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American Zionist Emergency Council, confidential bulletin, 1943.

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CONFIDENTIAL BULLETIN

If there is information contained herein on which you wish fuller details, write to the Emergency Council.

Issued for private, confidential use by AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL, 41 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

Vol. 1, No. 1

ORGANIZATION: The American Zionist Emergency Council is the new name for the organization previously called the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs. It comprises the Zionist Organization of America, Hadassah, Mizrachi and Poale Zion. Under the recent reorganization, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver is Chairman of the Executive Committee, which directs activities. Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Silver are Co-Chairmen of the Emergency Council.

The largest scale program in the history of the American Zionist movement has been initiated. It involves an intensification of effort on a national basis and far greater responsibility for local leadership. The committees which have been appointed and their chairmen include: Community Contacts, Joel Gross, Newark; Finance and Personnel, Charles J. Rosenbloom, Pittsburgh; American Palestine Committee, Herman Shulman; Press, Chaim Greenberg; Publications, Louis Lipsky; Research, Mrs. Rose Jacobs; Political Planning, Robert Szold; Intellectual Mobilization, Rabbi Milton Steinberg; Christian Clergy, Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein; Contact with Allied Post-War Groups, Mrs. Rose Halprin; Contact with American-Jewish Religious Forces, Rabbi Wolf Gold; Economic Planning, Emanuel Neumann; Special Services and Events, Meyer W. Weisgal. Henry Montor is Executive Director.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS: Every Jewish community is being asked to create an Emergency Committee, small in membership, to serve as the local instrument of the Emergency Council. All forces in the community must be mobilized and the most effective personnel must be brought into the Emergency Committee. There will be regular, complete contact between the Council and each city, for the issuance of directives, the exchange of counsel and submission of political information and educational material. A complete program for the establishment of such committees is available. Rabbi Leon Feuer is director for this program.

POLITICAL PICTURE: The Jewish National Home is faced with its gravest crisis. The White Paper of 1939 is due to go into effect in April, 1944. Its terms would forbid the entry of Jews, except as Arabs might acquiesce. The efforts of the Emergency Council during the coming months will be concerned immediately with the menace of the White Paper. American Jewry will have to mobilize its forces in extraordinary measure to help avert this blow to Jewish hopes.

The recent gun-running trial in Palestine was a symptom of the attitude of the Palestine Government. What was at stake was not the guilt or innocence of several Jews accused of gun-running but the determination of the Palestine Government to use every means to ensure the final enactment of the White Paper. The trial was a political

conspiracy aimed at defaming the Yishuv, the Jewish people, the Jewish Agency and the Jewish recruiting effort. It was intended to incite public opinion in Great Britain and the United States—as well as the Arabs—against the Jews.

A deliberate, continuous plan is under way to create the impression that Palestine (and because of Palestine the whole Middle East) stands on the verge of rioting and civil war due to Jewish violence in the midst of a world war. To achieve this purpose British Intelligence has been sending out endless reports, the Government has been giving "guidance" to the press, and the gun-running trials were staged.

The purpose of these efforts is apparently to force the United States to agree to the White Paper, or, failing that, at least to bring our country to a more "anti-Zionist" point of view. It has not been found possible to influence the United States with political arguments. The effort is, therefore, being made to put the issue on military grounds.

The recent attempt to force the issuance of a joint Anglo-American statement on the problem of Palestine was part of this picture. The British alleged that there was imminent danger of bloodshed in the Middle East. This would have an effect on American forces stationed in that area. It is reliably learned that the American War Department gave its own view that it was not convinced of the existence of such dangers. No joint statement was, therefore, issued. But the British Foreign Office is still applying great pressure on the United States, insisting that a statement of policy or American support of the White Paper is necessary to "quiet" the Arabs.

This whole plot arises from the fear in certain British circles that the White Paper policy will collapse. It is consequently considered necessary to bolster it. It is also deemed possible that the frantic efforts being made by the British to spread fear about the situation in Palestine is to ensure the continuation of British rule in Palestine. There may also be some intention of frightening the United States and so deterring Americans from "poking their noses" into "this unsavory and dangerous business," thus leaving Palestine to England's sole concern.

The Palestine Government is subjecting the Yishuv to extraordinary provocation. A libel is being steadily spread that the Jews of Palestine intend to create a revolt or incite the Arabs to riot in the middle of a world war. This false accusation is used as a battering-ram to destroy Jewish hopes of overthrowing the White Paper by public political action.

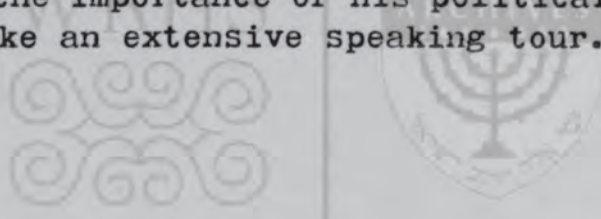
It is probable that the strength of British efforts to defame and demoralize the Yishuv arises from a basic conviction that the Jewish support of Palestine is so strong that extraordinary measures must be taken to combat it.

The Emergency Council believes that it speaks for the Jews of America in the struggle which it will wage with all means at its disposal to upset this cruel plot to bury the hopes for the reestablishment of the Jewish National Home in Palestine.

WASHINGTON SCENE: Dr. Silver does half his political work in New York, half in Washington. In two days recently he visited with Samuel Rosenman, counsel to the President; Mr. Justice Felix Frankfurter; Congressman Sol Bloom, Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee; Congressman Emanuel Celler; and Laurence Steinhardt, American Ambassador to Turkey. Everywhere he emphasized that American Jewry expects the abandonment of the White Paper policy. He stressed that all responsible people felt it desirable not to add to anti-British tensions in the United States. But unless assurance was forthcoming from the British Government that the White

Paper would not be implemented, it would be impossible to suppress the upwelling of outraged indignation from American Jewry. Jews would regard the announcement: "No more Jews allowed into Palestine" as an unforgivable climax to the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe. It was for the British Government to determine whether it was prepared to embitter the Jewish people. . . . Herman Shulman, Chairman of the American Palestine Committee of the Zionist Emergency Council, visited with Senator Robert F. Wagner, Chairman of the nationwide American Palestine Committee, and with Senator Tom Connally, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It is hoped to create a small Executive Committee in Washington in which a group of government officials could familiarize themselves with Palestine problems as intimately as some members of the Houses of Commons and Lords in England. . . . Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Rose Halprin, and Chaim Greenberg, on behalf of the Zionist Emergency Council, made representations to the British Embassy in protest against the manner in which the Palestine gun-running trials were conducted. Sir Ronald Campbell heard the protests, which pointed out that it was common for Arabs to be convicted of gun-running, but that no publicity was ever given these cases. It was evident that the government was using these trials to "smear" the Jews.

PALESTINE VISITOR: Dr. Bernard Joseph, Legal Adviser of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, is coming to the United States in several weeks. He is expected to be a source of great information and stimulation, considering his unique contact with the work in Palestine. He is also Chairman of the Jewish Agency's recruiting effort. It is expected that he will spend a substantial part of his time in Washington. He will be asked to visit four or five major communities for large public meetings so that the general public may pay its tribute to the Yishuv through him, one of its foremost figures. But in view of the importance of his political work, it is most probable that he will not undertake an extensive speaking tour.



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Vol.I. No. 1

November 1, 1943

First Issue: This bulletin is issued by the American Zionist Emergency Council to keep friends informed of the background of events affecting Palestine and to indicate the policies which animate our work. The ability to present the case for Jewish Palestine is dependent upon a knowledge of the facts, both those which are published and those which cannot yet be made generally available. The select group to whom this bulletin is distributed may have questions as situations develop. Readers are invited to make special inquiries and the answers will be made available through this bulletin.

CONGRESS: The first objective of the reorganized Emergency Council is to mobilize the Jews of the United States and Christian sympathizers to prevail upon our Government to help in eliminating the British White Paper on Palestine, which intends to halt all Jewish immigration into Palestine by April, 1944. Under the White Paper, Jews will be excluded from Palestine on the sole ground of their religious belief. It is inconceivable that any person living in a free democracy can subscribe to that anti-Jewish and anti-democratic philosophy. Fourteen committees have been set up by the Emergency Council through which to present the story to the various elements of American public opinion. The Community Contacts Committee is the channel through which every Jewish community in the United States will be organized for the establishment of local emergency committees to represent a cross-section of the community. In the next five months every member of the House of Representatives and of the United States Senate is to be seen by local constituents. Congressmen are to be visited when they return to their home districts and by delegations going to Washington. This is to be done, without fanfare, as a basic educational job, so that Congressmen may understand the Jewish problem in order to act informedly and decisively.

GOVERNMENT RESISTS RECRUITING: The recent gun-running trial in Palestine was staged by the Palestine Government as part of an extensive effort to discredit the Jewish Agency and the Jewish community of Palestine in order to help fasten the White Paper like a lid on a coffin. A confidential letter has just reached New York from Jerusalem giving the facts which a tight military and civilian censorship was not permitted to reveal. It throws new light on the attitude of the Palestine Government toward the efforts of the Jewish Agency to recruit soldiers for the fighting forces.

"The hostile attitude of the Government to Jewish recruiting has been evident since the early stages of the war," says this high official of the Jewish Agency. "The Government, which clings with all force to the White Paper policy, is afraid that if the Jews enlist in large numbers and take an honorable share in the fighting, they will thereby accumulate political credit which will

enable them after the war to secure a solution of the Palestine problem very different from that embodied in the White Paper. It follows that if military necessity renders it unavoidable to recruit Jews, every effort must be made to cover up that fact in the eyes of the world as much as possible.

"The Government of Palestine goes further than this. For a number of months now the Government has been conducting a skillfully planned whispering campaign against Jewish recruiting all over the Middle East. Reports of it are reaching us from military headquarters in Cairo, from foreign journalists who visit Palestine and are being given the 'dope' by the government and from various other quarters. All these circles are told that the purpose of the Jewish recruiting campaign is not to assist the military war effort but to train the Jewish youth of Palestine for an eventual armed conflict with the Government and the military conquest of the country. Everything that the Jewish Agency proposes or demands in connection with Jewish recruiting is interpreted in the light of this insinuation. If the Jewish agency demands all-Jewish units, if it asks that Jewish recruits should be given an effective training for combat service, if it urges that the various Jewish units should be formed into an effective fighting force, if it opposes the transfer of the Jewish infantry battalions to other parts of the Middle East for non-combatant duties (although everybody knows that the Jewish Agency is most anxious that they should be so transferred for active service)--each and sundry of these demands is interpreted as flowing from the well-hatched scheme of the Jewish Agency to prepare 'the Jewish revolt.'"

BETE NOIRE: The same confidential source describes the campaign of the Government to ensure the "success" of the gun-running trials. From the moment American journalists were especially brought over to Jerusalem from Cairo by Government invitation "they were taken in hand and given clearly to understand that the real culprits in the case were not the two British soldiers accused of selling arms, or the two Jewish fellows accused of buying them, but the leaders of the Jewish Agency. The police were convinced that at long last they had secured evidence to prove to the world at large the wicked designs of the Jewish Agency and the active participation of its leaders in the stealing of arms from the British Army, in setting up a Jewish subterranean organization within the British Army and, in general, preparing the 'Jewish revolt.' Nothing was too low to achieve that purpose. The evidence of two self-admitted criminals and of a prostitute was used in order to throw mud at the Jewish Agency in general and in particular at its Chairman (David ben Gurion) who has become a veritable bete noire to the Government because he is regarded as the soul of Jewish resistance to the White Paper. No one who attended the trial could fail to be impressed by the spirit of hatred to the Jews and of the Jewish public bodies evident from the utterances of the military officers conducting the trial."

IBN SAUD'S SONS: The visit to the United States of two sons of King Ibn Saud of Arabia was preceded by a request to the Zionist Emergency Council by Government officials that no critical statements should be made during their stay in the country. It was said that the two princes are guests of President Roosevelt and it would be inappropriate to have their visit marred by political attacks. Zionist leaders, wishing to cooperate with the State Department, acquiesced on condition that the princes be advised at the same time to take no stand on Jewish Palestine. As a result, Jewish newspapermen were informed of this understanding in order to guide their comments. A number of newspapermen of the

general press wanted to interview Prince Feisal, Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, when he and his brother visited several American cities. The Prince's escorts remarked that the Zionists had requested that the Prince give no interviews since they did not wish any adverse comments made on Zionism. This distortion of the facts served to turn the annoyance of these American journalists against the Zionist movement. A cooperative act on the part of the Emergency Council reacted against it.

SECRET SESSION: Senator Brewster, one of the five globe-girdling Senators, mentioned Palestine during his report to the secret session of the Senate. Unfortunately, the Senator, who has expressed his sympathy with Jewish Palestine on several occasions, had no opportunity to visit Palestine. He did stop at Cairo, however. He reported that British sources had talked to him at length about "tension" between Jews and Arabs in Palestine. These sources suggested to the Senator that Americans be told that Palestine is "a British problem" and that the United States "should lay off." Senator Mead flew to Palestine for interviews with a number of Jewish leaders. He returned with the feeling that Arab-Jewish relations can be satisfactorily resolved. He was impressed with the extent of Jewish achievements in Palestine.

THE WASHINGTON SCENE: The Emergency Council has broadened the base of its approach in Washington. All of us are concerned in maintaining the best relations between America and England. It is obvious, however, that this desire on our part cannot be utilized as a cover under which our position will be impaired. It is clear that unless assurances are forthcoming, from the Mandatory Government, in definite form, as to Jewish rights in Palestine, it is our duty and responsibility to give public expression to what we demand and what we expect in a world based upon justice and international law, and to appeal to all our friends to support us in our endeavors. Dr. Silver is now actively engaged in this political work, both in New York and in Washington. He has had interesting conversations with Acting Secretary of State Edward Stettinius, Judge Samuel Rosenman, Adviser to the President, Herbert H. Lehman, Congressman Sol Bloom, Congressman Emanuel Celler, Lawrence Steinhardt, American Ambassador to Turkey and others. Herman Shulman has met with Senator Robert F. Wagner and Senator Tom Connally and is engaged in organizing a small executive committee of the American Palestine Committee for the purpose of creating an informed group, familiar with the problems of Palestine, who will take an active part in the propaganda against the White Paper. . . . Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Rose Halprin, and Chaym Greenberg made representations to the British Embassy in protest against the manner in which the Palestine gun-running trials were conducted.

DANGER OF "BLOODSHED": The fact that the Persian Command (in which Palestine is included) contains a very large number of American troops is being used by the Palestine Government in an anti-Zionist campaign directed at the United States. A deliberate, continuous plan is under way to create the impression that Palestine (and because of Palestine the whole Middle East) stands on the verge of rioting and civil war due to Jewish violence in the midst of a world war. To achieve this purpose, our correspondent at Cairo reports, the British Intelligence has been sending out voluminous reports to sustain the objective. The purpose is to force the United States to agree to the White Paper or, failing that, at least to bring our country to a more "anti-Zionist" point of view.

It has not been found possible to influence the United States with political arguments. The effort is, therefore, being made to put the issue on military grounds.

The recent attempt to force the issuance of a joint Anglo-American statement on the problem of Palestine was part of this picture. Certain officials alleged that there was imminent danger of bloodshed in the Middle East. This would have an effect on American forces stationed in that area. It is reliably learned that the American War Department gave its own view that it was not convinced of the existence of such dangers. No joint statement was, therefore, issued. But the Foreign Office is still applying great pressure on the United States, insisting that a statement of policy or American support of the White Paper is necessary to "quiet" the Arabs.

PALESTINE VISITOR: We anticipate the presence in the United States shortly of Dr. Bernard Joseph, legal adviser of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Dr. Joseph is one of the best informed men on political and economic conditions in the Homeland. He will spend a substantial part of his time in Washington. He may find it possible to visit four or five major communities for large, public meetings, but will not be able to undertake an extensive speaking tour. Arrangements are being made accordingly.



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Vol. 1. No. 2

November 26, 1943

WHITE PAPER POLICY NOT CHANGED: Nobody should be misled into thinking that any change has taken place with regard to the White Paper policy. An effort was made to blunt the edge of Jewish and non-Jewish attacks on the White Paper through the announcement in the House of Commons on November 9th that 31,078 certificates, representing the unused balance of the 75,000 allotted in the White Paper for the five year period ending March 31, 1944, would be honored beyond that date. This "gesture" means nothing whatever so far as policy is concerned. The Zionist Emergency Council issued a statement, after receipt of this news, pointing out that the ban on future immigration has in no sense been lifted and that the statement of the Colonial Secretary, and the replies given by him to questions, make it clear that the policy of the White Paper remains essentially unchanged and the fight for its abrogation must continue.

GOVERNMENT INVADES JEWISH COLONY: The lengths to which the Palestine Administration will go to ensure the continuance of the White Paper policy have led to an incident even more provocative and tragic than the recent gun running trials. On November 16th, the British police, supported by Indian troops and Polish military police, raided the village of Ramat Hakovesh to search for illegal arms, for "a training camp for an illegal armed organization", and for alleged deserters from the Polish Army. All the men in the colony were herded into a barbed-wire enclosure. Thirty-five of them were arrested. One of the men, Samuel Wolinetz, was mortally wounded by shots fired by the police officer in command. Wolinetz was removed to a government hospital in an Arab city, despite the village physician's warning that it was dangerous to move him. The physician was later denied permission to see him in the hospital. Wolinetz died on November 21.

During a protest demonstration in Tel-Aviv on November 20, twenty-one civilians and eleven British policemen were wounded. Protest meetings have been held throughout Palestine demanding cessation of the Government's persecution of the Jewish Self Defense, release of the arrested villagers, and the lifting of the ban imposed on the Hebrew press since November 19th. "The Mufti's gangs", said David Ben-Gurion, "are organizing again and purchasing arms, not for self-defense but for the resumption of their attacks against us. The few arms we possess are intended for our own defense and we shall guard them as the apple of our eye."

PROVOCATION: Ever since the danger of invasion was removed by the North African victories, the Palestine Administration has consistently attempted to provoke the Yishuv to an armed uprising, hoping to prove to the outside world that Palestine Jewry is a menace to security in the Middle East and to the Allied war effort. The theory in Administration circles seems to be

that the Middle East is in an explosive condition and that the Jews will apply the match to the fuse by starting a rebellion which will provoke a counter-rebellion on the part of the Arabs. As the Emergency Council pointed out in its statement of November 23rd: "This view can only be described as utterly fantastic. There will be a rising in Palestine only if the Government wishes it... The Administration of Palestine is to blame for the murder in Ramat Hakovesh and it alone is to blame for the disturbances in Tel-Aviv."

WHY ARMS ARE HOARDED: The Ramat Hakovesh incident cannot be properly understood unless it is recalled that this village was one of those most tragically affected by the riots of 1936-1939. Surrounded by Arab settlements, it was attacked incessantly by day and by night, its roads were mined and scores of its settlers were victims of the Mufti's terror. The Government is fully aware of the fact that it has in the past been unable to give the Jewish villages adequate protection and that Jewish arms have been used in the past, as they will be in the future, for self defense and not for aggression. The need for such arms is nowhere more marked than in exposed Ramat Hakovesh.

A letter which has reached us from an authoritative Jewish source in Palestine throws light upon the question of the smuggling and hoarding of arms in Palestine today. It reads in part: "It is true that throughout the war period, there has been a considerable traffic in military arms throughout the Middle East, not only in Palestine but also in Transjordan, in Syria, Egypt, and Iraq. Large quantities of military arms have found their way into the hands of Arabs in Palestine and Transjordan. There is an abundance of cash among the Arabs and a desire to get rid of it, and rifles are always an attraction. At any given moment there is a fixed quotation for the cost of a rifle on the Arab market, rising or falling with the supply and demand. In the light of these circumstances, it is not surprising that for their own self defense, Jews, too, are storing away such arms as they can purchase from the quantities offered for sale."

DR. WEIZMANN MEETS GENERAL SMUTS. - We learn from a London correspondent that Dr. Weizmann has had a long conversation with Field Marshal Smuts of South Africa. General Smuts was a member of the War Cabinet of 1917 which was responsible for the issuing of the Balfour Declaration. He has been a warm friend of the Jewish National Home ever since. His prestige in England was never higher than it is today. It is encouraging to know that he is as keenly interested as ever in our cause and is ready to be helpful in the present situation.

AMERICA AND ARAB OIL: Little effort is being made to conceal the fact that the recent visit to this country of the Saudi-Arabian princes had something to do with the game of international oil. It is known that the reception for the princes at the Waldorf-Astoria on November 9th was arranged with the cooperation of the Standard Oil Company. A high official of the Interior Department was to be sent to Saudi-Arabia in connection with the oil concessions previously granted to an American firm. The negotiations have been proceeding with the aid of the State Department on behalf of the California Arabian Standard Oil Company, and definite decisions may be expected shortly. When the Arab princes were in Washington, the Washington newspapers gave a great deal of space to a discussion of America and oil in Arabia.

Thus, through a commercial by-path, a new and potentially significant factor has been introduced in the Middle Eastern political scene with important implications for the Palestine question.

UNREST IN LEBANON. - It is generally agreed that the stand taken by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies in insisting upon immediate and complete independence from French authority was a move in the struggle carried on ever since the last war between British and French interests for dominance in the eastern Mediterranean. The proposal for an Arab Federation has been fostered throughout by the British with a view to bringing all the Arab countries as a single unit within their sphere of influence, including Syria and Lebanon. The New York Times correspondent in Beirut, A. C. Sedgwick, seems to be expressing the British attitude in his cable of November 18: "This is a small country, but the events leading up to the crisis and those that followed indicating what might be considered a final solution to what appeared to be a hopeless problem, sounded with mighty resonance. A vast sounding board was provided by the Arab world whose aspirations toward unity have the avowed encouragement of the British."

ARAB PROPAGANDA IN U. S. - Further indications of an Arab propaganda offensive in the United States on the Palestine issue are: 1) the appointment of Major Haddad as Military Attache to the Iraq Legation. We have learned from Palestine that Major Haddad's real function is to conduct propaganda against the Zionist cause in the United States. A feature article by him against Zionism appeared in the Sunday issue of the Herald Tribune several weeks ago. 2) The prospective opening of a Saudi-Arabian Legation in Washington hinted at by Prince Feisal while visiting here. 3) The invitation which, according to the press, has been extended to five representative Arab journalists in Egypt to visit the United States.

RUMORS OF PARTITION. - While the Palestine Administration adheres to the White Paper as the blueprint for post-war Palestine, high British officials in Cairo, aware that some other solution will have to be found, have been feeling out both Arab and Jewish political leaders on the subject of partition. There are persistent rumors to the effect that according to one proposed plan, Haifa, the Emek and Galilee would be included in the Arab sector, while the Jews would be left with the undeveloped southern half of Palestine, the arid Negev. Professor L. B. Namier of the political department of the London Office of the Jewish Agency, may be considered to have given a quasi-official Jewish answer to the partition rumors in a letter of November 16 to the Manchester Guardian. In view of the vast extent of the Jewish tragedy, and the scope of Jewish achievement in Palestine, Professor Namier writes, only one solution is possible - that Palestine become an independent Jewish state. Though in 1937 some Zionist leaders were ready to negotiate for a Jewish state on the basis of a partitioned Palestine, "The reasons for partition, "Professor Namier states, "no longer hold good."

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Vol. 1. No. 3

December 22, 1943

DR. WEIZMANN SEES THE PRIME MINISTER: Censorship difficulties make full reports of Dr. Weizmann's recent negotiations in London impossible. It is, however, known that he had several encouraging discussions with Field Marshal Smuts who had been acting as head of the War Cabinet in Mr. Churchill's absence. Moreover, prior to the Prime Minister's departure for the Middle East, Dr. Weizmann had a long and friendly conversation with him. In the fall of 1940, when Dr. Weizmann had his first interview with Mr. Churchill after the latter's appointment as Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill approved a memorandum presented by Dr. Weizmann on the subject of the Jewish Army. Outside pressure and Mr. Churchill's concentration on major strategic problems were later responsible for the rejection by the Government of the proposed Jewish Army which was to taper off into Jewish units and the Jewish battalions of the Palestine Regiment. Such contacts as the Zionist leadership has had with the Prime Minister since 1940 have demonstrated that there has been no essential change in the sympathetic attitude towards Zionism he manifested in his anti-White Paper speech of May, 1939, and on so many previous occasions. Dr. Weizmann's recent interview with Mr. Churchill has confirmed our previous impression that he is still a firm believer in the cause of the Jewish National Home. He is determined to take some positive action in its behalf but is concerned with choosing what seems to him an appropriate time.

MORE ON THE ARMS FRONT: Though the news of Dr. Weizmann's conversation with Mr. Churchill has naturally proved gratifying to Zionist circles, all indications make it clear that an intense struggle is being waged against us and that there is a concentrated effort to create a situation adverse to us before any intervention on our behalf is judged advisable or timely. The Palestine Administration, though it released the thirty-four arrested settlers of Ramat Hakovesh, continues its attempts to break up the Jewish Self-Defense. In searching the village of Hulda some weeks ago, it again chose a settlement which by the very nature of its exposed situation and its tragic history during periods of unrest, could hardly be expected not to hoard arms against possible future attacks. There was a particularly sinister note in the suggestion by the President of the Court, the same officer who had presided over the Arms Trial of the summer, that if the two villagers who had pleaded guilty (inasmuch as the defense of the village is their special responsibility) would reveal where they had obtained their small "illegal" arms cache, their sentences would be "considered in another light" -- an obvious bid to them to name the Hagana as their source of munitions. Hulda, it will be recalled, was burnt down in the riots of 1929 and lost seventeen of its settlers in the 1936-1939 disturbances mainly as a result of German-made land mines strewn over the unpaved roads surrounding the village. In the case of Hulda, as of Ramat Hakovesh, the pretext for the police raid was the search for Polish deserters; none was found in either village. Though the village's precarious situation was made clear to the court by the settlers and attested to by a police inspector, the two settlers who had pleaded guilty were sentenced to six and five years imprisonment each, after declining to reveal how they came into possession of the weapons. Three other settlers were given sentences of two years each.

A SENATOR REFUTES THE MACMICHAEL FORMULA: The arms searches are of course intended to be conclusive evidence in support of the Palestine Administration's self-serving formula that Jewish armed aggression will lead inevitably to an explosion in the Middle East, and that Zionism is a menace to the United Nations' war effort throughout the Middle East. Significant refutation of this theory has been furnished by one of the five United States Senators who toured the war fronts. This gentleman who had been given the background of the Zionist situation before his departure, visited the Arab countries of North Africa and also Palestine. Throughout his trip he discussed the Palestine question with British and Arab statesmen. Wherever he went the British representatives were at pains to impress him with the tension in Palestine and the danger of an explosion throughout the Arab world because of the Zionist issue. On the other hand, none of the many Moslem leaders to whom the senator spoke in Egypt and North Africa raised the Palestine question. The Senator's own conclusion is that it should not be impossible to bring about a satisfactory solution of the Palestine problem if the Arabs are properly dealt with in the other Arab countries.

THE BASIS OF OUR WORK: The conference of leaders of local emergency committees held in Cleveland on December 11 and 12 made clear the basic political principle underlying the work of both the national Zionist Emergency Council and the local emergency committees. The political situation with regard to Palestine seems to be developing with great rapidity, and it is in fact believed that the Palestine problem was discussed at the Cairo Conference. At a time when ultimate decisions on the political future of Palestine may well be under consideration, we for our part cannot limit ourselves to a mere demand for the removal of the restrictive White Paper but must state our own case positively and comprehensively. Hence all our work must be predicated on the Palestine Resolution of the American Jewish Conference which demanded the withdrawal in its entirety of the White Paper and control by the Jewish Agency of immigration to, and agricultural and industrial development in, Palestine -- these measures constituting "the essential pre-requisites for the attainment of a Jewish majority and for the re-creation of the Jewish Commonwealth."

THE UNWANTED AMBULANCES: An interesting little sidelight on the Palestine Administration is furnished by Congressman Celler who reports that the ten ambulances purchased by the Order Sons of Zion last year for the Red Mogen David (the equivalent in Jewish Palestine of the Red Cross), were kept in this country for six months for lack of import licenses from the Palestine Administration. All necessary papers had been secured at this end - an export license from the Office of Economic Warfare, clearance from the Lend-Lease Administration, etc. It was only after great effort by the Order Sons of Zion and personal representations by Congressman Celler to a prominent American official attached to the Middle East Supply Center that the Palestine Administration granted the necessary import license.

MR. LONG AND THE STRUMA: In the course of Mr. Breckenridge Long's appearance before the Foreign Affairs Committee, he was asked if he had any knowledge of the fatal accident to the Struma in 1941. The congressman who asked the question stated that he was under the impression that the ultimate cause of the disaster was the refusal of the Palestine Administration to give immigration certificates for Palestine to the Rumanian Jewish refugees crowded on the boat. Mr. Long's reply was: "There was a ship in 1941 which approached Istanbul. The boat was rerouted back and something happened in the Black Sea." Why it was turned back, he said, he did not remember in detail. He could look up the details and advise Congressman Mundt who had asked the question. Mr. Long's general conclusion was that nothing could have prevented the boat from exploding. "It was a terrible thing to happen, but it was one of those things that do happen."

DR. SILVER TO MR. LONG: In order to furnish Mr. Long with the details he had volunteered to look up for Mr. Mundt's information, Dr. Silver, as chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Emergency Committee, wrote to Mr. Long, enclosing a copy of the memorandum on the Struma submitted to the Acting Secretary of State last March. That memorandum had made it clear that had the Palestine Administration given the Struma passengers immigration certificates which were in fact available under the quota, the Turkish Government would have been willing to permit the refugees to leave their unseaworthy boat and remain temporarily on Turkish soil. Every attempt to secure immigration permits from the Palestine Administration failed despite the repeated warnings of the Jewish Agency that rejection of these appeals meant death by drowning for the passengers: hence on Feb. 24, 1942 the Struma was ordered out of port by the Turkish authorities and went to pieces on reaching the open sea. Only one out of 769 on board survived. Dr. Silver's letter ends: "The recollection remains bitter that owing to the refusal of the Palestine Administration in the face of urgent humanitarian pleas from many quarters, to admit these refugees to Palestine, the boat with its human cargo was ordered back to Rumania. It was in the course of this return trip that the explosion took place, as a result of which all aboard, with one exception, were drowned. One may be permitted the reflection that the explosion came perhaps as a merciful release for people who had already suffered greatly and who were now faced with return to the death chambers and concentration camps of the Nazis."

THE ARGUMENT THAT MUST BE ANSWERED: Increased contact with government personnel during the last few months has made it clear to those actively involved in the work of the Emergency Council, that a principal line of attack of those opposed to the Jewish National Home is to question its absorptive capacity. That so small a land can solve so large a refugee problem is deemed impossible. The Emergency Council now has in preparation suitable popular material on the economic potentialities of Palestine. Special mention must be made here of a book to be published by Harper's in March: "Palestine, Land of Promise" by Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk, Assistant Chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation Bureau. This is a detailed and convincing analysis of the great possibilities in Palestine for the absorption of millions of new immigrants.

MISS STARK SEES THE BEST PEOPLE: The Palestine Administration's campaign for the preservation and implementation of the White Paper policy is being carried on in devious ways in this country. The propaganda in the New York Times is only one weapon. For the last few months Miss Freya Stark, the enthusiastically pro-Arab British archaeologist and author, has been in the United States: her mission is to make propaganda for the Arab cause, to explain why the White Paper should be carried out, and to sound out "important" -- ergo, generally anti-Zionist -- American Jews on their attitude to Palestine. She is doing little public lecturing but devoting herself to "seeing people" and expounding to them as an "expert" her favorite theory that all of Arabia -- from the lowliest fellah to the highest effendi -- is passionately and primarily concerned with the sad lot of the Arabs of Palestine whom the Jews are allegedly depriving of land and livelihood. While visiting and "observing" Palestine before her trip to the United States, Miss Stark did not find time to see any Jewish village, institution, or undertaking and could not manage even to meet with representatives of the Jewish Agency.