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Greater new York Zionist Actions Committee, press releases,
1946.

PRESS RELEASE from

GREATER NEW YORK ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.
Murray Hill 2-1160

[Handwritten signature]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZIONISTS SCORE DR. STEPHEN S. WISE'S
ENDORSEMENT OF POLITICAL CANDIDATES

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ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE, WHOSE POSITION IS IN FULL HARMONY WITH THAT
OF AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL, DECLARES: "DR. WISE
SPOKE FOR NO ONE BUT HIMSELF"

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New York -- The Greater New York Zionist Actions Committee today voiced
"sharp resentment" over the statement issued yesterday by Dr. Stephen S. Wise,
which announced his support of James M. Mead for Governor and Herbert H. Lehman
for U. S. Senator.

The Committee's statement was issued by its officers: Louis Segal, General
Secretary of the Jewish National Workers' Alliance and leader of the Labor
Zionist Organization of America -- Treasurer, and Rabbi Max Kirshblum, General
Secretary of the Mizrachi Organization of America -- Secretary, Judge Bernard A.
Rosenblatt, Vice President of the Zionist Organization of America, who is chair-
man of the Zionist Actions Committee, is en route to London.

Pointing out that "the position taken by the Greater New York Zionist Actions
Committee in its campaign of education, is in full harmony with that of the
American Zionist Emergency Council, representing the entire Zionist movement in
this country, of which Dr. Wise along with Dr. Abba Hillel Silver is a co-chair-
man," the Zionist Actions Committee's statement declared: "Dr. Wise ought to be
as deeply disappointed over the Administration's failure to secure results as are
a majority of the Jews of America. He should be concerned enough with the

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increasingly desperate plight of Jewish refugees to give his hearty approval to our demands for action, even if this should prove embarrassing to the Democratic Party."

The Committee's statement refuted Dr. Wise's assertions by pointing out that it is "not engaged in partisan politics, whether Republican or Democratic," and adding that "no Zionist leader should use his position to promote the interests of any political party."

"It should be clear that Dr. Wise spoke for no one but himself," the statement declared.

The text of the statement follows:

"The Greater New York Zionist Actions Committee notes with sharp resentment a statement issued by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, which couples his support of the Democratic candidates with an evident attack upon our position and activity.

"It has been our unpleasant duty during recent months to call the attention of the American public to the tragic failure of the present Administration in Washington to achieve any results in connection with the admission of 100,000 Jewish refugees to Palestine, or in defense of basic Jewish rights with regard to Palestine.

"Dr. Wise refers to us and to other like-minded groups as 'those who lightly or disingenuously urge opposition to Administration candidates throughout the country on the alleged ground of the Administration's indifference to the fate of the DP's and its failure to secure their admission to Palestine.' Unfortunately the Administration's failure to secure their admission to Palestine is not 'alleged.' It is a sad and incontrovertible fact. The Jewish refugees are still languishing in detention camps abroad. The Administration's efforts on their behalf and in behalf of the just rights of the Jews to Palestine, to which the Democratic Party stands committed by its own national party platform, and to which the Congress of the United States has given its overwhelming endorsement as recently as a year ago, have consisted so far only of public statements of

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approval. Dr. Wise ought to be as deeply disappointed over the Administration's failure to secure results as are a majority of the Jews of America. He should be concerned enough with the increasingly desperate plight of Jewish refugees to give his hearty approval to our demands for action, even if this should prove embarrassing to the Democratic Party.

"All of us have noted with satisfaction President Truman's statement of October 4th and his recent letter to Ibn-Saud, and earnestly trust that, unlike earlier pronouncements, they will be followed up with vigorous action which will secure tangible results. When such positive results are achieved, we shall be as delighted to acclaim both the President and the Administration, as we have been forced to criticize their past inaction and failures.

"We are not engaged in partisan politics, whether Republican or Democratic. No Zionist leader should use his position to promote the interests of any political party.

"At the polls, American citizens, regardless of race or creed, are entitled to express their judgment as to whether an Administration has faithfully carried out its commitments and its pledges, and to register their approval or their disapproval. This is not 'punitive action' -- this is democracy in action. In this connection we should like to state also that the position taken by the Greater New York Zionist Actions Committee in its campaign of education, is in full harmony with the position of the American Zionist Emergency Council, representing the entire Zionist movement in this country, of which Dr. Wise, along with Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, is a co-chairman.

"It should be clear that Dr. Wise spoke for no one but himself."