



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

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578

United Palestine Appeal, 1941.

"Fear not, for I am with thee; I will bring thy seed from the east and will gather thee from the west. I will say to the north: 'Give up,' and to the south: 'Keep not back'; bring My sons from far, and My daughters from the end of the earth."

In a literal sense this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled in our day. Palestine is drawing to itself refugees from all parts of the earth and is giving them haven and sanctuary, healing for their broken bodies and balm for their tortured spirits. From the hundred hells of Europe they are coming -- tens of thousands of them -- to the Jewish Homeland.

Palestine has absorbed more refugees than the whole of the rest of the world combined. A great love, a great sacrifice and a great understanding has made that possible.

But Palestine is more than a refuge for the bodies of men and women. It is a refuge for the Spirit, the Spirit of these driven and harrassed ones, and the Spirit of our entire race. On the rim of the ravaged continent of Europe, where Jewish life has been beaten down into disaster and degradation, our people is building a new and powerful citadel for the spirit of Israel. As if in challenge, as if in defiance, as if in contempt for all the work of the Destroyer, Israel is raised on high in these years of fire and sword, of persecution and war, new banners of undefeated strength, new evidence of survival and indefeasibility.

The Yishub in Palestine is the inspiration of Israel throughout the world. The storms of war are sweeping around it today. Dangers lurk on its very borders. But Israel in its own land is unafraid. It is resolved to defend what it has builded with its very life and it is confident of its destiny.

Jews who fail to sense the superb drama which embattled Israel in Palestine is now playing are spiritually dead. Jews who fail to help in the heroic task of national redemption are faithless to their heritage.