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Fulton, Representative James G., 1947.

committee on Foreign Affairs

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

New York Office:
Suite 2130,
New York 6, N.Y.
telephone:
Worth 2-1656

March 6, 1947

Honorable James G. Fulton
House of Representatives

This memorandum relates to yesterday's discussion of the Palestine situation, as follows:

- 1 - There are enclosed drafts of Concurrent Resolution and Bill for the establishment of a U. S. - Palestine Settlement Commission submitted by Mr. Javits as a basis for discussion. It is understood that these drafts will be held confidential at this time.
- 2 - It is understood that you will suggest the names of two or three of our colleagues on the Republican side who can attend our next discussion and in this respect it is suggested that you talk with these gentlemen in advance so that they will know what it is all about when we communicate with them.
- 3 - We are endeavoring to secure for you a copy of a book which incorporates all papers pertinent to the Palestine situation. We hope to have these in a few days and will send one to you with references to important sections.
- 4 - It is generally understood that the enclosures and other pertinent papers referred to above will be studied by you and that we are planning to get together again toward the end of next week or very early in the following week.

Respectfully submitted

Robert J. Teyman, M.C.
Jacob K. Javits, M.C.

A BILL

To designate a United States-Palestine Settlement Commission with power to make studies of immigration, land settlement, and measures for social and economic improvement of Arabs and Jews in Palestine, to aid improvement in Arab standards of living and education, and to encourage the large scale settlement and the agricultural and industrial development of Palestine.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the policy of the United States is that Palestine shall be opened for the free entry of Jews into that country to the maximum of its agricultural and economic potentialities, and that there shall be full opportunity for colonization and development, so that they may freely proceed with the upbuilding of Palestine as the Jewish national home and, in association with all elements of the population, establish Palestine as a democratic commonwealth in which all men, regardless of race or creed, shall have equal rights.

Sec. 1. The term(a) "displaced person" as used in this Act means an alien (1) who is separated voluntarily or involuntarily from his country of last allegiance, and (2) who has received care in, or aid from, an assembly center, or who is eligible for such care or aid, or who, whether or not eligible for such care or aid, cannot be repatriated without subjection to prosecution or persecution for

political or religious convictions; and (b) "assembly center" means any camp, community, or settlement under the jurisdiction of any authority, administration, agency, or organization of the United States, or of any ally or allies of the United States in World War II, or of the United States and any such ally or allies or of the United Nations, now or hereafter created to accomplish the repatriation or resettlement of aliens separated voluntarily or involuntarily from their country of last allegiance; and (c) "persecutee" means any person not a displaced person as defined above residing in a country of Europe which was an enemy of the United States in World War II or of a country occupied by such enemies' military forces during World War II, who has been persecuted during such war by discriminatory measures not applied to the local population generally, due to the political or religious convictions of such person.

Sec. 2. A commission to be known as the United States-Palestine Settlement Commission is hereby created for the purpose of carrying out the policy of the United States with respect to Palestine.

Sec. 3. (a) The President of the United States, within thirty days from the passage of this Act, shall appoint, and he hereby is empowered to appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, the Commission which shall be composed of

five members. Each member of the Commission shall be a citizen of the United States and shall receive a salary at the rate of \$12,000 a year. One of such members shall be designated by the President as Chairman of the Commission. Two members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as in the case of the original appointment.

(b) The Commission may, without regard to the Civil Service laws, employ a secretary and such legal, clerical and technical assistants as may be necessary to carry out its functions under this Act without reference to the Classification Act of 1923, as amended.

(c) The Commission is authorized to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary or desirable to carry out its functions under this Act.

(d) The Commission shall transmit to the Congress the first report of its operations under this Act within ninety days after the date of its organization, and shall report thereafter on the third day of January and on the first day of July in each year during its existence; provided, however, that the Commission is authorized to report to the Congress at any time that the Congress is in session, the recommendations of the Commission under Section 5 of this Act, and, provided further, that when the Congress is not in session reports shall be

filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

(e) The Commission shall have the same privilege of free transportation of official mail matter as is granted by law to officers of the United States Government.

(f) The authority of the Commission to carry out its functions under this Act shall terminate at the expiration of five years after the date of the enactment of this Act or sooner upon the passage of a concurrent resolution by the two Houses; except that such authority may continue to be exercised after the expiration of said period of five years to the extent necessary to carry out contracts or agreements made before the passage of such concurrent resolution. Upon termination of work of the Commission, all books, records, documents and other papers in the possession of the Commission, shall be deposited in the Archives of the United States.

Sec. 4. The Commission shall subject to Subsection (a) of Section 6 of this Act make studies, reports and plans relating to (a) the immigration of Jewish displaced persons and persecutees into Palestine and land settlement by

such persons, (b) the improvement of Arab standards of living, and of Arab social services and educational opportunities in Palestine, and (c) the initiation, development and establishment of long range agricultural and industrial projects for the development of Palestine.

Sec. 5. The Commission shall subject to Subsection (A) of Section 6 of this Act formulate, recommend and execute programs which by the effective use of governmental and private facilities will further (a) the lawful immigration and close settlement of Jewish displaced persons and persecutees on the land of Palestine as expeditiously as possible and the lawful acquisition of said land by or for such persons to the extent of the maximum economic absorptive capacity of Palestine, and consistently with the social, economic and political conditions found to exist by the Commission in Palestine, or in the part thereof to be settled; (b) the improvement of Arab standards of living; (c) the greater development of Palestine in the agricultural, commercial and economic fields provided that such development shall, insofar as practicable, benefit as well neighboring Arab countries; and (d) the improvement of Arab primary and secondary education and of Arab opportunities for technical and university education so as to bring about greater parity between Arab and Jewish educational standards in Palestine.

Sec. 6. (a). The Commission is authorized to cooperate with the government of Great Britain in carrying out measures to promote the objectives in Palestine specified in the foregoing Sections 4 and 5, provided, however, that the government of Great Britain shall be responsible for all authority necessary to carry out such measures in Palestine so long as it remains in occupation and control under the Palestine Mandate and for such other facilities and means as in the discretion of the Commission are necessary. The measure and character of cooperation carried out under this Act on the part of the Commission and on the part of the government of Great Britain in Palestine, including the expenditure or use of funds appropriated pursuant to this Act, shall be such as may be prescribed by the Commission. Arrangements for the cooperation authorized by this Act shall be made by the Commission through and in consultation with the Department of State.

(b) In the study of problems and the execution of programs it shall be the policy of the Commission to cooperate with the Department of State, and to utilize the facilities of existing departments and agencies which perform functions and activities affecting the work of the Commission, and the Department of State and such other departments and agencies shall cooperate with the

Commission and afford to it their facilities as may be agreed.

Sec. 7. The Commission is authorized within the limits of funds appropriated to contract with and transfer funds to existing governmental agencies and institutions; and to enter into contracts and agreements with individuals, educational, informational, commercial, scientific and cultural institutions, associations, agencies and industrial organizations, firms and corporations; and to cause corporations to be created, under the laws of the District of Columbia, or any state of the United States or any foreign country to assist in carrying out the Commission's studies and programs and to capitalize such corporations; provided, that corporations hereafter created or caused to be created by the Commission, primarily for operation outside the continental United States, shall determine and prescribe the manner in which their obligations shall be incurred and their expenses allowed and paid without regard to the provisions of law regulating the expenditure, accounting for and audit of Government funds, and may, in their discretion, employ and fix the compensation of officers and employees outside the continental limits of the United States without regard to the provisions of law applicable to the employment and compensation of officers and employees of the United States.

Sec. 8. The Commission may appoint such Advisory Committees and provide for the operation thereof, may utilize voluntary and uncompensated-for services, and may provide for actual travel and subsistence expenses (not exceeding \$15 for subsistence expense for any one person for any one calendar day) of persons so engaged, as are necessary for the efficient execution of the functions, powers and duties of the Commission under this Act.

Sec. 9. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of \$5,000,000 for the purposes of this Act, and from time to time such other amounts as may be necessary to carry out the provisions and accomplish the purposes of this Act.

Sec. 10. This Act may be cited as the "United States-Palestine Commission Act of 1947."

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COPY

Address Official Communications to
The Secretary of State
Washington 25, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 14, 1947

My dear Mr. Fulton:

I appreciate the expression of your views with regard to the Palestine problem, as set forth in your letter of February 24, 1947, and wish to assure you that the United States Government is keeping in close touch with all developments relating to the Palestine problem. The British Government has been kept fully and currently informed regarding the attitude of the United States Government on the various aspects of this problem.

Since the conclusion of the Second World War the United States Government has been concerned with regard to the plight of displaced Jews in Europe and has been endeavoring to find places of refuge for them in other parts of the world, including Palestine, where they may begin again to lead peaceful and useful lives. As the mandatory for Palestine, the British Government has taken the position that the question of the immigration of displaced Jews into that territory has political as well as humanitarian significance and should be resolved in the framework of a general settlement of the Palestine problem.

It may be recalled that the United States Government took part in the work of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry and in ensuing conversations with the British Government in London. However, neither the recommendations of this Committee nor the proposals which were drawn up during the conversations in London proved acceptable in their entirety to both the United States Government and the British Government. The British Government subsequently made arrangements for a conference on Palestine to which representatives of both the Arabs and the Jews were invited.

Representatives

The Honorable
James G. Fulton,
House of Representatives

Representatives of the Arabs attended the conference but representatives of the Jews did not participate

During the second session of the Palestine conference in London the British Government presented its own proposals as a basis for discussion. The Arab delegates also presented their proposals to the conference and representatives of the Jewish Agency made known their views during informal conversations with the British Government. None of these proposals or views was found to be mutually acceptable. The British Government has, therefore, indicated that the only course now open to it may be to submit the Palestine problem to the United Nations.

Pending the submission of the Palestine question to the United Nations it is understood that the British Government is giving further consideration to the matter of immigration into Palestine.

Sincerely yours,

Dean Acheson

Acting Secretary



C O P Y

James G. Fulton
31st Dist. Pennsylvania

750- C Federal Building
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Grant 0800
Ext. 445

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

2 April 1947

Mr. Alex Lowenthal, President
Pittsburgh Zionist District
901 Keystone Building
Pittsburgh 22, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Lowenthal:

I am writing to thank you for your letter of 17 March 1947.
I have read the clippings which you enclosed and appreciate the
publicity given to these statements.

Dean Acheson, Acting Secretary of State, under date of
14 March 1947, has written me a reply and I am enclosing the
original for your records.

With sincere regards,

JGF:rdi

Encl.

(HANDWRITTEN)

7 April '47

Alex-

Let me hear how you feel on this. Incidentally, Sol Bloom wouldn't cooperate on the other approach, so from here on I question his enthusiasm, beyond speechmaking.

Jim Fulton

COPY

ALEXANDER LOWENTHAL

April 9, 1947

Reg. James G.
Fulton

Mr. Harry L. Shapiro
% American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Harry:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of today, I am enclosing documents from Jim Fulton. Advise at once what action you want me to take.

Please keep this information confidential and return these papers to me as soon as you are finished with them.

Sincerely yours,

ALEX LOWENTHAL

encl.
AL.
rbh