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American Zionist Emergency Council, Truman and Dewey, 1948-1949.

PRESS RELEASE from AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Associated Organizations

Zionist Organization of America • Hadassah • Mizrahi Organization of America • Labor Zionist Organization of America-Poale Zion
United Zionists-Revisionists of America • Hashomer Hatzair • Achdut Havodah-Poale Zion (United Labor Zionist Party)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. SILVER DEPLORES LACK OF POSITIVE ACTION ON PART OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO FURTHER WELFARE OF ISRAEL

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New York, Sept. 8 — Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the World Zionist Organization and of the American Zionist Emergency Council, issued the following statement on his return from Israel:

"I have just returned from Israel where I attended the meetings of the Actions Committee of the World Zionist Organization. It was the first meeting of this body since the establishment of the State of Israel. The chief problems before the meeting were, first, the separation and the definition of functions as between the World Movement and the State of Israel; and secondly, the reorganization of the work of the World Zionist Movement in order that it might serve most effectively in assisting the State to absorb the large number of immigrants who will wish to settle in Israel.

"The deliberations of the Actions Committee were eminently successful. A clear separation was effected between the State and the Movement. Ministers of the State who had been members of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization handed in their resignations and others, not of the Government, took their place. It was further resolved that no part of the funds of the World Zionist Organization will be contributed directly or indirectly to the Government of Israel for any purposes whatsoever, but that the Organization will carry on its own work in Israel directed to the settlement and the economic absorption of new immigrants, and for other charitable purposes. This separation was advocated by the American

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Zionists and was finally accepted by the entire movement.

"Another achievement of the Actions Committee meeting was the extension of the Executive to include members of the two parties who heretofore had not been included -- the United Workers Party and the Revisionists. This establishes complete unity among all the parties within the movement. This too has for some time been urged by the American Zionists. It was also resolved to set up in the United States some of the Departments of the Movement which heretofore had their headquarters in Jerusalem, more especially, the Department of Economic Organization. It was realized that due to the economic and political significance of the United States and of the Jewish community here, which is the largest in the world, an important center of the World Zionist Movement should be maintained in the United States.

"I found the spirit of the people in Israel at a high pitch of confidence. The military victories which had been achieved have greatly buoyed them up. They succeeded in defending their State by force of arms and they feel confident that they will continue to do so in the future. They are strong and their strength is increasing. I found them restive under the truce. They welcomed the truce in the hope that it would lead to a speedy peace settlement. But their direct approach to the Arab states for peace negotiations was rebuffed. As a result grave skepticism as to the value of the truce has spread through the entire population. If the Arab states are resolved, as they have proclaimed, never to recognize the State of Israel, what purpose is there in the prolongation of a truce which is becoming a severe drain upon the economy of the new State? The position of Count Bernadotte has likewise suffered a serious decline as a result of his shocking proposal to turn Jerusalem over to Abdullah as his capital, and as a result of his baffling and contradictory opinions on the subject of the immigration of men of military age into Israel.

"There is a growing feeling among the people in the State of Israel that our State Department is again collaborating with Mr. Bevin. They feel that our

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State Department has put every obstacle in the way of the full recognition of Israel. It has blocked a United States loan to the new State. It has interfered with the free movement of refugees to Israel from the American occupation zones on the basis of an unwarranted interpretation of the terms of the truce. The American Government has thus placed itself in line with the British Government, which, contrary to all law, has kept 13,000 Jewish refugees of military age in detention camps in Cyprus, and has prohibited them from emigrating to Israel. The American Government has further denied passports to American citizens who desire to go to Israel. The feeling is prevalent that our State Department is again following the lead of the British Colonial and Foreign Offices. There is, therefore, a growing concern as to the attitude of the United States Delegation at the coming sessions of the United Nations in Paris.

"The present hope of Mr. Bevin, now that a military victory over Israel is no longer to be expected, is that a prolonged truce will prove such an economic strain on the country that Israel will be prepared to accept a peace settlement agreeable to Great Britain. The people in Israel wonder whether the American Government is falling in line with this new pressure politics of Mr. Bevin. They wonder whether President Truman is fully aware of all that is going on and whether his Administration approves of it all.

"It is clear to them that the key to peace in Palestine is still in the hands of the United States. Only positive action on the part of this Government, such as de jure recognition and a loan, will persuade the Arab states that this Government is very sincere and earnest about its intentions with regard to the State of Israel and will persuade them to sit down and negotiate."

PRESS RELEASE from AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

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Zionist Organization of America • Hadassah • Mizrachi Organization of America • Labor Zionist Organization of America-Poale Zion
United Zionists-Revisionists of America • Hashomer Hatzair • Achdut Havodah-Poale Zion (United Labor Zionist Party)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. SILVER APPEALS TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN TO REJECT TERMS
OF BERNADOTTE PLAN WHICH WOULD DEPRIVE
ISRAEL OF TWO-THIRDS OF ITS AREA

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AMERICAN ZIONIST CHIEF "SHOCKED" BY SECRETARY MARSHALL'S
"UNQUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT" OF MEDIATOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

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New York, September 23 -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, today wired an appeal to President Truman "to prevent the imposition of such iniquitous terms on Israel" as the Bernadotte plan recommended "and to stand by the pledged word... of the American Government which accepted without reservation the November 29 decision and which on May 14 gave de facto recognition to the new State of Israel."

Dr. Silver's protest against Secretary Marshall's recent endorsement of the Bernadotte report which would give the Negev area now in the State of Israel, to the Arabs was made in behalf of all official Zionist bodies in the United States -- the Zionist Organization of America, Hadassah, Mizrachi Organization of America, Labor Zionist Organization of America-Poale Zion, United Zionists-Revisionists of America, Hashomer Hatzair, Achdut Havodah-Poale Zion (United Labor Zionist Party).

Pointing out that the Zionist movement in this country had "relied on the loyalty of the American Government to the United Nations partition resolution of last November," and on the personal commitment of the President and the platform

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pledges of the Democratic Party, Dr. Silver noted that "we have accordingly been profoundly shocked by Secretary Marshall's unqualified endorsement of the recommendations of Count Bernadotte which would reduce the area of the State of Israel by two-thirds leaving it a miniature state incapable of large scale settlement of refugees."

"The citizens of Israel who reluctantly accepted the partition of Palestine last November and who have since successfully defended the borders of their new state with their blood are now being asked to accept another partition of their small state. This penalizes Israel for having accepted partition and rewards the Arabs for having attempted by force of arms to upset the United Nations recommendation," Dr. Silver declared.

The full text of Dr. Silver's wire follows:

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WE HAVE RELIED ON THE LOYALTY OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS PARTITION RESOLUTION OF LAST NOVEMBER, ON YOUR OWN PERSONAL COMMITMENT AND DEVOTION TO THIS POLICY AND ON THE PLATFORM PLEDGE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO SUPPORT THE STATE OF ISRAEL WITHIN ITS FIXED BOUNDARIES AND WE HAVE ACCORDINGLY BEEN PROFOUNDLY SHOCKED BY SECRETARY MARSHALL'S UNQUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNT BERNADOTTE WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE AREA OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL BY TWO-THIRDS LEAVING IT A MINIATURE STATE INCAPABLE OF LARGE SCALE SETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES. THE CITIZENS OF ISRAEL WHO RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED THE PARTITION OF PALESTINE LAST NOVEMBER AND WHO HAVE SINCE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THE BORDERS OF THEIR NEW STATE WITH THEIR BLOOD ARE NOW BEING ASKED TO ACCEPT ANOTHER PARTITION OF THEIR SMALL STATE. THIS PENALIZES ISRAEL FOR HAVING ACCEPTED PARTITION AND REWARDS THE ARABS FOR HAVING ATTEMPTED BY FORCE OF ARMS TO UPSET THE UNITED NATIONS RECOMMENDATION. WE APPEAL TO YOU TO PREVENT THE

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IMPOSITION OF SUCH INIQUITOUS TERMS ON ISRAEL AND TO STAND BY THE PLEDGED WORD OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION AND OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHICH ACCEPTED WITHOUT RESERVATION THE NOVEMBER 29TH DECISION AND WHICH ON MAY 14TH GAVE DE FACTO RECOGNITION TO THE NEW STATE OF ISRAEL.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, CHAIRMAN
AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
FOR

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
HADASSAH
MIZRACHI ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
LABOR ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA-POALE ZION
UNITED ZIONISTS-REVISIONISTS OF AMERICA
HASHOMER HATZAIR
ACHDUT HAVODAH-POALE ZION (UNITED LABOR ZIONIST PARTY)

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PRESS RELEASE from AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Associated Organizations

Zionist Organization of America • Hadassah • Mizrahi Organization of America • Labor Zionist Organization of America-Poale Zion
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER ATTACKS BERNADOTTE RECOMMENDATIONS
ON NEGEV AND JERUSALEM

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POINTS OUT THAT LOSS OF 3,750 SQUARE MILES IN NEGEV WOULD
SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE ISRAEL'S PLANS FOR ABSORPTION OF JEWISH IMMIGRANTS

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New York -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and of the American Zionist Emergency Council, charged in a statement to the press that the enemies of Israel are utilizing the Bernadotte assassination as an "opportunity to cripple the Jewish State ... by drastically constricting it in size and depriving it of its necessary natural resources."

Taking strong issue with the Mediator's plan which recommended that the Negev area be allotted to the Arabs and that the City of Jerusalem, with its 90,000 Jews, be put under UN control, Dr. Silver pointed out that "these recommendations, which Count Bernadotte himself admitted in his report were not within his province as Mediator to make" would prove "disastrous" to the State of Israel.

"If the Negev should now be lost to Israel, it would be condemned to continuing sterility as a desert, just as is the vast and empty area of the largest part of Trans-Jordan, and for the same reason, namely, Arab apathy. The Jewish plan for its irrigation and development would be aborted, and the capacity of the truncated remnant of Israel to absorb new immigrants would be greatly reduced," Dr. Silver stated.

The full text of his statement is attached herewith.

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees

Date September 24, 1948

From Harry L. Shapiro

Attached is a statement issued by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver yesterday as Chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency. It is an analysis of some features of the Bernadotte plan. ✓

Yesterday we sent you a news release of a telegram which Dr. Silver had dispatched to President Truman pointing out to the President that the Marshall statement before the General Assembly on Israel was a violation of the Administration's pledged word on Israel as well as of the Israel plank in the Democratic Party platform, and appealing to him to prevent the imposition of the terms of the plan, which deprives Israel of almost two-thirds of its territory as allotted by the United Nations General Assembly decision of November 29, 1947.

The present situation is a critical one for Israel and I urge you to do the following:

1. On September 8, I sent you a memorandum requesting that you have the leading citizens and organizations send letters to the President asking for de jure recognition and economic aid to Israel. Please broaden the scope of communications to the President and have as many letters and telegrams as possible sent to the President dealing with the new situation. These letters and wires should be sent by both Jews and non-Jews. The line which the communications to the President should take can be drawn from Dr. Silver's statement and from the text of his telegram to the President. It is imperative that you begin your work on this immediately! ✓
2. In a previous memo to you we requested that you contact local and state political leaders asking them to urge

the President to take positive action on Israel. In view of the fact that the Marshall statement is a violation of the pledged word of the President, you will immediately intensify this aspect of your work. The committees which are to call on the political leaders should approach the problem in the forthright manner which the situation demands.

3. I hope that you have made contact with the newspaper editors, publishers and radio commentators in your community. In order that they may have a correct perspective of the problem as it now exists, since the assassination of Bernadotte and the introduction of his plan into the General Assembly in Paris, they should be given the background material which is contained in the statement of Dr. Silver. A number of American newspapers have come out in favor of the Bernadotte plan without recognizing its full implications. It is your job to correct their approach. Within a day or two I will send you a brief article written by Mr. Eliahu Ben-Horin which will appear in the next issue of The New Palestine. It is also excellent material for similar usage.
4. In a memorandum which I sent you on September 16, I requested that you contact your Congressmen and Senators with a view to having them contact Mr. William M. Martin of the Export-Import Bank urging him to have the Bank approve the loan to Israel. I would appreciate your sending me any reports which you may have with reference to this activity.

Regards.

HLS:RB
Enc.

STATEMENT OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE JEWISH AGENCY

The tragic assassination of Count Bernadotte by outlaws, and the feeling of condemnation which it has universally aroused, are being used by the enemies of Israel as an opportunity to cripple the Jewish State, if they cannot destroy it altogether, by drastically constricting it in size and depriving it of its necessary natural resources. They seek to do this under the slogan that Count Bernadotte's recommendations must be adopted and effectuated in full as a monument to his memory and in the claimed interest of "peace".

These recommendations, which Count Bernadotte himself admitted in his report were not within his province as Mediator to make, require calm analysis in order to understand how disastrous their implementation would be for the Jewish cause in Palestine and the State of Israel.

The first recommendation to be noted is that the Negev, consisting of two-thirds of the State of Israel as set up in the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on November 29, 1947, should be torn away from Israel and handed over to the invading Arab States, preferably Trans-Jordan. The Jewish State, whose total area under the November 29 Resolution is only 5,770 square miles, is thus to be further reduced in size by no less than 3,750 square miles; while a mere 400 square miles of rocky and hilly Western Galilee is to be added to it in compensation.

Moreover, the territory thus proposed to be taken away from Israel is practically empty of inhabitants because of lack of water, although it can be made habitable by costly and extensive irrigation works which the Jews alone are ready to undertake and finance. It provides the only available land reserve for the expected and necessary large Jewish immigration into Israel; the rest of Israel, as well as Western Galilee, being already thickly inhabited. If the Negev should now be lost to Israel, it would be condemned to continuing sterility as a desert, just as is the vast and empty area of the largest part of Trans-Jordan; and for the same reason, namely, Arab apathy. The Jewish plan for its irrigation and development would be aborted, and the capacity of the truncated remnant of Israel to absorb new immigrants would be greatly reduced. In this way, the persistent objective of the enemies of Israel, which has ever been to prevent or severely limit Jewish immigration into Palestine, would be achieved.

Nor is this the only disastrous effect which the implementation of this recommendation would have. Three other highly important effects should be noted:

1. The Negev includes the southern and more than half of the western shores of the Dead Sea and provides the only access of the State of Israel to the waters and minerals of that Sea; the rest of the shore of the Sea being outside the boundaries of Israel and mostly in Trans-Jordan. So important to the life and development of Israel was free access to and the right to extract and exploit these minerals deemed to be by the General Assembly of the United Nations that the Assembly by its November, 1947 Resolution actually included within the State of Israel even more of the shore area of the Dead Sea than was recommended by its Special Committee on Palestine. These minerals, in fact, constitute perhaps the only reserve of valuable minerals available to Israel. Millions of Jewish capital have already been sunk in the building of plants both at the northern and southern ends of the Dead Sea for the extraction of these minerals. Competent

experts are agreed that these minerals can form the basis of a varied and highly skilled chemical industry in Israel for the benefit not only of its inhabitants but of the world at large. The proposal now is to make all this impossible and to turn the whole of the Dead Sea with its minerals over to the Arab States.

2. The territory in question gives the State of Israel access to and a part of the shore of the Gulf of Akaba on the Red Sea and thus renders possible the development there of an Israeli port to serve the commerce of Israel with the Far East and Africa, without the necessity of routing such commerce through the British controlled Suez Canal with its heavy tolls. The excision of this territory from Israel renders this prospect hopeless.

3. There are well-founded reports to the effect that the territory in question contains valuable deposits of oil. This is perhaps the real reason why it is now proposed to take this territory away from Israel and hand it over to a puppet of Britain. But this oil constitutes the only reserve of fuel for the industrialized State of Israel which must otherwise depend for oil upon the mercy of the British-Arab production in Iraq and the very high prices charged to Israel for such oil as it may be allowed to have from such production.

Another recommendation of Count Bernadotte deserving special notice relates to Jerusalem. The recommendation is that Jerusalem with its besieged 90,000 Jews should be put under United Nations control without any corridor connecting it with Israel. The November, 1947 Resolution of the General Assembly likewise proposed to put Jerusalem under United Nations control. But this was on the supposition that the Arabs would respect the decision of the Assembly and let Jerusalem live. Events, however, have proved that this expectation was and is illusory. Jerusalem was wantonly attacked by the Arab States with British supplied bombs and artillery immediately after the British withdrew from Palestine on May 15, 1948, despite the United Nations Resolution, and has been under siege and attack ever since. Its water and food supplies have been cut off. The Jews have sustained thousands of casualties in defense of the beautiful city which they have built and which contains not only their most sacred shrines, but their great University, their hospitals and other educational and philanthropic institutions. The heroism of the Jews of Jerusalem, men, women and even children alike, in the face of the murderous Arab attack constitutes an epic by itself. Now it is proposed to turn these people, after all their sacrifices and privations, over to the mercy of the Arab invaders; for that is what Count Bernadotte's recommendation amounts to. The Arabs can no more be expected to respect the nominal "control" of the United Nations over Jerusalem in the future than they have respected it heretofore. The world must still remember the outrage of the destruction of the pumping station at Latrun, which provided Jerusalem with water, at a time when that pumping station was officially under United Nations supervision and after the Arabs had specifically agreed to the resumption of its operations under the so-called Truce; and only this morning the press carries news of the brutal assault upon a convoy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem under United Nations auspices by the Legionnaires of the Trans-Jordan Legion, which convoy was proceeding under the express agreement of the Arabs under the Truce.

It is inconceivable that the Jews of Jerusalem and Israel will ever again consent to leave Jerusalem in the midst of a hostile Arab sea, unconnected with Israel and with no greater security for their lives and property than would be involved in the nominal "control" of the United Nations.

It is interesting to note the reasons given by Count Bernadotte for his devastating recommendations. He says in his report that "it cannot be ignored

that the vast difference between now and last November (the time of the General Assembly Resolution) is that a war has been started and stopped and that, in the intervening months, decisive events have occurred." But this war was unquestionably started by the Arab States surrounding Palestine, six of whom are members of the United Nations, in open and proclaimed defiance of the United Nations and its Resolution. If this war has now been stopped to any extent, it has been by Jewish valor and heroism, and not by anything that the Mediator or the United Nations have done. The combined armies of the invading Arab States, whom the United States, through its representative, has branded as aggressors in the Security Council of the United Nations, have been thrown back by the embattled Jews and have, indeed, been saved from complete rout only by the very timely "Truce" which the Security Council imposed on July 15. It seems now, however, that either as a reward for their aggression or to compensate them for their unexpected defeat, the State of Israel is to be dismembered and two-thirds of its territory and practically all its mineral wealth given to the aggressors. While the City of Jerusalem, with its overwhelmingly Jewish population and great Jewish institutions, is to be turned over to the mercies of its surrounding Arabs while under nominal United Nations "control".

Count Bernadotte recommends this treatment of Jerusalem because "of its religious and international significance." But it had the same significance on June 27 of this year when he proposed that Jerusalem should be turned over completely to the Arab State of Trans-Jordan. He then apparently believed that its international significance should be forgotten in favor of the Arabs. It was only when it became evident that the Jews would prevent the carrying out of his recommendation of June 27 by force of arms that the present, new recommendation was advanced. But it amounts in effect to the same thing as the old recommendation, and the Jews are doubtless ready to defend themselves against it, too, by force of arms.

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MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees **Date** October 27, 1948

From Harry L. Shapiro

The enclosed press release issued today by the American Zionist Emergency Council expresses the gratitude of our movement to President Truman and Governor Dewey for their recent statements reaffirming the platforms of their parties with respect to Israel.

We are sending you herewith the full text of both declarations. Governor Dewey issued his statement on Friday, October 22 in the form of a letter to Dean Alfange, chairman of the American Christian Palestine Committee of New York.

The exchange of letters between Governor Dewey and Mr. Alfange follows:

Hon. Thomas E. Dewey
Governor of the State of New York
Albany, New York

October 20, 1948

Dear Governor:

As Chairman of the American Christian Palestine Committee of New York, I have been gravely concerned with the fast-moving events which concern the fate of the State of Israel and the stability of the peace of the Middle East.

I recall that in September, 1947 you approved the majority report of the United Nations Special Committee which recommended a partition of Palestine. This report was adopted by the resolution of the UN Assembly on November 29, 1947.

In June, 1948 the Republican Party, assembled in convention in Philadelphia, adopted the following platform: "We welcome Israel into the family of nations and take pride in the fact that the Republican Party was the first to call for the establishment of a free and independent Jewish commonwealth. The vacillation of the Democratic Party on this question has undermined the prestige of the United Nations. Subject to the letter and spirit of the UN Charter we pledge to Israel full recognition, with its boundaries as sanctioned by the UN and aid in developing its economy."

At this moment when the fate of Israel is at stake, the reaffirmation of your endorsement of the Republican Party's platform pledge in respect to Israel would be most reassuring.

Sincerely yours,

Dean Alfange, Chairman
American Christian Palestine Committee
of New York

October 22, 1948

Hon. Dean Alfange, Chairman
American Christian Palestine Committee
9 East 40 Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dean:

I have your letter of October 20 and I want to assure you that I, too, have been deeply disturbed by the events in Palestine. As you know, I have always felt the Jewish people are entitled to a homeland in Palestine which would be politically and economically stable. My views have been clearly expressed over the years and I did, indeed, approve the majority report of the United Nations Special Committee which recommended partition of Palestine.

In my acceptance speech at Philadelphia I pledged my whole-hearted support of the Republican platform and that certainly included the Palestine plank. My position today is the same.

The Jews have brought twentieth century civilization to Palestine. They have shown that the Holy Land can be industrious and abundant. Since the creation of Israel the Jewish people have made great sacrifices for their goal of independence and freedom.

Organizations such as the American Christian Palestine Committee of New York can give great moral support to the people of Israel in attaining their objectives -- peace and security in their hard-won homeland. Toward that end I wish them every success.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Dewey

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The New York Herald-Tribune of Saturday, October 23 reported Governor Dewey's action as follows:

DEWEY STANDS BY UN PLAN ON PALESTINE

By Murray Snyder

Governor Thomas E. Dewey in effect repudiated the Truman Administration's Palestine policy yesterday.

Without referring directly to the Administration's indorsement of the Bernadotte plan to take the Negeb region away from Israel, the Governor said his own position in support of the original United Nations partition plan was unchanged.

He reaffirmed his "wholehearted support" of the Republican platform pledge last June of "full recognition (to Israel) with its boundaries as sanctioned by the United Nations and aid in developing its economy".

He recalled that he previously had approved the UN partition recommendations, and ranking Republicans, who had sought a

reaffirmation of his position for its campaign value, said that in this statement of approval, issued September 11, 1947, he said: "It may be that certain adjustments will have to be made in the actual boundaries, but, on the face of it, the partition recommended seems a minimum for Jewish needs".

This major break between the Republican Presidential candidate and the Democrats on foreign policy was disclosed in an exchange of letters between Mr. Dewey and Dean Alfange, chairman of the American Christian Palestine Committee of New York. The letters were released at Dewey-Warren headquarters at the Hotel Roosevelt.

It was regarded as of particular significance because, if Mr. Dewey is elected on November 2, his policy is likely to supersede the present policy of the United States when the General Assembly begins its postponed discussion of the Palestine question...

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President Truman issued his statement on Sunday, October 24. The full text follows: ✓

The Republican candidate for President has seen fit to release a statement with reference to Palestine. This statement is in the form of a letter dated October 22, 1948, ten days before the election. ✓

I had hoped our foreign affairs could continue to be handled on a nonpartisan basis without being injected into the Presidential campaign. The Republican candidate's statement, however, makes it necessary for me to reiterate my own position with respect to Palestine. ✓

I stand squarely on the provisions covering Israel in the Democratic platform.

I approved the provisions on Israel at the time they were written. I reaffirm that approval now.

So that everyone may be familiar with my position, I set out here the Democratic platform on Israel:

"President Truman, by granting immediate recognition to Israel, led the world in extending friendship and welcome to a people who have long sought and justly deserve freedom and independence.

"We pledge full recognition to the State of Israel. We affirm our pride that the United States, under the leadership of President Truman, played a leading role in the adoption of the resolution of November 29, 1947, by the United Nations General Assembly for the creation of a Jewish State.

"We approve the claim of the State of Israel to the boundaries set forth in the United Nations' resolution of November 29 and consider that modifications thereof should be made only if fully acceptable to the State of Israel.

"We look forward to the admission of the State of Israel to the United Nations and its full participation in the international community of nations. We pledge appropriate aid to the State of Israel in developing its economy and resources.

"We favor the revision of the arms embargo to accord to the State of Israel the right of self-defense. We pledge ourselves to work for the modification of any resolution of the United Nations to the extent that it may prevent any such revision.

"We continue to support within the framework of the United Nations, the internationalization of Jerusalem and the protection of the holy places in Palestine."

I wish to amplify the three portions of the platform about which there has been considerable discussion.

On May 14, 1948, this country recognized the existence of the independent State of Israel. I was informed by the Honorable Elishu Epstein that a Provisional Government had been established in Israel. This country recognized the Provisional Government as the de facto authority of the new State of Israel. When a permanent Government is elected in Israel it will promptly be given de jure recognition.

The Democratic platform states that we approve the claims of Israel to the boundaries set forth in the United Nations resolution of November 29, 1947, and consider that modification thereof should be made only if fully acceptable to the State of Israel.

This has been and is now my position.

Proceedings are now taking place in the United Nations looking toward amicable settlement of the conflicting positions of the parties in Palestine. In the interests of peace this work must go forward.

A plan has been submitted which provides a basis for a renewed effort to bring about a peaceful adjustment of differences. It is hoped that by using this plan as a basis of negotiation, the conflicting claims of the parties can be settled.

With reference to the granting of a loan or loans to the State of Israel, I have directed the departments and agencies of the executive branch of our Government to work together in expediting the consideration of any applications for loans which may be submitted by the State of Israel.

It is my hope that such financial aid will soon be granted and that it will contribute substantially to the long-term development and stability of the Near East.

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The New York Times of October 25 reported the President's action in the following dispatch:

PRESS RELEASE from AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Associated Organizations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL VOICES GRATITUDE

FOR TRUMAN AND DEWEY STATEMENTS ON ISRAEL

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ZIONISTS LOOK FORWARD TO ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECLARATIONS

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New York, Oct. 27 -- The American Zionist Emergency Council, which speaks for all Zionist organizations in the United States, today expressed its deep gratitude to both President Truman and Governor Dewey for their recent statements reaffirming the platforms of their parties with respect to Israel.

The Council, whose chairman is Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, declared that the "timely action" of President Truman and Governor Dewey "at a moment when the subject of Palestine is pending before the Political Committee of the United Nations will indicate to the delegations there assembled that the American people, regardless of political affiliation, through their leaders wholeheartedly and unitedly endorse the territorial integrity of Israel. It represents, indeed, American bi-partisan action on its highest level and places the question of Israel above domestic politics."

The text of the Council's statement follows:

"The American Zionist Emergency Council, which speaks for all major Zionist organizations in the United States, is deeply grateful to both President Truman and Governor Dewey for their recent statements reaffirming the platforms of their parties with respect to Israel.

(more)

"Their timely action at a moment when the subject of Palestine is pending before the Political Committee of the United Nations will indicate to the delegations there assembled that the American people, regardless of political affiliation, through their leaders wholeheartedly and unitedly endorse the territorial integrity of Israel. It represents, indeed, American bi-partisan action on its highest level and places the question of Israel above domestic politics.

"American policy on Israel no longer remains in doubt. The world now knows where the American people stand. We can confidently expect that all appropriate assistance will be speedily rendered by our Government to Israel in the form of adequate economic aid, in accordance with the President's public directive; that the American delegation will support before the United Nations in Paris the just claims of Israel to exist as a free nation, safe from aggression; and that no modification of its boundaries shall be made without the consent of the State of Israel."

In the course of September 1945, there were repeated reports that the British Cabinet was going to reject the demand made by President Truman in August for the immediate admission of 100,000 Jewish refugees to Palestine. Reports from Washington at the same time indicated a growing uncertainty regarding the attitude of the U.S. Government in the face of the British stand. Senator Wagner was trying to arrange an appointment between President Truman and the Zionist leaders, but seemed to meet with no success. British arguments regarding major political and military difficulties to be expected if the President's demand were granted, seemed to make some impression on the President. Dr. Weizmann saw Secretary of State Byrnes in Europe, but that meeting too was inconclusive. 45

✓ On September 23 a cable was received from the Jewish Agency Executive in London confirming the rejection of the President's demand by the British Cabinet and the adoption by the Cabinet of a policy based on the White Paper. The cable said that the gravest view was taken by the members of the Executive of the situation and that only public action in the United States could perhaps avert a catastrophe.

Upon receipt of this information, several steps were taken. The most important of these were the following:

A Madison Square Garden meeting was held on September 30.

An emergency conference was held in Washington on October 4, in the course of which most members of Congress were contacted by their own constituents.

A number of full-page ads were placed in the press.

An open-air demonstration was held on Madison Square Park on October 24.

A Congressional Resolution on Palestine was introduced on October 26 by Senators Wagner and Taft.

Governor Dewey and Mayor LaGuardia were the only non-Jewish speakers at the Madison Square Garden meeting on September 30. No spokesman for the Administration was present although every effort was made to get one.

Just before the Madison Square Garden meeting, an invitation was received by Drs. Silver and Wise to visit the President. The invitation came as a surprise, since our efforts prior to the announcement of the mass meeting to arrange such an interview were unsuccessful. The interview itself, even though showing that the President was well disposed toward all efforts to solve the question of Jewish refugees, indicated that he still had some reservations regarding a Jewish State.

In the course of October, it was learned that the British were suggesting to Washington the appointment of a joint Anglo-American Committee. A campaign of protest followed, indicating the danger of substituting another committee for speedy action. This campaign was continued after the publication on November 13 of a joint statement by both governments regarding the appointment of a committee and its terms of reference. Early in December, when the personnel of the committee was appointed, it was found that its American group included three members favorable to the Jewish cause.

RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN

117-125 EAST 85TH STREET

NEW YORK 28, N. Y.

SACRAMENTO 2-2272

THE STUDY

January 28, 1949

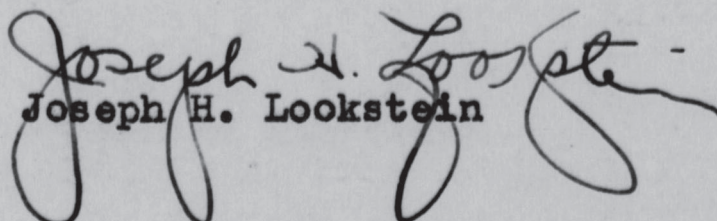
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The convocation in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of my ministry at Kehilath Jeshurun was an event that I shall remember all my life. It was rendered even more memorable by the kind and touching letter of greeting that you were good enough to send to the Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, Mr. Samuel Levy, and which was recently shown to me.

I want to thank you heartily for the generous sentiments that you expressed. In all humility permit me to say that I shall try to prove deserving of these sentiments. I am no less grateful to you for your good wishes and I pray that they who blessed me may themselves be blessed.

Very cordially yours,


Joseph H. Lookstein

JHL:im

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary
Macon, Ga.

EAST 105TH STREET AND ANSE

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary
Reading, Pa.

CLEVELAND, OHIO

W.R.H.S. AMERICAN SOUTH ARCHIVES
1948
A.S.C. Action - Refuse
Pres. 1 Museum + Denver
F. I. G. D. u. d. n.
in south

Sep. 8 - Introduction before
Electors. (A)

Sep. 25 - Bennington Plan

- Marshall - Telegram

(B)

(C) Campaign 2 EC

(C)

No word from Pres.

- at all stations -

- 11 min

Oct. 20 - Effort to get
Dewey - my

telegram ~~at first~~

Robert Strauss

Letter of apology

Oct. 22 -

Oct. 24

Dewey
Tamm - extended

Oct. 27 - Thanks to
bro A (E)

1800

Oct. 27 - Spencer
to Tamm (F)

Oct. 28. to Dewey

(G)