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6

Box
2

Folder
142

American Zionist Emergency Council, resolution in Congress,
1944-1945.

RESOLUTION FAVORING THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT
OF A JEWISH NATIONAL HOME IN PALESTINE

WHEREAS, the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917, guaranteeing the establishment of a Jewish National Homeland in Palestine was approved by 52 nations including the United States, and incorporated into the peace treaties terminating the first World War, and

WHEREAS, this policy was concurred in by a Joint Resolution of Congress on June 30, 1922, and approved by the President on September 21, 1922, and implemented by the Anglo-American Treaty of December 3, 1924, and

WHEREAS, the platforms of both the Republican and Democratic parties for the Presidential election of 1944 include declarations in favor of the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of Women Lawyers express its conviction that the integrity of the Balfour Declaration should be respected and that the United States should use its good offices for that purpose, and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that this Association recommend to Congress its approval of H. Res. 418 and H. Res. 419 to the effect that the United States shall use its good offices and take appropriate measures to the end that the doors of Palestine shall be opened for free entry of Jews into that country, and that there shall be full opportunity for colonization, so that the Jewish people may ultimately establish Palestine as a free Jewish Commonwealth,

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this Resolution be sent to Robert F. Wagner, Chairman of the American Committee on Palestine, and to the Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Sept. 1944.

COPY

WHEREAS the territory of Palestine was designated as a Hebrew national home in 1917 by the Allied Powers, and, by the Palestine Mandate of 1922, and, the United States - British Convention of December 3, 1924, its administration to be entrusted to Great Britain under the authority of the League of Nations, in accordance with the terms of the Mandate;

WHEREAS the Hebrew people in many countries of the Old World have since undergone continuous suffering, culminating in the wanton murder of over three million of their men, women and children;

WHEREAS the surviving Hebrews are destitute, utterly homeless, uprooted or incapable of continuing to live in surroundings that recall the horrors to which they have been subjected;

AND WHEREAS the good people of the United States have been shocked by the unprecedented misery of the ancient Hebrew people, so cruelly victimized by the German barbarians and their satellites;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives recommends and urges the President and the Secretary of State to use their good offices to the end that the entry into Palestine be free to all Hebrews desiring to go there, and that measures be taken by the United Nations to facilitate their speedy transportation to Palestine.

COPY

"Resolved: That the Senate reaffirms the action of Congress on June 30, 1922, and, in conformity therewith, advises the President to use his good offices to the end that the doors of Palestine shall be opened for free entry of Jews into that country, and that there shall be full opportunity for colonization ^{Sp} ~~and~~ that *they* ~~the people~~ may as soon as practicable reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic commonwealth.



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

WASHINGTON BUREAU

1720 Sixteenth Street, Northwest
Michigan 4480

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American Zionist Emergency Council tonight reserved comment on the statement issued by the State Department, calling for deferment of action on the Palestine Resolution which is pending in the Senate of the United States.

The Council is awaiting further clarification by the State Department of its position. In this connection the Council recalls the historic statement issued by President Roosevelt on October 15th addressed to the Zionist Organization of America, wherein the President said that he knew "how long and ardently the Jewish people have worked and prayed for the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth", expressed the conviction that the American people give their full support to this aim, and pledged that if re-elected he will help to bring about its realization.

The Council also recalls that the 1944 platforms of both the Republican and Democratic parties included planks endorsing the re-establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth; Furthermore, that a survey of opinion of the present Congress of the United States, recently made public by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, indicated that 77 Senators and 318 Representatives heartily endorse the re-establishment of a Jewish Palestine.

On November 30, 1944, the Council pointed out, the House Foreign Affairs Committee favorably reported to the House of Representatives a Resolution identical with that which has now been deferred in the Senate.

Dec 11

WRHS
LEO R. SACK



AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

THE JEWISH NATIONAL HOME IN PALESTINE

NOVEMBER 30, 1944.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. BLOOM, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Res. 418]

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 418) relative to the Jewish national home in Palestine, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the resolution, as amended, do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

On page 1, line 2, after the word "offices" strike out the words "and take appropriate measures".

On page 2, line 4, after the word "democratic" strike out the word "Jewish".

Taking cognizance of the ruthless persecution of the Jewish people of Europe by Nazi barbarians and their satellites, and the desperate need of a haven of refuge for those able to escape from their almost unbelievably inhuman atrocities, Representatives James A. Wright, of Pennsylvania, and Ranulf Compton, of Connecticut, on January 27, 1944, introduced House Resolutions 418 and 419, which resolved that the United States use its good offices to have Palestine opened for free entry of Jews, and to provide full opportunity for colonization by Jews so that Palestine may ultimately be reconstituted as a free and democratic commonwealth.

Public hearings were held by the Committee on Foreign Affairs on these resolutions, on February 8, 9, 15, and 16, 1944. Most careful study and consideration was given to the questions involved, the testimony, and supplemental documents of the hearings numbering 641 pages.

At an executive meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on March 17, 1944, it was decided, because of military considerations only, and at the suggestion of the Secretary of War, to postpone

action on the resolution. On that date, the committee issued the following explanatory statement:

Advice and information given to us by those responsible for the conduct of the war have convinced the committee that action upon the resolutions at this time would be unwise.

(Letter from the Secretary of War:)

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., March 17, 1944.

Hon. SOL BLOOM,
*Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. BLOOM: Concerning our conversation with respect to House Resolutions 418 and 419, it is the considered judgment of the War Department that without reference to the merits of these resolutions, further action on them at this time would be prejudicial to the successful prosecution of the war.

Faithfully yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON,
Secretary of War.

Since that time, the military situation in the Mediterranean area has so improved that the military objections which prompted the Secretary of War to write his letter of March 17, 1944, to Chairman Bloom, no longer prevail. Accordingly, Secretary of War Stimson, on October 10, 1944, wrote the following letter to Senator Robert A. Taft, the senior Senator from Ohio, who has sponsored a similar resolution in the Senate:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, October 10, 1944.

Hon. ROBERT A. TAFT,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: I refer to your letter of September 12, 1944, regarding Senate Resolution 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.

Sincerely,

HENRY L. STIMSON,
Secretary of War.

Although the military situation has greatly improved since the introduction of the Palestine resolutions last January 1944, the need for a Jewish homeland to rehabilitate and to restore to freedom and dignity those who have escaped Nazi tyranny and brutality has become even greater. These resolutions were widely regarded as a logical reaffirmation of the historic policy of the Congress, which, on June 30, 1922, unanimously resolved that the "United States of America favors the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

During the past few months, the Republican and Democratic National Conventions at Chicago unanimously approved strong platform declarations in behalf of the Jewish homeland, and the candidates of the two parties, President Roosevelt and Governor Dewey,

each issued strongly worded statements standing foursquare upon their respective platform declarations.

After quoting the Democratic platform, President Roosevelt wrote:

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 reelected I shall help to bring about its realization.

During last summer, sympathetic Senators and Representatives, representing more than three-fourths of the membership of both branches of the Congress, went on record in favor of this legislation; 77 Senators and 318 Representatives, from 48 States, gave their approval to the Jewish homeland. Your committee has published their views in a supplement to the hearings.

For the information of the Congress, there follows herewith the letter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Senator Robert F. Wagner, of New York, conveying his message to the forty-seventh annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America, on October 15, 1944:

DEAR BOB: 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 reelected I shall help to bring about its realization.

Governor Thomas E. Dewey, of New York, the Republican candidate for President, also strongly endorsed the proposal in the following statement on October 12, 1944:

I heartily endorse 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.

The free and democratic commonwealth in Palestine was heartily endorsed at the Republican and Democratic National Conventions

last summer. The statement of the Republican platform unanimously adopted at Chicago on June 27, 1944, is as follows:

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 constituted as a free and democratic commonwealth. We condemn the failure of the President to insist that the mandatory of Palestine carry out the provision of the Balfour Declaration and of the mandate while he pretends to support them.

The plank in the platform of the Democratic National Convention adopted at Chicago on July 24, follows:

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.



House Calendar No. 336

78TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 418

[Report No. 1997]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 1944

Mr. WRIGHT submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

NOVEMBER 30, 1944

Reported with amendments, referred to the House Calendar, and ordered to be printed

[Omit the part struck through]

RESOLUTION

Whereas the Sixty-seventh Congress of the United States on June 30, 1922, unanimously resolved "that the United States of America favors the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of Christian and all other non-Jewish communities in Palestine, and that the holy places and religious buildings and sites in Palestine shall be adequately protected"; and

Whereas the ruthless persecution of the Jewish people in Europe has clearly demonstrated the need for a Jewish homeland as a haven for the large numbers who have become homeless as a result of this persecution: Therefore be it

1 *Resolved*, That the United States shall use its good of-
2 fices ~~and take appropriate measures~~ to the end that the doors
3 of Palestine shall be opened for free entry of Jews into that
4 country, and that there shall be full opportunity for coloni-
5 zation, so that the Jewish people may ultimately reconstitute
6 Palestine as a free and democratic ~~Jewish~~ commonwealth.

House Calendar No. 336

78TH CONGRESS
2d Session

H. RES. 418

[Report No. 1997]

RESOLUTION

Relative to the Jewish national home in
Palestine.

By Mr. WRIGHT

JANUARY 27, 1944

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

NOVEMBER 30, 1944

Reported with amendments, referred to the House
Calendar, and ordered to be printed

For immediate release - December 12, 1945

SENATOR ROBERT F. WAGNER'S REPORT
FROM THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE PALESTINE RESOLUTION.

Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York today filed with the Senate the following report on behalf of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations:

The Committee on Foreign Relations which has had under consideration several resolutions relating to the restoration of Palestine as a homeland for the Jewish people reports favorably a concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res.) expressing the policy of the Congress with respect to the restoration of Palestine as a homeland for the Jewish people, and recommends that the concurrent resolution do pass.

The plight of the Jews in Europe and the indefinite status of Palestine formed the subject of a number of resolutions introduced in recent years and referred to the Foreign Relations Committee. Most recently, three proposals were submitted. The first was S. Con. Res. 37 introduced by Mr. Meyers and Mr. Tobey on October 2, 1945. The second was S. J. Res. 112 introduced by Mr. Wagner, for himself, Mr. Taft and Mr. Walsh, on October 26. The third was a proposal in the form of an amendment to S. J. Res. 112 offered in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by Mr. Guffey on November 19, 1945. A subcommittee consisting of Mr. Green, Chairman, Mr. Tunnell, Mr. Hatch, Mr. Austin and Mr. Wiley was appointed to consider these proposals. The subcommittee had a number of meetings, at two of which the Secretary of State was present. The matter was also considered by the full committee at several meetings, at one of which the Secretary of State was present.

Your Committee, while cognizant of the appointment of a joint Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry into the subject and while it commends the President for his interest in the matter, feels at the same time that it is appropriate and timely for the Congress to give expression to its views on the need for the restoration of Palestine as the Jewish National Homeland.

Accordingly the Foreign Relations Committee, by an almost unanimous vote, has decided to report favorably an original concurrent resolution.

In the opinion of your committee, the language of this resolution reflects a long series of authoritative expressions of American policy and the views of the American people on the subject of Palestine.

This policy and these views go back to January 21, 1919 when the following recommendation was made by the intelligence section of the United States delegation to the Paris Peace Conference:

"That the Jews be invited to return to Palestine and settle there, being assured by the (Peace) Conference of all proper assistance in so doing that may be consistent with the protection of the personal (especially the religious) and property rights of the non-Jewish population, and being further assured that it will be the policy of the League of Nations to recognize Palestine as a Jewish State in fact."

In harmony with this position, President Woodrow Wilson on March 3, 1919 declared: "I am persuaded that the Allied Nations with the fullest concurrence of our own Government and people are agreed that in Palestine shall be laid the foundations of a Jewish Commonwealth."

In the course of recent years, this policy was repeatedly endorsed by numerous members of Congress, notably in a petition addressed to the President of the United States on November 2, 1943 by 70 members of the Senate and 194 members of the House of Representatives, and, on July 2, 1945, by 54 members of the Senate and 251 members of the House of Representatives as well as by the governors of 37 States.

This policy was also endorsed by the National Conventions of the Democratic and Republican Parties meeting in Chicago in 1944.

It also received the personal endorsement of the late President Roosevelt on October 15, 1944 and during the same week of the Republican Presidential candidate, Mr. Dewey.

Passage of this Resolution will also furnish the occasion for the Congress to express itself forthrightly on the horrible plight of the Jews of Europe, 5,700,000 of whom were victims of Hitler and his madmen, according to the indictment presented by the Allied War Crimes Commission. The war is over and the need for a Jewish

Homeland, where the Jewish survivors of these persecutions can live and breathe as free men and women, and where they can establish a free and democratic commonwealth, is greater than ever. Your Committee feels, therefore, that the time is at hand when the long-standing pledges to the Jewish people should be fulfilled.

The resolution follows:

Whereas the Sixty-seventh Congress of the United States on June 30, 1922, unanimously resolved "That the United States of America favors the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of Christian and all other non-Jewish communities in Palestine, and that the holy places and religious buildings and sites in Palestine shall be adequately protected"; and

Whereas the ruthless persecution of the Jewish People in Europe has clearly demonstrated the need for a Jewish homeland as a haven for the large numbers who have become homeless as a result of this persecution; and

Whereas these urgent necessities are evidenced by the President's request for the immediate right of entry into Palestine of one hundred thousand additional Jewish refugees; and

Whereas the influx of Jewish immigration into Palestine is resulting in its improvement in agricultural, financial, hygienic and general economic conditions; and

Whereas the President and the British Prime Minister have agreed upon the appointment of a "joint Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry" to examine conditions in Palestine as they bear upon the problem of Jewish immigration and the Jewish situation in Europe and have requested a report within 120 days; Therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING).
That the interest shown by the President in the solution of this problem is hereby commended, and that the United States shall use its good offices with the Mandatory Power to the end that Palestine shall be open for free entry of Jews into that country to the maximum of its agricultural and economic potentialities, and that there shall be full opportunity for colonization and development, so that they may freely proceed with the upbuilding of Palestine as the Jewish National Home and, in association with all elements of the population, establish Palestine as a democratic Commonwealth in which all men, regardless of race or creed, shall have equal rights.

[undated]

With respect to action on the Palestine Resolution pending in Congress, I informed you that the position of the State Department was that it felt that action on the Resolution should be deferred for the time being. But, I wish to assure you that this position is in no wise to be construed as indicating that the State Department is not in accord with the line of clear policy laid down by the President on October 15th in his statement to the Zionist Organization of America through Senator Wagner. That statement representing, as the President made clear, the will of the American people is necessarily the policy of the State Department.

~ 9 [undated]

Although the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, at the request of the State Department, postponed action for the time being on the Palestine Resolution, we wish to record our own personal approval of the Resolution which calls for the free entry of Jews into Palestine and full opportunity for colonization so that the Jewish people may as soon as practicable reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic commonwealth.

"Resolved: That the Senate reaffirms the action of Congress on June 30, 1922.

and, in conformity therewith, advises the President to use his good offices to

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