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Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, 1944.

[Apr. 17, 1944]

144-45

A Cruel Hoax on the American Public

By Pierre Van Paassen

*Reprinted from the
April issue of THE PROTESTANT*

**A LETTER TO
THE EDITOR OF
THE PROTESTANT**

Dear Kenneth Leslie:

Those letters, of which you sent me copies, wherein you are asked why THE PROTESTANT does not support the endeavors of the so-called "Emergency Committee to Save the Jews of Europe," which calls itself a non-partisan, non-sectarian body, are of a similar content and tenor as a number of inquiries I have been receiving myself lately.

I generally reply to my correspondents that I know both the political motives and the personnel of that Committee rather intimately since they are both identical with those of the now defunct "Committee for a Jewish Army," with which, as you will recall, I was associated for a short time in the capacity of National Chairman.

The actual directors of both these Committees, and of two others now in process of formation, viz. the "National Jewish Council" and the "American League for A Free Palestine" are the self-same individuals—four or five young men who were sent to the United States as a "Palestine Delegation" by a small political group in the Holy Land known as the Irgun Zevai Leumi, or, in English: the "Nationalist Military Organization." This numerically insignificant group in Palestine is modelled, structurally and ideologically, upon the erstwhile Social Revolutionary Party of Czarist Russia, or, if you wish for a nearer and closer prototype: the Macedonian Comitadjis. The Irgun is proscribed in Palestine because of its fascistic methods and its advocacy and employment of terror as a political weapon against Jews, Arabs and Britons alike . . .

In a dispatch from Jerusalem, dated February 25 of this year, the *New York Times* reported an increase in terroristic outrages in Palestine. The dispatch attributed the rise of violence to a renewed activity on the part of the Irgun. I say "renewed" because during the tragic period of disturbances in the Holy Land, back in 1936-1939, the Irgun made its very name obnoxious and infamous to all sincere friends of Palestine by subtracting itself from national Jewish discipline. In those years the Jewish Community of Palestine with one common accord decided not to retaliate, not to kill Arabs in retaliation for the almost daily murder of Jews and the destruction of Jewish property by Arabs acting under the inspiration of Axis agents. The Irgun alone abstained from this noble and truly Christian resolution. It is common knowledge that the Irgun did kill and did commit acts of violence. There were even rumors that certain members of the Irgun made attempts to establish contact with the Nazis in Germany with a view to bring about concerted action against the British in the Near East. These rumors were denied by the Irgun itself.

The aforementioned dispatch to the *New York Times* ran as follows:

"Jerusalem, Feb. 15—Political terrorist activity has been showing a marked recrudescence lately in various parts of Palestine, probably in the mistaken notion that it will bring about pressure on British authorities to change her present policy drastically in favor of extremist Jewish nationalist demands.

"The authors of these outrages—of which the latest was the explosion of two time bombs placed inside British police vehicles at Haifa yesterday—belong to a tiny fanatical group calling itself Irgun Zevai Leumi (Nationalist Military Organization) whose anarchist acts have been condemned by the remainder of the Jewish population as harmful to the Jewish cause. Twenty dissident revolutionaries recently escaped from a detention camp near Jerusalem and are believed to have joined their associates belonging to an even more extremist faction, whose leader, Abraham Stern, was shot dead during a police encounter in February, 1942.

"Arab papers have joined the Jewish press in demanding the apprehension and dire punishment of these lawless elements."

I resigned from the "Committee for a Jewish Army," which was set up by the Irgunist delegation, not because of outside pressure or because I was dissatisfied with the salary, as has been alleged (for there was no salary or any other kind of remuneration involved at any time). I resigned, I say, because I came to the painful realization that the Committee's directors, the four or five Palestinian Irgunists had not mended and showed no intention to mend their ways in this country, as I had at first hoped they would and as they had promised me faithfully and repeatedly. I had accepted the National Chairmanship in the first place because I believed it but right that the Jews of Palestine, who were fighting so gloriously in the British Armies in the Near East should have a military force of their own, should fight and die under their own flag and in their own name, as it were, and not as unknown soldiers.

I still believe this should be so when I consider that at least a quarter of General Montgomery's forces at the height of the campaign in Lybia were Palestinian Jews and that at present no less than sixty Palestinian Jewish units are fighting in Italy. When Iraq, the country which called in Hitler's Luftwaffe to stab Britain in the back, is made a member of the United Nations, and when Egypt whose armies did not lift one finger to resist the German invader and

whose Chief of Staff was arrested at a moment when he was on the verge of flying over to Rommel with Montgomery's secret campaign plans in his pocket, is treated as a loyal Ally, I think the Palestinian Jewry should at least be given recognition of its valor and the country of Palestine recognition of its immense industrial and agricultural contribution to the common victory by being permitted to call its army its own.

Moreover, the constitution of an army made up of Palestinian Jews, would, I think, go a long way towards spiking those Goebbels-inspired whispering campaigns in this country of America according to which the Jews leave the fighting, the suffering and the dying to others. The world would know that Jews do fight and have fought magnificently in this war.

On the strength of the promise of the Irgunists that they would not inject the methods and tactics of their Palestine society into American affairs, I accepted the Chairmanship of the "Committee for a Jewish Army." I was to be deeply disillusioned and I was placed in a most embarrassing position vis a vis of many friends and eminent personalities who had sought to persuade me to disassociate myself from the Irgunist Committee.

In spite of earnest and repeated remonstrances and protests on my part, the directors of the "Committee for a Jewish Army" insisted on bringing into that organization a number of persons notorious for their reactionary past in American public life. They also refused to collaborate with established Jewish and non-Jewish bodies and organizations of a progressive, reputable and democratic character. Like the Irgun in Palestine, the Irgunist directors of the "Committee for a Jewish Army" wanted to play and did play a lone hand.

The real reasons for my resignation were always carefully hidden or totally misrepresented by the directors of the "Committee for a Jewish Army" so that many people till this day are and remain under the false impression that I am still an active supporter of the Committee or of one or more of its various offshoots and prolongations. This illusion was furthered a good deal by the reproduction in the Irgunist periodical *The Answer* of articles and statements from my pen which had appeared elsewhere but which were presented in that publication as original material.

I never had any connection with *The Answer* and I stopped the sale of my recent book by its editors.

With the "Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe" which is one of the offshoots of the Army Committee I had not relationship whatever either.

I am not, it goes without saying, opposed to saving Jews from Europe, and I have all my days been one of the most outspoken and militant non-Jewish advocates of the establishment of a free and independent Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. My books *Days of Our Years*, *The Time Is Now*, *That Day Alone* and *The Forgotten Ally* are a public record to testify for me.

But I cannot, in conscience, support a "Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe," which has neither the means, the facilities, nor, I declare, the intention to save Jews.

To speak bluntly, that "Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe" is a hoax, in my judgment a very cruel hoax perpetrated on the American public, Jewish and non-Jewish alike. That Committee and its directors have but one aim in view: to increase the prestige of the outlawed political group in Palestine known as the Irgun and the glorification of the Irgun's self-styled "dynamic" missionaries in this country.

It is so easy to make a noise and create a fuss and gather a few followers, as the Irgunist directors of these leagues, committees and councils are doing here in America, so easy when one has neither responsibility nor standing. By what they do here in America they hope to make an impression in Palestine and to persuade Palestinians that at least in the U. S. A. the Irgun is constructively active and has public support. At present the Irgunists take credit and proclaim from the housetops that they are responsible for President Roosevelt's appointment of a Committee on Refugees. This is, as Ludwig Lewisohn aptly remarked, like Chantecler in Rostand's play crowing from the dungheap that he has made the sun rise.

The "Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe" has been abandoned by many liberals and is today almost homogenously made up of reactionaries on the one hand and on the other hand of well-meaning persons who are distressed over the woes of Israel, but who do not know the backgrounds, the origin, the ambitions and the real objectives of the Committee's parent-body and its ultimate objectives.

I commiserate the more with these charitably-minded persons since I was once a victim myself, and I deeply regret that some have entered the ranks of the Irgunist organizations in America in a belief that I was to be one of their fellow-members. The explanation of the commendation which certain prominent men have given to the Committee's work is simply this, that the Committee has managed to attract their attention by the noise it makes with its vulgar, high-pressure tactics of publicity. If people knew what was really involved they would have kept the Committee at a considerable distance.

In the Jewish field, the Committee goes counter to and combats the internationally-legally established "Jewish Agency for Palestine" which is the body that represents the national interests of the Jewish people in the community of civilized nations. All the Irgunist Committees: the Committee to Save the Jews, the League for a Free Palestine, etc., seek to disrupt established Jewish organizations, such as the Zionist Organization of America by means of typically facile, fascist charges and accusations of "bureaucratic inefficiency," "ruling cliques," "grand moguls," etc. It is so easy! . . .

You are perfectly right in your decision not to have anything to do with the "Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe" or with the Irgun's next item: the "League for a Free Palestine." They are both sponsored by the same Palestinian body through its delegation here in America: the fascist, terrorist Irgun. The Jewish people in this hour of their supreme anguish when three million Jews have been killed by Hitler and when the doors of Palestine remain closed to the refugees, undoubtedly need our sympathy and our help. But that help cannot be given by supporting the deliberate confusionists of the Irgun either here or in the Holy Land.

PIERRE VAN PAASSEN.

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Issued by

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

342 Madison Avenue

New York 17, N. Y.

A CALL BY THE HEBREW NATION
FOR HELP IN ITS MORTAL STRUGGLE
FOR LIFE AND LIBERATION

ISSUED BY THE HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

We Hebrews, descendants of the ancient Hebrew Nation, surviving today on God's earth amidst the dreadful catastrophe of torture and death that has befallen our people, have joined together in the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation to dedicate ourselves and our lives to secure the deliverance and independence of the remaining millions of our desperate people, struggling for life itself in the vast hell of German-occupied Europe.

What has happened to the Jews of Europe was not sudden. It is the culmination of centuries of oppression and persecution; centuries of ghettos and pogroms, economic strangulation and endless humiliation and insult.

In this war this cumulative attack has resulted in the staggering climax of three million innocent men, women and children deliberately massacred.

In the face of such disaster, the bitter status quo of the Jews in Europe must give way to a new, bold and total attempt at salvation.

These Jews, today, have no effective protection of citizenship from any nation. They can no longer be considered Rumanians, Hungarians, Poles, Germans. Certainly they are not Axis nationals. They are the first and bitterest enemies of the Axis. They belong to no nation and have no nation of their own. That is why the murder of three million Jews - a number as large as the total population of many a European nation - has been possible.

Common disaster brings them together, even as Death has hunted them together.

We therefore proclaim to the people of this land, and through them to all civilized men the world over, that the dry and tormented bones of the Jews in European lands have now been united, that the blood of our three million dead has done more than fertilize the earth of the people who have murdered them. It has molded the survivors into a single living entity. It has brought forth a renascent Hebrew Nation.

The Jews who live today in the hell of Europe together with the Jews of Palestine constitute the Hebrew Nation.

There is no other Nation to whom they owe allegiance but the Hebrew Nation.

It is as a part of these millions that we exercise the right of self-determination; that we proclaim the existence of the Hebrew Nation and its

determination to speak for itself and its elementary right to be represented by its own sons.

We confidently believe that the present day heirs of the American Revolution will understand, recognize and support us in this mortal struggle for our life and liberation.

It is proper that we have chosen Washington as the site for this historic rededication of the Hebrew Nation as a democracy - Washington, eternal symbol of democracy and of the greatness of the human spirit and of its revolutionary demand for justice, decency and freedom.

* * * * *

Let it be clearly understood that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation does not attempt to speak for the Jews of the United States. They are an integral part of the American Nation; an integral part of a nation made up of people of every descent.

These Jews are Americans of Hebrew descent. They do not belong to Palestine and thereby to the renascent Hebrew Nation any more than Justice Frank Murphy "belongs" to the Irish Nation, or General William Knudsen "belongs" to the Danish Nation; though both certainly are proud of their ancestry.

And let there be no confusion because the vast majority of Americans of Hebrew descent are faithful adherents of the Jewish religion.

Hebrews and Jews are not synonymous terms. Religion and State are separate. The common adherence of members of the American Nation and of the Hebrew Nation to the Jewish religion is no different than the common adherence of Americans and Germans to the Protestant religion; or the common adherence of Americans and Italians to the Catholic religion. Everywhere in the world people share religions without sharing nationhood. The people of the Hebrew Nation, and Americans of Hebrew descent, whose religion is the same, are no different from the others. They still are members of different states.

* * * * *

We proclaim that Palestine, in its historic boundaries, is the territory of the Hebrew Nation by the will of God as was set forth in the Bible. In our own time this was politically ratified by fifty-two nations who, in 1922, "recognized the historic connection between the Hebrew people and Palestine."

Although it is the national territory of the Hebrews, Palestine is to be a free state in which the present Arab and other non-Hebrew residents of the land will share full equality and privileges of citizenship and government; will be full partners in the upbuilding of a free country and a democratic civilization.

In the present condition of our Nation, we are dedicated primarily to only one task - the rescue of our people. We, therefore, proclaim that the Hebrew Nation postpones the settlement of the political and boundary problem of Palestine until after victory when, as one of the United Nations, we hope to partake in the post-war settlement of political territorial problems. Until that time we shall cooperate and assist Great Britain as the Mandatory for Palestine.

We do, however, insist, in the name of humanity, that the right and the ability of all Hebrews in Europe to find shelter in Palestine be facilitated by the Mandatory Power, lest it be guilty of sacrificing them to their ruthless German murderers.

* * * * *

We proclaim the Hebrew Nation a co-belligerent in the United Nations war against Axis tyranny. Our dead, who have bloodied the steps of civilization, can no longer be considered useless victims of insane massacre. They are honored casualties in the United Nations common war for freedom. Our surviving four million people in Europe are prisoners of war, and the International Red Cross should do everything it can to succor them even as it deals with all other prisoners of war.

But not all of our people have been victims.

We have contributed more fighters to the common struggle than most of the United Nations. Thousands of our men have fought and are daily fighting the enemy - whether as Hebrew guerrilla units harassing the enemy's lines in Poland and Yugoslavia; whether in the numerous underground sabotage groups, or as regular fighters and commandos as part of the 30,000 Hebrews who are serving in the Palestinian regiments, and in other units of the Middle Eastern British Army. They have fought and died all the way from El Alemein to Cassino, and from Syria to Addis Abbaba.

Because we are, in fact, a co-belligerent against the Axis, we consider ourselves one of the United Nations and seek recognition as such, and as the nation against which more atrocities have been committed than against all the other United Nations combined we surely should be represented on the Inter Allied Commission on War Crimes.

We also seek a seat on the Board of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and all other United Nations councils in which the interests of our nationals are involved.

In addition, the tens of thousands of Hebrew fighting men should now be given the elementary right to fight the Nazis under their own banner and in their own name - as the Hebrew Army - with a status comparable to that of the armies of the other Nations which have been overrun by the Nazis.

These are the minimum needs of our nation at a time when the very existence of its people is at stake. Their denial by the United Nations would be contradictory to the very aims for which the war is being fought; would be a defeat of Justice now and in the future; would be an endless threat to Peace in the world of tomorrow. For in ignoring the principle for which the war is being fought, we can cheat no one but ourselves and our children.

* * * * *

The Hebrew Nation can no longer endure the status quo. An intolerable whirlpool of death and disaster has shattered this status quo. There is a limit to the blood and suffering any people can endure.

It is in this spirit of desperation, and with humility and reverence that we of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation have undertaken to be the servants and spokesmen of the Hebrew Nation, until such time as our Nation shall be free to elect its own spokesmen and representatives in a democratic form. We solemnly swear to serve our Nation with all our energies and might, and not to falter if we should need sacrifice life itself, so help us God.

Washington, May 17, 1944.



RELEASED BY JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

Washington Office

1720 - 16th Street, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

For Immediate Release

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Zionist Organization in Washington, makes the following comment on the announcement of the formation of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation:

"The Jewish Agency for Palestine is the only international body recognized under Article IV of the Mandate for Palestine by the British Government, the United States and the League of Nations, as representing the Jewish people in all matters concerning the upbuilding of the Jewish National Home in Palestine. It is composed of all Zionist organizations the world over and numerous non-Zionists in various countries.

"The attempt of a few persons who have come from Palestine to this country without any authority, without having been delegated by any group in Palestine, having played no role whatever in Jewish life in Palestine or elsewhere, to proclaim themselves as the 'trustees of the Hebrew Nation's interest' is an act which, I am sure, will be rejected by all sections of the Jewish people as a fraud.

"There is some danger that well-intentioned non-Jewish groups, eager to help the Jewish people in a time of tragedy, may be misled by the bombastic phrases and claims made by an insignificant group which substitutes noise for complete lack of standing, authority and influence in Jewish life. These well-meaning friends must be warned that by allowing themselves to be persuaded by these impertinent maneuvers they are harming the very cause which they wish to serve.

"The insignificant group which the members of the new committee claim to represent has already done untold damage in Palestine by trying to break the unity of Palestinian Jewry and by introducing methods which the overwhelming majority of Palestinian Jewry has rejected with scorn and contempt. American public opinion should not allow itself to be fooled by the acts of a few men

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whom a normally organized people would deal with as traitors to the common cause and exclude from its community. There is not the slightest chance that any responsible group, Jewish or non-Jewish, not to speak of governments or the League of Nations, will pay any attention to this group, but as they have in the past, through various tricks, succeeded in misleading and confusing spokesmen of American public opinion, this warning is necessary. Whoever wants to help the Jewish people and the Zionist movement must do it by cooperating with the established and recognized organizations, the leading one of which is the Jewish Agency -- the only internationally recognized body authorized to act for the Jewish people in all matters affecting Palestine. By helping the self-styled Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which purports to speak on behalf of Jews who never gave them authority to represent them, the prestige and influence of the Jewish organizations charged with the complex and responsible task of building the Jewish Homeland will be weakened and harm will be done to the Jewish people."

For further information call
Harold P. Manson
American Zionist Emergency Council
1720 - 16th Street, N. W.
Washington 9, D. C. -- Michigan 4480

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT ON THE FORMATION OF A "HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION,"
ISSUED BY DR. LEON FEUER, DIRECTOR OF THE WASHINGTON BUREAU
OF THE AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

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NOTE: The American Zionist Emergency Council speaks for
all major Zionist bodies in the United States.

Washington, D. C. -- It is all fantastic and would be comic if it were not so tragic. A handful of young men are attempting to perpetrate a colossal hoax upon the American people, and we would warn the public, the press, and all official circles against being taken in by such a brazen fraud. The self-appointed "Hebrew Committee of National Liberation" is made up of half a dozen adventurers from Palestine with no standing, no credentials, no mandate from anyone unless it be from the Irgun Zevai Leumi in Palestine, an insignificantly small pistol-packing group of extremists who are claiming credit for some of the recent terror outrages. Every movement has its lunatic fringe and irresponsible splinter factions, and it is natural that they should exist also in our midst. The danger is that uninformed people may be taken in and may be led to believe that a new Moses has arisen in Israel.

These boys are stunters; they have thrived on publicity tricks. Like a little stage army, they come on in varying forms and guises -- one day as a Committee for a Jewish Army; the next day as a Committee for the Rescue of European Jews; today, as a "Committee of National Liberation" with an "embassy"; tomorrow, it will be something else. But there is always one common feature -- a persistent request for contributions. No serious or responsible Jewish organization -- neither the Zionist movement, nor the American Jewish Conference, nor the B'nai B'rith, nor the American Jewish Congress, can afford to descend to their level or

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choose to play the mountebank and charlatan. It is the specialty of the "embassy boys."

For more than 40 years, Jews throughout the world have been concerned with the creation of a Jewish National Home in Palestine. To that end, there were constituted on a democratic basis the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Palestine which for 25 years have been headed by the foremost Jew of our time, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, of London. The World Zionist Organization's representatives meet biennially as the Zionist Congress and elect their leadership, who constitute the Executive. Together with the representatives of the non-Zionists, they constitute the Jewish Agency for Palestine, officially recognized in the Palestine Mandate to represent Jewish interests and Jewish rights with respect to Palestine. The Jewish Agency maintains permanent offices in London, Jerusalem, Geneva and elsewhere. It carries on necessary political work and handles immigration and colonization into Palestine. For this work it spends annually about \$10,000,000 provided by regular contributions of Jewish communities.

In America, the Zionist movement is represented by the American Zionist Emergency Council, headed by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, of New York, and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, of Cleveland, as co-chairmen. Affiliated with this Council are the Zionist Organization of America, Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization, Mizrachi, and Poale Zion, with a combined dues-paying membership in excess of 300,000. The Council maintains a Washington Bureau which is in regular contact with government departments and with all important embassies and legations. So far as the Jewish community of Palestine, which numbers approximately 600,000, is concerned, it is democratically organized and is represented by a National Council, the Vaad Leumi. This body is likewise officially recognized by the Palestine Government, controls and directs the Jewish school system, social welfare work, etc. It also has a limited taxing power under the law. The Vaad Leumi, of course, recognizes the Jewish Agency for Palestine and cooperates with it closely.

To complete the picture, it should be added that the overwhelming majority

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of American Jews, through a democratically constituted American Jewish Conference in New York last summer, adopted a post-war program with reference to Jewish rights in Europe, as well as to the Palestine question. Represented in the American Jewish Conference are hundreds of local communities, as well as about 60 leading national organizations, including all the Zionist organizations enumerated above, the B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Congress, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Rabbinical Assembly of America, the Council of Jewish Women, etc.

Who, therefore, do the "embassy boys" represent, and who has asked them for "liberation?" Why this new attempt to hoodwink and befuddle the public with a bewildering "ideology" about a Jewish people and a Hebrew nation? They are attempting to justify their separatist and disruptive activity by attempting to build up what they call a non-sectarian movement. But there are important and representative non-sectarian bodies cooperating with the Zionist and Jewish organizations, particularly the American Palestine Committee, headed by Senator Robert F. Wagner, which is carrying on its work effectively and with dignity.

There is also the Christian Council on Palestine, composed of some 1200 clergymen throughout the country. These groups are working together harmoniously and with single-minded devotion to the cause itself.

The truth is that the young gentlemen in question are obsessed with delusions of grandeur and have visions of playing the diplomat and the statesman before a public which they hope is gullible enough to swallow it. They hope to undermine the established authority and prestige of the constituted Jewish authorities and of the Zionist leadership, in particular. Above all, they hope to continue this game of impersonation as long as there are decent but misled folks to whom they can sell their gold bricks. Considering the terrible tragedy which has engulfed the Jewish people and the seriousness of the times, we condemn their irresponsible antics and their self-constituted leadership which the whole of organized Jewry repudiates with scorn.

THE HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION
2315 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
Adams 8800

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 18 1944

For the first time in 1,809 years, (the last Hebrew revolt under Bar-Kochba was crushed in 135 A.D.) a unified group of Hebrews has joined together to redeem the Hebrew national sovereignty and to establish, in exile, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. The new Committee, as the temporary trustee of Hebrew national interests, will apply to the Allied powers for the same degree of recognition now accorded other committees of liberation in exile, it was announced today by Peter H. Bergson, head of the new Committee of Liberation.

The initial members of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which is housed in its newly acquired Embassy building, 2315 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. are, in addition to Mr. Bergson, the following: Arie Ben Eliezer, Theodore Bennahum, Professor Pinhas Delougaz, Capt. Jeremiah Helporn, Eri Jabotinsky and Samuel Merlin.

Though the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation is being only now officially organized, the activities of its members on behalf of the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine are well known the world over. It was this group who initiated, prior to the outbreak of the war, the evacuation of tens of thousands of Hebrews from menaced zones in Eastern and Middle Europe to Palestine. In the United States, some of its members initiated, as spearheads in the fight for the survival of the Hebrew people, the following organizations in this country: The American Friends of a Jewish Palestine, the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews, the Emergency Conference and the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. As well as the organization of the great documentary pageant, "We Will Never Die" and the nation-wide Proclamation on the Moral Rights of Stateless and Palestinian Jews.

Members of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation are now on missions in Europe, in the Middle East, in Palestine and in England. In announcing the formation of the Committee, Peter H. Bergson declared: "What is happening to the Hebrews of Europe is not sudden. It is the culmination

of centuries of oppression and persecution; of ghettos, pogroms, economic strangulation and endless humiliation and insult. The Hebrew Nation can no longer endure the status quo. It has been swept away by an intolerable whirlpool of death and disaster. There is a limit to the blood and suffering any people can endure."

The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation has been organized to obtain recognition of the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine as a sovereign nation with the right of self-determination. It will seek representation in the councils of the United Nations. It will demand the right for its Hebrew Army to fight on an equal footing with other United Nations armies against the Axis.

While the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation will not press the settlement of political and boundary problems of Palestine until the end of hostilities, it will insist on the immediate opening of Palestine to all Hebrews who can manage to escape from Europe today.

The ultimate goal of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation is the establishment of a Free Palestine with the Arab population as partners in a democratic and civilized Palestine, and with a legally constituted international authority in control of the holy places of all faiths.

"Let it be clearly understood" -- the statement goes on to say -- "that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation does not attempt to speak for the Jews of the United States. They are an integral part of the American Nation; an integral part of a nation made up of people of every descent. These Jews are Americans of Hebrew descent. They do not 'belong to Palestine' and thereby to the renaissance Hebrew Nation either, any more than Justice Frank Murphy 'belongs to the Irish Nation' or Lieut. General William Knudsen 'belongs to the Danish Nation,' though they both certainly are proud of their ancestry."

It is no accident that Washington has been chosen as the site for this historic rededication of the Hebrew Nation as a democracy. "The site was deliberately selected," the statement asserts "because Washington is the eternal symbol of democracy and of the greatness of the human spirit and of its revolutionary demand for justice, decency and freedom."

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NLT ARTHUR LOURIE

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PLEASE RELEASE FOLLOWING BEHALF EXECUTIVE JEWISH AGENCY QUOTE APPEARANCE
IN SUA OF BODY STYLING ITSELF HEBREW COMMITTEE NATIONAL LIBERATION MUST
BE BRANDED AS UNSCRUPULOUS PIECE OF POLITICAL CHARLATANISM STOP ITS CONTENTION
THAT PALESTINE JEWRY IS NOT FREE TO SPEAK OUT THROUGH ITS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES
IS PREPOSTEROUS STOP OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PALESTINE JEWISH COMMUNITY IS
DEMOCRATICALLY ORGANISED AND REPRESENTED BY ITS CONSTITUTIONALLY ESTABLISHED
ORGANS WHICH ARE THE ELECTED ASSEMBLY AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL STOP THESE
BODIES HAVE FULL FREEDOM TO VOICE THE FEELINGS AND POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS OF
PALESTINE JEWS AND HAVE DONE SO REPEATEDLY IN OUTSPOKEN TERMS IN OPPOSITION
TO PRESENT OFFICIAL POLICY STOP THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE
AS A WHOLE IN REGARD TO PALESTINE ARE REPRESENTED BY THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR
PALESTINE INCORPORATING THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANISATION STOP A WARNING MUST
BE ADDRESSED TO ALL SERIOUSLY MINDED PEOPLE NOT TO LET THEMSELVES BE MISLED
AND CONFUSED BY FREAK BODIES ASSUMING HIGH SOUNDING TITLES AND ENUNCIATING
POLICIES FOR WHICH NONE BUT THEIR UNREPRESENTATIVE AUTHORS RESPONSIBLE UNQUOTE

JEWISH AGENCY

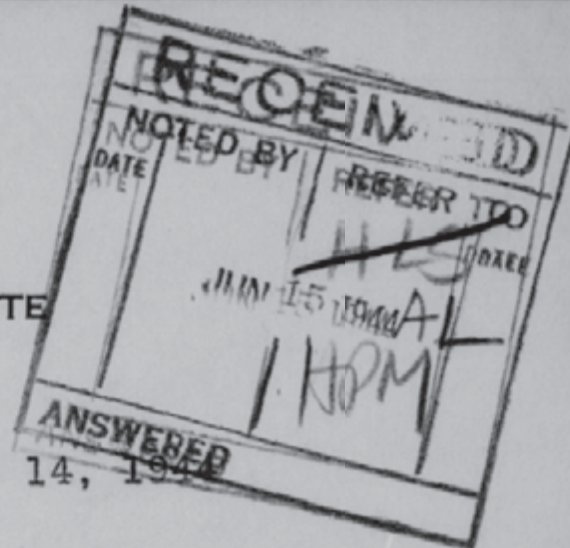


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June 14, 1944

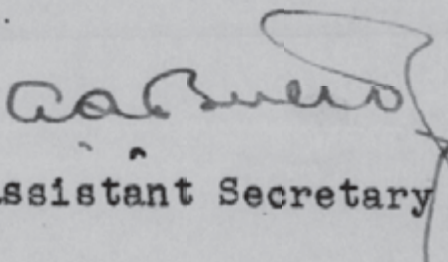


My dear Rabbi Silver:

I have received your letter of June 5, 1944 with which you sent me a copy of a telegram from the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, regarding the attitude of the Jewish community in Palestine toward the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation which recently established a "Hebrew Embassy" in Washington.

I wish to assure you in this connection that the Department does not recognize the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation as having any representative status.

Sincerely yours,


Assistant Secretary

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
American Zionist Emergency Council,
342 Madison Avenue,
New York 17, New York.



The Washington Post

'For Liberation of Jews'

Bergson Admits \$1,000,000 Fund Raised, Vague on Its Use

By Gloria Lubar and
Edward F. van der Veen

OCT 3 1944

From his \$63,000 residence at 2315 Massachusetts ave. nw., formerly the Iranian Embassy, Peter Bergson, self-styled "nuisance diplomat," boasts his Hebrew Committee of National Liberation with its numerous affiliates has collected one million dollars "from a generous American people." He became vague, however, when a Post reporter insisted he tell what use has been made of the million dollars.

"Relief work has been a small part of our work," Bergson said. "Our major activity is to mobilize the understanding and help of American people for an integral and positive solution of the problems of the Jewish people in Europe."

Bergson (his real name is Hillel Kook) is a slight man with pale-blue eyes, darkish blond hair and a mustache. His voice cracks or squeaks when he gets excited.

He was emphatic when declaring he possessed a "dynamic personality." He added that "we have been responsible for 40,000 Jewish refugees having entered Palestine illegally from Europe during the last seven years."

"I and my workers managed to accomplish this feat through underground methods," he added.

The American Jewish Conference, headed by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, and Dr. Stephen S. Wise of New York, formed under a mandate of 64 reputable Jewish national organizations, agrees with Bergson that his groups have undoubtedly collected a million or more dollars in (tax-exempt) contributions from "persons who have mistaken propaganda for performance and advertisement for achievement," but join with British officials in deriding his assertion he has been the means of smuggling 40,000 Jews into Palestine.

"The public might be interested in knowing just how much has been collected and what disposition was made of the money," the Interim Committee of the Jewish Conference commented. "To date Bergson has made no such accounting."

British Disapprove

"If Bergson has been responsible

in any way for aiding Jewish refugees in their attempts at illegal entry into Palestine, this is certainly looked upon with disfavor by the British government," a high British authority here said. "It leaves wide open an opportunity for 'flotsam and jetsam' and Nazis posing as refugees to enter mandated territory without first being investigated."

This official made plain that in matters pertaining to legal entry of Hebrews into Palestine, the British government deals only and directly with the World Zionist Organization, not in any way connected with Bergson's committees.

He emphasized that the British government considers Bergson "persona non grata," and made plain that Britain's only official dealings with him had been of a "military nature."

Bergson, who entered this country in 1941 as a citizen of Palestine, is 34, single, and has been declared physically fit in both British and American Army medical examinations. Shortly after his arrival, he informed the British he wanted to join their army. As Palestine is mandated territory, there can be no British conscription, fighters must volunteer. The British accepted his offer, put him through the physicals, and told him to appear for service. Instead, it is said, Bergson sent a letter saying he had decided he should do his fighting in a Hebrew army.

Classified 1-A

Upon receiving this letter, the British turned the matter over to the American Selective Service, where he was immediately classified 1-A. This classification was affirmed on appeal by the New York City Board of Appeal and is now under advisement by the National Selective Service Board. Bergson's appeal, it is understood, was based on "indispensability."

"It is odd," the British official stated, "that a Jewish brigade has now been formed, but Mr. Bergson has not yet enlisted."

A case concerning Bergson's stay in this country is now before U. S. Immigration authorities.

At the time Bergson first attempted to buy the Iranian Embassy, he declared he wanted it for a Hebrew Embassy. This appeal was turned down by the District

Zoning Board on the grounds the proposed "embassy" had not been recognized by the U. S. State Department. District officials state Bergson later received permission to buy the property when he stated he wanted it as a private residence. Bergson's salary, by his own admission, is \$75 a week. Formerly, he said, it was \$45.

No Business Permit

Investigation by The Post discloses that Bergson neither holds a permit to conduct any sort of business from this highly restricted residential address nor, under the law, can he get one.

The "embassy," castigated by the American Jewish Conference as a "fraud, a buffoonery, and a comic opera drollery, if it were not so tragic," has a telephone switchboard and business office on the first floor. Bergson's private office, and the offices of his private secretary and clerical force, are on the third floor.

Zoning officials, informed the residence was being used for business offices, asserted the license and police departments would be interested to know Bergson has been operating a business without an occupancy permit.

Bergson, who formerly had declared the \$63,000 "embassy" was purchased for him by friends, admitted to The Post it was paid for out of funds received for by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. The second floor, which makes up the living quarters, are beautifully furnished.

Purchased by Fund

Despite Bergson's assertion to the zoning board that the residence was to be a private dwelling, the deed filed September 22, 1944 shows it was purchased by the Hebrew National Liberation Fund, Inc.

Organized Jewry points to the continuous change of sponsors as published in the many full-page advertisements asking for funds. The American Jewish Conference charges names are used without permission, and that other so-called sponsors have repudiated the use of their names on grounds they do not agree with the committees' alleged political affiliations with the Irgun, a terrorist party in Palestine which Bergson

has publicly praised.

Senators Scott Lucas (D., Ill.), Harry Truman (D., Mo.), vice presidential candidate, and Senator Albert Chandler (D., Ky.) have announced that advertisements had committed some members of the Senate to a point of view of which they had no advance knowledge, and that their names were used without specific permission.

Mrs. Louis D. Brandeis, wife of the late Supreme Court justice, has declared use of her name as sponsor of the American League for a Free Palestine, and the Liberation Committee, was "completely unauthorized." Forty-six American rabbis also protested against use of their names in literature distributed by the American League.

Senator Robert F. Wagner (D., N. Y.) in an open letter, denounced the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation as "an organization which serves no useful purpose and can only confuse and mislead American public opinion."

Dean Alfange, leader of the Liberal Party in New York, announced his resignation as co-chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, because he did "not approve of its political affiliations."

Pierre van Passan, author, once an active worker with Bergson, has gone on record with a scathing denouncement calling the Emergency Committee a "cruel hoax perpetrated on the American public." Passan accused two of Bergson's organizations of being sponsored by the Fascist party in Palestine, the Irgun.

15 Officers Resign

Dr. Francis E. McMahon of the University of Chicago, and 14 other officers also announced their resignation from the Emergency Committee because of "increasing confusion between objectives of the various committees."

Rabbi Herzog, Chief Rabbi of Palestine, has denied any ties with the Emergency Committee.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; R. J. Thomas, president of the U.A.W., CIO; and Max Zaritsky, president of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers of America, also have denounced the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

October 4, 1944

Attacks Zionists

Bergson Admits His Committee Has No Right to Collect Funds

By Gloria Lubar and
Edward F. van der Veen

Peter H. Bergson held a press conference late yesterday.

Bergson wanted to discuss and denounce yesterday's Washington Post's story about his activities in this country.

Bergson presented a prepared statement in which he charged the tone of The Post story was one of deliberate misrepresentation and insinuation to present him in the worst possible light.

Bergson admitted when questioned, however, that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, of which he is chairman, is not American; has no right to collect funds; is taking no action toward direct relief to "Hebrews;" and does not, to their knowledge, represent either European or Palestinian "Hebrews."

(The use of word "Hebrew" as a noun is Bergson's stock in trade. He contends that a Jew may be a citizen of any country, but that a "Hebrew" is a "stateless Jew.")

In a telegram calling the press conference, Samuel Merlin, a compatriot of Bergson, charged The Post was the tool of "British imperialists and defeatist Zionist leaders."

Earlier in the day, Third Precinct police said they plan to call Bergson into court to explain why he has operated a business from 2315 Massachusetts ave., nw., a highly restricted residential area, without an occupancy permit.

Police said they told Bergson when he moved into the quarters that if he wished to conduct a busi-

ness he must go to the District Commissioners and have them change the zoning restrictions. Bergson did that, police said, and reported that he had been refused.

Police said they then told Bergson he must obtain an occupancy permit from the zoning commission. According to the Zoning Commission, this request also was refused on the ground the only business that could be operated in that restricted area would have to have been established there prior to 1920, or be a recognized embassy or legation.

At the press conference persistent questioning by The Post as to whom he (Bergson) represents, repeatedly brought this answer:

"I represent myself."

Demand for a more explicit explanation as to what he meant by "myself" caused Bergson to add:

"I embrace all stateless 'Hebrews.'"

Bergson insisted that part of the capital of the Hebrew National Liberation Fund, Inc., was provided for by Billy Rose, night club impresario.

Reached in New York last night by The Post, Rose denied any connection with Bergson, his committees, or the fund.

"Let him show one single check I ever signed," Rose said. "It is true that I did stage the pageant, 'We Will Never Die,' both in New York and at Constitution Hall in Washington for Ben Hecht, who wrote it. I did it because it was a

good show. That was my only connection with the pageant."

Representative Sol Bloom (D., N. Y.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, questioned as to Bergson's accomplishments during his stay in this country, declared: "No authorized Jewish agency approves of the methods adopted by Bergson and his groups."

Charging that Bergson's methods were purely lobbying and high pressuring, Bloom exhibited a telegram from the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe last year, asking those who receive the telegram to give a generous contribution so that the committee could "force passage of a resolution" then pending in Congress "to force Washington, London, Palestine, England, Turkey to continue work on larger scale."

"If that isn't high pressuring and lobbying, I would like to know what is," declared Bloom.

Bloom recalled Bergson's appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Committee last fall:

"I asked him if he had come into this country legally," the Congressman said.

"I don't know," Bergson told me.

"What the hell do you mean you don't know?" I thundered."

Chuckling, the Congressman added, "It's the first time I ever remember swearing at a committee hearing."

October 5, 1944

Use of Names Unauthorized

New Repudiations Registered Against Bergson's Committee

By Gloria Lubar and
Edward F. van der Veen

Nationwide repudiations of Peter H. Bergson and his numerous committees continued to flow into The Post last night.

Mrs. Raymond Clapper, widow of the late famous war correspondent, once a member of the Washington Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, declared:

"In the future, I will not serve on Peter Bergson's committees. When I consented to become a sponsor I was under the impression that the purpose of that committee was to use the money collected to give actual aid to get Jewish refugees into Palestine. I was amazed to find out that the money was used to propagandize the American public."

Dr. Albert Joseph McCartney, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, 18th and N sts. nw., who said he was among the original sponsors of the Washington Emergency Committee, declared that after attending several meetings at private homes he became suspicious.

Senator James M. Tunnell (D, Del.), said he became outraged because the American League for a Free Palestine, one of Bergson's several organizations, also engaged in the business of raising funds, used his name in a handout printed in the New York Times to the effect that he had agreed to become one of their sponsors. He wrote constituents that "while he is anxious to do all he can to help relieve the great tragedy which has befallen the Jews of Europe, he was "suspicious" of this organization and had been "warned about them."

"It appears that they published a statement that I had become identified with their organization," Senator Tunnell stated. "I don't think that an entirely legitimate organization would do this without my consent."

At the same time, Senator Tunnell wrote directly to the American League on May 28, 1944:

"I was yesterday informed that the New York Times stated that I had agreed to become one of the sponsors of the American League for a Free Palestine. I do not have any recollection of ever having authorized such a statement. I find that there seems

to be a good deal of dissatisfaction among Jewish people with reference to your organization. I, at the request of a Miss Keane, did place in the appendix of the Congressional Record an article which she desired to have placed there. I don't think this authorizes any assumption that I am in any way connected with the organization."

Bitter Telegram Sent Post

Of 105 names signed to a bitter telegram sent to The Post from the National Jewish Council, New York City, from the same address, 25 West 45th st., where at least one of Bergson's committees, etcetera, have offices, 20 persons were contacted. Of these 20, called and reached by The Post, only two endorsed the work of the council. One of these said he had not been informed of the telegram, and the other admitted he did not see The Post stories, which were attacked in the telegram.

"We trust . . . you will give space in your daily in answer to your biased description of Mr. Peter H. Bergson," the start of the council telegram read.

Rabbi Chaim Williamowsky, 4402 15th st. nw.—The Post was not biased. I am not now a member of the Council, and asked sometime ago that my name be removed. I know absolutely nothing about the telegram, and am angry that my name was used.

Rabbi Williamowsky was the only "signer" of the telegram who said he had read The Post article, despite the fact that Samuel Rosen, vice chairman of the Council, first told The Post that the signatures on the telegram had been received after each one had been sent copies of the telegram and the first Post article.

Later last night, in another telephone conversation, Rosen corrected his statement by saying that he was getting ready to send the copies to the "signers."

Undaunted in Loyalty

"We who follow the leadership of Mr. Bergson are undaunted in our spirit of loyalty to the cause of the afflicted and oppressed of the Hebrew nation," another portion of the telegram read.

Rabbi Gedaliah Kaprow, Buffalo, N. Y.—I do not approve of

Bergson, and did not authorize the use of my name.

Rabbi Israel Porath, Cleveland, Ohio—I do not know Bergson personally, or anything about him. I know nothing about the telegram. It may be that sometime or other I joined the council.

Rabbi Jacob M. Lesin, Dorchester, Mass.—I know nothing about the telegram, Bergson, or his committee. I have a vague impression that many months ago an organization calling itself the National Jewish Council held a meeting in Boston, and that I attended. So far as I know, I am not a member.

"The British-Zionist unholy alliance is an attempt to undermine public confidence in Mr. Bergson . . ." the telegram continued.

Chaplain Meyer J. Goldman, Boca Raton Field, Fla.—I had not been informed of the telegram, and deeply object to the use of my name.

Rabbi Herman Bick, Lynn, Mass.—I withdrew by name from the Emergency Committee two months ago. The use of my name was absolutely unauthorized and improper.

Rabbis Harold Baumrind, Milwaukee, and S. A. Pardes, Chicago, both declared they never were members of the council and knew nothing about the telegram.

Withdrew Membership

Rabbi Israel Lev, Gloucester, Mass., explained to The Post that he withdrew membership in the council when the "embassy Hebrew government" was organized in Washington. He did not authorize the use of his name, he said.

Two other rabbis explained that they were members of the council, but knew nothing about the telegram or Bergson.

Rabbi Herman Kahan, Newark—I am a member of the council, but should have been made aware of the use of my name on the telegram.

Rabbi S. H. Klibansky, St. Louis—Yes, I am a member of the council, but I know nothing about the telegram or Bergson.

Other telephone responses, from so-called signers of the council telegram, continued along the same line.

Draft

Memorandum on the

"National Committee for Hebrew Liberation"

1. The Mandate for Palestine, endorsed by fifty-one nations of the League and later, in the Anglo-American Convention of 1924, approved by the Government of the United States, specifically provides in Clauses 4, 6, and 11 for the recognition of a Jewish Agency to represent the interests of Jews everywhere in the establishment of the Jewish National Home. The reason for this was, to quote the words of British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald, because "the undertaking of the Mandate is an undertaking to the Jewish people...and not only to the Jewish population of Palestine". The intention was to afford Jews, wherever they resided, the opportunity of establishing that National Home. If they responded in sufficient numbers, then Palestine would in due course be reconstituted as a Jewish Commonwealth. It was not intended that all Jews should go to Palestine, but that such as might wish to go there should be enabled to do so, and that others should have the opportunity to help financially and otherwise in the establishment of the Jewish National Home through instruments created for that purpose.

2. The functions of the Jewish Agency as described in the Mandate ^{and} were to advise and cooperate with the Administration of Palestine in matters affecting the establishment of the Jewish National Home, and to assist and take part in the development of the country. The Jewish Agency which was thereby given international recognition was the World

Zionist Organization; it was later enlarged to include also non-Zionist representation. In fulfillment of its functions the Agency has developed a number of important specialized departments each actively concerned with different aspects of the developing National Home. Thus in the main Jewish emigration centers, Palestine Offices were organized which supervised the selection and training of immigrants; arrangements were made for transportation of immigrants to Palestine; and in Palestine itself the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency charged itself with the reception of the immigrants and with placing them as soon as possible in productive occupations. The Colonization Department is concerned with aiding and promoting agricultural colonization and settlement; and in this connection agricultural research stations have been established. A Trade and Industry Department was set up to deal with problems in those fields. Health, educational and cultural needs of the growing community were met either by direct subsidy and supervision on the part of the Agency or in co-operation with other bodies. Another vital concern, that of internal security, resulted in the formation of a large, efficient and responsibly directed Defense organization.

So far as its political activities are concerned, the Zionist Organization, and later the Jewish Agency (of both of which Dr. Chaim Weizmann is the President) has since the Mandate and before it been the accepted representative of world Jewry in relation to Palestine. The authority of the Agency as such is indeed both legally and factually beyond question. Its Executive maintains offices in Jerusalem, London, Geneva, and Washington, and has been in constant touch in regard to various

questions affecting the Jewish National Home, with the British and with other governments, and until the war, with the Secretariat and Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations. The budget of the Jewish Agency and of its affiliated institutions is derived from the contributions of Jews in every part of the world and amount in total to many millions of dollars. The Agency has made itself felt in every aspect of Palestinian development and it is not surprising that the Palestine Royal Commission has described the Jewish Agency as a "powerful and efficient organization" which "in the course of time has created a complete administrative apparatus...and amounts in fact to a Government existing side by side with the Mandatory Government".

3. In response to the opportunities afforded them, hundreds of thousands of Jews have immigrated into Palestine, the Jewish population of which numbers today approximately 550,000; a well established and vigorous community with an active political life and a large and many-sided press, and important institutions of their own. The Representative Assembly of the Jews of Palestine is the Assefath Haniiv-charim, which is based on universal adult suffrage. New elections, which had been postponed owing first to ^{the} disturbances and later to the war, are due to take place within a few weeks. The Assembly in turn elects as its executive body the Jewish National Council (Vaad Leumi). The Vaad Leumi works in closest cooperation with the Executive of the Jewish Agency and numbers among its representatives members of all sections of Palestine Jewry, including the farmers, the bourgeois or

General Zionist groups, the orthodox religious groups, the different labor groups, and also the Revisionists. In pursuance of powers conferred on it by Ordinance of the Palestine Government it can levy taxes on the Jewish community for specified purposes, and in addition to representing the community before the Government, concerns itself with the needs of the community in matters of education, health and other aspects of social welfare. It is the unquestioned representative of the Jews of Palestine.

4. It is in these circumstances that a body styling itself the "Free Palestine Committee", a name later changed to "The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation", has of very recent months come forward in this country and claims recognition on behalf of the "Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine".

Who are the members of this committee? They are not named, but it is clear from its literature that they are the same "handful" (to use its own term) of Palestinians, under the leadership of Mr. Peter Bergson, who have been responsible for a series of paper organizations in the past few years, including the "American Friends of a Jewish Palestine", the "Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews", the "Emergency Conference" and the "Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe", and the "American League for a Free Palestine". Not merely is this group without any democratic basis of election in this country, but it is utterly unrepresentative of the Jews of Palestine, where they amount so far as public life is concerned, to the fragment of a fragment. They are associated with a small terrorist group called the "Irgun Zvai Leumi", whose activities have been condemned and repudiated not only by the National

Council of the Jews of Palestine, but by the entire Jewish press in Palestine. Their object has been, and remains, to destroy the existing Zionist leadership by any and every means and to place themselves in control of Zionist affairs.

5. The "National Committee for Hebrew Liberation" and its supporting body "The American League for a Free Palestine", has developed an ideology premised upon an alleged distinction between American Jews and all other Jews. American Jews are merely "Americans of Hebrew descent"; other Jews are the "Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine". Apart from the patent nonsense of this distinction, it also has grave implications; for the inference is that while there is no distinction between Jews and non-Jews so far as American citizenship is concerned, the Jews of Europe, as members of a separate Hebrew Nation, have no claim to citizenship in the countries where they live. The Zionist movement believes in and fights for the right of such Jews as wish to go to Palestine to go there, but it also believes in and will fight for the right of full and equal citizenship for Jews in any country where they may live. In denying this right to the Jews of Europe, Mr. Bergson and his associates are doing an ill service, not merely to ^{European Jews} them, but also ultimately and inevitably to Jews everywhere, including the Jews of America. Justice to the Jew demands the establishment of a Jewish homeland, and in order that that homeland may not become another temporary center for refugees, our goal must be the establishment of a democratic Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. But this no more affects the whole-hearted political allegiance of American Jews

to America than of Jews elsewhere to the countries where they live. To suggest otherwise is as irresponsible as it is dangerous. On what ground incidentally, Mr. Bergson and his associates claim to represent the Hebrew people of Europe is not clear. There are many representatives of European Jewry in this country who are in a position, if anyone is in a position, to voice the sentiments of the silenced Jewry of Europe; we have still to hear that they have given their allegiance to or recognized Mr. Bergson as their spokesman.

6. In support of the Zionist position and to further its aims there exist in this country the following organizations:

(1) The American Office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

This is actively engaged in representing the interests of the Jewish Agency, in promoting its objectives, and in carrying on negotiations with American and other governmental authorities.

(ii) The American Zionist Emergency Council.

In this body, under the chairmanship of Dr. Stephen Wise and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, are represented for purposes of political action, the leading Zionist organizations in this country, including the Zionist Organization of America, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, the Labor Zionists (Poale Zion), and the Orthodox Zionists (Mizrachi) -- organizations with an enrolled membership, including affiliated bodies, of nearly 400,000. The purpose of the Zionist Emergency Council is to establish a united Zionist representation in this country for purposes of Zionist political action -- a unity which Mr. Bergson is anxious to destroy. In addition to its representative political functions the Emergency Council is undertaking a major activity

of Zionist publicity and propaganda.

(iii) On the fund-raising side, the Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish National Fund, which have been concerned over a long period of years with the acquisition of land for Jewish settlement in Palestine and with the development of the Jewish National Home generally, are jointly organized in the United Palestine Appeal. Together with such funds as the Youth Aliyah Fund of the Hadassah Organization and the funds collected by the Jewish Labor groups, the United Palestine Appeal is responsible for raising and transmitting to Palestine sums in excess of \$4,000,000. annually, which are vital to the work of Palestine upbuilding. It is to these funds, duly constituted and functioning wherever Jews are to be found, that the Jewish Agency looks for support to carry out Zionist objectives.

The Zionist movement in this country has won the support of many other leading American organizations, in some of which Jewish, and in others, Christian membership predominates. Thus:

(iv) The American Jewish Conference convened last year in order to give expression to the democratic voice of American Jewry, by overwhelming majority adopted the full Zionist program. Representatives to the Conference were elected by Jewish communities throughout the country, and included further, representatives of 64 national Jewish organizations, i.e. of almost every major Jewish organization in America.

(v) Closely cooperating with the American Zionist Emergency Council and its constituent bodies is the American Palestine Committee. This body, primarily non-Jewish, has a selected membership

of about 3,000, including 68 United States Senators, over 200 members of the House of Representatives, governors of many states and many leaders in the educational, literary, and civic life of the country. Of this committee Senator Robert Wagner is the Chairman.

(vi) Also cooperating with the Zionist movement and in full support of its program, is the Christian Council for Palestine, which, under the chairmanship of Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, includes more than 1,000 Christian ministers throughout the country. It will be recalled that the Christian Council recently held a very successful national conference in Washington in the sponsorship of which the Council was joined by the following organizations: -----

The conference was attended by representatives of many Christian communities throughout the country, and adopted a resolution unanimously endorsing the Zionist program. A Committee was appointed by the Conference to cooperate with the American Palestine Committee in its endeavors to implement the content of the Palestine Resolutions before Congress.

7. It is abundantly clear, therefore, that anyone, whether Jew or non-Jew, who desires to give his support to Zionist activities and thereby to the establishment of the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine, has full opportunity to do so in any one or more of the above organizations, which are well established and well organized, have been in existence for some time, and are actively engaged in the work.

8. "The Hebrew Committee for National Liberation", membership unnamed, now asks Americans, Jewish and non-Jewish, to join in the creation of an "American League for a Free Palestine" to support its objec-

tives. These vary according to different prospectuses of the League.

They apparently include:

- (a) to open the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration.
- (b) to secure recognition for the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine to form an army of their own, and
- (c) to secure the recognition of the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine as a nation with rights of representation in the Councils of the United Nations.

In considering the issues raised by the "Hebrew Committee for National Liberation", the following questions are pertinent:

- (i) What persons compose this "National Committee"?
- (ii) Who authorized its formation?
- (iii) When did it come into being?
- (iv) When did its representatives come to America?
- (v) What Mandate have they to speak for the Jews of Palestine? What body of Jews in Palestine do they represent? How was that representation authorized?
- (vi) What mandate have they to speak for the Jews or "Hebrews" of Europe, or any part of them, and by what right do they speak on their behalf?
- (vii) By what means do they propose to liberate the Hebrew nation?
- (viii) What institutions do they propose to set up to achieve that objective?

Surely American citizens who have permitted this so-called "Hebrew Committee" to use their names and have invited others to join with them

in supporting it will want to know the answer to these questions.

9. As to the objectives of this committee as stated by them, the first is that to open the doors of Palestine to the Jews (or as they put it, the "Hebrews") of Europe. There is no Jewish organization of any significance in existence today which does not advocate and work for this objective, and there are in addition a number of non-Jewish bodies active to the same end. But beyond this it will be recalled that Mr. Bergson and his associates of the "National Hebrew Committee" have already created one organization -- "The Emergency Committee to Rescue the Jews of Europe" -- devoted to the self-same object of opening the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration. What is the need for a further organization under Mr. Bergson's direction for this purpose?

A second objective of the "Hebrew Committee" is the creation of a Hebrew Palestine Army. The creation of a Jewish army composed of Palestinian and stateless Jews has of course long been actively advocated and negotiated by accredited representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. It is as a result of their efforts that today more than 30,000 Palestine Jews have, as Jewish units, made a splendid record in and a noteworthy contribution to armies of the United Nations in the Middle East and now in Italy. But to advocate this object too, Mr. Bergson and his associates some time ago created an organization of their own, namely the "Committee for an Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews". What, it may be asked is the reason for a new organization under Mr. Bergson's direction, to advocate the same object?

The third objective of the "National Committee for Hebrew Liberation" is to secure the recognition of the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine as a nation with rights to representation at the Peace Table. Presumably the representatives thus to be recognized are to be Mr. Bergson and his group. The fact that there is already an internationally recognized representation of the Jewish people in regard to Palestine in the shape of the Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency, is disregarded. The likelihood further, that the creation of another body claiming to speak on behalf of the Jewish (or "Hebrew" -- call it what you will) people, is calculated only to create confusion and thereby to damage the objective, is ignored. Certainly every effort will be made by the Jewish Agency for Palestine to achieve full representation for the Jewish people at the Peace Conference. It is not conceivable that the self-appointed group, led by Mr. Bergson, representing nothing and nobody inside Palestine or without, should receive recognition as the spokesman of Jewry at the Peace Conference or anywhere else.

10. It is evident that the "Hebrew Committee of National Liberation", alias the "Free Palestine Committee", (as it was originally entitled) is seeking to draw an analogy between itself and the Free French Committee. The analogy ends with the similarity in nomenclature. The people of France are in fact in no position to speak for themselves. The Jews of Palestine have complete freedom to choose their own leadership. The Free French Committee includes in its membership leading representatives of all elements in French political life from the right to the extreme left, exclusive of the pro-Nazi groups. Mr. Bergson and his associates represent,

if they represent anyone at all, only the terrorist Irgun Zvai Leumi. The representatives of the Jews of Palestine are unquestionably the National Council of the Jews of Palestine; and the unquestioned representative of the Jewish people as regards Palestine is the Jewish Agency. The Jews have no need to have a representation thrust upon them by Mr. Bergson and his friends, whatever may be the opinion of these self-styled "dynamic leaders" of their own capabilities.

To sum up, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation stands for ideas, which, insofar as they are new are dangerous; and insofar as they are not new are being effectively pursued by other well-established and well-recognized bodies. The Committee consists of a small, self-constituted group, altogether without any popular democratic base and responsible to no one; it is linked with sinister elements; and its efforts to achieve recognition as the spokesmen of the Jews of Palestine and Europe can only lead to confusion and damage so far as the cause of a Jewish Palestine.