



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and  
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series II: Harold P. Manson File (Zionism Files), 1940-1949, undated.

Sub-series A: Main Manson File, 1940-1949.

---

Reel  
100

Box  
35

Folder  
14

Jewish Army, 1941.



EMERGENCY COMMITTEE  
FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS  
41 East 42nd St.  
New York, N. Y.

A J E W I S H M I L I T A R Y F O R C E  
To Serve Under British Command in the Defense of  
Palestine and the Middle East

Summary Statement on the History and Present Status of the Project

(December, 1941)

1. The desire of the Jewish people to place a military force in the field to fight with the British against the common enemy, is based on the elementary human right of self-defense. The same right is being exercised by Czechs, Poles, Norwegians, Free French and others who are fighting under British command under their own flags and insignia. The Jews are at a loss to understand why this right should be denied to them. They feel they have a special claim to it in view of the fact that they were the first people to be singled out by the common enemy for persecution and terror. The Jews regard it a matter of right and honor to meet that challenge as Jews.

2. The present demand for a Jewish military force to fight for the defense of Palestine is not without precedent. A similar force was created during the first World War. Popularly known as the Jewish Legion, it consisted of the Zion Transport Corps, which served in the Gallipoli campaign of 1915, and, later, of the 38th, 39th, 40th and 42nd Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers, E.E.F., which saw active service in the Palestine Campaign under General Allenby in 1917. The majority of the thousands of men who enlisted for the Jewish Legion came from countries other than Palestine, many of them from the United States, the Jewish population of Palestine being at that time less than 60,000. Today that population exceeds half a million, and is prepared to furnish an army of about three divisions or approximately 50,000 men.

3. No objection, moreover, on technical political grounds can be sustained against the proposal. Under the terms of the Mandate the Jewish National Home is to all intents and purposes a recognized political entity. Its blue-and-white banner is its flag. Its language, Hebrew, is one of the official languages of the country. Recognition is also accorded to its representative body, the Jewish National Council (Vaad Leumi). Another body, the Jewish Agency, is recognized by the Mandatory Power



as representing the interests of the Jewish people at large in the National Home. A Jewish military force, recruited primarily in the National Home, is entitled to the same status as the units representing Free France, Free Belgium, or any of the other European nations that are fighting the common enemy.

4. On August 29, 1939, when war between Germany and Britain appeared imminent, the leaders of the World Zionist Movement, pursuant to action taken by the Zionist Congress held earlier that month in Geneva, presented to Prime Minister Chamberlain a proposal for the formation of Jewish military units within the British army for the defense of Palestine and the Middle East and for service wherever required. The reply was courteous but non-committal. As soon as war broke out, the responsible leaders of the Palestine Jewish Community called upon their people to register as volunteers for war service. The call was answered by 136,000 men and women out of a population numbering slightly over half a million. The Palestine Government expressed appreciation of this response but availed itself of it only to a very limited extent.

5. The first offer of the Government was enlistment in two Jewish-Arab units of non-combatant pioneers, a form of service for which the Jews did not ask; and even that on condition that the number of Jews to be accepted was not to exceed the number of Arabs who might enlist. Eventually, the combatant services were also opened to them. Since the keenness for enlistment among the Arabs was not very great, the principle of parity restricted the number of Jewish volunteers to a small fraction of those who were available. The parity restriction was subsequently relaxed, but only with respect to the non-combatant units. Nevertheless, in spite of the restrictions, nearly 12,000 Jews are now serving with the British forces, and recruitment is continuing. These men have participated in military operations in France, Lybia, Eritrea, Abyssinia, Greece, Crete and Syria. They have rendered honorable service and have been cited for gallantry by General Wavell, General Ball and Vice Air Marshall B'Albiac, among others.

6. When in the summer of 1940 the Chamberlain Government was replaced by that of Churchill, the Zionist leaders again presented their proposal for a Jewish military force to fight with Britain under its own flag and insignia. In September of that year the offer received the explicit approval of the Government. Preparations were started and the indications were that a formidable Jewish fighting force would soon come into existence. In March 1941, however, a letter came from the



Colonial Secretary stating that, owing to lack of equipment, the project would be delayed for six months, with the assurance, nevertheless, that the postponement was not to be construed as a reversal of the previous decision. Towards the end of the six-months postponement another communication from the Colonial Secretary was received, again postponing action but offering to reconsider the proposal in three months. The same reason - technical difficulties - was given for the new postponement. Naturally, the plan involved a number of technical problems - training centers, transportation, equipment - and since those problems would always exist, the Zionist leaders pressed for a definite decision. The reply, which came on October 15, was a virtual retraction of the promise made in September 1940 and repeated in March 1941.

7. The technical difficulty which has been officially cited as responsible for the abandonment by the Government of the plan for a Jewish military force is "a lack of equipment" (statement by Lord Moyne, Secretary for Colonies, in House of Lords, November 25th, 1941). According to all the reports, however, that lack is being effectively supplied by ever-increasing shipments of American lease-lend material to the Near East. Mr. Churchill has stated that a force of 750,000 men has been equipped for the new Libyan offensive in which Czech, Polish and other units representing nations conquered by Nazi Germany are fighting under their own flags. In so huge an army room and equipment could have been found for two or three divisions representing the Jewish National Home. Surely American lend-lease material is not being shipped with the proviso that it may be used to equip the units of all peoples with the exception of the Jews. Moreover, even the lack of equipment need not have delayed the formation of a Jewish military force. The new American army has been created in spite of such a lack: soldiers in maneuvers have frequently had to use token weapons; and after Dunkirque many men in the new armies raised in Britain went through their drills for a time with broomsticks.

8. Outstanding American leaders have supported the demand for a Jewish military force. At a public meeting held in Carnegie Hall November 1, 1941, Senator Alben W. Barkley, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, said:

"Already thousands of them (the young Jews of Palestine) have joined the ranks of the fighters of freedom and they have been serving on many fronts: in Lybia, in Ethiopia, in Greece and in Syria, and their gallantry has won the praise of their commanders. But there are many thousands more who are anxious to be admitted into those ranks to fight with the British as a Jewish army under their own flag, even as the armies of the conquered nations, the Free French, the Czechs, the Poles,



and others are fighting. I trust that the aspirations for the establishment of a Jewish army in defense of liberty may be realized."

Senator Robert F. Wagner, as Chairman of the American Palestine Committee, a body comprising some 700 outstanding non-Jewish leaders in every sphere of American life, has stated:

"As an important bastion of the allied front, the Jews of Palestine should be allowed to place a substantial military force in the field to fight with the other defenders of freedom in the Middle East. It is to be regretted that the repeated offers of such a force made by the Jewish community in Palestine have not yet been accepted."

In England the proposal for a Jewish Army in the Middle East has had notable support, including that of the Manchester Guardian and of the London Times. An editorial in the Manchester Guardian of November 10th, 1941 called the failure of the negotiations for a Jewish military force "a disturbing story" and urged that Britain should welcome Jewish troops with the British forces under their own flag. The London Times pointed out that the Jewish volunteers had rendered good service in Greece, Lybia and Syria although in the citations these Jews were described only as Palestinians.

9. The failure to grant the Jews of Palestine the elementary right of self-defense and the Jewish people generally the right to vindicate their honor against their ruthless oppressor, should be considered in the light of the general policy with respect to the Jewish National Home pursued by the British Government since 1939. That policy, embodied in the White Paper issued that year by the Chamberlain Government, denies the Jews the two rights that are indispensable to the development of their National Home, the right of immigration and the right of land purchase. In the Parliamentary debate on May 23rd, 1939, Mr. Winston Churchill characterized that policy as a "repudiation" of the Balfour Declaration. "As one intimately and responsibly concerned in the earlier stages of that policy," he said, "I could not stand by and see solemn engagements into which Britain has entered before the world set aside for reasons of administrative convenience or - and it will be a vain hope - for the sake of a quiet life."

10. The White Paper policy was motivated by a desire to appease the Arab terrorists who, under the leadership of the former Mufti of Jerusalem, now at last conducting his activities from Rome and Berlin, were instigated and financed by the Axis. Appeasement, however, has been a failure in the Near East, as it has been everywhere else. It has failed to secure for Great Britain the support of the Arab



world, whose attitude to the democratic cause has ranged from indifference and lukewarmness, as in the case of Egypt, to disaffection and rebellion, as in the case of Iraq. Jewish rights in Palestine are not an important factor in the attitude of the Arab countries towards Britain and the democratic cause. That attitude is, in the case of each of them, determined by its local interests. The democratic tradition among the Arabs is primitive and weak and the British cause among them would gain vastly more by British determination than by the policy of appeasement and surrender represented by the repudiation of Jewish rights in Palestine.

11. The war has made it clear that the only element able and willing to contribute substantial strength to Britain in the Near East is the Palestine Jewish Community. The fact confirms the contention not only of Zionists but of many far-sighted Englishmen, that a strong Jewish Palestine is vital for the stabilization of the Middle East and the protection of the Suez Canal. While the Jews have laid emphasis on their desire to contribute their full military share to the common cause, Jewish Palestine has proved also an important agricultural and industrial asset to the British war effort.

12. In a speech in London on November 9, 1941, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of the World Zionist Organization said: "For a long time we have been pressing the demand for a Jewish fighting force in which the Jew could enlist as a Jew for service in the British forces under a Jewish name and flag...Passing to the last chapter, I am unable to record anything except disappointment and frustration...The Jews have been penalized for their loyalty and devotion. It is apparently felt that the Jews do not require encouragement and may be refused the right of every nation to a name and a flag."

"It is bitter for me to say this," Dr. Weizmann concluded, "but we do not lose hope nor do we renounce the claim for a Jewish fighting force serving under its own standard." Addressing himself finally to the Palestine Jews, Dr. Weizmann said: "Enlist in ever-growing numbers! Work and fight, even if nameless...Whatever others do to us, we must not default in our duty to the common cause."



Copy: Mr. A.H. Silver

File: UPA-UJA

1941-1942

Folder: W

AHS File

Re: British policy,  
Jewish Army

BRITISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 9, 1941

Ref. 555/82/41

Dear Rabbi Wise,

In your letter of November 18th you sent me a copy of a telegram which you had sent to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, dealing with the subject of the recruitment of a Jewish military force.

Mr. Churchill has asked me to let you know that he regrets that the decision of His Majesty's Government in this matter has caused disappointment. He wishes me to assure you that this decision was reached only after the closest and most careful consideration had been given to the matter.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Halifax.

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise  
Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs  
41 E. 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y.



C O N F I D E N T I A L

NOTES ON SPECIAL CONFERENCE  
HELD AT THE HOTEL COMMODORE  
Thursday, December 18, 1941

A meeting was called by Dr. Wise at the Commodore Hotel on Thursday, December 18, 1941 at 10 a.m. The following were present:

Judge Levinthal, in the chair; Dr. Wise, Mr. Ben-Gurion, Mr. Gellman, Dr. I. Goldstein, Dr. N. Goldmann, Rabbi James G. Heller, Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Neumann, Mrs. Pool, Rabbi Silver, Mr. Szold, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Weisgal, Mr. Wertheim, and Mr. Lourie.

The following decisions were taken:

1. It was unanimously agreed "that this committee favors the establishment of a Jewish Army to be recruited in Palestine and to serve with the same status as the armies of the Czechs, Poles, Free French and other allies under the British High Command. The question of volunteering in this country for a Jewish Army should not be raised now.

2. It was agreed that this group request the Emergency Committee to proceed as rapidly as possible to the setting up of a central committee to determine policy for Public Relations. That committee should consider the issuing of a statement based on the tenor of today's discussion.

All Zionist groups, pending the issue of such a statement, should consider the advisability of issuing no further statements on the present situation except in consultation with the Emergency Committee.

3. A sub-committee of three persons of the Emergency Committee should be appointed to deal with the Zionist press.

4. A sub-committee of the Emergency Committee should be appointed to consider the advisability of establishing a single unified Zionist journal.

5. Jewish Army Committee: By 8 votes to 5 it was agreed that Dr. Silver, Mr. Neumann, and Mrs. Halprin should continue the discussions with the Jewish Army Committee, subject to the condition that no proposal should be considered unless: a) the proposed campaign is limited to the raising of a Jewish Army in Palestine; and b) effective control of the Army Committee is secured for the Emergency Committee.

6. By 7 votes to 1 it was agreed that the resolution of the Office Committee which follows be approved:

"That the Emergency Committee be composed of Dr. Wise, Dr. Goldmann, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Lipsky, Rabbi Silver, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Szold, Mrs. Jacobs, and representatives of the parties as follows:  
ZOA - 5, Hadassah - 5, Poale Zion - 4, Mizrachi - 4. "



12/24/41

CORRECTION:

The following correction should be made in the notes reporting on the special meeting held on December 18, 1941 at the Hotel Commodore:

Paragraph #1 should read:

"It was unanimously agreed 'that this committee favors the establishment of a Jewish Army to be recruited in Palestine and to serve with the same status as the armies of the Czechs, Poles, Free French and other allies under the British High Command. No volunteering for a Jewish Army shall be undertaken in the United States at this time.' "

Paragraph # 5: Mr. Lipsky's name should be included on the sub-committee for discussions with the Jewish Army Committee.



### **The Aim:**

To bring about, by legal means and in accordance with the laws and foreign policy of the United States, the formation of a Jewish Army, based on Palestine, to fight for the survival of the Jewish people and the preservation of democracy. This army, composed primarily of Palestinian Jews and refugees as well as of volunteers from free countries, will fight on all required battlefields side by side with Great Britain and the other Allied nations.

**COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY**  
**285 MADISON AVENUE      NEW YORK, N. Y.**

**Telephone: LExington 2-7646**



*Towards the formation of*  
**THE JEWISH ARMY**

***The Aim:***

To bring about, by legal means and in accordance with the laws and foreign policy of the United States, the formation of a Jewish Army, based on Palestine, to fight for the survival of the Jewish people and the preservation of democracy. This army, composed primarily of Palestinian Jews and refugees as well as of volunteers from free countries, will fight on all required battlefields side by side with Great Britain and the other Allied nations.

**COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY**  
**285 MADISON AVENUE      NEW YORK, N. Y.**

**Telephone: LExington 2-7646**



## COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY

---

### *Honorary Chairmen*

---

SAMUEL HARDEN CHURCH  
*President Carnegie Institute*

COL. JOHN HENRY  
PATTERSON D.S.O.  
*Commander of the Jewish Legions  
in the First World War*

WILLARD G. STANTON  
*Pro Tem Treasurer*

GABRIEL A. WECHSLER  
*Secretary*

### COMMITTEE

---

DR. CARL BECK  
*Surgeon, Chicago*

GEORGE H. BENDER  
*Member Congress, Ohio*

PETER H. BERGSON  
*Jersualem, Palestine*

JOSEPH BRAININ  
*Publicist*

LOUIS BROMFIELD  
*Author*

HON. LOUIS J. CAPOZZOLI  
*Member Congress, New York*

RUSSELL GORDON CARTER  
*Author*

SAMUEL HARDEN CHURCH  
*President, Carnegie Institute*

GEORGE HAMILTON  
COMBS, JR.  
*Radio Commentator*

JEROME COUNT  
*Attorney, New York*

HON. THOMAS H. CULLEN  
*Member Congress, New York*

PROF. TARAKNATH DAS.  
*College of the City of New York*

G. B. DEALEY  
*Chairman, "Dallas Morning News"*

CLARENCE R. DECKER  
*Pres., University of Kansas City*

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL  
*Member Congress, Michigan*

HON. LE ROY D. DOWNS  
*Member Congress, Conn.*

HON. THOMAS F. FORD  
*Member Congress, California*

WALDO FRANK  
*Author*

HON. BERTRAND W. GEARHART  
*Member Congress, California*

DR. H. L. GORDON  
*National Commander World War  
Veterans American Palestine  
Jewish Legion*

REVEREND ERNEST  
GRAHAM GUTHRIE  
*Chicago Congregational Union*

BEN HECHT  
*Author*

CAPTAIN JEREMIAH HELPERN  
*Head, Jewish Marine League*

ERNEST O. HOLLAND  
*Pres., State College of Washington*

RT. REV. THOMAS JENKINS  
*Bishop of Nevada*

DR. EMIL LENGYEL  
*Author*

PROF. MAX LERNER  
*Williams College*

KENNETH LESLIE  
*Editor, "Protestant Digest"*

CLARENCE C. LITTLE  
*Director, Jackson  
Memorial Labortatory*

LUDWIG LORE  
*Columnist*

ERNST LUBITSCH  
*Motion Picture Producer*

PROF. WILLEM J. LUYTEN  
*University of Minnesota*

ALFRED J. MC COSKER  
*President,  
Mutual Broadcasting System*

PROF. NELSON P. MEAD  
*City College, New York*

SAMUEL A. MERLIN  
*Journalist*

PROF. H. A. OVERSTREET  
*Educator and Author*

PIERRE VAN PAASSEN  
*Author*

PROFESSOR  
CONSTANTINE PANUNZIO  
*University of California*

COLONEL JOHN HENRY  
PATTERSON, D.S.O.  
*Commander of the Jewish Legions  
in the First World War*

CHANNING POLLOCK  
*Author*

HON. ADOLPH J. SABATH  
*Dean House Representative*

WILLIAM J. SCHIEFFELIN  
*Chairman, American Friends  
of Czechoslovakia*

HERMAN SHUMLIN  
*Producer*

WILLARD G. STANTON  
*Chairman, American Friends  
of a Jewish Palestine*

HARRY STARR  
*Attorney*

PROF. OTTO STRUVE  
*Director, Yerkes Observatory*

HON. HARVE TIBBOTT  
*Member Congress, Pennsylvania*

GABRIEL A. WECHSLER  
*Secretary General of the  
City Fusion Party*

HON. SAMUEL A. WEISS  
*Member Congress, Pennsylvania*

ALEXANDER WILF  
*Wilf Brothers, Philadelphia*

MARY E. WOOLEY  
*Educator*



## WHY A JEWISH ARMY

THE demand that Jews be allowed to fight *as Jews* against the monster of all civilization is supported by the following arguments:

### **A Matter of National Honor**

The Jews, as members of a specific race, nation and creed, were the first target and victim of Hitler's hatred and of his aggressive, gangster-like policies. The honor of the Jewish people dictates that it reply blow for blow. Future generations will not forgive the present Jewish generation if it will not plunge actively into this world struggle. It would, therefore, be the most painful national tragedy for the Jews of the present as well as of the future if Israel were to be denied its most sacred and elementary right to fight against any enemy who oppresses, outrages and exterminates Jews.

### **Integral Solution of the Jewish Problem**

Even prior to the outbreak of the war, the Jewish position throughout all Central and Eastern Europe was economically and politically intolerable. Even should the war end with an Allied victory, that position would still be extremely catastrophic and hopeless—economically and politically—because anti-Semitism will neither be abolished nor alleviated. On the contrary, the masses will accept the most aggressive forms of this international disease which cannot be cured, but must be cut out as a cancer at its very root.

Responsible leaders of large as well as of small nations are today profoundly concerned with the economic structure of the post-war world. In Europe, this threatens to become a problem of life and death for millions and the various governments will be confronted with almost insurmountable difficulties in seeking the solution. There is not the slightest chance



that the six or seven million Jews who have been ousted from their economic positions will, after the war, when the economic structure will be so deeply disturbed, suddenly have their positions restored to them—to the disadvantage of those gentiles who have received them or assumed they have inherited them.

The post-war anti-Semitic slogan will be: "The Jews deserve nothing because they have not fought"—although Jews will have fallen on all battlefields. Yet, the Jews want to fight not solely for the restoration of their economic and political positions in Europe, but primarily to solve their specific problem—that of homelessness. It is obvious that if the Jews fight as a recognized belligerent nation, the problem of Palestine will be solved to their advantage in the sense that the country will develop into their own state and it will absorb all those multitudes who have been squeezed out of their economic structure in Europe.

**Decisive Help on  
Certain Fronts**

The Jews should be welcomed as an active fighting ally because on certain fronts in the Near East and North Africa, they can play a decisive role. General Wavell's victories in Libya were so quickly eradicated because he was able to oppose the Germans and Italians with only "a single armored brigade and one infantry division." (Mr. Churchill's statement in the House of Commons on May 7th, 1941.)

The Jews are capable of creating an army of a minimum of 100,000 which could play an important, if not decisive, role on the fronts of Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Libya. At that, it should be taken into consideration that a Jewish Army of only 100,000 would be numerically superior to all the combined armies of the conquered nations which fight alongside of England.

**Will Be Composed  
of Palestinian Jews,  
Refugees, and Volunteers  
From Free Countries**

The Jewish Army should consist primarily of Palestinian Jews who will defend their homeland and their very lives from attack by aggressors, as well as by the mighty fifth-column elements among the anti-English and the anti-Jewish Arabs in Palestine.

A second important element in the Jewish Army would consist of Jewish refugees from all conquered nations—men who are eager not only to fight for the freedom of man but also to avenge their own catastrophe. Apart from this, there will be many Jewish volunteers from America as well as from other free countries.



**Will Take the Wind  
Out of the Anti-  
Semitic Sails in America**

Many American Jews will certainly volunteer in a Jewish Army, not only because they

want to fight against the most monstrous enemy of their race, but also to bar the growing trend of anti-Semitism and Hitlerite propaganda in this country. This propaganda claims that the Jews want to draw this country into the war without having the will to fight themselves. The Jewish Army plan should be understood and interpreted as just the opposite of what the anti-Semites claim: *the Jews of this country have no interest in drawing the United States into the war, but they want to be allowed to fight themselves.*

**Will Fight for  
Preservation of  
American Democracy**

Inasmuch as the Hitler tyranny is not the enemy of the Jewish people exclusively but also of American

democracy, the Jewish citizens of this country who will volunteer for *the Jewish Army will fight for the preservation of American democracy as well as for the survival of the Jewish Nation.*

**A Matter  
of International  
Justice and Honor**

We are fully convinced that the outcome of this titanic conflict will be decided not solely by brute force but by

right. If not based upon moral principles of justice and righteousness throughout the world, the Allies will not win the war. Churchill, himself, formulated this in his most capable manner, "Without honor we could neither hope nor deserve to win this hard war." (Speech delivered on April 27th, 1941.)

To refuse the Jews their elementary and natural right to fight is the very essence of injustice which is very far from the sacred principles and honor for which Great Britain and the Allies so constantly claim they are fighting.



# **What Leading American and British Personalities Say of the Jewish Army Plan**

**COL. JOHN HENRY PATTERSON, D.S.O.**

*Commander of the Jewish Legions in the first World War, Hon. Chairman of the Jewish Army Committee.*

***If There Is No Jewish Army, Then There Will Be No Jewish Delegates At The Peace Conference.***

"We all hope and pray for a British victory, and I am convinced that the cooperation of a Jewish Army would help greatly to achieve this end. I wish to stress the point that if there is no Jewish Army fighting with the Allies, then when victory is won, there will be no Jewish delegates at the Peace Conference Table, and consequently little or no justice for the Jewish people."

**SAMUEL HARDEN CHURCH**

*President The Carnegie Institute, Hon. Chairman of the Jewish Army Committee.*

***Jewish Army will restore the Jews to their ancient inheritance.***

"My heart thrills at the arrangement for creating a Jewish Army whose camp shall be in Palestine. God Almighty gave Palestine to the Jewish people as their Promised Land; and they lost it only after a thousand years of possession when it was absorbed into the world conquest of the Roman Empire.

The organization at this time of a Jewish Army in Palestine, fully equipped and eager to take its place in the fight for freedom, will restore the Jews to their ancient inheritance; and the gifted race that has been so long stricken and humiliated will live again in the pride of liberty and independence of national existence."

**PIERRE VAN PAASSEN**

*Author*

***"The Jewish Army is not a matter of concern for the Jewish people alone."***

"The decision of the war will be fought out in the Near East, over the Evangelic hills of Galilee ... There will take place the ultimate clash between



us and the evil forces of our time. That is why a Jewish Army is not a matter of concern for the Jewish People alone . . . That is why we demand from the British Government the right for Jews to go and die for freedom under the walls of Jerusalem. We demand that they not be slaughtered as helpless children, but that they will be trained and will be given arms in their hands—arms, airplanes, tanks and guns.

"We demand that the Jewish people be heard, that the Jewish people takes its place in the ranks of free nations of the earth. If Russia can liberate the Poles, Free France declare Syria independent, Great Britain can say to the Jewish people: Come help us fight. Fight for a Palestine that is yours.

"There is time to make the Jewish Army a reality. Now it can be done. Now it must be done."

(From the Congressional Record, July 15, 1941, Vol. 87, N. 130.)

## BEN HECHT

*Author*

***"Wherever there is a Gun to Fire, that's where the Jew Belongs."***

"I am 1,000 percent in favor of a Jewish Army. A fighting Army of 100,000 Jews with an appropriate air arm would make the most important contribution to the Jewish people, for whom I don't see any hope in Europe. They will probably be wiped out in the next five years. But Palestine will ultimately be the salvation of the Jewish people.

"I greatly admire the aims and principles of the Jewish Army plan. 'Wherever there's a gun to fire, that's where the Jew belongs'."

## ERNST LUBITSCH

*Motion Picture Producer.*

***Endorses whole-heartedly the plan.***

"I whole-heartedly endorse the idea of creating a Jewish Army. I am vitally interested in this matter."

## WALDO FRANK

*Author*

***"Aside from practical efficiency the Jewish Army will have a symbolic significance: The traditional warfare of the Jews against the forces of Evil."***

"Young Jews who wish to fight Hitlerism as Jews should have the opportunity to do so. Aside



from the practical efficiency of such an army, which could become important, it would have a symbolic significance as expressing the traditional warfare of the Jews against the forces of darkness and of evil."

## EMIL LENGYEL

*Author*

### *I was waiting for such a movement*

"For quite some time now I have been wondering why there is no movement to set up a Jewish Army. I have never got beyond the wondering stage. I am glad to know that there is a committee which has reached the doing stage."

## G. B. DEALEY

*Chairman The Dallas Morning News.*

### *Jewry needs the Jewish Army in self-defense.*

"So far as the institution of a Jewish army is concerned, the thoughtful friend of a widely persecuted people must have long since come to the conclusion that it is a good idea. Jewry needs it in self-defense. Today, too, it is self-defense to face gallantly in the field the sinister forces of Nazism that have made oppression of the Jew a basis for appeal to all that is blackest in the heart of man."

*From an Editorial*

## THOMAS MANN

*Author*

### *"It's a mistake that so far such a plan was neglected."*

"The plan to organize a Jewish Army has interested me very much. The matter has my full sympathy, for I consider it a mistake that so far the organization of such an army has been neglected or prevented. I am convinced that many able-bodied Jews are eager to take their part in the present great struggle.

"Please accept my best wishes for the success of your enterprise."



## ALEXANDER UHL

*P. M.'s Foreign News Editor.*

### ***"Jewish Army an American problem."***

"I say that the privilege of fighting a rear-guard action in defense of one's home is a privilege not lightly to be dismissed. The Jews, knowing the danger, still demand that privilege. Knowing Hitler, who can blame them? Who can deny them?

"We in America could have denied the British that right—to fight for their own homes—had we held our hands and refused to send them Springfield rifles when they came back from Dunkirk without arms. We've done—and not done—other things—but thank God we did not do that to them.

"We in America have a national policy that makes this country the arsenal of democracy, the supplier of those who fight for their lives against our enemies and for our cause. This is no longer Britain's problem—arming the Jews in Palestine—because it is too late. It is now our problem. Just as the war abroad has long since ceased to be Britain's war and has become our war."

## DOROTHY THOMPSON

### ***Attacks the British for refusing to raise a Jewish Army.***

"The attempt to call the Arab tribes to revolt on the side of Britain, will fail. In the Arabian world Great Britain has pursued a completely unclear policy. Her worst mistakes have been her consistent appeasement of Arab terrorists, particularly in respect to the Jewish homeland in Palestine. Britain should either have supported the Jewish homeland, and armed it, and made it perfectly clear that she intended what she said, or she should never have started it. The very people who are now conspiring with the Germans and Italians against her in Iraq and elsewhere in Arabia are terrorist chieftains whom she herself encouraged.

She has refused to arm the Jewish settlers, although they would have raised an army of every Palestinian youth to fight for Britain.

These Palestinian Jews are men who left professions, re-made their own bodies, broke stones on roads, irrigated deserts, paid and paid heavily for every scrap of land, and have soil made with their own hands to defend. The British attitude has been that they would be with her anyhow and therefore it was necessary to placate the Arabs, none of whom incidentally has lost anything from the Palestinian



experiment. But not a word is said about Palestine, and again the issue is confused, for it was the brutal persecution of the Jews that first awoke the conscience of the world against Hitler."

*N. Y. Post, June 16, 1941.*

## EDGAR ANSEL MOWRER

*Journalist*

***British weakens own position in the Middle East by refusing to accept the Jewish Army.***

"Contrary to London views, American observers believe that by keeping the Jewish Zionist forces down to a scant 10,000, the British weakened their strength in the very element which would fight most fiercely against Hitler, without in the least improving their position with the Arabs.

Ibn Saud, the Arab ruler with the highest standing, looks on Zionism with no hostility, it is claimed. Had the British armed the Zionists, they would now possess a high-class force of 50,000, faithful to the death, and technically far superior to any Arab troops. But the British did not—and today may have to pay the penalty. For behind Syria lies Suez."

*Chicago Daily News, June 3, 1941*

## RT. REV. THOMAS JENKINS

*Bishop of Nevada*

***Jewish Army might do as much for the Jews as for the larger cause.***

"Regarding a Jewish Army fighting for the Allied cause, would, I should think, be an admirable enterprise. It might do as much for the Jew as to the larger cause. I am in sympathy with the proposal."

## ERNEST GRAHAM GUTHRIE

*General Director Chicago Congregational Union*

***Jewish Army is of utmost importance for the future of the whole Jewish People.***

"I am strongly enough convinced of the importance of the establishment of a Jewish Army in view of the present emergency, and the future of the whole Jewish people, to be very willing to have my name associated with your Committee. I am not taking at all casually my various relationships to the efforts that are going forward in the same general direction."



## PROF. TARAKNATH DAS, A.M., PH.D.

*The College of the City of New York.*

***Jewish Army will serve the cause of democracy as effectively as the Polish or Czech Army.***

"I am in full agreement with the project regarding the necessity of forming a Jewish Army. Freedom must be defended and for this purpose a defense force is necessary. Therefore I shall be glad to serve as a member of the Committee for a Jewish Army, as requested by you.

There is no reason why the Jews will not be able to develop an army or a Defense Force as strong as the Finnish Army. I believe Jewish participation in the defense of Democracy is an essential factor in securing full recognition of the Jewish State in Palestine. A Jewish army can serve the cause of Democracy as effectively as a Polish or Czech army in exile can do. It is imperative that the Jewish State should receive de facto recognition now, through its military participation. It will help the cause of de jure recognition at the Peace Conference.

I have always advocated the cause of Zionism with the same spirit as I have done regarding the right of other subjugated people."

## E. O. HOLLAND

*President, State College of Washington.*

***Americans can aid in the organization of the Jewish Army.***

"I hope that we can aid in the organization of the Jewish Army which will fight with England on the vital fronts in the Near East against the aggressor nations."

## PROF. WILLEM J. LUYTEN

*University of Minnesota.*

***An answer to Lindberg.***

"I should be very glad indeed to join the Jewish Army Movement, especially after the disgraceful attack made by that ex-hero of the America-Next Committee, Mr. Lindbergh, on the night of Sept. 11th."



## CHIEF JUSTICE HARLAN STONE

*Avows Jewish Army plan.*

"I am entirely sympathetic with the proposal to raise and arm a Jewish Army to fight side by side with the English Army."

## A. J. SABBATH

*Dean of the House of Representatives.*

*Jewish Army will bring about a free Democratic Jewish Palestine.*

"The fact is very evident, that of all the small nations of the world, Palestine has a right to be restored as a Jewish State of Jewish people.

"I am certain the Jewish Army will help to bring about a free Palestine, with a democratic government.

"Might I add that the Jewish People very highly appreciate the stand of so many Christians on behalf of a free Palestine, which has been under subjection for centuries until the British freed it."

## CONGRESSMAN SAMUEL A. WEISS

*"Jewish Army will fight for survival of civilization."*

"I am heartily in favor of the plan of your Committee to organize a Jewish Army which will fight side by side with Great Britain for the survival of democratic principles; yes, for civilization itself. It is incumbent upon all oppressed peoples whether they be Polish, French, Hungarian or Jewish, to join in this battle against the ruthless tyrannies who are attempting to dominate the world.

"I shall be happy to lend my cooperation and assistance in every way possible."

## CONGRESSMAN JOHN D. DINGELL

*Michigan*

*The Jewish Army would be eligible for aid under the Lend-Lease Bill.*

"I will join any group, element or faction of Americans who might band together for the purpose of destroying mass depravity, persecution and godlessness as represented by Hitler and by Nazi Germany. A well trained Jewish Army and a strong and generally well armed Palestine would serve as an aid toward civilization survival. Countries fighting for the preservation of democratic ideals are eligible for aid under the Lend-Lease Bill."



## CONG. BERTRAND W. GEARHART

*California*

***"My approval of the Jewish Army Plan is complete."***

"Though I am always reluctant when it comes to joining any organization, whatever its purpose, my approval of that which the Jewish Army Committee undertakes to accomplish is so complete, that I am willing that my name be added to the same Committee, and wish it every success in the world."

## CONGRESSMAN CAPOZZOLI

*New York*

***"It is about time that England changes her attitude."***

"I cannot understand how it is that the British government has prevented the Jewish settlers in Palestine from being organized into a military force in order that they might stand ready to defend their homeland. It is about time, it seems to me, for the British government to modify its previous stand in refusing to raise a Jewish Army. Wishing you success in your work and kindest personal regards."

## SENATOR MEAD'S

***Message of Sympathy for the Jewish Army.***

"Your militant Americanism and your relentless fight against oppression deserves heartiest commendation."

## CONG. CHARLES A. BUCKLEY

*New York*

***"The Jews would rather fight to the death than surrender."***

"I certainly feel very deeply for the Jewish people in Palestine and realize their plight rather than surrender to the forces that would destroy all civilization. We, in America, both Jew and Gentile, are most sympathetic and are willing to do what we can to alleviate this great burden."



## CONGRESSMAN MARTIN SMITH

*Washington, advocates*

***"An effective defense of Palestine."***

"I am glad to assure you I am a strong advocate of organizing an effective defense of Palestine, the Holy Land. I believe this of the utmost importance."

## CONGRESSMAN G. FORAND

*Rhode Island*

***"The Jews should be permitted to fight against the Axis Powers."***

"The Jews should be permitted, if they so desire, to fight as a unit just as groups of other dominated countries are permitted, to help the battle against the Axis powers, whose determination is to enforce its 'New Order' against the rest of the world."

## COL. JOSIAH WEDGEWOOD, M.P.

***"We should have today in Palestine four fully equipped Jewish Divisions. The equipment—from America. The men—from Palestine and America."***

"Now we should have today in Palestine four fully equipped divisions of Jewish troops. We should have got them, we should have got the equipment from America—the men from Palestine or from America. We might have had them fighting beside us today. May the time come that they will be fighting beside us. This fight that we're in now may be a long road before we can achieve the conquest of Nazism and the achievement of justice and freedom in that long road down that way England and the Jews should march together.

"It is no longer a question of race, it is no longer a question of birth, country or origin. The only question today is the union of free peoples fighting a religious war for that victory which will establish peace and justice on earth."

## COM. OLIVER LOCKER-LAMPSON, M.P.

***"A Jewish Army of a million will decide the war's outcome."***

Commander Oliver Locker-Lampson, member of the English Parliament, recently wrote to the *Manchester Guardian* demanding the establishment of a Jewish army of a million men. This would have decisive influence upon the outcome of the war,



in which the Near East and Palestine constitute a key position.

Commander Locker-Lampson declared that "the Jews, just as other nations, are entitled to defend themselves, and in order to prevent their being forgotten after the war, it is not too late to right the wrong which has been committed towards them by not permitting the creation of their own army, on the same basis as the Czechs, Poles and Free French. Perhaps this army," concluded Commander Locker-Lampson, "could include as high as a million soldiers and fight at the side of England, in and around Palestine, like brothers upon the battlefield."

To the organizers of a Jewish Army Rally in N. Y., Commander Locker-Lampson wired: "Hoping some day to be with you in person to promote common ideals and legitimate aspirations."

## DAVID LLOYD GEORGE

*"The Jewish Army offer should be accepted by the British Government without delay."*

"The offer to form a Jewish army and air force alongside of the Allies in the present struggle against Nazi tyranny should have been accepted without hesitation and delay."

## NOMAN ANGEL

*Nobel Peace Prize Winner.*

*Britain's future fight may depend upon the strength of Palestine's resistance.*

"Britain and the Jews have the honor of sharing the deepest hatred and enmity of the Nazis.

"Very soon Britain's fight may depend upon the kind of resistance the Jewish homeland helps to maintain."

## A. W. FADDEN

*Australian Acting Prime Minister.*

*Favors Jewish Army.*

The Government of Australia, through its acting Prime Minister, A. W. Fadden, voiced its "sympathetic attitude" towards the project of a Jewish Army in Palestine to fight alongside the British forces in defense of the Near East, according to information received from Sydney, Australia, and made public by Rabbi Isidore Breslau executive director of the Zionist Organization of America.



*Do not let  
the bloody Swastika  
Wave over Jerusalem!*

Eight million Jews, enslaved under the Hitler yoke, place all their hopes for life and salvation in you—Free Americans!

Deliver Jewry from slavery and extermination in Europe; Destroy the gates of the Ghetto, by THE FORMATION OF A JEWISH ARMY—which will battle alongside England and the Allies, to defend Palestine, Jewish honor, and the most sacred principles of democracy.

The Jewish Army will become a reality—if everyone does his duty.

Passivity is the cause of the Jewish national tragedy, therefore, become active and join the movement for a Jewish Army.

We await your helping hand.



*Please get in touch with our National Office*

**285 Madison Avenue, New York City**

Telephone: LExington 2-7646

*—or our Regional Offices:*

**716 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.**

**139 North Clark Street, Chicago, Ill.**

Suite 518



# Towards the formation of THE JEWISH ARMY

COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY  
285 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y.

## The Aim:

To bring about, by legal means and in accordance with the laws and foreign policy of the United States, the formation of a Jewish Army, based on Palestine, to fight for the survival of the Jewish people and the preservation of democracy. This army, composed primarily of Palestinian Jews and refugees as well as of volunteers from free countries, will fight on all required battlefields side by side with Great Britain and the other Allied nations.

## Drive Is Started For an Army of 200,000 Jews

U. S. Group Would Raise  
Troops in Palestine, Put  
Them in Allied Service



## CONGRESSMAN SOMERS RESOLUTION REQUESTS HULL TO CONVEY PLEA

Brooklyn Congressman Andrew L. Somers Issues Statement Praising Valor of Jewish Soldiers and Urging Great Britain Allow Creation of Jewish Fighting Unit to Protect Palestine

NEW YORK  
Herald Tribune  
The New York Times

EVE. SUN  
New York

An Editorial Analysis of British Policy in the Holy Land

## Let's Give Jews in Palestine Guns to Defend Themselves

אנופערענען אין וואשינגטאן לאזט-ארדז דאס פאר אידישע ארמיי — באדימטע  
אמעריקאנער מיט דאס שווערסטע בראש פארדערען אידישע זעלבסטשטענדיגקייט

## מ'מסאן פאר א אידישער ארמיי Congressional Record



United States  
of America

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 77th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

EXTENSION OF REMARKS  
OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

No. 130 OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Vol. 87

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 15, 1941

## Drive to Get U. S. Backing For a Jewish Army Started

Objective Is to Induce Reluctant Britain to  
Sanction Force, Equipped Perhaps  
With Lease-lend Supplies.

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
STAR

## Jewish Army Committee To Meet in Washington

By the Associated Press.  
NEW YORK, Nov. 28  
Committee for a Jewish  
Army yesterday that  
Washington  
to form  
Palestine  
of

## Stimson Backs Jewish Army To Fight for British in East Prominent Gentiles Join Zionists In Demanding Homeland in Palestine

## Campaign Started For Jewish Army

Inquirer Washington P  
WASHINGTON, D.  
etarian, non-r

## Jewish Youth Here Ready To Aid RAF

N. Y. Enrollees  
Nucleus of Army to  
Democracy

2 FRONT  
PAGE  
The JOURNAL AMERICAN  
HAS TWO  
PAGES

## ACCLAIMS PROPOSAL FOR JEWISH ARMY

Gavrilovitch Compares Their  
Fight to That of Yugoslavia  
Against Nazi Transports

## BACKS PALESTINE STATE

Consul Addresses Rally in  
Philadelphia as Part of  
Country-Wide Campaign

## JEWISH ARMY URGED TO WIN JUST PEACE

Hitler's Defeat and Restoration  
of Palestine State for Race  
Are Stressed by Committee

## FORCE OF 200,000 SOUGHT

Resolution Calls on President  
'to Allot Equipment' Under  
His Lease-Lend Powers

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

## To Foster Army of Zion Jews Canadian Speaks at U.S. Rally

RECRUITS REVIEWED BY ZIONIST LEADERS

## Wings for a Jewish Army

Wednesday, July 9, 1941

ADDRESS OF PIERRE VAN PAASSEN

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Record, I include the following speech by Pierre Van Paassen, delivered at a rally organized by the Committee for a Jewish Army, in Manhattan Center, N. Y., on June 25, 1941:



# Stimson Backs Jewish Army To Fight for British in East

## Prominent Gentiles Join Zionists In Demanding Homeland in Palestine

By JACK PURCELL

Secretary of War Stimson yesterday personally endorsed a Zionist movement to raise a Jewish Army of 200,000 men eager to fight side by side with British forces in the Near East.

## Should Jews Have Army?

By BOAKE CARTER

THE British Government officially declared that there can be no Jewish Army, as a unit, a-la

Poles, Norwegians, Czechs, Slovaks, Belgians, etc., in the Army and Navy, because equipment is lacking.

Since the end of World War I, every President of the U. S. endorsed a Jewish national home in Palestine.

President Roosevelt said:

"The interest which I have frequently manifested in rebuilding the ancient Jewish homeland is an interest shared by all who recognize that every people has the inalienable right to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. It is a source of renewed courage and hope, that by international accord and moral support of the peoples, men and women of Jewish faith have a right to resettle the land where their faith was born and from which much of our modern civilization has emanated."

Since the Jews ask active part in defense of their homeland, and, since there are huge stores of lend-lease equipment from here transported to the Near East, and since Roosevelt works in collaboration with Churchill, why does not the President press Churchill on what is a forthright request of the Jewish pioneers of Palestine?

If the British can find equip-

As prominent Jews and Gentiles, coalesced into the committee for a Jewish Army, fired the opening gun in their recruiting campaign. Stimson sent this message:

"Free men everywhere are arming for the defense of democracy. I send my best wishes for the success of your movement."

### British Are Criticized

The War Secretary's message of good will highlighted a day of initial activity devoted to the Jewish ideal in the fight for democracy and criticism of the British Government for blocking integrated Jewish participation.

Prominent among the committee members are Ernst Lubitsch, motion picture producer; Representative Adolph J. Sabath (D.), of Illinois; Pierre Van Paassen, author and lecturer; President Samuel Harden Church, of Carnegie Institute; Col. John Henry Patterson, D.S.O., commander of the Jewish Legion in World War I; Louis Bromfield, author, and Ben Hecht, playwright.

Dr. Church opened the meeting with an appeal to the British government to let down the bars and grant the Jewish race autonomy in Palestine.

He outlined the committee's policy in a declaration that a Jewish government should be re-established in Palestine, with freedom and equality for all religions.

### Flays Middle East Policy

Van Paassen was bitter in his denunciation of the British Middle East policy in straddling the fence between Jew and Arab. He praised Winston Churchill for his fight against British tactics in "whit-

ting down its obligation to the Jews."

Then, with the recollection that the Jewish race expected better treatment from its champion following the collapse of the Chamberlain government, Van Paassen declared:

"But two years have passed, and still the White Paper, so flagrantly designed to choke off development of the Jewish homeland by attempting to freeze the Jewish population as a permanent minority, by prohibiting the purchase of land in many areas, by giving the Arabs the veto power on immigration after 1944, retains its paralyzing grip on Palestine."

He added that evidently the Jews again are the "victims of expediency—a word which dignifies ingratitude and betrayal."

From Col. John Henry Patterson, World War hero, revered by Jews although he is not one of them, came the warning that without a Jewish Army "there will be no just peace, nor will there be any true democracy dished out at the peace table."

## An Editorial

P M

New York, N. Y.

# Lend-Lease for a Jewish Army

A half million unarmed Jews are now trapped in Palestine, neatly pocketed and handy for murder and torture when, and if, the Nazis catch up with them.

The Nazis, you know, aren't so far away. They are next door but one to the west, in Libya; and they are next door but one in the Crimea and in Rostov.

That is what makes so tragic Britain's announcement, a few days ago, that it can no longer abide by its pledge to create a Jewish army in the Near East because there isn't sufficient military equipment available.

What can we do here in the U. S. A. on behalf of Palestine's helpless half million?

Something very simple.

We have already proclaimed ourselves the arsenal of democracy, ready to arm all those

who want to fight Hitler. And we have set up the machinery for distributing these arms.

We call this machinery the lend-lease system.

Let's use this lend-lease system to furnish the equipment to a Jewish army in Palestine.

Let's ship enough to supply one division, two divisions, three divisions. Palestine has 50,000 Jews already trained as soldiers. Every one of these 50,000 has as much reason to hate Hitler as any people on earth.

Equipment for three divisions isn't a great deal in terms of our growing productive capacity. But it would be enough to safeguard a democratic pledge—and to safeguard for the Jews of Palestine the most fundamental of all human rights—the right of self-defense.—VICTOR H. BERNSTEIN.

Herbert Hoover stated in 1938:

"I have watched with admiration the steady, unmistakable progress made in the rehabilitation of Palestine, which, desolate for centuries, is renewing its youth and vitality through enthusiasm, hard work, self-sacrifice of the Jewish pioneers, who toiled there in a spirit of peace and social justice."

Roosevelt confirmed what Hoover said in 1937: "Those two decades (1917-1937) witnessed a remarkable exemplification of the vitality and vision of the Jewish pioneers in Palestine..."

The 67th Congress established by a resolution, acknowledged by Britain, America's right of interest in welfare of the Jewish national home.

Does not this preponderance of American interest in Palestine challenge our Government, to see justice done in this denial of rights Anglo-American statesmen proclaim they are fighting for?

Ledger Syndicate

### Fighting Prowess Recalled

He recounted the valor of Jewish soldiers on the battlefields of Gallipoli and Palestine, and recalled their fighting prowess in hurling back the Turks despite the hardships ladled out by the "anti-Jewish staff in the Holy Land."

"Why then in her hour of need is England rejecting this manna from heaven?" he asked. Answering his own question, he declared:

"Well, there is a small anti-Jewish clique firmly entrenched in key positions in London. These bureaucrats for the past 20 years have done everything in their power to frustrate Jewish hopes and persuade England to forget and betray her solemn pledge to the Jewish people."

A member of the committee, Representative John D. Dingell (D.), of Michigan, yesterday called on President Roosevelt from the House floor to instruct William Bullitt, his Near East representative, to "ascertain why 100,000 fighting Jews in Palestine are immobilized."

Dingell pointed out that Churchill had expressed England's great need for manpower in 1942. He called upon Britain to make use of the Jews of the world.

Pending in Congress is a resolution by Andrew L. Somers (D.), of New York, expressing the sentiment of the legislative body that Secretary of State Hull take up this question with Churchill and permit the Jewish people to raise their own army for their own defense.

Somers said that the Jewish race has a stronger claim to lend-lease aid than Turkey, and that, at least, a small portion of it should be allocated to them by the British.

TIMES-HERALD

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECEMBER 5, 1941



## JEWISH ARMY URGED TO WIN JUST PEACE

Hitler's Defeat and Restoration  
of Palestine State for Race  
Are Stressed by Committee

### FORCE OF 200,000 SOUGHT

Resolution Calls on President  
'to Allot Equipment' Under  
His Lease-Lend Powers

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The creation of an army of 200,000 Jews, to be recruited in the United States, Palestine and other countries, was urged tonight in a series of resolutions adopted at a conference called by Dr. Samuel Harden Church, president of Carnegie Institute and chairman of the new committee for a Jewish Army.

One resolution declared that centers should be set up in the United States where Jews, if free from draft duty, could volunteer in the Jewish Army, and another called on President Roosevelt to use his lease-land powers "to allot the necessary equipment sufficient to create a free Jewish Army to serve in cooperation with the British Army."

The army should be trained in Canada, the conference decided, and some speakers expressed the belief that most of the recruits would come from Palestine if Great Britain, which has rejected the plan, would reconsider.

Among the speakers were Colonel John H. Patterson, English commander of the Jewish Legions in the World War, Louis K. Fitch of Canada, and Pierre van Paassen, author and war correspondent.

In his opening address today Dr. Church asserted:

"Jews will fight with grim determination to inflict a retribution so terrible that history will provide no parallel for its consummate execution," and added:

"We want this army to take shape. We want it to give the finishing stroke to Hitler and his lawless marauders. And when that is done, we want to see the army back in Jerusalem, reclaiming into that ancient fold all the stricken refugees, inspired to a new existence where King David and those mighty men of Israel for many centuries held their state."

Colonel Patterson told the conferees that he had long advocated the formation of a Jewish army, "first because I know it would help win the war, and second, I believe that without such an army there will be no just peace, nor any true democracy after the war."

Mr. Fitch, a former member of the Canadian Parliament and a leader of the Conservative party, said Canada would welcome training camps for a Jewish army.

## Group Calls For Army Of Jews

Special to The Post

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Recruiting of an army of 200,000 Jews in the U. S., Palestine and other countries was advocated in resolutions adopted at a conference called by Dr. Samuel Harden Church, president of Carnegie Institute and chairman of the new Committee for a Jewish Army.

One resolution called for establishment of recruiting centers in the U. S. where Jews, if free from draft duty, could volunteer. Another urged President Roosevelt to use his lease-land powers to equip a free Jewish army to serve with the British.

The conference proposed that the army be trained in Canada.

By LUDWIG LORE

A "Committee for a Jewish Army"—an army which is to fight under British command against Hitler and all that he and his allies stand for—has been formally organized at Washington.

Ever since the beginning of the second World War, Jews in all parts of the world have urged the creation of a worldwide Jewish army which would take its place with and have the same status as the Czech, Polish, French and other armies fighting with the British.

The British government has been urged repeatedly to avail itself of the tremendous fighting power that lies in Jewish youth, but these appeals have been rejected.

Prime Minister Churchill was known to favor the idea of a Jewish Palestine army as a guardian for the Suez Canal, but many British officials feared this might add to complications with the Arab nations, and the plan never received official sanction.

### Bishop Abbott Urges Forming Jewish Army

The Rt. Rev. H. P. Almon Abbott, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington, is among 100 Americans who have signed a statement endorsing a demand for a Jewish army, "based on Palestine, to fight

Lexington, Ky. Herald

## Army of 200,000 Planned by Jews

Nearly 200 representatives of militant Jewry, assembled here yesterday in the Willard Hotel from all parts of the country, opening a campaign to create an army of 200,000 Jews to combat the "Satanic zeal" of Hitler and fight under the British in the "evangelic hills of Galilee."

After hearing a number of speakers including Pierre Van Paassen, foreign correspondent and author, and Samuel Harden Church, president of Carnegie Institute, the com-

### Most Vicious Enemy

There is every reason why the Jews should want to fight their most vicious enemy, and there is a special reason why their wanting to carry on this fight should be generally recognized.

Hitler declared war on the Jews long before he marched into Poland, and Jews all over the world have risen to his challenge.

Because the Jews fought back—and it would have been cowardice not to fight—they have been called war-mongers. Charles A. Lindbergh publicly repeated this indictment a few weeks ago and his America First Committee has yet to repudiate it.

The Jews have also been accused of wanting others to do their fighting for them. There could be no more convincing repudiation of this charge than the creation of a Jewish army. The American Committee is convinced that the organization of an army of 100,000 young Jews will be quickly accomplished and that this army will give a splendid account of itself.

### Free Spirit of All Mankind

The educational campaign which the committee is planning will have its effect far beyond the Jewish youth. It will clarify the issue underlying the struggle against the powers of darkness and reaction.

It will enlighten many thousands who still do not understand that the enslavement of the Jew is only the first battle of the cruel war that Hitler and Mussolini are waging to subjugate the free spirit of mankind in every part of the world.

for the survival of the Jewish people and the preservation of democracy."

The committee, according to an Associated Press dispatch, announced in New York yesterday that it would confer in Washington next Thursday on steps leading to the formation of such an army.

If the army is formed, the committee said, it will "fight under British command wherever required."

mittee for a Jewish army adopted the following resolutions:

1. The consent for the creation of a Jewish army is an inescapable moral obligation of the civilized world to the earliest and most persecuted victims of Nazi aggression.

2. That the British government be urged to cast aside those considerations of appeasement toward the anti-British and anti-Jewish Arab elements in the Near East, which have hitherto withheld from the Jews the opportunity to fight as a free unit.

3. Organize registration of men free from draft duty in the United States and prepared to enlist in the Jewish army.

4. Organize various training centers for personnel in Canada, as have other free forces.

5. Call upon President Roosevelt to take such steps as are necessary under the lend-lease powers to allot the necessary equipment sufficient to create a free Jewish army to serve in cooperation with the British forces.

Speaking of the men in the proposed Jewish army which it is expected will be recruited mostly from the population of Palestine, Church asserted, "When he enters the battle with all his comrades, he will realize that Israel is facing a foe that has persistently robbed and degraded and murdered his race; and he will fight with a grim determination to inflict a retribution that will be so terrible that history will provide no parallel for its consummate execution."

Von Paassen joined Church in a radio broadcast from the gold paneled, marble columned Willard Room. He spoke from beneath the grouped flags of all the Allied nations.

"You can't have either peace or democracy," said Col. John Henry Patterson, an Englishman who commanded an all-Jewish unit in World War I. "In this world while there are millions of persecuted, homeless Jews left to rot in Europe." He expressed his certain knowledge of the worth of the Jewish soldier under fire from his experience with them.

Louis K. Fitch, member of the King's Council of Canada, a former member of the Canadian Parliament, stated his country would support the cause of a Jewish army and shall welcome the Jewish training camps which will "no doubt be opened for that purpose."

Other speakers included Oscar Gavrilovitch, Royal Yugoslav consul in New York, and Representative Andrew L. Somers (Democrat), of New York. Among the many messages received was one from Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, who said "Free men everywhere are arming for the defense of democracy. I send my best wishes for the success of your movement."

The all-day conference concluded last night with a social dinner in the Willard. Today the representatives plan to return to their homes to organize and perfect their plans.

WASHINGTON POST



# Palestine Army To Be Urged at Capital Session

100 Sign Appeal for Its  
Creation; Washington  
Meeting To Be Held Dec. 4

Demands that a Jewish army be created in Palestine to fight under a Jewish flag and under British command were renewed here yesterday. The Committee for a Jewish Army, 285 Madison Avenue, issued a statement signed by 100 persons, pressing for the creation of such an army. The statement said that a conference would meet in Washington Dec. 4 to discuss the means of forming an army "composed primarily of Palestinians and refugees as well, to fight on all required battlefields, side by side with Great Britain and the other allied nations."

Among the signers were the Right Rev. H. P. Almon Abbott, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Lexington, Ky.; Miller M. Brister, chairman of the City Fusion party; Louis Bromfield, author; Representative Louis J. Capozzoli, Democrat, of New York; Samuel Harden Church, president of the Carnegie Institution; Clarence R. Decker, president University of Kansas; Representative Samuel Dickstein, Democrat, of New York; Dr. H. L. Gordon, national commander of the World War Veterans, American Palestine Jewish Legion; Dr. Ernest O. Holland, president of the State College of Washington; Mary E. Woolley, president emerita of Mount Holyoke College, and Rear Admiral Harry E. Yarnell, U. S. Navy, retired.

At the same time, David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the executive committee of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, explained to press representatives that he had discussed the problem in London with Lord Moyne, colonial secretary, and had "so far" failed to persuade the British government that a Palestinian army is necessary.

Mr. Ben-Gurion, who recently returned from ten weeks in England, said at the offices of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, 41 East Forty-second Street, that Lord Moyne had objected to the creation of a Palestinian army because there was not enough equipment for it and also because there were no ships to transport Jews, volunteering for this army from the Western Hemisphere. The second objection, Mr. Ben-Gurion admitted, could be taken into consideration, but the lack of equipment should not be an obstacle, since men from overseas were brought to fight in the Middle East, while the 30,000 young Jews living there and anxious to fight were not allowed by the British authorities to carry arms.

Mr. Ben-Gurion agreed that the British might be reluctant to form a Jewish army to avoid provoking the Arabs in the Middle East. He contended, however, that such an argument was not justified. The Arabs, he said, hate the British as much as they hate the Jews, and British concessions will not conciliate them. The Arabs will only bow before force, Mr. Ben-Gurion added.

THE NEW YORK TIMES.



## Drive Is Started For an Army of 200,000 Jews

U. S. Group Would Raise  
Troops in Palestine, Put  
Them in Allied Service

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—A campaign to create an army of 200,000 young men "ready to sacrifice themselves in the defeat of Hitlerism" was started today by the Committee for a Jewish Army. The men would be recruited largely from the population of Palestine.

The proposed army would be placed under the command in chief of the allied service, according to Samuel Harden Church, president of Carnegie Institute and a leader in the movement to form the army.

Addressing the committee at the Willard Hotel here today, Colonel John H. Patterson, British commander of the Jewish legions in the World War, declared:

"I have long advocated the formation of a Jewish army, first, because I know it would help win the war, and, second, I believe that without such an army there will be no just peace, neither will there be any true democracy after the war."

"Heaven knows England badly wants all the help she can get. With a vast reinforcement of men available, it is idiotic on the part of the English leaders not to avail themselves of the help offered."

Pierre van Paassen, author, told the conference: "We are sure that the decision of the war will be fought out in the Near East, over the evangelic hills of Galilee. There on the historic plains and rocks and mountains, whence has come much of the wisdom on which our threat-

ened civilization is based, there will take place the ultimate clash between us and the evil forces of our time."

Mr. Van Paassen said the Jews should be allowed to fight under the walls of Jerusalem and "not be slaughtered as helpless children," and should have "arms in their hands—arms, airplanes, tanks and guns."

Representative John D. Dingell, Democrat, of Michigan, told the group: "Today we are the minute men of Lexington. This meeting is firing the shot which shall be heard round the world."

Dr. Church promised that "Jews will fight with a grim determination to inflict a retribution that will be so terrible that history will provide no parallel for its consummate execution." He made it clear that the Jews were fighting not only against Hitler but also for national honor.

"We want this army to take shape," he said. "We want it to give the finishing stroke to Hitler and his lawless marauders, even as their forefathers smote the treacherous Philistines. And when that is done, we want to see the army back in Jerusalem, reclaiming into that ancient fold all the stricken refugees, inspired to a new existence where King David and those mighty men of Israel for many centuries held their state."

Among the New York members of Congress at today's meeting were William B. Barry, Samuel Dickstein, Louis J. Capozzoli, Andrew L. Sommers and Arthur G. Klein.

Among the New York members of the committee attending were Joseph Brainin, Jerome Count, Louis Freedman, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Gacrilovitch, Manfred George, Dr. H. L. Gordon, Kenneth Leslie, Haim Lieberman, Ludwig Lore, Samuel A. Merlin, Gabriel A. Wechsler, Mrs. K. B. Friedman, Dr. Maurice William, L. Weinstein, Rabbi B. E. Rabino-witz, Dr. A. Schectman and Alfred Strelsin.

Rabbi Max Raisin, of Paterson, N. J., also was present.

## ACCLAIMS PROPOSAL FOR JEWISH ARMY

Gavrilovitch Compares Their  
Fight to That of Yugoslavia  
Against Nazi Transports

BACKS PALESTINE STATE

Consul Addresses Rally in  
Philadelphia as Part of  
Country-Wide Campaign

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 25 — A nation-wide campaign in support of a Jewish army was endorsed here tonight. Its final objectives were defined by Oscar Gavrilovitch, Yugoslavian Consul General in New York, as the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine and development of moral principles throughout the world.

"The Jews should solidly and unitedly stand behind the Jewish army," Mr. Gavrilovitch said, "today more than ever before, because without an army there is no fight; without a fight, no freedom; without freedom, no democracy, and no Jewish State in Palestine."

The occasion was the organization of the Philadelphia chapter of the committee for a Jewish army. The committee, which is headed by Dr. Samuel Harden Church, president of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, will be formally started on Dec. 4 in Washington.

Extolling the courage and bravery of the Jew under fire, Mr. Gavrilovitch cited the instance of Yugoslavia today, where, he said, "the fight is going on."

"Patriots from the whole country, especially the Serbs, are fighting a guerilla war. They are destroying bridges, railroad trains, military objects, attacking transports with munitions and food in order to hinder the provision of the Germans on the southern front of Russia. If Yugoslavia had yielded and accepted the agreement of Germany, Germany would have attacked Russia two months earlier and today the situation would be different."

Mr. Gavrilovitch extended felicitations to President Roosevelt, King Peter II, "the old wolf, Mr. Churchill," and "the great Russian nation which is fighting today for liberty and the destiny of the world." He added his welcome to the Jewish Army and expressed hope for its success in its "far-reaching aims."

Alex Wilf, chairman of the local chapter, said:

"The Jews of Palestine and stateless Jews of Europe constitute a nation, and they have the same right to fight as a nation as the Yugoslavs, the Poles and the English."

"These people have the right to fight against Hitler and for their own free destiny in their own State in Palestine."