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National Conference of Orthodox Jewry, press releases, 1944.

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STATE OF NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

Thomas E. Dewey  
Governor

ALBANY

January 22, 1944

Rabbi Max Kirshblum  
Executive Secretary  
National Conference of Orthodox  
Jewry for Palestine and Rescue  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Kirshblum:

I am happy to greet the National Conference of Orthodox Jewry for Palestine and Rescue and deeply regret that the heavy pressure of my official duties makes it impossible for me to attend in person.

In dealing with the problems of the future it is greatly important to recognize the significance of Palestine in the making of that future. All of us know that the first World War was followed by incomplete success in dealing with the problems of minorities. Although I do not believe that that partial failure may be characterized as the cause of the present war, it undoubtedly contributed to bring it about.

There must be recognition of the historic rights of the Jews in Palestine. It is essential that a way be found to open the doors of Palestine. If those doors remain closed, the specter of hundreds of thousands of helpless and wandering Jews will intensify the difficulties of the peace and will cast grave doubts upon its sincerity and soundness.

The fine efforts of the Conference of Orthodox Jewry for Palestine and Rescue have won the respect and admiration of all observers. I do not have to tell you that your task and your opportunity in the future will be even greater than ever before.

All people who believe in a world where nations and peoples will be at peace under freedom wish you every success in your great work.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Thomas E. Dewey

TED:MF



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ORTHODOX JEWRY FOR PALESTINE AND RESCUE  
Hotel Pennsylvania  
New York, N. Y.  
Sunday Evening, January 30, 1944

ADDRESS BY DR. DANIEL A. POLING

President, World's Christian Endeavor Union  
Editor-in-Chief, "Christian Herald"  
Pastor, Baptist Temple, Philadelphia, Pa.

- - - - -

A distinguished American educator has said in effect that it is the responsibility of majority groups, whatever the issue and wherever raised, to see to it that minorities have their rights. Indeed, it is more than responsibility. It is life and existence - for the majority groups. Minorities can and do survive persecution, but responsible majorities cannot! The Jew after centuries of travail imposed upon him by those who overwhelmed him in numbers and physical strength remains to-day the most baffling human phenomena of history. Only a spiritual answer is adequate for the questions raised by the fact of his survival. On the other hand, the powerful majorities that tortured the Jew have steadily weakened and disappeared, while the governments that made him their victim have been overthrown. What he himself could not accomplish in his own defense, a destiny that must be divine has steadily achieved for him.

I speak as a Christian to-night. To me Jesus of Nazareth is Savior and Lord; very God of very God, and for my words there would be no significance were I not thus to speak. My faith is the majority faith of this great free land. And speaking as a Christian I rise to say that while Israel can and will again survive injustice and persecution, the Christian majority under whatever guise cannot practice persecution, nor consent to it; cannot allow the injustice, nor condone it; nor to be silent in the presence of these twentieth century totalitarian horrors and survive. By the sublime tests of the Sermon on the Mount the Christian must be Christian if he would continue to be. For him there is no alternative. The Jew may still die a thousand deaths and live on to raise new civilizations and cultures above the graves of those who slew him. That is his destiny. But for me, the genius of my salvation is comprehended in what Jesus named the last



and great commandment: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy strength and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself."

What then are the particulars of majority responsibility with regard to the Jew? One may state them to-night only in their briefest outline. And directly I shall refer only to Palestine.

Jewish tradition, both religious and national, has known but one Promised Land. And every effort made to find another has failed. That search goes on, but I believe it will continue to fail. Nor do I believe that for the majority the problem of the Jew will ever approach solution until permanently he has the open door of return to the land of his ancestors, which is the seat of his faith and eternal hope. Until then there will be no rest for his wandering feet and no rest for those who keep him on the march. Perhaps the Jew, more than any other ethnic group, for his continued existence must maintain his unique spiritual character. With that "must" is forever identified the promise and the prospect of the land that in another time "flowed with milk and honey." Nor let it be forgotten by the majority that after the First World War the Balfour Declaration gave form and body to an age-old dream, and that fifty-two nations endorsed that declaration. Among these nations is the United States of America. And I affirm to-night that never more than an infinitesimal minority of America's Christian majority has disapproved this action of the United States of America. The Balfour Declaration is a fact of history. The good faith, not of the Jew, but of the Gentile, is at stake; not of Israel, but of Britain and of the United States and of every other signatory power.

Equally significant was Arab support of the Balfour Declaration when original and final negotiations on behalf of the Arabs with the Jews, were entrusted to H.R.H. Emir Feisal. His approach was cordial and statesmanlike. He commanded great ability and deep understanding. His views and the engagements to which he committed those whom he so ably represented are historically recorded. He anticipated a natural and complete union of Arab States under the British acting as Trustee. Matters of



his father's rule, his own sovereignty in Syria, and that of his brother in Trans-Jordan or in Iraw were all cleared. At no time was there even the suggestion that the return of the Jew to Palestine and the full development of Palestine as a Jewish state would be regarded as hostile to Arab interests. The agreement of January 3, 1919, contains such unequivocal statements as the following: "The Arab State and Palestine and all their relations and understandings shall be controlled by the most cordial good will and understanding and to this end Arab and Jewish duly accredited agents shall be established and maintained in the respective territories." Again, "all necessary measures shall be taken to encourage and stimulate immigration of Jews into Palestine on a large scale." And yet again, "The Mohammedan holy places shall be under Mohammedan control." And finally, "No regulation nor law shall be made prohibiting or interfering in any way, with the free exercise of religion"..... "no religious test shall ever be required for the exercise of civil or political rights." The official declarations were such as these, and within these principles accepting in good faith the Balfour Declaration and the adherence to that declaration of fifty-two sovereign states, the Jew went forward to again make the "desert blossom as the rose." After twenty years of intensive Jewish development the population had grown from 650,000 to nearly 1,500,000. Palestine with its area of 10,000 square miles approximates in size Belgium, Holland and Sicily. Belgium and Holland have each a population of over 8,000,000; Sicily which is mountainous, 4,000,000, and Palestine has in the past been populated by as many as 4,000,000. Under the intensive development of the Jew which I have seen, and at which I have marvelled, I believe that this former population total may be reached and even surpassed.

As to the disposition of the Jew to respect both the letter and spirit of the Agreement, recent actions of the Jewish City of Tel-Aviv are significant. A nearby Arab village has been included within city boundaries, and to this village all civic services have been extended. Also municipal notices are published in both languages and an Arab Official has been employed to handle Arab affairs. Contrast this with



Totalitarian actions over the world!

Mr. Winston Churchill has said that the White Paper is "a breach and repudiation of the Balfour Declaration", and that the Jew as a minority in Palestine under foreign rule would be "the end of the vision, of the hope, of the dream". While that would be tragedy for the Jew it is irretrievable disaster at last for the majority. Nor let it be argued that a Jewish minority opposed to what the world knows as Zionism, invalidates the claims of the Jewish majority and excuses the rest of us from further support of those claims. We Christians have our own pledges and our own conscience. At the same time the Jewish majority has fully regarded its own minority. And Zionism is specific in supporting the national rights of Jews who retain their residence and citizenship in other lands. Some of my closest friends, indeed, my most intimate personal friends among Jews are not Zionists. And if their citizenship status were to be affected by Zionism I would speak out at once. But these rights are not affected, save only as I believe eventually Zionism would enrich and strengthen them. Nor is there the slightest suggestion that as between sovereign states there would be a dual citizenship.

Directly the obligations of the Christian majority as I see these obligations are as follows:

First of all, to be informed, to know the facts; to have the truth, and with the truth to reach conclusions and to accept responsibilities. In simple justice and by the test of Christian ethics this can never be a matter of personal feeling, of personal likes and dislikes. I have the right to choose my friends, and as a man I may not like you, but never is mine the right to be unjust with any man, to prosecute any man, however unattractive he may be to me. Beyond this, as a Christian I am called to love even my enemy. Also a penalty is attached to my disobedience. Progressively I destroy my own soul and eventually my civilization is destroyed when my kind repudiate the law of God and its spirit.

Second. I must challenge falsehoods and answer them. The Jew is not an "International Conspiracy" and Jews do not own this country. In 1936 only 4.8% of



80,000 directors of corporations in the United States were Jews. A survey made by FORTUNE, to my surprise, revealed that Jews play a small role in banking, insurance and heavy industry. They are prominent in clothing and furniture making, and certainly YOU! are terribly efficient! but really now that does not excuse me or any other man for pulling your hair, or punching your nose or writing obscenities on your synagogues. Nor is it my business to count all your peculiarities and then piously suggest that you shave your beards, press your trousers and stop eating kosher. I have enough to do with my own clothes and my own dietary! Certainly I do not affirm that you are perfect and I am not here to accord you fulsome praise. You need to set your house in order. But you must do it and aside from being your friend, as you are mine, I am terribly busy right now in trying to do something with my own house. Frankly, I am not succeeding any too well.

Third. The Jews does not "run the government". Believe it or not, of the more than 1,000 top jobs in the Federal Government, considerably less than 50, scarcely more than thirty, are held by Jews.

Fourth. Jews do not own or control a majority of the great "daily papers and the radio". The journal "Editor and Publisher" states that only 15 of 1700 newspaper owner-publishers are Jews. Three of eight major moving picture companies are controlled by Jews - three by non-Jews, and in two control is divided.

Fifth. Jews generally are not Communists. It is interesting to remember that in two successive breaths Hitler has denounced Jews as "Communists" and also as "International Bankers". An American Journal owned by Christians has completed a survey which concludes that perhaps 15% of Communists throughout the world are Jews.

But of the many false charges one yet remains to which I would give particular attention. How many times have you heard the statement "Our good Christian boys must fight and die for these Jews." That statement is an unmitigated falsehood. In two wars now I have seen "good" Jewish boys fight and die with "good" Christian boys.

Only a few weeks ago a great Jewish doctor and surgeon ministered to me and was my friend in an Army Hospital on the Ledo Road.



In the First World War of the total American mobilization 5.7% were Jews, and that was 1/3 more than their quota. Did you ever hear a man on any fighting front make this miserable charge against Jews? Very likely the lad with him in the fox-hole was a Jew, or the nurse ministering to him in the ward. Yes, the minority can survive the lie, but the majority cannot flourish and repeat it.

Tonight I would challenge my Christian majority with such tasks as these.

1. The support of all constructive measures to help save those Jews in Europe not yet murdered, and to provide both temporary and permanent havens.

2. Active participation in united community efforts to liquidate Anti-Semitism and every other Anti-Race, Anti-Color, Anti-Faith, Anti-American "ism". Stop that thief of slander and stop him now.

3. There must be adequate legal protection against economic, industrial, social and political discrimination, but even more important is that constant grace of brotherhood, that never failing genius of the Christian's gospel which rises from the very heart of Israel in "I am my brother's keeper."

4. And let the Christian majority support a realistic program of rehabilitation enabling refugee Jews within the Four Freedoms to rebuild their lives in a land from which they have been driven or other lands of their choice, and let this Christian majority have particular support for the return to their Promised Land all of those who would return.

My final word tonight has to do with the spiritual implications of this great matter. I have seen the vineyards of this new old homeland of your great people. I have talked with the pioneers, and resting by the ancient paths the founders of my own faith trod, I have taken food and drink from the hands of your Brethren. The epic of Abraham, the tablets of Moses, the Psalms of David, the Songs of Solomon, the Prophecies of Daniel and Isaiah have breathed upon me as I have tramped the ranges and followed the Jordan where once your ancient glories rose and fell. Now for the good of mankind they must have the chance to rise again. Perhaps to you as to no other group of your people is entrusted the spiritual guidance of the Jew in



the Twentieth Century. How well you know that silver and gold, that abundant harvests, that human culture, economic progress, political achievements and military victories are not enough. How well you know that the Promised Land will come again to decay and Babylonian captivity if the Temple Worship is forgotten, the Holy of Holies neglected, and the fulfillment of prophecy denied. Yours is the sacred trust and yours the divine responsibility. Daily I shall pray that the God of Our Fathers may lead you on and that as He brought Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees, He shall bring you and your children at last to the fulfillment and peace of your Holy Hill.





[January 30, 1944] 32

**PRESS RELEASE from**

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ORTHODOX JEWRY  
FOR PALESTINE AND RESCUE**

at Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, January 30 and 31, 1944

Offices: 41 East 42nd Street • New York 17, N. Y. • MU 2-6137-8

FOR RELEASE MONDAY

DR. POLING URGES CHRISTIAN SUPPORT

FOR JEWISH NATIONAL HOME

1/31/1944

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ORTHODOX JEWRY FOR PALESTINE AND RESCUE

HEARS RABBI GOLD, ROBERT SZOLD, MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR DEWEY

New York -- Dr. Daniel A. Poling, president of the World's Christian Endeavor Union and President Roosevelt's emissary to the fighting forces, last night called on the Christian majority to give its active support to a four-point program to save the Jews of Europe and to combat anti-Semitism, "with particular support for the return to their Promised Land of all those who would return." Dr. Poling spoke before more than 1200 delegates to the National Conference of Orthodox Jewry for Palestine and Rescue at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York.

Calling for a reaffirmation of the Balfour Declaration's promise of a Jewish National Home in Palestine, Dr. Poling asserted that "Jewish tradition, both religious and national, has known but one Promised Land. And every effort made to find another has failed. That search goes on, but I believe it will continue to fail. Nor do I believe that for the majority the problem of the Jew will ever approach solution until permanently he has the open door of return to the land of his ancestors, which is the seat of his faith and eternal hope."

"The Balfour Declaration is a fact of history," Dr. Poling declared. "The good faith, not of the Jew, but of the Gentile, is at  
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Promised Land of all those who would return." Dr. Poling spoke before more than 1200 delegates to the National Conference of Orthodox Jewry



stake; not of Israel, but of Britain and of the United States and of every other signatory power."

Dr. Poling challenged the Christian majority with the following task:

"1. The support of all constructive measures to help save those Jews in Europe not yet murdered, and to provide both temporary and permanent havens.

"2. Active participation in united community efforts to liquidate anti-Semitism and every other Anti-Race, Anti-Color, Anti-Faith, Anti-American 'ism.' Stop that thief of slander and stop him now.

"3. There must be adequate legal protection against economic, industrial, social and political discrimination, but even more important is that constant grace of brotherhood, that never failing genius of the Christian's gospel which rises from the very heart of Israel in 'I am my brother's keeper.'

"4. And let the Christian majority support a realistic program of rehabilitation enabling refugee Jews within the Four Freedoms to rebuild their lives in a land from which they have been driven or other lands of thier choice, and let this Christian majority have particular support for the return to their Promised Land of all those who would return."

Lashing out at anti-Semitism, Dr. Poling asserted that every man is obligated to "know the facts, to have the truth, and with the truth to reach conclusions and to accept responsibilities." Citing falsehoods spread about the Jewish people, Dr. Poling urged Christians to keep themselves informed so as to be able to challenge any such stories. "How many times have you heard the statement, 'Our good Christian boys must fight and die for these Jews.' That statement is

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an unmitigated falsehood. In two wars now I have seen 'good' Jewish boys fight and die with 'good' Christian boys.

"In the first World War, of the total American mobilization, 5.7% were Jews, and that was  $1/3$  more than their quota. Did you ever hear a man on any fighting front make this miserable charge against Jews? Very likely the lad with him in the fox-hole was a Jew, or the nurse administering to him in the ward. Yes, the minority can survive the lie, but the majority cannot flourish and repeat it."

RABBI GOLD DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS

At the afternoon session of the Conference, Rabbi Wolf Gold, Chairman of the Convening Committee, declared in his keynote address that "the only solution to the Jewish problem as well as to the problem of Judaism is in the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in the land of their fathers."

Rabbi Gold, who was present in the House of Commons when the British White Paper on Palestine was under consideration, recalled how he thrilled at the words of Winston Churchill, then a member of the House, who rose to denounce the document which would close Palestine to all new Jewish immigration after March 31st.

"I shall never forget the profound impression his words made upon me," said Rabbi Gold. "I felt that great, genuine and true friend of our people was pleading our cause most eloquently and most convincingly. Churchill stated in no uncertain terms that 'I was from the beginning a sincere advocate of the Balfour Declaration, and I have made repeated public statements to that effect!'"

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Rabbi Gold also hailed the recent action of President Roosevelt in creating the War Refugee Board, and applauded the introduction in the U.S. House of Representatives this past week of the Wright-Compton Resolution, which calls for the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. He expressed the conviction that under the leadership of the United States and Great Britain, the world would "recognize again our righteous claim to our historical home."

MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR DEWEY IS READ

A message to the Conference from Governor Thomas E. Dewey stated that "there must be recognition of the historic rights of the Jews in Palestine," and that "it is essential that a way be found to open the doors of Palestine."

"If those doors remain closed," Governor Dewey's message said, "the specter of hundreds of thousands of helpless and wandering Jews will intensify the difficulties of the peace and will cast grave doubts upon its sincerity and soundness."

SZOLD REPORTS ON PALESTINE VISIT

Robert Szold, former president of the Zionist Organization of America, who returned recently from a two months' visit to Palestine and Egypt, told the delegates to the Conference that "the whole Middle East is capable of development comparable to that experienced in the American Southwest in the past two or three generations, provided capable people are allowed to come in. Modern methods can bring fructification to the whole region. Palestine Jewry can furnish the nexus between East and West, antiquity and modernity."

Mr. Szold reported that "out of a Jewish population of 600,000, more than 80,000 were engaged directly in the war effort, in addition to 23,000 serving in the armed forces, 800 in the air  
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forces and 8,000 in the regular and auxiliary police which are under the supervision of the military command."

He declared that Palestine has undergone an amazing transformation since the war as a result of its conversion to all-out war effort, and that its contribution to the scene of the war has been significant, adding that this "remarkable achievement was made possible by the skill, ingenuity and determination of the European Jews who have immigrated to Palestine since the Balfour Declaration of 1917."

Mr. Szold asserted that "Palestine is unique among all the countries of the Middle East in loyalty to the Allied cause of the Jewish population, and in their training, skill, and in their determination to win the war." "The war," he continued, "has put a permanent quietus to that pre-war British school of thought which held that the Mediterranean could not be defended, that it was a liability and had better be abandoned. The opening of the Mediterranean and the Suez has put an altogether new face on the war; Palestine has played its not insignificant role."



PRESS RELEASE FROM

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ORTHODOX JEWRY  
FOR PALESTINE AND RESCUE

Offices: 41 East 42nd Street - New York 17, N. Y.  
Telephone Murray Hill 2-6137-8

[January 31, 1944] 33

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIX HUNDRED ORTHODOX RABBIS ISSUE MANIFESTO CALLING  
FOR JEWISH COMMONWEALTH IN PALESTINE

HEAR VAN PAASSEN URGE CREATION OF JEWISH STATE AT  
CLOSING SESSION OF CONFERENCE

New York — Six hundred orthodox Rabbis and 1200 delegates to the National Conference of Orthodox Jewry for Palestine and Rescue last night issued a Manifesto at the closing session of the Conference, held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, calling upon "the Free World, and in particular upon America and Great Britain" to assist in the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. The Manifesto urged the two governments to "erase the stain of the White Paper from the shield of the United Nations and keep wide open the doors of Palestine to the tormented and uprooted Jews of Europe."

By approving the declaration, the delegates placed the support of American Orthodox Jewry behind the drive for the abrogation of the British White Paper of 1939 which will close the doors of Palestine to new Jewish immigration after March 31st.

Hailing President Roosevelt for creating the War Refugee Board, the Manifesto declared that "the conscience of the Free World, confronted by other crimes perpetrated by the enemy in many lands and against many peoples has failed to apprehend the enormity and uniqueness of his crime against the Jewish people," and added that the "United Nations have so far failed to implement measures of rescue which, notwithstanding all the obstacles, are still practicable and by which hundreds of

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thousands of innocent lives could have been saved."

Declaring that "the treatment meted out to the Jews has often been called the measuring rod of that country's civilization," Pierre van Paassen climaxed his 45-minute address with a challenge to democracy's leaders. "How do the United Nations propose to treat the Jews who escape the holocaust of war?" demanded Mr. van Paassen. "How do they propose to solve the unsolved Jewish question today or when hostilities cease?"

"The ideals of the problems of Israel have been hovering in the unattainable clouds of abstraction long enough," continued van Paassen. "They must be brought down to earth within the realm of metaphysical speculation. The ideals of the Prophets must be translated into concrete human relationships, into new national and international covenants, into freedom for India, freedom for China and freedom for Arabia, and into a Jewish state in Palestine."

Herman Shulman, chairman of the Rescue Commission of the American Jewish Conference, revealed at yesterday afternoon's sessions that "immediately upon the creation of the Commission on Rescue of the Conference, it was felt we should urge our Government to create a Refugee Board which would deal with all refugee problems but which would give special attention to the problems confronting European Jewry."

Mr. Shulman also revealed that license has been granted for the use of funds and personnel in occupied territories for both feeding and evacuation. "This followed months of negotiation," he said, "by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and other representatives of the American Jewish Conference with the State and Treasury Departments and other government bureaus."

"Directives have already gone out to all of our ambassadors and to other State Department representatives asking them to make immediate reports concerning

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the situations in the various countries in which they are serving.. and directing them to do everything in their power to facilitate the work of rescue, both with respect to evacuation and feeding," Mr. Shulman reported.

"The Rescue Commission of the Conference has submitted to various Government officials specific proposals and is now engaged in formulating a comprehensive program of action," he said.

J. David Delman, president of the National Council of Young Israel, chairman of the closing session, described Palestine as a haven of rescue for Jewish souls as well as bodies. "If we demand unlimited immigration into Palestine," said Mr. Delman, if we demand the utter destruction of the principles which governed the infamous White Paper, we have in mind not only the physical reconstruction of the land of Israel, but the rebirth of that one place on the entire face of the earth where the true embodiment of the laws, the teachings, and the principles of the Torah is possible."

The Conference passed a resolution expressing its gratitude to the sponsors of the Wright-Compton resolution introduced in Congress last week, and which calls upon the United States of America 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, so that the Jewish people may ultimately reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. "It is our fervent hope," read the resolution, "that this resolution will receive the unanimous support of the Congress of the United States."

The leaders of American Orthodox Jewry aligned themselves wholeheartedly with the American Zionist Emergency Council and expressed their confidence "in the vigorous political efforts conducted in the United States by the Zionist leadership, which has scored numerous triumphs in gaining better understanding of the major solution of the world Jewish problem." Their statement reads: "The National Conference of Orthodox Jewry, having met under the impact of Jewish tragedy in Nazified European lands, which calls for immediate acts of rescue and human mercy,... records, herewith, its

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unequivocal alignment with the American Zionist Emergency Council and extends its wholehearted approval of their lead in the fight against the White Paper and for the eventual giving to Palestine the status of a Jewish Commonwealth."

The Conference also extended its "simultaneous support for the American Jewish Conference, the most representative body of the American Jewish Community, which has spoken with clarity and almost unanimous approval on the rescue of the Jewish people of Europe, on their post-war reconstruction, and on the implementation of Jewish rights to Palestine."

The Orthodox Jewish leaders were vehement in their "repudiation" of the American Council for Judaism, charging that they are "but the bewildered and dis-oriented fringe divorced from their people's past and inspired, not by the agony and hope of their people. We are confident that our fellow-citizens of all faiths, whose sympathy and good-will for the restoration of the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine have been amply demonstrated, will not be misled by the blatant claims of those who are alien to the historic faith and spirit of Judaism."



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FOR PALESTINE AND RESCUE

Offices: 41 East 42nd Street - New York 17, N. Y.  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIERRE VAN PAASSEN CHARGES LEADERS OF AMERICAN JEWISH  
COMMITTEE ARE "DOING HITLER'S WORK"

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New York -- Speaking before 1200 delegates to the National Conference of Orthodox Jewry for Palestine and Rescue, Pierre Van Paassen, noted author and authority on Palestine, charged Judge Joseph H. Proskauer and the leaders of the American Jewish Committee with arousing "a storm of anti-Jewish sentiment in this country." His address was delivered at the closing session of the Conference at the Hotel Pennsylvania on January 31st.

"They are denouncing Zionists, as Naumann, the Jew, once denounced Jews to Hitler in Germany," Mr. Van Paassen said. "They are doing Hitler's work. They are saying, in effect, that after all, there are some bad Jews, and therefore perhaps anti-Semitism is justified."

While declaring that they may not be aware of the terrible consequences of their program, Mr. Van Paassen asserted that "these prominent substantial Jews for whom Mr. Proskauer says he speaks, and whom he says he represents, are as much fomenters of anti-Jewish sentiment as Coughlin or Patrick Scanlan in Brooklyn, or the Mobilizers."

Mr. Van Paassen warned the delegates that the American Jewish Committee must not be taken too lightly, for although they are small numerically, they are strong financially and politically and "they have the ear of public opinion to a far greater extent than we." For this reason, he explained, the "unsuspecting and non too inquisitive non-Jew, by all the pronouncements and declarations and statements that

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are being made in the public press, may well get the impression that the entire authority of the Torah and the Prophets is vested in the American Jewish Committee and Mr. Proskauer."

Judge Proskauer seeks to imply that all Zionists who insist on maintaining natural historical and cultural distinctions of a people are guilty of "disloyalty to America, are subversive creatures, and an unassimilable element," said Mr. Van Paassen. "These words are being accompanied by declarations of 100 percent Americanism. But it is neither Americanism nor religion which explains this man. The average non-Jew who pays the slightest attention to these matters, to these ardent and out-of-season professions of patriotism, at once feels uneasy about it. He sees psychopancy, an obsequiousness, a crawling. His suspicions are aroused, or he is filled with a sense of spiritual nausea, as happens to be the matter in my case.

"All this speaking about patriotism, this self-righteous pounding of a desk, these floods of unction and sonority to which we are treated periodically by the American Jewish Committee and its baby incubus, the American Council for Judaism, derive from a mixture of self-glorification and self-effacement, self-hatred and fear. Their very conduct brings suspicion, confusion, uneasiness and anti-Semitism," added Mr. Van Paassen.

He charged further that the American Jewish Committee has become more vociferous of late because it sees in the work of the Palestine community a bidding to the world to support the cause of a Jewish State. "When they saw the Yishuv rise up as one man and step forward to the side of Great Britain in the hour of the Empire's greatest peril, showing unmistakably to all the world that Israel has regained full nationhood, that he is again standing with his own feet on his own soil and is no longer a pale ghost in the corridors of history, a beggar at the door of this or that great power, but that he is again Israel - working, building, bleeding, fighting, dying, in his own name and for his own sake and his own land - when they saw that, then the hearts and bones of these men turned to water. They became afraid.

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"In the face of this Palestinian display of spiritual and cultural strength, and with the precious aid rendered to Great Britain and to the cause of the United Nations, which unquestionably saved thousands upon thousands of American lives, by the presence in North Africa of Jewish units which go on saving thousands of American lives, by the presence of sixty Palestinian fighting units in Italy, with all that, the American Jewish Committee is still willing to say to the Gentiles, 'We have nothing to do with that kind of people'."

"What kind of Americanism, what kind of patriotism is that?" demanded Mr. Van Paassen. "Their acts and their words spring from fear, not from any patriotic or religionist sentiments. Fear alone accounts for their attempts to disassociate themselves from other Jews ... They clamor for the security of their own position - not their religious position, for they haven't got any - nor are they patriotic, because their patriotism is merely a frantic attachment to one certain method of production, which happens to have gained them wealth."

"How sick must have become the spirit of Israel in the Golan, when you have men who are willing to betray and hand over their own kith and kin. If I were a Jew, I would be ashamed to be of the same flesh as they."

Mr. Van Paassen paid high tribute to the accomplishments of the Jewish fighting units in North Africa, asserting that when the fate of Britain hung in the balance when the Arab world stood ready to stab Britain in the back, it was the Jews of Palestine who came to her rescue. "Without the industries and agriculture of Palestine, without Jewish Palestine, in that grave hour for the British Empire, Britain would have gone down to defeat. Rommel would have broken through."

He lauded the accomplishments of Palestinian colonizers "who came there not to trample on anyone" and "refused to play the game of blood and guile at the expense of the Arab peoples. The Jews have taken nothing from the Arabs, nothing but their poverty and their diseases," he said.

Declaring that United Nations' leaders are not waiting for the war to end

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but are shaping the post-war world at this time, Mr. Van Paassen urged American Jews to fight for a Jewish Commonwealth now. Although some progress has been made in that direction, he said, "Jews should not feel smug and self-satisfied and think the battle has been won, because the struggle lies ahead. The days that stand before us are not days of quietude and peace, but they are going to be days of hard, incessant battle, of struggle. The water may come up to our very lips."

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#36-2/4/44





PRESS RELEASE FROM  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ORTHODOX JEWRY  
FOR PALESTINE AND RESCUE  
Offices: 41 East 42nd Street - New York 17, N. Y.  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORTHODOX CONFERENCE URGES WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO  
SET UP AGENCIES IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

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APPEALS FOR SPECIAL RELIEF MEASURES

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New York -- Hailing the creation by President Roosevelt of the War Refugee Board, the Commission on Rescue of the National Conference of Orthodox Jewry for Palestine and Rescue, meeting here on January 31st, recommended the establishment of official refugee agencies in neutral countries to provide effective cooperation with the Board.

The Commission cited the new agency as "a recognition on the part of the great democracy of the United States of her moral and humanitarian obligations to play a leading part in the immediate program of rescuing innocent victims of persecution."

In its official statement, the Commission commended the Jews to the consideration and relief measures of the neutral countries, the UNRRA, and the governments-in-exile, declaring that the "Godless enemy has destroyed every trace of religious life in the land she has occupied. Some 5,000 Jewish communities and their institutions have been wiped out. Their rabbis and leaders have been murdered, imprisoned, or deported. More than 15,000 synagogues and houses of prayer have been demolished. Hundreds of religious schools, Yeshivas and seminaries have been destroyed.

"The speedy rebuilding of these institutions is a vital necessity for the

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desperate and tormented Jewish people. The help of the UNRRA in this field will be of very great importance for the restoration of Jewish life, and will undoubtedly be approved by all men of good will in every land."

The statement also appealed to the United Nations to broadcast official warnings of retribution against the Axis and their satellites in regard to "the crimes they are committing against defenseless Jews" and called upon "all men of good-will to extend all possible aid to the persecuted Jews."

The Commission urged the War Refugee Board "to send or to make possible the transportation of food and medicines for the survivors of the ghettos, concentration camps and labor depots where the Jews are faced with the danger of perishing from starvation and epidemics by reason of the special cruel discriminations exercised in those places against the Jews."

Chairman of the Seminar on Rescue was Moses H. Hoemig of New York City and Mr. Samuel L. Sar, Dean of Men, Yeshiva College acted as Vice-Chairman. Rabbi Max J. Wohlgelehter of Detroit served as Secretary.



## RABBI WOLF GOLD'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS

We are very happy indeed to greet the delegates, great rabbis, and important leaders of local communities, assembled here as representatives of hundreds of thousands of Jews all over the United States, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, who came to this great religious conference for Palestine and Rescue.

Our purpose for calling this conference is a double one. First to endeavor to rescue the remnant of Israel, threatened by the dark forces of Nazi Germany with complete annihilation. Secondly, to bring to the attention of our own government, as well as to the governments of the United Nations, that the only solution to the Jewish problem as well as to the problem of Judaism, is the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in the land of our fathers.

We are very fortunate, indeed, that on the eve of the opening of our conference, two great historical events took place. First, our great humanitarian President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, announced the appointment by him of a committee consisting of the most important members of his Cabinet, namely, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Secretary of War Henry Stimson, and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau for the purpose of rescuing the Jewish people from complete extermination. The second event that took place only a few days ago, was a resolution brought before the Congress of the United States by very important members of the House asking Congress to reaffirm the joint resolution that was adopted unanimously by both Houses in the days of President Harding, to which the President of the United States put his signature, and to ask the British Government to abrogate the White Paper, threatening to close the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration and to help in the establishment of the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine as it was originally intended by the Balfour Declaration.

It is now our privilege and opportunity to express our view on this most important resolution that we hope will be again adopted unanimously by the Congress and signed by our great beloved President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The right of Jewry to Palestine does not date from November 2nd, 1917, on which day was first published the Balfour Declaration. This important declaration



was not the cause of Jewish claim for the rights to Palestine, but the consequence of a previous right, and ancient one, which has been in existence and preserved from generation to generation. The age of this right is the history of Jewry itself. Its source is the Bible, Israel's Book of Books, which is sanctified and revered by the entire world.

Israel is an old people. It has made unperishable and indispensable contribution to mankind. It is difficult to imagine human society without the tempering and nobling and inspiring influence of the Bible and the Divine words of the Prophets. Particularly is this true of a society such as of the United States, a Democracy founded on the very principles and precepts of the Holy Book. The psalms of David, to this day, form an essential and inspiring part of the service in practically all houses of worship. The great religions by which men live have nursed of the breast of their mother faith, the religion of Israel.

Can a religious society, regardless of denomination, permit this historic, eternal people to perish? Such an act would be definitely Ungodly, and would do violence to any religious tradition.

Those who believe in the immutability and eternity of the word of God, will remember the promise made by Him through Malachai "For I, the Lord, change not, and ye, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."

All right thinking Americans will agree, that a nation can lead a normal existence only in its homeland, where it can work and create, and make its contribution to the family of nations, uninterrupted and unhindered by external influences. This is particularly true of the Jewish people, which has always guided itself by the light of the Holy Torah, and conceived of land, nation, and faith as an indivisible entity.

The Earl of Balfour, author of the Balfour Declaration, in his introduction to Sokolow's History of Zionism, shows deep understanding of this point. That eminent statesman, scholar and philosopher, great student of Holy Script, writes among others, the following:



"The position of the Jew is unique. For them, race, religion and country, are interrelated, as they are interrelated in the case of no other race, no other religion, and no other country on earth. In no other case are the believers in one of the greatest religions of the world to be found speaking broadly, only among the members of a single, small people. In the case of no other religion is its past development so intimately bound up with the long political history of a petty territory, wedged in between states more powerful than it could ever be. In the case of no other religion are its aspirations and hopes expressed in language and imagery so utterly dependent for their meaning on the conviction that only from this one land only through this one history, only by this one people, is its full religious knowledge to spread to all the world.

"By a strange and most unhappy fate, it is this people of all others, which retained to the full its racial self-consciousness, has been severed from its home, has wandered into all lands, and has nowhere been able to create for itself an organized social commonwealth. Only Zionism can prove some mitigation of this great tragedy."

My dear fellow delegates. To our profound regrets, deep shame and disgrace, we find to-day, among our own Jewish people, a group who wear the Rabbinical cloth, in disguise, who proclaim themselves as a council for Judaism, who dare to disclaim the Jewish right to nationhood, and its claim for the restoration of the Jewish Commonwealth in the land of our Fathers.

Some members of Congress are alas under the impression that those renegades, who severed their connections long ago with Jewish tradition and religious practices, they who desecrate the Sabbath, the most precious boon granted by God to the people of Israel, they who violate the Jewish Dietary Laws, and all other customs in Israel now come to deny shamelessly one of the thirteen principles of the Jewish religion, are representing the Jewish people.

It is the duty of this great assembly of religious men and women, representing hundred of thousands of organized religious Jews in the United States, to bring



to the attention of our government that those individuals represent nobody but themselves and a small group of assimilated Jews who are ashamed of their people, history and culture, they who would like to see the Jewish national existence obliterated and passed into oblivion.

The Jewish masses, however, have always guarded and reenforced their historic connections with the Holy Land. If we were forced to leave the land itself, the idea of our return to it, as its rightful owners, was ever present in our minds. When the Jew prays, he turns his face Eastward, to the land of his fathers. When he is brought to his eternal rest, a few grains of Palestinian soil are placed in his grave. In all his prayers he remembers the Land of Israel, always mindful of the oath taken by the first exiles: "If I forget thee, o Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning. Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I remember thee not. If I set not Jerusalem above my chiefest joys". This inseparable connection between the Land of Israel and the people of Israel was universally accepted. The preamble of the Palestine Mandate, with which Great Britain was entrusted, after quoting the Balfour Declaration, continues: "Recognition is hereby given to the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and to the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country."

The Balfour Declaration, therefore, meant to the majority of the Jewish people, excluding the few assimilationists, a sign of heaven, that God took pity upon scattered Israel and reawakened the consciousness of the better members of the human race, and they are endeavoring to correct an ancient wrong and are trying to restore the people of Israel to the Land of Israel.

No wonder, our dissatisfaction was very keen when the White Paper, that aims to crystalize the Jewish National Homeland in Palestine and shut its gates in the face of the Jewish people, just at the time when they are passing through the greatest tragedy in their history, when they are most in need of a haven of refuge, was adopted by the British Parliament.

On May 23rd, 1939, a debate on the White Paper took place in the House of Commons in London. I was privileged to be present as a guest of an M.P. on the



balcony of the House of Commons, while the Right Honorable Winston Churchill spoke.

I shall never forget the profound impression his words made on me. I felt that the great genuine, true friend of our suffering people was pleading our cause most eloquently and most convincingly.

I shall always remember the words with which he began his argument:

"I feel bound to vote against the proposal of His Majesty's Government, as one intimately and responsibly concerned in the early stages of our Palestine Policy. I cannot stand by and see solemn engagements into which Britain has entered before the world, set aside for reasons of administrative conveniences or for the sake of a quiet life. I should feel personally embarrassed, in the most acute manner, if I lent myself, by silence, or inaction, to what, I must regard as an act of repudiation. I was, from the beginning a sincere advocate of the Balfour Declaration and I have made repeated public statements to that effect. Hardly any step was taken with greater deliberation and responsibility. The War Cabinet with special pain and care, explored the entire situation. Not only did the War Cabinet of those days take that decision, but all Cabinets of every party after the War, after examining it in the varying circumstances which have arisen, had endorsed the decision and took the fullest responsibility for it.

"It was also endorsed in the most cordial and enthusiastic terms by many of the ablest British diplomats. It was endorsed, from the very beginning, by my Right Honorable friend, the Prime Minister, referring to the late Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain."

Mr. Churchill, then made apologies for going back as far as twenty years ago, and continued:

"We are dealing with a matter which affects the history of two or three thousands years. Therefore there is no reason why the continuity of opinion should not be displayed."

He then reminded his predecessor, the late Chamberlain, of what he wrote on the 13th of October, 1918:



"The sympathy of the British Government with Zionist aspirations does not date from yesterday. My father was anxious to find a territory, within the limits of the British Constitution. To-day the opportunity has come. I have no hesitation in saying that were my father alive to-day, he would be among the first to welcome the responsibility of private members with that exercised by Ministers of the Crown, or by the head of the Government, nevertheless, I think, when all is said and done, that Zionists have a right to look to the Prime Minister, to stand by them in the days of his power. They have a special right to look to him, because he was not only given the fact to his own deep conviction, but was carrying forward the large concept of his father, whose memory he reveres and whose renown he revived. I was not a member of the War Cabinet, in the days when this pledge was given. I was serving under it as a high functionary. That was the position of Secretary of State for the Colonies. I found myself in entire agreement with those sentiments so well expressed by the Prime Minister and his friends when they were sending in their memorial.

"The fact that they are leading ministers to-day, should, I think, have gained for the problem of Palestine, a more considerate and more sympathetic treatment than it has received."

My fellow delegates. I quote the words of Mr. Churchill in order to prove that in his own opinion, a statement made by a Prime Minister during a period when he was not yet in the capacity of head of the State, cannot be ignored by him when he reaches that height and power. I shall never forget how Mr. Churchill roared like a lion, and cried out:

"I regret, very much, that the pledge of the Balfour Declaration, endorsed as it has been, by successive governments, and the condition under which we have obtained the Mandate, have both been violated by the Governments proposal of the White Paper. We must ask ourselves, can we strengthen ourselves by this repudiation? Can we relieve ourselves by this repudiation? What will the world think about it? What will be the opinion of the United States of America? Shall we not lose more? This is a question to be considered naturally in the growing support and sympathy of the United States?"



You notice, my dear friends, that Mr. Churchill, in those days, felt positive that the United States of America, will never give its consent to such a shameful act and the black White Paper would create feelings of distrust in the hearts and minds of the people and government of the United States, to the people and government of Great Britain.

If Mr. Churchill, in those days, spoke of the vast unhappy mass of scattered, persecuted and wandering Jews, what terms could he use now in reference to a people slaughtered like sheep, when the entire Jewish people of Europe are threatened with complete annihilation, when millions of Jews have been murdered, thousands upon thousands driven by force to gas chambers to meet a miserable death, when thousands upon thousands are forced to dig their own graves to be buried alive, when Jewish houses of worship are burned, when great institutions of learning are destroyed, and Jewish scholars driven like wild beasts through the prairies and marshlands of Poland. If Mr. Churchill, in those days, reproached his predecessor for not standing by the unfortunate suffering Jews, and does not make good his promise to them, solemnly made by him during the days before he reached the position of Prime Minister, he, as a man of honor, and pure character, certainly could not stand his self-reproach and would not forget those arguments he offered in the House of Commons in the year 1939.

It is therefore, within the rights of our Government to adopt the newly proposed resolution reaffirming the resolution adopted unanimously by both Houses in the days of President Harding, and make clear to the British Government that America adheres now, as it did in previous days, to the Balfour Declaration, considers the White Paper an illegal document and demands the establishment of the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine.

My fellow delegates. There is no doubt in my mind, that it was the original intention of the British Government, during the time of the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, to establish a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. This was clearly expressed by Mr. Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Great Britain during the First World War, as he is quoted by the Royal Commission:



"It was contemplated that when the time arrived for according representative institutions in Palestine, if the Jews have meanwhile responded to the opportunity afforded them by the idea of a National Home, and have become a definite majority of its inhabitants, then Palestine would thus become a Jewish Commonwealth."

This statement is in full agreement with the statement made by President Woodrow Wilson, who said to an American Zionist delegation:

"I am persuaded that the Allied Nations, with the fullest concurrence of our own government and people, are agreed that in Palestine shall be laid the foundation of a Jewish Commonwealth."

Lord Harlech, while addressing the Permanent Mandates Commission, of the League of Nations, as a credited British representative in 1937, stated that:

"The establishment of an independent sovereign Jewish State certainly was the conception in Lord Balfour's mind."

It was on this basis that the joint resolution, endorsing the Balfour Declaration, was unanimously adopted by both Houses of Congress during President Harding's administration. This resolution was reaffirmed since then by every President of the United States, including our present Chief Executive, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Fellow delegates. An opportunity which is rare is now before us to bring our righteous claim to the attention of our democratic government that there is no other solution to the Jewish problem outside of the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth, for even if the war will come soon to a victorious end, as we hope it will, and some of our Jewish brethren will be repatriated in the lands from where they were driven, no one can give assurance that discrimination against the Jews will not reoccur. We know from sad experience that many of the nations have granted their Jewish inhabitants full citizenship and equal rights and minority rights, the same as were granted to other minorities in those lands, and it was reaffirmed by the League of Nations, nevertheless, it did not last very long and soon after we learned of many discriminations against Jews and even massacres and murder in cold



blood against our brethern. Not only were the Jewish people attacked, but a violent assault was also made on the Jewish religion, and the Jewish method of slaughtering cattle and fowl, was declared inhuman, while the same governments paid no attention to the inhuman acts against the Jewish citizens of their countries. They endeavored, by such false accusations against the Law of God to take away the morsel of food from the mouths of the poor Jewish masses by prohibiting Shechitah. It also became impossible for the Jews of those countries to keep their Sabbath as commanded by the God of Israel, because they were forced, unjustly, to keep another day of rest prescribed by the religion of the Government. The life of the Jew as a minority in those countries became unbearable, and when the Jew raised his voice and cried to the free democracies for help, the answer came, "We cannot interfere with the internal affairs of other governments." Even when Nazi Germany began to slaughter the Jews of that country, no one dared to interfere. It was also considered an internal affair of a foreign power. No one is in a position to give guarantee to secure Jewish life and property to the Jews in exile.

Therefore, there is no other solution outside of the realization of the Jewish Commonwealth. It is not, however, on humanitarian grounds alone, nor on the Balfour Declaration alone, that our claim for a Jewish Commonwealth must be based. The Declaration of God is our real foundation. We must make our appeal to the people and Government of the United States, on the grounds of the sacred promise made by God to Israel through his Prophets, that is sacred to the people and government of the United States.

America, the land of the free, whose Pilgrim fathers escaped from religious persecution, and came to these shores with the Holy Bible in their hands, chanting the Psalms of Judah's King David, the American Government, whose Constitution and Bill of Rights, was written in the spirit of the Prophets of Israel, America, that and the Liberty Bell, that is still standing as the most sacred of relics of American history, in the Hall of Independence in the city of Brotherly Love, bearing the inscription of a sentence from Leviticus, in Israel's Holy Bible: "And ye shall



proclaim liberty throughout the land, to all the inhabitants thereof." America, and its government, we expect will jointly, with Great Britain, under the leadership of the righteous and just, honorable gentleman, Prime Minister Churchill, recognize again, our righteous claim to our historical homeland. Britain will abrogate the White Paper, and remove the blot from its history, and together, once and for all, they will come to the conclusion that the Jewish problem must be finally and definitely solved, not patched up, but radically solved, that Israel shall no more fall as a prey to its enemies, and the nation to whom God granted eternal life, and made His messenger, to spread His like all over the world, shall again be restored to nationhood upon its ancient sacred soil, and out of Zion shall come Torah and the word of God from Jerusalem.

Fellow delegates, it is our real purpose to comply with the words of the Prophet Isaiah. "For the sake Zion will I not be silent and for the sake of Jerusalem will I not be quiet, until its righteousness go forth as the brightness of light and the salvation as a burning torch."

