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

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

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Reel  
102

Box  
35

Folder  
117

American Palestine Committee, press releases, 1944.

ADDRESS BY

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AT THE DINNER OF AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE AT  
HOTEL STATLER, WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1944

My dear friends, this has been indeed a deeply moving and greatly inspiring evening. This gathering itself, composed as it is of men of all faiths, and of all shades of political opinion, is indeed the triumphant symbol of that for which our country stands preeminently in the midst of the world, and that for which we are fighting today.

It is good that Palestine - it is good that Jerusalem - has summoned you all here in this common unity. I know of no way to tell you how deeply I, as one of the spokesmen of the Zionist movement feel at this time, than to repeat a phrase from our ancient and sacred literature:

*sha-aloo*  
"Shaloo shalom Yerushalaim, yesh la' *you ohavayich* ~~ee~~ *ehaveyu*."

"Seek ye the peace of Jerusalem; may all those who love Thee ~~Jerusalem~~, prosper."

I wish to thank you, friends, who have come from all parts of the country here to help us in this great and desperately needed task in which we are engaged. I should like to thank the Vice President of the United States for the courtesy which he has shown us in coming here and in giving us his word of uplift and encouragement. And to all the Senators and the Congressmen and the government officials who are here, I should like to express my especial sense of gratitude, and the indebtedness of the Jewish people to the two men of the Senate of the United States, Senator Wagner and Senator Taft, and to the two men from the House of Representatives, to Congressman Wright and Congressman Compton, who introduced the Palestine Resolution in both Houses of Congress. We are an ancient people, of



long memory, and the names of these and the names of all others who have come to our aid in this critical day for Israel, when so many brutal forces are organized and determined to destroy us - I say the names of all these friends will long be cherished and remembered by a grateful and unforgetting people.

I should like to share with you, fellow Americans, the grave problem that confronts the Jewish people at this time and which is likely to confront them after the Allied Victory at the close of this war. The coming of peace will not automatically solve it. It existed in aggravated form even before the war. It is not a problem of a small and unimportant people. The Jews fortunately or unfortunately have never been an unimportant people. This problem cannot be brushed aside because of weightier or more urgent international problems. Our common foe against whom we are sending our sons into battle has made the Jews the central theme in all his vicious propaganda. The Jews everywhere in Europe were the first victims of his murderous campaigns. He has waged war against them for more than ten years. He has killed more than two million of them in the last few years. Our casualties have been higher in proportion than that of any other people. Hitler has vowed to annihilate all of European Jewry. The very enormity of this tragedy forces itself irresistibly upon the attention of the world. The problem simply cannot be ignored.

The early defeat of the Nazis may avert the horror of the total extermination of the Jews of Europe. But what of those who will survive? At the close of the war, European Jewry will find



itself spiritually shaken and physically undermined. They will find themselves in a world of great social, political and economical tension, and under pressures which will not be entirely lifted through the restoration of their rights of citizenship. It is difficult to foresee how many European Jews will survive this war or how many will remain in Europe or will wish to remain.

For those who remain, relief on a very large scale will be necessary for a considerable time. This holds true of course of all other peoples in war ravished Europe. But our experience in the reconstruction period which followed the last war, taught us that Jews in war-stricken countries have special and aggravated problems which make their lot far more desperate.

Responsible Allied statesmen, looking ahead to the pacification and stabilization of Europe must be thinking now not only in terms of postwar relief and rehabilitation, but also, and far more fundamentally, in terms of establishing such political conditions and such international guarantees as will protect the Jewish minority as well as all other minorities against a recurrence of those discriminatory activities which prevailed after the last war, almost to the very day when the second war began. A charter of individual human rights and liberties must be proclaimed and enforced by international action which will protect every human being in his right to live and earn a livelihood in the land of his birth or adoption, subject to no restriction or cancellation by any government whatsoever.

But a realistic appraisal of what is likely to prevail in Europe for a considerable period after the war cannot fail to give



the Jewish people and its leaders the gravest concern. The struggle for existence in postwar Europe will be harsh and bitter. Famine, poverty, and misery will stalk over the face of that war-riven continent. There will be ruined economies, worthless currencies, social collapse, and possible revolutions in many defeated countries, just as after the last war. The youth of half of Europe which has been indoctrinated with the racial and nationalistic mythologies of Nazi and Fascist dictatorship will be unfit for a democratic way of life which they have been taught to hate and despise -- and they will be virulent Jew-haters. Jews will again be eyed sullenly as unwelcome economic competitors by millions of job-hungry and career-hungry men. Economic hostility will once again be rationalized into the well-known and quite serviceable anti-Semitic thesis.

No doubt the Jews of Europe following an Allied victory will be restored to their political rights and citizenship. But they possessed those rights after the last war -- even minority rights in some of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Nevertheless anti-Semitism was never so rampant and so violent as after the last war.

Abstract rights will, of course, be restored, but active anti-Semitism unfortunately is likely to continue. Jews by the tens of thousands will be compelled to seek new homes. New homes will not be available.

Jews can never forget the appalling experience of their refugees in the last ten years -- the story of their sad Odyssey in an inhospitable world. These experiences are not likely to be much different after this war. They may be even more difficult, for nations after the war will be in the grip of vast economic dislocations and they will be confronted with the task of helping their own



people over the formidable transition period when their national economies will be passing from a wartime to a peacetime footing. They will not wish to complicate their lives with large influxes of impoverished immigrants.

There are no opportunities for mass immigration for Jews anywhere in the world today. There are not likely to be. We wish it were otherwise. Feeble trickles of immigration will be permitted into this or that country, but waves will be fiercely resisted; and it is with waves of immigration, rather than with trickles, that we must concern ourselves.

It is unrealistic at this time to suggest that new colonial possibilities will be available to meet the great immigration pressure after this war. It is too late in the day to indulge in what has been characterized as "ramblings in the iridescent nothingness of 'Utopia'".

This consideration brings us to the subject of Palestine which is the purpose of this gathering. Palestine has been prepared and readied by decades of Jewish labor and initiative for just such an emergency. Jews have in the period between the two world wars invested life, energy, and substance in the upbuilding of their national home which was politically guaranteed to them by the terms of the Palestine Mandate, to which our own country subscribed along with more than fifty other nations. As a result of this extraordinary Jewish pioneering and upbuilding, the little country of Palestine was able to give refuge and sanctuary to more than half of all the driven and hunted Jewish refugees of Hitler's Europe. It is prepared to



take on the main share of the burden of the solution of postwar Jewish immigration. The Jews of Palestine want them to come there. The Jews of Europe wish to go there. Fair-minded men everywhere believe that it is the proper country for them to go to. But this ancient and historic land of the Jewish people is now in danger of being permanently closed against further Jewish immigration by the British White Paper which comes into force at the end of this month.

On November 2, 1917, Arthur James Balfour, then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, issued the following declaration in the name of the British Government:

"His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in other countries."

President Wilson saw the draft of this declaration before it was issued, and approved it. In March, 1919, at the close of the war, he wrote that "the Allied nations, with fullest concurrence of our Government and people are agreed that in Palestine shall be laid the foundations of a Jewish Commonwealth." In 1920, the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers meeting at San Remo unanimously approved of the Balfour Declaration and in July, 1922, the Council of the League of Nations unanimously ratified the Mandate for Palestine, which was given to Great Britain. This mandate charged the Mandatory Government with the obligation to facilitate Jewish immigration into Palestine and the close settlement of Jews upon the



land to insure the establishment of the Jewish National Home. The same year, the Congress of the United States by unanimous action, passed a resolution which declared that "the United States favors the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

What was implied in the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate is clearly stated by Mr. Lloyd George who was Prime Minister of Great Britain at the time of its issuance. Speaking in the House of Commons on November 17, 1930, and referring to the words in the preamble of the Mandate: "Whereas recognition has thereby been given to the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and to the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country," he declared:

"The reason why I think that those words are important and control the whole of the policy is this: It means that the idea was not to establish a Jewish colony in Palestine. The idea was not to give opportunities for colonisation and settlement by Jews in Palestine; the dominant idea was that there should be a national home for the Jews in Palestine, a recognition of the special position of the Jewish people in the country whose name they have made immortal, and the conferring upon them of special rights and interests in that country. It was an opportunity for recreating a Hebrew culture which has already rendered such eternal service to mankind, so that the contributions of the Jews to civilization should no longer be sporadic and individual, but once more that it should be the contribution of a people dwelling in a home of their own. That is not colonization; that is not settlement; that is a national home. That is what this country accepted at a critical moment in its fate for reasons



which had to do with that crisis, and its successful emergency out of it. That is why the Allies accepted and endorsed it, and it is a pledge of honour by some of the greatest nations on earth, including the British Empire, which we are called upon to honour."

An eminent member of the House of Lords recently declared that if today the White Paper were brought before Parliament, it would not have the ghost of a chance of being approved. Every responsible statesman here and abroad knows that the policy of the White Paper is both morally and legally indefensible.

It is a complete repudiation of obligations which the Mandatory Government voluntarily assumed under international sanction to facilitate -- not to curb -- Jewish immigration into Palestine in order to build up the Jewish National Home. It was these obligations which alone justified the granting of the Mandate to Great Britain. The White Paper introduces iniquitous discriminatory racial legislation against Jews -- and of all places, in the Jewish National Home! Immigration and land purchase restrictions are, under the terms of the White Paper, imposed not on Arabs or any other people, but exclusively on Jews.

A reluctant Parliament, in the tragic appeasement era, was maneuvered into affirming these policies, but the moral sense of England never approved of them. That moral sense spoke eloquently through men of the type of Winston Churchill, who branded the White Paper as a breach and repudiation of the Balfour Declaration.



If the White Paper, a unilateral British declaration which never received the approval of those nations, including our own, which consented to the granting of the Mandate over Palestine to Great Britain, was found odious and unjustifiable when it was issued in 1939 before the Second World War and before the appalling disasters swept over the Jewish communities of Europe, bringing wreck and ruin to millions of our people, how utterly insupportable and insufferable is it today!

The last five years have been the blackest in Jewish history. They climaxed five other years which the Nazi regime ushered in, during which one Jewish community after another in Central and Eastern Europe was broken, and myriads of Jews were driven into exile from countries where they had known dignity and honor, and where they and their ancestors had lived for centuries. Myriads of them crowded the highways of the world in quest of refuge and sanctuary and finding most doors barred against them. But a worse fate awaited those who could not escape in time. For them, Hitler had decreed total extermination -- systematic, ruthless annihilation -- in gas chambers, by machine guns, in human slaughter-pens. Some who managed to escape, and after months of wandering finally reached the shores of Palestine -- the shores of the Jewish national home -- were turned away. They were refused admission. They had no certificates. The last door of hope was shut to them. Many tried to enter illegally. Hundreds of them were apprehended, sent to concentration camps, and later forcibly evacuated to the Island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean where they are rotting to this day. Many perished in Haifa Bay; 760 souls perished in the Black Sea on the ill-fated STRUMA because permission to enter Palestine was refused to them. But for this infamous White Paper they might have been saved. Had the doors of Palestine been wide open these last



years of Nazi terror and had the Mandatory Government fully cooperated in the task, tens of thousands of additional refugees might have been saved from Hitler's mass execution.

In March of this year, the pitifully restricted immigration schedule permitted under the White Paper will come to an end. Only the 30,000 unused visas -- unused, principally because of the administrative difficulties put in the way by Palestine officials -- remain. Thereafter, no more Jews will be permitted into Palestine except on Arab sufferance and consent.

Will the conscience of the world permit even the doors of the Jewish National Home to be closed against these helpless Jewish refugees who turn to it now and will turn to it after the war as to their last door of hope and rescue? Is this act of injustice and inhumanity to usher in the new world order for which we are fighting?

A few days ago, Winston Churchill, addressing the House of Commons, uttered these words:

"...The sanest and safest course for us to follow is to judge all parties and factions dispassionately by the test of their readiness and ability to fight the Germans and thus lighten the burden of allied troops... Our feelings here and elsewhere follow the principle of keeping good faith with those who have kept good faith with us and of striving without prejudice or regard for political affections to aid those who strike for freedom against the Nazi rule and inflict the greatest injury upon the enemy."

Who in the Near East has kept faith with the United Nations in this war? The Iraqi who in England's darkest hour attempted a miserable pro-Nazi putsch? The Egyptians who watched with undisturbed hearts, Rommel's approach to Alexandria, whose Prime Minister had to be removed from office and confined by the British because of his trafficking with the enemy and whose Chief of Staff had likewise



to be arrested? The Syrians whose land was a hot-bed of Axis intrigue and espionage all through the period of the Vichy regime? Or the Palestine Arabs whose chief spokesman is even now in the entourage of Hitler in Berlin? Did these Arab peoples, so persistently wooed and appeased, keep faith with the nations who were fighting for the Atlantic Charter -- that very Charter, which they now would invoke in an effort to defeat the legitimate national aspirations of the one people in the Near East which did keep faith -- the Jews of Palestine, who sent their sons by the thousands as volunteers to fight and die on the side of the Allies and who mobilized as one great civilian army the entire Jewish Homeland to provide food and ammunition, vital supplies and services to our fighting forces?

The Jews of Palestine, and the world, wish the Arab lands and peoples all success in their national and economic development. The Jews of Palestine, and of the rest of the world, stand ready to cooperate with them in the development of that vast world of theirs which is still so sadly undeveloped and underpopulated.

The establishment of the Jewish National Home in Palestine will, we believe, be a great boon to the entire Near East and to all the Arab peoples. Jews are bringing scientific skill, technical knowledge, and material resources to that part of the world. Palestine is destined to become the hub of a great and rapid economic expansion of the entire Near East. The prosperity of Palestine will stimulate the prosperity of all adjacent Arab countries.

The Jews are truly pro-Arab -- perhaps the only truly pro-Arab people in the world, for we realize that the future prosperity of the Jewish National Home is bound up with the prosperity of the entire Arab world which enclaves it. But the progress and development of the Arabs need not be achieved at the sacrifice of the Jewish



National Home which at best occupies a fraction of a fraction of the lands open to Arab growth and development. To Israel, however, Palestine is thrice previous and indispensable for its national life and survival. In it are the roots both of its past and of its future.

The proposed re-establishment of the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine will not wrong the Arabs. May I be permitted to quote the words of the Right Honorable Alfred Duff Cooper, former First Lord of the British Admiralty, spoken here in Washington in the Spring of 1940:

"In 1914 there was hardly any territory which the Arabs could call their own. They were almost throughout the Near East subject to Turkish suzerainty. Since 1914, they have acquired vast tracts of territory where they are independent; the whole of Arabia; Transjordan, which was taken away from the original conception of Palestine; Syria, where again they exercise semi-independent rights. No nation in the world has so little ground for complaining of what the Germans call lack of 'lebensraum' as the Arab race. They have vast spaces in which to expand. They have been among the greatest beneficiaries of the World War, and now they are subject to no particular evils."

Realizing that the Arabs would have their national aspirations satisfied after the war by the establishment of a number of Arab national states, and that these states would have land areas so large that it would take them centuries to develop them, and realizing also that the Jews stood in desperate need of a place of



refuge, for their people, the Allies reserved "the tiny notch" of Palestine, as Balfour called it -- just 10,000 square miles -- for the Jewish people. The Arab lands cover more than a million square miles and they are underpopulated and largely undeveloped.

It was rather ironical to read the other day the complaint of the President of the Iraq Chamber of Senators to the effect that Palestine is already over-populated and that it is only by dispossessing Arabs that room can be made for Jews. The gentleman we respectfully suggest should concern himself with underpopulated and impoverished Iraq rather than with Palestine where the steady increase in population has brought prosperity to the country, both to Jews and Arabs, and made the Palestine Arab the envy of all the Arabs in the Near East. Ten years ago, and fifteen years ago, wise heads declared that there was no room in Palestine for a single additional settler. Hundreds of thousands have settled there since that time, and the Arab population, far from being dispossessed has steadily increased in size as well as improved in standards of living.

Resolutions were recently introduced in the Congress of the United States asking "that the doors of Palestine shall be opened for free entry of Jews into that country, and there shall be full opportunity for colonization so that the Jewish people may ultimately reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth."

It is clear to everyone in Washington that were the Congress of the United States to speak today on the pending Palestine resolution, it would approve it overwhelmingly. Every well-informed newspaperman in Washington knows it. It is also clear to all observers that this sentiment in Congress correctly reflects the wishes of the American people. Leaders in every walk of life and in



every community in the United States, as well as the press of our country, have availed themselves of the occasion of the introduction of the resolution to express themselves in hearty endorsement of the Jewish National Home.

That is a fact which no temporary deferment of action on the resolution can obscure. The inferences to be drawn from it will not be ignored by government officials here or in London, or in the capitols of those Arab countries whose officials, as if at a given signal and with competitive zeal, registered violent protests against the resolution. As far as one is able to judge, these protests represent the sole contribution which these countries have so far made toward the winning of the war! ...

We are profoundly grateful for the outpouring of sympathy and helpfulness on the part of the American people and their chosen representatives in Congress. It is completely in keeping with the great tradition of the American people which heartily approved of the Balfour Declaration and of the Palestine Mandate a quarter of a century ago, and whose government had a hand in the fashioning of both important documents. This understanding and cooperative attitude of the American people will prove decisive in the final analysis.

We have been informed that our War Department has indicated objections to the passage of this resolution at this time. The reasons for these objections are not, I suppose cannot, be revealed. Civilians are at a great disadvantage in arguing with the military on questions of military necessity or expediency, even when these have strong political implications, although in a democracy, civilians must occasionally exercise that right.



We had occasion to question the argument from military necessity which was employed more than a year ago against the restitution of the rights of citizenship to the Jews of Algeria. The danger of an Arab uprising which might embarrass our military operations in North Africa was employed at that time to silence the demands for the abrogation of the Vichy anti-Jewish decree. Under persistent public pressure, however, the rights of French citizenship were finally restored to the Jews, and the military intelligence notwithstanding, the Arab world remained remarkably placid about it. Our position in the Mediterranean and in the Near East was far less secure a year ago than it is today. There are no Nazi or Fascist troops anywhere in North Africa or in the Near East. The Arabs, who ever since the beginning of the war have been unable to decide which side to favor, not knowing which side will win, are now definitely convinced that victory is on the side of the Allies. They understand full well where their political future lies. They will not flirt with the Axis any more. Why the old Arab appeasement argument should now be brought out again to forestall official criticism of the White Paper which British statesmen themselves have characterized as an inexcusable breach of faith, is beyond our comprehension. We hope that the military authorities will soon find it possible, consistent with the realities of the situation, as seen by the War Department from a purely military and not political point of view, to withdraw its objections so that the Congress of the United States may be given the opportunity to speak its mind on this tremendously important question.



The White Paper comes into force at the end of this month. This accounts for the nationwide protests and for the introduction of the resolution in Congress at this time. The timing was not of our choosing. To those who say that the Jewish people should wait for the end of the war before they raise the question of the abrogation of the White Paper, the answer must be given that vital political decisions affecting many countries are even now being made, and Palestine and the Near East are quite definitely within the field where political activities looking toward ultimate arrangements are being vigorously prosecuted. Again the White Paper was announced as the British policy for Palestine before the World War. It is not a product of the war, and the return of peace will not automatically abrogate it. It is clear that unless there is a revision of attitude and a change of heart, the Colonial Office of Great Britain will be able to discover after the war as many unsurmountable difficulties in the way of fulfilling the clear intent and purpose of the mandate as they discovered before the war. We had hoped that the war, with its generous outpouring of human idealism, would bring about such a new attitude. We had hoped that in view of the terrible tragedies which had overtaken our people during the war, there would come about a full realization that everything should now be done in order to make the position of the Jewish people more secure in the world tomorrow, and that, in order to avert such recurrent tragedies in the future, generous measures would immediately be taken to insure the full rehabilitation of the Jewish National Home in Palestine. Unfortunately, nothing of the sort has happened. It appears to be business as usual, with empires -- as with oil concessionaires!



A panic propaganda has been set in motion to convince the world that the enforcement of the White Paper is imperative for the peace of the Holy Land. The word is spread that Palestine is a cauldron of unrest, on the verge of civil war, and that this might greatly embarrass the Allied forces who are in the Near East. Washington has been flooded with this sort of propaganda. For military reasons it is argued the White Paper must be kept in force! We are confident, also, that there will be no trouble in Palestine if the Palestine Administration does not want it. (Applause)

We are happy that not everyone was taken in by this organized propaganda whose source it is not difficult to trace. We are delighted that in the midst of all these wild provocative rumors and loud protests from meddling politicians in foreign governments, the great President of the United States took time out to declare that, "The American Government has never given its approval to the White Paper of 1939. The President is happy that the doors of Palestine are today open to Jewish refugees and that when future decisions are reached, full justice will be done to those who seek a Jewish National Home, for which our Government and the American people have always had the deepest sympathy and today more than ever, in view of the tragic plight of hundreds of thousands of homeless Jewish refugees."

This we believe is the true heart of America speaking and the conscience of the world.

Surely the Jewish people are no less deserving than other peoples whose national independence and freedom have been guaranteed by the United Nations. They have been the worst victims of Nazi



brutality, and their casualties have been proportionately the heaviest. The Jewish people desperately needs Palestine for its homeless millions now and after the war, and for its national security, dignity, and normalcy. Jews have shown a remarkable capacity for pioneering, for labor and sacrifice. They have built worthily and well in Palestine. They have made Palestine their own again by their heroic labor, by their blood and sweat. Nearly all that is hopeful, promising, and progressive in that country today, the Jews have created.

What has been called the noblest enterprise of our time must not now be cruelly sapped and undermined. (Vigorous and prolonged applause.)





[May 24, 1944?] 77½

AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE \* WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1720 - 16th St., N.W.

PRESS RELEASE

Michigan 4480

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SENATOR WAGNER ASSAILS "HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION"

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REFUSES TO JOIN LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE

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Washington, D.C. -- Senator Robert F. Wagner (Democrat, New York) today denounced the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation as "an organization which serves no useful purpose and can only confuse and mislead American public opinion," and refused to join the sponsoring committee of the American League for a Free Palestine, which is "being organized in response to an appeal from the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation."

In an open letter to Representative Will Rogers, Jr. (Democrat, California) and Ben Hecht, who had invited him to join the League's sponsoring committee, Senator Wagner declared:

"My very deep concern with the fate of the Jewish people compels me to decline your invitation. Recently, I read that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, claiming to be 'the trustees of the Hebrew nation's interests' opened a self-styled 'Hebrew Embassy' in Washington.....It appears, from all evidence, that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation is a self-constituted organization, representing no responsible elements of Jewry in Europe, Palestine, or elsewhere, except, perhaps the Irgun, known for its acts of terrorism, which it advocates as a political weapon. The activities of the Irgun have been consistently repudiated by Palestine Jewry, by all responsible Jewish and Zionist organizations, and by the whole democratic world, fighting a war against fascism."

Similar denunciations of the founders of the League and the Hebrew Committee for National Liberation have been launched within the past few days by all major Zionist groups in the United States and by prominent labor leaders, including William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, R. J. Thomas, president of the U.A.W., CIO, Max Zaritsky, president of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers of America, and others.



The text of Senator Wagner's letter follows:

"May 24, 1944

"Hon. Will <sup>Robert</sup> ~~Roberts~~, Jr.  
Mr. Ben Hecht  
American League for a Free Palestine  
11 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y.

"Gentlemen:

"Thank you for your letter of April 21, inviting me to membership on the Sponsoring Committee of the American League for a Free Palestine, being organized in response to an appeal from the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

"My very deep concern with the fate of the Jewish people compels me to decline your invitation. Recently, I read that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, claiming to be "the trustees of the Hebrew nation's interests" opened a self-styled "Hebrew Embassy" in Washington. It is my considered opinion that such an organization serves no useful purpose and can only confuse and mislead American public opinion. It appears, from all the evidence, that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation is a self-constituted organization, representing no responsible elements of Jewry in Europe, Palestine, or elsewhere, except, perhaps, the Irgun, known for its acts of terrorism, which it advocates as a political weapon. The activities of the Irgun have been consistently repudiated by Palestine Jewry, by all responsible Jewish and Zionist organizations, and by the whole democratic world, fighting a war against fascism.

"The World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Palestine constitute an internationally recognized representation of the Jewish people in matters affecting Palestine. Since the issuance of the Mandate for Palestine, their authority is beyond question, both legally and actually. The Executive of the Jewish Agency maintains offices in Jerusalem, London, Geneva and Washington, and has been constantly in close contact with the governments of the world, and, until the war, with the Secretariat and Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations, on questions affecting the Jewish people's interests in Palestine. Jewish Palestine has its own National Assembly, elected on the basis of full adult suffrage. The budget of the Jewish Agency and its affiliated institutions is contributed by Jews all over the world.

"In the United States, the American Jewish Conference, composed of democratically elected representatives of Jewish communities throughout the country, and 64 national organizations, at its Conference in September, 1943, adopted a program including rescue of Jews, post-war resettlement and rehabilitation of Jews, and the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth. The Conference received the enthusiastic support of American public opinion.

"My own deep concern with the tragedy of the Jewish people motivated me to organize the American Palestine Committee. Since its inception in 1941, it has been my privilege to serve as its active chairman. The objectives and record of the American Palestine Committee are well known to the country. It has secured the support of Christians in all walks of life, who are sympathetic to Zionist aspirations. The membership roll includes two-thirds of the members of the United States Senate, more than 200 members of the House of Representatives, more than twenty Governors of states, the leaders of both major political parties and both major labor organizations, and, in addition, thousands of teachers, writers, economists, historians, civic, labor and business leaders. It has cooperated closely with the Christian Council for Palestine, under the chairmanship of Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, which has a membership of over 1,500 Christian clergymen of all denominations.



"In cooperation with the American Zionist Emergency Council (composed of the responsible Zionist organizations in America) our Committee has given its fullest support to the aspirations of the Jewish people, as voiced by their democratically elected spokesmen, for a Jewish Army, unrestricted immigration of Jews into Palestine, the revocations of the British White Paper of 1939, and, above all, for the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth. Both our Committee and the Christian Council for Palestine have publicly gone on record with respect to these issues, as well as demanding full equality of rights for Jewish citizens in whatever country they may choose to live.

It is clear that everyone, whether Jew or Christian, who wants to help restore the rights of Jewish citizens in all countries, assist in the rescue of Jews of Europe and their post-war rehabilitation, and support the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth, has ample scope and opportunity through the already existing responsible and representative Jewish and Christian organizations devoted to these purposes."

"Sincerely yours,

Robert F. Wagner, Chairman"

"RFW:BP"





AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METHODIST CONFERENCE DEMANDS FULFILLMENT OF  
JEWISH NATIONAL HOME PLEDGE

- - - - -

New York -- A resolution calling on the United States to take "appropriate action" so that the "international commitments made to the Jews in connection with a homeland in Palestine may be fulfilled at the earliest possible time," was adopted unanimously by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the Methodist Church, representing more than a million members of the Methodist Church in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. This was announced today by Dr. Daniel L. Marsh, President of Boston University, who introduced the resolution.

The resolution demanded fulfillment of the pledge of a Jewish National Home "in the interest of justice, humanitarianism and future world peace," and condemned "all racial and religious bigotry and intolerance as undemocratic and un-Christian."

The text of the resolution follows:

"Resolved that we hold that all racial and religious bigotry and intolerance are undemocratic and un-Christian. Especially at this time of stress and strain do we deplore and denounce the discriminations and hatreds that have been the spearhead of the attacks on democracy and that lead inevitably to conflicts and wars. We condemn anti-Semitism, anti-Roman Catholicism and anti-Protestantism wherever they appear in the whole wide world. We express our sincere hope that appropriate action will be taken by our government to see that in the interest of justice, humanitarianism and future world peace, international commitments made to the Jews in connection with a homeland in Palestine may be fulfilled at the earliest possible time.



**PRESS RELEASE**

**AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE**  
1720—16th Street, N.W., Washington 9, D. C. • MI 4480

91  
NEW YORK OFFICE:  
41 E. 42nd Street  
New York, N. Y. Murray Hill 2-4917

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HARVARD PROFESSOR SEES EUROPEAN POSTWAR ANTI-SEMITISM**

**DECLARES PALESTINE ONLY SOLUTION TO JEWISH PROBLEM**

New York — Predicting that anti-Semitism will exist in Europe even after the defeat of the Nazis and that the Jewish problem would still be "one of the most burning problems" after the victory is won, Professor Carl J. Friedrich, Director of the School of Overseas Administration of Harvard University, declares that the solution of that problem is "an essential condition of a lasting and just peace" which ranks with the elimination of the German militarists and the Nazi Party itself. These statements appear in a pamphlet entitled "The Voice of Christian America" published this week jointly by the American Palestine Committee and the Christian Council on Palestine.

Dr. Friedrich emphasizes the indispensability of Palestine in the life of the Jewish people declaring that "there is only one solution, as far as I can see, and that is a Jewish National Home in Palestine." He asserts that although the enemies of the Jewish National Home suggest other places of refuge, "if you will study the record of international conferences that have been dedicated to the question of determining where they can in fact go to any appreciable extent, you will know that there are no such places."

"I do not believe that it is reasonable or practicable for Christian people to expect the Jews either to wish to stay in, or wish to return to, those places in which they have suffered the persecution inflicted upon them in Germany, in

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Poland, in Hungary, in Rumania and in various other territories that have fallen under Fascist domination," states Prof. Friedrich. He urges America to assume the leadership in creating a "feasible international organization" for the administration of Palestine.

"The Voice of Christian America" contains the texts of other addresses delivered at the National Conference on Palestine recently held in Washington. Among these are "America's Responsibility" by Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, Chairman, Christian Council on Palestine; "Absorptive Capacity of Palestine" by Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk, Assistant Chief of the Soil Conservation Service of the United States; and "Palestine in the Present Crisis" by William B. Ziff, noted author.

Paul V. McNutt, Chairman of the War Manpower Commission, in his address pays tribute to the sacrifices of the Jewish pioneers in Palestine and declares that "after this war the shattered nations of Europe can well turn to Palestine for courage and inspiration in the tasks which will lie before them." Other addresses are by Vice-President Henry A. Wallace; Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio; Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York; Congressman George E. Outland of California; Dr. Daniel L. Marsh, President, Boston University; Dr. Daniel L. Poling, President of the World's Christian Endeavor Union; Professor William F. Albright of Johns Hopkins University; Norman M. Littell, Assistant Attorney General of the United States; Dr. Carl Voss, Executive Secretary of the Christian Council on Palestine; Hon. Olin D. Johnston, Governor of South Carolina; Professor S. Ralph Harlow, Professor of Religion, Smith College and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Co-Chairman, American Zionist Emergency Council.



**PRESS RELEASE**

AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE  
1720—16th Street, N.W., Washington 9, D. C. • MI 4480

92  
NEW YORK OFFICE:  
41 E. 42nd Street  
New York, N. Y. Murray Hill 2-4917

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN METHODIST CONFAB ASKS U. S. FULFILL PALESTINE PROMISE

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Salt Lake City -- The Western Jurisdictional Conference of the Methodist Church, meeting here in quadrennial convention, unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the United States to take "appropriate action" so that the "international commitments made to the Jews in connection with a homeland in Palestine may be fulfilled at the earliest possible time."

This action taken by the Western Conference, representing 400,000 Methodist church members of the Pacific and Rocky Mountain states, brings to over 50% of the number of American Methodists who have endorsed the cause of the Jewish National Home. A similar resolution had been recently passed by the Northcentral Conference of the Methodists representing almost 2,000,000 members, and the Northeastern Conference representing more than a million members.

The resolution demanded fulfillment of the pledge of a Jewish National Home "in the interest of justice, humanitarianism and future world peace," and condemned "all racial and religious bigotry and intolerance as undemocratic and un-Christian."

The text of the resolution follows:

"Resolved that we hold that all racial and religious bigotry and intolerance are undemocratic and un-Christian. Especially at this time of stress and strain do we deplore and denounce the discriminations and hatreds that have been the spearhead of the attacks on democracy and that lead inevitably to conflicts and wars. We condemn anti-Semitism, anti-Roman Catholicism and anti-Protestantism wherever they appear in the whole wide world. We express our sincere hope that appropriate action will be taken by our government to see that in the interest of justice, humanitarianism and future world peace, international commitments made to the Jews in connection with a homeland in Palestine may be fulfilled at the earliest possible time."



98  
PRESS RELEASE from

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON PALESTINE  
70 Fifth Avenue  
New York 11, N. Y. ALgonquin 4-2720

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTIAN MINISTERS URGE ROOSEVELT TO  
ACT IMMEDIATELY TO SAVE JEWS

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CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON PALESTINE  
OFFERS THREE-POINT RESCUE PROGRAM

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New York -- The Christian Council on Palestine, representing 2000 Christian ministers and religious educators in the United States, today called on President Roosevelt to carry out a three-point program for the rescue of persecuted Jewry in Nazi-occupied Europe.

In telegrams to the President and Secretary of State Cordell Hull, the Council urged that the following steps be taken immediately:

1) that the President use his good offices "in urging the British Government to abrogate the policy of the 1939 White Paper on Palestine, and to lower the immigration barriers of Palestine so that at least some of the harried, hunted Jews in Europe may be rescued and permitted to enter the National Homeland promised them in the Balfour Declaration of the First World War, and legally guaranteed to them by the Mandate of the League of Nations with the approval of fifty-two nations as signatories, including our own."

2) that the United States open its gates to establish free ports for refugees, "not to a mere thousand, but to tens of thousands."

3) that the President "exert all pressure possible on the Government of Admiral Horthy and compel them to cease all persecution of the Jewish people in Hungary."

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The telegrams were signed by Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, chairman, and Dr. Carl Hermann Voss, executive secretary, of the Christian Council on Palestine.

The text of the telegram to President Roosevelt follows:

"Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President of the U. S.  
Washington, D. C.

"The Christian Council on Palestine, representing 2,000 Christian ministers and religious educators, appeals to you on behalf of persecuted Jewry in Nazi-occupied Europe. We are deeply appreciative of your humanitarianism and past efforts to rescue suffering refugees, especially the Jewish people. But we ask you Mr. President to join with the Secretary of State to use your good offices even further in urging the British Government to abrogate the policy of the 1939 White Paper on Palestine, and to lower the immigration barriers of Palestine so that at least some of the harried, hunted Jews in Europe may be rescued and permitted to enter the National Homeland promised them in the Balfour Declaration of the First World War, and legally guaranteed to them by the Mandate of the League of Nations with the approval of fifty-two nations as signatories, including our own. Even a temporary refuge in Palestine until the war is over is better than complete extermination at the hands of the henchmen of Hitler and Himmler.

"At the same time, we ask our own country to open its gates in the time-honored custom of providing exile for the persecuted and to establish free ports for refugees, not to a mere thousand but to tens of thousands from war-torn Europe, especially from the terror-stricken defeated satellite countries under Axis domination. We appeal to you to exert all pressure possible on the Government of Admiral Horthy and compel them to cease all persecution of the Jewish people in Hungary.

"Above all else, we ask for action at this moment so that America may raise its voice in protest and lift its hand to release this yoke of persecution and bondage laid upon these suffering human beings, who are in imminent danger of death. These leaders in the Christian clergy believe the United States Government should now speak in unmistakable accents and to that end the Christian Council on Palestine appeals to you in this tragic hour.

Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, Chairman

Dr. Carl Hermann Voss, Executive Secretary

Christian Council on Palestine  
70 Fifth Avenue  
New York City"



**PRESS RELEASE**

**AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE**  
1720—16th Street, N.W., Washington 9, D. C. • MI 4480

NEW YORK OFFICE:  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York, N. Y.      MUrray Hill 2-4917

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTIAN LEADERS URGE ROOSEVELT  
TO SECURE IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATES  
INTO PALESTINE FOR HUNGARIAN JEWS

- - - - -

New York -- Declaring that the recent concessions made by the Government of Hungary affecting the rescue of Jews from that country "will be useless unless immediate action is taken to give effect to the prospects of rescue opened up," the American Palestine Committee, representing more than 4,000 leaders of American public opinion, today wired President Roosevelt urging "that the Government of the United States use its good offices to secure the immediate grant by Great Britain, irrespective of previous policies, of immigration certificates into Palestine for all Jews who can be rescued from Hungary and other Nazi dominated countries."

This was announced by Dr. Howard M. LeSourd, executive director of the American Palestine Committee.

The Committee also urged that the United States "assume the initiative in formulating forthwith an effective rescue program."

The telegram to the President was signed by Dr. Daniel L. Marsh, chairman of the American Palestine Committee, Professor William F. Albright, of Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, general secretary of the Church Peace Union, J. M. Blalock, publisher of the Columbia, S. C. "State", Dr. Carl J. Friedrich, of Harvard University, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, Daphne Robert, president of the National Association of Women Lawyers, Dr. Carl Hermann Voss, executive secretary of the Christian Council on Palestine, Dr. Mary E. Woolley, president emeritus of Mt. Holyoke College and Dr. LeSourd.

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The text of the telegram follows:

"The American Palestine Committee, founded by Senator Robert F. Wagner and the late Senator Charles L. McNary, and comprising numerous senators, congressmen, governors, educators and other leaders of American public opinion, to the number of more than 4,000, through its executive council urges the Government of the United States to take action to avail itself of the opportunity which has arisen for the immediate rescue from persecution of many thousands of Hungarian Jews - men, women and children. In country after country of Nazi occupied Europe the slaughter by the Nazis and their satellites of their Jewish inhabitants has been pursued with systematic and ruthless brutality. Today the fate which has befallen the Jews of Germany, of Poland, of Czechoslovakia and of the Baltic countries also threatens the Jews of Hungary, the largest remaining Jewish community in Europe.

"The Government of Hungary, in response to an aroused world opinion including that of our own people and government, has shown itself ready despite Nazi pressure to permit the departure of all Jews in possession of immigration certificates for Palestine, and of all children up to the age of ten with visas for unoccupied Europe and overseas. But even these concessions will be useless unless immediate action is taken to give effect to the prospects of rescue thus opened up. We therefore respectfully urge that the following steps be taken without delay:

"1. That the Government of the United States assume the initiative in formulating forthwith an effective rescue program which will facilitate the removal of Jews from Hungary; also if possible from other Hitler dominated lands, by all available means.

"2. That the Government of the United States use its good offices to secure the immediate grant by Great Britain, irrespective of previous policies, of immigration certificates into Palestine for all Jews who can be rescued from Hungary and other Nazi dominated countries.

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"And we urge further that our government assist in financing the transportation of such refugee emigration and provide all facilities as may be in its power to offer.

"The oppressed Jews of Europe look to you, Mr. President, for salvation; they also look to non-Jewish Americans like ourselves for such aid as we may give them in their distress. We are confident that under your leadership a rescue program can be carried out which will provide this tortured people with new life and hope."

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#102 - 8/21/44





Report of Dr. LeSourd's Conference with  
Dr. Frank Aydelotte

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On August 25th I went to New London to interview Dr. Frank Aydelotte, President of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. Dr. Aydelotte refused membership in the American Palestine Committee some time ago, but wrote a most enthusiastic letter after he had read Dr. Lowdermilk's book "Palestine, Land of Promise".

Dr. Aydelotte was most gracious and I had an hour with him, discussing the whole Palestine situation. I did not ask him to join the Committee, but I did ask him to speak at the dinner which is to be held in Philadelphia on October 10th. This invitation he accepted gladly, and he has consented to speak on the subject "Palestine, Humanity's Answer to the Jewish Problem".

I feel quite sure that this new friend at Princeton will be a decided help not only in the local situation, but throughout the country, for he is well known. I think we can count on his membership when it is requested, probably at the Philadelphia meeting.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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NEW YORK OFFICE:  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEMORANDUM ON RESCUE OF JEWS SUBMITTED TO STATE DEPARTMENT

BY CHRISTIAN SPOKESMEN

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BERLE GETS FIVE-POINT PROGRAM

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Washington, D. C. — A five-point program for the rescue of Hungarian Jews, including a recommendation that Palestine certificates should be made available to refugees in Southern Italy in order to make room there for such additional refugees as may escape via Yugoslavia, has been submitted to the State Department. This was announced today by Dr. Howard M. LeSourd, director of the American Palestine Committee.

Dr. LeSourd disclosed that the five-point memorandum was presented to Assistant Secretary of State Adolf A. Berle by a delegation consisting of Rev. Frederick Brown Harris, Chaplain of the United States Senate, Rev. Richard E. Evans, member of the executive committee of the Christian Council on Palestine, and himself.

The American Palestine Committee's memorandum urges:

"1. That every facility be provided to enable the immediate emigration to Palestine of those Jews at present in Hungary who are actually in possession of Palestine certificates. These are estimated to number at present only approximately 4,000 out of an original figure of 8,000, the balance having already been deported to death camps in Poland.

"2. That arrangements be made for the large scale grant of immigration certificates into Palestine for Jews in Hungary up to the limit of the available

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transportation facilities; the previous restrictive policies of the British Government in this regard should not be allowed to stand in the way of saving the lives of these helpless refugees.

"3. With a view to releasing the pressure on the crowded refugee camps in Southern Italy and thereby making room for such additional refugees as may escape via Yugoslavia, Palestine immigration certificates should be provided for all such refugees in Southern Italy as may wish to go to Palestine. The present position is that these refugees are physically safe, but morally and materially deteriorating. If they are enabled to go to Palestine, they would be given the opportunity to begin their lives afresh, and at the same time additional possibilities of escape would be opened to other refugees.

"4. That every help and encouragement be given to the International Red Cross in its task of organizing and effecting the work of rescue.

"5. That if additional funds beyond what the Red Cross and private agencies have at their disposal are necessary for the purposes of the work of rescue, action be taken forthwith by our Government to arrange for the allocation of such necessary additional monies."

The American Palestine Committee is "the vehicle for the expression of the sympathy and good will of Christian America for the movement to reestablish the Jewish National Home in Palestine." Included among the Committee's 4,000 members are 60 Senators, 200 Congressmen, 26 Governors, as well as many outstanding leaders in the fields of education, journalism, industry, commerce and labor.

The text of the Committee's memorandum follows:

"The American Palestine Committee, founded by Senator Robert F. Wagner and the late Senator Charles L. McNary, and comprising Senators, Congressmen, Governors, educators and other non-Jewish leaders of American public opinion to the number of more than 4,000, expresses through its Executive Council its satisfaction that the Governments of the United States and of Great Britain have accepted the offer of the Hungarian Government for the release of Jews from Hungary, and will make arrangements for the care of such Jews leaving Hungary who reach neutral or United Nations territory.

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"The offer of the Hungarian Government included permission to depart for all Jews in possession of immigration certificates for Palestine, and of all children up to the age of ten with visas for unoccupied Europe and overseas. Reports now reaching this country make it clear that the Nazi government will seek to prevent the transit of Jews between Hungary and neutral havens in Switzerland and Sweden. It thus becomes a matter of urgent importance that if full use is to be made of the Hungarian offer, as many Jews as possible shall be admitted through the Balkans and Turkey into Palestine. The failure of the United Nations to take full and immediate advantage of the Hungarian offer will be disastrous and under Nazi pressure might -- if it has not already done so -- result in the countermanding of that offer and the resumption of large scale deportations of Jews to the death camps of the Nazis. In the light of these facts the American Palestine Committee urges:

"1. That every facility be provided to enable the immediate emigration to Palestine of those Jews at present in Hungary who are actually in possession of Palestine certificates. These are estimated to number at present only approximately 4,000 out of an original figure of 8,000, the balance having already been deported to death camps in Poland.

"2. That arrangements be made for the large scale grant of immigration certificates into Palestine for Jews in Hungary up to the limit of the available transportation facilities; the previous restrictive policies of the British Government in this regard should not be allowed to stand in the way of saving the lives of these helpless refugees.

"3. With a view to releasing the pressure on the crowded refugee camps in Southern Italy and thereby making room for such additional refugees as may escape via Yugoslavia, Palestine immigration certificates should be provided for all such refugees in Southern Italy as may wish to go to Palestine. The present position is that these refugees are physically safe but morally and materially deteriorating. If they are enabled to go to Palestine, they would be given the opportunity to begin their lives afresh and at the same time additional possibilities of escape would be opened to other refugees.

"4. That every help and encouragement be given to the International Red Cross in its task of organizing and effecting this work of rescue.

"5. That if additional funds beyond what the Red Cross and private agencies have at their disposal are necessary for the purposes of the work of rescue, action be taken forthwith by our Government to arrange for the allocation of such necessary additional monies.

"The oppressed Jews of Europe look to the United States for salvation; and such non-Jewish organizations as the American Palestine Committee have a special obligation to assist them in every way possible in their extremity of need. We are confident, Mr. Secretary of State, that under your wise and energetic leadership, as well as that of our President, the joint action of the British and American Governments in seeking to save the remnants of this tortured people will achieve success."



**PRESS RELEASE**

**AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE**  
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**NEW YORK OFFICE:**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS URGES PASSAGE  
 OF PALESTINE RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR JEWISH COMMONWEALTH**

— — — — —

New York — The National Association of Women Lawyers has adopted a resolution urging passage by Congress of the pending Palestine resolutions which call on the United States to "use its good offices and take appropriate measures to the end that the doors of Palestine shall be opened for free entry of Jews into that country, and that there shall be full opportunity for colonization so that the Jewish people may ultimately reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth." This was announced today by Elizabeth F. Vilkomerson, who introduced the resolution on behalf of the International Relations Committee of the Association.

Daphne Robert, president of the Association, is a member of the Executive Council of the American Palestine Committee.

The text of the resolution follows:

"WHEREAS, the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917, guaranteeing the establishment of a Jewish National Homeland in Palestine was approved by 52 nations including the United States, and incorporated into the peace treaties terminating the first World War, and

"WHEREAS, this policy was concurred in by a Joint Resolution of Congress on June 30, 1922, and approved by the President on September 21, 1922, and implemented by the Anglo-American Treaty of December 3, 1924, and

"WHEREAS, the platforms of both the Republican and Democratic parties for the Presidential election of 1944 include declarations in favor of the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth,

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of Women Lawyers express its conviction that the integrity of the Balfour Declaration should be respected and that the United States should use its good offices for that purpose, and

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"RESOLVED FURTHER, that this Association recommend to Congress its approval of H. Res. 418 and H. Res. 419 to the effect that the United States shall use its good offices and take appropriate measures to the end that the doors of Palestine shall be opened for free entry of Jews into that country, and that there shall be full opportunity for colonization, so that the Jewish people may ultimately establish Palestine as a free Jewish Commonwealth.

"RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this Resolution be sent to Robert F. Wagner, Chairman of the American Palestine Committee, and to the Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives."

#114 - 10/20/44





PRESS RELEASE from

AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE  
1720 - 16th Street, N. W.  
Washington 9, D. C. MI 4480

NEW YORK OFFICE:  
41 East 42 Street  
New York, N. Y. MURRAY HILL 2-4917

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTIAN LEADERS DEMAND SPEEDY ACTION ON PALESTINE

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Chicago -- The Midwest Regional Conference on Palestine, held in Chicago on November 21, urged Congress to act speedily and favorably on the pending Palestine resolutions (H.R. 418-419 and S.R. 247) which call for unrestricted Jewish immigration into Palestine and the re-establishment of that country as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. This was announced today by Dr. Howard M. LeSourd, director of the American Palestine Committee.

In a resolution unanimously adopted by hundreds of Christian leaders who participated in the all-day meeting, the Conference also submitted an "earnest plea" to President Roosevelt to "use his good offices in assuring early and definitive action on Palestine in accordance with the needs of the Jewish people, the pledges made to them by the nations of the world, and the sentiments of America in favor of the free entry of Jews into Palestine and the re-establishment of that country as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth."

Declaring that the overthrow of the Nazis will not solve the Jewish problem, Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr of the Union Theological Seminary, New York, asserted that "what the Jews of Europe long for is not a place where they will be 'tolerated' or 'understood', but a place where they can be what they are, preserving their own unique identity without asking 'by your leave' of anyone. That one place is Palestine. Zionism to these people is not a theory; it represents the wisdom of experience."

Dr. Carl Hermann Voss, executive secretary of the Christian Council on Palestine, pointed out that the supervision of the Palestine Mandate was a responsibility of tremendous scope, and urged that Great Britain be relieved of

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this responsibility. "Only by a United Nations Mandate can we achieve the next step toward the ultimate goal of self-determination which is a prerequisite for a Jewish National Homeland in Palestine," he said.

Dr. LeSourd paid tribute to the Jews of Palestine for their contributions to Allied victory. "Without the aid of Jewish Palestine," he said, "an altogether different story might have been written in the sands of North Africa."

Declaring that "one of the major tests of our sincerity in fighting this war for freedom is the help we give in forming a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine," Professor Francis E. McMahon, of the University of Chicago, added: "It is not sufficient for Christians to be against anti-Semitism. They must be pro-Semitic by fostering the just aspirations of the Jewish people to re-establish their National Home. Anything short of this would be a failure in Christian obligations."

Dr. Carl J. Friedrich, of Harvard University, outlined a six point program for the rescue of Europe's Jews and for the rebuilding of a Jewish Palestine. He stressed the need for removing "the present restrictions on the movement of people into and out of Palestine," as well as the "restrictions to settlement and reclamation, such as restrictions on land purchase."

Dr. Friedrich also decried "all efforts to use political maneuvers, especially terror, for the purpose of preventing the development of a Jewish majority," and urged America to participate in "international authorities, including an international police force, to insure the implementation of the pledges made to the Jewish people."

William B. Ziff, author and publisher, assailed the British Colonial Office for its "anti-Zionist" handling of the Palestine Mandate, and declared that the recent assassination of Lord Moyne "must be considered in that light."

Other speakers at the Conference, which was sponsored by the Christian Council on Palestine and the American Palestine Committee in cooperation with the Free World Association, the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice, the United Christian Council for Democracy, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, were Dr. A. William Loos of the Chicago Church Federation, Dr. Solomon Goldman, Rabbi of Anshe Emet Synagogue, Chicago, and Colonel Albert A. Sprague, chairman of the Conference.



PRESS RELEASE from

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON PALESTINE  
70 Fifth Avenue  
New York 11, New York ALgonquin 4-2720

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128

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTIAN LEADERS, IN TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, REFUTE  
ANTI-ZIONIST ARGUMENTS OF ARABIC-SPEAKING GROUP

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POLING, NIEBUHR, ATKINSON, FRIEDRICH, HARLOW, LESOURD, VOSS, PHILLIPS  
DECLARE JEWISH COMMONWEALTH PLAN IS ENTIRELY DEMOCRATIC

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A telegram refuting anti-Zionist arguments expressed recently by the Conference of Americans of Arabic-speaking origin and declaring that "the Commonwealth plan, as set forth by the Zionist organizations today, is entirely democratic in purpose and spirit," was sent to President Roosevelt today by a group of prominent Christian leaders. The telegram was signed by Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, General Secretary of the Church Peace Union, Dr. Carl J. Friedrich, Professor of Government at Harvard University, Professor S. Ralph Harlow, of Smith College, Dr. Howard M. LeSourd, Dean of the Graduate School, Boston University, Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, of the Union Theological Seminary, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, President of the World's Christian Endeavor Union, Rev. Wendell W. Phillips, Christ Church, Rye, N. Y. and Dr. Carl Hermann Voss, Extension Secretary of the Church Peace Union.

Asserting that the democratic ideas which had been expressed by the conference of Americans of Arabic-speaking origin in a message to President Roosevelt "obviously do not reflect the concepts of the Palestine Arab political leaders, who have talked -- and acted -- in terms of Arab domination," the Christian leaders pointed out that the Mufti of Jerusalem, chief Arab political figure in Palestine during the last quarter of a century, "is now reported in Berlin at the side of Hitler."

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"Jewish labor has turned malaria-ridden wastes in Palestine into productive farms and has transformed what was once a poverty-stricken province of the Turkish Empire into the major industrial center in the Near East. The Jewish effort has brought about a phenomenal increase in the native Arab population, in striking contrast with the situation in nearby Arab countries," the telegram said.

The text of the telegram follows:

"As American Christians who are deeply interested in the Palestine question, we take the liberty of submitting our views on the telegram sent to you by the Conference of Americans of Arabic-speaking origin, which met in New York City several days ago. According to a dispatch in the New York Times of November 28th, the telegram urged you, Mr. President, to withhold your support 'from any final settlement of the Palestine problem which does not accord full justice to the natives of the land.'

"The Conference of Americans of Arabic-speaking origin represents the view largely of Christian Arabs from Syria who have been resident in this country for many years. The democratic ideas expressed by these leaders obviously do not reflect the concepts of the Palestine Arab political leaders, who have always talked -- and acted -- in terms of Arab domination.

"The chief political figure in Palestine during the last quarter of a century was the Mufti of Jerusalem, head of the Moslem hierarchy, fomenter of riots in Palestine, collaborator with the Axis, who is now reported in Berlin at the side of Hitler. He and the Palestine Arab Executive have always called themselves the 'owners of the country,' have refused to accept any proposal which tended 'to place them on equal footing with the alien Jews,' and have rejected every legislative plan which did not repudiate the internationally-sanctioned Mandate for Palestine. The outstanding leader of the nationalist faction, Auni Bey Abdul Hadi, has the same point of view. In evidence before the Royal Commission on Palestine in 1936, he arrogantly declared: 'We do not accept the formula laid down by the Jews that there should be no domination by Jews over Arabs or by Arabs

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over Jews.' Palestine, as far as he was concerned, was an exclusively Arab country and therefore the Arabs had the absolute right to rule and to dominate. These views, with their inlay of fascist spirit, have never been repudiated by any official Palestine Arab political body.

"It is absurd to say that Arab Palestine has 'accepted' Jewish immigrants and refugees. Jews have come into Palestine during the last twenty-five years despite the intransigent opposition of the Arab political leaders. They have not come by consent of the Arabs, but by the sanction of international law in accordance with the League of Nations Mandate and with the approval of our own Government by act of Congress. The absorption of several hundred thousand immigrants has been made possible by the investment of Jewish capital and by dint of self-sacrificing labor on the part of Jewish pioneers. Jewish labor has turned malaria-ridden wastes in Palestine into productive farms and has transformed what was once a poverty-stricken province of the Turkish empire into the major industrial center in the Near East. The Jewish effort has brought about a phenomenal increase in the native Arab population, in striking contrast with the situation in nearby Arab countries.

"The Arab Conference itself points out that the future of the Jews is a world problem. It is for that reason that the Allies after the last War, with the approval of the League of Nations and the United States, set aside Palestine as the Jewish National Home, as the place where, with due regard for the needs and rights of the native population, the Jews would be permitted to develop a great center of Jewish life where they may live as a nation 'as of right and not on sufferance.' The Commonwealth plan, as set forth by the Zionist organizations today, is entirely democratic in purpose and spirit; it fully guarantees equality of rights for all individuals regardless of faith and nationality and allows, to an extent far more liberal than in most existing democratic countries, for the religious, cultural and educational freedom of minorities. We believe that the Jews, who have themselves suffered so much as a minority, can be trusted to carry

(more)



out these principles sincerely and fully.

"We submit these observations to you, Mr. President, in the fervent hope that victory for the democratic cause will bring justice to the long-suffering Jewish people, and that the new and better world which we pray will emerge from the chaos of this war will find Palestine internationally guaranteed by the United Nations as the National Homeland for the Jewish people.

"Sincerely yours,

Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, General Secretary  
of the Church Peace Union

Dr. Carl J. Friedrich, Professor of  
Government at Harvard University

Prof. S. Ralph Harlow of Smith College

Dr. Howard M. LeSourd, Dean of the  
Graduate School, Boston University

Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, of the Union  
Theological Seminary

Dr. Daniel A. Poling, President of the  
World's Christian Endeavor Union

Rev. Wendell W. Phillips, Christ Church,  
Rye, N. Y.

Dr. Carl Hermann Voss, Executive Secretary  
of the Church Peace Union."

