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Public opinion, miscellaneous, 1944.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

VICE PRESIDENT

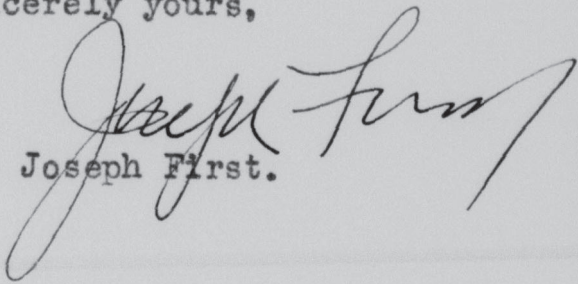
January 27, 1944.

Dr. Jacob Billikopf,
805 Bankers Securities Building,
13th & Juniper Streets,
Philadelphia, 7, Pa.

My dear Doctor Billikopf:

I know you would want to have
called to your attention the lead editorial appearing
in today's issue of The Philadelphia Inquirer enclosed
herewith.

Sincerely yours,


Joseph First.

EDITORIAL FROM THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
of January 27th, 1944.

A Wrong That Should Be Righted

In the interest of justice, humanitarianism and world stabilization the British Government should reconsider immediately the British White Paper of 1939 under which Palestine would be closed to Jewish immigration on March 31 of this year.

In bringing this vitally important matter to the attention of the Philadelphia Zionist Organization and American citizens in general, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, has performed a public service.

The case against the White Paper is clear. Issued almost five years ago when war with the Axis appeared near, and denounced at that time by a number of prominent Britons, including Winston Churchill, now Prime Minister, it amounted to a surrender to Arab demands to put an end to the Jewish National Home in Palestine, under British mandate since 1920.

There can be no question that Britain's appeasement policy, which had reached its perfect flowering at Munich in the fall of 1938, was the dominant influence behind the White Paper, obviously directed toward winning the good will of the Arab tribesmen and restraining them from giving support to the Axis Powers.

Whatever the Arabs' demands upon the British and against the Jewish homeland at that time, the record shows that serious trouble between the Jews and Arabs in Palestine did not occur until the Arabs had been incited to opposition by agents of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

The point about all of this is that the circumstances under which the White Paper ruled an end to Jewish immigration into Palestine after March, 1944; restricted land purchase by Jews in Palestine and provided for ultimate establishment of an independent Palestine State in which Jews should constitute not more than a third of the population, no longer exist.

The Axis menace is being crushed by United Nations arms. The Allies' major lines of communication no longer run through Arab territories. Whether or not British appeasement of the Arabs had any justification in 1939, it has none in 1944.

When this war is over Europe's starving, oppressed, tortured millions must have relief and rehabilitation. Among those millions will be thousands of Jews to whom the Palestine homeland, creation of which was approved by the United States in 1922, should be available for a new start in life.

The British Government, without further delay, should rescind the White Paper of 1939 and remove its shameful threat to the continued growth and development of the Jewish National Home.