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Jewish Agency, letter drafts, 1948.

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May , 1948

Dear Mr. President:

Believing as we do that this is an hour of grave crisis for the United Nations and also for the United States, we respectfully address you concerning the Palestine situation.

We believe that the Resolution favoring partition as adopted by the General Assembly on November 29 provides a solution which is more practicable, equitable and capable of administration than the trusteeship proposal now sponsored by our government. This recommendation seeks under a new guise and with far less hopes of success to perpetuate a mandate over two unwilling peoples in Palestine, which the British government is now abandoning as utterly unworkable. The logic of the General Assembly Resolution in favor of partition is now proving itself in practice as the only right and hopeful solution for Palestine.

The action of our government carries the implication of an abandonment of the democratic process in settling international issues. Physical force by member nations in the United Nations in any effort to upset the decisions of the majority appears to have been an important factor in our government's change in position. The situation requires understanding, firmness and statesmanship.

We suggest the following program and urge that it be given your full support:

1. Our government should cease its fruitless efforts to impose a trusteeship which will involve the use of forces greater than any that might have been required to enforce partition. It should place its authority and prestige unequivocally behind the resolution for the establishment of Jewish and Arab States in Palestine.

2. Immediate action should be taken to protect Jerusalem which is part of the spiritual heritage of mankind from the large-scale destruction of battle which threatens following the termination of the Mandate. Our government should take the initiative to secure the immediate confirmation of the Jerusalem Trusteeship Statute. The United States should support the formation of a voluntary force contributed by willing member states of the United Nations to maintain the truce and restore order in Jerusalem.

3. The United States should immediately lift the arms embargo and facilitate the flow of arms to Palestine to be used for defense purposes. To assure that these arms are not used for aggression, they may be distributed through the United Nations Palestine Commission.

4. The United States should now allow the authority of the United Nations and its own prestige to be impaired, as they are now being impaired,

by aggression of the Arab States in clear violation of the Charter and in defiance of the United Nations. The United States should take leadership in the United Nations in directing these nations withdraw their armed nationals from Palestine and to desist from further invasion. It should be made clear that unless this is done, economic and diplomatic sanctions and even expulsion from the United Nations as provided in the Charter of the United Nations, will be instituted against them and will be supported by the United States. A Border Commission of the United Nations, comparable with that sent to Greece, should be sent to Palestine at once.

5. Our concern over the failure of the British Government to cooperate in carrying out the partition resolution of the General Assembly and especially its failure to maintain law and order, which responsibility it reserved exclusively unto itself until the termination of the Mandate, should be transmitted by our government to the British Government. We draw particular attention to the responsibility which rests on the government of Great Britain to restrain the Arab Legion of King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan from any military intervention in the affairs of Palestine. This Legion exists only by virtue of a British subsidy and is under the command of a British commanding officer.

Mr. President, it is our conviction that this is an hour no less critical for the history of the world than when fascist Italy marched with impunity into Ethiopia and set in train consequences which led inevitably to World War II. Considerations of justice, of law and of our national safety alike require that affirmative action along the lines above indicated be taken by our government. Courageous assertion of American leadership is called for and we hope that we shall not appeal to you in vain.

Respectfully yours,

Remarks
Congress of the United States**House of Representatives****Washington, D. C.****The President****Hon. George C. Marshall, Secretary of State****Hon. John W. Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury****Hon. James Forrestal, Secretary of Defense****Hon. Tom C. Clark, Attorney General****Hon. Jesse M. Donaldson, Postmaster General****Hon. Julius A. Krug, Secretary of the Interior****Hon. Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture****Hon. Charles Sawyer, Secretary of Commerce****Hon. Lewis B. Schwellenbach, Secretary of Labor****Gentlemen:**

In the present Palestine crisis affecting so many interests vital to the United States, and the world's hopes for peace, we are constantly being asked for our views and recommendations, and requested to make them known to the Executive Department. Accordingly in the light of the best information available to us at this time, we state them here, as we believe that under existing conditions action by the Executive Department is most urgent.

We are led to our conclusions by the continued and accelerated pace of the warfare in Palestine, the reported and admitted incursions into Palestine on a large scale of non-Palestinian Arabs recruited, trained, financed, equipped and led under the official auspices of the neighboring Arab states to make war on the Jews, and the defacto establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. It seems clear to us that the attainment of a truce under fair conditions which could lead to a permanent settlement in Palestine, the preservation of the shrines of the three great religious faiths in Jerusalem and its environs, and the withdrawal of the non-Palestinian Arab forces who are now defying the United Nations, rather than the unrealistic effort to get the General Assembly to reverse itself and vote a trusteeship for Palestine, must be the three prime objectives of our policy. To attain these objectives we believe the President should take the following action:

(1) Discontinue the embargo on the shipment of arms to the Jewish militia of the defacto Jewish state, until a just truce is attained, or until the non-Palestinian forces armed by the neighboring Arab states, which continue to receive large arms shipments from Great Britain under "treaty arrangements", are withdrawn, and foreign arms are no longer a factor in the Palestine fighting.

(2) Provide for the participation by the United States in any effective measures to protect Jerusalem, and its environs, and to put these areas under international control, as already proposed by the United States representative at the United Nations.

(3) Provide for the support of the United States of all efforts which might be made within the framework of the United Nations to apply such sanctions as the Charter provides for in order to bring about compliance with the General Assembly's Resolution on Palestine.

Sincerely yours,

