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Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, aftermath of report, 1946.

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BRITISH EMBASSY,

Washington 8, D. C.

June 23, 1946

My dear Senator,

Mr. Bevin has asked me to acknowledge on his behalf your telegram about the observations on Palestine in his speech to the Labour Party Conference at Bournemouth on the 12th June. He believes that he can best answer your telegram by sending you the full text of his remarks, which I now do on his behalf.

Mr. Bevin thinks that the following points deserve attention and are worth studying in their context:

(a) He did not say that he would not agree to the admission of the 100,000 Jews to Palestine. He said that if they were put there tomorrow, he would have to send another division of British troops there and that he was not prepared to do it. But although he drew attention to these difficulties, he said that he would strive for a Palestinian State, from which the voice of the Jews in Palestine could be heard in the chancelleries of the world.

(b) Thus although Mr. Bevin stated that he was opposed to a Jewish National State, he favoured a Palestinian State of some sort. You will recall that the Anglo-American Committee unanimously recommended that Palestine should be neither a Jewish nor an Arab state.

(c) Mr. Bevin made clear that he was determined that the Jews should be given fair treatment; that he would not agree to their being excluded from any country; and that he championed equal rights for them in whatever country they were settled.

Senator Robert F. Wagner,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

From the time when the Anglo-American Committee recommended the admission of the 100,000 Jews to Palestine, His Majesty's Government have consistently taken the view that this movement would involve certain heavy financial and other commitments which they could not carry alone. Both this and other recommendations of the report foreshadowed the appointment of expert committees to advise the two Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom. The advance party of the United States expert committee, which recently arrived in London, was welcomed by the Foreign Office in the statement, of which a copy is attached.

In sending this reply, Mr. Bevin has asked me to convey to you his good wishes and to stress that in his Bournemouth speech he was concerned to put forward, in an atmosphere of realism, some constructive suggestions which he hopes may be of assistance in the meetings of American and British officials who are engaged in discussing together the recommendations of the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry.

May I in conclusion express my own deep conviction that in Britain, which has traditionally been a friend to the Jewish people, there is no less a sincere and widespread desire than in the United States to find a just and lasting solution of their tragic problem.

I am addressing a similar letter to Senator Mead.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ John Balfour

His Majesty's Minister.
(In the absence from Washington
of His Majesty's Ambassador)