated charges of a Jewish network of spies and saboteurs, plotting to destroy the Soviet Union cannot help but incite and inflame the people of the Soviet Union and endanger not alone the peace and security, but even the very lives of the Jewish people living there.

It is not too late for some authoritative statement or act on the part of the highest Soviet leadership to clarify the situation, set the record straight, relieve the minds of men of fear and suspicion, and avert an appalling catastrophe. Representative Jewish bodies should not overlook the diplomatic approach along with the public protest. *step*

Recent events in which the Soviet Union itself played a not inconsiderable role should have convinced them that all attempts on the part of parties or governments to gain power, hold power or expand power by capitalizing on anti-Jewish prejudices are doomed ultimately to disastrous failure.

The Soviet Union, as a matter of expediency, once made a pact with Hitler. That blunder had to be atoned for by ten million Russian lives. If now again, as a matter of expediency, it is making a spiritual pact with Hitlerism, in the hope of wooing neo-Nazis or neo-Fascists or Arab irreconcilables, or for whatever other reasons, it will be committing a second and a much more fatal blunder. It will be destroying the very basis of its life.



# Pravda's Editorial on Abuse

LONDON, April 6 (AP)—Following is the text of a Pravda editorial today on the "doctor's plot," as broadcast by Moscow radio:

In our press a communiqué of the U. S. S. R. Minister of Internal Affairs on the results of thorough verification of all the materials of the preliminary investigation and other data in the case of the group of physicians accused of wrecking, espionage and terroristic activities against the active leaders of the Soviet state is published.

As a result of the verification it has been established that the implicated people in this case, professors and doctors, were arrested by the former Ministry of State Security of the U. S. S. R. incorrectly, without any legal grounds.

According to the communiqué of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the verification has shown that the charges against those persons were false and the documentary data on which the investigation workers based themselves were groundless. It has been established that the testimony of the arrested, allegedly confirming the charges proffered against them, was obtained by workers of the investigation section of the former Ministry of State Security through the use of methods of investigation which are inadmissible and most strictly forbidden by Soviet law.

## Doctors Fully Cleared

On the basis of the findings of the investigation commission, specially set up by the U. S. S. R. Ministry of Internal Affairs to verify that case, the arrested professors and doctors have been fully cleared of the charges laid against them and have been released from custody.

The persons guilty of the improper conduct of the investigation have been arrested and are held criminally responsible.

How could it happen that in the very inside of the Ministry of State Security of the U. S. S. R., which has been called upon to stand guard over the interests of the Soviet state, a provocative case was fabricated, the victims of which were honest Soviet people, outstanding figures of Soviet science?

His happened first of all because the leaders of the former Ministry of State Security proved not to have been at the level of their tasks. They broke away from the people, from the party. They forgot that they were the servants of the people and that their duty was to stand guard over Soviet law. The former Minister of State Security, [Sennjon D.] Ignatiev, displayed political blindness and inattentiveness, he proved to be on the lead of such criminal adventurers as the former deputy minister and head of the investigation section, who directly led the investigation, Ryumin, who has now been arrested.

Ryumin acted as a hidden enemy of our state, our people. Instead of working on the disclosure of the true enemies of the Soviet state, the true spies and diversionists, Ryumin embarked on the road of deceiving the Government, on the road of criminal adventure. Having trampled underfoot the lofty calling of the workers of Government departments and his own responsibility before the party and people,

Ryumin and some other workers of the Ministry of State Security, led by their criminal aims, embarked on the most gross violation of Soviet law, up to the direct falsification of evidence, and dared to violate the inviolable rights of Soviet citizens which are inscribed in our constitution.

The medical-expert commission, which was created in connection with the accusation against the group of doctors, proved also to be not at the level of its tasks and gave incorrect conclusions on the methods of treatment which were applied at the time to [Col. Gen. Alexander S.] Shcherbakov and [Andrei A.] Zhdanov.

## Essential Facts Hidden

Instead of analyzing the history of the illness and other material with scientific conscientiousness and objectivity, this commission yielded to the influence of the material fabricated by the investigation and with its authority supported slanderous and falsified accusations against a number of prominent medical personalities. At the same time it is necessary to note that the investigation hid from the experts some essential aspects of the treatment which had proved the correctness of the treatment given.

The Soviet people learned with a feeling of gratification that the accusations leveled against a number of prominent figures of Soviet medicine proved to be completely false and that they were a foul calumny against honest and respected figures of our state. Only the people who have lost their Soviet aspect and human dignity could go so far as to arrest unlawfully Soviet citizens, the outstanding figures of Soviet medicine, of the direct falsification of the investigation and to the criminal violation of their citizens' duty.

The despicable adventurers of the type of Ryumin, through their fabricated investigation, attempted to inflame in the Soviet society, which is forged by moral and political unity and ideas of proletarian internationalism, feelings of national antagonism which are profoundly alien to the Socialist ideology. Aiming at these provocative ends, they did not stop at frantic slander on Soviet people. It has been established, for example, by careful

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