



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
182

Box
68

Folder
734

Buffalo Zionists, 1947.

TELEPHONE MESSAGE TO BUFFALO ZIONISTS

12-8-47

See Correspondence of E. S. Freudenheim -- General File 1947-48

I am very happy to have this opportunity to greet the Jewish Community of Buffalo and to join with you, even if it is only at long-range, in celebrating the establishment of the Jewish state. We are as yet too close to the event properly to appraise it, but no one can doubt that ~~ax~~ momentous act of historic significance was consummated a week ago Saturday at the Assembly of the United Nations.

The just albeit long deferred claim of the Jewish people to rebuild its national life in the ancient land of Israel was finally recongized by the nations of the world. It received an overwhelming and decisive endorsement. Israel has now regained status as a nation among the nations of the earth. Our Galut -- our national homelessness -- thus comes to an end. The Jewish people will now be free again to live its own life on its own soil, to develop its own culture, to give free play to its creative genius and to make its specific contribution to the progress of mankind.

One of the greatest wrongs of istory has now been righted. Compensation has now been made even if it can never be made in a full measure for the millennial sufferings and persec tions of our people.

The United Nations, as a result of this decision, has gained enormoulsy in prestige and in authority. It has given convincing proof that it is capable of facing up to grave international problems and of solving them with courage and forthrightness.

The role which our wn country played in the United Nations ~~xxxx~~ in connection with this decision has been most gratifying. Without the strong position which the United States finally took, after considerable initial hesitation and divided counsel, favourable action would, in all probability, not have taken place.

We are also greatly indebted to the consistently helpful role which the

Soviet Union played throughout the negotiations. Its clear and unequivocal position dispelled many fears and doubts, and exposed the baseless propaganda which had been spread concerning the true attitude of the Soviet Government. That the United States and the Soviet Union were able to work most harmoniously on this important issue is we hope, a happy augury for the future.

The Jewish State will be small, as a result of partition which we reluctantly accepted, but we intend to make it great — great in achievement, and in all the attributes of a progressive and democratic country. Those countries in the past which made the noblest and most significant contributions to mankind were never large countries territorially. Greece was a small country, but it carved a highway for mankind in philosophy, art and literature. Judea was always a small country. But the prophets and spiritual leaders which it produced made of that little country the Holyland of mankind.

We pray for the peace of Palestine. We extend the hand of genuine friendship to the new Arab State which is to be established there. The Jewish nation in Palestine will be eager to cooperate fully with its Arab neighbors within the framework of the economic union for the progress and prosperity of the whole of Palestine. But, if forced to, we shall defend our State to the utmost. Our tradition is peace but our resolution is steel. What we have builded with blood and sacrifice will not be uprooted, and the decision of the United Nations will not be defeated by threats and violence.

Many grave tasks lie ahead for the Jewish nation in Palestine. But it will be equal I am sure to the challenge of its destiny. The Jews of the United States ~~shall~~ should take particular pride in the decisive role which they played in this great drama of Israel. Without America, the United Nations action would have been impossible. Without American Jewry and American public opinion which American Jewry informed and mobilized, ~~American Jewry informed and mobilized~~ our government would not have been alerted and guided to the positive action which it took. The Zionists of America may therefore be deeply gratified at the part which they were privileged

to play in the great testing hour of Jewish history. The Jews of America, out of a sense of joy and pride and responsibility, must now do their utmost to insure that the foundations of the Jewish state shall be laid strong and sure, that the new state shall be fully defended, and that the tens of thousands of our people who have waited for this hour of redemption shall be helped to come as quickly as possible to the land of their people and the land of their hearts' desire.

On this Chanukah eve of proud and joyous celebration, let us rededicate ourselves anew to the undefeated and indefeasible spirit of the Maccabees.

