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American Zionist Emergency Council, local emergency
committees, 1944-1945.

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees **Date** September 26, 1944

From Herman Shulman.

The American Palestine Committee, which today has a membership of more than 4,000 -- most of them non-Jewish leaders of public opinion -- is launching a mass membership drive to enlist the support of the American public behind its program of mobilizing non-Jews in favor of Jewish aspirations in Palestine.

Confident that your assistance will be invaluable in carrying on this drive, we are turning to you with the following request: we urge you to arrange a meeting of leading non-Jewish personalities in your community for the purpose of forming a local American Palestine Committee chapter, provided, of course, that you have not already established such an organization.

As the aim of the American Palestine Committee is to secure a mass enrollment of non-Jews it will no longer be possible to limit the membership of the American Palestine Committee to the top leaders in your community. It should be the purpose of every local campaign to secure membership from the rank and file of American citizenry. Apprised of the program and objectives of the American Palestine Committee most business and professional men will assume membership in the American Palestine Committee. Your local American Palestine Committee chapter can be instrumental in securing the mass enrollment of service clubs such as the Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Exchange, etc. provided one of your leading chapter members visits these clubs, describes the American Palestine Committee and requests the club to enroll as a body.

In connection with the proposed membership campaign attached are four items:

1. An outline of organization and suggestions for activities of local chapters of the American Palestine Committee. This is a suggested guide for the operation of your local chapter of the American Palestine Committee.
2. A list of the present members of the American Palestine Committee in your state. These members can be used as a nucleus for the development of your chapter.
3. A booklet entitled "The American Palestine Committee -- What It Is," which can be used during your campaign to acquaint prospective members with the American Palestine Committee.
4. A membership form which lists a number of members now affiliated with the American Palestine Committee and a statement indicating that the signer has accepted membership. Please note that a campaign worker can secure twenty or more members on the same blank.

In order that you may be equipped with material to launch your membership campaign you should order as many of the membership forms and the booklets, "The American Palestine Committee - What It Is," as you deem desirable for your needs for the local campaign. Please order them from the American Palestine Committee, 41 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

As members are secured during the process of your campaign, please forward their names and addresses to Dean Howard M. LeSourd, who is now the director of the American Palestine Committee. He will then send to each new member a letter of acknowledgment and suitable educational material.

Needless to say, the continued sympathy and good will of the American public are essential to the successful prosecution of our drive to bring about the repeal of the White Paper policy and to secure the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

Now, especially when definitive pronouncements on Palestine become more imminent as United Nations forces speed on to victory, we must bend every effort to give expression to this country's traditionally friendly attitude towards the Zionist program. This can best be done in the way outlined above, and we feel certain that you will carry out this highly significant task with a great degree of speed and effectiveness.

HS:SHH
Encs.



OUTLINE OF ORGANIZATION
AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES OF
LOCAL DIVISIONS OF THE AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE

At a recent meeting of the National Executive Board of the American Palestine Committee it was decided to inaugurate a greatly intensified program of education with respect to the Jewish National Home in Palestine. As part of this program, a special effort will be made to expand the present membership of the Committee, as well as of the Christian Council on Palestine which co-operates closely with the American Palestine Committee.

By way of explanation, it should be noted that the American Palestine Committee is intended for laymen, while the Christian Council on Palestine is intended primarily for clergymen of all denominations. Both organizations are in basic accord on the program with respect to Palestine.

In order to utilize the potentialities of our present and future members, local organizations must be set up throughout the country, to be known as Divisions of the American Palestine Committee.

The local organization should consist of:

1. A chairman.
2. As many vice-chairmen as may seem advisable so as to allow representation for leaders in the field of education, the church, industry, labor, civic groups, women's groups, etc.
3. A secretary.
4. An Executive Committee, including the officers, and at least twenty-five of the most prominent people in the community.
5. Standing committees, each of which would be charged with a separate function of the local Division. There should be at least three Committees, as follows:

(a) Membership. The duty of this committee would be to enlist every possible person in the community as a member of the American Palestine Committee. This work should be carried on through representatives affiliated with all types of local organizations.

(b) Program. This committee should arrange to have the vital question of Palestine presented to as many local organizations and groups as possible. They should also enlist local speakers who are willing to prepare themselves to give effective addresses on behalf of the cause of re-establishing a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. This committee should be in constant touch with the Club Program Service of the American Palestine Committee which would provide necessary background material as well as national speakers on important occasions.

(c) Publications. This committee would endeavor to have editorials and newspaper stories appear in local papers, as well as to have articles inserted in magazines and journals serving the particular area for which the particular division of the American Palestine Committee is a natural center. This committee would also cooperate in the distribution of the literature of the American Palestine Committee.

(Since there may be a certain over-lapping in the activities of these committees and since close cooperation would be of the utmost importance, the three chairmen should meet with the local chairman or one of the designated vice-chairmen frequently to discuss their plans and activities).

Such a local organization should include in its membership all of the local members of both the American Palestine Committee and the Christian Council on Palestine. The area covered by the Division may be determined by each divisional organization, upon consultation with National Headquarters.

The Division organizations should be represented in all national and regional conferences that may be arranged.

**THE AMERICAN
PALESTINE COMMITTEE —**

What It Is

WRHS



AMERICAN JEWISH
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THE AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE —

What It Is

THE AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE is the vehicle for the expression of the sympathy and good will of Christian America for the movement to reestablish the Jewish National Home in Palestine. Its membership, which now numbers 4,000, representing every state of the Union, consists of public spirited men and women from all walks of life. Included among these are 60 Senators, 200 Congressmen, 26 Governors, as well as many outstanding leaders in the fields of education, journalism, radio, industry, commerce and labor.

There are no dues or financial obligations of any kind. The Committee presents an opportunity for service in the cause of justice, humanity and world-rebuilding.

THE CORNERSTONES OF OUR PROGRAM

The American Palestine Committee believes in making Palestine the Jewish National Home for the following reasons:

1. The Jewish people have every moral right to return to the land with which they have been identified ever since Biblical times. The Jews were exiled from Palestine by force. They never relinquished their ancient title to the land.
2. This moral right has, in our own times, been translated by the civilized nations of the world into legal commitments for the establishment of a Jewish Palestine.
 - (a) The Balfour Declaration, issued by Great Britain in 1917 favored "*the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people.*"
 - (b) The Mandate for Palestine, approved by 52 members of the League of Nations,

charged Great Britain with responsibility to facilitate the establishment of a National Homeland for the Jews in Palestine.

- (c) In 1922, this policy was unanimously approved by the Government of the United States in terms of a joint resolution of Congress, signed by the President of the United States.
 - (d) America and Great Britain entered into a convention in 1924 under the provisions of which no changes could be made in the Palestine Mandate without American consent. America was never asked nor did it give its consent to any changes in the Mandate.
3. The tremendous strides in the development of Palestine, associated with Jewish colonization there in the past 25 years, the settlement in the face of most unfavorable conditions of over half a million people in a derelict country, and its conversion into a flourishing agricultural and industrial center, have evoked the admiration of free and liberty-loving people everywhere. The achievements of these settlers bear eloquent testimony to the unbreakable bond between a people and its home. A people for whom no sacrifice has been too great in the furtherance of its task is pleading for the opportunity to sacrifice and build further.

Moreover, the Jewish development in Palestine has brought benefits to the Arabs as well, raising their standards of health, education and living in Palestine. The Arab population in Palestine in the past 25 years has practically doubled, whereas the Arab population of the purely Arab countries in the Middle East has remained stationary. To quote the statement of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, in the House of Commons in 1938:

"The Arabs cannot say that the Jews are driving them out of their country. If not a single Jew had come to Palestine after 1918, I believe that the Arab population of Palestine today would still have been around

the 600,000 figure, instead of over 1,000,000 as at present, at which it had been stable under the Turkish rule. It is because the Jews who have come to Palestine bring modern health services and other advantages, that Arab men and women who would have been dead are alive today, that Arab children who would never have drawn breath have been born and grow strong."

4. Throughout the war the Jews of Palestine have made a splendid contribution in farm, in factory and on the battlefield to the cause of the United Nations. At the same time there has been laid in Palestine the foundation for a liberal and democratic commonwealth, which has a significance far beyond the borders of that country. The Jewish National Home has indeed been a world-sanctioned experiment in democracy. Its continued up-building must be a vital part of a just world order when the present conflict is over.

OUR OBJECTIVES

We urge the implementation of the clear intent and purpose of the aforementioned documents which were designed to provide a homeland, in the full sense of the word, for the Jewish people. Specifically, we call for the opening of the gates of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration, for the right of the Jewish people to purchase and colonize land there, and, when the Jews have attained a numerical majority in Palestine, for the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth.

The rights of all minorities will be guaranteed and respected in this commonwealth. These minorities shall be entitled as of right to maintain their cultural and religious traditions in Palestine, in the same way that people of all religions and national backgrounds are given complete equality before the law in America.

- What we mean by the term "Jewish Commonwealth" is that in Palestine, the Jewish people, by contrast with the countries of their dispersion, will cease to live a minority life. As citizens of the Jewish homeland they will be free to apply their

talent to the advancement of civilization. We want to help in making possible conditions in that land which will permanently guarantee the open door for other Jews who may choose or need to go there in the future.

AN OBSTACLE BARS THE WAY

The British White Paper of 1939 virtually prohibits further Jewish immigration into Palestine and forbids additional purchases of land there by Jews.

The White Paper was issued by the Chamberlain government as a gesture of appeasement to certain Arab leaders who, influenced and supported by Hitler and Mussolini, sought to whip up their people against the British and the Jews. Part of a discredited policy in a wider field of international affairs, it survives today as a last sorry reminder of the Munich era.

The Palestine White Paper constitutes a denial of Jewish rights and a violation of international law. Its illegality has been affirmed by the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations, whose function it is to supervise all Mandates under the League.

Winston Churchill, speaking in Parliament in 1939, termed this document "*plainly a breach and repudiation of the Balfour Declaration . . .*"

President Roosevelt, in March 1944, declared that "*the American government has never given its approval to the White Paper of 1939.*"

HOW THE AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE WORKS

1. Through a national organization, with headquarters at 41 East 42nd Street, New York City, and through divisional organizations in cities and states which carry on locally a well-defined program of educational activities. (For an outline of a local organization please write the national office.)
2. By giving tangible, timely and effective support to all measures that call for the fulfillment of

solemnly-accepted commitments for the establishment of a Jewish Homeland in Palestine.

3. By helping to inform the public on matters affecting the progress of the Jewish National Home in Palestine. This will be achieved by distributing literature, scheduling speakers and making available motion pictures and other program materials.

WHAT MAKES OUR TASK ESPECIALLY URGENT NOW

It is too late to do anything for approximately 4 million Jews already massacred by the Nazis. But for those who remain, the civilized world owes the duty and the obligation to provide the opportunity for a new life in a home of their own.

Palestine is the only country in the world that is both ready and capable of absorbing a large-scale influx of these refugees who are threatened with annihilation. No other country is prepared to do that.

The American people, who have always been sympathetic to persecuted minorities and who realize the justice in the cause of a Jewish Palestine, must today, more than ever before, redouble its efforts to break down the barriers set up by the White Paper so that the uprooted, harassed and tortured Jews of Europe may be enabled to enter Palestine.

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41 East 42nd Street
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NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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More than 1,800 leaders in the Christian clergy and laity are members of the Christian Council on Palestine and are therefore not listed here. The Christian Council on Palestine is in basic accord with the principles of the American Palestine Committee and cooperates with the Committee to enlist the support of the non-Jewish community for the cause of the Jewish National Homeland in Palestine.

The address of the Christian Council on Palestine is 70 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y. Its officers are Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, chairman; Dr. Carl Hermann Voss, executive secretary; and Prof. Reinhold Niebuhr, treasurer.

MEMORANDUM

To. Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees

Date October 17, 1944

From. Harry L. Shapiro

URGENT AND IMPORTANT

The Time is Getting Short! You are asked to act Immediately!!

Several weeks ago I sent you a memorandum asking that you canvass the Republican and Democratic candidates for the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. Full directions were included in that memorandum.

Thus far we have not heard from you.

THE ELECTION IS ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY. It is imperative that you act immediately to obtain the necessary endorsements for our program from the candidates in your district.

Additional blanks are herewith enclosed to obtain candidates' signatures.

Please act quickly and send in the signed statements.

This is a highly important and confidential assignment which should be carried out speedily and effectively.

HLS:HBR
Encs.

1944 DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PLATFORMS AGREE ON PALESTINE

THE REPUBLICANS SAID:

In order to give refuge to millions of distressed Jewish men, women and children driven from their homes by tyranny, we call for the opening of Palestine to their unrestricted immigration and land ownership, so that in accordance with the full intent and purpose of the Balfour Declaration of 1917 and the resolution of a Republican Congress in 1922, Palestine may be reconstituted as a free and democratic commonwealth.

From the Platform of the
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION
Adopted at Chicago,
June 27, 1944.

THE DEMOCRATS SAID:

We favor the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, and such a policy as to result in the establishment there of a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth.

From the Platform of the
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION
Adopted at Chicago,
July 24, 1944.

I FAVOR THE OPENING OF PALESTINE TO UNRESTRICTED
JEWISH IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION AND ITS ESTABLISHMENT
AS A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC JEWISH COMMONWEALTH AND WILL DO
EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO FACILITATE THE FINAL EXECUTION
OF THE INTENT AND PURPOSE OF THE WORLD WAR ONE PLEDGE OF
THE ALLIED NATIONS TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

Signature _____
CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE

District of _____ State _____

1944 DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PLATFORMS AGREE ON PALESTINE

THE REPUBLICANS SAID:

In order to give refuge to millions of distressed Jewish men, women and children driven from their homes by tyranny, we call for the opening of Palestine to their unrestricted immigration and land ownership, so that in accordance with the full intent and purpose of the Balfour Declaration of 1917 and the resolution of a Republican Congress in 1922, Palestine may be reconstituted as a free and democratic commonwealth.

From the Platform of the
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION
Adopted at Chicago,
June 27, 1944.

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We favor the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, and such a policy as to result in the establishment there of a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth.

From the Platform of the
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION
Adopted at Chicago,
July 24, 1944.

I FAVOR THE OPENING OF PALESTINE TO UNRESTRICTED
JEWISH IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION AND ITS ESTABLISHMENT
AS A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC JEWISH COMMONWEALTH AND WILL DO
EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO FACILITATE THE FINAL EXECUTION
OF THE INTENT AND PURPOSE OF THE WORLD WAR ONE PLEDGE OF
THE ALLIED NATIONS TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

Signature _____
CANDIDATE FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District of _____ State _____

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees

Date October 19, 1944

From Harry L. Shapiro

The historic events of the past week, which augur well for favorable definitive action on the Palestine question, constitute some of the most significant gains we have made since the American Zionist Emergency Council, under the leadership of Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, began its program of intensive political work on the American scene.

On October 14, 1944, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Executive Committee Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, was authorized by Senator Robert A. Taft to make public the following letter which Senator Taft had received from Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson:

War Department
Washington, D. C.

October 10, 1944

"My dear Senator:

"I refer to your letter of September 12, 1944, regarding S.R. 247, introduced by Senator Wagner and yourself on the subject of opening the doors of Palestine to the free entry of Jews into that country.

"At the time your resolution was being considered by the Foreign Relations Committee the endorsement of such a proposal by the Congress had grave implications which would seriously have interfered with the progress of the war. In response to your inquiry I have reviewed the considerations which applied at that time. I find that there is still strong feeling on the part of many officers in my department that the passage of such a resolution would interfere with our military effort. However, I do feel that the military considerations which led to my previous action in opposing the passage of this resolution are not as strong a factor now as they were then.

"In my judgment, political considerations now outweigh the military, and the issue should be determined upon the political rather than the military basis."

(Signed) Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War

On October 12, 1944, Governor Thomas E. Dewey made the following statement:

"I heartily indorse the Palestine plank in the Republican party platform. Again I repeat what I previously stated to the

great leader of the American Zionist movement and distinguished American, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, that I am for the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth in accordance with the Balfour Declaration of 1917 and the resolution of the Republican Congress in 1922. I have also stated to Dr. Silver that in order to give refuge to millions of distressed Jews driven from their homes by tyranny I favor the opening of Palestine to their unlimited immigration and land ownership.

"The American people have time and again declared themselves in favor of these principles. The Republican party has at all times been the traditional friend of the movement.

"As President I would use my best offices to have our government working together with Great Britain to achieve this great objective for a people that have suffered so much and deserve so much at the hands of mankind."

(Signed) Thomas E. Dewey

And on October 15, 1944, the following declaration by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was transmitted to the Convention of the Zionist Organization of America, through Senator Robert F. Wagner:

"Knowing that you are to attend the Forty-Seventh Annual Convention of the Zionist Organization of America, I ask you to convey to the delegates assembled my cordial greetings.

"Please express my satisfaction that, in accord with the traditional American policy and in keeping with the spirit of the Four Freedoms, the Democratic Party at its July Convention this year included the following plank in its platform:

'We favor the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, and such a policy as to result in the establishment there of a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth.'

"Efforts will be made to find appropriate ways and means of effectuating this policy as soon as practicable. I know how long and ardently the Jewish people have worked and prayed for the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth. I am convinced that the American people give their support to this aim and if re-elected I shall help to bring about its realization."

(Signed) Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Thus, within a matter of days, we obtained pronouncements which all of us had been working to secure for many months. The declaration by the President represents the high-water mark of our activity to date. Speaking in the name of the Council, Dr. Silver hailed this utterance as a "magnificent and historic statement." We have also received definite assurances that action on the Palestine resolutions will be resumed next month, just as soon as Congress re-convenes -- and there is every reason to expect that the resolutions will be passed overwhelmingly.

While I do not doubt that you are already making plans to do so, I would suggest that the heartening developments noted above should serve to determine the character of the Balfour Day meetings which some of you are planning for November 2nd.

The keynote of your rally should be: Let us have action now leading to the implementation of these magnificent pledges. Our expressions of elation that the Chief Executive of the United States as well as the Republican candidate have spoken in such unmistakable terms should be joined by our urging that these utterances shall be effectuated speedily.

It is very important, too, that letters of commendation go forward immediately to the authors of these statements. I feel confident that this will be carried out in the same effective manner that has characterized your previous efforts along these lines.

It should be noted that these great strides forward towards the realization of our final objective have been achieved as the result of a carefully planned and vigorously prosecuted program of political activity and public relations which the Council launched only a short time ago. A large measure of credit for these accomplishments must go to you for the truly outstanding work you have done in the local communities. In the past, you have carried out all instructions and all assignments with great skill and devotion. I have no doubt that you will continue to serve our cause with undiminished vigor during the coming months, and that we shall soon see the complete fulfillment of our aims.

HLS:MBP



MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees

Date October 20, 1944

From Harry L. Shapiro

We have just published a book entitled "AMERICA AND PALESTINE", which includes: (1) an imposing collection of favorable statements to Jewish aspirations in Palestine of more than 77% of the present members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, (2) a brief history of the traditional American policy with reference to Palestine, (3) a collection of documents dealing with Jewish claims to Palestine, (4) a collection of statements of important members of the American Government, governors, mayors and others.

This volume is not to be considered literature. It was prepared for the express purpose of indicating to men in high governmental posts the opinion of government officials and others relative to official America's position on Palestine.

There will be no general distribution or sale of the volume, but under separate cover we are sending you one or more copies. One volume is to be the property of your local Emergency Committee. If we send you additional copies, cards will be enclosed to indicate for whom these books are intended. In all likelihood there will be a volume for your Congressman or Senator.

Because "AMERICA AND PALESTINE" is primarily an instrument to stimulate publicity for our cause, it should be used in that manner. In order to gain the maximum result for creating a beneficial public opinion, please do the following:

Formal Presentation of "AMERICA AND PALESTINE" to Congressmen and Senators

Your committee should arrange a dinner, luncheon, or meeting at which you and other prominent Jewish leaders will present the book in a formal way to the official who is to receive it. Other guests whom you might invite to the meeting are your governor, the mayor of your city, prominent political leaders, church leaders, prominent representatives of management and labor, all local members of the American Palestine Committee and the Christian Council for Palestine. It is imperative that the meeting be held before Election Day.

Publicity

Please make the necessary arrangements to have the presentation covered by your local newspapers. Prepare an advance release containing the essence of the remarks to be made by the recipient of the book (your guest of honor) and the chairman of the meeting. Have press photographers present to take pictures of the presentation. A delegation from your committee should visit the editors of your newspapers to impress on them the unusual importance this documented book has for our cause. Try to induce them to write editorial columns on the subject and urge them to stress that it is the duty of the American Government to use its influence in order to bring about a decision now for the reestablishment of a free, democratic Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. Indicate to your editors that this is a most newsworthy subject in view of the strong statements made by President Roosevelt and Governor Dewey within the last few days.

I should like to hear from you as soon as possible as to the arrangements you are making to publicize "AMERICA AND PALESTINE", and I am eager to learn the result of your efforts after the meeting has been held.

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date

From Harry L. Shapiro

CONFIDENTIAL

The project which is the subject of this memorandum will spearhead our most intensive campaign to date. It is extremely important for our future political activity that we canvass all candidates for the United States Senate and House of Representatives who are up for election this November, and obtain from them endorsements of our program.

Inasmuch as both the Democratic and Republican Parties have included in their respective platforms planks which clearly favor the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, so that a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth may be established there, it should not be difficult to obtain affirmations of this program from the candidates for Congress.

I feel quite confident that you will know how to approach the candidates in your district. There is, however, one special instruction which we urge you to follow carefully. You should not contact the candidates as representatives of any of our organizations, but should approach them as individual voters and as constituents. In other words, candidates of the Democratic Party should be spoken to by Democratic voters, and Republican candidates should be met by Republicans.

In your Congressional district, the candidates are

The enclosed forms, which you should ask the candidates to sign, contain the Palestine planks of both parties.

It is most desirable that you or your representative visit the above candidates personally to secure their endorsements, but if this is not feasible, we are enclosing a suggested letter which might be used. Please note that if you use this letter, it should be written on the personal stationery of local citizens. Naturally, you may alter the letter as you see fit, particularly if more than one person communicates with the candidates in this way.

After you have obtained the signatures of the candidates to the attached forms, please forward these immediately to our New York office. Please bear in mind that this activity should be completed and the signatures obtained not later than September 20th.

I feel certain that you will carry out this highly important and confidential assignment in an efficient and effective manner.

HLS:HH
Encs.

(SUGGESTED LETTER TO EVERY CANDIDATE FOR THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE UNITED STATES SENATE)

Dear Candidate:

As you are aware, the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, each without a dissenting vote, adopted platforms favoring the establishment in Palestine of a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

This action pledges both major political parties to the execution of the intent and purpose of the Balfour Declaration, promulgated during World War One, with the approval of the United States, Great Britain, and forty-nine other allied and associated nations, for the purpose of finding a solution to the tragic problem of the Jewish people of Europe. Because the Jew has been the greatest victim of Hitler's savagery, the need for this solution is greater today than ever.

The unanimous action of the two major political parties in adopting almost identical platform pledges is proof that the American people have come to regard this constructive solution of the basic Jewish problem of the world today as one of the important objectives of a just world peace which, all of us are agreed, should follow this war.

Because we are confident that you too are in accord with these party pledges of elemental justice to the Jewish people, we are requesting your signature to the attached statement.

Very sincerely yours,

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OF THE INTENT AND PURPOSE OF THE WORLD WAR ONE PLEDGE OF
THE ALLIED NATIONS TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

Signature _____
CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE

State _____

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Signature _____
CANDIDATE FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District of _____ State _____

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees

Date: October 20, 1944

From: Harry L. Shapiro

The following telegram has been sent today to the Governor of your State:

ON NOVEMBER SECOND JEWS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WILL COMMEMORATE THE TWENTYSEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE BALFOUR DECLARATION, WHICH PLEDGED THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL HOME IN PALESTINE. DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS AMERICANS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, INCLUDING AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS, HAVE REAFFIRMED AMERICA'S TRADITIONAL POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP FOR JEWISH ASPIRATIONS IN PALESTINE. LAST WEEK PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND GOVERNOR DEWEY DECLARED THEMSELVES IN FAVOR OF THE REESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINE AS A JEWISH COMMONWEALTH. IT WOULD BE MOST FITTING, THEREFORE, IF THE SENTIMENTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ON THIS QUESTION WERE TO BE GIVEN WIDE EXPRESSION ON NOVEMBER SECOND, AND WE RESPECTFULLY ADDRESS OURSELVES TO YOU IN THE HOPE THAT YOU WILL SEE FIT TO PROCLAIM THAT DAY QUOTE PALESTINE DAY UNQUOTE IN YOUR STATE, OR THAT YOU WILL ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE BALFOUR DECLARATION'S ANNIVERSARY. SUCH ACTION ON YOUR PART WOULD GIVE ADDED HOPE TO EUROPE'S UPROOTED AND HUNTED JEWS WHO LOOK TO PALESTINE FOR SALVATION.

HARRY L. SHAPIRO
DIRECTOR, AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NYC

It is of the utmost importance that every effort be made by leading Zionists of your community to effectuate favorable action by your Governor through letters, telegrams and personal contacts which should suggest and urge the desirability of declaring November 2nd, which is Balfour Day, as Palestine Day in your State.

If the Governor of your State is a Republican, much should be made of Governor Dewey's wholehearted and all-inclusive Zionist Declaration of October 12th, as well as the Palestine Plank in the Republican Platform. In Democratic states quote from President's Roosevelt's stirring affirmation of a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth and the splendid Palestine Plank in the Democratic Platform.

Naturally, should your Governor accede to our request, the widest possible publicity should be organized in the press and radio along the lines suggested in an earlier memo referring to Balfour Day meetings.

HLS:HH

MEMORANDUM

To : Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date October 20, 1944

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MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date November 10, 1944

From Harry L. Shapiro

Like Jews throughout the world, American Zionists have been shocked by the assassination of Lord Moyne, British Resident Minister in the Middle East. This outrage, perpetrated by two Palestine Jewish terrorists, has produced mortification in the Yishuv and among Jews throughout the world. Our position on the acts of terror which have been committed in Palestine by a small group of misguided extremists, is unmistakably clear: We denounce such activities and associate ourselves with Palestine Jewry in its determination to root out this evil.

Because these outbreaks, coming at this particular time, constitute a very serious danger to our cause, it is essential that you become acquainted with the real facts in the situation, so that when asked about the Palestine terrorists, you may be able to supply accurate information.

These young extremists number at most 1500. Let no one delude you into believing that large numbers of Palestine Jewish youth are associated with the Irgun Zovai Leumi and the Stern group. Perhaps the most concise explanation of these terrorist acts was offered at a press conference here by Dr. Bernard Joseph, Honorary Legal Adviser to the Jewish Agency for Palestine, who has just arrived by air from Jerusalem. Dr. Joseph said: "Unfortunately, the terrible suffering our people had undergone and the persistent failure to open the gates of Palestine to Jews fleeing from persecution, had unnerved a small group of our young men who had resorted to counsels of despair. They had adopted terrorism as their method. The Jewish public bodies in Palestine had repeatedly condemned these terrorist acts and had decided to do everything in their power to eradicate this terrorist wave from their midst. Their task had not been made easier by the manner in which this difficult situation had been handled by the authorities. But we were determined to persevere in our decision to put an end to this misguided criminal folly which the Jewish community of Palestine abhorred and for which they should not be held responsible."

Palestine Jewry's attitude on this terribly disturbing question was best expressed by the Vaad Leumi, the Jewish National Council, which said in a resolution adopted on October 25: "The Jewish National Council records with anxiety that all efforts of persuasion and moral pressure exercised by the Zionist movement's institutions, the Chief Rabbinical Council and other public bodies, and the Hebrew press, have failed to halt the wild terror. The Council proclaims, with its full responsibility and prerogatives, that if the terror, from whatever quarter, does not cease, the Yishuv will immediately do everything in its power to put an end to it."

Following the assassination of Lord Moyne, the Jewish Agency and the Vaad Leumi issued a joint statement which declared: "Terrorism in Palestine is calculated to wreck the chances of our political struggle and to destroy our internal peace. Jewish Palestine is called upon to cast out members of this destructive band, to deprive them of all refuge and shelter, to resist their threats, and to render all necessary assistance to the authorities in the prevention of terrorist acts and in the eradication of the terrorist organization. Our very existence here is at stake."

This view was echoed by the American Zionist Emergency Council, which said:

"The Zionist Movement in America has learned with horror of the foul assassination of the British Resident Minister in the Middle East, Lord Moyne. While there is still no official confirmation of the identity of the criminals, reports that Jewish extremists may have been responsible for this crime raise in acute form the problem of effective action against a handful of deluded and half-crazed youths who in recent months have perpetrated a series of terrorist outrages in Palestine.

"The Jewish representative bodies in Palestine and the Hebrew press there have been unequivocal in condemning these crimes in the strongest possible terms. The American Zionist Emergency Council associates itself with the attitude of Palestine Jewry in its determination to root out this evil from their midst, and it is confident that the Jews of Palestine will continue to do all in their power to help the authorities to apprehend those responsible for these outrages. The Jewish National Home is founded on justice and international law, and acts of terrorism which stand in diametrical conflict with the moral and spiritual aims of our Movement can do nothing but serve the purposes of enemies of the cause.

"On behalf of American Zionists the Council tenders to the family of the late Lord Moyne their sincere and heartfelt sympathy."

For your additional information, the London Daily Mail has declared editorially: "It goes without saying that the acts of the Jewish terrorists which have aroused the horror and execration of Jews throughout the world have been disowned and condemned by the Zionist Organization and all other Jewish bodies. It would be as logical to blame the Jews as a whole for these outrages as it would have been to have indicted all Arabia for crimes committed, in former years, by Arab terrorists."

HLS:MBP

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

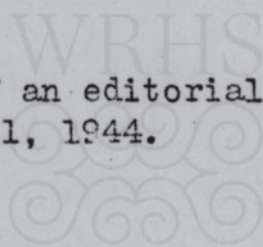
MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees *Date* November 14, 1944

From Harry L. Shapiro

Attached is the text of an editorial which appeared in the New York Post of Saturday, November 11, 1944.

HLS:MBP
Enc.



EDITORIAL from
NEW YORK POST
November 11, 1944

THE MOYNE ASSASSINATION

The fight for the Palestine homeland, promised the Jews by the Balfour Declaration, then denied them by the White Paper of 1939, has been marked by an assassination.

The killing of Lord Moyne, British Minister in the Middle East who in 1942 decried "sentimental appeals" on behalf of Europe's Jews and called further Jewish immigration into Palestine "a disastrous mistake," has been condemned by all responsible Jewish organizations in Palestine and America.

They have, for some time, been waging their own campaign against the few fanatical extremists.

But the course of the decent Hebrews who comprise 99 percent of the population has been made more and more difficult by British intransigence.

During the years since 1939, the Jews of Palestine have fought the British policy of betrayal and duplicity, but always with dignity and honor, never once deserting the side of Britain in her fight for survival.

Even while England closed Palestine's doors to the refugees fleeing Europe and left hundreds of thousands of Jews with nowhere to go but the murder camps of Poland, Jewish Palestine, in the words of Fortune Magazine "kept its pledge to help win the war..."

400 of Six Hundred Thousand

If virtue deserves any reward, then surely this example of turning the other cheek should. But to this day it has not been rewarded. In fact Jewish reasonableness seems to be rewarded by increased British truculence.

So a few young, hot-headed Jews, 400 out of Palestine's 600,000, have resorted to terror.

We deplore the assassination of Lord Moyne as we deplore all such terrorism. But we know that deprecation of terror will not end the terror or remove the cause.

There never would have been a terrorist band in the first place if the British had not deliberately abandoned the democratic process in their dealings with Palestine.

If now the British should use the assassination as an excuse for more intransigence, to further postpone the day when they must sit down and talk the Palestine question over, they would only be inviting more violence.

We detect the possibility of provocation in Foreign Secretary Eden's announcement to Commons that he contemplates issuance of a White Paper on terrorism in Palestine. Whether it would be Eden's intent or not, the total effect of the paper would be to say to the world that the Jews are fighting for Palestine with guns, knives and grenades.

Nothing could be further from the truth, nothing could be more calculated to prejudice the issue and make an honest settlement impossible. Throughout the Arab uprisings of 1921, 1922, 1929, 1936-1939, there was no talk of any White Papers, though 1,566 lives were lost and at least \$20 millions in property destroyed.

A Cloud of Dust

In these inflamed times, a White Paper such as Eden proposes would become a weapon in the hands of those in the British government who want to settle the Jewish problem unilaterally, with British bayonets. A White Paper can only try to hide the real Palestine problem behind the shroud of Lord Moyne.

The problem calls for settlement, not for more obfuscation and postponement. If the British persist in their present course, they invite more terrorism, even civil war.

If they want a precedent, we remind them of their six-hundred-year war with Ireland in which continued repression and denial of the democratic process finally led to an explosion, the echoes of which are still ringing in imperial ears.

The British as a people have used the democratic process at home effortlessly and admirably. We invite them to try this in Palestine.

Let them seek a solution in concert with the Jews to whom the Balfour Declaration promised a Palestine homeland. Let them sit down and talk it over. There are statesmen on both sides and they can achieve agreement.

A little democracy will go a long way in Palestine.

* * * * *

November 24, 1944

Mr. Ezra Shapiro
Guardian Building
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Ezra:

As you will note from the Jewish Review's editorial of this week, the editorials are still being written by Taslitt of the Bergson group. Evidently all the representations made to Mr. Wertheimer of the Jewish Review and Observer have been without avail, and the offer of the Independent Jewish Press Service to provide the Review and Observer with editorials, etc. gratis, have been rejected.

I think the matter calls for action. To have in the heart of Cleveland a Jewish paper whose editorials are written by a representative of the group hostile to the Jewish Agency, the Zionist movement, one which has been condemned by every responsible Jewish body here and in Palestine, is an anomalous situation. I would suggest that you call together for a meeting, the Presidents of the various Zionist groups in the city, and the Rabbis, in the very near future at which this matter should be discussed.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

P.S. Mr. Sidney Weitz has arranged for a luncheon under the auspices of the Jewish Welfare Fund Committee for Professor Roth on Thursday, December 7th.

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees

Date November 27, 1944

From Harry L. Shapiro

On Saturday evening, November 25, Lessing J. Rosenwald, president of the American Council for Judaism, aired the views of his organization over the Columbia Broadcasting System. This broadcast represented another attempt by Mr. Rosenwald and his group to discredit the views of an overwhelming majority of American Jews and to create the impression that the Council for Judaism speaks for our people. It is of the utmost importance that letters and telegrams go forward immediately to those radio stations which carried Mr. Rosenwald's address, so that the network may understand that Mr. Rosenwald's remarks constitute an affront to the Jews of America. You can help us obtain radio time to refute Mr. Rosenwald's damaging remarks by doing the following:

Ascertain whether or not the address was carried by your CBS station. If so, have as many wires and letters of protest as possible sent to the local station or to the Columbia Broadcasting System office in New York. You must urge that an equal amount of time be afforded a leader of American Zionism -- one who has a right to speak in the name of the Jews of America.

The following quotation indicates how Mr. Rosenwald has perverted Zionist philosophy. This, as well as the actual facts as presented in Emanuel Neumann's statement on the Jewish Commonwealth (quoted on the following page), may be used by you as source material for letters of refutation.

Mr. Rosenwald said: "We oppose the establishment of Palestine or any locality as a Jewish state or commonwealth. The procedures involved in such an establishment call for a preferred status in immigration to those of one religious faith and an arbitrary and indefinite postponement of self-government. We regard these procedures as fundamentally undemocratic, and, therefore, destructive. Such proposals will, we believe, embroil Jews now in Palestine in continuing civil strife. What is more, they will place in jeopardy the equality of status of Jews everywhere who are integrated in their respective homelands and do not wish to be parties to a Jewish state or commonwealth, and that means the vast majority of the Jews of the world. Our emphasis, therefore, is on the attainment of the status for Jews of full equality of citizenship, its rights and its responsibilities. In Palestine it would mean that Jews would be Palestinians of Jewish faith, just as we, in this country, are Americans of Jewish faith."

Once again Mr. Rosenwald and his small group have emerged with the all-too-familiar red herrings. He expresses concern over the "undemocratic" aspects of Zionist aspirations. Out of the fear and escapist philosophy which motivate his own thinking, he conjures up bogeymen to frighten freedom-loving peoples who may be moved by the tragic plight of European Jewry to act favorably on the only permanent solution to the Jewish problem -- the Zionist solution.

To set the record straight, let us quote once again from that invaluable document containing the testimony on the Palestine resolutions delivered before the House Foreign Affairs Committee. On Page 315 of that book, the meaning of the term "Jewish Commonwealth" is set forth succinctly and impressively by Mr. Emanuel Neumann, who says:

"By a Jewish commonwealth we certainly do not mean a state which is exclusively Jewish. We do not mean to drive the existing Arab population into the desert or cast it into the sea. On the contrary, those who choose to do so are to remain. Moreover, their civic and personal rights shall be inviolate. There shall be a full and complete equality before the law. Not only that, but the Arabs shall have every right and possibility to preserve and develop their cultural and religious heritage. Their language shall be recognized and their traditions respected. And in addition they shall share fully in the economic advantages and opportunities and the prosperity which will come with the modernization of the country and the development of its resources.

"Indeed, this has already been the case in a substantial measure. If, then, we are asked what do we mean by the adjective 'Jewish' as applied to the future commonwealth of Palestine my answer is that it is a short and abbreviated way of saying that through the repatriation of large numbers of European and other Jews, the Jewish people will attain a numerical majority in Palestine and thereby permanently guarantee the open door for others who may follow; so that Palestine shall never cease to serve as a sanctuary and homeland for any and all Jews from whatever part of the world who may choose to go there in the future. It will also be a Jewish commonwealth in the vital sense that in that country, in that little corner of the world, the Jewish people, no longer living under minority conditions but as a majority, will be free to apply their talent, their industry, their genius and leave the intangible impress of their civilization upon their ancestral land as in the days of the kings and the prophets.

"But the development of this Jewish commonwealth shall take place under democratic institutions and in a democratic spirit. The Jews will preponderate and lead in the development of the country without dominating or oppressing the minority. Jew and Arab devoted to their respective cultures and traditions shall cooperate as free and equal citizens and jointly contribute to the prosperity and welfare of a common single unitary state. The Arab citizens of the Jewish commonwealth will be as favorably situated as are the French-speaking citizens of the British Dominion of Canada. It will be a free and democratic Jewish state composed of Jews, Moslems, Christians and, if there are any, Buddhists, as well -- compatriots, all. All shall be eligible to public office, even the highest."

Would Mr. Rosenwald call that undemocratic? Or is he perhaps concerned, not with the problems and the status of our persecuted people, but with insuring the continuation of the "status quo" for the comfortably situated members of the American Council for Judaism?

HLS:MBP

LAW OFFICES
EZRA SHAPIRO
540 GUARDIAN BUILDING
CLEVELAND, OHIO
CHERRY 3737

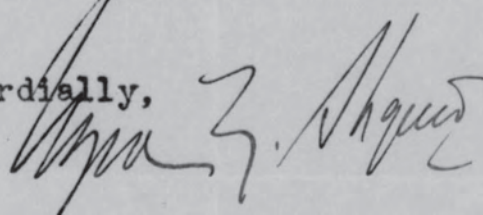
November 28, 1944.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi:

In reply to your letter of November 24 relative to the Jewish Review and Observer, I discussed the entire matter with Mr. Saul Danaceau who, you know, is Chairman of the Zionist Emergency Council. He will take this matter up at the coming meeting of the Council, which takes place on Thursday night, November 30. I hope some effective decision and program of action in this regard will be formulated and executed.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ezra Shapiro', written over the word 'Cordially,'.

EZS:A

The New York Times

December 30, 1944

'Arab Menace' Held Fallacy

But What Is Now Called Bogy May
One Day Become Real

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

The so-called "Arab menace," so often put forward to justify a policy of appeasing the Arabs in Palestine and elsewhere, has never been so fallacious as it is now, when the Arabs are more in need than ever before of the sympathy, money and political support of the Allies, especially after the "neutral" role their leaders and rulers have played in Great Britain's direst need.

Those who have open eyes to see and alert ears to hear know very well that the whole power of the Arabs is not drawn from their own strength but is borrowed from the support given to them from outside, more particularly from British circles at the Colonial Office and the Palestine Administration, who have learned nothing from all the blunders committed during the last twenty-five years. And it was again a blunder of the late Lord Moyne to think that by uniting all Arabs in a confederation of states he would give the Arab cause, which he so much had at heart, a great push forward and at the same time blend all their forces into one formidable ally of Great Britain.

It is known that one of his principal aims in forging such a union was the liquidation of the Balfour Declaration and the settlement of the Palestine problem in accordance with the wishes of his Arab friends. But his efforts have utterly failed, and the continuous talk about a political or economic confederation of Arab states is no more than a lot of hot air blown about by oratorical gasbags and will under present conditions never materialize.

Failure Predicted

In this connection a speech recently delivered by a prominent lawyer of Beyrouth, Yusuf Alsauda, at a lawyers' convention in Damascus is very illuminating. He said that all the efforts to form a confederation of Arab states are doomed to failure and will remain an empty dream as long as the advocates of such a confederation consistently emphasize at the same time the irrevocable condition that the complete independence of each of their countries in everything affecting the inner and foreign policy should be maintained. He also asserted that an Arab union cannot be reached before all the irreconcilable contrasts in systems of government, in religion and in culture prevailing in the different Arab lands are eliminated, an undertaking, of course, which will take generations to achieve.

In view of all these failures, the Arab leaders had to recognize the difficulties and obstacles on the way to an Arab unity. But the most active among them have soon realized that to achieve at least the one aim—namely, to get rid of the Jewish question—there is only one front on which all Arabs could be united, and that is an anti-Jewish front. As a matter of fact, all their efforts are now striving toward this goal, using all the tactics and threats in the best Nazi style.

It must, however, be pointed out that these leaders are by no means representing the views of the majority of the Arab populations who lived on the best and most friendly terms with the Jews for generations, and that they would never have dared to adopt and propagate such a hostile scheme against the Jews if they were not encouraged by Lord Moyne's policy and by another "united front"—namely, that of all European "pro-Arabs," especially in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, among whom, unfortunately, there are also some American sympathizers and advisers.

Dangers Foreseen

It is hardly necessary to stress the dangers involved in such a "united front" not only for the Jews but also for the Western peoples and the interests of this country. Indeed, the "Arab menace," which is being used as a deterrent bogy to deprive the Jews of their rights to Palestine, may one day turn into a real menace to democracy itself if the present reactionary elements be allowed to carry on their campaign.

It may happen that when they feel strong enough they will use the same "united front" against the very same people who are now feeding their ambitions, just as the Nazis have done with the appeasing democracies, and as it was the case with the Mufti, who began, under the protection of the Palestine Administration, with his anti-Jewish campaigns and finished by engineering a rebellion against the British, in Palestine first and later in Iraq, and is still now disseminating from Berlin his poison among the Arabs and the Indian Muslims against Great Britain, and more particularly against this country.

It would be, of course, utterly unfair and unjust to put the blame of the misguided and harmful policy of the Colonial Office and the Palestine Administration on the whole English people. That policy has been and is still being severely criticized by all right-minded Englishmen, by Members of Parliament and of the House of Lords, by prominent political leaders and clergymen, because they all realize the regrettable consequences of that policy. Now it falls to the Americans to join hands with them in order to undo the evil done, and to initiate a new, fair and loyal policy of peace and justice for all concerned.

But to achieve this purpose, both Americans and British must be on the alert to avoid the mistakes made by the Colonial Office and the Palestine Administration in that they have allied themselves with the most reactionary Arab elements. Henceforth, the democratic and liberal Arabs, who were willing to cooperate with the Jews in Palestine, but have deliberately been pushed aside and alienated, should be

brought to the forefront to take the lead in the destiny of Palestine.

Only by pursuing such a policy can the real menace which is lurking from behind the widely propagated "united front" be averted in time, so that it shall not become a platform for spreading religious and racial hatred in the whole of the Near and Middle East, and sowing political mischief under the mask of defending the Palestine Arabs. The American and British peoples have not only political and economic interests in the Arab world, but have also a moral and cultural mission to fulfill; they have still all the political and material means to exert a wholesome influence on the East, and there can be no doubt that they will have, by doing so, the wholehearted support of the peace-loving Jews and Arabs in the Holy Land, and far beyond it, as well as the applause of right-minded peoples of all classes, all races, and all creeds throughout the whole world.

A. S. YAHUDA,

Professor, New School for Social Research.

New York, Dec. 27, 1944.

The New York Times

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1945.

Abroad

American Boys Find Tel-Aviv Like a Home Town

By ANNE O'HARE McCORMICK

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

TEL-AVIV, Jan. 5—Forty per cent of the Jewish population of Palestine lives in Tel-Aviv. One of the world's youngest cities, better planned, more modernistic than the Florida boom towns it resembles, it is suffering today from a housing shortage as acute as that of the oldest cities in ravaged Europe. This is because a large proportion of the refugees of war years have found shelter here.

These Zionists created by Hitler are easily distinguishable from Zionists by conviction. The original settlers built their dream of new Zion with such fervor into schools, boulevards and cooperative houses that their joy and triumph pervade the town like the bright atmosphere here of these crystalline winter days.

Certainly, the first impression produced on the visitor from the sad lands on the other side of the Mediterranean is that here at last are people who want to be where they are and are following a way of life that satisfies them.

Tel-Aviv boasts that it is the first all-Jewish city in the world. It is so completely Jewish, indeed, and within its expanding limits so independent, that it does not reflect fairly the problem of Palestine as a whole. Largely self-administered and self-taxed, it does not feel, as mixed populations ordinarily do, the close pressure either of the Arab majority or the mandatory power.

Almost in spite of itself Tel-Aviv is cosmopolitan and international. In a lively little restaurant attached to the garden of the hotel, American and British officers on leave enjoy the best meals procurable this side of New York. In the evening they dance with Wacs, Red Cross or local girls, to the music of a first-class three-piece orchestra. The genius of the place is a plump, soft-voiced, warm-hearted Russian whom everybody calls "Mama Weis."

She is a personality as well as an expert restaurateur. She ran three restaurants in Berlin until 1933, when she saw the handwriting on the wall, left the Nazis to "liquidate" her establishments—which they did—and came to Tel-Aviv with £5,000 to start over again.

Mama Weis treated us to a kummel—"Palestinian and very good," she explained—and talked at length of Zionism, the world and the future. She, as a Zionist, is thrilled by Tel-Aviv and its proofs of what urban Jews can make grow on barren ground, but as a successful business woman before she came to Palestine she is less lyrical than the Zionists who escaped from the dark ghettos of eastern Europe. She described herself as Russian.

The eyes of Mama Weis were not the only eyes wet with tears as a violin sang songs of old Vienna. In that room in Palestine, where the Zionist dream comes true, one felt a wave of homesickness for a lost world. Maybe only the older generation or recent immigrants are pulled by instinct and emotion to the countries they have left.

"You don't look back," they say, and it would be strange if a generation brought up here or rescued from the horror of Hitler's Europe should elect under any circumstances to return.

Certainly, these half-articulate nostalgias, of a section of the old for the countries they still feel they belong to, of a section of the young for another land of promise, are elements in a situation that becomes more complex the nearer you approach it. Even in this 100 per cent Jewish community it is evident at first glance the problem is not a simple antithesis between Zionist and Anti-Zionist or between Arab and Jew. It has as many tentacles as an octopus, each as sore as an exposed nerve.

There is one new element, for instance, in the reaction of American soldiers to a personal view of this problem country. Palestine in general, Tel-Aviv in particular, is a leave center for thousands of officers and GI's from all parts of the Middle East, Africa and Italy. The main leave camp is within a few miles of Tel-Aviv. Boys on furlough flock to this town, where they see American movies in clean Ameri-

can model theatres meet girls who speak English, and stroll on streets that look like Main Street.

In the peculiarly warm and affectionate atmosphere of a Jewish household they are entertained by scores of motherly women like Mama Weis. "Don't ask me to discuss politics," she says. "My only policy is to serve good food, good drink and make the doughboys happy." The doughboys like it. They like Tel-Aviv. The so-called "Arab world" isn't their world. They feel alien and uncomfortable in its strange sights, sounds and smells. Here they feel at home. "It sure feels good to see something like an American town," said the inevitable boy from Texas, mailing postcards in the Tel-Aviv postoffice this morning. "This is the best place I've seen since I waved good-bye to Old Lady Liberty."

The result of this experience is likely to make these soldiers strongly Zionist when they get home. It may be argued that these passing personal emotions are unimportant beside hard realities and irreconcilable interests interwoven in the Palestine problem. So they are, but the problem would not be nearly so hard to solve if it were not also a conflict of emotions. While feelings are violently engaged on all sides, anything that swings the balance of sentiment in the United States cannot be ignored.

The first thing one discovers here is that the attitude of America will have a powerful influence in deciding the future of Palestine and, by extension, the wish for this is the keypiece in the puzzle—the future of this restless and troubled part of the world.

AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE
41 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

January 17, 1945.

C O P Y

Dear Fellow Member:

From all indications, President Roosevelt will be leaving for a conference with Mr. Churchill and Mr. Stalin within the next week or ten days. It is probable that among the crucial matters which they will discuss will be the future of the Jewish people of Europe and the fate of Palestine.

In regard to these questions the voice of American public opinion may be decisive. We must let our President know that the time has passed for palliatives and half measures so far as the tragic problem of the uprooted Jews of Europe is concerned. The doors of Palestine must be opened wide to Jewish immigration and every Jew who wishes to do so must be entitled to return to his ancestral home and to rebuild his life there.

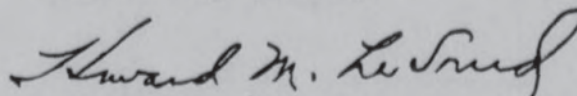
The conscience of humanity has been shocked and outraged by the horrors perpetrated by the Nazis on the defenseless Jewish people. The time has now come for constructive action. Christians in America must let the leaders of the United Nations know that they are in favor of affording to the Jewish people the opportunity to achieve, at long last, nationhood in their ancient homeland.

WILL YOU THEREFORE TAKE A FEW MINUTES RIGHT NOW TO WRITE OR WIRE PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

Urge the immediate opening of Palestine to Jewish immigration and its reconstitution as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. The time may not recur for a solution of the tragic and age-old problem of the dispersed Jewish people.

We must act now and we look to you for immediate support. Write or wire the President today.

Sincerely yours,



Howard M. LeSourd
Director

HML:BI

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date January 17, 1945

From Arthur Lourie

This is a call to our Local Emergency Committees throughout the country for immediate action.

The long awaited conference between President Roosevelt, Mr. Churchill and Mr. Stalin is likely to take place in the nearest future, possibly within the next ten days. Among the crucial matters which will come up for discussion will probably be the future of the Jewish National Home in Palestine. The decisive hour to which all our work during the past months and years has been directed is now approaching.

*Prepare a letter
or telegram
pendant*

We must let the President know how American Jewry in its overwhelming majority feels on this issue. We must act and act quickly, for decisions are being made at this very hour. The time has passed for half-measures as far as the tragic problem of the uprooted Jews of Europe is concerned. The doors of Palestine must be opened wide to Jewish immigration and every Jew who wishes to do so must be entitled to enter and settle in Palestine as of right.

WRITE OR WIRE IMMEDIATELY THEREFORE TO: THE PRESIDENT, THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Prepare the letter in your own style and make a personal plea that the gates of Palestine be opened to free Jewish immigration to the end that in accordance with undertakings originally given Palestine shall be reconstituted as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. In addition to personal messages, as many telegrams as possible should be sent on behalf of Jewish communal and other organized bodies.

We cannot exaggerate the need for speed in this matter and ask you to spare no effort in complying with this urgent request.

REQUESTS SIMILAR TO THAT ADDRESSED TO YOU ABOVE HAVE ALSO GONE OUT TO MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL AND OF THE AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. Copies of the letters are herewith enclosed. In order to follow up the matter and to ensure the dispatch of a maximum number of messages also from non-Jews in your community, we would ask you to get into touch with these individuals and urge upon them the importance of acting on the request already addressed to them, and of getting others to send appropriate communications to the White House. A special effort should be made to get messages to the President from the central labor organizations in your community, in line with the favorable resolutions adopted by both the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O.

(over)

DAY OF PRAYER

In addition to communications to the President, it is proposed to give expression to our sense of the historic importance which attaches to the forthcoming meeting of the leaders of the United Nations by devoting the services and the sermon on Saturday, January 27th to this problem. A special call will be issued on this subject by the Synagogue Council of America. It is important that immediate arrangements be made in communities all over the country. Special prayers will be offered for the success of the forthcoming meeting, so vital to the future peace and welfare of all humanity. Emphasis will be placed on the anxiety with which these deliberations are viewed by Jews everywhere and their hopes that from them will emerge a new era in Jewish history through the reconstitution of the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine.

It is essential that the utmost publicity be given on press and radio to the importance and solemnity which Jews attach to this occasion.

We rely on every one of our constituent committees throughout the country to make of this an impressive and moving demonstration.

Please let us know what plans you are making and do not hesitate to call on us for any assistance we can render.

AL:CK
Encs.



CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON PALESTINE

70 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 11, N. Y. - ALGONQUIN 4-2720

January 17, 1945.

C O P Y

Dear Friend:

One question above all others is put to us ceaselessly by those who are committed to our program. That question is: "What can I do?" In this crucial hour we answer: "Write to the President."

President Roosevelt is soon to meet with the leaders of the United Nations in a conference which will probably exceed Teheran in importance. Among the most pressing international problems on the agenda is the urgent issue of Palestine as a haven of refuge for the Jewish refugees and as a Jewish national homeland as the culmination of age-old aspirations and as a fulfillment of a number of international commitments during the past quarter of a century.

The time is now at hand to act and act quickly, for decisions are being made at this very hour and we want the voice of Christian America to be heard. May we ask you to:

Write immediately to: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, The White House, Washington, D. C. Prepare the letter in your own style and make a personal plea that the gates of Palestine be opened to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization so that the Jewish people may be restored as a nation in their ancient homeland. Emphasize the fact that this is a matter of Christian concern.

We cannot exaggerate the need for speed in this matter. The plight of the Jewish people in Europe is unutterably tragic. We ask you to spare no effort in complying with this urgent request of ours.

Sincerely yours,

Henry A. Atkinson

HENRY A. ATKINSON, Chairman

Carl Hermann Voss

CARL HERMANN VOSS, Secretary

AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE
41 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

January 17, 1945.

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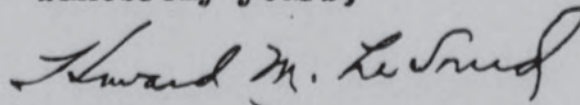
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We must act now and we look to you for immediate support. Write or wire the President today.

Sincerely yours,



Howard M. LeSourd
Director

HML:BI

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees **Date** January 17, 1945

From Arthur Lourie

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council to send on to you the enclosed communication with regard to the recent reorganization in the leadership of the Council. Please note that this is for your own information and is not for publication since in the interests of unity we wish to put an end, if possible, to a continuation of this controversy in the public press.

We wish to emphasize that all forces previously represented in the Council continue to be represented on that body. It is the determination of all its members that the Council shall go ahead united in the fulfillment of our constructive program so vital to the future of our people and directed to the reestablishment of Palestine in the nearest future as a Jewish Commonwealth.

AL:CK

January 16, 1945.

The American Zionist Emergency Council was reorganized on December 28, 1944 in order to make possible the full and harmonious cooperation of all Zionist parties in the United States. The reorganization was effected through a majority vote which the minority, as disciplined Zionists, accepted. In the interest of continuing this principle of unity and discipline the new administration of the Emergency Council will avoid taking part in factional controversy. The Zionist cause requires our complete and unswerving devotion at this time and we would consider ourselves remiss in duty if we dissipated our energy in internal divisions.

① However, in the light of the fact that erroneous impressions have possibly been created by incorrect facts, in which connection we must mention the improper and unauthorized statement on stationery of the Emergency Council of its former director, Mr. Harry L. Shapiro, we feel that the local committees should know how the majority of the Council views the situation which has led to the present internal reorganization. We shall limit ourselves to a brief statement on the main issue. ② Whatever supplementary comment may be thought necessary by the individual parties will be made directly by them.

After Secretary Stimson had announced that the War Department had withdrawn its opposition to the passage of the Palestine Resolution, it became urgent to determine whether we should press for its presentation before the termination of the 78th Congress. At a meeting of the Council held on October 30th, two points of view were voiced. Some members were of the opinion that the propitious atmosphere created by the party planks and the President's message should be utilized for pressing presentation of the resolution immediately after the elections. Others felt that the crowded agenda, the short working period remaining, and the need, if possible, of improving the wording of the resolution to bring it in line with the President's statement on Zionist policy, all pointed to the wisdom of postponement and reconsideration of the resolution during the next Congress. Moreover, it was the majority opinion of the Council that we had reached a stage in our political affairs when it was more imperative to seek implementation of the President's announced policy and most important to meet with the President prior to his attendance at the meeting of the "Big Three." ③ This was the position taken by Dr. Wise.

There was unanimous agreement, however, that the repetition of the experience of last March must be avoided at all costs and that the passage of the resolution should not be urged unless we were certain that we would not be faced with the opposition of the Executive branch of the government. The very wording of Mr. Stimson's letter pointed to the need of clearing with the State Department in advance of any decision. It was the consensus of opinion that a second failure of Congress to take favorable action on the Palestine Resolution would not only be a serious political defeat, but would reduce the value of the achievements already attained through the inclusion of pro-Zionist planks in the Democratic and Republican platforms and the President's historic endorsement of a Jewish Commonwealth in his message of October 15th. Steps were therefore taken at once to ascertain the position of the State Department and of the Executive branch of the government.

Early in November we were informed that President Roosevelt and the State Department asked that the matter be left pending a little while longer. At a meeting of the Emergency Council on November 21st it was decided that efforts be made once more to obtain clearance from the Executive, it being understood that if renewed efforts to obtain the approval of the Executive failed, the resolution should, for the time being, be left pending.

④ Dr. Silver proceeded to Washington to explore the situation. However, before the clearance of the State Department was obtained he proceeded with activities designed to secure the passage of the resolution. In the meantime information received by Dr. Wise indicated that the attitude of the Executive and State Departments remained unchanged and that the resolution, if pressed, would in all likelihood again be deferred. It is pertinent to point out in this connection that within the last few days the President has indicated to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that he wants no resolutions on foreign policy before his projected meeting with Mr. Churchill and Mr. Stalin. It is obvious that his request that the Palestine Resolution be left pending a little while longer was in line with his general policy affecting other international questions.

⑤ In view of the urgency of the situation, Dr. Wise called a special meeting of the Council. Dr. Silver, who was in Washington, was notified and kept in touch with the proceedings by telephone. A special committee was appointed to go to Washington to dissuade Dr. Silver from pressing the resolution for reasons given earlier in this memorandum. Dr. Silver, supported by the Mizrahi, continued his line of action until the Palestine Resolution was tabled by the Senate Committee due to the intervention of the Secretary of State.

As a result, Dr. Wise resigned in protest against what he considered "the arbitrary action" of the Chairman of the Executive Committee and what appeared to him the contravention of democratic procedure. At a meeting of the Emergency Council on December 20th, Dr. Silver defended his action at great length, as being in harmony with the basic position of the Emergency Council. A proposed motion that Dr. Silver had contravened decisions was tabled. A motion was then made calling on all officers to resign in order to permit reorganization of the Council. When a vote to table failed of passage, Dr. Silver stated that this represented a repudiation of his position. He thereupon resigned, saying that his resignation was irrevocable. Reorganization of the Council then followed.

⑦ It should be pointed out that a large majority of the Council considered reorganization essential, even without reference to the matter of the Palestine Resolution. Two of the groups within the Council had for months been pressing for the establishment of a small implementation committee. This committee, they proposed, should concern itself -- in cooperation with the co-chairman -- with the day by day affairs of the Council and with mapping out concrete steps to be taken for carrying out the general line of action enunciated by the Council. It is clear that in political work the method oftentimes requires as much attention as the formulation of policy and that the procedure followed is likely to affect fundamentally the success or failure of the endeavor. Unfortunately, Dr. Silver had not been willing to set up the type of permanent committee proposed by the two groups.

It is of the essence to make clear that at no time were there any differences as to fundamental Zionist policy. At no time were there questions of "maximal" or "minimal" goals. The only problem debated was the most effective manner of implementing objectives in regard to which there was complete agreement. The American Zionist Emergency Council, as now reconstituted, represents as before all Zionist parties. Those who were in the minority in their evaluation of the recent controversy have participated loyally in the reorganization so as to ensure the continuance of a united and energetic working body. In this spirit we now call on all local committees to follow the central organization in a policy of unity and complete concentration on the important tasks before us in promoting the program of the Jewish Commonwealth.

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date January 17, 1945

From Arthur Lourie

This is a call to our Local Emergency Committees throughout the country for immediate action.

The long awaited conference between President Roosevelt, Mr. Churchill and Mr. Stalin is likely to take place in the nearest future, possibly within the next ten days. Among the crucial matters which will come up for discussion will probably be the future of the Jewish National Home in Palestine. The decisive hour to which all our work during the past months and years has been directed is now approaching.

We must let the President know how American Jewry in its overwhelming majority feels on this issue. We must act and act quickly, for decisions are being made at this very hour. The time has passed for half-measures as far as the tragic problem of the uprooted Jews of Europe is concerned. The doors of Palestine must be opened wide to Jewish immigration and every Jew who wishes to do so must be entitled to enter and settle in Palestine as of right.

WRITE OR WIRE IMMEDIATELY THEREFORE TO: THE PRESIDENT, THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Prepare the letter in your own style and make a personal plea that the gates of Palestine be opened to free Jewish immigration to the end that in accordance with undertakings originally given Palestine shall be reconstituted as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. In addition to personal messages, as many telegrams as possible should be sent on behalf of Jewish communal and other organized bodies.

We cannot exaggerate the need for speed in this matter and ask you to spare no effort in complying with this urgent request.

REQUESTS SIMILAR TO THAT ADDRESSED TO YOU ABOVE HAVE ALSO GONE OUT TO MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL AND OF THE AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. Copies of the letters are herewith enclosed. In order to follow up the matter and to ensure the dispatch of a maximum number of messages also from non-Jews in your community, we would ask you to get into touch with these individuals and urge upon them the importance of acting on the request already addressed to them, and of getting others to send appropriate communications to the White House. A special effort should be made to get messages to the President from the central labor organizations in your community, in line with the favorable resolutions adopted by both the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O.

(over)

DAY OF PRAYER

In addition to communications to the President, it is proposed to give expression to our sense of the historic importance which attaches to the forthcoming meeting of the leaders of the United Nations by devoting the services and the sermon on Saturday, January 27th to this problem. A special call will be issued on this subject by the Synagogue Council of America. It is important that immediate arrangements be made in communities all over the country. Special prayers will be offered for the success of the forthcoming meeting, so vital to the future peace and welfare of all humanity. Emphasis will be placed on the anxiety with which these deliberations are viewed by Jews everywhere and their hopes that from them will emerge a new era in Jewish history through the reconstitution of the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine.

It is essential that the utmost publicity be given on press and radio to the importance and solemnity which Jews attach to this occasion.

We rely on every one of our constituent committees throughout the country to make of this an impressive and moving demonstration.

Please let us know what plans you are making and do not hesitate to call on us for any assistance we can render.

AL:CK
Encs.



CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON PALESTINE

70 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 11, N. Y. - ALGONQUIN 4-2720

January 17, 1945.

C O P Y

Dear Friend:

One question above all others is put to us ceaselessly by those who are committed to our program. That question is: "What can I do?" In this crucial hour we answer: "Write to the President."

President Roosevelt is soon to meet with the leaders of the United Nations in a conference which will probably exceed Teheran in importance. Among the most pressing international problems on the agenda is the urgent issue of Palestine as a haven of refuge for the Jewish refugees and as a Jewish national homeland as the culmination of age-old aspirations and as a fulfillment of a number of international commitments during the past quarter of a century.

The time is now at hand to act and act quickly, for decisions are being made at this very hour and we want the voice of Christian America to be heard. May we ask you to:

Write immediately to: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, The White House, Washington, D. C. Prepare the letter in your own style and make a personal plea that the gates of Palestine be opened to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization so that the Jewish people may be restored as a nation in their ancient homeland. Emphasize the fact that this is a matter of Christian concern.

We cannot exaggerate the need for speed in this matter. The plight of the Jewish people in Europe is unutterably tragic. We ask you to spare no effort in complying with this urgent request of ours.

Sincerely yours,

Henry A. Atkinson

HENRY A. ATKINSON, Chairman

Carl Hermann Voss

CARL HERMANN VOSS, Secretary

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees

Date January 18, 1945

From Arthur Lourie

Enclosed herewith are two new reprints from the New York Times, available for distribution in your community:

- 1) "'Arab Menace' Held Fallacy", by Prof. A. S. Yahuda; and
- 2) "Abroad", by Anne O'Hare McCormick.

AL:CMH
Encs.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Members of American Zionist Emergency Council *Date* January 18, 1945

From Arthur Lourie

Enclosed herewith are copies of two memoranda, dated January 17, which were sent to Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees.

AL:CLD
Encs.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees

Date January 19, 1945

From Arthur Lourie

Please note on Page 1 of the Memorandum dated January 16, 1945 dealing with the reorganization of the Council, the last two sentences of paragraph 3 should read: "Moreover it was the opinion of many on the Council that we had reached a stage in our political affairs when it was more important to seek implementation of the President's announced policy and imperative to meet with the President prior to his attendance at the meeting of the "Big Three".

AL:CK

MEMORANDUM

To : Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date January 19, 1945

From : Arthur Lourie

In our memorandum of January 17 we informed you that a special call for a day of prayer on Saturday, January 27, was to be issued by the Synagogue Council of America. This call was sent out; and additional appeals were issued by both the Rabbinical Assembly of America, the Rabbinical Council of America, as well as by the United Synagogue of America, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the Women's League of the United Synagogue of America and other national bodies.

By this time, the rabbis all over the country have received an appeal to devote Saturday, January 27, to services and sermons, emphasizing the vital stake which Jews all over the world have in the forthcoming meeting of the President of the United States with the leaders of our allied nations.

We indicated in our previous memorandum that emphasis should be placed on the anxiety with which these deliberations are viewed by Jews everywhere and their hopes that from them will emerge a new era in Jewish history through the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth.

It is our fervent hope that steps have been taken by your Committee to insure the carrying out of the directive and that contact has been established with the rabbis of your community.

We enclose a form of prayer which has been submitted to the rabbis over the signatures of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Israel Goldstein, and Rabbi Wolf Gold. It would be very helpful if you were to follow up this direct contact with the rabbis and help to insure the successful culmination of the plan for the day of prayer.

We shall look forward eagerly for word from you with regard to the outcome of this effort, as well as information about what has been done with reference to having telegrams and messages sent to the President by Christians and Jews alike. Again we impress upon you the urgency of having these messages sent before the President leaves for his conference with Mr. Churchill and Mr. Stalin.

AL:TLF
Enc.

רבונו של עולם הרם קרנו של נשיא ארצות הברית וְחַרַשׁ עֲלֵינוּ אֶת
נְשִׂאוֹתָיו לטובה להצלחה לחיים ולשלום.

היה לו למחסה בלכתו אל מועצת מנהיגי עמי הפדות לקרב את הנצחון
ולהשלים צדק וישר בעולם. חזקתו ואמצהו בדרכו, נִחָהוּ בַחֲסִידָךְ, הִסֵּר מִמֶּנּוּ
מכשול. שמור צאתו ובואו שלא תֵּאָנֶה אֵלָיו רעה, ושלח ברכה והצלחה במפעליו.

אנחנו מלך רחום וחנון פקר רוחך במועצת דְּבָרֵי העמים המאוחדים. חזק
את רצונם ומרצם לדכא עריצות ולהעביר זדון מן הארץ, לְרַפֵּא אֶת פְּצָעֵי הַמִּין
האנושי, לחקן את מעשי העוֹל שֶׁנַּעֲשׂוּ לעמים המשועבדים ולחדש את כל חברת
י האדם על יסודות החפש והאֲחֻזָּה.

אבינו שבשמים הָאֵל עֵינֵי הַנְּשִׂיא שִׁירָאָה בְּעֵינֵינוּ. ואמץ לבבו שִׁירִיב אֶת
ריבנו במועצת ראשי מדינות הפדות. הָעֵר אֶת לְבוֹת דְּבָרֵי החפש למצוקת בני
ישראל האומללים בקרבנות האדם. כִּי נִפְשָׁנוּ קִצְרָה מִחֶרֶב וּמִשָּׁבִי וּמִדָּבָר וּמִכָּל
צָרָה וִיגוֹן, וְנִשְׁאַרְנוּ מֵעַט מִהֶרְבָּה. פָּתַח אֶת אָזְנֵי הַמְּנַהֲיִגִּים שִׁישְׁמְעוּ אֶת קוֹל
דְּמֵי אֲחֵינוּ הַמוֹמְחִים, אֶת זַעַק הַשְּׂכּוּלִים וְאֶת נֶאֱקַת הַמוֹפְקָרִים לְהִרְגֵּם, לִמְעַן
יָעוֹר לִבָּם לִבְקַע דְּרָכֵי הַצִּלָּה. פָּקַח עֵינֵיהֶם לִרְאוֹת וּלְבָבָם לִהְיוֹן שֶׁהָעוֹלָם לֹא
יָדַע שְׁלוֹם עַדִּי וְפָתַח הָרְצוּבוֹת רָשָׁע וַיִּוָּחְרוּ אֲגוּדוֹת מוֹטָה וַיִּשְׁלַחוּ רְצוּצִים
חֹפְשִׁים וְכָלָה זִדּוֹן מִן הָאָרֶץ.

אבינו מלכנו מְחַסְּנוּ חֲזָק אֶת רוּחַ הַיִּשְׂרָאֵל בִּלְבַב מְנַהֲיִגֵי אֲרֻצוֹת הַדְּרֹר,
שִׁיאֲשֵׁרוּ. מַחְדֵּשׁ אֶת בְּרִית הָאֲמִנָּה שֶׁנִּחְנַנּוּ עִמִּי הָעוֹלָם לְיִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַשִּׁיב אֶת שְׁבוֹת
צִיּוֹן. פָּקַח עֵינֵיהֶם לִרְאוֹת וְלִחְמֹךְ בְּזִכְרוֹתֵינוּ לְהַקִּים מְדִינָה עִבְרִית בָּאָרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל
מִדֵּן וְעַד בָּאֵר שֶׁבַע, שִׁינּוּהוּ שְׁמָה בְּלִי מַכְשָׁל וּפָגַע אֲחֵינוּ הַגּוֹלִים לְבָנוֹת שֵׁם
אֶת חַיֵּיהֶם וּלְחַדֵּשׁ אֶת מוֹרֶשְׁתָּם הַיְּשָׁנָה שֶׁל חַיִּי אֲמוֹנָה צִדֵּק וְדְרֹר.

למען הרבבות שמתו על קדוש שמך, אשר קברוניהם לא נודעו ואפרם
לא נקבץ, חן חסדך על המנהיגים הנאורים שיביאו פדות לבני אדם ולבני
ישראל ויקרבו מלכותך בארץ. ברוך אתה ה' שומע תפלה. אמן.

SUGGESTED PRAYER FOR THE SABBATH OF JANUARY 26-27

O God, Thou great governor of all the world and guardian of nations, we invoke Thy blessing upon the President of the United States and pray Thee that his re-inauguration into office may be the harbinger of a wise and fruitful administration and mark the beginning of an era of enduring peace. Be Thou with him as he embarks upon his sacred mission to confer with the other leaders of the great liberating nations, to aid in the achievement of speedy victory and in the planning and establishment of a world order of justice and righteousness. Grant him fortitude and vigor, sustain him in health, guard him from danger and protect him in hardship in his going forth and in his coming back, and glorify his endeavors with noble accomplishments.

O Champion of the oppressed, bestow Thy spirit upon the councils of the great leaders of the United Nations. Strengthen within them the resolves to vanquish tyranny and eradicate oppression, to heal the wounds of mankind, to right the wrongs wrought on the enslaved peoples and to rebuild human society on the four-fold cornerstones of freedom everywhere on earth.

O Heavenly Father, we pray Thee to grant vision and courage to the President of our great republic that he may espouse the cause of the oppressed of all nations and remember the oft-forgotten people of Israel. Awaken Thou the hearts of the spokesmen of freedom to the plight of the most grievously stricken victims of the foe of humanity. Behold, they are banished from their homes, driven without food, shelter or hope to the hiding places of the earth, tortured and massacred. May the blood of the dead, the lament of the bereaved and the wail of the doomed stir the souls of the great leaders to open every avenue of rescue to the captive children of Israel. May they realize that the world will know no peace until all who are enslaved are set free, until all who are homeless are given refuge and until all who are downtrodden are restored to human dignity, and iniquity has vanished from the face of the earth.

(more)

O Lord God, strengthen the sense of justice in the hearts of those who are charged with the fashioning of a new world, that they may reaffirm the pledge of the restoration of Zion made to the people of Israel by the nations of the world, that they may see and espouse our right to establish a Jewish Commonwealth in a free and undivided land of Israel, whither our uprooted and homeless brethren may go unhindered and unafraid, to rebuild their lives and to restore their ancient heritage of faith, freedom and righteousness.

In the name of the multitudes who have died for the sanctification of Thy Name, whose graves are not marked and whose ashes not gathered, we implore Thy grace upon the great spokesmen of freedom. Gird them with fortitude and steadfastness to achieve the deliverance of humanity and Israel and to enhance the establishment of Thy kingdom on earth. Praised art Thou, O God, Who hearest our prayers. Amen.



MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date March 13, 1945

From Arthur Lourie
Political Secretary

Since our preceding memorandum of March 6, two items in the New York Times, dealing with Palestine, have attracted wide attention (see copies attached). The following will clarify, for your information and guidance, the attitude of the Zionist Emergency Council in regard to these reports.

The essential need of the Jewish people remains the establishment of Palestine as the Jewish Commonwealth. Only the Commonwealth would put an end to the basic problem of the homelessness of the Jews as a people and would make possible the rehabilitation of the more than a million Jews in various countries of the Old World, shaken by tragedy and facing a future without hope.

As concerns the position of the Arabs in the Jewish Commonwealth, full equality of civic and religious rights for all the non-Jewish inhabitants of the Jewish Commonwealth, irrespective of their numbers at any given time, has been reiterated by Zionist spokesmen over and over again as an integral part of the Zionist program. Full communal autonomy in regard to religious, educational and social institutions would also be assured. This is fundamental in our thinking and needs no further emphasis.

It is obvious that the achievement of the Jewish Commonwealth connotes large Jewish immigration and such preparatory steps in Palestine, including the necessary administrative conditions as will make possible speedy progress in the desired direction. In order to initiate without delay the rescue of the trapped Jewish masses, to contribute to the relief of racial tension in the Old World, and to cut as short as possible the present state of uncertainty in Palestine, these measures must be inaugurated immediately.

This fundamental position of Zionism remains unchanged, and should be our answer to any rumors, suggestions, or proposals with which we may be confronted. It remains the basis of our demands and should govern our appeals to public opinion and our negotiations with the Powers of the world.

It is impossible to say, for the moment, to what extent the attached report from Jerusalem is based on fact or, if it be correct, to gauge the motives of those promoting the reported plan. Speculation on either point would be futile. What is important is for us to realize that many such schemes will be proposed from various sides with a view to sidetracking our integral Zionist program, and we must be prepared to maintain our position vis-a-vis all such schemes.

It should be specifically emphasized that insofar as the alleged scheme of the Foreign Ministers of Arab-speaking States contemplates an arbitrary limitation on Jewish immigration or abandonment of the hope for a Jewish Commonwealth, it is completely unacceptable. It ignores the essential needs of the Jewish people and therefore flies in the face of a basic reality.

On the other hand, the very appearance of the report indicates that even the most intransigent opponents of Zionism can no longer close their eyes to the need for speedy large-scale Jewish immigration into Palestine. Insofar as British opposition to the immediate opening of Palestine to Jewish immigrants was explained by the fear of Arab revolt, this report shows, as we have always maintained, that such fear is utterly baseless. For the Foreign Ministers of the Arab countries are here stated to be ready to agree to the entry of another 300,000 Jewish immigrants. Our only reaction to the report should therefore be that no shred of an excuse remains for keeping Palestine closed to further immigration pending a decision as to the country's political future; and that while discussions are continuing with reference to the future status of Palestine, large-scale immigration of Jews should be resumed at once.

In the light of the above outline our action remains unchanged and is directed to: the Jewish Commonwealth, immediate mass immigration and a decision at the earliest possible moment. We repeat from our last memorandum the action on which your cooperation is requested.

- (a) A number of mass demonstrations are being planned by the Council in conjunction with the American Jewish Conference in major cities throughout the country. If your city is one in which such a demonstration is to take place, you will be receiving further instructions shortly.
- (b) A statement to be signed by as many State Governors as possible is being prepared and will be sent out to key chairmen in the respective states for action.
- (c) The American Palestine Committee and the Christian Council for Palestine are to be mobilized in support of the above objectives.
- (d) Newspaper and radio commentators must be seen and given the necessary information so as to obtain all possible publicity for our demands.

AL:CK
Encs.

From New York Times, Sunday, March 11, 1945

ARAB COMPROMISE ON JEWS REPORTED

Christians Would Hold Balance of Power Under
Plan for Equal Palestine Populations

By Julian Louis Meltzer

Jerusalem, March 10 - The Foreign Ministers of Arab States, who drafted the constitution of the proposed Arab league at their recent Cairo conference, are understood to have decided to recommend a compromise solution on Palestine for acceptance by the Palestinian Arabs, according to a well-informed Arab source here.

The compromise is said to include the principle of equal political and civil rights for Jews and Moslems, leaving to Christian Arab residents of Palestine the power of veto. The Arab Foreign Ministers would be prepared under this plan to obtain agreement from Palestine Moslems to early Jewish immigration of 200,000 to 300,000 persons. This, they feel, would provide some relief for Jewish refugees.

Under such a plan, Moslem leaders argue, the 700,000 Jewish inhabitants would be increased to 1,000,000 within a short period, equal to the Moslem population. There are about 150,000 Christian Arabs, who would thus hold the balance of power.

A local Arab political observer said the Arab reaction might at first be acrimonious, especially among younger elements who hold violent nationalistic views, but that the general feeling ultimately would be to accept the plan.

Britain then, he said, would turn over its Palestine mandate to a permanent United Nations authority that would emerge from the San Francisco talks.

The main Zionist complaint against the compromise plan is that it is designed solely to meet the Palestine problem without remedying the world Jewish situation. While some Zionists believe that surviving Jewish communities in Europe will improve after the war and the urgency of Jewish migration problems will be removed, Zionist leaders like David Ben Gurion, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive here, assert that the need for Jewish migration will persist.

While accepting the principle of political parity with the Arabs, the Zionists insist that Jewish immigration into Palestine must be unconditional and unlimited. They declare the Jews need Palestine as a rehabilitation center and as an area in which to regain political statehood.

From New York Times, Monday, March 12, 1945

ABROAD

Arabs Propose Compromise on Palestine

By Anne O'Hare McCormick

The New York Times correspondent in Jerusalem reports that at the meeting held recently in Cairo to draft a constitution for the proposed league of Arab states the Foreign Ministers recommended a compromise solution on Palestine to the Palestinian Arabs. The first point of interest in this recommendation is that it comes from the Arabs. Before the Cairo meeting there was no evidence that the Arab leaders were ready to offer any positive suggestion for the settlement of one of the thorniest of post-war problems. Their uncompromising opposition to any extension of Jewish immigration into Palestine and the uncompromising stand of the Zionists for unrestricted immigration and a Jewish state combined to create a deadlock from which there seemed to be no way out.

The second point of interest is that the suggestion is made by the Arabs at the very moment when they are getting down to business in organizing a united Arab front. Until now seasoned observers in the Middle East never believed that the Arab states could get together, even in the loosest form of federation. And it will be loose; in discussing the prospects in January, members of Arab governments made it very clear that their separate "independence" was their first concern.

Nevertheless, the project is going forward. The Arab nations are closer now than they have been in modern history. There will certainly be some form of Arab union. Pan-Arabia is set to be a political factor in the new world. Former doubters finally admitted this, but added that only one tie binds these disparate nations, and that is their common opposition to Zionist expansion.

Yet the first thing the Arab Ministers do when they begin to organize is to offer the only constructive suggestion they have ever publicly put forth on the Palestine question. A month ago the Palestinian Arabs were standing firmly on the British White Paper and declaring they would fight any extension of the immigration quota when it expired in June. Now the Foreign Ministers propose that up to 300,000 more Jews be admitted at the earliest possible date.

This is news, indeed, and news of great significance. Not only does it indicate a change in Arab policy inside Palestine, for when the Ministers say they "would be prepared to obtain agreement" from Palestine Moslems, it means that agreement has been secured. It follows too closely on the meetings of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill with the Arab leaders not to be a sequel to these talks, especially since it fits in with the British desire—not so evident in times past but pushed hard lately by Lord Gort and Sir Edward Grigg—to get Jews and Arabs to settle the question among themselves. And since the United States, in pledges from both parties, has assumed direct responsibility in the settlement, the President is also anxious for a solution that might satisfy the Zionists without antagonizing the Arabs.

The proposed plan won't do that. According to Mr. Meltzer's report, it provides for equal political and civil rights for Jews and Moslems by bringing the Jewish population up to 1,000,000, to match the Moslems. It would establish the parity advocated by Dr. Judah Magnes, though whether parity is to be maintained by his formula of balancing the higher Arab birth rate by more Jewish

immigration is not disclosed. The Christian Arabs, about 150,000 in number, are not included in the equation, which gives them the balance of power. In the event of a solution on these lines, or presumably any lines that could be agreed upon, the British are said to be ready to turn over the Palestine mandate to a permanent United Nations Authority.

The Zionists will undoubtedly reject the plan as it stands. It denies their demand for unlimited immigration, prevents them from ever becoming a majority, and blocks their central aim of setting up a Jewish nation and making Palestine a Jewish state. For this aim they have planned, toiled, agitated, invested vast sums and vaster energy to transform the stony hills of their Promised Land into a garden. Hitler helped them by making Europe into something worse than hell for Jews; but aside from the victims of Hitler, the settlers in Palestine constitute perhaps the happiest and most satisfied colony on this sad and war-weary earth.

But the elements of the situation are changing. The Arabs are changing, as this initiative signifies. So are the relations between the Middle East and the western world. In no foreseeable time will the lot of the Jews surviving in Europe, and those who elect to go back, be what it was in the last hideous decade. The victors will see to that as sternly as they see to the disarmament of Germany. If we are going back into such conditions and such a world, the war will be lost and Palestine will be no safer than Czechoslovakia was, or the United States would be. Moreover, the Jews from eastern Europe will not be permitted to emigrate to Palestine.

These considerations have nothing to do with the Zionist case, one way or the other, but they might induce the wiser leaders to study the Arab proposals as a basis for discussion. The Arabs have strengthened their position by taking the initiative, and the plan gives them a permanent majority by putting the Christian Arabs into a special category. But if the principle of compromise is accepted, and the problem can be solved by direct negotiations between Arabs and Jews, the terms can be changed. The crux of the matter is that the cards are evidently stacked for a compromise, and this alters the position of all the parties to the dispute.

American Zionist Emergency Council

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
Murray Hill 2-1160

A CALL TO ACTION

March 16, 1945

COPY

Throughout the entire course of this war, the democratic peoples have looked forward to the day when the United Nations will gather around the peace table and establish a blueprint for the future. The war is not yet over, but in San Francisco on April 25th will be held an important forerunner of the ultimate peace table meetings. Forty-five nations will be present. They will frame the constitution of a new international organization to succeed the League of Nations.

While actual details of the peace will not be settled here, momentous decisions will be taken, decisions affecting virtually all the peoples of the world. We must make our voice heard at this Conference, and we must bring to the attention of the world the grave urgency of the Jewish case. Next month all Jewish immigration into Palestine will cease. An intolerable situation, one that cries out for justice to the very heart of humanity, will be created when these doors shut in the face of our despairing brethren. This is the time to act. History is on the march and we dare not fail.

The duty of the American Zionist Emergency Council to mobilize public opinion behind our cause is clear. A series of mass meetings will take place in communities throughout the country, and we call upon chairmen of local emergency committees to carry out this campaign with all the vigor at their command and to use all their influence in support of our program to obtain a hearing at the San Francisco Conference. An accompanying memorandum from Arthur Lourie, Political Secretary of the Council, outlines how your committee can do its part.

Precisely what form our specific demands will take is now being worked out. But the important thing is that in addition to achieving a hearing in San Francisco, we arouse public opinion behind our demand for opening the gates of Palestine and its reconstitution as a Jewish Commonwealth.

In conclusion, a word of warning. It seems San Francisco will not be the final tribunal on the Palestine question. The vital decisions will be taken elsewhere. But we must make the San Francisco Conference a sounding-board for our cause. The world should hear us now. In all justice, the case of the Jewish people must be heard in this historic prologue to the future. We urge you to take immediate action.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen S. Wise
Chairman

Hayim Greenberg
Chairman, Executive Committee

W/G:FMH

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date March 16, 1945

From Arthur Lourie
Political Secretary

Following our previous memoranda, and in conformity with the accompanying letter of Dr. Wise and Mr. Hayim Greenberg, we now wish to give you detailed and specific instructions as to what immediate action should be taken in your community regarding the San Francisco Conference and our demand to be heard in support of unrestricted Jewish immigration into Palestine and its reconstitution as a Jewish Commonwealth.

It is imperative that the emergency committee meetings discussed in our earlier memoranda be held as soon as possible: more specifically, sometime during the three-week period April 1 to April 21. The American Jewish Conference is co-operating with us in sponsoring these all-important mass demonstrations and with this powerful united Jewish front we must proceed now to mobilize public opinion behind us.

This meeting in your city must be successful. It must be well attended. It must be launched with the widest possible publicity and when it finally takes place, it must be without question the biggest event of its kind in your community.

We suggest you take the following steps immediately:

1. Contact the American Jewish Conference delegate in your area and with him formulate concrete plans for your meeting: place, date, time.

2. Invite the American Palestine Committee and the Christian Council on Palestine, if such committees function in your community, to arrange meetings under Christian auspices and if not, to join with your committee in having outstanding Christian speakers address the meeting.

3. Your local committee should act at once as follows:

- a. Secure a centrally located meeting place on an afternoon or evening between April 1 and April 21 on a day when no other mass meeting or competing affair is scheduled.
- b. Invite outstanding speakers to address the meeting: speakers well known in your community such as jurists, legislators, clergymen of all faiths, business and civic leaders, etc.
- c. Contact radio commentators and directors of radio stations in your city and acquaint them with the purpose of the meeting and its program. Stress the fact that this program has popular support; that the meeting itself deals with a subject of great newsworthiness at this time, particularly in view of the recent Middle East talks of Roosevelt, Churchill and the Arab rulers.

- d. See your newspaper publisher. This is best done by arranging for a committee of influential business leaders to call upon him and emphasize their interest in this meeting. If it is not feasible to visit the publisher, have someone of prominence call upon the editor. At all times stress the fact that this meeting is news -- because it is! Palestine is in the headlines today as it has never been before.
- e. Have someone visit columnists and editorial writers. Stress the tremendous human and social implications of our cause and the fact that the entire problem of rehabilitation of peoples is involved. Columnists and editorial writers are forever in need of material, and the Palestine question is a springboard for which they will be grateful.
- f. Enlist the aid of ministers and church organizations, stress the overwhelming humanitarian aspects of this cause. Indeed, it is almost impossible today to discuss current events, the post-war world, the course of the peace, without touching upon the Middle East and Palestine.
- g. Place posters and placards advertising the meeting in public places such as store windows, billboards, etc.; youth organizations, the YMHA's and YMCA's, college bulletin boards, etc.

In brief, utilize every possible medium of publicity to enlist aid for the meeting, interest in its program, and attendance when it takes place.

Enclosed herewith is the following:

- 1. Suggested Press material - a sample release and a follow-up release.
- 2. Suggested newspaper and magazine editorials.
- 3. Suggested material for use of columnists and commentators.
- 4. Suggestions for advertisements, throw-aways, etc.

The above material is for your guidance and should not be used verbatim. We wish to avoid "canned" nation-wide publicity.

We shall send you a suggested resolution to be submitted to your meeting.

If you need any further aid, let us know. Please direct your requests to Mr. Ysaye Hassan, Director of Special Services and Events of this office.

It is of the greatest importance that we hear from you immediately. The voice of the Jewish people must be heard at the San Francisco Conference. We count on you to carry through with all the energy at your command. Our leaders must go to San Francisco armed with national public support.

AL:FBP
Encs.

MASS MEETING TO DEMAND HEARING FOR JEWS

AT SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

TO URGE IMMEDIATE OPENING OF PALESTINE TO EUROPE'S SURVIVING JEWS

- - - - -

Declaring that spokesmen for the Jewish people must be given an opportunity to submit their case for the postwar reconstruction of the Jewish people at the forthcoming San Francisco Conference on April 25th, Mr. _____, leading member of the (name of community) Jewish Community, today announced a mass meeting to be held April _____, under the auspices of the American Jewish Conference, and the (name of community) Zionist Emergency Committee.

Mr. _____, who is Chairman of the Committee arranging the meeting which will be held in (name of hall), said that the assembly will call for the resettlement of Europe's dispossessed Jews in Palestine and the reconstitution of that country as the Jewish Commonwealth.

"Beginning next month, no more Jews will be permitted to reach a haven in Palestine because of the infamous Chamberlain White Paper," Mr. _____ explained. "In simple justice to the Jewish people, first victims in the struggle for democracy, the doors of Palestine must be kept open for those Jews who have survived the horrors of Nazism. All that keeps them alive now is the hope of reaching Palestine."

He declared that the meeting, which will be addressed by outstanding national figures and spokesmen of all faiths, will stress the fact that the question of moving Europe's dispossessed Jews to Palestine is an integral part of the entire problem of rehabilitation of peoples.

At the San Francisco Conference, it is planned to present an overall program to meet the needs of the war-ravaged people. This program, which has been formulated by the American Jewish Conference, a body representing the great majority of

(more)

the Jews of the United States, in addition to the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth, calls for a Bill of Rights to safeguard minorities everywhere, measures for rehabilitation, indemnification of victims of Nazism and punishment of war criminals.

"It is ironic that the Jews, who were the first victims of Nazi aggression and whose casualties proportionately are greater than any other people, will not have an official place at the San Francisco Conference while last minute Allies who had never been distinguished for their loyalty to the United Nations are invited participants at the world parley."

Local delegates of the American Jewish Conference are:

Members of the (name of community) Zionist Emergency Committee are:



--30--



3/16/45

Suggested follow-up release to local newspapers
after first release has been turned in.

#2

THIS IS FOR YOUR GUIDANCE AND
SHOULD NOT BE USED VERBATIM.

(name of speaker) TO ADDRESS RALLY

DEMANDING THAT JEWS SHOULD BE HEARD AT SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

- - - - -

Mr. _____ will head a list of distinguished speakers who will address a giant mass meeting, (day and date) at (name of hall), demanding Jewish representation at the San Francisco Conference, it was announced today. His subject will be _____. Earlier, he will speak over Station _____ on _____.

In disclosing Mr. _____'s acceptance as principal speaker, Mr. _____, Chairman of the Arrangements Committee, stated that the meeting will be held under the auspices of the American Jewish Conference and the (name of community) Zionist Emergency Committee. He declared:

"Mr. _____ has long made clear his sympathy with the plight of the Jewish victims of Hitlerism in Europe, and his conviction that the doors of Palestine must be opened and Palestine itself reconstituted as a Jewish Commonwealth."

Other speakers, as announced by Mr. _____ will include:
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

A resolution will be introduced at the meeting demanding that the Jewish people, greatest sufferers of Nazism, be given the right to present their case in the same manner given other peoples at San Francisco, Mr. _____ added.

"The point here seems to me to be one of simple fair play," he asserted. "Forty-five nations will meet in San Francisco. They are establishing the basis for an international organization that will shape the future.

"Nations which declared war against the Axis only within the last fortnight have been invited to attend. They will take part in the proceedings. They will

(more)

be on hand to protect their interests.

"Even the Arab nations, which at best were grudgingly neutral and at worst literally had to be coerced to remain 'neutral,' have been invited. But the Jewish people have been ignored. Any discussions that may take place about Palestine and post-war reconstruction of devastated Europe will apparently be unilateral discussions -- with the Jews told later what will happen to them.

"In the name of ordinary justice, we demand a chance to be heard at San Francisco, to present our case for the rehabilitation of the Jewish people, the opening of the doors of Palestine to the remnants of European Jewry and the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth."

--30--

3/16/45



THIS IS FOR YOUR GUIDANCE AND
SHOULD NOT BE TURNED IN VERBATIM.

EDITORIAL

On the evening of _____, a mass meeting dedicated to one of the great humanitarian projects of our time will be held at _____ under the auspices of the American Jewish Conference, and the (name of community) Zionist Emergency Committee.

Men and women of all faiths and creeds will join in urging that the Jewish people have a voice at the United Nations parley at San Francisco, April 25. They will plead, as they have done so often before, that the gates of Palestine be open to the pauperized Jews of Europe and that Palestine, so long the spiritual haven of a tragic race, be reconstituted as a Jewish Commonwealth in accord with the Balfour Declaration. This Declaration has been endorsed by 52 nations of the world. It had been affirmed and re-affirmed by every President of the United States since its promulgation.

If ever there was desperate need for Palestine to be open to the victims of the world's monstrous cruelty, it is now. If ever there was a time when this plea should be heard, it is now when the first of the peace table meetings takes place at San Francisco, and a blueprint of the world of tomorrow -- a world in which all minorities will be given the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness -- will be drafted.

The justice of the Jewish case is underlined by the ironic fact that delegates of the Arab nations will be present in San Francisco to protect their interests in the Middle East and Palestine. In the name of ordinary decency and fairness, the Jews should be permitted equally to be heard and to protect their interests.

Justice, after all, is indivisible.

* * *

3/16/45

THIS IS FOR YOUR GUIDANCE AND
SHOULD NOT BE TURNED IN VERBATIM.

EDITORIAL

One of the great tragedies of our time has been the brutal, calculated and almost incredible mass extermination of the Jewish people. It is a tragedy of such enormity that the human mind finds it difficult to encompass it.

Throughout this terrible war, all men of goodwill have looked forward to the day when the victors will gather around the peace table and forge a new world, dispensing justice to all peoples. All this simply heightens the fact that representatives of the Jewish people -- the same people that has been almost decimated in the last ten years -- have not been invited to present their case before this preliminary peace tribunal.

While it is true that actual details of the peace will not be settled at San Francisco, decisions of far-reaching importance will be taken. If mandates are discussed, it is hard to believe that the subject of Palestine will not be discussed. Whatever the case, the Arab states have been invited to attend and thus be present to protect their interests in the Middle East.

In common decency, the Jews should be given the opportunity to have their voice heard as well. Their case is made the stronger by the fact that next month Jewish immigration into Palestine will cease under the terms of the British White Paper issued by Chamberlain in an era of appeasement. How can one look on unmoved at the spectacle of the remnants of a tortured and pauperized European Jewry pleading to enter the Promised Land, and watch the gates of Palestine clang shut at the moment of their greatest need?

To protest this conspiracy of silence, a mass meeting is being held at

_____ on _____.

We hope that the Powers-that-be will at long last recognize that the Jews who have been attacked and murdered as Jews have the right to speak and be heard as Jews when decisions are taken affecting their future.

* * *

3/16/45

THIS IS FOR YOUR GUIDANCE AND
SHOULD NOT BE TURNED IN VERBATIM.

EDITORIAL

Among the profound problems of the world today is the rehabilitation of peoples. No pen could paint the sum total of mass horror and agony visited upon the little peoples of the world by Hitler and Japanese fascism. Particularly singled out for a Calvary of their own have been the Jews of Europe. Their casualty lists of 5,000,000 exceed that of any other people.

Today, small Palestine has contributed more than 30,000 Jewish soldiers to the Allied cause -- fighting in the Jewish Brigade and in units of the British Army -- a voluntary enrollment (for there is no conscription in Palestine) equivalent to an enlistment of 8,000,000 Americans. Jews are fighting on every democratic forefront of the world.

All this makes even more hard to understand why the Jewish people have not been invited to the April 25th San Francisco Conference to which, ironically enough, delegates of the Arab nations have been invited. In all fairness, if it is deemed advisable to have Arabs present to protect their interests in the Middle East and Palestine, it should also be deemed advisable to have spokesmen for the Jews present.

A mass meeting to ask that this simple right be accorded the Jewish people -- as has been accorded other peoples -- will be held the night of _____ under the joint auspices of the American Jewish Conference and the (name of community) Zionist Emergency Committee.

Speakers of all faiths will urge that justice be done to a sorely tried people. We join with the Jewish community in demanding that in the name of common decency, the Jews should be permitted spokesmen at San Francisco, that the doors of Palestine be open to the survivors of European Jewry, and that Palestine, in accordance with the terms of the mighty Balfour pledge of Great Britain, be reconstituted as a Jewish Commonwealth.

* * *

3/16/45

SAMPLE MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO
EDITORIAL WRITERS, COLUMNISTS AND RADIO COMMENTATORS

In connection with the mass meeting to be held April _____ under auspices of the American Jewish Conference and the (name of community) Zionist Emergency Committee at _____, we are submitting below some facts and general material on Palestine and the Jewish question. We trust that they may be of interest to you and that you may find it possible to make some use of them.

Sponsored by organizations which represent the vast majority of the Jewish people of the United States, this meeting is being held for a three-fold purpose:

1. To demand a hearing for the Jewish people at the San Francisco Conference April 25.
2. To plead that the doors of Palestine be open to the remnants of European Jewry who are now in an appalling condition.
3. To demand the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth in accord with the Balfour Declaration.

As you know, the San Francisco Conference will devote itself to the formulation of an international organization to deal with post-war problems. Among the forty-five governments which have been invited are included several Arab states. Certain of these are noteworthy not only for their systematic failure to cooperate with the United Nations in the war effort, but also for their long standing pro-Axis sympathies.

Although the agenda of the San Francisco Conference has not been announced, indications are that the question of mandates -- and thus directly and indirectly that of Palestine -- will be raised. It seems to us, therefore, both as a matter of logic and a matter of elementary justice, that spokesmen for the Jewish people should be there to submit their case.

The Jewish people feel that having been an ally of the United Nations de facto, if not de jure, it should be afforded the opportunity to be heard at San Francisco and thus be given the same right to protect its interests as other nations.

At the San Francisco Conference, the Jewish people plan to present an overall program to meet the needs of war-ravaged nations. In addition to the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth, the program calls for a Bill of Rights to safeguard minorities everywhere, measures for rehabilitation, indemnification of victims of Nazism and punishment of war criminals.

Under the terms of the White Paper, the last immigration certificates will be used up next month and the doors of Palestine will shut completely upon the Jews. Palestine, in which more than \$500,000,000 has been poured by the Jews and which has been watered by the blood and sweat of millions of their brethren, becomes the one land in the world which they are not permitted to enter.

* * * * *

The existence of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine will not only provide a permanent home and security for hundreds of thousands of homeless and uprooted Jews, but will also serve to remove the stigma of "wanderers" from the Jewish people and eliminate the fundamental disability under which they live as compared with other peoples.

* * * * *

The defeat of the Axis will not normalize Jewish life in Europe. Today, liberated European Jewry has been pauperized and in many countries will have little chance of returning to social and economic equality. Palestine alone offers them the possibility of a normal existence. Palestine alone will welcome them not as aliens, not as transients, not as refugees, but as incoming citizens.

* * * * *

At least 4,000,000 additional immigrants can be absorbed by Palestine without disturbing the present inhabitants, according to Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk, U.S. Department of Agriculture authority. Palestine today has a population of 1,800,000. It is interesting to note that Massachusetts, considerably smaller in area, supports a population of more than 4,000,000.

* * * * *

As a result of the Allied victory in World War I, the Arabs received sovereignty over more than 1,200,000 sq. mi. The Jews have only tiny Palestine to claim as their own: in area less than 1/100 of the Arab lands.

* * * * *

The story of Jewish Palestine's contribution to the war effort is still one of the best kept secrets of the war. Thousands of Jewish soldiers have died on the battlefields of Greece, Crete, Libya, Ethiopia and Egypt, and today 30,000 Palestinian Jewish soldiers -- equivalent to a voluntary enrollment of 8,000,000 Americans -- are fighting in the Jewish Brigade and in British units.

* * * * *

As a result of Jewish medical and sanitation efforts, the Arabs in Palestine enjoy the lowest mortality rate in the entire Middle East, and the Arabs of Palestine are the best paid in the Middle East.

* * * * *

Agriculture and food production has been expanded to an extent that Palestine now constitutes a major source of supply for military and civilian needs in the entire Middle East.

* * * * *

Auspices of
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

SAMPLE COPY

and
(name of community) ZIONIST EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

PROGRAM:

(CHAIRMAN)

SPEAKER

SPEAKER

SPEAKER

MASS MEETING

WE ASK

I -- That the Jews be heard at the San Francisco United Nations Conference April 25, to present the case for a people who have suffered 5,000,000 dead and who were the first victims of Nazism.

II -- That the gates of Palestine be opened to the survivors of European Jewry who have no other haven.

III -- That Palestine be reconstituted as a Jewish Commonwealth, in accord with the mighty pledge of Great Britain endorsed by 52 nations of the world and re-affirmed by every President of the United States since its promulgation.

"I know how long and ardently the Jewish people have worked and prayed for the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. I am convinced that the American people give their support to this aim." ~ President Roosevelt

at _____ (name of meeting place) H A L L

Wednesday, A P R I L 4, 1945 (you set the date)

8:00 P. M.

A D M I S S I O N F R E E F R E E A D M I S S I O N

OBTAIN YOUR TICKETS (If you print tickets)
at

Letter

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Constituent Organizations

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America

Mizrachi Organization of America

Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America

Zionist Organization of America

342 Madison Avenue

New York 17, N. Y.

Murray Hill 2 - 1160

March 26, 1945

Copy

At a meeting of the American Zionist Emergency Council last Monday night consideration was given to a telegram addressed to the Council from New York and received at this office on March 12th. The telegram calls for unity in the Zionist movement here, the reorganization of the Council, militant action and the return of Dr. Silver to leadership. Your name appears among the signatories to the telegram.

This reply is being written you at the direction of the Council and in accordance with the views expressed at that meeting. It is not proposed to enter here into the rights and wrongs of the events which led up to Dr. Silver's resignation. Suffice it to say that while a genuine difference with regard to tactics and procedure existed within the Council, there was never any question of "militant" or non-militant action. Every group represented in the Council and every individual representing these groups is deeply concerned with the achievement of our goal now and not in some distant future, and is anxious to take all necessary and appropriate measures to that end. At the same time there was a difference in judgment as to the steps to be taken at a given moment for the furtherance of our aims and since the view of the majority, reached after a full and free discussion, was not that of Dr. Silver, he tendered his resignation as Chairman.

It should be noted that there have been three elections of officers in the Emergency Council since its inception. A Co-Chairmanship was established for the first time when Dr. Silver was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee. Unfortunately it proved unworkable and the Council was faced, in the light of its experience of the results of divided responsibility, with the matter of electing a single chairman. In the existing situation it was the judgment of a majority that Dr. Wise should serve as that chairman. This action implied no disparagement of Dr. Silver's great gifts nor any lack of recognition of the splendid services rendered by him during his tenure of office. In political life, however, it is no uncommon occurrence that a leader who has served greatly under one set of circumstances is replaced by another when conditions call for a change. To present the issue as one of militancy versus non-militancy is untrue to the facts and confusing to the public, and constitutes an unwarranted imputation on those who with vigor and courage hitherto led the fight in behalf of the Jewish national cause. Moreover, in terms of realistic action, we would ask what is meant by the term "militancy"? In all Dr. Silver's statements since his resignation no hint has been given by him of a specific program of action

different from that pursued by the Council in fulfillment of our objectives of unrestricted Jewish immigration, an immediate decision on the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth and Jewish representation at the forthcoming international conferences.

That all Zionists should, particularly at this time, bend their united efforts to the achievement of our common goal is obvious and the recent reorganization of the Council need not and should not have been made a question for disunity in Zionist ranks. Indeed when the Council was reorganized Dr. Silver announced publicly that he would remain a member of the Council and would continue loyal cooperation. That assurance was warmly welcomed by all and encouraged the hope of continued cooperative thought and action. In a movement such as ours, and indeed in any democratically constituted body, this is obviously as it should be. Majority action must govern, subject always to the condition that the minority is entitled to the opportunity so to express its point of view that it may influence the action of the majority and hope eventually by constitutional process itself to become the majority. But a majority decision should not be permitted to become the cause of bitter internal rifts and of public controversy of a character damaging to the highest interests of the whole movement.

In this connection we would commend as an example from the past the occasion when in 1931 Dr. Weizmann, as President of the World Zionist Organization, was defeated by a majority in the Zionist Congress. Dr. Weizmann, though out of office, nevertheless cooperated loyally with the succeeding administration until at a subsequent Congress he was once again returned to leadership.

It is deeply to be regretted that instead of similarly adhering to the processes of democratic action and, as originally indicated by Dr. Silver himself, of cooperating in the work of the Council while seeking in due course through the elective organs of the Zionist Organization to obtain endorsement for himself and his policies, Dr. Silver and his followers have now embarked on activities which if continued may be construed by a public, already confused, as representing a separatist political action.

Dr. Silver has the opportunity through membership in the Council to bring to bear his influence and ideas upon the action of the Council. His cooperation in its work will be warmly welcomed. But the campaign at present being conducted on behalf of Dr. Silver from an office specially established for the purpose is such as to create confusion and despondency among Zionists throughout the country and to disrupt and paralyze Zionist work at a most critical time.

Thus Dr. Silver, following the statements of Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill, without consultation with the officers of the American Zionist Emergency Council of which he remains a member, without exercising his right to come to meetings of the Council, and without full knowledge of the facts, issued a statement to the press which could only be calculated to cause an exaggerated and unjustified pessimism in the ranks of Zionists everywhere. A stream of partisan literature and press releases emanating from the office of the American Zionist policy Committee has kept Zionists in a state of constant and unhealthy turmoil, deflecting them from the tasks at hand and hindering the fulfillment of an effective program of action. By letter and telephone and telegram Zionists throughout the country are being urged to express alarm at present developments

and to demand Dr. Silver's immediate return. Little wonder that under these circumstances Zionists are confused and disheartened when they should be seeking to work together. Action of the kind here described indeed makes difficult, if not impossible, united and fruitful work by the administration in authority for the time being.

The American Zionist Emergency Council regards itself as an arm in this country of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. We are pursuing a policy the ultimate responsibility for which rests with the Executive of the Jewish Agency. Nor do we intend now or in the future to conduct an independent political line. It would indeed produce chaos and mean the end of the Zionist movement were branches of the movement in various countries to act in any other manner. It is our view that the line which we are at present pursuing, in coordination with the World Zionist leadership, is the correct one at this time. Until that line is changed no individual or group, however gifted or powerful, can engage in an independent political campaign without producing consequences of a serious character.

We would repeat once more: Dr. Silver's close collaboration in our work will be warmly welcomed. He has all the possibilities within the movement to bring his influence to bear in regard to the development of action and policy. We therefore ask, through you, that Dr. Silver be moved again to lend his great abilities to our work as a part of the Emergency Council. The Chairman of the Council has written separately to Dr. Silver asking him to attend meetings of the Council in order to share in its work and to give us the benefit of his help and advice. It is the sincere desire of all members of the Council that he will see his way clear to collaborate with his colleagues in this crucial period in Zionist history. It is in this direction that we believe that your influence should be brought to bear.

Yours sincerely

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

By: Arthur Lourie
Political Secretary

AL:CK

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees

Date April 3, 1945

From Arthur Lourie
Political Secretary

We are enclosing a suggested resolution drawn up in collaboration with the American Jewish Conference, to be presented at your community meeting. We suggest that you do not use this resolution verbatim. Use it simply as a guide, bearing in mind our demand to be heard at San Francisco in connection with our plea that the gates of Palestine be opened to survivors of the European tragedy and the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

Resolutions similar to this should be adopted by as many Jewish and non-Jewish organizations in your community as possible. We urge you to publicize as fully as possible these resolutions, and when passed the text should be sent to The President, The White House, Washington, D. C. and to Mr. Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

AL:FBP
Enc.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Draft of Resolution

I

As Americans and as Jews, we greet the Conference of the United Nations about to assemble in San Francisco to lay the foundations of a lasting peace and we join in prayer with all liberty loving Americans that a new world order will realize the aspirations of civilized men everywhere for a world society that shall respect the dignity of man and assure to all peoples the right to live in peace and security.

In view of the fact that in the peaceful and orderly reconstruction of the world and its organization for peace and security all peoples are to have a voice in the determination of their own future, we ask that that right be granted also to the Jewish people so that they, like all others, shall be heard in the councils of the nations through their accredited representatives.

II

In order to protect individual human rights against arbitrary violation, we ask that the nations of the world embody in the charter of the new society to be formed an International Bill of Rights which shall guarantee:

- 1 - Full and complete protection of life and liberty for the inhabitants of all countries, without distinction of birth, nationality, language, race or religion.
- 2 - Unequivocal equality of rights in law and in fact for all the citizens of every country.
- 3 - The inalienable right of all religious, ethnic and cultural groups to maintain and foster their respective group identities on the basis of equality.

III

We ask that all the rights formerly granted to the Jewish people in Europe be restored to them, that all discriminatory laws and practices be abrogated and that destitute Jewish survivors be aided to rehabilitation and resettlement by the United Nations.

We ask that an end be put to the unbearable status of statelessness; that all property confiscated and stolen by the Nazis and their collaborators be returned to their original owners; that war criminals be punished for all misdeeds committed in their own countries and against their own nationals and against the peoples subjugated and enslaved in occupied lands.

IV

The homelessness of the Jewish people, its lack of a territory where it may live as a matter of right and not on sufferance, must come to an end; and for that purpose and to achieve that end, the reconstruction of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth is imperative.

After the First World War, the solution of the problem of the homelessness of the Jewish people through the reconstruction of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth was recognized and approved by 52 nations of the world, including the United States. On the basis of the covenant entered into with the Jewish people by the League of Nations, the Jewish people set itself to the task of recreating and rebuilding its historic homeland. That undertaking was illegally interrupted and the efforts of the Jewish people thwarted by the trustee appointed under the Mandate for Palestine. Today there is presented to the world the bewildering spectacle of a people persecuted and hunted, denied entrance into its own country and forced to become wanderers, stateless and homeless.

Under the terms of the Chamberlain White Paper of 1939, the doors of Palestine are now swinging shut to all Jewish immigration and a policy of appeasement promulgated at a time when the democracies were yielding to aggression, now comes to a shocking climax precisely when the democracies advance to triumph over aggression.

We ask that the doors of Palestine be opened at once to the hundreds of thousands of Jewish wanderers who are striving to reach a haven of peace and security and a sanctuary for national reconstruction.

V

Heartened by the assurances given to the Jewish people by the leaders of the United Nations and the wide-spread endorsement of Jewish aims expressed by leaders of religious and labor and liberal men everywhere, we ask that these assurances be translated without delay into terms of reality.

At this moment of decision, when a world of freedom and justice is being constructed by the architects of the peace, a just solution of the Jewish problem cannot again be postponed. Its deferment cruelly and needlessly prolongs the sufferings of the Jewish people, prejudices the achievement of their moral aspirations, violates the pledges given to them and stands in crass contradiction to the universal striving for justice and humanity which is to be the basis of the international organization to be founded in San Francisco.



4/3/45

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date April 3, 1945

From Arthur Lourie
Political Secretary

COPY

You have no doubt read the shocking statement of the Duke of Devonshire, Colonial Under-Secretary, made in the House of Lords, declaring that many European Jewish survivors do not wish to go to Palestine and that the Colonial Office has rejected a demand of the Jewish Agency for extra immigration certificates into Palestine.

We attach hereto a copy of a cable just received by us from Mr. Moshe Shertok, chief of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, which we urge you to read with the utmost attention.

It is not necessary for us to emphasize the urgency of the situation as described by Mr. Shertok and the plea he makes that we "undertake a major effort to prevail upon the British Government to fundamentally change its immigration policy by enabling immediate large-scale admission" so that the surviving remnant of European Jewry be spared and the rise of tension in Palestine, resentment in America and despair in Europe be prevented.

We are faced with a crisis: Now, finally, we must organize all our resources, all our facilities and power to make this "major effort" begged of us. Therefore, this is a renewed call to action. If you have already organized mass meetings, proceed with your plans with the greatest vigor. If you have not organized them, begin to do so at once. A meeting in every community is imperative.

WE MUST HOLD AS MANY MEETINGS AS WE CAN. EACH MEETING MUST ADD ITS VOICE TO AN APPEAL WHICH THE WORLD DARE NOT DENY. NOW MORE THAN EVER WE MUST BE HEARD AT SAN FRANCISCO. WE MUST OPEN THE DOORS OF PALESTINE NOW. WE MUST FIGHT FOR A JEWISH COMMONWEALTH NOW.

Don't wait for us to supply you with speakers. Get your own Congressmen, your own Senators, your own Mayors and your own churchmen.

We are launching a nation-wide advertising campaign. At this moment one of the country's largest advertising agencies has prepared for us and for you a number of half-page and full-page newspaper advertisements dramatizing our campaign and our cause, as no other means could. These will be forwarded to you for insertion in your local papers within the next few days.

This fight is the fight of all of us.

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"COLONIAL OFFICE REFUSAL GRANT IMMIGRATION PERMITS FOR BERGENBELSEN SURVIVORS WHO ESCAPED TO SWITZERLAND INDICATES IMPLACABLE RIGOR PRESENT RESTRICTIVE POLICY. SINCE OUR APPLICATION FOR BERGENBELSEN REFUGEES FURTHER TRANSPORTS OF SURVIVORS FROM THERESIENSTADT OTHERS ARRIVED SWITZERLAND, ALL PRESSING ADMISSION PALESTINE. PRIOR ARRIVAL THESE GROUPS WE HAD ALLOCATED FROM REMAINING BALANCE OF CERTIFICATES STILL AVAILABLE UNDER WHITE PAPER A THOUSAND CERTIFICATES FOR DISTRIBUTION AMONG TWENTYSIX THOUSAND REFUGEES IN SWITZERLAND. THIS THOUSAND REDUCED TO SIX HUNDRED AS PART OF GENERAL REDUCTION TO MAKE PROVISION FOR ENTRY REFUGEES FROM MAURITIUS WHOSE RETURN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY APPROVED BUT INSISTED MUST BE DEDUCTED FROM WHITE PAPER BALANCE. WHEN THIS COMMUNICATED TO PALESTINE OFFICE GENEVA ITS REACTION BY CABLE 3/14 WAS FOLLOWING QUOTE YOURS 3/9 CAUSED US TERRIBLE CONSTERNATION STOP AFTER INDESCRIBABLY HARD WORK OVER MANY WEEKS WE COMPLETED DISTRIBUTION CERTIFICATES AND UNDERTOOK ALL STEPS TO OBTAIN TRANSIT VISAS STOP SWISS AUTHORITIES FULLY SUPPORTED OUR EFFORTS STOP PRESENT REDUCTION OF ALREADY SMALL ALLOCATION WILL VERY GRAVELY PREJUDICE POSITION REFUGEES HERE STOP WE DECLINE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSEQUENCE RESULTING FROM REDUCTION QUOTE. UNQUOTE THIS REACTION ILLUSTRATES INHUMAN EFFECTS PRESENT PROCEDURE OF TRYING MAKE DWINDLING BALANCE OF WHITE PAPER CERTIFICATES WHICH ON APRIL FIRST

PROBABLY ONLY 4000 GO ROUND ALL COUNTRIES STOP OUR APPLICATION FOR 10300 ORIGINALLY INTENDED AS INITIAL SYMBOLIC MEASURE IMMEDIATELY RELIEF NOW FIGURE LUDICROUSLY ANACHRONISTIC STOP OUTCRY FOR CERTIFICATES INCREASING WEEKLY IN SCOPE AND INTENSITY STOP WITH ARRIVAL YESTERDAYS TRANSPORT LID PUT ON EMIGRATION FROM ITALY WHERE NO SINGLE PERMIT LEFT FOR DISTRIBUTION STOP YOU FULLY AWARE POSITION BALIANS WESTERN EUROPE STOP SINCE DAVID BENGURIONS DEPARTURE RECEIVED AUTHENTIC REPORTS POSITION POLISH REMNANT FROM ZIONIST EMISSARIES LUBLIN WHO REACHED BUCHAREST INDESCRIBABLE DESTITUTION WHILE FIERCENESS OF RAGING ANTISEMITISM INDICATED BY FACT FEW GENTILES WHO UNDER NAZIS WERE INSTRUMENTAL SAVING JEWS NOW BEGGING THEIR PROTEGES KEEP THIS SECRET LEST THEY BE EXPOSED PUBLIC WRATH STOP MURDERS SURVIVING JEWS BY NAZIFIED POLES OCCURING FREQUENTLY STOP OUR REPRESENTATIVE EHUD UEBERALL BROUGHT FROM ISTANBUL REPORTS POSITION BUDAPEST APPALLING DESTITUTION CHILD MORTALITY STOP BUDAPEST ONLY PLACE WHERE HUNGARIAN JEWS SAFE BECAUSE CONCENTRATED BUT STRAY SURVIVORS EMERGING FROM HIDEOUTS IN PROVINCES BEING KILLED BY ANTISEMITES BROAD DAYLIGHT STOP OUR UNABILITY PROVIDE CERTIFICATES EVEN IN SMALL PART MAKES STRAIN HUMANLY UNBEARABLE STOP ON OTHER HAND PALESTINE CONTINUING IN FULL EMPLOYMENT PRODUCTION BADLY NEEDS ADDITIONAL LABOUR FORCE WHICH UNAVAILABLE. EVEN CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES SHOW TENS THOUSANDS EARNERS ABSORBABLE IN INDUSTRY MIXED FARMING REVIVING CITRUS BUILDING INDUSTRIES ALSO SCHEMES READY FOR ACCOMMODATION 20000 CHILDREN STOP HOUSING PROBLEM PRESENTS NO INSUPERABLE DIFFICULTIES IF GOVERNMENT ASSISTS ADEQUATELY BY AUTHORISING IMPORTS STOP EVEN UNDER DIFFICULTEST CONDITIONS POSITION REFUGEES PALESTINE INFINITELY PREFERABLE PRESENT STATE CONGESTION OR ROOFLESSNESS EUROPE STOP EXECUTIVE JEWISH AGENCY AFTER FULLY CONSIDERING POSITION ALL ASPECTS URGES MAJOR EFFORT PREVAIL GOVERNMENT FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE IMMIGRATION POLICY BY ENABLING IMMEDIATE LARGE SCALE ADMISSION VIEW SPARING FURTHER DETERIORATION REMNANTS JEWRY PREVENTING RISE TENSION PALESTINE DESPAIR EUROPE.

"EXECUTIVE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE"

4/3/45

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Members of American Zionist Emergency Council **Date** April 6, 1945

From Arthur Lourie

Enclosed for your information are copies of two memoranda dated April 3, which were sent to Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees.

AL:CSS
Encls.

MEMORANDUM

To - Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees

Date

April 11, 1945

From Arthur Lourie
Political Secretary

As we have previously informed you, in connection with our present emergency, a number of very effective half-page and full-page newspaper ads are being prepared for us by one of the country's largest advertising agencies. These ads -- texts and mats -- which are being written gratis for us -- will be on their way to you within a few days, but due to our limited budget we are able only to allocate money for their insertion in Washington and New York newspapers.

However, it is imperative that newspapers throughout the country carry these advertisements. They will dramatize our campaign and our cause as no other means could. Therefore, we call upon you to see how you can underwrite the insertion of these advertisements in your own newspapers.

From some of you we have already received requests for advertisements and word that you have already purchased space in your newspapers. This is to thank you and to urge action by those of you who have not yet taken such action. May we remind you that by buying advertising space in your local newspapers, you help make them receptive to any publicity material you give them and gain their support for your meeting and for our cause.

We have here a unique opportunity to present our case before the country in a most effective manner. Remember, these advertisements, combining the brains and experience of the best copy-writers of our day, are being prepared at no cost to us. The least we can do is to take advantage of this opportunity.

Please let us know immediately what you can do to arrange for the insertion of these advertisements in your own community.

AL:FPB

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Members of American Zionist Emergency Council **Date** April 13, 1945

From Arthur Lourie

Attached for your information are copies of two telegrams sent April 12 and April 13 to all Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees.

AL:CSS
Encs.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Members of American Zionist Emergency Council Date April 12, 1945

From Arthur Lourie

Attached for your information is a memorandum, dated April 11, sent to
Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees.

AL:CSS
Enc.

COPY OF STRAIGHT WIRE SENT TO CHAIRMEN OF LOCAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEES

APRIL 13, 1945

VIEW TRAGIC DEATH PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WITHHOLD ACTION PREVIOUS TELEGRAM
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

ARTHUR LOURIE



COPY OF WIRE SENT TO CHAIRMEN OF LOCAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEES

NLT

APRIL 12, 1945

ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE YOU ARRANGE HAVE SENT IMMEDIATELY AS MANY WIRES AS POSSIBLE TO WHITE HOUSE AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON EXPRESSING URGENCY IMMEDIATE OPENING GATES OF PALESTINE UPROOTED JEWS WHOSE TRAGIC SITUATION IN LIBERATED COUNTRIES DEMANDS ACTION FORTHWITH. SEE JEWISH AGENCY CABLEGRAM MAILED YOU APRIL THIRD. INFORMATION REACHING US INDICATES THIS MATTER UTMOST IMPORTANCE AND OUTRAGED PUBLIC OPINION MUST BE REGISTERED BY FLOOD OF TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS ESPECIALLY IN VIEW DAMAGING UNFOUNDED STATEMENT BY DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE IN HOUSE OF LORDS. USE YOUR OWN TEXT EMPHASIZE YOUR APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WAY BUT TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION.

ARTHUR LOURIE

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date April 27, 1945

From Arthur Lourie
Political Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

In connection with the San Francisco Conference, many official delegations representing the Arab states have come to this country and are likely, both during and after the San Francisco Conference, to visit different cities for purposes of anti-Zionist propaganda. We would ask you to watch out for any meeting that might be organized on their behalf in your own community and to take appropriate action with a view to having the Zionist side adequately represented. Please keep us informed of any such activity.

Apart from the Arab delegations, American propagandists on their behalf have been more active of late. In particular, Dr. John Badeau of Cairo University, has been addressing audiences in different centers. To quote one report which we have received, "Dr. Badeau is adroit and unusually adept at dodging and twisting questions and facts." Please be prepared for him if he comes to your community and let us have a report of his address.

For your guidance I enclose a copy of a letter sent on behalf of the American Palestine Committee to the secretary of a club in Pittsburgh which had been addressed by Dr. Badeau.

AL:CK
Enc.

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April 19, 1945

Dear Mr. _____:

Mrs. Blanche Shepard, Director of the Club Program Service, has passed on to me your letter to her of April 5th with reference to the address by Dr. John S. Badeau and I hope I may be permitted to reply.

May I deal first with your concluding paragraph with reference to promoting freer migration into our own as well as other countries. So far as the United States is concerned, however regrettable, it remains a fact that the prospect of obtaining an amendment of our immigration laws such as would permit a substantial immigration of Jews into this country is so remote as to make the proposal meaningless as a realistic contribution to the problem. You are possibly aware of the very emphatic resolution on this subject of the Veterans' Organization and there is no doubt that their view is shared also by large sections of opinion in this country. Even the great labor organizations, which have been warmly sympathetic to the re-establishment of the Jewish National Home are strongly opposed to immigration into this country. Indeed, on the basis of a nationwide tour which I have recently made, I believe that a propaganda campaign directed towards liberalizing the immigration laws would have as its first result a strong reaction by way of a widespread increase in anti-Semitism here.

As to immigration to other countries, as you no doubt know, President Roosevelt was responsible in 1938 and also in 1943 for two international conferences, at Evian and Bermuda, which scoured the map in the hope of finding places of refuge for the tortured Jews of Europe. These conferences created a good deal of fanfare but their practical achievement was absolutely nil. Only the other day a South African friend of mine was telling me how in 1937 a boatload of 500 Jews from Germany arriving in that large and under-populated country was received with such hostility that the government forthwith enacted legislation virtually prohibiting further Jewish immigration. The position in the South American countries is not much better. It is impossible therefore to lull one's conscience any longer with vague hopes of finding territories to which Jews may emigrate. One is driven to the inescapable conclusion that the undertaking at the end of the last war to establish a national home for the Jewish people to which such of them as may wish to go shall be entitled to enter as of right, is the only answer.

The Jews in Palestine have shown what, if given the opportunity, they are able to do. Their colonizing achievement there is unique in the history of migrations and settlement. Nor has this been done at the expense of injustice to the local Arab population. The latter have benefited greatly from Jewish development, and their standards of living today are vastly superior to those of the fellahin in Egypt where, as Dr. Badeau will know, last year in the upper Nile Valley alone 175,000 died from a combination of malnutrition and malaria.

Coming to what Dr. Badeau described as the "actual political and psychological situation," it is of vital importance to remember that while anti-Zionist Arab leaders led by the notorious Mufti of Jerusalem have, ever since the last war, held out dire threats of what would happen if Jewish settlement should continue, the Arabs today accept as an accomplished fact the 600,000 Jews now in Palestine, as against the 80,000 in 1920, even though they opposed at each successive stage the increase to the present numbers. If the proposal for the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth were carried through with determination and speed, the Arabs would in the end likewise accept the accomplished fact of the existence of that Commonwealth. The Arab countries of the Middle East are for the most part sparsely populated and greatly underdeveloped. Their governments are unstable and the masses of their population live in backwardness and poverty. The Jews in Palestine can serve, and have already begun to do so, as a creative and civilizing influence for the whole of that region. Any solution, however, can be premised only on a strong firmly rooted Jewish national entity in Palestine.

Civilization owes it to the Jewish people to see that the great work initiated at the end of the last war with the endorsement not only of the League of Nations but also of our Government and people, is brought to a successful conclusion.

May I say in conclusion that I understand Dr. Badeau, who is making speeches in many centers in opposition to Zionism, in all the years that he was in Egypt did not feel it necessary to see something of the remarkable work of Jewish Palestine next door. Had he done so, I feel he would have found there a useful corrective to the threatening words to which he apparently gave heed in Cairo. He would have seen the splendid constructive achievement of people who, but for the support given the Zionist idea by the nations of the world twenty-five years ago, would certainly have fallen victim to Hitler's concentration camps. Would that it had been millions and not hundreds of thousands who had thus been saved.

Yours sincerely,

HML:LCK

Howard M. LeSourd

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Chairman of Local Emergency Committees *Date* April 27, 1945

From Arthur Lourie
Political Secretary

We have received requests from a number of Local Emergency Committees in connection with their scheduled Mass Meetings for the text of a new Resolution which shall deal specifically with our Zionist objectives, and a draft text is enclosed for your information and use if so desired.

If your meeting is under joint auspices with the American Jewish Conference, you will at the same time wish to pass an additional Resolution which will deal specifically with the Conference objectives. (Text of this resolution was sent to you with my memorandum of April 3rd).

Copies of the Resolutions should be sent to: The President, The White House, Washington, D. C.; The Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, D. C.; and The British Ambassador, The British Embassy, Washington, D. C.

AL:LD
Enc.

RESOLUTION

ADOPTED AT RALLY FOR JEWISH RIGHTS
LEWISOHN STADIUM, NEW YORK CITY
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 1945

We greet the Conference of the United Nations about to assemble in San Francisco to lay the foundations of a lasting peace; we join in prayer with all liberty-loving Americans that the aspirations of civilized mankind for a new world order that shall respect the dignity of man and assure to all peoples the right to live in peace and security may be realized.

WHEREAS, the solution of the problem of the homelessness of the Jews as a people is integral to the establishment of a just and durable peace and the nations of the world gave international recognition at the end of the last war through the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate for Palestine to the right of the Jewish people to re-establish their national home in Palestine.

WHEREAS, the situation of the survivors of European Jewry whose full tragedy has been revealed by our liberating forces continues calamitous, and

WHEREAS, great numbers of these survivors, homeless and uprooted, and living under conditions of physical and moral degradation seek the right and opportunity to begin life again among their own people in their own land, and

WHEREAS, ignoring the humanitarian needs of the situation as well as the rights internationally guaranteed to the Jewish people and these survivors of the Nazi holocaust are still today prohibited entry into Palestine, and groups of them are even being transferred to new detention camps in North Africa, and

WHEREAS, the recent request of the Jewish Agency for Palestine for additional immigration certificates has been rejected by the British Government thus prolonging unnecessarily the individual tragedy of every one of these persons.

(more)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this gathering urges:

1. The abolition forthwith of all present restrictions and limitations on free Jewish immigration into Palestine and on the right of Jews to purchase and settle on the land there.
2. The immediate announcement by the responsible Powers of their determination to reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth in consonance with the underlying intent and purpose of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate for Palestine.
3. The grant to the Jewish Agency for Palestine of representation and a voice in all international conferences, including that at San Francisco, in all matters which may affect the future status of Palestine and Jewish rights or interests there.

We also urge that the Jews in liberated areas who desire to emigrate to Palestine and to rebuild their lives in the Jewish National Home be given all possible assistance to that end by the Great Powers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of State, and to the Embassies in Washington of Great Britain, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of France.

* * *

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Members of American Zionist Emergency Council *Date* April 30, 1945

From Arthur Lourie

Enclosed for your information are two memoranda with attachments, dated April 27, sent to Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees.

AL:CSS

Encs.

"I am convinced the American people give their support to this aim..."

PROMISES!

"We call for the opening of Palestine to unrestricted immigration and land ownership..."

PROMISES!

"His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish People..."

"The United States of America favors the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people..."

PROMISES!

"The Allied Nations... are agreed that in Palestine shall be laid the foundation of a Jewish Homeland..."

When Will They Be Kept?

1945?

5,000,000 Jewish Dead! 1,500,000 BEGGING FOR LIFE!

What is to be done with the living? What is to be done with the broken Jews of Europe who have finally escaped from this Gethsemane? They plead to enter Palestine: Palestine will welcome them as nowhere else in the world. Palestine has work for their hands, sustenance for their spirit. In Palestine alone they will be among their brethren, not as refugees, not as aliens, but as citizens among fellow citizens. In Palestine alone they can rebuild their shattered lives with dignity, and draw new strength from the ancient land into which the Jewish people have so long poured their energies, their hopes.

But if NOT Palestine...

Shall YOU doom them to be keepers of the cemeteries of their dead?

Shall YOU doom them to walk amid the dust and ashes of their dead? For the dust of their parents, the ashes of their children, fill the very air they breathe in the charnel house of Europe.

Shall YOU doom them to live, homeless and uprooted, in lands where the virus of Nazism has poisoned even innocent hearts of children?

We Appeal to the Conscience of Humanity...

That the Jewish people be heard at San Francisco to present their case.

That the gates of Palestine be opened to the survivors of European Jewry who have no other haven.

That Palestine be reconstituted as a Jewish Commonwealth in accord with the mighty pledges of the democratic nations.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

We Demand ACTION Now!

GIANT MASS RALLY

Lewisohn Stadium, 136th St. and Amsterdam Ave.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2:30 P.M. • ADMISSION FREE!

SPEAKERS:

Senator Robert F. Wagner

Abba Hillel Silver

Stephen S. Wise

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia

Hayim Greenberg

Louis Lipsky

Sponsored by

American Jewish Conference

American Zionist Emergency Council

**IN CASE OF RAIN the Rally Will Be Held in the GREAT HALL,
City College, 139th Street and Convent Avenue**

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date May 15, 1945

From Arthur Lourie
Political Secretary

We enclose for use in connection with any mass meetings still scheduled in your community, the mat and proof of an advertisement entitled, "The Ashes of the Dead Speak"; and a circular entitled, "Promises, Promises, Promises -- When Will They Be Kept?"

This attached material is not part of the nationwide advertising campaign announced earlier. In connection with that campaign, we have a series of six 1,000 line informational advertisements on hand. These have not been sent to you because, in the considered opinion of the American Zionist Emergency Council Executive now in San Francisco, these advertisements can be used much more effectively in the very near future. The question is simply a question of timing. We are not unaware that there is need to let the American people know the case for Palestine now, but it is our belief that the need for these same advertisements may be much greater very soon. We want to use our ammunition then, not now.

For your information, we stress that this advertising campaign was conceived and put into operation before President Roosevelt's death. His death necessitated a complete rewriting of the advertisements which were then in preparation. Then came a period of daily watchful waiting to see the direction taken in Washington and later in San Francisco; and the decision since made by those of us on the scene in San Francisco that this nationwide advertising campaign should be temporarily held up.

At such time as it is deemed advisable to launch this campaign, you will be notified and the appropriate material sent to you.

AL:FLD
Encs.

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE

41 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 2-4917

American Palestine Committee

Chairman

HON. ROBERT F. WAGNER

Secretary

HON. HELEN GAHAGAN DOUGLAS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

DR. DANIEL L. MARSH

Chairman

J. M. BLALOCK

MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

PROF. CARL J. FRIEDRICH

WILLIAM GREEN

ERIC A. JOHNSTON

HON. WILLIAM H. KING

HON. JOHN W. MCCORMACK

PHILIP MURRAY

HON. CLAUDE PEPPER

HON. FRANK A. PICARD

MISS DAPHNE ROBERT

MGR. JOHN A. RYAN

HON. ELBERT D. THOMAS

HON. ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG

DR. MARY E. WOOLLEY

Director

DEAN HOWARD M. LESOURD

•

Christian Council on Palestine

Chairman

DR. HENRY A. ATKINSON

Executive Committee

PROF. JAMES LUTHER ADAMS

PROF. WILLIAM F. ALBRIGHT

DR. JOHN W. BRADBURY

REV. KARL M. CHWOROWSKY

REV. WALTON E. COLE

REV. DR. ALBERT E. DAY

REV. RICHARD E. EVANS

PROF. S. RALPH HARLOW

REV. DR. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES

PROF. HALFORD E. LUCCOCK

BISHOP FRANCIS J. MCCONNELL

PROF. FRANCIS E. MCMAHON

PROF. REINHOLD NIEBUHR

REV. LESLIE T. PENNINGTON

REV. DR. DANIEL A. POLING

REV. DR. HAROLD PAUL SLOAN

PROF. PAUL TILLICH

DR. PIERRE VAN PAASSEN

DR. HOWARD B. WARREN

PROF. HENRY N. WIEMAN

Executive Secretary

DR. CARL HERMANN VOSS

May 18, 1945

The American Christian Palestine Committee, expressing widespread Christian conviction, believes that every effort must be made now to fulfill the international promises made to the Jews concerning their national homeland in Palestine.

The Nazi regime in the course of its monstrous campaign of systematic murder and torture has almost annihilated the Jewish communities of Europe and for millions of Jews, the end of the war in Europe comes too late. Horrible disclosures concerning the Buchenwald, Maidanek, Oswiecim and other prison and concentration camps have shocked the civilized world. Hitler waged his war against the helpless Jews of Europe with a barbarity and determination which we in this country have only now begun fully to realize. At this moment we must do all we can to insure justice to the remnant of European Jewry and make impossible a repetition of this tragedy.

Therefore, we are asking you and the other members of the Senate to sign the enclosed letter addressed to President Truman as a current reiteration of our traditional national policy. The party platforms of both Republicans and Democrats affirm their support of the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization so that in accordance with the full intent and purpose of the Balfour Declaration, Palestine may be constituted as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

Your support through the signing of this letter will be greatly appreciated by Americans who are deeply concerned about justice for the Jews and the peace of the world.

For your convenience an addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for the return of the signed letter.

Thanking you for your cooperation, we are

Helen Gahagan Douglas
National Secretary

Howard M. LeSourd
Co-Director

Carl Hermann Voss
Co-Director

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE

41 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 2-4917

American Palestine Committee

May 18, 1945

Chairman

HON. ROBERT F. WAGNER

Secretary

HON. HELEN GAHAGAN DOUGLAS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

DR. DANIEL L. MARSH

Chairman

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HON. CLAUDE PEPPER

HON. FRANK A. PICARD

MISS DAPHNE ROBERT

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Director

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Christian Council on Palestine

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PROF. REINHOLD NIEBUHR

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DR. CARL HERMANN VOSS

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Therefore, we are asking the members of the House of Representatives to sign the enclosed letter addressed to President Truman as a current reiteration of our traditional national policy. The party platforms of both Republicans and Democrats affirm their support of the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization so that in accordance with the full intent and purpose of the Balfour Declaration, Palestine may be constituted as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

The Honorable John W. McCormack, Democratic leader, and the Honorable Joseph Martin, Republican leader, have already affixed their signatures. Your support through the signing of this letter will be greatly appreciated by Americans who are deeply concerned about justice for the Jews and the peace of the world.

For your convenience an addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for the return of the signed letter.

Thanking you for your cooperation, we are

Helen Gahagan Douglas
National Secretary

Howard M. LeSourd
Co-Director

Carl Hermann Voss
Co-Director

UNITED STATES SENATE

Washington, D. C.

May 18, 1945

Dear Senator:

The American Christian Palestine Committee is requesting the Senators to sign a letter to President Truman, in which it is urged that immediate steps be taken to open Palestine to Jewish immigration and pave the way for a democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

We have considered the reintroduction of the resolution, which we offered in 1943 and 1944, but we have decided that a letter of this kind to the President is better at this time.

In the war in Europe, which has happily come to a close, the United Nations had no more vigorous and sacrificing Allies, in proportion to their numbers, than the Jews of Palestine. They gave their lives and their wealth to further the war against Hitler. Now that the peace is in the making, it appears that the Jew again may be made a football of power politics, but this, in the interests of the welfare and freedom of mankind, must not continue. Palestine as a homeland has been promised to the Jews, and they need and deserve it now.

We feel that this subject should be brought as forcefully as possible to the attention of the President, and urge our colleagues to sign this joint letter.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert F. Wagner

Robert A. Taft

MEMORANDUM

To - Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees

Date May 21, 1945

From - Arthur Lourie
Political Secretary

IMPORTANT -- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Following our memorandum of May 1st entitled "Basic Memorandum Organizing Christian Action on Behalf of Palestine," we present a report of what was done in Boston, culminating in the American Christian Palestine Conference held there on April 9th. We submit it as an example for your information of what excellent work can be done in this field.

- - - - -

Immediate opening of the gates of Palestine, its reconstitution as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth, and a demand that the Jewish case be heard at San Francisco, were urged by more than 800 outstanding leaders of the Christian community of Boston at the American Christian Palestine Conference held April 9th at Hotel Statler. The Conference, called by the American Palestine Committee and the Christian Council on Palestine, took place under the sponsorship of Governor Maurice J. Tobin of Massachusetts; Senators Leverett M. Saltonstall and David I. Walsh of Massachusetts; Congressman John W. McCormack, Majority Leader of the U. S. House of Representatives; Archbishop Richard B. Cushing (Catholic); Bishop Lewis O. Hartman (Methodist); Bishop W. Appleton Lawrence (Episcopalian) and Charles Francis Adams.

The Conference was divided into three sessions: an afternoon forum which began at 2:30 P.M., a women's forum and tea which began at 3:00 P.M., and a dinner meeting which began at 6:30 P.M. More than 40% of the Conference participants attended all three sessions.

Speakers at the Conference were Dr. Carl J. Friedrich, Professor of Government, Harvard University; Dr. Walter Clay Lowdermilk, author and assistant of the Soil Conservation Bureau, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Dr. Wendell Phillips, Pastor of Christ Church, Rye, N. Y.; Dr. Carl Hermann Voss, Executive Secretary, Christian Council on Palestine; Mrs. Walter Clay Lowdermilk; Mrs. Charles E. Wyzansky, an organizer of the Youth Aliyah movement; Congressman John M. Coffee of Washington; Dean Howard M. LeSourd, Director, American Palestine Committee; and Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Director, Commission on Palestine Surveys.

The interest in the Conference and the response of the community itself was remarkable, in view of the fact that the American Palestine Committee and the Christian Council on Palestine concentrated their efforts on a selected cross-section of less than 2,000 Boston Christian leaders. The attached resolution was adopted and copies were sent to President Truman, Secretary of State Stettinius, all members of the delegation at San Francisco, and to Senators and Representatives from Massachusetts.

Newspaper coverage was excellent. In some newspapers the Conference and its demands made the front page against the competition of war news from Europe.

At the close of the Conference, the entire attendance constituted themselves into the American Christian Palestine Committee and a slate of officers was elected to

follow the program adopted by the Conference. Governor Tobin of Massachusetts accepted the chairmanship of this committee.

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The reaction of the Jewish community of Boston to the Conference was splendid. The prestige of the Zionist movement was considerably heightened in Boston as a result, and a few of the Jewish guests at the Conference (they were limited to 20 in number) later offered to finance completely any meetings that might be held in the future under the sponsorship of Christian and non-sectarian groups, so that our program could be carried out as widely as possible.

AL:FBP
Enc.



American Christian Palestine Committee
85 Devonshire Street
Boston 9, Massachusetts

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Declaration Adopted by the American Christian Palestine Conference
of Boston Meeting at Hotel Statler, Boston, April 9, 1945.

Presented by the Rev. David R. Hunter, Chairman of
the Findings Committee whose members are the
Rev. Donald Lothrop, Mr. John McLaren,
Dean Jesse B. Davis, and Miss Lucille Eaves.

We meet on the eve of the forging of the peace.

As American citizens, as Christians who hold that the welfare of humanity is the profound goal of true citizenship and who stand ready to support the leaders of the United Nations in their historic task to establish a social order in which all peoples, large and small, may live in peace and security, we have gathered here today in this American Christian Palestine Conference.

We believe that one of the fundamental problems facing the world today is the problem of rehabilitating the peoples who have been crushed by Fascist aggression. We hold that one of the challenging issues of our time is the homelessness of the Jewish people. Rehabilitation for these surviving victims of Hitlerism must be the first task in the United Nations' reconstruction of society.

Out of the crucible of the last World War and in recognition of the historic connection of the Jewish people with Palestine came the promise of the civilized world embodied in the Balfour Declaration. That promise, made by Great Britain after consultation with the United States and other Allied nations, was incorporated in the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine which designated Great Britain as the trustee charged with the obligation for its fulfillment.

In reliance upon that solemn covenant, the Jewish people returned to Palestine to join those of their brethren who had never left the land of Israel. There they worked a modern miracle. A land made derelict by centuries of neglect became an oasis in the midst of waste. They turned marshes into fertile fields, made barren hills fruitful with forest and orchard, drove out pestilence and

disease, and brought to a people struggling in the morass of medieval feudalism all the blessings of the Western world. They created in those great vastnesses of feudal reaction the sole bastion of democracy in the Middle East. When the second World War erupted, that bulwark held firm against the enemy.

The contribution by Jewish Palestine alone to the cause of the United Nations is one of the glorious chapters of this war. The enlistment in this war of tens of thousands of young men and women from Palestine represented in proportion to the population the largest voluntary enlistment from any country in the world.

But this promise, upon the basis of which the Jewish people poured out their lives, their treasure and their vitality was, through political expediency, gradually whittled down. In 1939, as a last capitulation to the forces of aggression, the policy of appeasement whose seed was sown at Munich reached the full flower of infamy in the Chamberlain White Paper. It was issued as a gesture of appeasement to certain Arab leaders who, influenced and supported by Hitler and Mussolini, sought to whip up their people against the British and the Jews. Recognized as the last relic of the Munich era, this act reversed the very objectives of the Mandate for Palestine. It was never assented to by the United States whose assent to any modification of the Mandate is required. It was, in the words of Winston Churchill, a "plain breach of a solemn obligation."

Now as we meet in sight of victory in this second World War, we ask the civilized world to right this wrong and fulfill this great promise. At this moment of decision when the world of freedom and justice is being constructed by the architects of the peace, a just solution of the Jewish problem cannot again be postponed.

We ask that when the democratic leaders of the world meet in the councils of nations, the Jews be given an opportunity to be heard. No decision with regard to Palestine can be valid without a Jewish representation in the deliberations which determine that decision.

We ask that pending the final peace the gates of Palestine be opened now. The broken remnants of European Jewry may thus rebuild their shattered lives in Palestine where they will be welcome as nowhere else in the world.

In accord with America's traditional policy of support for Jewish aspirations in Palestine, reaffirmed and reenforced by the platforms of both major political parties and by an overwhelming majority of the members of Congress, we respectfully address ourselves to the President of the United States with the earnest plea to use his good offices, as promised by him in his historic statements before and after Yalta, in assuring early and definitive action on Palestine.

In pursuance of our convictions here stated, we now organized ourselves into the American Christian Palestine Committee of Boston and dedicate ourselves to the task of achieving justice for this tragically betrayed people. We call upon our members to bend their efforts, individually and collectively, to this end.

We call upon our members to urge upon the organizations to which they belong -- civic, political, and fraternal -- to join with them in appealing to the President, to the State Department, to their chosen representatives in Congress, and to the American delegates to the San Francisco Conference, to support them in this great campaign for human liberation.

* * *

MEMORANDUM

To, Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date May 21, 1945

From Arthur Lourie
Political Secretary

Under the auspices of the American Christian Palestine Committee a letter has gone forward to the Senators and Representatives of the United States Congress requesting them to sign a letter to the President which urges that immediate steps be taken to open Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and to establish Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

Copies of the letters and enclosures are attached hereto.

To buttress the activities of the American Christian Palestine Committee and to ensure a majority of signatories from both Houses, Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees throughout the country can cooperate in making this a successful undertaking by:

1. Seeing to it that several influential members of each community write personal letters to their Congressmen stating that they understand that the American Christian Palestine Committee has sent such a letter and urging them to join the other members of Congress in signing it;
2. Calling a special meeting of the Local Emergency Committee at which a resolution should be passed urging the Representatives and Senators to sign. The resolution should bear the names of local committee members.

Please do not publicize this project in any way at present. As soon as the results are tabulated we will send you a full report and directives for further action.

AL:CMH

A

Letter

to the

President of the United States



A Letter to the
President of the United States
From the Members of the Senate

Dear Mr. President:

THE victorious close of the war in Europe makes it timely and urgent to address you now on a subject which may well be the testing ground of our determination to achieve a stable peace based on justice and equality.

The story of the monstrous atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis needs no repetition. The Jewish people were deliberately singled out for wholesale annihilation, and in this suffered beyond all other peoples. Civilization owes it to the Jewish people to see that the great work of reconstituting Palestine as the Jewish Commonwealth initiated at the end of the last war, with the endorsement of the League of Nations and of our Government and people, is brought to a successful conclusion.

Every President of the United States since Woodrow Wilson has reaffirmed the support of the American Government for the restoration of the Jewish National Home. The United States Congress, as early as 1922, endorsed that policy. The approval was reaffirmed by the American-British Convention of 1924. The two major American political parties in 1944 declared at their respective national conventions their support of this policy, and thirty-three of our States representing eighty-five percent of the American population have similarly gone on record, through resolutions adopted by their respective Legislatures, in support of Jewish aspirations in Palestine.

All efforts to find refuge for the uprooted Jews of Europe have been fruitless. It is apparent that the undertaking at the end of the last war to establish Palestine as a national home for the Jewish people is the only answer.

The Jews have shown what they are able to create in their ancestral home, both as colonizers in peace and as allies in war. Their record in both respects is superb. They have established a sound economy. Their achievements in industry, agriculture and public works are proof that the land they are so admirably reclaiming can absorb all who seek a home there. Their single-minded devotion to the Allied cause, and their contribution of blood and toil which in Palestine is out of all proportion to their number, constitutes an outstanding chapter in the history of our common struggle.

Mr. President, we believe that the time for action is now. We respectfully urge, now that hostilities in Europe have ceased, that all powers of our Government be exerted toward the immediate fulfillment of that policy to which America is so deeply committed. We earnestly request you to use your influence with the Government of Great Britain, the Mandatory for Palestine, to open forthwith the doors of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization; and we hope that you will urge all interested governments to join with the United States toward the end of establishing Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth at the earliest possible time.

To the attainment of these ends — which have the endorsement of the American people — we pledge you our support.

Respectfully yours,

[undated]

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date

From Harry L. Shapiro

CONFIDENTIAL

The project which is the subject of this memorandum will spearhead our most intensive campaign to date. It is extremely important for our future political activity that we canvass all candidates for the United States Senate and House of Representatives who are up for election this November, and obtain from them endorsements of our program.

Inasmuch as both the Democratic and Republican Parties have included in their respective platforms planks which clearly favor the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, so that a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth may be established there, it should not be difficult to obtain affirmations of this program from the candidates for Congress.

I feel quite confident that you will know how to approach the candidates in your district. There is, however, one special instruction which we urge you to follow carefully. You should not contact the candidates as representatives of any of our organizations, but should approach them as individual voters and as constituents. In other words, candidates of the Democratic Party should be spoken to by Democratic voters, and Republican candidates should be met by Republicans.

In your Congressional district, the candidates are

_____.

_____.

_____.

The enclosed forms, which you should ask the candidates to sign, contain the Palestine planks of both parties.

It is most desirable that you or your representative visit the above candidates personally to secure their endorsements, but if this is not feasible, we are enclosing a suggested letter which might be used. Please note that if you use this letter, it should be written on the personal stationery of local citizens. Naturally, you may alter the letter as you see fit, particularly if more than one person communicates with the candidates in this way.

After you have obtained the signatures of the candidates to the attached forms, please forward these immediately to our New York office. Please bear in mind that this activity should be completed and the signatures obtained not later than September 20th.

I feel certain that you will carry out this highly important and confidential assignment in an efficient and effective manner.

HLS:HH
Encs.

[undated]

(SUGGESTED LETTER TO EVERY CANDIDATE FOR THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE UNITED STATES SENATE)

Dear Candidate:

As you are aware, the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, each without a dissenting vote, adopted platforms favoring the establishment in Palestine of a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

This action pledges both major political parties to the execution of the intent and purpose of the Balfour Declaration, promulgated during World War One, with the approval of the United States, Great Britain, and forty-nine other allied and associated nations, for the purpose of finding a solution to the tragic problem of the Jewish people of Europe. Because the Jew has been the greatest victim of Hitler's savagery, the need for this solution is greater today than ever.

The unanimous action of the two major political parties in adopting almost identical platform pledges is proof that the American people have come to regard this constructive solution of the basic Jewish problem of the world today as one of the important objectives of a just world peace which, all of us are agreed, should follow this war.

Because we are confident that you too are in accord with these party pledges of elemental justice to the Jewish people, we are requesting your signature to the attached statement.

Very sincerely yours,

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees Date October 19, 1944

From Harry L. Shapiro

The historic events of the past week, which augur well for favorable definitive action on the Palestine question, constitute some of the most significant gains we have made since the American Zionist Emergency Council, under the leadership of Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, began its program of intensive political work on the American scene.

On October 14, 1944, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Executive Committee Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, was authorized by Senator Robert A. Taft to make public the following letter which Senator Taft had received from Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson:

War Department
Washington, D. C.

October 10, 1944

"My dear Senator:

"I refer to your letter of September 12, 1944, regarding S.R. 247, introduced by Senator Wagner and yourself on the subject of opening the doors of Palestine to the free entry of Jews into that country.

"At the time your resolution was being considered by the Foreign Relations Committee the endorsement of such a proposal by the Congress had grave implications which would seriously have interfered with the progress of the war. In response to your inquiry I have reviewed the considerations which applied at that time. I find that there is still strong feeling on the part of many officers in my department that the passage of such a resolution would interfere with our military effort. However, I do feel that the military considerations which led to my previous action in opposing the passage of this resolution are not as strong a factor now as they were then.

"In my judgment, political considerations now outweigh the military, and the issue should be determined upon the political rather than the military basis."

(Signed) Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War

On October 12, 1944, Governor Thomas E. Dewey made the following statement:

"I heartily indorse the Palestine plank in the Republican party platform. Again I repeat what I previously stated to the

great leader of the American Zionist movement and distinguished American, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, that I am for the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth in accordance with the Balfour Declaration of 1917 and the resolution of the Republican Congress in 1922. I have also stated to Dr. Silver that in order to give refuge to millions of distressed Jews driven from their homes by tyranny I favor the opening of Palestine to their unlimited immigration and land ownership.

"The American people have time and again declared themselves in favor of these principles. The Republican party has at all times been the traditional friend of the movement.

"As President I would use my best offices to have our government working together with Great Britain to achieve this great objective for a people that have suffered so much and deserve so much at the hands of mankind."

(Signed) Thomas E. Dewey

And on October 15, 1944, the following declaration by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was transmitted to the Convention of the Zionist Organization of America, through Senator Robert F. Wagner:

"Knowing that you are to attend the Forty-Seventh Annual Convention of the Zionist Organization of America, I ask you to convey to the delegates assembled my cordial greetings.

"Please express my satisfaction that, in accord with the traditional American policy and in keeping with the spirit of the Four Freedoms, the Democratic Party at its July Convention this year included the following plank in its platform:

'We favor the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, and such a policy as to result in the establishment there of a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth.'

"Efforts will be made to find appropriate ways and means of effectuating this policy as soon as practicable. I know how long and ardently the Jewish people have worked and prayed for the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth. I am convinced that the American people give their support to this aim and if re-elected I shall help to bring about its realization."

(Signed) Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Thus, within a matter of days, we obtained pronouncements which all of us had been working to secure for many months. The declaration by the President represents the high-water mark of our activity to date. Speaking in the name of the Council, Dr. Silver hailed this utterance as a "magnificent and historic statement." We have also received definite assurances that action on the Palestine resolutions will be resumed next month, just as soon as Congress re-convenes -- and there is every reason to expect that the resolutions will be passed overwhelmingly.

While I do not doubt that you are already making plans to do so, I would suggest that the heartening developments noted above should serve to determine the character of the Balfour Day meetings which some of you are planning for November 2nd.

The keynote of your rally should be: Let us have action now leading to the implementation of these magnificent pledges. Our expressions of elation that the Chief Executive of the United States as well as the Republican candidate have spoken in such unmistakable terms should be joined by our urging that these utterances shall be effectuated speedily.

It is very important, too, that letters of commendation go forward immediately to the authors of these statements. I feel confident that this will be carried out in the same effective manner that has characterized your previous efforts along these lines.

It should be noted that these great strides forward towards the realization of our final objective have been achieved as the result of a carefully planned and vigorously prosecuted program of political activity and public relations which the Council launched only a short time ago. A large measure of credit for these accomplishments must go to you for the truly outstanding work you have done in the local communities. In the past, you have carried out all instructions and all assignments with great skill and devotion. I have no doubt that you will continue to serve our cause with undiminished vigor during the coming months, and that we shall soon see the complete fulfillment of our aims.

HLS:MBP



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