



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Hadassah, 1944.

EXCERPTS FROM ADDRESS TO BE DELIVERED BY DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER OF THE TEMPLE,
CLEVELAND, AT THE MUSIC HALL ON MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 13, 1944

We regard the establishment of the Jewish Commonwealth as the statesmanlike solution not alone of the Jewish problem but of a world problem which has plagued and will continue to plague the political life and conscience of mankind. It is the right solution also not alone for the Jewish people but for the quickening and vivification of the political, economic and social life of the entire Middle East -- one of the great undeveloped areas of the world which fairly cries for development in order that health and a higher standard of living might be brought to an impoverished, disease-ridden and appallingly illiterate population. Jews are coming to that part of the world not as exploiters, but as settlers and colonists to cooperate with the Arabs in a great cooperative enterprise for mutual profit and common benefit. The Jews are the friends of the Arabs, perhaps the only truly disinterested friends which they have, for they come with no imperialistic purposes. They come to invest their own substance and skills, their own sweat and blood in a small corner of that vast world of the Near East which is historically that of the Jewish people, and in the process, they hope to stimulate the development of all the adjacent Arab lands. They should like nothing better than to extend a hand of friendship and helpfulness to the Arab peoples roundabout.

The three great powers who are assuming the grave responsibility for the New world order which is to be fashioned after this war must, as temporary trustees for the community of nations, assume responsibility also for the final settlement of Palestine. It is hardly conceivable that the final decision will be left to Great Britain exclusively. Palestine is not a colony of Great Britain. Great Britain has never been more than a trustee under a specific mandate from 52 nations. Palestine and the solution of the Jewish problem were always regarded as one of international concern.

It is questionable whether Great Britain alone, unaided by the cooperation of the United States and perhaps Russia can, in the light of her experience in the administration of Palestine in the last quarter of a century, adopt a new line which will achieve the desired result. The traditional approach of the Colonial Office to the question, - that of Arab appeasement for the sake of holding them loyal to the Empire -

offers no promise whatsoever of a satisfactory solution. It is in fact a bankrupt solution. It did not win that loyalty for which Jewish rights were so consistently sacrificed as the British experience during the war with Arab non-cooperation and in some instances actual treachery in Iraq, Egypt and Syria has amply demonstrated. Nor were the Indian Moslems won over. Were there no question of a Jewish national home in Palestine today, the position of Great Britain in the Middle East would be no whit more secure. The Arab problem as far as the Empire is concerned is actually only remotely connected with Palestine, though Arab nationalism for purposes of propaganda has sought to create a contrary impression.

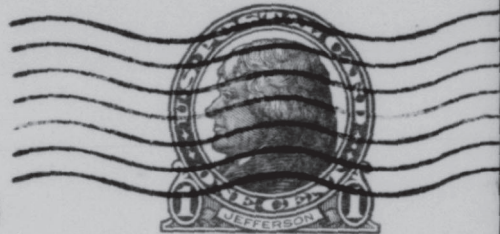
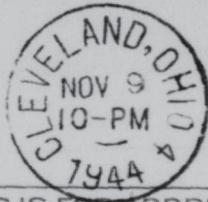
A common policy on the part of the major powers whose decisions will determine the shape of things for generations to come, and who are being called upon today to pool their thinking and to take common action on many international issues some of them far graver and much more involved and difficult than that of Palestine, would make possible a decisive solution, dictated by true statesmanship and backed by overwhelming authority. Together, they could brush aside all the tangled web of disingenuousness, legal shuffling and obstructionism with which a stodgy colonial beaureaucracy has surrounded and almost stifled a noble and enkindling ideal. They would not only proclaim the Jewish Commonwealth, but they would extend to it that material aid and credit which they will undoubtedly extend to other countries to assist them in building or rebuilding their national economy. The establishment of the Jewish Commonwealth would then be part of a comprehensive program of effective aid, political and economic, to the neighboring Arab countries who would thus enter a new era of political independence and economic growth and prosperity.

The war in Europe is approaching its end. Decisions must be taken even now with regard to settlement of Jews who are still alive in the liberated countries, touching their repatriation or resettlement. Plans are now being made by bodies like UNRRA and the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees for the movement of refugees

after the war. Most of these refugees wish to go to Palestine. The persistence of the White Paper policy will produce plans for the resettlement of Jews which may prove impractical and futile or which will do violence to the preference of the refugees themselves.

The certificates available under the White Paper quota are coming to an end. Soon the doors will be closed in fact. A prompt decision is imperative.

The United States has large and growing interests in the part of the world hitherto regarded as exclusively a British sphere of influence. Through the Middle East Supply Center, our government is participating actively in helping to meet the economic needs of the countries of the Middle East. We have built important military bases and American troops are found everywhere there. We have sent advisers to some of the Middle Eastern countries, a Minister to Saudi Arabia and another to Syria and Lebanon. An American agricultural mission and a military mission were sent to Ibn Saud and the latter's two sons visited the United States last year. We extended lend-lease and concessions in the Near East, especially in Saudi Arabia. During this year the announcement was made that the United States Government intended to build a pipeline between the Saudi Arabian fields and the Mediterranean. The project was finally abandoned as a government project in favor of private construction assisted by government loans and the line may be built after the war. It seems clear that the economic and therefore the political influence of the United States in that area is bound to increase markedly in the coming years. America has a definite stake in the peace, progress and prosperity of that very important segment of the world of which Palestine is a part. Palestine because of the enterprise, skill, scientific equipment and the advanced progressive character of the Jewish population, can become a dynamo of energy for the rapid development of that entire area. There is a close bond of sympathy between the Yishuv and the United States. Palestine can become a friendly out-post for American interests in the Middle East.



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NATIONAL HADASSAH CONVENTION

Special Session

44-7

dedicated to current Zionist Political Issues

OPEN TO CLEVELAND COMMUNITY

Monday, November 13th

Music Hall-8:00 P. M.

1944

Speakers: DR. DANIEL A. POLING, President, World Christian Endeavor,
Vice-President, American-Palestine Committee

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER, Chairman, American Zionist
Emergency Council

Chairman: MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN, National President of Hadassah

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