



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Kisch Memorial Fund, 1945.

- 1) Gratified -- Brigadier General Frederick H. Kisch brilliant war record World War I and II -- killed in Tunisia -- Chief Engineer of Montgomery's British Eighth Army.

Chairman Palestine Zionist Executive 1923-31 -- distinguished family -- served British Empire -- father brother in India.

"No soldier in this army served more faithfully and gallantly and his loss was a great blow to all of us"-- General Montgomery.

- 2) But an even higher purpose is to be served -- the purpose to which Kisch dedicated his life -- upbuilding of Palestine.

Two factors involved -- political and economic -- both inter-related.

To make possible quick absorption and rapid expansion calls for exploitation of most modern methods of science technology.

Jews have shown amazing skill -- Sir John Hope Simpson in 1930 declared Palestine could absorb only 20,000 additional settlers -- additional 400,000 have been brought in -- 40% increase also in Arab population.

These Memorial laboratories as well as the existing Hebrew Institute of Technology vital factors.

Use facilities and scientific which Palestine possesses in abundance a million or more settlers

- 3) No other solution for Jewish refugee problem than Palestine -- No Return

- 4) Building on high cultural plane - the Hebrew University, etc.



1. There is a widespread impression, confirmed by press reports from abroad, that the Anglo-American Committee may recommend the admission of 100,000 Jewish refugees to Palestine, but may avoid any clear-cut recommendation as to the future of Palestine in general. It should be pointed out that such a recommendation would change nothing fundamentally. It would not solve the Jewish question in Europe, nor would it result in clarity regarding the fate of Palestine. After the 100,000 Jews had come in, Arab and British intrigues to stop further Jewish development would continue as heretofore.

2. American Jews are perfectly aware of this situation. Ever since the announcement of President Truman's request to Mr. Attlee last August that 100,000 Jews be admitted to Palestine pending a decision regarding the general decision, the Jews took it for granted that the 100,000 refugees would be admitted. They consider this a matter of elementary humanity which is long overdue and are sorely disappointed that this was not done in advance of the Committee proceedings. An attempt to have the Committee do nothing else but recommend the admission of the 100,000 would leave them doubly aggrieved.

3. It is suggested that the President communicate informally with the American members of the Committee to strongly urge them not to follow the British policy but to strongly recommend a policy in accordance with the Democratic Platform and the wishes of Congress as expressed in the Wagner Resolution which was approved in the House and Senate by overwhelming majorities.

4. It would be helpful if the White House would informally communicate to the American members of the Committee that it will seek to carry out the program of the Congressional Resolution and the National Democratic Platform, irrespective of whether the British members of the Committee agree with them or not. This would encourage the American members of the Committee to make recommendations in line with the generous views traditionally supported by American public opinion on the subject of Palestine, instead of making them play second fiddle to the British members.