



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel
178

Box
65

Folder
430

Jewish National Fund, 1937.

The Zionist movement is the expression of an immemorial hope as well as of a desperate emergency. From the days of Abraham - the first Jew - Palestine has been the promised land of Israel. In Palestine Israel carved out a highway for the moral and spiritual progress of mankind. In Palestine Israel laid the foundation for ~~the~~ three ^{great} historic religions which have shaped the course of human civilization. The heart of Israel was never severed from Palestine even though three national disasters drove the people into exile. Twice Israel returned and resumed its ^{interrupted} national career ^{there} and now for the third time Israel ^{is} ~~has~~ returned ^{ing} to rebuild through sacrifice and heroic efforts its national life in the land which must forever remain the land of Israel.

At each return from exile, whether from Egypt or Babylon or as now, from the farflung Diaspora, the people of Israel ^{has had} ~~have~~ to rebuild the land from waste and ruin. Always it meant struggle and hard labor and untold sacrifice. Nothing was ever given to our people ^{except} ~~only~~ that which was given to it by God - faith and high courage. We were ready in ancient days even as our pioneers and settlers are ready today to pay the price for national rehabilitation. We ask for no favors and no concessions. We ask only for the chance to regain and to reclaim by our own labors and our own sacrifices that which by right of history and by divine promise is ours - the land of Israel.

The nations of the world recognized our historic connection with Palestine. They realized also the great need of a homeland for a people which in so many parts of the world were suffering because of the want of a homeland and because its national status was not normalized among the nations of the world. That is why Great Britain issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917. That is why the Principal Allied Powers ^{and} ~~of~~ the Council of the League of Nations in 1922 approved the granting of the mandate of Palestine to Great Britain and made Great Britain responsible for putting into effect the Balfour Declaration which favored the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and charged the mandatory government with the responsibility "for placing the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home". This was an international act of historic justice which was universally acclaimed. It was regarded as one of the few moral victories of the world war.

because a very critical time
It came at a very opportune time ^{for} the Jewish people; for the close of the war marked the beginning of an era of intense persecution ~~of~~ our people in Central and Eastern Europe - a recession in their political rights and in their economic stability, culminating in the ^{ghastly} ~~great~~ tragedy which overtook the Jewish community in Germany. The last two decades

x witnessed the return of medieval conditions for millions of Jews in Central and Eastern Europe. Nations, gone mad with Chauvenism, racialism and militarism, torn by internal economic strife and embittered by defeat, frustration and impoverishment, turned upon the Jews in their midst and made of that hopeless minority a scapegoat for all their sins and misery. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were driven to seek new homes - and new homes were not available. Even free and tolerant nations found it necessary to close their doors against new immigrants. In this dark hour Palestine providentially loomed large as a haven of refuge. Tens of thousands of Jews streamed into the country. Whereas at the end of the world war there were no more than 65,000 Jews in Palestine, by the end of 1936 there were more than 425,000. From the land of persecution, of restricted opportunity, of misery and hopelessness they came, young and old, principally the young, and in the ancient land of their forefathers they found a new and welcoming life, an open door, a chance to work, a "new heaven and a new earth."

What these men and women achieved in Palestine, a land which Mark Twain some years ago described after having visited it "as leagues of blasted, blighted, sandy, rocky, sunburnt, ugly, dreary, infamous country" will remain a glamorous epic in the history of colonization and nation building. To a land neglected for centuries by Turk and Arab and shot through with malaria and

trachoma, these pioneers brought healing and redemption. They drained the marshes. They introduced sanitation. ~~They stamped out malaria and trachoma.~~ They reduced the death rate and ~~sharply reduced also the rate of infant mortality.~~ They revived agriculture, ~~by the introduction of modern, scientific methods.~~ They built orchards and gardens, where ^{before} there were ^{only} rocks and stretches of desert. They built roads and highways and power stations. They dotted the plains of Sharon and Jezreel with settlements and villages. Whereas twenty-five years ago there were only sand dunes in the suburbs of Jaffa there is today a modern, thriving city of 150,000 souls. They erected hospitals and clinics and opened them for the service of all, Jew and Arab and Christian alike. They built schools and high schools and a Hebrew University. And all this to the hurt of none and the blessing of all. The Jews who came to Palestine did not expropriate a single Arab. They did not take away a single dunam of land from any Arab. They received no free grants from the Government. Every acre of land was bought and paid for, ^{much} ~~Most~~ of the land was poor land which had to be irrigated or drained or where wells had to be dug for water. It has been established that less than 1,000 Arab families have moved from the land to the cities through their sale of land to Jewish colonists, and these of course were amply indemnified for the land which they sold and have been enabled to establish themselves in other lines of livelihood.

frequently at high and excessive prices. Much of the land had not been cultivated for centuries

The taxes paid by Jews made it possible for the Palestine Government to initiate public projects which afforded employment to thousands of Arabs. Since 1922 the Arab population of Palestine has actually increased by 200,000. The economic condition of the Arab in Palestine is incomparably better than that of fellow Arabs in the neighboring Arab countries where there has been no Jewish immigration.

x The Jew seeks peace with the Arab in Palestine -- he is ready to come to any *amicable* arrangement which will be of mutual benefit to both peoples. He cannot, however, sacrifice his historic claim to the land as his national homeland or the right of Jews to enter Palestine in numbers capable of being absorbed by the country. Nor can he consent to the status of a permanent minority in Palestine.

The Arab is not being driven by outside forces to *emigrate* *from their homes and to* migrate to Palestine. There are ^{the} vast lands of Arabia, ^{there is} Syria,

Transjordan and Iraq where the Arab peoples live and where they

can fulfill their national aspirations. *But* ~~The~~ myriads of Jews *are driven*

from their homes and desperately need Palestine, and the national aspirations of our people can be satisfied nowhere else.

1. An Anniversary Year - 40 yrs - Congress -
20 " - Balfour. Nov. 2 - 1917 -
35 " J.N.F. - at 5th 2.c -

2. Mood tempered by seriousness - Riots - 18 months - Partitions -
eye spared -

It seems as if we are still far off - אין סוף ארצות - in P. even as yet
I would - within the thick בולת - under fire - Such is our destiny

3. This to be said ah! riots - Assas. & Andrews + the Enan - finally
bestirred - Heretofore - Hundred - not one put to death - balanced -
Did what we urged them

Murphy - prisoner 1920 - 4th place -
Pres. Supreme Moslem Council -
1/2 M. Dollars

WRHS

Arab High Com. - acting by letters



- Realized too Italian maneuvers - Imperial interests
- will realize why an arid land's true friends
- Some things perhaps will be done down now

4. Any how - riots or no riots - we must carry on.
Pal. reaction - 13 settlements within year of riots -
"Tel Aviv" - within 24 - watch-tower -
Tirat Zvi - Malania -

5. - Humen.

① - נחל חזק -

② - "Eng" land -

③ - Tel Aviv - Canton Till

④ - Hamberg - Tel Aviv Harbin

Call 1/5/17 } 1/11/17
1/20/17 } 1/11/17

6. Mont any on - he. Drive - Horubus - Poland - Shells hutches
1 - decades - Crusades lasted 2 centuries
7. Main problem of Architecture - how to cover space with a roof

8. In Work of up building J.N.F. - invaluable prep. of J. people

① Reveal underlying social - prophetic work -

① Protect farmers from exploiters - No speculations!

No absentee landlordism.

No profits drawing off surplus values

He who tills soil shall enjoy fruits thereof

② To settle J. on land - sturdy J. farming pop -

Correct Trade - Profess. over - balance Urban - mercantile

Give J. nat. life on agr. basis.

③ Experiment with a new social order based on communal settlements -

④ Principle of self - labor -

exploit cheap Arab labor -

70th 1952

9. Need of more land! Partitions - frontiers

Isabell - weak in -

Huleh -

offers - options contracts 100,000 1)
with in boundaries J. State -

10. Emek Valleys of Jezreel - Hepher - Zebulun - Hazarden

" Huleh - 127 Colonies Settlement

11. People's Fund. - Boxes - Flag Day - Trees -