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American Zionist Policy Committee, Lewisohn Stadium rally,
1945.

APR 21 1945

WE BESEECH THEE-HEAR US...



IS *THIS* THE PROMISED LAND?

OPEN THE GATES!

RESCUE THE LIVING!

Join the Appeal to the Conscience of Mankind and to
the Nations of the World Assembled in San Francisco

Now Is the Time! The Case of the Jewish People—5,000,000 Dead,
2,000,000 Begging for Life—Must Be Heard

Rally for Palestine

LEWISOHN STADIUM
136th Street and Amsterdam Avenue

SUNDAY, APRIL 29th
at 2:30 P.M.

— Sponsored by —

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE
CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON PALESTINE

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PROGRAM

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American Zionist Emergency Council, 342 Madison Avenue, New York

JOIN US IN OUR DEMAND TO OPEN THE GATES OF PALESTINE
JOIN US IN OUR DEMAND FOR A JEWISH COMMONWEALTH

file

ADDRESS BY BENJAMIN FIELDING, STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OF THE AMERICAN LABOR PARTY, AT THE RALLY FOR PALESTINE,
LEWISOHN STADIUM, SUNDAY, APRIL 29th, 1945, SPONSORED BY
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE, AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY
COUNCIL, AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE AND CHRISTIAN COUNCIL
ON PALESTINE.

The eyes of the liberty-loving peoples of the world are today focused on the San Francisco Conference of the United Nations in a prayer that out of these deliberations will come new world principles of thought and action which will insure to men, women and children of all races, colors, religions and creeds the promise of the Four Freedoms of the Atlantic Charter and their implementation by the Congress of the United States.

Among the many problems that still call for solution by the Conference is the unquestionable determination of the peoples of the world to erect a formula of guarantees designed to permanently destroy anti-democratic forces throughout the world.

A principal concern is the need to establish political, economic and educational conditions to prevent oppression towards any minority peoples and to provide for the equality of rights of minority peoples.

We must build on this firm basis of elementary justice in order to erect the pillars of law and order in the firm structure of a world peace organization.

There is no need to review what has already been indelibly written in history on the tragic plight of the Jewish people. They, like other minority races, have suffered under the heel of the Nazi oppression.

Nearly six million Jews have perished in the cauldron of war, plague, famine and torture.

The Jewish problem should no longer be entangled in the cross-currents of international politics and economics. The Jewish problem today is a humanitarian problem which calls for an immediate solution by the conscience of all mankind.

In building a future for the Jewish people and other minority peoples, the peace-loving countries of the world will acknowledge the inalienable right of every individual to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The American Labor Party of the State of New York urges that the following action be taken at the San Francisco Conference of the United Nations and implemented by the Congress of the United States:

I. ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT:

1. That the Charter of the United Nations to be formulated at San Francisco include an International Bill of Rights providing, among other matters, for the enforcement, by political and economic means, of the equal rights of all minority groups in each country throughout the world.

2. That specific arrangements be made at the San Francisco Conference for the following matters:

- a. to provide for the immediate rescue, shelter and rehabilitation of the surviving remnants of the Jews in Europe.
- b. to provide for the lifting of all immigration restrictions against Jews to enter Palestine and the unequivocal cancellation of the White Paper Policy.
- c. to provide for the establishment of Palestine as a democratic Jewish Commonwealth and the full implementation of the Balfour Declaration, the Mandate for Palestine, and the Anglo-American Convention of 1924.

II. ON THE HOME FRONT:

1. Adoption by the present Congress of the Palestine Resolutions (HR 418, 419 and SR 247) previously before the 78th Congress to give positive expression to the will of the people of our country to assist in the rescue and rehabilitation of Jews and the establishment of Palestine as a National Jewish Commonwealth along democratic principles.

2. Adoption by the Congress of the Dickstein Resolution (House Concurrent Res. 35) opposing and denouncing anti-semitism.

3. Enactment of the Lynch Bill (H.R. 2328) barring the use of the mails to any material containing defamatory or false matter relating to any race or religion.

4. Enactment of a national permanent FEPC to prevent any person from being discriminated against for the purposes of employment, because of race, color, creed or national origin.

5. Reorganization of all our educational curriculums so as to provide for all students, in all levels of study, courses in racial and religious freedom and cooperation.

In cooperation with other democratic forces, the American Labor Party pledges its unqualified support towards the full achievement of this program.



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APRIL 29, 1945

file

RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE
AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
NEW YORK CITY

TODAY AS THE ALLIED ARMIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOREVER FREE THE PEOPLES OF THE ENSLAVED NATIONS FROM THE BRUTAL CLUTCHES OF THE NAZI AGGRESSORS, IT IS THE OPPORTUNITY AND DUTY OF ALL MEN OF GOODWILL TO SEE THAT THE SURVIVORS OF THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF EUROPE AND THE REST OF THE WORLD WIN THE BATTLE FOR LIBERTY IN THE DAYS TO COME. THEY MUST WIN THE SUBSTANCE -- NOT MERELY THE HOLLOW SHELL OF MILITARY TRIUMPH. THE NAZI OPPRESSORS WILL SOON BE GONE BUT MANY OF THEIR VICTIMS WILL WISH NEVER TO RETURN TO THE SCENES WHERE THEY WERE ABUSED, IMPRISONED, TORTURED, WHERE THEIR FAMILIES WERE KILLED. WE HAVE A SACRED OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE FOR THEM OPPORTUNITY FOR SANCTUARY FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT, ^{AND} /TO SECURE THE WORLD AGAINST OPPRESSIONS. IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE FOR THE CAUSE OF WORLD PEACE THAT THE UNFORTUNATE PERSECUTED AND HOMELESS JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE BE RECOGNIZED AS HUMAN BEINGS ENTITLED TO LIFE AND DIGNITY AND THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. I HAVE LONG VIGOROUSLY CHAMPIONED AND BELIEVE THAT ACTION SHOULD NO LONGER WAIT FOR THE OPENING OF PALESTINE TO THE UNLIMITED IMMIGRATION AND LAND OWNERSHIP OF THE MILLIONS OF DISTRESSED JEWS. IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT THEIR PROBLEMS MUST BE ON THE CURRENT AGENDA OF ALL INTERNATIONAL DELIBERATIONS. THEIR REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE INVITED TO PLEAD THEIR CAUSE.

(SIGNED) THOMAS E. DEWEY

RESOLUTION

ADOPTED AT RALLY FOR JEWISH RIGHTS
LEWISOHN STADIUM, NEW YORK CITY
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 1945

We greet the Conference of the United Nations about to assemble in San Francisco to lay the foundations of a lasting peace; we join in prayer with all liberty-loving Americans that the aspirations of civilized mankind for a new world order that shall respect the dignity of man and assure to all peoples the right to live in peace and security may be realized.

WHEREAS, the solution of the problem of the homelessness of the Jews as a people is integral to the establishment of a just and durable peace and the nations of the world gave international recognition at the end of the last war through the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate for Palestine to the right of the Jewish people to re-establish their national home in Palestine.

WHEREAS, the situation of the survivors of European Jewry whose full tragedy has been revealed by our liberating forces continues calamitous, and

WHEREAS, great numbers of these survivors, homeless and uprooted, and living under conditions of physical and moral degradation seek the right and opportunity to begin life again among their own people in their own land, and

WHEREAS, ignoring the humanitarian needs of the situation as well as the rights internationally guaranteed to the Jewish people and these survivors of the Nazi holocaust are still today prohibited entry into Palestine, and groups of them are even being transferred to new detention camps in North Africa, and

WHEREAS, the recent request of the Jewish Agency for Palestine for additional immigration certificates has been rejected by the British Government thus prolonging unnecessarily the individual tragedy of every one of these persons.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this gathering urges:

1. The abolition forthwith of all present restrictions and limitations on free Jewish immigration into Palestine and on the right of Jews to purchase and settle on the land there.
2. The immediate announcement by the responsible Powers of their determination to reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth in consonance with the underlying intent and purpose of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate for Palestine.
3. The grant to the Jewish Agency for Palestine of representation and a voice in all international conferences, including that at San Francisco, in all matters which may affect the future status of Palestine and Jewish rights or interests there.

We also urge that the Jews in liberated areas who desire to emigrate to Palestine and to rebuild their lives in the Jewish National Home be given all possible assistance to that end by the Great Powers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of State, and to the Embassies in Washington of Great Britain, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of France.

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Speech by Louis Lipsky
At The Rally For Jewish Rights
Lewisohn Stadium, New York City
April 29, 1945

The American Jewish Conference, representing the overwhelming majority of American Jewry, calls upon the United Nations Conference to give consideration, in accordance with its procedures, to the following measures:

1. An International Bill of Rights.
2. Immediate restoration to Jews in Europe of all rights formerly guaranteed by constitutions and international treaties.
3. Outlawing of anti-Semitism as an instrument of national and international policy.
4. Punishment for crimes wherever committed by the Axis powers and their accomplices against the Jewish people.
5. United Nations' aid in relief and rehabilitation of Jews in a spirit of equality and equity.
6. Assistance from governmental and intergovernmental agencies in the resettlement of displaced Jews, regardless of their nationality or present place of residence.
7. Elimination of statelessness.
8. Restitution to Jews -- individuals and communities -- of their property losses caused by Axis expropriation, looting, destruction and forced sales; and reparations for general damages caused by the Axis to the Jewish people.
9. Opening of the doors of Palestine for free Jewish immigration and the reconstitution of that country as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.
10. Representation of the Jewish people for the purpose of advice and consultation concerning postwar Jewish needs, on the councils and agencies of the United Nations.

In the world-wide discussion of United Nations plans for the promotion of international justice and security, we, as Americans and as Jews, are impelled once more to ask for just consideration of the tragic position of the Jewish people and their vital interest in the postwar world.

American opinion has been advised not to expect from San Francisco anything more than the draft of a constitution.

It would be a stultification of the great cause for which millions have died if the first public assembly of free states, after the devastation which has impaired the foundations of modern civilization, were thus to ignore the mood and temper of the world and pass without comment or consideration the grievances that have to be registered, the injustices that must be protested, the universal conditions that make for peace or war, and would regard as relevant only the bare bones of a new world structure.

The Dumbarton Oaks proposals, influenced by what are called realistic considerations, sought to avoid the use of abstract principles and gave only passing expression to sentiments of justice and human rights. But the vital questions that press heavily upon the conscience of the world will not so easily be excluded from any international gathering for the adoption of the legal framework of a world organization or for any other purpose.

What the war was fought for cannot be waived aside on the ground that it may interfere with routine or convenience, or may provoke embarrassment.

The great army of the dead will be looking over the shoulders of the statesmen, admonishing them to live up to the ideals for which so many sacrifices have been made.

What is to be done to insure a brighter future for human rights; what kind of world is to be established; how peace and brotherhood and equality are to be achieved; what fundamental wrongs have to be considered before the proceedings begin -- must find a place in the record of San Francisco, even if it be not incorporated in final decisions.

When the roll was called at San Francisco this week, a basic question immediately arose, which goes beyond the rules of order: Ab initio, -- who are its members and who has a right to appear? The names of all states allied in the war (and present in San Francisco) have been called and their accredited delegates have received credentials. Even the names of states who sabotaged the war and remained enemies until the last day of grace (and who came to San Francisco with

pomp and colorful decorations) were called.

But the people who submit an international covenant, subscribed to by fifty-two nations, under which they were accorded recognition as a people; who, in the first act of the Hitler tragedy, appeared as disfranchised aliens, homeless and stateless, and were abandoned to their fate by the democratic world; who, in the second act, were a people in flight everywhere, stripped of dignity, everywhere hunted and destroyed, serving only as human barricades against the aggressor; and who, in the last act, were the victims of a mass extermination unparalleled in history -- this people have not been called. Their representatives are not present. There are no credentials for them. On the register of living peoples with rights and status, their name does not appear.

Nor will they be heard to present their bill of particulars -- who wronged them and how, what they ask to be done to repair injuries, to give them security and freedom. They are compelled to wander about in the lobbies, without identification, barred from entrance to official councils, passing their memoranda, sending letters to the authorities, seeking a friend at court to speak for them. Only that greatly wronged people have found every door closed, every window barred, every crevice sealed, and every legal technicality invoked to deny them the right to appear among the free peoples of the world and to speak on their own behalf.

* * *

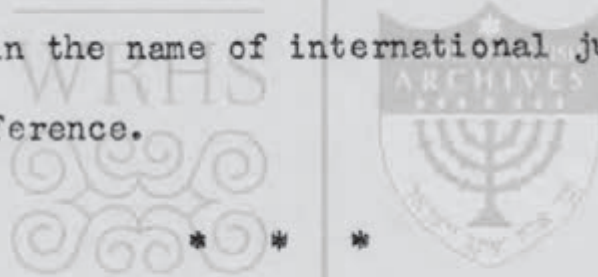
For twelve heartrending years the Jewish people have endured a systematic persecution that has moved with mounting speed and ferocity to a dreadful climax. Appeals for the rescue of the millions of Jews trapped in Europe were not heard by the Allied nations. Demands for the abrogation of the White Paper and the opening of the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration received only a formal hearing and a practical denial. Assurances have been given that when the war is over, it would be possible to consider the question. But the whole question of Jewry's suffering and survival has not as yet come within the range of the agenda of the nations gathered to establish a permanent peace.

It is repugnant to our sense of justice that the first formal step in the creation of a new world federation should, by indirection or omission, by legal definition, congeal a fundamental wrong which radically affects the status of a people.

The first League of Nations gave recognition to the historic association of the Jewish people with Palestine. The Jewish people were given the opportunity, under law, to set in motion the creation of their own self-governing state.

What the League of Nations approved and sanctioned, the trustee of the Mandate nullified by illegal action.

Against procedure which subordinates a fundamental human right to formal definition, which rules out in advance the right of a people to plead its own case, which establishes a people as an "outsider" in the society of peoples, this great assembly registers its protest and addresses itself to San Francisco, to take cognizance of this protest in the name of international justice, which is the declared purpose of the Conference.



File

For Release After 6:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 29, 1945.

Address by Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York
At Mass Rally for Jewish Rights under
Joint Auspices of American Jewish Conference and
American Zionist Emergency Council
Lewisohn Stadium, New York City, Sunday, April 29, 1945

We meet in an hour of great decisions. On the battlefields of the world, we are winning liberty by the sword. In the assemblies of San Francisco, we are working toward security by international organization.

For the victory which is now in sight mankind has paid a stupendous price -- in the lives of countless heroes, and the tortured bodies of Hitler's victims.

Our own Franklin D. Roosevelt gave his life so that out of the victory so dearly won may grow universal tranquility and international justice -- justice for all the peoples of the globe, the mighty and the weak, of every color and race and creed.

Justice for the monsters who started this war means retribution, stern and swift. Justice for the innocent sufferers of this war means restitution to the limit of human possibility.

In all the four corners of the world, men and women are urgently looking for a sign -- a sign which will indicate whether this great hope of justice will be realized, -- a sign to make certain that never again shall we experience bitter disillusionment, cynicism, selfishness and ghastly war.

Because Palestine is so small among the nations, -- because it has no power except the appeal to conscience, -- little Palestine is the sign and symbol of that hope, the touchstone of the world's integrity.

Twenty-five years ago, almost to the day, the Palestine Mandate was allotted to Great Britain. In 1920, when that historic event happened, we expected that we would assemble in 1945 to celebrate a grand international achievement. Instead, we meet today to protest its non-fulfillment.

What I shall say today is well known to everyone here. My real purpose is to address an audience beyond the sea, -- the brave people of Britain who are

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fighting this war against slavery and brutality, shoulder to shoulder with our own boys. I want to speak to the people of England because I have faith in their honor, in their sense of fair play. And I shall speak as one speaks to a friend: -- bluntly.

In this spirit, I say to our British friends and allies: "You have not fulfilled your obligation in Palestine. You are in default. The American people believe it is high time that you redeem your pledge."

Great Britain made at least three promises.

It promised to use its best endeavors to facilitate the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.

It promised to facilitate Jewish immigration into Palestine.

It promised to encourage close settlement by Jews on the land in Palestine.

It made these promises in writing, solemnly, in the name of His Britannic Majesty. In return for these promises, Britain received much. From the Allied Powers and the United States, it received the mandate to govern Palestine. From the Jews, it received a vast sacrifice of sweat and treasure which have converted that neglected wasteland into a Paradise. From the Jews, also, Britain received on a per capita basis an unexcelled outpouring of blood in this war, as Palestine became the Eastern bastion for the defense of Britain's life line.

But Britain has taken without giving in return. It has not facilitated Jewish immigration into Palestine. On the contrary, it has restricted and prevented immigration, even by the hunted refugees from the terror of Hitlerism. It has not encouraged Jewish settlement on the land. On the contrary, it has stripped Palestine of half its territory; and in the remainder has placed every conceivable obstacle in the way of land purchase by Jews. It has not used its best efforts to establish a national home for the Jewish people. On the contrary, it has frustrated that holy aspiration of the Jews.

I do not need to pronounce judgment on this record. Mr. Churchill called it a breach of faith.

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There is no defense to this indictment. Great Britain has at all times kept, and still keeps, the benefits she received from the Palestine Mandate. These benefits have multiplied. She has had previously the power to perform her promise. She never had that power more adequately than today.

The officials who today keep the doors of Palestine locked are British officials. The laws which obstruct Jewish land purchases are British laws. The power which is preventing the development of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine is British power.

We do not believe that England lacks the strength to perform its obligations. We do believe that its Palestinian policies are a tragic revival of the disease of appeasement.

Appeasement starts with little things, just as an avalanche starts with a faint, crackling noise. But those who do not hear that faint, fore-warning, those whose conscience is not quick to act at the first sign, are heedless of history since 1933. No one expects big aggressions shortly after this war. The world is too exhausted for that. But it is the world's reaction to smaller aggressions, upon the rights and liberties of small minorities, which will determine whether we can avoid permanently big aggressions when the world recuperates.

That is why I say that the Palestine question is transcendently important, -- an importance overlooked by short-sighted persons who count the number of Jews with faces turned toward Palestine, as against the total population of the world. The people of the Sudetan also did not count for much -- in numbers.

If I am critical of our allies across the Atlantic, let me remind them and others that I have never hesitated to protest against injustice here in my own country. If I did not feel that my record at home was clear, I would not point a finger at others. Let me make it equally clear that, while the primary responsibility for the treatment of Palestine is a British responsibility, I have never forgotten that America has a responsibility as well. The whole concept of world organization is founded upon the proposition that no great nation can resign

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totally, from responsibility for fundamental questions of justice and right anywhere in the world.

I have always insisted that America should make known to the world its position on the Palestine question, in unmistakable terms.

In Congress, I have fought for a resolution expressing the sense of the American people that Jewish entry into Palestine should be unrestricted, and that Palestine should be brought into the association of free democratic nations. If the decision had been mine, Palestine would now be represented at San Francisco. My influence will ever be exerted in the direction of my beliefs. If I held higher office, I would exercise the influence of that higher office in the same direction.

As an American who holds these views, I believe in my right and my solemn duty to say to our Allies in Arms and our prospective treaty partners: The time is ripe to do justice to the Jews. No group of people has suffered longer, or more intensely, from the bestial brutality which Hitler has let loose upon civilization. Most of the Jews of Europe have been annihilated. Only a remnant remains -- a brand saved from the flames.

Are the Jews alone to find no solace in the destruction of Hitlerism? Are they alone to be denied a haven, where they can rekindle their will to live, and contribute to the progress of Mankind?

The time is short.

The hour is urgent.

Let all the Nations now put their hand to their neglected task of constituting a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. When intelligence of that great deed is broadcast, then the lowliest and humblest of men everywhere will know that at last Justice and Liberty have been proclaimed throughout the world.

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For Release After 6:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 29, 1945.

Address by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Before the Rally for Jewish Rights
Lewisohn Stadium, New York City
Sunday, April 29, 1945

My dear friends, the day of victory for mankind has dawned. We pray that it will be a victory for all men and all nations of goodwill. The beast of Belsen and Buchenwald, of Maidanek and Stettin is dead, and the stench of his rotting carcass is even now rising to heaven. Out of the horrible prison and concentration camps by which the Nazis befouled the face of Europe, there is now flowing into the sight of all men, the cloaca maxima, all the fearful and noisome sewage of their iniquity; all their viciousness and filth and inhuman indecencies against which we warned mankind years ago, but our warning was ignored.

Today, shocked eye-witnesses, representatives of parliaments and congresses, summoned by our Allied war leaders to see with their own eyes what they would rather not see, are reporting that what they saw of German atrocities has no counterpart in all human history. One wonders why these people did not listen to us when we told them a few years ago in the horror and shock of what we knew to be true, of the death factories in the east, where millions of our people, men, women and children, were tortured and broken and done to death. They did not listen then; today they are catching up, the peoples of the West, with the full gruesomeness of the Jewish tragedy, and we wonder then, whether the time has not come for the same peoples to catch up with our righteous claims and with our desperate hopes and with the things we have a right to demand -- a free and victorious people.

My dear friends, the victory which is now here, should be a complete victory for all, for all those peoples which had a share in winning that victory.

One million and a half Jews fought to win that victory. Jews, Jewish soldiers by the myriads are today fighting in the heart of Germany, in the armies

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of the United States and of Great Britain, of Russia and France, and have helped to deal the death blow to this abomination of desolation, this regime which in its shameless arrogance aspired to dominate the world for a thousand years! I remember standing on Unter den Linden in January 1933 on the very day that Hitler was made Chancellor of Germany, and I watched his hordes parading, with such arrogance, such hysterical outbursts of almost animalic joy, shouting aloud that they were there to usher in a regime which would last and rule over the world for a thousand years.

Well, the thrice liquidated and annihilated armies of Russia and the armies of the decadent democracies of the United States and Great Britain and France have reduced that period of a thousand years to a few stamped ignominious years upon the face of the earth.

Do you recall these words? Listen to them: This was spoken by a great seer of our people over an ancient Babylon:

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Babylon. How art thou cut down to the ground, thou which didst destroy the nations. Is this the nation that made the earth to tremble! That did shake kingdoms! That made the world as a wilderness and destroyed the cities! That opened not the houses of its prisoners!

"Thou are now cast out of thy grave, like an abominable branch. The worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee."

That was said of ancient Babylon. It may well be said today of modern Babylon.

And the Jews gave themselves without stint and without measure to achieve this victory over modern Babylon. Why, that small Yishuv of Palestine, that glorious nucleus of a resplendent nation that will some day arise on the Banks of the Jordan, that small Yishuv sent thirty thousand volunteers into the flaming fronts of the United Nations; while the Arab States and their peoples were sitting hopefully and listening to the radio broadcasts from Bari and Berlin, leisurely sipping their coffee, the Jews prayed and worked and made their chief concern victory over Fascist-Nazi hordes. They were the first, as soon as these barbarians

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raised their hands against the sanctuaries of mankind, and their civilian casualties -- the civilian casualties of our people outnumber by far the civilian casualties of the British Empire and the United States, and perhaps all the countries of Eastern Europe combined. and now that modern Babylon has been overthrown as was Sodom and Gemarrah in the days of old, now that the oppressed nations are being liberated and will be restored and helped, what of the Jewish people? Is our loyalty alone to go unrequited? Our sacrifice alone to be unrewarded? Our dead alone to be unremembered?

Will the hard-won victory in this world war bring peace to all peoples, and new visions of progress and security to all of them, but to the Jewish people only the peace of five million dead? For us only the return to our old tragic insecurity, the insecurity of our national homelessness which has been our lot these two thousand years? Are we after this great victory to return back again to that old tragic status of a defenceless minority everywhere in the world, and a national center and a national life of our own no where in the world? Is this the justice which will emerge out of this struggle of the nations?

The nations meeting at this moment in San Francisco it is said, are determined to write into the basic charter of the United Nations the principle of justice to guide the future community of nations, and this is as it should be, for only justice can make secure an abiding peace, but there is one people that has never known peace, and has never secured justice at the hands of the world from the day that Jerusalem lay in ashes and the last gallant defenders of Masada perished. Since then this people has been adrift on the broken seas of exile, buffeted about by storms of persecution, the last one of which in Nazi-swept Europe almost completely destroyed that people. How long is this condition to continue? The statesmen of the world, during and following the last world war had the courage to face up with this inescapable problem of Jewish national homelessness, and offered a solution for it. They granted the Jewish people the right to rebuild

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its national life in its historic home in Palestine, and the Jewish people, avidly and eagerly seized this long prayed-for opportunity, and proceeded to reconstruct their old national life and their old national home in a manner which evoked amazement and admiration of the entire world.

What the Jewish people achieved in Palestine and the manner of that achievement, will remain forever the cherished epic, the saga of a great and deathless people which will fire the imagination and kindle the pride of generations of Jews yet unborn. We builded well! We builded well in Palestine!

But deterioration soon set in, after the last war: you will recall, there was a recession in the idealism of mankind, and there was a loss of prestige for the League of Nations, culminating in that tragic appeasement era symbolized by the name Munich, so that there set in a progressive whittling down and sacrifice of the rights of the Jewish people in Palestine, a successive whittling down and sacrifice so that today we are confronted with the appalling prospect, not merely that no more Jews will be allowed to enter Palestine, but the even more tragic and more appalling prospect that our national hope of national restoration will be blasted for all time. And that, my friends, surely cannot be! This will be a betrayal of an ancient and honorable people which has not only suffered so much but which has fought so valiantly in this war, not merely for the freedom of other people, but for the freedom of its own nation in a re-established Palestine!

Not only would this be a betrayal, but no permanent and lasting peace can be built upon the sanctioning or the tacit acceptance of such a betrayal, and upon the perpetuation of the abnormal status of Jewish national homelessness.

My dear friends, any historic people -- and the Jewish people is not the least among these historic peoples of the earth -- any historic people which will be denied its minimum freedom and its minimum political independence after this war, will endanger the stability of any international peace that will be setup.

In this delicately poised world which is being constructed the Jewish people must not remain a people without status, and without national home because its own

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will and without any deliberate intent or action on its part such a people will become the focal point of political tension and conflict which will endanger the peace of the world.

Justice demands -- and I speak today of justice -- Justice demands that the Jewish people be included in the coming United Nations Organization of the World. Are we less deserving than Lebanon and Syria? Than Costa Rica and Nicaragua? Are we forever to be singled out as a people for persecution, for discrimination, but are we never to be admitted into honorable membership in the family of nations? Why is not our flag, white and blue with the star of David, among the cluster of flags which adorns the halls of the Conference at San Francisco? Has it perhaps been less bathed in sacrificial blood than the flags of Iraq and Saudi Arabia?

Justice demands that from here on the Jewish people shall have a voice, its own voice, in the council of nations. Justice demands that our nation be made free and secure in that hallowed and historic land of Israel where already hundreds of thousands of our people have found sanctuary and new life, and new hope, and new dignity, and to which hundreds of thousands perhaps millions more Jews will have to come or will wish to come out of a war ravaged and unwelcoming world, or perish.

My good friends, the American people in a hundred ways, and I know, the American people in a hundred ways in recent years has demonstrated that it approves wholeheartedly the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people. The American people in a hundred ways has demonstrated in recent years that it violently and vigorously disapproves of the White Paper policy which would undo that home; I am sure that reference has already been made this afternoon to the twice repeated pledge of support for the Jewish Commonwealth which was given to the leaders of the Zionist Movement by the unforgettable President Roosevelt. I am sure that reference must have been made this afternoon to the statement of President Truman for whom all Americans pray for success in leadership in these trying days, and in whom all Americans have complete confidence that he will match

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this great hour, that he declared that he is at one with his distinguished predecessor in favoring a Jewish Commonwealth. The members of the Congress of the United States repeatedly and in overwhelming numbers have indicated their approval. The American people is with us. Why then has the Government of the United States done so desperately little about it in recent years?

What dark forces are at work in Washington to circumvent the will of the American people? What is being done today to achieve the objective which the great leaders have approved of? What is being done at this moment -- at this moment! -- for the sands of time are running out fast for our unfortunate brothers who have survived the harvest of death in Europe. What is being done now, to bring about the abrogation of this legally and morally unjustifiable policy of the White Paper which the present Prime Minister of Great Britain a few years ago denounced?

My good friends, I say this in all humility and in all sincerity, but I am sure that it comes out of the bleeding heart of our people: there must be an end to professions without performance! The heart of Israel is too tired and the plight of Israel is too desperate. We can no longer be satisfied with kindly words and good intentions and expressions of sympathy. The acid test at this hour of decision, the acid test for all those who would be our friends, is action -- and action!

Confidence in the new world order which is being constructed in San Francisco will be enormously enhanced if the international pledges which were made yesterday by the same nations who are today assembled in San Francisco, who were at that time, in 1922, members of the League of Nations -- if those international pledges of yesterday are fulfilled.

Let me close with this word, good friends: the whole earth, we pray, will soon be at rest. Let there be peace also, we pray, in the habitations of Israel; let rest be given also unto our people, from the sorrow and the fear and the hard bondage of our exile. We appeal to the heart and the mind and the conscience of

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the world: give us a chance to normalize our lives, to rebuild our shattered national existence. There is no other cure for our ailment. There is no other avenue of salvation. We ask for no favors. We are prepared to pay the price in effort and substance, in tears and sweat and blood for the rebuilding of our national life, only remove the obstacles which you have placed in our way; give us a chance! Give us a chance to build!

We know how to build for the blessings of all and the hurt of none. We will make Jerusalem the capital of a free and blessed country, wherein all men, regardless of race, or creed will enjoy full political equality, full economic opportunity, full human dignity. That is the kind of a country the Jews mean to build, and out of that land there will flow streams of rejuvenation and healing to all the surrounding countries and peoples which have for so long known only poverty and disease and backwardness.

We do not want any more the charity of the world. We do not want any more refugee conferences. We do not want any more these recurrent and ineffecutal attempts to solve by philanthropy what is after all a basic political and national problem of our people, which can only find its sound solution in a national and political formula. We want the right to end for all times as far as we are concerned, Evian Conferences, Bermuda Conferences, Intergovernmental Conferences for our refugees. We want the right enjoyed by all normal peoples to build their own national life and determine their own national destinies. We want to live in eager cooperation with all other free and sovereign peoples, in the great Commonwealth of Free and Democratic Sovereign peoples which will emerge from the tribulations and the sacrifices of this world war.

Will the world listen to us? Will mankind pay heed? We pray that it will, but whether it will or whether it will not, this is our program; this is our claim; this is our destiny for that we shall live and for that shall fight.



Mr. H. L. Shapiro
55 West 42nd St
Room 705
New York
NY

Am. Zionist Policy Committee

File

For Release After 6:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 29, 1945.

Excerpts from Address by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
at Rally for Jewish Rights
Lewisohn Stadium, New York City, April 29, 1945

The nations now gathered at San Francisco will demand that there be written into the Charter of the United Nations the principle of justice to guide the new world community. For only justice can insure peace.

There is one people which has never known peace or received justice since its national life was uprooted nearly two thousand years ago. The Jewish people has been left nationally homeless and adrift on the broken seas of exile, buffeted by storms of persecution, the latest of which in Nazi-swept Europe almost destroyed it completely. How long is this condition to continue?

It has been the sustaining hope of mankind that a victory of the United Nations will rectify historic wrongs. Will the principle of reparation and restoration -- the principle of justice -- be applied to all peoples after the war except the Jewish people? Is our loyalty alone to go unrequited, our sacrifices unrewarded and our dead forgotten?

The statesmen of the world, following the last war, had the vision to face the inescapable problem of Jewish national homelessness and they set about to solve it. The Jewish people was granted the right to rebuild its national life in its historic home -- Palestine. The Jews eagerly seized the long-hoped for opportunity and proceeded to reconstruct that ancient land of Israel in a manner which evoked the amazement and admiration of the world.

But the international deterioration which set in after the World War, the recession in idealism and the League's loss of prestige which culminated in a tragic appeasement era soon led to the successive sacrifice of Jewish rights in Palestine, until today the Jewish people faces the appalling prospect of witnessing its hope of national restoration blasted for all time.

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This surely can not be! This would be a betrayal of an ancient and honorable people which has not only suffered so much in this war -- its casualties mounting into the millions -- but which has served so heroically on all the battlefields of the world in defense of the freedom of all nations, as well as the freedom of the Jewish nation re-established in Palestine.

Justice demands that the Jewish nation shall henceforth be included among the United Nations, shall have a voice and a seat in the Council of Nations, and shall be made secure and free in that hallowed land where already hundreds of thousands of our people have found sanctuary and to which many more must come from a war-ravaged and unwelcoming world, or perish.

The American people have in a hundred ways demonstrated in recent years their warm approval of the rebuilding of the Jewish National Home and their vigorous disapproval of the White Paper policy which would undo it. President Roosevelt twice publicly endorsed the Jewish Commonwealth and declared that the American Government never approved of the White Paper. President Truman, for whose success in leadership in these trying days all Americans are praying and who, we are confident, will match his great hour, has declared himself as being at one with his unforgettable predecessor in office in approving of the establishment of a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

Why, then, has so little been done by our Government to achieve this objective? What steps are being taken today -- and the sands of time are running out for our unfortunate brothers in Europe -- by our State Department to meet the wishes of the American people? What is our Government doing about the legally and morally unjustifiable White Paper which the present Prime Minister of Great Britain himself denounced a few years ago in Parliament? What forces in Washington are at work to circumvent the will of the Chief Executives of our Government, who pledged themselves to work for the establishment of the Jewish State?

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There must be an end to profession without performance. The heart of Israel is tired and the plight of Israel is desperate. We can no longer be satisfied with words, with good intentions, with expressions of sympathy. The acid test of sincerity in this hour of decision is action and action now! Confidence in the new world order which is even now being built will be enormously enhanced if the international pledges of yesterday, made by all the nations who are present represented at San Francisco and who were members of the League of Nations in 1922, are fulfilled today.

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For Release After 6:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 29, 1945.

Address by Dr. Stephen S. Wise
Before the Rally for Jewish Rights
At Lewisohn Stadium, New York City
Sunday, April 29, 1945

FILE

We meet today under the shadow of great sorrow and the inspiration of a great hope. Our sorrow is over our fallen but unlost leader, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, our hope derives from the two-fold inspiration of the juncture at Torgau of the armies of the United Nations and the junction of the United Nations at San Francisco.

We meet to make reasoned and just demands. Our first demand is that the Jewish case be presented at the San Francisco Conference. In my last meeting with President Roosevelt, he agreed with me that the case be presented by Dr. Weizmann as the President of the Jewish Agency for Palestine or by some other representative of the Executive Committee of the Agency. Apparently, President Roosevelt fared for a time as did Lincoln. The latter complained that he had little, or was it no, influence with the Administration. Despite the long delay, I still feel that in the name of the American Zionist Emergency Council, I urge that President Roosevelt's decision be regarded as binding upon the State Department, that Dr. Weizmann, wise and statesmanlike leader of the Jewish people, or someone to be named by him, be designated to present the case of the Jewish people. The case of the Jewish people includes the unmeasured misery of the Hitler years and the Nazi crimes, and the daring and illimitable hope to establish the Jewish National Home. One ventures to hope that President Truman may succeed in causing his voice to be heard in the State Department, despite some of its Near East officials apparently on guard lest the American decision with regard to the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth be carried out. Too long and too often have some of these Near East officials of the State Department halted, obstructed and even negated the will of the President.

The first and immediate appeal of this mass demonstration of American Jews and their Christian neighbors and sympathizers is that the Jewish case be placed upon the

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agenda of San Francisco. There are incontrovertible reasons for including the case of the Jewish people within the San Francisco Conference.

As far as there is a Jewish question, it is a world question and a world problem. In truth it is a problem of Christendom. It is a problem for America and for all humanity. With the appearance of Hitler, the world ignored the crime against the Jewish people whom Hitler swore to annihilate. Between five and six million of our fellow-Jews have been most foully and unnaturally murdered.

Moreover, the Jewish question is not an Arab question. Arab blindness or Arab greed will not solve the Jewish problem. The answer can only be given by the Jewish people with the help of the United Nations. Out of the first world war, neutral Arab provinces emerged as five free and independent kingdoms. After the second World war whatever inert, neutral or hostile Arab principalities may emerge to the contrary as against 1,000,000 square miles of Arab territory, there must emerge the 10,000 square miles of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. This can only be if the doors of Palestine are opened and if they will remain open as they should remain open. They alone can oppose Jewish immigration through the open door of Palestine who are opposed to the Jewish National Home as a free and democratic Commonwealth. It is for the Mandatory Government to make the decision now--now that the European war is virtually ended which served as a bar to decisions--that the British Government with the cooperation of all the United Nations including our own, make possible the opening the door to Palestine for large immigration and land resettlement. Establishing the foundation of the Jewish Commonwealth is the least of reparations which a world of law and justice owes to the Jew. Those threats of violence against the Jewish population will not avail to deflect the Jewish will. We have reached the inexorable decision. It remains for a civilized and united world to give its approval, its cooperation to the Jewish people as they undertake, after twenty unspeakable Hitler years to create not another temporary refuge but an enduring national Home. It is a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth which shall take its place by the side of the free democracies of the earth.



Mr. H. Hanson

American Zionist Policy Committee

55 West 42 St.

New York, N.Y.



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MAY 2 1945

May 1, 1945

Handwritten: HON file

Mr. Harry Shapiro,
American Zionist Policy Committee,
55 West 42nd St., New York City

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

As you requested, I am sending you
herewith copy of Dr. Silver's address before the Mass
Meeting on Sunday the 29th of April at Lewisohn
Stadium.



Cordially,

Handwritten signature: Rose Mark

MAY 2 1945

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DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER: My dear friends, the day of victory for mankind has dawned. We pray that it will be a victory for all men and all nations of goodwill. The beast of Belsen and Bauchenwald, of Maidenak and Stettin is dead, and the stench of his rotting carcass is even now rising to heaven. Out of the horrible prison and concentration camps by which the Nazis befouled the face of Europe, there is now flowing into the sight of all men, the co.^o.cula maxima, all the fearful and noisome sewage of their iniquity; all their visciuousness and filth and inhuman indecencies against which we warned mankind years ago, but our warning was ignored.

Today, shocked eye-witnesses, representatives of parliaments and congresses, summoned by our Allied war leaders to see with their own eyes what they would rather not see, are reporting that what they saw of German atrocities ^{has} ~~have~~ no counterpart in all human history. One wonders why these people did not listen to us when we told them a few years ago, in the horror and shock of what we knew to be true, of the death factories in the east, where millions of our people, men, women and children, were tortured and broken and done to death. They did not listen then; today they are catching up, the peoples of the West, with the full

gruesomeness of the Jewish tragedy, and we wonder then, whether the time has not come for the same peoples to catch up with our righteous claims and with our desperate hopes and with the things we have a right to demand - a free and victorious people. (Applause)

My dear friends, the victory which is now here, should be a complete victory for all, for all those peoples which had a share in winning that victory.

One million and a half Jews fought to win that victory. (Applause) Jews, Jewish soldiers by the myriads are today fighting in the heart of Germany, in the armies of the United States and of Great Britain, of Russia and France, and have helped to deal the death blow to this abomination of desolation, this regime which in its shameless arrogance aspired to dominate the world for a thousand years! I remember standing ⁱⁿ Unter den Linden in January 1933 on the very day that Hitler was made Chancellor of Germany, and I watched his hordes parading, with such arrogance, such hysterical outbursts of almost animalic joy, shouting aloud that they were there to usher in a regime which would last and rule over the world for a thousand years.

Well, the thrice liquidated and annihilated armies of Russia and the armies of the decadent democracies

of the United States and Great Britain and France have reduced that period of a thousand years to a few stamped ignominious years upon the face of the earth.

Do you recall these words? Listen to them: This was spoken by a great seer of our people over an ancient Babylon:

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Babylon. How art thou cut down to the ground, thou which didst destroy the nations. Is this the nation that made the earth to tremble! That did shake kingdoms! That made the world as a wilderness and destroyed the cities! That opened not the houses of its prisoners!"

"Thou art now cast out of thy grave, like an abominable branch. The worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee."

That was said of ancient Babylon. It may well be said today of modern Babylon.

And the Jews gave themselves without stint and without measure to achieve this victory over modern Babylon. Why, that small Yishuv of Palestine, that glorious nucleus of a resplendent nation that will some day arise on the Banks of the Jordan (applause), that small Yishuv sent thirty thousand volunteers into the flaming fronts of the

4 United Nations; while the Arab States and their peoples were sitting hopefully and listening to the radio broadcasts from Bari and Berlin, leisurely sipping their coffee, the Jews prayed and worked and made their chief concern victory over Fascist-Nazi hordes. They were the first, as soon as these barbarians raised their hands against the sanctuaries of mankind, and their civilian casualties - the civilian casualties of our people outnumber by far the civilian casualties of the British Empire and the United States, and perhaps all the countries of Eastern Europe combined, and now that modern Babylon has been overthrown as ^{was} ~~was~~ Sodom and Gemarrah in the days of old, now that the oppressed nations are being liberated and will be restored and helped, what of the Jewish people? Is our loyalty alone to go unrequited? Our sacrifice alone to be unrewarded? Our dead alone to be unremembered?

Will the hard-won victory in this world war bring peace to all peoples, and new visions of progress and security to all of them, but to the Jewish people only the peace of five million dead? For us only the return to our old tragic insecurity, the insecurity of our national homelessness which has been our lot these two thousand years? Are we after this great victory to return back again to that

old tragic status of a defenceless minority everywhere in the world, and ^{with} a national center and a national life of our own no where in the world? Is this the justice which will emerge out of this struggle of the nations?

The nations meeting at this moment in San Francisco it is said, are determined to write into the basic charter of the United Nations the principle of justice to guide the future community of nations, and this is as it should be, for only justice can make secure and abiding, peace, but there is one people that has never known peace, and has never secured justice at the hands of the world from the day that Jerusalem lay in ashes and the last gallant defenders of Masada perished. Since then this people has been adrift on the broken seas of exile, buffeted about by storms of persecution, the last one of which in Nazi-swept Europe almost completely destroyed that people. How long is this condition to continue? The statesmen of the world, during and following the last world war had the courage to face up ^{to} ~~with~~ this inescapable problem of Jewish national homelessness, and offered a solution for it. They granted the Jewish people the right to rebuild its national life in its historic home ~~in~~ Palestine, and the Jewish people, avidly and eagerly

seized this long prayed-for opportunity, and proceeded to reconstruct their old national life and their old national home in a manner which evoked amazement and admiration of the entire world.

What the Jewish people achieved in Palestine and the manner of that achievement, will remain forever the cherished epic, the saga of a great and deathless people which will fire the imagination and kindle the pride of generations of Jews yet unborn. We builded well! We builded well in Palestine! (Applause)

But deterioration soon set in, after the last war, you will recall, there was a recession in the idealism of mankind, and there was a loss of prestige for the League of Nations, culminating in that tragic appeasement era symbolized by the name Munich, so that there set in a progressive whittling down and sacrifice of the rights of the Jewish people in Palestine, a successive whittling down and sacrifice, so that today we are confronted with the appalling prospect, not merely that no more Jews will be allowed to enter Palestine, but the even more tragic and more appalling prospect, that our national hope of national restoration will be blasted for all time. And that, my friends, surely cannot be! This will be a betrayal

of an ancient and honorable people which has not only suffered so much but which has fought so valiantly in this war, not merely for the freedoms of other people, but for the freedom of its own nation in a re-established Palestine!

(Applause)

Not only would this be a betrayal, but no permanent and lasting peace can be built upon the sanctioning or the tacit acceptance of such a betrayal, and upon the perpetuation of the abnormal status of Jewish national homelessness.

My dear friends, any historic people - and the Jewish people is not the least among these historic peoples of the earth - any historic people which will be denied its minimum freedom and its minimum political independence after this war, will endanger the stability of any international peace that will be set up. (Applause)

In this delicately poised world which is being constructed the Jewish people must not remain a people without status, and without national home, because against its own will and without any deliberate intent or action on its part such a people will become the focal point of political tension and conflict which will endanger the peace

of the world. (Applause)

Justice demands - and I speak today of justice - Justice demands that the Jewish people be included in the coming United Nations Organization of the World. (Applause) Are we less deserving than Lebanon and Syria? Than Costa Rica and Nicaragua? Are we forever to be singled out as a people for persecution, for discrimination, but are we never to be admitted into honorable membership in the family of nations? Why is not our flag, white and blue with the star of David, among the cluster of flags which adorns the halls of the Conference at San Francisco? Has it perhaps been less bathed in sacrificial blood than the flags of Iraq and Saudi Arabia? (Applause)

Justice demands that from here on the Jewish people shall have a voice, its own voice, in the council of nations. (Applause) Justice demands that our nation be made free and secure in that hallowed and historic land of Israel where already hundreds of thousands of our people have found sanctuary and new life, and new hope, and new dignity, and to which hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions more Jews will have to come or will wish to come out of a war ravaged and unwelcoming world, or perish.

My good friends, the American people in a

hundred ways, and I know, the American people, in a hundred ways in recent years has demonstrated that it approves wholeheartedly the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people. (Applause) The American people in a hundred ways has demonstrated in recent years that it violently and vigorously disapproves of the White Paper policy which would undo that home (applause); I am sure that reference has already been made this afternoon to the twice repeated pledge of support for the Jewish Commonwealth which was given to the leaders of the Zionist Movement by the unforgettable President Roosevelt. I am sure that reference must have been made this afternoon to the statement of President Truman for whom all Americans pray for success in leadership in these trying days, and in whom all Americans have complete confidence that he will match his great hour, that he declared that he is at one with his distinguished predecessor in favoring a Jewish Commonwealth. The members of the Congress of the United States repeatedly and in overwhelming numbers have indicated their approval. The American people is with us. Why then has the Government of the United States done so despately little about it in recent years? (Applause)

What dark forces are at work in Washington to circumvent the will of the American people? What is being done today to achieve the objective which the great leaders have approved of? What is being done at this moment - at this moment! - for the sands of time are running out fast for our unfortunate brothers who have survived the harvest of death in Europe. What is being done now, to bring about the abrogation of this legally and morally unjustifiable policy of the White Paper which the present Prime Minister of Great Britain a few years ago denounced?

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Confidence in the new world order which is being constructed in San Francisco will be enormously enhanced if the international pledges which were made yesterday

by the same nations who are today assembled in San Francisco, who were at that time, in 1922, members of the League of Nations - if those international pledges of yesterday are fulfilled.

Let me close with this word, good friends: the whole earth, we pray, will soon be at rest. Let there be peace also, we pray, in the habitations of Israel; let rest be given also unto our people, from the sorrow and the fear and the hard bondage of our exile. We appeal to the heart and the mind and the conscience of the world: give us a chance to normalize our lives, to rebuild our shattered national existence. There is no other cure for our ailment. There is no other avenue of salvation. We ask for no favors. We are prepared to pay the price in effort and substance, in tears and sweat and blood for the rebuilding of our national life, only remove the obstacles which you have placed in our way; give us a chance! Give us a chance to build!

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Will the world listen to us? Will mankind pay heed? We pray that it will, but whether it will or whether

it will not, this is our program; this is our claim; this is our destiny, for that we shall live and for that we shall fight. (The assembly arose and applauded.)

MR. FERTIG: Ladies and gentlemen, will you please be seated - our exercises are not concluded, we want to conclude with the dignity becoming this occasion.

I must read to you a message from the Governor of the State of New York, his Excellency, the Honorable Thomas E. Dewey: addressed to Rabbi Stephen S. Wise:

"Today as the Allied Armies of the United Nations free forever the peoples of the enslaved nations from the brutal clutches of the Nazi aggressors, it is the opportunity and the duty of all men of good will to see that the survivors of the oppressed people of Europe and the rest of the world win the battle for liberty in the days to come. They must win the substance not merely the hollow shell of military triumph.

"The nazi oppressors will soon be gone. But many of their victims will wish never to return to the scenes where they were abused, imprisoned, tortured, and where their families were killed.

ROSE MARK
400 East 52nd Street
New York City



WRHS

Mr. Harry Shapiro



American Zionist Policy Committee,

55 West 42nd St., New York City