



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and  
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

---

Reel  
180

Box  
66

Folder  
573

Zionism, 1941.



41-4

Zionism

ABSTRACT OF ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER OF CLEVELAND, OHIO  
November 30, 1941.

Great Britain has not fulfilled either the letter or the spirit of the Balfour Declaration. Nowhere in that Declaration or in the Mandate is it even suggested that Palestine was to become an Arab as well as a Jewish national homeland, or that Palestine was to become a bi-national state, or that Jews were to constitute a permanent minority in that country, or that the Jewish homeland was to be restricted to the left-hand corner or the right-hand corner of Palestine. Sophistry of the most incredible sort has been employed to confound the clear intent and purpose of a great historic document and act. Legal technicalities and subtleties have been used to whittle down that full-orbed Declaration, and numerous White Papers have been substituted for the only one true and internationally sanctioned Paper -- the Mandate.

Mufti-appeasement has proved no less disastrous than Hitler-appeasement. Reward your potential enemies and punish your actual friends -- that, unfortunately, has been the British attitude which has prevailed to this day in Palestine. Where are the Arabs now in England's desperate hour? Palestine Jewry rallied as one man to the side of Great Britain. Thousands of Palestinian Jews have been fighting with the British forces in the Near East, in Libya, and elsewhere. A Jewish army has been offered but declined by the British authorities on the ground that there is no equipment for it, but Polish and Free-French army units have been equipped. The Munich mentality is still at work in the British Colonial Office.

Zionists have frequently been taunted with wishing to protect the Jewish homeland in Palestine with British bayonets. But strangely enough, it is the British Government which is now keeping the Jews of Palestine from defending their homeland with their own Jewish bayonets.

We do not know what arrangements are now being made by British diplomatic agents in the Near East for the future status of Palestine. We suspect that much



activity is going on. It is only fair to state publicly that the Jews of Palestine and world Jewry will not accept any arrangement for Palestine which will be made at their expense. The Jews of Palestine are no longer a negligible factor, either in number or in quality. They have a right to be consulted about their own destiny. Nor should the Jews of the world be regarded as so beaten and broken as to be easily ignored.

There can be no lasting peace in the world after the war until the rights of all suppressed and persecuted peoples and minorities are restored, and their peaceful futures assured. Among such peoples and minorities the Jews of Europe constitute the most serious and tragic case of persecution, impoverishment and political homelessness. A solution of their problem is imperative for the peace of the world. That was clearly understood by the peace-makers following the last World War when the plight of Jewry was not a tenth as desperate as it is today. The right solution was offered then -- a political homeland for a politically homeless people where millions would find security and a chance to live and to work. The events of the last twenty odd years, and the tragedies of this second World War have only served to underscore the validity and the historic rightness of that solution. The great English people which inspired and approved that solution which was voiced in the Balfour Declaration, should now insist upon its complete fulfillment in absolute candor and forthrightness.

We have been loyal to Great Britain both in the last war and in this war. We ask for a reciprocity in loyalty. This is England's grave hour of fate. We have joined with all other freedom-loving peoples in an appeal for all-out aid to Great Britain. But this is also our grave hour of fate. We appeal for all-out aid to our ravaged and decimated people in Europe. They need a home. Palestine is the historic home of Israel: England has acknowledged it, and so have all the nations of the earth at the close of the last war. We now ask of the statesmen and leaders of Great Britain to forego all opportunism and Munichism and permit the Jews to build their national homeland and to defend it as Jews.