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American Zionist Emergency Council, Governors' letters, 1947.

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

CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

April 25, 1947

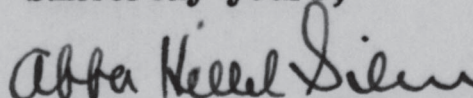
Dear Friend:

One of the most important actions being planned in conjunction with our current nationwide campaign is a joint declaration by the Governors of the United States, addressed to President Truman, and urging that our Government take the initiative in the United Nations towards achieving a solution of the Palestine question based on America's traditional policy of support for the Jewish National Home.

You can render a great service to our cause by taking action immediately to secure your Governor's signature to the attached letter to President Truman within the next two weeks. Many Governors have already indicated their deep sympathy and their willingness to help us at this time. If this genuine interest is now translated into action, in the form of a concerted approach to the President, our hopes for success in our efforts will be greatly increased.

I hope that you will give this urgent matter your immediate attention and that I may hear from you in the very near future.

Sincerely yours,



Abba Hillel Silver
Chairman

AHS:MSR

Letter to Governor

May, 1947

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Now that the Palestine issue has been referred to the General Assembly of the United Nations, the United States has an historic opportunity to take the initiative towards achieving the long-delayed solution of this pressing international problem. We, the undersigned Governors, desire to express our fullest sympathies with the national aspirations of the Jewish people which received the approval of the nations of the world, including our own, at the close of the first World War and which were embodied in the Palestine Mandate.

The tragedy that struck the Jews of Europe during the last war, and the continued suffering of their survivors, make it imperative that the terms of the Palestine Mandate be fully and speedily fulfilled. A quarter of a million Jews are homeless today, languishing in refugee camps, and are prayfully hoping to rebuild their shattered lives in the Jewish National Home. You, Mr. President, have been deeply concerned with their plight, but unfortunately nothing has as yet been done for them.

Our country has been a traditional friend of the Jewish National Home. Every President of the United States since Woodrow Wilson expressed warmest endorsement of the program to reconstitute the Land of Israel. The American people, speaking through their two major political parties, have expressed their unqualified support for this historic objective. The Congress of the United States twice passed resolutions overwhelmingly approving the Jewish National Home.

We believe that we voice the sentiment of the people of our respective States when we express the thought that the Government of the United States should now take the initiative to exercise its political and moral prestige in the world in order to bring about a decision in the United Nations which will be just and in consonance with the traditional attitude of our Government and the opinion oft expressed by the American people. The rights of the Jewish people under the Palestine Mandate must not be abrogated. Whatever permanent political solutions are arrived at, unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization must take place and the progress of the rebuilding of the Jewish National Home must not be hindered.

Furthermore, since the study of the Palestine problem by the United Nations will inevitably take considerable time and its recommendations may not be forthcoming for many months, we believe that it is imperative that some interim arrangement be made whereby the Jewish refugees of Europe will be permitted to go to Palestine in substantial numbers. This is in keeping with your own oft-repeated earnest hope.

In any action, Mr. President, which you may initiate in these directions, which will do justice to the deep humanitarian instincts of the American people and which will reflect the earnestness and sincerity of the policies which our Government has publicly and repeatedly proclaimed, you may be assured of our complete support.

With assurance of our high esteem,

Respectfully yours,