



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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186

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70

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A valorous decade, 1958.

New York Mirror - Statement
Mr. Edwin Savelson

Special "Salute to
Israel" Supplement - 4/10/58

58-15

These ten years have been tremendous years, glorious in dynamic planning, in unprecedented deeds and achievements, in valorous defense. No decade in Jewish history is quite comparable to it. So many fears have been proved groundless. So many hopes have been exceeded. So many myths have been exploded.

These ten years were years of testing. The world and we ourselves waited to see whether the Jewish people possessed the stamina, the perseverance, the sagacity, the sacrificial loyalty which are requisite for the building of a State. And through ten years, and with mounting wonder and admiration, the world and we ourselves witnessed an unfolding drama of national ingathering and construction, of courage, vigor and valor, such as mankind had seldom, if ever, witnessed. During these ten years Israel has made good in a breathtaking way, not in the perfection of objectives, but in elan, in swift progress, and in the daring spirit of its enterprises. Israel has made good in shop and field, on land, sea and air, in city, town and village, in swamp and wilderness, in schools and centers of higher learning and research, in social services, in a revived language and culture. Israel has made good on the battle-field! — to the amazement of friends and the confounding of enemies.

What have these last ten years given our people? Not only a national home, not only the status of a free and sovereign nation, not only a sanctuary of redeemed life and reborn hope for hundreds of thousands of our brethren, refugees for whom the rest of the whole, great wide world had no place. Not only an emergent new civilization, a rare blending of the old and new, not only a land risen from the ruins, the waste and the ravages of centuries where one beholds at every turn the strength of youth, the eyes of youth and the hopes of youth. But these last ten years have also restored to our people its lost pride, the confidence which the cruel centuries almost succeeded in destroying. The last ten years saved us from fatal despair after the Nazi horrors which caused the spirit of our people to languish, almost unto death. These last ten years have healed us and made us

whole again. They have restored to us the sense of national worth and national mission. History has led us back after many dangerous and desperate detours to the royal highway of our national destiny.

Is our work done after these ten magnificent, exciting, heroic years? Our work will not be done until the ingathering is completed, until the national economy of Israel is stabilized, until its borders are made secure and its enemies cease from threatening and harassment.

Many of the major problems of ten years ago remain unsolved. The Palestine war is not ended. Only a troubled armistice exists, but no peace. The Arab refugee problem has not been solved. Israel has been waiting long for a peace conference, which the Arab governments have consistently spurned, where the subject of the refugees could be discussed and concrete proposals agreed upon.

These problems mean one thing -- among others. Our work is not done! The second decade will clamor for their solution. Until they are solved those who initiated the effort of building a State are committed to see it through. And the God of our Fathers Who looked with favor upon this generation of pioneers and builders will, we prayerfully hope, prosper our hands in the work which lies ahead and the hands of those who will follow us.

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Cleveland, Ohio
March 31, 1958

AS THE WORLD WATCHED

A Valorous Decade

By RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

These have been 10 tremendous years, glorious in dynamic planning, in unprecedented deeds and achievements, in valorous defense. No decade in Jewish history is comparable to it. So many fears have been proved groundless. So many hopes have been exceeded. So many myths have been exploded.

These were 10 years of testing. The world and we ourselves waited to see whether the Jewish people possessed the stamina, perseverance, sagacity, the sacrificial loyalty which are requisite for the building of a state.

And through 10 years, and with mounting wonder and admiration, the world and we ourselves witnessed an unfolding drama of national ingathering and construction, of courage, vigor and valor, such as mankind had seldom, if ever, witnessed.

DURING THESE 10 years Israel has made good in a breathtaking way, not in the perfection of objectives, but in elan, in swift progress, and in the daring spirit of its enterprises.

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(Rabbi Silver, famed American spiritual leader, pleaded Israel's cause before the United Nations. He is rabbi of The Temple in Cleveland.)

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Independence Day Festival

Israel's Independence Day on April 24 will feature the armed forces parade at the new Jerusalem stadium, where 12,000 of 16,000 seats have been reserved for tourists. With standing room, the stadium will hold 60,000. Tourists, who will have special transportation to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv and Haifa, will find the traditional street-dancing and fireworks augmented this year by public entertainment.