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

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Silver assails appeasement, 1956.



STATEMENT

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Cleveland, Ohio

October 30, 1956.

Statement for  
Press 56-5

I hope that what appears to be a large scale action on the part of the Israeli forces in retaliation for the nigh endless series of murderous commando raids, the mining of Israeli roads, the killing and wounding of many Israeli citizens and the continuing illegal blockade of Israeli shipping through the Suez, will not develop into an all out war. War can be of use to no one.

The Israeli government has asked for peace with Egypt and with its Arab neighbors repeatedly in the last eight years but has been contemptuously brushed aside.

Instead of which the Arab governments, under the leadership of Egypt, have proceeded to build a ring of steel to encircle Israel. The dictator Nasser of Egypt has been particularly active in this direction. Just a few days ago a military alliance was concluded between Egypt, Jordan and Syria and their military forces were placed under a single command with the avowed purpose of "leaping" upon Israel when the proper moment arrives.

Life in Israel has been made dangerous and intolerable by the constant shooting and killing on its frontiers. To brand Israel the aggressor in the face of the persistent violations of the armistice agreement on the part of the Arab States is quite pointless and somewhat cynical. Israel wants peace. The Arab governments have proclaimed time and again that their major objective is to destroy Israel. Who is the real aggressor?

When the Suez Canal was seized by Nasser nothing concrete was done about it and Mr. Dulles made sure that nothing would be done about it. President Eisenhower warned the State of Israel against mobilization but said nothing about the military alignments and preparations which the Arabs were making against Israel.



The British were quick to suggest or to approve the movement of Iraqi troops to the frontiers of Jordan and Iraq has indicated its readiness to join with Jordan against Israel.

Our Government, which helped to establish the State of Israel and was the first to recognize it has given it neither the security of a mutual pact which it has granted to some forty other countries, nor, when communist Russia poured hundreds of millions of dollars of arms into Egypt did it grant to the imperiled young State of Israel the right to acquire arms in this country, to defend itself.

The situation has now reached such a dangerous and critical point where only a new approach, a new order of courageous and forthright statesmanship can meet the situation. The status quo in the Near East cannot be indefinitely maintained on an armistice basis. The free world must bring its united diplomatic authority to bear upon the reluctant Arab States to sit down with the willing representatives of Israel to work out a just and permanent peace for that part of the world.



56-5

Oct.-Nov., 1956

THE AMERICAN ZIONIST

# Silver Assails Appeasement

*The following is text of statement issued in Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 30, 1956, by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver on the Israel-Egypt situation:*

I hope that what appears to be a large scale action on the part of Israeli forces in retaliation for the nigh endless series of murderous Egyptian commando raids, the mining of Israeli roads, the killing and wounding of many Israeli citizens and the continuing illegal blockade of Israeli shipping through the Suez Canal, will not develop into an all-out war. War can be of use to no one.

The Israeli government has asked for peace with Egypt and with its Arab neighbors repeatedly in the last eight years, but has been contemptuously brushed aside.

Instead, the Arab governments, under the leadership of Egypt, have proceeded to build a ring of steel to encircle Israel. The dictator Nasser of Egypt has been particularly active in this direction. Just a few days ago a military alliance was

concluded between Egypt, Jordan and Syria, and their military forces were placed under a single command with the avowed purpose of "leaping" upon Israel when the proper moment arrives.

Life in Israel has been made dangerous and intolerable by the constant shooting and killing on its frontiers. To brand Israel the aggressor in the face of the persistent violations of the armistice agreement on the part of the Arab states is quite pointless and somewhat cynical. Israel wants peace. The Arab governments have proclaimed time and again that their major objective is to destroy Israel. Who is the real aggressor?

When the Suez Canal was seized by Nasser nothing concrete was done about it, and Mr. Dulles made sure that nothing would be done about it. President Eisenhower warned the State of Israel against mobilization, but said nothing about the military alignments and preparations which the Arabs were making against Israel. The British were quick to suggest or to approve the movement of Iraqi

troops to the frontiers of Jordan, and Iraq has indicated its readiness to join with Jordan against Israel.

Our government, which helped to establish the State of Israel and was the first to recognize it, has given it neither the security of a mutual pact which it has granted to some forty other countries, nor—when communist Russia poured hundreds of millions of dollars of arms into Egypt—did it grant to the imperiled young State of Israel the right to acquire arms in this country, to defend itself.

The situation has now reached such a dangerous and critical point where only a new approach, a new order of courageous and forthright statesmanship can meet the situation. The status quo in the Near East cannot be indefinitely maintained on an armistice basis. The free world must bring its united diplomatic authority to bear upon the reluctant Arab states to sit down with the willing representatives of Israel to work out a just and permanent peace for that part of the world.



# ds to Crisis

# Pledge Million in Bonds For Silver Testimonial December 17

A communication to all of the ZOA's District and Regional leaders, issued on October 30 by Harold P. Manson, Executive Vice-Chairman of the Department of Public Information, emphasized that the causes of the Middle East crisis must be brought to the attention of the American people and that "we must keep the fundamental issues from being hidden by the smoke of battle." To achieve this, the Department of Public Information has provided a steady flow of background material, statements by Zionist leaders and reprints of pertinent press comment — all designed for utilization by ZOA districts in their respective communities. The ZOA is, in addition, a major participant in the information programs of the American Zionist Council and the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs.

Some 300 New York ZOA leaders convened at an emergency meeting on Tuesday evening, October 30, in connection with the crisis growing out of the Israel-Egyptian situation. The meeting was originally called by the ZOA to launch preparations for the dinner being sponsored in honor of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver in tribute to his 50 years of outstanding Zionist work, to be held on December 17 in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann in an address at the emergency meeting charged that our own Government has led the inglorious parade of retreat before Nasserism and called for "hands off Israel" in her gallant and desperate struggle for self-preservation.

Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the dinner committee, who presided, in another stirring address emphasized the gravity of the situation facing the State of Israel and the imperative urgency of strengthening its economic front through the sale of Israel Bonds.

As an immediate reaction to the Middle East crisis, following the addresses of Dr. Neumann and Rabbi Miller, the ZOA leaders of the New York metropolitan area pledged the sale of \$1,000,000 in Bonds in connection with the testimonial dinner to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver on December 17.

Co-chairman of the dinner committee is Abraham Goodman. The presidents of all five ZOA Regions in Greater New York as well as Regional Bond chairmen are serving as associate dinner chairmen.

# of Torment Ended