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Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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American Zionist Emergency Council, Senate petition to
President, 1945.

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Council
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Washington, D. C.

July 2, 1945

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

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,

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