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American Zionist Emergency Council, Governors' petition to
United States President, 1945.

A

Petition

to the

President of the United States

From the Governors of Forty States



July 2, 1945

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

AT this time, when decisions affecting the future peace of the world are being made, we, the undersigned Governors, wish to call your attention to a problem which in the interest of humanity and justice demands an early solution.

The tragic plight of the Jews of Europe who have survived the horrors of the Nazi occupation makes imperative the speedy fulfillment of the underlying intent and purpose of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate for Palestine. At the end of the last war 51 nations, with the support of the United States, entered into a solemn covenant which was designed to open the gates of Palestine to Jewish immigration and settlement and to pave the way for the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth. Today hundreds of thousands of Jews, to whom for social, economic and psychological reasons continued life in Europe is intolerable, plead for the right to be admitted to the Jewish National Home in Palestine and to begin life again among their own people. More than ever it is necessary to open Palestine for unrestricted Jewish immigration and to bring about its transformation into a Jewish Commonwealth, in which the civil, cultural and religious rights of all sections shall be safeguarded, and all of whose inhabitants shall enjoy equality before the law.

The policy embodied in the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate for Palestine has had the full support of every American President, Democrat and Republican alike, from Woodrow Wilson to Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The American people, through the two major political parties have also recorded their unqualified support for this historic objective, for which, further,

within recent months, 33 States of the United States representing 80 percent of the population of our country have, through resolutions adopted by their respective State Legislatures, also expressed themselves in full accord. In his historic message of October 15, 1944, President Roosevelt spoke for the overwhelming majority of the American people when he said: "I am convinced that the American people give their support to this aim" and pledged himself to bring about at the earliest practical moment the realization of the Zionist program.

We believe that the time has come when concrete measures must be taken to open the doors of Palestine to Jewish mass immigration and colonization and to bring about the earliest transformation of that country into a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth, and we most earnestly urge you to take such action as will contribute to this end. In any steps which, Mr. President, you may take to bring about the realization of this program we desire to assure you that you can rely upon the approbation of the American people and count on our individual support.

With assurance of our high esteem,

Cordially yours,

FRED G. AANDAHL, Governor of North Dakota

WALTER W. BACON, Governor of Delaware

THOMAS J. BAILEY - GOVERNOR OF MISSISSIPPI
RAYMOND E. BALDWIN, Governor of Connecticut

ROBERT D. BLUE, Governor of Iowa

MILLARD CALDWELL, Governor of Florida

E. P. CARVILLE, Governor of Nevada

R. GREGG CHERRY, Governor of North Carolina

CHARLES M. DALE, Governor of New Hampshire

JIMMIE H. DAVIS, Governor of Louisiana

JOHN J. DEMPSEY, Governor of New Mexico

THOMAS E. DEWEY, Governor of New York
PHIL M. DONNELLY, Governor of Missouri
FRANK S. FARLEY, Acting Governor of New Jersey
SAMUEL C. FORD, Governor of Montana
RALPH F. GATES, Governor of Indiana
CHARLES C. GOSSETT, Governor of Idaho
DWIGHT H. GREEN, Governor of Illinois
HORACE A. HILDRETH, Governor of Maine
LESTER C. HUNT, Governor of Wyoming
HARRY F. KELLY, Governor of Michigan
ROBERT S. KERR, Governor of Oklahoma
BEN LANEY, Governor of Arkansas
FRANK J. LAUSCHE, Governor of Ohio
J. NANCE McCORD, Governor of Tennessee
J. HOWARD McGRATH, Governor of Rhode Island
EDWARD MARTIN, Governor of Pennsylvania
HERBERT B. MAW, Governor of Utah
C. W. MEADOWS, Governor of West Virginia
HERBERT R. O'CONOR, Governor of Maryland
SIDNEY P. OSBORN, Governor of Arizona
M. R. PROCTOR, Governor of Vermont
ANDREW SCHOEPPPEL, Governor of Kansas
M. Q. SHARPE, Governor of South Dakota
EARL SNELL, Governor of Oregon
CHAUNCEY M. SPARKS, Governor of Alabama
COKE R. STEVENSON, Governor of Texas
EDWARD J. THYE, Governor of Minnesota
MAURICE J. TOBIN, Governor of Massachusetts
RANSOME J. WILLIAMS, Governor of South Carolina
SIMEON S. WILLIS, Governor of Kentucky