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American Zionist Emergency Council, American Christian
Palestine Committee, 1947.

PRESS RELEASE

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE

41 EAST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

• MURRAY HILL 2-4917 •

This organization combines the American Palestine Committee and the Christian Council on Palestine, and continues the work of both organizations.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTIAN LEADERS DEMAND JEWISH PARTICIPATION IN UN DISCUSSIONS OF PALESTINE

- - -

WARN THAT NEGATIVE OR NEUTRAL U.S. ATTITUDE ON JEWISH AGENCY
PARTICIPATION MAY RESULT IN GRAVE INJUSTICE TO JEWISH PEOPLE;
WIRE TRUMAN, MARSHALL AND AUSTIN FOR POSITIVE U.S. ACTION

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New York, April 30 -- Thirty Christian leaders today called upon President Truman to give the "active, affirmative support" of the United States Government to the request of the Jewish Agency for Palestine for participation without vote in the proceedings of the special session of the United Nations Assembly devoted to the Palestine question.

Registering "deep concern" over reports that the United States opposes the Jewish Agency's request, the Christian spokesmen from various walks of life declared in a telegram to the President: "It is difficult for us to credit reports of such a negative attitude on the part of our Government toward a request which has already commended itself to the delegates of many countries as complying with the dictates of elementary justice and fair play."

"A negative or even a neutral attitude by America may seal the fate of the proposal and deprive the Jewish people of representation and voice in proceedings of such vital and historic importance to the Jewish future. We earnestly and respectfully urge that our Government give its active, affirmative support," they declared.

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Signatories of the telegram to the President included Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, Dean Alfange, Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, Professor Eduard C. Lindeman, Ralph McGill, George Biddle, Van Wyck Brooks, Edgar Ansel Mowrer, Dr. Philip Weltner, Judge John Gutnecht, Dean Claude W. Sprouse, Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen Rohde, Prof. Halford E. Luccock, Mrs. Walter Ferguson, Rev. Paul O. Cardwell, Mrs. Walter C. Lowdermilk, Dr. Henry N. Wieman, Rev. Emory S. Bucke, Judge James W. Donoghue, Father George B. Ford, Rev. Karl M. Chworowsky, Professor Charles A. Lee, Dr. Charles J. Turck, Judge Frank A. Picard, Judge Carl E. Wahlstrom, Professor Paul L. Hanna, Judge Daniel Morgan, and E. Y. Harburg.

Identical telegrams were sent to Secretary of State Marshall and Chief U. S. Delegate to the United Nations, Warren R. Austin,

Speaking on behalf of the American Christian Palestine Committee of New York, Dean Alfange, chairman of the Committee, wired President Truman and Secretary of State Marshall that if current reports of U. S. opposition to Jewish Agency participation in the Palestine discussions of the UN are correct, "it will be a shameful mockery of all the pledges of assistance we have given to the Jewish people."

"Such action on our part would also shock the conscience of every fair-minded person. We trust that the United States, in keeping with its tradition of fair play, will support the application of the Jewish Agency for participation and discussion at the United Nations hearing on Palestine," Mr. Alfange declared.

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DEAN ALFANGE CALLS ON TRUMAN AND MARSHALL FOR "UNEQUIVOCAL"

STATEMENT OF PALESTINE POLICY

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U. S. SILENCE, AFTER SOVIET HAS SPOKEN IN CLEAR TERMS, IS

FORFEITING LEADERSHIP, CHRISTIAN LEADER DECLARES

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New York, May 15, 1947 -- Dean Alfange, chairman of the American Christian Palestine Committee of New York, today called upon the Government of the United States "to state unequivocally its position on the Palestine issue."

"By now remaining silent, after the Soviet Union has spoken in clear terms, the United States is forfeiting leadership on a grave issue of world-wide democratic concern and is at the same time neglecting its solemn commitments to the Jewish people," Mr. Alfange declared in telegrams to President Truman and Secretary of State Marshall.

Following is the text of Mr. Alfange's wire to the President and the Secretary of State:

"The American Christian Palestine Committee, constituted by leading clergymen, educators, high public officials, and business and civic leaders of the Christian faith, respectfully urges the Government of the United States to state unequivocally its position on the Palestine issue.

"By now remaining silent, after the Soviet Union has spoken in clear terms, the United States is forfeiting leadership on a grave issue of world-wide democratic concern and is at the same time neglecting its solemn commitments

(more)

to the Jewish people.

"The public policy of the United States with regard to Palestine has been fixed by two resolutions of Congress and by a long line of presidential declarations beginning with the administration of Woodrow Wilson. By the terms of these public pronouncements our Government stands irrevocably committed to the development of Palestine as a National Jewish Home and to the lifting of immigration restrictions upon the Jewish people. The United States should reiterate and reaffirm its policy at this crucial hour of Jewish destiny, the more so since the smaller states which have not developed a Palestine policy are looking to our Government for guidance and leadership.

"The American Christian Palestine Committee was organized in 1941 on the premise that the democratization of Palestine under Jewish control is a worldwide political issue which impinges directly on the whole problem of democratic self-determination and survival.

"By supporting the case of the Jewish people our Government could build a bastion of democracy in Palestine, which is the critical nerve center of the Middle East, without spending a single dollar of our tax payers' money.

"We therefore respectfully submit that the Government of the United States should reaffirm, immediately and forthrightly, its previously declared position on Palestine in fulfillment of our pledges to the Jewish people and in furtherance of our recently stated policy to strengthen democracy in the Middle East. Our continued silence on this imminent and momentous issue will be tantamount to an abandonment of our Palestine policy, a breach of our commitments to the Jewish people and, more serious still, a forfeiture of our leadership in world affairs."