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Jewish Agency, boycott, 1948.

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WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

NA942 NL PD=NEWYORK NY 19

1948 MAY 19 PM 10 06

RABBI SILVER=

CARE JEWISH AGENCY 2201 MASSACHUSETTS AVE NORTHWEST

WASHDC=

=ADVISE AGENCY TO URGE BOYCOTTING OF BRITISH GOODS IN VIEW

OF THEIR ATTITUDE=

=MARVIN MICHAEL.

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NA931 NL PD=NEWYORK NY 19

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

JEWISH AGENCY 2201 MASSACHUSETTS AVE WASHDC=

I FEEL A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN URGING AMERICAN HE BREWS TO
BOYCOTT BRITISH GOODS IS IMPERATIVE=

CHARLES MICHAEL

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NB7 NL PD=NEWYORK NY 19

1948 MAY 20 AM 12 43

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

CARE JEWISH AGENCY 2201 MASSACHUSETTS AVE WASHDC=

I HEARTILY URGE YOU TO LEAD A MOVEMENT AMONG AMERICAN JEWS
TO BOYCOTT BRITISH GOODS AND SERVICES STOP I AM SURE THAT
WHEN BRITISH WORKERS AND SMALL BUSINESS MEN REALIZE THAT
THEIR COUNTRY'S ACTION IN PALESTINE IS ALIENATING MILLIONS
OF AMERICANS THEY WILL USE PRESSURE ON THEIR GOVERNMENT=

MANFRED MALKIN.

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PB789

PABA934 NL PD=YONKERS NY 19

1948 MAY 19 PM 10 27

RABBI ABLA HILLEL SILVER JEWISH AGENCY=

2201 MASSACHUSETTS AVE WASHDC=

I THINK YOU SHOULD MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS TO SE THAT AMERICAN
JEWRY BOYCOTTS ALL BRITISH GOOD=

A L HAMMER 27 BEDFORD PLACE YONKERS/NY

JEWRY 27

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

CLASS OF SERVICE

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NB59 NL PD=NEWYORK NY 20

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

1948 MAY 21 AM 2 51

CARE JEWISH AGENCY 2201 MASSACHUSETTS AVE WASHDC=

WE URGE THAT YOU GET ALL JEWS TO BOYCOTT BRITISH GOODS=
MR AND MRS MORTON LIPPMAN.

MINUTES

Executive Board Meeting, July 20, 1948. 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman, Professor Johan J. Smertenko; Mrs. Blanche Berck, Mrs. Ruth Gordon, Rabbi D. Bernard Stolper, Dr. Joseph Ratner, Mr. Karl Herstein; Mr. Saul Tuttmann, Mr. Milton Eisenberg, ex officio.

Meeting was opened at 4:30 P.M. by Mr. Smertenko, who called upon Mr. Tuttmann, Director of the Organization Department, to report on the organizational activities of the Committee.

Mr. Tuttmann stated that in addition to a general membership campaign through advertising and by direct mail, a special organizational effort was being made in certain sections of the city where groups were establishing "block committees." These committees visited the stores in their communities to persuade the merchants to stop selling goods of British manufacture or of British-owned companies, like Lever Brothers and Crosse and Blackwell. At the same time, these committees were distributing our posters and literature.

Mr. Tuttmann outlined the efforts being made in the summer resort districts to hold meetings for propaganda and fund-raising purposes. A mass meeting was scheduled for Spring Valley on July 21.

In addition to the advertisements, the most important piece of propaganda material was the Boycott Bulletin prepared by Mrs. Ruth Gordon and published as a contribution to the movement by the B. Gordon Press. This was intended as the first in a series and presented a list of British products and services. Mr. Tuttmann reported a wide-spread demand for this Bulletin.

Mr. Eisenberg, Director of Research, then reported on the work of his department. He stated that lists of importers of British goods were obtained through the services of a member of the Committee from ships' manifests. Letters were then written to these importers advising them of the boycott and asking them to discontinue their imports of British goods. Mr. Eisenberg cited an encouraging number of replies from importers in various fields who agreed to cancel further orders in England.

Mr. Eisenberg further reported that the most effective work in boycotting was being done in the moving picture field. After picketing a number of theaters with very marked results, four large theater chains had agreed not to use British films for the duration of the boycott. The Committee was similarly successful with half a dozen individual theaters. We have reached the point where theater owners request the Committee to approve any pictures that have British connections before contracting to show them. (Since the meeting, two more chains have agreed to discontinue showing British films. Several more independent theaters have also made this agreement. Thus, with the exception of the Park Avenue and Winter Garden Theaters, owned by Universal-International, and the theaters of Harry Brandt, who is a co-chairman of the Motion Picture Division of the U.J.A. we have eliminated British films in the New York area.)

Mr. Eisenberg then explained the status of the most important case under consideration by the Committee. It involved the Brown and Williamson Tobacco Co., whose common stock was wholly owned by the British-American Tobacco

Co., a British firm. On the basis of this fact, the Committee had listed the products of Brown and Williamson in the Boycott Bulletin. However, objection had been entered to this listing by the law firm, White and Case, which represents Brown and Williamson. After several telephone conversations, Mr. Eisenberg and Mr. Smertenko met with Mr. Hartfield of White and Case in the offices of our legal counsel, Dr. Mitchell Salem Fisher. There the Committee was informed that at the present time none of the profits of Brown and Williamson was sent to England because the firm was obligated to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. for a sum of thirty-two million dollars and the profits of the firm were being used to amortize that loan. Mr. Hartfield further disclosed that the loan was originally for the sum of forty-six million dollars.

Mr. Eisenberg reported that during the discussion, Dr. Fisher had suggested a compromise whereby Brown and Williamson would write a letter to the Committee stating these facts and stating further that Brown and Williamson disapproved of the policy of the British Government in Palestine and would do nothing to aid the Government economically pending the duration of the boycott. Either this letter or a letter from the Committee confirming this statement would then be widely publicized by means of paid advertisements by Brown and Williamson. Mr. Hartfield undertook to communicate this offer to the Brown and Williamson executives and to inform the Committee as to whether it was acceptable.

The Chairman here explained to the Board that these negotiations were tentative and that it was for the Board to determine the policy of the Committee in this instance and in all similar instances. We should have to decide whether the Committee would take the position that all British-owned firms were to be automatically placed on the British boycott list or whether a certain amount of leeway would be allowed in what Dr. Fisher called "marginal cases."

The Chairman called upon Mrs. Berck, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board to make a financial report. Mrs. Berck submitted the following account, as of July 20:

Receipts

Mail	4788.35
* Advertising	2745.95
Petitions	1194.93
Loan	52.80
Refund on Advertising	
	<u>540.00</u>
	9322.03
* May 24th ad	593.50
June 2nd and June	
7th ad	1550.50
July 6th ad	601.95

Disbursements

Advertising	May	540.00
	June	1894.20
	July	1620.00
Payroll	5/24 to 7/20	3367.96
Petty Cash	)	
Postage	)	966.47
Miscellaneous	)	
Deposit-N.Y.	Telephone	200.00
Rent		420.00
New Era Letter		300.00
J. Karafin Printing		<u>287.13</u>
		9016.76

To be Paid

Withholding Tax	203.60
July rent	420.00
N.Y. Telephone to 7/1	208.19
Alpha Office Supply	23.25 (stationery)
Brown Stone Serv.	13.75 (mimeograph)
Charles Francis Press	2109.36 (printing)
Joseph Karafin	303.20 (printing)

Disbursements (cont'd)

Individual Letter	6.00 (offset
New Era Letter	253.96 (offset
Grand Central Letter	163.17 (offset
Terco Typewriter	11.36 (repairs
**Weekly Payroll	<u>430.00</u>

4145.84

The Chairman then asked the Board to take up the Brown and Williamson matter as the first business of the meeting.

In the absence of Dr. Fisher, the Chairman presented the latter's point of view. Dr. Fisher felt that until the Committee was strong enough to take an arbitrary position in all cases, it would do well to negotiate with "Marginal" cases, with a view toward gaining the greatest amount of advantage with a minimum of concessions. In the case of Brown and Williamson, Dr. Fisher felt that the technical excuse inherent in the fact that no money was actually going to England could be used to our advantage by getting a substantial advertising appropriation which would serve to disseminate knowledge of the boycott throughout the country.

Mr. Smertenko added that although he disagreed with Dr. Fisher, the Board ought to consider his viewpoint in the light of our financial situation. The Committee was beginning the summer with a large deficit and a small bank balance. It would be very difficult to find the funds to carry on an active campaign during the next two months. He had made a personal bank loan and was turning over \$1500 to enable the organization to survive these two months but it left virtually no money for advertising. Dr. Fisher's compromise, if accepted by Brown and Williamson, would enable the Committee to propagate its ideas. Nevertheless, the Chairman was opposed to agreement with Brown and Williamson. He felt that in making use of this technicality or quibble, we should be creating a precedent which would put us in a vulnerable position.

By compromising with Brown and Williamson, the Committee would find that it had to sanction other British-owned firms because the public would refuse to accept the distinction between sending money to England and using the money to reduce British indebtedness in this country. He urged the Board to adopt a policy that any and all British-owned firms would be boycotted. He cited the instance of agreement with the British-owned firms in the Fur Industry which was not worth the paper it was printed on and which was accepted by the Committee only because the members of the Fur Industry themselves insisted on making this compromise.

In the discussion which followed Mrs. Gordon and Dr. Ratner supported the Chairman; Rabbi Stolper and Mr. Herstein advocated the position taken by Dr. Fisher. A motion was made and seconded to adopt a policy of automatically boycotting all British-owned firms. This motion was lost by a vote of three to two --- Mrs. Eserk, Rabbi Stolper and Mr. Herstein voting in the negative. Then a motion was made, seconded and passed that the Chairman be authorized to carry on negotiations with Brown and Williamson with a view toward making an agreement which would further the objectives of the Committee on the basis of the suggestions made by Dr. Fisher.

(On the following day, Mr. Smertenko discussed the matter with Mr. Hartfield and was informed that Brown and Williamson declined to write the type of letter suggested by Dr. Fisher but that it was willing to donate to the Committee a sum equal to the contribution the firm had made to U.J.A. providing it was not listed in the Boycott Bulletin. Mr. Smertenko refused this offer.)

The Board decided to hold monthly meetings. It approved the decision to incorporate the Committee. After an appeal by the Chairman, the members announced that they would make every effort to organize parlor meetings for fund-raising and get in touch with potential individual contributors.

Respectfully submitted,

BLANCHE BERCA, Secretary.



MINUTES

Executive Board Meeting, August 24, 1948. 4:45 P.M.

Present: Chairman, Professor Johan J. Smertenko: Mrs. Ruth Gordon, Mr. Karl Herstein, Dr. Joseph Ratner, Mr. Sean MacCarthy, Mrs. Edith Abel, Acting Secretary, Mr. Saul Tuttmann, Mr. Milton Eisenberg, ex officio.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 4:45 P.M. Due to the fact that Mr. Eisenberg and Mr. Tuttmann were obliged to attend to the final arrangements of the meeting in P.S.4 to be held that evening, their brief reports were amplified by the Chairman.

In the organizational field progress has been very slow. Preliminary steps have been taken to establish branches or local units in several parts of the city. The lack of professional organizers who could give their full time to the work has delayed the establishment of these branches. Preliminary parlor meetings were held in the Bensonhurst, Borough Hall and Bronx districts and individuals in these districts have been doing good work in circulating the Boycott Bulletins and eliminating British goods from neighborhood stores, but none of these groups has yet reached the position of operating autonomously under its own officers.

Greater progress has been made in the general boycott field. The Committee has been especially successful in the moving picture industry. When the Committee was organized there were at least eighteen theaters in the Greater New York Area showing British films. Now these films are confined to two theaters and even these found it necessary to show American films to cut down their losses. Since the last meeting of the Executive Board, Harry Brandt agreed to stop showing British films in his theaters. For three successive weeks Variety magazine, the trade paper of the entertainment industry, devoted more than a page to consideration of the boycott and reported that American distributors of British films, including Universal-International, and Twentieth Century-Fox, were insisting on a change in their contractual relations with British companies to avoid showing British pictures. Other newspapers also reported the effects of the boycott of films. The charges of Alexander Korda that American producers and distributors were supporting the boycott as a means of hurting British films were carried by many of the papers in the country.

Mr. Smertenko commented on these charges stating that he wished they were true. He announced that not a penny had been received from the American film industry by the Boycott Committee and that every action taken by the American industry in regards to British films was done under pressure from our Committee. He reported that the premiere of "Hamlet" was transferred from New York to Boston because Universal-International and the Theater Guild, which were jointly sponsoring and distributing this film, were afraid to face the demonstration and picket line in New York.

To meet this challenge Mr. MacCarthy, representing the United Irish Counties Association, Mr. Peter Campbell, Secretary of the Irish Republican Prisoners Association, and Mr. Smertenko went to Boston and organized a picket line for the

first night of the "Hamlet" showing. The demonstration was witnessed by more than ten thousand people who gathered on the Boston Commons and was widely reported in the American press.

During their visit in Boston Mr. MacCarthy and Mr. Smertenko held conferences with Mayor Curley, Thomas J. Buckley, and other city and state officials. Mayor Curley offered to have "Hamlet" barred from the Boston theaters on moral grounds but Mr. Smertenko advised against that move because the resulting publicity would create a great demand for the picture in other cities.

The Chairman proposed to the Board consideration of the question as to whether the American pictures of Universal-International should be boycotted because the British movie magnate, J. Arthur Rank, was the largest individual stockholder in that company and because Universal-International was the chief distributor of British films in the United States. He also advised the Board that a serious challenge to the boycott was being planned by the Eagle-Lion Film Company. Like Universal-International, this firm distributes Arthur Rank pictures in the United States. It plans to show twelve British films in the coming year, including "Oliver Twist" and the "Olympics of 1948." In accordance with his agreement with our Committee, Harry Brandt refused to show "Oliver Twist" at the Gotham Theater after it had been turned down by Radio City. He also promised Mr. Smertenko that he would refuse to show the "Olympics" at the same theater but indicated that, under his contract, the Eagle-Lion people could insist on the use of that theater for this picture. He promised that he, himself, would join the picket line and carry a sign stating that, although his theater was being used, he personally was in favor of a boycott of British films.

The Chairman reported that in accordance with the decision of the Board, he took up the matter of an agreement with the Brown & Williamson Company on the basis of Dr. Fisher's suggestion. He called Mr. Hartfield, the attorney for this firm, and learned that Brown & Williamson refused to accept Dr. Fisher's suggestion. However, Mr. Hartfield made a counter-proposal. He offered our Committee a sum equivalent to the contribution Brown & Williamson had made to the U.J.A. if we did not list the firm's products in our Boycott Bulletin. This offer was rejected by the Chairman with the statement that our Committee is organized for boycott and not for blackmail purposes.

The Chairman reported that after prolonged negotiations with T.O. Thackrey, the Post refused to publish the advertising of our Committee. The decision of the Post was made as a result of pressure exerted by Hearn's and Macy's. These firms told the advertising manager of the Post that they would withdraw their advertising if his newspaper continued to publish the advertisements of our Committee. For similar reasons the Star turned down our advertisement.

The Committee submitted an advertisement to the New Republic and it was refused by Michael Straight after having been accepted by the advertising manager. The enclosed correspondence with Mr. Straight furnishes the details of the rejection.

In the absence of Mrs. Berck, there was no itemized financial report but the Chairman stated that the financial situation was more grave than it had been at the previous meeting of the Board. General contributions were very small both in number and in denomination and even with curtailed propaganda activities the routine expenses far exceed income. He estimated the Committee's indebtedness to be over six thousand dollars, not including twenty-eight hundred dollars owed to Mr. Smertenko as a result of his loan to the Committee and in unpaid salaries. He stated that during the week he expected to get one thousand dollars as an anonymous contribution but that this represented the limit of his fund raising ability and that other members of the Board would have to help in overcoming the financial crisis.

In the discussion that followed, the financial situation was tackled first. Mrs. Ruth Gordon stated that she would obtain a contribution of a thousand dollars and other members pledged themselves to make an effort to raise some money. It was suggested that a request be put in the Minutes that those members of the Board who were not present at the meeting do everything possible to secure substantial contributions for the work of our organizations. The Chairman was asked to get in touch with Judge Goldstein and ask his help in presenting the issues of the boycott to the Grand Street Boys' Association in order to obtain the general help of the individual members as well as of the association itself. Other members of the Board were to be asked to arrange meetings in lodges and organizations where a representative of our Committee would be permitted to appeal for support.

The Board authorized the Chairman to go ahead with a stamp mailing as a fund raising project. Pictures drawn by Arthur Sayk were to be printed in stamp form and sent out in sheets of one hundred with a request that the recipients pay one dollar per sheet and that all who contributed more than ten dollars would be eligible to receive an enlarged copy of the drawing suitable for framing.

The Chairman asked consideration by the Board of the situation in the fur industry. He reported that the original committee organizing that industry to enforce the boycott has become inactive and that many American fur dealers had gone to England to buy merchandise at the London sale. Moreover, he had received reports from some of the fur dealers that the two British companies in New York, which had signed an agreement not to forward money to England nor to handle British goods, were not abiding by this agreement.

He had written to the officers of these companies requesting an answer to these accusations. No reply was received from Lampson, Fraser & Huth, the subsidiary of Hudson's Bay Company, but Mr. Pollard of Eastwood & Holt had called to say that these charges were untrue and that our Committee was welcome to examine their books in order to check the truth of these accusations.

Mr. Smertenko expressed the opinion that a thorough examination of the facts would clear Eastwood & Holt, while it would show that Lampson, Fraser & Huth had violated the agreement. Nevertheless, he felt that some action should be taken which did not distinguish between these two firms. In his opinion, the

collapse of the boycott in the fur industry was due to the fact that the original agreements had been made. He felt that the people in the fur industry disregarded the boycott because they were permitted to buy from British firms in New York. He advocated that the Committee inform the British companies that the agreements were not serving our purpose and would be terminated at once.

Mrs. Gordon, Mr. Herstein and Dr. Ratner participated in the discussion of this subject. They agreed that if it was necessary to terminate these agreements in order to strengthen the boycott, such action should be taken. But they felt it would be advisable to consult with members of the fur industry before making a final decision and they requested the Chairman to try to reorganize the Boycott Committee in the industry in order to get support for our action within the industry itself.

Mr. MacCarthy reported on the efforts made by Mr. Campbell and himself to get the cooperation of Irish Americans in the boycott movement. He stated that two of the largest Irish organizations in the country, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the United Irish Counties, had voted to support the boycott. He was optimistic about the possibility of having a number of men from these organizations added to our Executive Board as individuals rather than representatives of the organizations. However, these men would serve as liaison between the Committee and the Irish organizations. He said that the Irish Republican Prisoners Association was reprinting our Boycott Bulletin to circulate among members and sympathizers. The members of the Board expressed their pleasure at this report and asked Mr. MacCarthy to extend a welcome to any members of his organizations whom he considers eligible for membership on the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Edith Abel

October 1, 1948.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Emanuel Newman
521 Fifth Ave.
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Newman:

I am enclosing copies of two letters which arrived in the last two days. They speak for themselves.

It is this sort of appeal that stiffens my determination to carry on the work of our Committee despite the fact that the lethargy and opposition induced by the attitude of the "official" Zionist organizations has deprived us of the minimum financial support necessary to pursue our task.

I do not want to hide from you the sordid facts of our hand-to-mouth existence. I am enclosing copies of the Minutes of our last two Executive Board meetings which disclose our financial circumstances. So far as I am personally concerned, the bottom of the barrel has been reached. Every cent I had in the bank and all the credit I could use to borrow money, I have put into this work. If it were not for two or three men who have done the same thing, we should long since have had to abandon our activities.

I can provide you with overwhelming evidence that the boycott, even in this limited form, is an effective instrument. Surely, at this time you should be able to recognize the use that can be made of this instrument purely as a political weapon to counteract British pressure in the United Nations.

I appeal to you to take this matter up immediately with the inner circle of your associates and to determine on a course of action that will give us some help. Naturally, I should prefer to have the Zionist Organization of America take an unequivocal position in favor of the boycott. I believe it can do so, as an American organization, without compromising the Israeli Government in any way. But if you still think that is inadvisable, you can at least arrange to have some independent sources give us the necessary financial and organizational support.

You know me well enough to realize that I neither desire nor need to hold this position in the boycott movement. I know nothing which I should rather do than to turn it over to someone whom you would designate who will pledge himself to carry on the work until an acceptable decision on Palestine has been reached in the United Nations.

Cordially yours,

JOHAN J. SMERTENKO
Acting Chairman

JJS:VC
encs.

Sons of Liberty Boycott Committee

106 West 70th Street • New York 23, N. Y. • TR 3-2600

October 1, 1948

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Office of the Chairman

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Chairman, Jewish Agency
16 East 66th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Twenty years is a long time to carry the memory of a quarrel. There have been many occasions during these years when I have had to resist the urge to communicate to you my opinions of approval or disapproval of your statements and actions. I did so because I felt that in either case my letter might be misinterpreted.

Now I am compelled to brush this feeling aside. Whatever the interpretation you may put on this letter, I am duty bound to send it. I am convinced that only your influence can change Zionist policy on the question of the boycott, and I want to appeal to you to use that influence fully and immediately.

I am enclosing copies of two letters which reached me from Palestine yesterday and today. They speak for themselves. They are but individual expressions of what all the Jewish people recognize to be true.

I am also enclosing copies of the Minutes of the last two meetings of our Executive Board. These will serve to inform you as to the precise situation in which our Committee finds itself. If it were not for the fact that a few men have contributed all of their resources to the Committee, it could not have carried on so long. I could send you overwhelming proof of the effectiveness of our boycott despite the limited means at our command and in the face of the opposition from "official" Jewish organizations. You have undoubtedly received such proof from your own sources of information. At any rate, you have the knowledge and the imagination to visualize how much can be done along these lines if a really powerful effort is properly organized.

Nor do I need to point out to you the importance of the boycott as a political instrument to counteract the British drive in the United Nations. What I am bound to call to your attention, however, is that without substantial help we cannot long continue. I call upon you to take some action to prevent the collapse of the boycott.

Naturally, I should prefer to have the Zionist Organization of America take an unequivocal position in favor of the boycott. I believe it can do so, as an American organization, without compromising the Israeli Government in any way. But if you still think that is inadvisable, you can at least arrange to have some independent sources give us the necessary financial and organizational support.

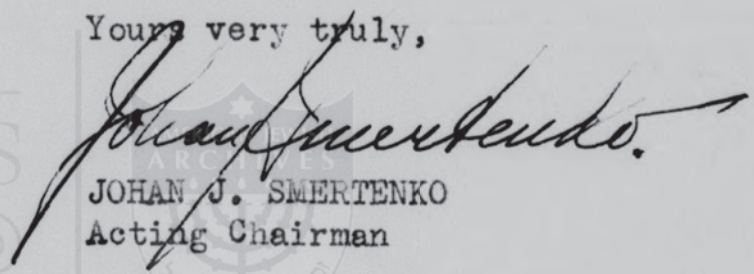
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

October 1, 1948

I am emboldened to make this request because I believe it to be consistent with the public statements you have made in the past six months in which you have charged repeatedly that the British Government is responsible for the Arab attack on Israel. The accusation that Britain is conducting an undeclared war against Israel cannot stand alone. It must be implemented by an organized campaign to stop people from trading with the enemy. You need only say the word to establish this organized effort.

Whichever course you take, please feel free to assume that I am willing to have anyone you may designate take my place in this Committee if that person is pledged to carry on the boycott until a satisfactory decision on Palestine is reached in the United Nations.

Yours very truly,


JOHAN J. SMERTENKO
Acting Chairman

P.S. I have just written a letter to Governor Dewey, a copy of which is enclosed. It seems of the utmost importance to me to get Dewey committed to a specific program before the elction. A statement should be written for him which accepts partition as the minimal basis of Israeli territorial claims. In addition, it must express disapproval of the concession extorted from the Jewish Agency in the coast line of the Negev and in the Bwersheba district. Moreover, it should recognize the gains made during the Arab War, including Jaiffa, Jerusalem and Galilee.

JJS:VC
encs.

October 5, 1948

Governor Thomas E. Dewey
Executive Mansion
Albany, New York

My dear Governor:

The papers have just published your New Year's Message to Jewish Americans. This message, like previous pronouncements on Palestine made on your behalf by various people, expresses both sympathy and understanding. However, it is far too general and vague to meet the needs of the present situation.

Throughout the years of the war and the post-war period, Americans of Jewish religion or Hebrew origin have been cajoled and deceived by a callous and cynical Administration. Both Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman have feigned pious expressions of sympathy for the plight and the needs of the Jews of the world. President Truman has actually pledged himself numerous times to take a specific course of action and to adopt a definite policy which would end the tragedy of these people and enable them to re-establish their lives in a fragment of their ancient land.

These pledges have been revoked almost as quickly as they were made. Today the policy of our Government, announced by Secretary of State Marshall in Paris, constitutes a negation of every single one of the promises made by President Truman, both before and since the United Nations voted to partition Palestine.

Millions of American citizens, including those of Jewish faith and Hebrew origin, are utterly disillusioned by this exhibition of hypocrisy on the part of the Chief Executive and the highest spokesman of our nation. They recognize that a President who has repeatedly broken his pledged word on the Palestine issue cannot be trusted to keep his promises on any issue. They know that the vacillations and retractions of Mr. Truman have lowered the dignity and prestige of our Government and have served to make the President of the United States disreputable in the eyes of decent and enlightened people.

In view of these facts, the voters of America expect - and have a right to expect - a clear and forthright statement from you on the Palestine issue. They have welcomed your pronouncements concerning Russia and the Italian Colonies in Africa. They know that you are giving serious consideration to all aspects of America's foreign policy. They want to know from your own lips in specific detail the principles, measures, and objectives which will constitute your Palestine program. They have confidence that when elected, you will not permit the officials of our State Department to negate a program to which you have committed yourself.

Governor Thomas E. Dewey

October 5, 1948

You know that at the end of the first World War the United States and fifty-one other nations resolved to recognize the rights of the Hebrew people to return to their ancient land and to reconstitute it as an independent state. You know that the territory allowed to this state at the Versailles Peace Conference included 60,000 square miles. You know that by a series of illegal maneuvers the British Government reduced that territory to 10,000 square miles and that by the use of its influence and pressure in the United Nations it brought about the further reduction of that territory to some 5,000 square miles in what was actually the third partition of Palestine. You know that the Arab invasion of Palestine was instigated and supported by the British Government; that in their heroic resistance the Jews of Palestine drove the Arab aggressors from Galilee, and thus at a sacrifice of many lives, regained a fragment of their land.

The American press has just reported that John Foster Dulles your advisor on foreign affairs has returned from Paris to inform you about Secretary Marshall's support of Bevin's plot to force acceptance by the United Nations of the Bernadotte report. This plan will again reduce the State of Israel to less than 3,000 square miles and will enable Great Britain to retain and control the remainder of Palestine through her avowed puppet, Abdullah.

You - and you alone - can put an immediate stop to this violation of law and decency by stating that if and when elected, you will not recognize the action taken in Paris which in any way reduces the territory of Israel or limits the possession by the Hebrew people of Jerusalem and Haifa. You can announce the political and economic measures which our Government will take to aid Israel in establishing an independent, democratic, and self-sufficient state for a people that have endured martyrdom in the past and have no other haven of refuge from persecution and destitution.

The political situation here and abroad, my dear Governor, calls for a statement of this sort. It will give great encouragement to those members of the United Nations who are fighting on the side of humanity and justice. It will save Israel from destruction. But even more important than all this, it will make clear to the American people that the foreign policy of our Government will follow the humanitarian and democratic traditions that made America the hope of the world.

The American people will welcome this statement as a guarantee that our principles will not be betrayed by the venial underlings of the State Department who for fifteen years have sacrificed our national interests and our national honor for the sake of British imperialists and Arabian oil profiteers.

Respectfully yours,

JOHAN J. SMERTENKO
Acting Chairman