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American Zionist Emergency Council, press releases, 1947.



**PRESS RELEASE from**

**AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL**

*Associated Organizations:*

Zionist Organization of America • Hadassah • Mizrachi • Poale-Zion  
342 Madison Avenue • New York 17, N. Y. • MU 2-1160

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXECUTION OF THREE JEWS BY BRITISH CALLED

A "DELIBERATE ACT OF PROVOCATION"

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AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL CHARGES THAT BRITAIN

WANTS "NO PEACE IN PALESTINE"

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New York, July 29 -- The American Zionist Emergency Council, speaking for all official Zionist organizations in the United States, charged today that the execution of three Jews by the British Government in Palestine was a "deliberate act of provocation."

Pointing out that this punitive action occurred at the very moment when the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine was planning a definite settlement of the Palestine problem in Geneva, Switzerland, the Council bluntly asserted that "Great Britain wants no settlement, no clarification, and no peace in Palestine." Dr. Abba Hillel Silver is the chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council.

The full text of the statement follows:

"The execution by the British forces in Palestine of three members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, in defiance of a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly and of a request by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, is a deliberate act of provocation. It clearly shows that the British Government is determined to place its own prestige above the interests and desires of the international community. The execution, as well as the illegal seizure of the Exodus 1947 on the high seas and the enforced return of her passengers to Europe, proves that Great Britain does not want peace in Palestine.

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"All this occurred while the United Nations Committee is planning a definite settlement of the tragic Palestine problem. If Britain would have been interested in such a settlement, she would have adopted a different course in both cases. But Great Britain wants no settlement, no clarification, and no peace in Palestine.

"The notorious Nazi Field Marshal Kesselring was not hanged by the British. His death sentence was commuted by a British Military Court. Jacob Weiss, a Jewish soldier who fought in World War II to save Britain from Kesselring, was hanged today with his two colleagues by the British. Their sentences were not commuted. No greater injustice and no greater folly could be imagined."

#294 - 7/29/47





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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN ZIONISTS EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE JEWISH LEADERS  
SEIZED IN MASS ARRESTS

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New York, N. Y., Aug. 6 — The entire Zionist movement of the United States today joined in an expression of solidarity with the Jewish leaders of Palestine who were seized yesterday in mass arrests by British forces. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, conveyed American Zionism's support in cables to the three Mayors arrested by the British — Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv, Mayor Oved Ben Ami of Nathanya and Mayor Abraham Krinitzy of Ramath Gan — and in a wire to the Jewish Agency office in Jerusalem requesting that the message of solidarity be transmitted to all those seized in the most recent mass arrests.

Dr. Silver's cable reads:

"The entire Zionist movement of the United States joins in this expression of solidarity with you in your moment of tribulation. The Palestine Government's illegal act in arresting you without warrant is the latest example of the contempt for law and justice now prevailing among British authorities in the Yishuv. We are confident, however, that this most recent provocation to further violence, aimed at splitting the Yishuv, will fail as ignominiously as have similar acts of the past. Stand firm and be of good cheer.

Abba Hillel Silver  
Chairman, American Zionist Emergency  
Council"



# **PRESS RELEASE from AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL**

*Associated Organizations*

Zionist Organization of America • Hadassah • Mizrahi Organization of America • Labor Zionist Organization of America-Poale Zion  
United Zionists-Revisionists of America • Hashomer Hatzair • Achdut Havodah-Poale Zion (United Labor Zionist Party)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ZIONISTS OF AMERICA HAIL BIRTH OF JEWISH STATE

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New York, Nov. 29 -- The American Zionist Emergency Council, speaking for the entire organized Zionist movement in the United States, today issued the following statement on the United Nations' endorsement of the plan to set up separate Jewish and Arab states in Palestine:

Today a milestone was reached in the history of the world. In endorsing the plan to set up separate Jewish and Arab states in Palestine, the United Nations has ended 2000 years of national homelessness for the Jewish people. The deep emotion experienced by Jews throughout the world today cannot be conveyed in words, for all the hopes and aspirations of Jewry, growing out of centuries of persecution and humiliation, have been concentrated on this one day of fulfillment.

On behalf of the entire organized Zionist movement in the United States, which it represents, the American Zionist Emergency Council wishes to share Jewry's profound joy at this moment with the millions of Americans of all races and creeds who have fought side by side with us during the past years to achieve this measure of justice. Without the wholehearted support of American public opinion, this great victory for humanity could not have been brought about. Throughout a long succession of crises and setbacks the American people have remained steadfast in their determination that Jewish national homelessness and persecution must cease.

Our deep thanks go out to all of the Governments which voted today to set up independent Jewish and Arab states in Palestine. We are particularly mindful of the great efforts devoted to the achievement of this decision by the delegations of the

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United States and the Soviet Union, to whom we convey our profound gratitude. We thank also the British Dominions, the European countries, and the Latin American nations who endorsed the creation of the Jewish State.

The American Zionist Emergency Council is happy to call special attention to the role played by the Zionists of America during the past crucial, often heart-breaking, years. The ceaseless efforts and devotion of the local Zionist Emergency Committees constituted a major factor in our political struggle. We send our thanks to the tireless workers of the Zionist rank and file who have reason to be proud of their accomplishments under the leadership of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. The American Zionist Emergency Council takes particular pride in the fact that its leader, Dr. Silver, has, in his capacity of Chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, led our movement to victory in the United Nations. We express our gratitude for the able and effective work accomplished by Moshe Shertok, head of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency, and by the leaders of the American Section, who have met the challenge of the past historic months and have achieved for the Jewish people new dignity and respect among the nations of the world.

Difficult days may yet be ahead of us. We do not wish to minimize the dangers that may confront the Jewish State. We are confident, however, that the citizens of that State can defend their Statehood and that American public opinion will remain constantly on the alert to safeguard it.

We send our brotherly greetings to the stalwart citizens of the Jewish State in Palestine and to our less fortunate, but equally heroic, brethren in the displaced persons' camps of Europe and on Cyprus, who will soon become citizens of that State. Their suffering and patience has not been in vain.

Long live the Jewish State!



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. SILVER THANKS PRESIDENT TRUMAN FOR SUPPORT ON PALESTINE

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New York, Dec. 1 -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council and of the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, today conveyed to President Truman "profound gratitude for the leadership you, Mr. President, have shown on the question of Palestine -- leadership which culminated in the United Nations' historic decision of Saturday, November 29."

In a telegram to the President, released by the Emergency Council, Dr. Silver declared: "Your policy on Palestine has also served to create a strong bond of friendship between the American people and the Jewish citizens of Palestine which, we are confident, will serve the best interests of both countries. You have won a place of distinction in Jewish history. May the years ahead find us all moving forward towards the better, freer world which is our common goal."

The text of Dr. Silver's wire follows:

"ON THIS JOYOUS OCCASION FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, WHEN THE AGE-OLD HOPES OF ISRAEL HAVE BEEN ENDORSED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, WE SEND YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THIS HEARTFELT EXPRESSION OF OUR THANKS FOR THE GREAT SUPPORT WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN OUR CAUSE. ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE ORGANIZED ZIONIST MOVEMENT OF OUR COUNTRY WHICH IS REPRESENTED IN THE AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL, WE EXPRESS OUR PROFOUND GRATITUDE FOR THE LEADERSHIP YOU HAVE SHOWN ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE -- LEADERSHIP WHICH CULMINATED IN THE UNITED NATIONS' HISTORIC DECISION OF SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29. YOUR POLICY ON PALESTINE, MR. PRESIDENT,



HAS ALSO SERVED TO CREATE A STRONG BOND OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE JEWISH CITIZENS OF PALESTINE WHICH, WE ARE CONFIDENT, WILL SERVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. YOU HAVE WON A PLACE OF DISTINCTION IN JEWISH HISTORY. MAY THE YEARS AHEAD FIND US ALL MOVING FORWARD TOWARDS THE BETTER, FREER WORLD WHICH IS OUR COMMON GOAL."

#300 - 12/1/47



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE GIVES  
EFFECTIVE REPLY TO "SMEAR LETTER" OF PETER H. BERGSON

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CHARGES THAT BERGSON GROUP HAS NO MANDATE "TO SPEAK ON BEHALF  
OF PALESTINE OR PALESTINE JEWRY"

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New York, December 12 -- A vicious "smear" attempt by the Bergson group to undermine support for the future Jewish State in Palestine was effectively answered today by the noted author and Palestine authority, Eliahu Ben-Horin, adviser on Middle Eastern affairs to the American Zionist Emergency Council, in a letter to the New York Herald-Tribune.

Pointing out that it was the Bergson strategy "to continue the cruel joke which they played on the Jewish people when they established themselves as the self-styled 'liberators' of the Hebrew nation and ambassadors of Jewish Palestine," Mr. Ben-Horin charged that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation was continuing its policy "to muddy the waters and add bewilderment to the public mind."

With partition now a matter of United Nations history, Mr. Bergson had enunciated the new policies of his organization in a letter to the Herald-Tribune on December 10, 1947. In that correspondence, Mr. Bergson had charged that "the proposed ghetto-like 'Jewish State' will only perpetuate the abnormality of the Jewish position."

In Mr. Ben-Horin's reply, the noted author pointed out that "since the

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(Jewish) state will be created primarily to solve the present abnormal position of the Jewish people in the world, and since the Jews there will form a majority, it will be open to every homeless Jew in the world.

"There is no need to go out of one's way to insinuate non-existing complications. Nor are difficulties bound to arise in the relationship between the Jews of America and the future 'Jewish State.' It will be the same relationship as between the American Irish and Eire, American Greeks and Greece -- namely an attitude of great interest, sympathy, spiritual affinity and also of co-operation in many practical spheres," Mr. Ben-Horin stressed.

The attack by Mr. Ben-Horin against the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation -- a Bergson front -- is part of the American Zionist Emergency Council's attempts to expose the groups controlled by Mr. Bergson as speaking without any constituency in the Yishuv and without a mandate from its people. The Council, which speaks for every official Zionist party in the United States, has issued a pamphlet: "Palestine Jewry Disclaims the Bergson Committee" on this subject.

The full text of Eliahu Ben-Horin's letter follows:

To the New York Herald-Tribune:

Peter H. Bergson's letter in your issue of December 10 drives me to the conclusion that Mr. Bergson and his associates seem to be determined to continue the cruel joke which they played on the Jewish people, a few years ago, when they established themselves as the self-styled "liberators" of the Hebrew nation and ambassadors of Jewish Palestine. In so utterly complicated a situation as Palestine presents it is very easy further to muddy the waters and add bewilderment in the public mind. This is apparently what Mr. Bergson is determined to do.

Before answering Mr. Bergson's arguments, it is important to establish in whose name he speaks. Mr. Bergson signs his letter as "Chairman Hebrew Committee of National Liberation," and in the text he speaks as "we Palestinians." Has he a mandate to speak on behalf of Palestine as a whole, or on behalf of Palestine Jewry (leaving aside for the moment whether they should be called "Jews" or "Hebrews"), or on behalf of the world Zionist movement, the only movement of national renaissance and national liberation in Jewry? Mr. Bergson knows very well that he has no mandate from either the Palestine Yishuv or the Zionist Organization. This does not mean, of course, that Mr. Bergson is not entitled to have his own opinions on every question of Jewish life, differing, whenever he so chooses, from those accepted by the Zionist movement; but it would be more proper for him to voice these opinions in his own name, and not to mislead public opinion by assuming authority which is not his.

"Will the Jewish State be a kind of a Jewish Vatican?" Mr. Bergson asks. Why "kind of Vatican," and not "kind of a Czechoslovakia," or any other democracy?

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"Jewish State" is obviously a temporary designation for that part of Palestine which the United Nations has decided to place at the disposal of the Jewish people for immigration, colonization and the upbuilding of a homeland. As soon as that state is formally established it will have a name of its own. Whether that name will be "Palestine" (with the Arab State adopting a different name), or Eretz Israel, or Judea, the nation -- in the sense in which this word is understood in the English language, as "the people of one country under one government" -- inhabiting that state will bear its name. Culturally, Jewish and Arab citizens of that state will be free to live side by side as two distinct entities, each using its language and traditions. But in political allegiance they will constitute one nation. If the state is called "Judea," they will be Judeans. Likewise, those of the Jewish D.P.s in Europe, who will emigrate to "Judea," will be Judeans, and those will emigrate to Australia will be Australians. Likewise, those American Jews, whether few or many, who will go to live in Judea will be Judeans, and the bulk of American Jewry will remain Americans as before. On the other hand, since that state will be created primarily to solve the present abnormal position of the Jewish people in the world and since the Jews will form there a majority, it will be open to every homeless Jew in the world.

There is no need to go out of one's way to insinuate non-existing complications. Nor are difficulties bound to arise in the relationship between the Jews of America and the future "Jewish State." It will be the same relationship as between the American Irish and Eire, American Greeks and Greece -- namely an attitude of great interest, sympathy, spiritual affinity and also of co-operation in many practical spheres.

Such a relationship between American Jewry and the Jewish State would be perfectly understandable and legitimate, without in the least affecting the allegiance of the Jewish citizens of the United States; without making this allegiance "hyphenated," and without necessitating the invention of homespun theories about Hebrews and Jews. This Bergson theory, supposedly created for political expediency, has no basis in the present realities of Jewish life or in the problematics of the Jewish future.

Mr. Bergson is free, of course, to think that "the Zionist program is today archaic." It is an odd way of describing a political program which is now celebrating its well earned triumph of international recognition. Webster's definition of "archaic" does not fit the occasion.

Eliahu Ben-Horin