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Jerusalem, Israel, 1957.

הסוכנות היהודית לארץ-ישראל
THE EXECUTIVE OF THE JEWISH AGENCY

Telegrams: "JEVAGENCY" JERUSALEM

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE

P. O. Box 92

JERUSALEM

8 Adar Bet, 5717

March 11, 1957

Ref. No.

Dr. A.H. Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

The Executive of the Jewish Agency which has just met in plenary session in Jerusalem, has decided to examine the possibility of holding a ten-day conference in Jerusalem during the latter part of August for the discussion of the ideological bases of present day Jewish life and the Zionist movement.

We should like to invite some seventy scholars and thinkers from all over the world, including representatives of the chief political, cultural and spiritual trends in modern Jewry, as well as distinguished unaffiliated individuals.

There was no difference of opinion in the Executive as to the need for such a conference and the benefits that would accrue therefrom. It was felt that if certain key persons essential to the discussion were able to come, it would be possible to arrange the Conference. We are therefore writing at once to some ten persons, of whom you are one, to ask if you would be able to come to Israel for such a conference at the end of August. We would appreciate it very much if you could communicate your reaction as quickly as possible to Dr. S. Blumenfield at the Jewish Agency, 16 East 66 St., New York City.

In planning this conference we assume the acceptance of two basic pre-suppositions: recognition of the unity of the Jewish people, and our generation's desire and duty to support the State of Israel, as the central force of Jewish existence now and in the future. Accordingly, we see four chief themes as the subject matter of the conference:

- I. The place of Judaism and the Jewish people in the clash of world ideologies - religious, economic, social.
- II. The State of Israel: its role in Jewish life and its international position.
- III. The struggle of the free diaspora centers to preserve Jewish cultural values and identity and to assure their integration into the Jewish people as a whole.
- IV. The individual Jew: his obligations to his tradition, to his community, to the revival of his people and to the State of Israel.

Once we have your positive reply, we will be eager to discuss with you your participation in one of these panels. You would of course be the guest of the Jewish Agency, and Dr. Blumenfield will discuss the arrangements for the trip with you.

Cordially,

Zalman Shazar
Zalman Shazar

Dr. Nahum Goldmann
Dr. Nahum Goldmann

March 26, 1957

Dr. S. Blumenfield
Jewish Agency
16 East 66th Street
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Blumenfield:

I received the communication dated March 11th from Jerusalem, signed by Zalman Shazar and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, inquiring whether I would be available to attend a conference in Jerusalem during the latter part of August for the discussion of the ideological bases of present day Jewish life and the Zionist movement.

It would have given me great pleasure indeed if I were able to attend such a conference. Unfortunately, it will not be possible for me to visit Israel in August.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

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