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Lend-Lease, 1947.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

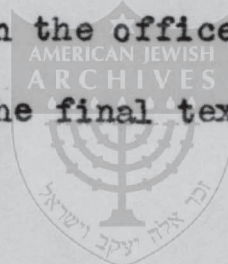
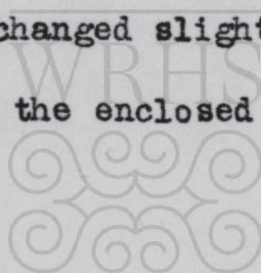
Date May 12, 1947

From Benjamin Akzin

In accordance with your suggestion, I communicated to Mr. Grossman, of the American Jewish Conference, the proposed draft of a protest against the use of lend-lease materials in Palestine.

The text was changed slightly in the office of the American Jewish Conference, and the enclosed is the final text of the letter as sent out today.

Enc.



BG,

(COPY)

May 12, 1947

The Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

We beg to direct your attention to the current military use of American lend-lease materials by the British Government in Palestine.

In this connection, we refer you to a Report by Jeffrey C. Kitchen, Director of the Lend-Lease Division, to Wilbur B. Hart, Central Field Foreign Liquidation Commissioner of the Department of State, in Cairo, dated April 10, 1947, which states that:

"the British are continuing to backload lend-lease items from Shaiba to...Palestine...for continued military use." [cited in the Congressional Record, April 21, 1947, p. 3844]

As is well-known, the military operations now pursued by the British Government in Palestine are directed exclusively against the Jewish population, among which are a considerable number of American citizens.

It has come as a profound shock to learn that military lend-lease materials, transferred by the United States to the British Government for the purpose of defense against the Axis, should now be used by that Government against a people which contributed its full share to the common victory over the Axis. It is still more difficult to conceive that agencies of the American Government which are aware of this situation should tolerate such flagrant misuse of American lend-lease materials.

We submit, Mr. Secretary, that the continued use of American lend-lease materials against the Jewish population of Palestine is contrary to the original purpose of the lend-lease agreement. In view of these considerations, the American Jewish Conference, representative of the great majority of American Jews, respectfully requests that measures be taken at once to obtain from the British Government the immediate removal from Palestine of American military lend-lease materials and a binding assurance from the British Government to the effect that no American lend-lease materials will be used henceforth by that Government, in or out of Palestine, for purposes in direct contravention to the intent underlying the original lend-lease arrangements.

Respectfully yours,

Louis Lipsky, Chairman
Executive Committee