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Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

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Melbourne, Australia (Sydney, Australia), 1952-1957.

הפדרציה הציונית באוסטרליה וניו זילנד

Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand

PHONE: CENT. 4305

77 BOURKE STREET,
MELBOURNE, C.1

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ZIONITA"

23rd October 1952

OUR REF. NO. 632/52

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
19810 Shaker Boulevard,
Shaker Heights,
CLEVELAND, OHIO, U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi,

It is my privilege to extend to you, on behalf of the Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand, a most cordial invitation to visit Australia for a period of a week to ten days between 15th - 25th April, 1953, and to be the Guest of Honour at the Israel Independence Day Celebrations which will be held in the major cities of Australia in that period.

It has been our custom, in line with Jewish communities and the Zionist Movement all over the world, to hold large-scale celebration functions in all States of Australia on or very close to the 5th Iyar each year since the establishment of the State of Israel. These celebrations have taken varying forms ranging from pageants to mass public meetings, and we have succeeded in establishing this occasion as the most important, best organised, widely supported, and attended event in our communal Calendar.

At most of our previous celebrations the highlight has been an address by a leading overseas or Australian Jewish personality as for instance last year when we had the privilege of having with us the Very Rev. Dr. Israel Brodie, Chief Rabbi of the British Empire. The functions themselves are prepared many months in advance, are held in the largest, most dignified hall available, i.e. last year's was held in the Melbourne Town Hall - accommodating approximately 2,500 people, and are well publicised.

This year (5713) we proposed to enlarge the scope of our celebration even further and have hired the Melbourne Exhibition Building - the hall of which can accommodate anything from 4000/5000 people - for the 20th April, 1953.

Similar plans are in preparation in other large Jewish centres in Australia and we will ensure that all the celebrations are co-ordinated to take place on successive evenings of the same week, i.e. Saturday, 18th - Thursday, 23rd, so that, should you be able to accept our invitation,

/you

Ref. 632/52 (contd).
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

23rd October, 1952.

you can be present at each of the celebrations.

We would like to point out that there are five major Jewish centres in Australia, all about two hours' air-travelling distance apart and that it would therefore not cause you undue discomfort or difficulty to participate in all five celebrations. The Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand will be happy to cover all travel, accommodation and other expenses connected with their invitation and earnestly hope that Australian Jewry will have the honour of welcoming you here.

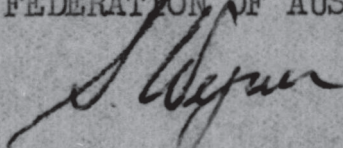
We ask you, when considering our invitation, to bear in mind the fact that Australia is far removed from other large Jewish centres, and a visit by a world-famous Jewish personality like yourself would do a great deal towards stimulating and inspiring greater efforts in all phases of Jewish and Zionist endeavour, and would particularly enhance the likelihood of maximum financial aid to Israel through the United Israel Appeal, which will commence in Australia shortly after your visit.

We are most anxious and eager to have your acceptance and to welcome you here. The period we have suggested, i.e. 7 - 10 days is only a minimum one- and we would be delighted if you could afford and arrange to spend a longer time here which would give us the opportunity of acquainting you with our Jewish and Zionist problems and of having your valued advice on the conduct of our affairs.

You will understand that time for adequate preparations for the Independence Day celebrations is vital to us and we therefore take the liberty of requesting that you cable us as soon as possible in reply to our invitation.

With Zionist greetings,

Yours sincerely,
ZIONIST FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA & N.Z.


S. WYNN.
PRESIDENT.

November 20, 1952

Mr. S. Wynn, President
Zionist Federation of
Australia and New Zealand
77 Bourke Street
Melbourne, C. 1, Australia

My dear Mr. Wynn:

I appreciate very much your kind letter of October 23rd and your gracious invitation which you extend to me on behalf of the Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand to visit Australia between the 15th and 25th of April next year. It would have given me great pleasure indeed if I were in position to accept your invitation. I have long wanted to visit Australia and New Zealand and to become acquainted with the Jewish communities there, and of course, with the countries themselves. I do hope that fortune will favor me in the not-too-distant future so that I may be able to do just that. Unfortunately, this coming spring I am so heavily committed to important engagements in my own community and in other parts of the United States that I cannot take on an engagement which would take me out of the United States for two or three weeks. Perhaps some future year I may be able to come to you.

Please convey my deep appreciation to the Zionists of your Federation for their cordial invitation.

With warmest regards, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE MELBOURNE

RABBI'S OFFICE

L. A 3730

78-82 ALMA ROAD,

ST. KILDA, S. 2.

12th January 1953.

Rabbi Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Ansel Road,
CLEVELAND, OHIO, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Silver,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Liberal Jewish Congregations of Australia, in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth. In 1954 Liberal Judaism in Australia will celebrate its Twenty-fifth Anniversary upon completion of the first twenty-five years of existence of the Melbourne Temple, which was the first congregation established in this country.

As Chairman of the Ecclesiastical Board of the Australian Union for Progressive Judaism, I have been asked to enquire whether there would be any possibility of arranging for your visit, as guest of honour at the Jubilee Celebrations. Your name, as one of the world-famous leaders of Zionism and Liberal Judaism in the United States, was suggested as soon as the first discussions for the Jubilee were held. This is not yet a formal invitation, but rather in the nature of an enquiry, as we would like to know whether you would consider visiting us in 1954.

I understand that the Zionist movement also has approached you with a request to visit this country and, as one who is also active in the Zionist field, I would deem it a privilege to discuss a renewal of their invitation for 1954 if you were to give me permission to do so. Your visit could be arranged in the American Summer months (July or August) and, if you would consider coming by air, need only keep you away from America for a few weeks, the air trip itself taking 2½ days.

It is proposed to combine either the laying of the foundation stone for a new Temple in Melbourne, or the actual consecration of that building, with the Jubilee Celebrations. A visit from a great Jewish leader like yourself would be a powerful stimulus to Jewish life generally in this continent and in particular to Liberal Judaism and the cause of Zionism.

Rabbi Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

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12th January, 1953.

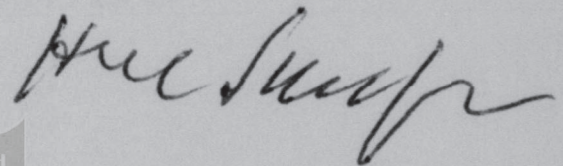
I hardly expect that you remember my visit to you three years ago when passing through Cleveland. You were gracious enough to see me for a little while and I still remember our meeting with delight.

Hoping that you may give our invitation your favourable consideration,

I remain,

With Warmest Regards,

Yours very sincerely,



(H. M. SANGER)

RABBI.



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WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

FX-1201

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VLT=Int'l Victory Ltr.

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1955 JAN 21 AM 7 04

O:SFRO03 41 INTL O:SF MELBOURNE VIA RCA 21 1002=

LT RPD LRS2-46 DR SILVER (DLR 22)=

THE TEMPLE ANSELL RD CLEVELAND OHIO=

UNDERSTAND YOU VISITING AUSTRALIAN ZIONISTS 1955 STOP
CORDIALLY RENEW OUR INVITATION TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER
JUBILEE CELEBRATION AUSTRALIAN LIBERAL JUDAISM STOP
PLEASE ADVISE APPROXIMATE DATE AND LENGTH YOUR STAY
LETTER FOLLOWING=

RABBI SANGER=

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE MELBOURNE

RABBI'S OFFICE

L A 3730

HMS/BB.

78-82 ALMA ROAD,

ST. KILDA, S.2.

28th January, 1955

Rabbi Dr. A. H. Silver, D.D., Lit.D., D.H.L.,
The Temple,
105th Street and Ansell Road,
CLEVELAND 6, O H I O. U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Silver,

Following my cable of the 21st January, I would like to further amplify its contents by extending to you on behalf of the Temple, and the Australian Liberal movement generally, a cordial invitation to honour us with your presence during the celebration of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Liberal Jewish movement in Australia.

We understand from persistent rumours appearing in the Jewish press that you may possibly visit this country, and quite particularly its Zionist movement, during the present year. As this year also marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the first Reform Temple in Melbourne, from which have since developed the congregations in Sydney and Perth and our own two Branch congregations in Melbourne, we would deem it a great honour and pleasure if you would consent to combine any visit to Australia with participation in our Silver Jubilee celebrations.

We would be delighted to welcome the outstanding spokesman of American Liberal Judaism as our keynote speaker on this important occasion. We have learnt how deeply you impressed the members of the Reform movement in South Africa and are naturally eager for a similar experience.

The entire year of 1955 has been set aside for our Silver Jubilee, the periods of June, July and November being the most important. As we are finalising our programme now, we would be very happy and grateful if you could let us know at what time you would arrive in this country, and whether

Rabbi Dr. A. H. Silver.

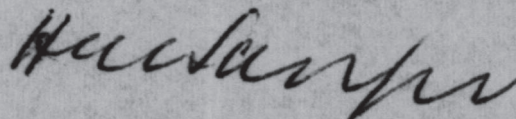
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28th January, 1955.

you would be willing to honour Liberal Judaism in Australia with your presence and encouragement.

Hoping to hear from you soon, and with kindest personal regards,

Yours very sincerely,



(H. M. SANGER)
Rabbi.

Chairman, Ecclesiastical Board,
Australian Union for Progressive Judaism.



SM CLA004 79/77 CTFNR INTL SYDNEY VIA CPR OCT 15 1729
RPDLRS2.52 LT RABBI SILVER

DLR 19810 SHAKER BOULEVARDE CLEVELAND OHIO
MY EXECUTIVE EXTENDS CORDIAL INVITATION MRS SILVER
YOURSELF VISIT AUSTRALIA FOR CELEBRATION TENTH
ANNIVERSARY AND OPENING UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL IN ALL
FIVE AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND STOP SUCH VISIT
TO COMMENCE APRIL 22ND FOR MINIMUM STAY THREE WEEKS
STOP YOUR PRESENCE WOULD ADD ENORMOUSLY THIS HISTORIC
OCCASION AND AUSTRALIAN JEWRY WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE
THIS HONOUR HOPE YOU ACCEPT PLEASE CABLE ZIONITA
SYDNEY

MAX FREILICH PRESIDENT BIONIST FEDERATION
N AUSTRALIA NEWZEALAND

906A.

over

Can Reply In amount \$2.52

WRHS



Def'd. Cable via W.Un.

Oct. 16, 1957 3:00 PM

ZIONITA SYDNEY
SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

DEEPLY HONORED YOUR INVITATION HOWEVER WILL BE IN ISRAEL AT
~~AT~~ THAT TIME. WARMEST REGARDS.

RABBI SILVER

