



## 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.

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Reel  
180

Box  
66

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615

On a Palestine army, 1942.

Statement for The Day in answer to an editorial in the New York Times.

January 1942

The Times joins the group of Arab appeasers in the British Colonial Office in opposing the organization of Jewish military units in Palestine. It would be of interest to have the Times tell its readers how much Arab support the British government received in Syria, Iraq, Egypt and elsewhere as a result of this appeasement. The Times suggests that the people in the United States who have endorsed the Jewish Army have been "sincere and well meaning" but mistaken. They have not been mistaken. They have simply not permitted themselves to be beguiled by the sort of propaganda to which the Times has lent itself. The Times overlooks the fact that the Jews have a special legal status in Palestine - that of a people in its national homeland, so recognized by Great Britain itself a quarter century ago, and so approved internationally at San Remo. A people has a right to fight under its own flag, and what is encouraged and granted to the Free French, Belgians, Poles, Dutch and other peoples should not be denied to the Jewish people of Palestine.

The Times exploits the opportunity to deliver itself of its traditional anti-Zionist attitude shared by a small group of wealthy Jews who have always dodged the hard realities of Jewish life and preferred illusions.

No sane person will assume that Zionists are opposed to the fulfillment of the Atlantic Charter and to the granting of full rights of citizenship to Jews and all other peoples wherever they are - but it is a naive understatement to say that after the war with Europe ravaged and impoverished and with bitter economic rivalries inevitable that there "may be some from Axis territories who may prefer to emigrate to Palestine or other lands". Not "may" but will or must and not some but hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions. Only Palestine will be prepared to absorb most of these immigrants and only a Jewish Palestine; for whoever controls Palestine politically controls the immigration into it.

The editorial in the New York Times is disturbingly reminiscent of similar editorials which appeared in the prominently Jewish owned newspapers which appeared before the advent of Hitler.



The Times joins the group of Arab appeasers in the British Colonial Office in ~~coming out in opposition to~~ the organization of Jewish military units in Palestine. It would be of interest to have The Times tell its <sup>readers</sup> ~~public~~ how much Arab support the British government received as a result of this appearance. The Times suggests <sup>the Times suggests</sup> ~~the people~~ policy in Syria, Iraq, Egypt & elsewhere. <sup>who have endorsed</sup> ~~who have backed~~ the Jewish army in the United States have ~~not been~~ ~~not been~~ "sincere but mistaken and well meaning" <sup>WRHS</sup> ~~but mistaken~~ <sup>WRHS</sup> ~~They have simply not permitted~~ themselves to be beguiled by the sort of propaganda to which the Times has lent itself. The Times overlooks the fact that the Jewish Homeland, ~~in Palestine~~ the Jews have a special legal status in Pal. - that of a people in its nat'l homeland, so recog. by G.B. itself a 1/4 century ago. <sup>so</sup> ~~internationally~~ approved at San Remo by all the A people has a right to fight under its own flag - & what is ~~granted~~ encouraged & granted to the F.F. - Belgians, Poles Dutch & other people should not be denied



to the Jewish people of Palestine.

The Times expects the opportunity to deliver <sup>again</sup> ~~the~~ of its traditional anti-Zionist attitude - ~~which~~ shared <sup>also</sup> ~~with~~ <sup>by a</sup> that small group of wealthy Jews who ~~when~~ ~~confronted~~ ~~with~~ have always dodged the <sup>hard</sup> ~~base~~ realities of Jewish life & preferred illusions. ~~No~~ <sup>person</sup> ~~same~~ <sup>may</sup> will assume that Zionists ~~are~~ ~~not~~ opposed to the

fulfillment of the Balfour charter & to the granting of full rights & citizenship to Jews ~~as~~ to all other peoples wherever they are. but it is a naive understatement to say that after the war with Europe ravaged & impoverished & with bitter economic rivalries inevitable that there "maybe some from Axis territories who may prefer to emigrate to Palestine or other lands" not "may" but will and must & not some but hundred of thousands perhaps millions. Only a Palestine will be prepared to absorb most of these.



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*[Handwritten scribble]*

