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Press conference, 30 Republican congressmen, 1947.

Copy for B. Silver

June 16, 1947

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

Dear Harry:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the letter to Secretary of State Marshall which was released to the press at a press conference at the House Foreign Relations Committee meeting room today by the thirty Republican Congressmen.

I am also enclosing a copy of the Palestine Resolution, which will be introduced tomorrow in the House by Congressman Twyman of Illinois. The Resolution was also released to the press at the same time as the letter to Marshall. I understand that Congressman Twyman will formally ask the Democratic members of the House to join in the Resolution when he introduces it tomorrow in the House.

For the record, I want to state that as far as I know neither the AZEC or any of its officials or employees had anything to do with the introduction of the enclosed Resolution, and did not give their approval of it.

The Washington Office of the AZEC first learned of the possibility that such a Resolution would be introduced during the middle of June. Mr. Tuvim telephoned Leo Sack and me that he had heard from Mr. Louis Sachs of New Haven that Congressman Foote of Connecticut had written to Mr. Sachs and asked him for advice about the Resolution. Mr. Sachs contacted the New York Office of the AZEC and, I understand, he was advised to inform Congressman Foote that the Republican members in the House interested in the Resolution should first consult with the AZEC, Dr. Silver, Dr. Neumann, Leo Sack and myself. I understand Mr. Sachs communicated this to Congressman Foote. After Mr. Tuvim telephoned me about the contemplated Resolution, I contacted Congressman Javits during the week of June 16. Congressman Javits was one of the Congressmen instrumental in drafting this Resolution and getting the thirty Republicans behind it.

I asked Congressman Javits to delay the introduction of the Resolution until he had a chance to consult with Dr. Neumann. After pressure by Morris Zetkin and Assemblyman Samuel Roman of Congressman Javits's district, who came down to talk to Javits in Washington about the matter, Congressman Javits agreed to consult with Dr. Neumann. Javits met Dr. Neumann on June 21 in New York City, and it is my understanding that Dr. Neumann urged Congressman Javits not to introduce the Resolution at this time as it might prejudice the White House, Secretary of State Marshall and the State Department against our cause. Neumann also advised him that we could not support any Resolution which was not bi-partisan.

P.S. Enclosed is a stenographic report of the press conference held by the
thirty Republican Congressmen.

-Schulson

I understand that Dr. Neumann had been in touch with Mr. Javits many times since June 21 and repeatedly urged him not to proceed with the Resolution. Both Mr. Sack and I had two different conferences ^{with Mr. Javits} and told Mr. Javits the same thing.

As late as Monday, July 14, when I talked to Congressman Javits again, I was under the impression that the Resolution would not be introduced but that only Secretary Marshall's letter would be sent.

I learned for the first time that the Resolution would be introduced when Congressman Wyman called me this morning, July 16, advising me that the thirty Republican Congressmen met on July 14 and decided to introduce the Resolution on July 17 and to release both the Resolution and the letter at the press conference held today. I repeated my objections to Congressman Wyman and also to Congressman Javits on the morning of July 16, but they had firmly decided to proceed. I immediately telephoned the above information to Mr. Shapiro.

In view of the circumstances and the desire of the thirty Republican Congressmen to introduce the Resolution, there was nothing further I could do with reference to the matter.

With warmest personal regards and best wishes, I am



Hyman A. Schulson

HAS:ME

CC to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Dr. Emanuel Neumann

UNITED STATES SENATE

Committee on Finance

July 10, 1947

C
O
P
Y

Mr. Leo R. Sack
1706 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Sack:

I received your letter of June 11 with
enclosure.

I had intended to make some remarks in
the Senate before this date in line with the sug-
gestion made by Dr. Silver. I have been both under
the weather and away from Washington for one week
since the receipt of your letter. If it seems
appropriate I may be able to have something to say
before the end of the session. I am still suffering
with a severe cold and I am not sure that I will
be able to have anything to say during the remaining
days of this session.

sincerely yours,

/s/ Walter F. George

July 14, 1947

Honorable Walter F. George
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator George:

I thank you for your letter of July 10.

I was very sorry to learn that you have been ill, and wish you a speedy recovery.

While I fully realize the pressure of work in store for you during the next few weeks before adjournment, I sincerely hope that you will find an opportunity to make some remarks in the Senate before the end of the session in line with the suggestions made by Dr. Silver.

With warmest personal regards and best wishes,

I am

Most cordially yours,

Leo R. Sack

P R E S S C O N F E R E N C E

H O U S E F O R E I G N A F F A I R S C O M M I T T E E

July 16, 1947, 2:30 P.M.

Present: Congressmen Robert J. Twyman, Jacob K. Javits, William G. Stratton, Ellsworth B. Foote, Kenneth B. Keating, Katharine St. George, and R. Walter Riehlman.

Congressman Javits: The key points are that the previous letter which was sent by us to the Secretary of State asked the Secretary to state United States policy on Palestine. In response to that we have quoted the nub of what the Secretary said (see first paragraph of attached letter). We feel that it is time now to follow up on that and suggest that the secretary should advise us on the two points listed in the letter.

I should like to emphasize that this is a cooperative effort. The fact that I am speaking does not mean that I have taken more nor less part than any of the other 29 signers of the letter. Those who are here are the only ones who could get away.

Congressman Twyman: I should like to say that while this has been a Republican bill, that does not mean that we want it to be confined to a Republican move. We invite Democratic members to participate, and if they desire to present identical resolutions or exercise their judgment as to how fast to proceed to accomplish the purpose for which we are together, they are welcome to do so. We do not want to operate this as anything but bi-partisan.

Question: Is a similar resolution to be introduced in the Senate?

Congressman Javits: We have made no such arrangements. As far as we know, this action will be here. We will be delighted if anyone wants to join us.

Question: Have you talked this matter over with the leadership, as to the possibility of action on this resolution?

Congressman Twyman: We have talked it over with the leadership and it has the full sympathy of the leadership.

Question: Is there any assurance to get it up?

Congressman Twyman: We have no definite commitments or promises. We haven't been able to get a commitment.

Question: What are your expectations to get it up?

Congressman Twyman: Naturally, we are hopeful of that.

Question: Have all of those present joined in the resolution?

Congressman Twyman: Yes, I think we can say that. There are others not here who have taken an equally active part.

Congresswoman St. George: I should like to add that Congressman Javits has been very modest. He has done more than the rest of us. He has also helped us to promulgate this resolution. We have all worked with him, and it is our expectation and hope that it will be brought up at this session or at the very latest at the beginning of the next session. I think the resolution is well drawn, and I don't see how the Department could object to it.

Congressman Javits: Thank you. I am sure you will agree, though, that Congressman Twyman has carried the ball.

Congresswoman St. George: I certainly do agree to that.

Congressman Riehlman: I haven't anything to say other than that I concur with all that has been said and that I am heartily in sympathy with the resolution.

Congressman Keating: I have given quite a little study to the legal position of the establishment of a Jewish home in Palestine. I expect to complete a brief tomorrow
~~within a few weeks~~ for inclusion in the Record which will set forth my view that

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the establishment of a Jewish Home in Palestine has a very definite legal background, approaching the thing from a purely impassive and non-emotional standpoint and citing the documents to support that contention. It will be perhaps legalistic, but I will try to have enough copies so that if it does interest the press, it will be available.

Congressman Foote: Congressman Javits has stated it very well. I am naturally in favor of this resolution. I am very sympathetic to it.

Congressman Stratton: I have nothing to say. I consider this a very important aspect of this problem. I would like to say that Mr. Twyman and myself, along with others from Illinois, have signed a pledge prior to the last election in which we agreed to take action such as this. I believe it was about last September or October. This is in line with a pledge we have made, and I am happy that Congressman Twyman has done so much in furthering the aim.

Congressman Twyman: We have copies of the previous letter to the Secretary of State and the reply.

Question: The reply in brief was that they did not think it timely to set forth a position?

Congressman Twyman: Yes.

Question: I notice that there are four freshmen here. I wonder how many on the list of signers are freshmen.

Congressman Twyman: About half of them are. Among those who are not we do have Congressman Wadsworth, Congressman Bender, etc. In other words, we have ^apretty good quality of signers on that list.

Question: In the final paragraph you ask the State Department to advise you as to its intentions. What did you have in mind in the way of contributions?

Congressman Javits: Well, what I had in mind is that a plan for Palestine may ^{only} very well evolve, not/on the diplomatic, but in financial contribution. I don't know how much. I can tell you this: The contribution of the United States must

be related to the contribution of those in the United States interested in the Palestine problem, and the contribution of these must be very large.

Question: Is this an effort to implement the bi-partisan policy?

Congressman Javits: That is exactly our purpose.

Question: (from representative of French press) Don't you believe you can solve the D. P. problem by the admission of those people in those countries? If the Stratton Bill is adopted, and other Latin-American and other countries also agree to accept immigrants, can't you solve it that way?

Congressman Stratton: If they are willing. The problem is, are we forcing people to settle in countries they do not want to settle in. The group over there prefers to go to Palestine. Historically, you had the Palestine problem before you had this particular problem which grew out of the present war. As far as resettlement of D. P.'s is concerned, even if we admitted 400,000, we would still leave half a million yet to be placed, and out of that group there are quite possibly a number who ~~xxx~~ wish to go to Palestine.

Question: (same correspondent) But in the hearings on the Stratton Bill, General Hildring said that if the United States would accept a number of D. P.'s, other countries would also accept a number. And also the I.R.O. will soon be able to take care of D. P.'s.

Congressman Twyman: The I. R. O. only creates the machinery for negotiation. As soon as possible, it will negotiate with governments for accepting D. P.'s, and as soon as possible we hope it will negotiate with the Palestine government for Jewish D. P.'s. But this is only 20% of the D. P.'s. There are plenty of D. P.'s to go around for any country which wishes to take them.

Question: These are all Republican members. You say the Democrats are welcome. Why weren't they thrown in?

Congressman Twyman: It is a question of technical organization. We have been working together, and we sent the first letter, so it was a natural sequence that we should send the second letter together. The resolution was a late contribution, more on the part of my colleagues than myself. The fact that they both came out together was coincidental. This has no quality of a Republican Party move.

Question: Has there been any similar thought on the side of the Democrats?

Congressman Twyman: I don't know. There are a number of resolutions by Congressman Celler, Congressman Somers, etc./ Perhaps if they see a respectable support for this resolution they would come along with it.

Congressman Keating: There is another practical point. It was difficult enough getting thirty Republicans together. We felt that bringing in others might greatly delay the thing.

Question: In simple language, doesn't ~~this~~ this bill boil down to a request to the Administration to put pressure on the UN committee to take a position in line with traditional American policy?

Congressman Twyman: I would say no. If the committee thinks we are sticking by our policy, it will have considerably to do with the kind of decision they render. We do not intend to have pressure put upon the committee. We feel our policy will be an important element in what they decide on.

Question: Does your policy involve a hostility to partition?

Congressman Twyman: Nothing in what the President or Congress has said would indicate that. ~~Reasonably, I wouldn't do without it.~~

July 16, 1947

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

Dear Harry:

I saw Mr. McCarthy, Senator Lodge's secretary, today. He said he knew nothing about a letter written by Senator Lodge to Secretary of State Marshall; nor did he see any reply, if such arrived. He promised to check later during the day and let me know tomorrow.

Most cordially yours,

Hyman A. Schulson

HAS:ME

Geo. C. Marshall

letter sent by
30 Republican Congressmen

see folder (1947-48)

Press Conference - 30
Republican Congressmen



July 16, 1947

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

Dear Harry:

Enclosed is copy of a letter Leo Sack received
from Senator George and my reply in Leo's name.

Very sincerely yours,

Hyman A. Schulson

CC to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, L. I .
Cleveland, Ohio

[undated]

DRAFT OF A LETTER BY THIRTY REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN TO
SECRETARY OF STATE MARSHALL AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE U.N.
WARREN AUSTIN, LAKE SUCCESS, NEW YORK

Honorable Sirs:

On April 22nd, 1947 we addressed certain questions to you with respect to United States policy on the question of Palestine then under consideration by the United Nations General Assembly, and in response on May 5th, 1947 we were advised that "it would be premature for this government (U.S.) to develop its policy with regard to the substance of this question (Palestine) in such a way as to limit the full utilization of the Committee's recommendation in its report" (Par. ours).

Since this exchange of correspondence, the General Assembly of the United Nations has constituted a United Nations Special Committee on Palestine to investigate and to submit such proposals as it may consider appropriate for the solution of the problem of Palestine, and the Committee is now engaged in such investigation. We believe that the practicability of implementing the recommendations of the General Assembly is likely to be an important element in the deliberations of the Special Committee. Clearly, the attitude of a leading world power such as the United States toward any proposed solutions must weigh very heavily in assaying their practicability. Accordingly, we would appreciate information on the following questions:

1.- Is it the intention of our government to cause our representative to appear before the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, or the General Assembly, to announce that the policy of the United States continues to be that a national home for the Jewish people should be established in Palestine, and that Palestine should be opened for 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 up-building of Palestine and 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?

2.- Is our government willing to announce at the same time its readiness to consider material and moral assistance and participation in a Commission or Authority which may be established by the United Nations, for the purpose of solving the Palestine problem along the above lines?

Our present attempt to seek to ascertain what will be done by the Executive Branch springs from the fact that this session of Congress is drawing to a close and that we would like to have an opportunity to consider what Congress can do to contribute to the carrying out in fact of the above policy.

Sincerely yours,