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JEWS WE CAN BE PROUD OF — RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Fifty Years of Zionism

by Rabbi Leon I. Feuer

The Zionist world observes this year the completion of fifty years of service to Zionism by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver. That service has in many respects been unique, and has received richly deserved recognition in many forms, both on the part of the Zionist movement which he led during the most eventful and creative period of its history, and of the citizens of the State of Israel, for whose existence he is in no small measure responsible.

For a substantial part of that half century, the writer has had the privilege of being closely associated with him, both as a professional colleague and as a Zionist comrade. He thus had the opportunity of observing him at close range particularly during those turbulent, triumphant, tragic, and crises-laden years from 1943-1948 when Jews were being murdered by the millions in Europe, when the successful effort to win the support of American public opinion and of the government of the United States culminated in the decision of the United Nations favoring the establishment of the Jewish State. He may, therefore, be able to contribute a somewhat more personal glimpse into the nature and quality of Rabbi Silver's leadership.

His notable intellectual and spiritual contributions to the philosophy and literature of Zionism are a significant part of the history of this era. They are reflected in his published addresses, papers, and essays which deal with every aspect of our movement, historical, political, and religious. His is a total, conclusive, clear, and consistent philosophy of Zionism, combining in a well articulated synthesis the political insight of Herzl, the spiritual vision of Achad Ha-Am, but most important, the classic impulses of Judaism. The basic theme of his thought is his emphatic, and from the historical viewpoint correct insistence that Zionism is an expression of the drive of Jewish destiny, that it is more than philanthropy, that it includes as integral but also transcends the Jewish State, that it is in brief the quest of the Jewish people as a unity, in and outside the land, for its Messianic goal. That is why he, and those of us who agree with him, cannot accept the narrow Ben Gurion thesis that only those who settle physically in Israel are entitled to call themselves Zionists.

It was, however, in the years of struggle for the establishment of the Jewish State that he proved his mettle as a peerless leader of his people. Observing him and working with him was an unforgettable experience. In the most tempestuous and dangerous moments, his iron nerve and resolve never deserted him. His closely reasoned analysis of political trends, supported by painstaking documentation, persuaded the friendly and refuted the inimical. His flaming words and sweeping eloquence sustained the hope and courage of his fellow Jews. He possessed an uncanny prescience for political developments, a remarkable sense of timing for exploiting the strategic moment to press home an advantage. He was never daunted by opposition, either from within or without the camp. He never surrendered to expediency, nor compromised for the sake of a transient popularity. The goal was to him all important, and the straight line to it the shortest distance. Unlike some Zionist leaders, he was not overawed by persons in high places or submissive to their flattery. His motives never became mixed with other considerations. Under the then prevailing circumstances of World War and universal Jewish tragedy, only such single-minded leadership could have

accomplished the end. American Zionism and World Jewry were indeed singularly fortunate that it was available in the person of Abba Hillel Silver.

One cannot resist the temptation, in these present hours of stress, to add a somewhat wistful postscript. His contention a decade ago, that the position taken by the United States in relation to Israel is and for a long time will be the crucial factor in determining the outcome of issues, has been heavily underscored by recent developments. The public relations activity of the Zionist movement (and of its collaborating organizations) in this country has been marked by inadequacy, temerity, lack of scope, planning, and long-range direction. To call it chaotic and ad extempore is to put the kindest interpretation upon it. A multiplicity of organizations and leaders, councils and committees, consultative and cross-consultative bodies are mounted and galloping in all directions. The overall impression is confusing, and it will be a miracle if the ultimate results are not damaging. How can one help uttering what so many of us are desperately thinking - if only Abba Hillel Silver were at the helm today!

In any event, what he is and what he has achieved in the half century of effort into which he has poured his amazing gifts of mind, body, and spirit, without a moment's consideration of the cost to his health - lavishly and with incomparable devotion - these will be written large in the annals of the Jewish people.

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
NEWS FROM ISRAEL

French Foreign Minister Pineau Addresses ZOA UN Conference

NEW YORK (ZINS) - Christian Pineau, Foreign Minister of France, and other top members of the French Delegation to the United Nations, addressed a conference of ZOA leaders at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The conference was called under the auspices of the ZOA Committee for United Nations Affairs, under the Chairmanship of Moses Schonfeld who presided.

Other French statesmen who spoke at the conference were M. G. George-Picot, permanent head of the French Delegation at the UN, and M. Champlix, France's Secretary of State for Algerian Affairs, who gave an off-the-record review of the present political situation.

ZOA President, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, and Messrs. Abraham Goodman and Harry Torczyner replied in behalf of the ZOA. 150 ZOA leaders from the New York metropolitan area attended the conference. A previous ZOA conference at the UN was held with the participation of the Israel UN Delegation.

HOW ISRAEL LOST THE WORLD'S SYMPATHY

A PICTURE OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN-IN FANTASY

by Ephraim Kishon

The armies of Egypt, Syria and Jordan, under joint command, penetrated Israel's borders practically along their whole length. The Israel Army was not surprised by the blow, but, lacking heavy weapons and especially an adequate air arm, had to limit itself to defensive manoeuvres. The Arab invasion was supported by 3,000 Soviet tanks and 1,100 planes.

Why the small Jewish State had been unable to procure proper defensive weapons before the expected Arab blow fell—that is a riddle which only history will solve. In October 1956 certain unconfirmed rumours circulated about allegedly large quantities of modern weapons from certain Western Powers, but it seems that these were made dependent on certain operations connected with the Suez crisis and therefore did not materialize.

Made bold by the attackers' initial successes, Saudia, then Iraq and finally Lebanon also declared war on Israel.

The Israel Government immediately appealed to the U.N., whose machinery, however took some time before it set itself in motion. World public opinion has been caught completely unawares by the Arab attack: Nasser, President of Egypt and Jordan, had assured the world at large only a few weeks before that he was concentrating all his efforts on the region's economic consolidation. The huge quantities of Soviet arms in Arab hands caused universal consternation.

Follow Events from Copenhagen

Even before the Security Council convened, Secretary General Hammarskjöld had sent two personal emissaries to the M.E., but they did not receive entry visas to Egypt and had to follow events from Copenhagen. The U.S. immediately convoked the Security Council for the weekend and drafted a cease-fire resolution. The resolution was carried, but the Soviet Union used its right of veto, stressing that it saw in the Arab action a glorious chapter in the struggle for freedom of the subjugated colonial peoples.

The Venezuelan delegate accused the Soviet Union of collusion in the preparation of the attack, and Ambassador Eban brought documentary proof that Soviet officers and advisers were directing the operations. The Soviet Foreign Minister branded the Israel declaration "a typically Jewish provocation." The Pope broadcast an appeal for the preservation of the Holy Sites.

The Arabs had meanwhile reached Israel's large cities and were bombarding them with rockets. The Security Council again met in emergency session, but Russia again vetoed the cease-fire resolution. At American pressure, the U.N. General Assembly met in extraordinary session and passed the cease-fire resolution. But the drafting of the final text took a number of days, as the original draft called for an "immediate" cease-fire, while the Indonesian amendment used the expression "as soon as possible." The parties finally compromised on "speedy."

By then the fighting had reached the hearts of the large cities. The U.S. threatened to apply economic sanctions against the belligerents unless they stopped fighting within 5 days, and India's Nehru appealed to Nasser to be humane with the Jewish civilians. Quite unexpectedly, Saudi Arabia nationalized Aramco. President Eisenhower ordered the Navy to be partially de-mothballed and sent a letter to Marshal Bulganin. The Arab Supreme Command agreed to the cease-fire.

On the shores of bombed out Tel Aviv and Haifa 82,616 Jewish survivors were sheltering in camps under U. N. protection.

World Conscience Awakened

And then the world's conscience awakened.

Public opinion was gripped by such consternation, that its echoes reverberated even in the Eastern Bloc. "History has tragically caught up with the Imperialists' puppet state"-"Izvestia" wrote. "Israel was a reactionary, feudalistic body, its government an oppressive military dictatorship, but the sufferings of the innocent population cannot fail to awaken compassion in the camp of peace, which always fearlessly champions the cause of the small nations. It cannot be denied, however, that Israel has brought down the doom upon itself. The Jewish nation, whose history is so imbued with suffering, will now again have to seek refuge among hospitable nations. As always, the Soviet Union will ensure full rights for its citizens of Jewish origin."

After this article, there was no more mention of the affair in the Soviet press.

The West did not hide its sympathy for Israel. The most famous politicians sounded warning notes. Sir Winston called Israel's liquidation "the century's badge of infamy" and the usually reserved Sir Anthony declared: "We have witnessed sad events indeed, which make the strengthening of the United Nations Organization imperative." Hugh Gaitskell eulogized Israel at a memorable session of the House of Commons: "They were our friends"-he cried, "heroes and socialists! We shall always cherish their beloved memory!"

Public opinion in the progressive Asiatic states also reacted. Krishna Menon, India's chief U.N. representative, is said to have declared at a private meeting: "We are forced to condemn the reckless step of our Arab brethren."

Victory Parade

At his Tel Aviv victory parade, Nasser, stood surrounded by Soviet officers. In Iraq, the Communist Party staged a coup and seized power. King Saud declared his regime a People's Democracy. State Department circles expressed apprehension lest the Soviets gain a certain degree of influence in the Middle East. President Eisenhower submitted an extraordinary bill to Congress for the immediate admittance of 25 thousand Israel refugees.

The President's speech sparked unprecedented world-wide enthusiasm. Switzerland immediately offered 2,000 transit visas and Guatemala increased its quota for Jewish immigrants from 500 to 750. Socialist Labour the world over held spontaneous rallies and sharply condemned Arab aggression. In a number of Western capitals, students demonstrated in front of the Arab legations. Some windows were smashed.

Under pressure of public opinion, the New Zealand Government proposed a pact of eternal friendship with Israel's memory. Australian P.M. Menzies called the Arab aggression "infamous". At the national conference of American Jewish organizations, the Assistant Secretary of State made a solemn promise (with the President's approval) to the effect that "in future the U. S. would devote greater attention to the problems of small nations and prevent the recurrence of similar excesses". While expressing their deep regret the State Department spokesmen stressed that up to a certain point, Israel herself was to blame for not preventing the attack in time.

Unreserved Sympathy

The world press gave Israel its unreserved sympathy. In the Herald-Tribune commemorative issue, the Alsop brothers glorified Israel's democratic character, stressing the great loss the world had suffered with the demise of the small model state. Ed Murrow openly came out for Zionism on TV, and declared that "every American Jewish family was entitled to be proud of the heroic Israel nation." The until then unsympathetic Manchester Guardian fervently beat its chest and declared that Israel had been perfectly right and that "its tragedy would for centuries burn like an accusing torch under the window of the world's conscience."

The necessity for a political settlement was first pointed out by Marshal Bulganin, who proposed to convene a 5-Power conference in Cairo "with the participation of all interested parties." The Soviet Government made another goodwill gesture by requesting Nasser not to demand excessive material compensation for the permission to evacuate the Israel refugees. This humane Soviet step made an extremely favourable impression the world over.

The Israel refugees, scattered over the four corners of the earth, were overwhelmed with affection and admiration. They inspired such a wave of enthusiasm for Israel as had not been witnessed since the creation of the Jewish State. In most countries, main thoroughfares were named after Israel and the U. N. memorial session decided almost unanimously not to fill the chair of the Jewish delegate, but to leave it vacant, also to let the Zionist flag stay among those of U. N. member states. Enthusiasm reached its climax when the Russian Foreign Minister unexpectedly proposed the holding of an "Israel Day." Israel became the international symbol of Justice and Morality.

Israel did not wait until May 1957, but rashly smashed the Egyptian war machine in the Sinai Peninsula and thereby lost the opportunity to win the whole world's sympathy. And that is a great pity. God knows when we shall have such a chance again.

ERETZ YISRAEL

by Walter E. Goldberg

To the vast horizon the salt air spray.	We shall not forget the boys who have
Foams into the wind and glistens away.	died
The voyage nearly over, What lies ahead?	The ones who are lame and lie on their
Two thousand years of Jewry -- "Living"	side;
- "Not Dead!"	They fought for Israel and died for her
Eretz Yisrael where all are free.	too
Is more than just land -- it is home	For our country so old and yet so new.
for me.	Established eight years --economically
For the Jews of the world our land is	sound.
here.	With continuing progress all around.
Free from want, despair or fear.	We shall never again have to wander or
All Jews toiling for a land so great.	roam.
No immovable force will destroy our	For we thank you, God, for bringing us
State.	home.

TIKVAT ISRAEL ESTABLISHES LIBRARY

TIKVAT ISRAEL of the SEVENTH DISTRICT

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

January 25, 1957

Student Body
Kfar Silver
Ashkelon Israel

My friends

It gives us great pleasure on behalf of Tikvat Israel of the 7th District, Z. O. A., to bridge the geographical distance that separates us and bid you "shalom". With this simple word of greeting we link hands with you, our brethren and feel a kinship that will be perpetuated through these and the future books that we send for your entertainment.

The members of Tikvat Israel, one of the active Zionist youth groups in America felt that this humble gesture might serve the role of mutual identification in the absence of physical contact and we can assure you that we have all achieved a certain amount of personal satisfaction in the collection of funds for this project.

Enclosed you will find the book plates with donor names, which we ask you to paste in the books. Some of these donors will visit Israel and it will give them immeasurable pride to see their names affiliated with Kfar Silver.

We hope that you will enjoy reading these books and from time to time think of your friends in Tikvat Israel.

With Zionist greetings we remain,

Sincerely yours

TIKVAT ISRAEL OF 7th DISTRICT, Z.O.A.

Henry Kronengold

Henry Kronengold
Projects Chairman

Rebekah Kohn

Rebekah Kohn
President

RK:LS

KFAR SILVER

January 24, 1957

Miss Rebekah Kohn
President, Tikvath Israel of the
Seventh Zionist District
420 Riverside Drive
New York, N. Y.

Dear Rebekah:

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge Tikvath Israel's first contribution for the purchase of books for the Kfar Silver Library to be located in the future Dr. Emanuel Neumann Culture House.

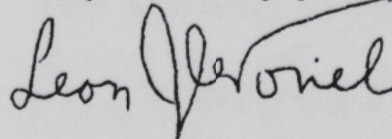
Gideon Patt gave me a check in the amount of \$200. in behalf of your District which I forwarded to our Accounting Department. You will get their official receipt shortly.

This money, which I understand is over and above your District's usual AZF fund raising, will be remitted by us to Kfar Silver for the purchase of books in Israel. Gideon promised to supply me with printed book plates to be pasted in every single volume in order to indicate that this is your District's contribution.

I am delighted, indeed, to see Tikvath Israel pioneering in the effort of establishing the Kfar Silver Library, and I sincerely hope this is only a beginning.

Please accept my warmest personal regards and convey my greetings to the members of your District.

Very sincerely yours,



Leon Ilutovich
Assistant Executive Director

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