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American Zionist Emergency Council, report of activities, 1948.

AZEC
PRESS RELEASE

DAY OF PROTEST, PRAYER AND INTERCESSION FOR PALESTINE

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FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1948

Jews Throughout America Observe Day of Protest, Prayer
and Intercession for Palestine

More Than A Million Postcards Sent to President Truman
Assailing Administration's "Betrayal"

Country's Leading Rabbis Call for U.S. Return to Support of UN Decision

New York, April 8 -- The American Jewish community held special services of intercession for Palestine this evening (Thursday, April 8, 1948), giving expression to the Jewish people's indignation over the U.S. Government's reversal of policy on Palestine and offering prayer for the embattled Jews of the Holy Land.

Every rabbinical and Jewish congregational organization of America participated in this nation-wide mobilization, including the Synagogue Council of America, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Rabbinical Assembly of America, the Rabbinical Council of America, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Union of Orthodox Congregations of America, the United Synagogues of America, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of America and Canada, Agudath Israel of America, the Mizrachi Organization of America, the National Council of Young Israel, Vaad Harabanim of New York, Poale Agudath Israel, Zeire-Agudath Israel, Hapoel Hamizrachi, Hashomer Hadati, the Women's Mizrachi Organization and the Women's Section of Agudath Israel.

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In the New York metropolitan area a large number of manufacturers and businessmen closed their factories and places of business at 4:00 P.M. in order to enable their workers to arrive at their respective synagogues at an early hour. In most instances, services were held in the late afternoon or in the early evening.

More Than a Million Postcards Sent to President Truman Protesting "Betrayal" On Palestine.

Synagogues throughout the country distributed to their worshipers postcards addressed to President Truman which read: "As an American Jew who loves our country and is proud of its democratic heritage and ideals, I was outraged at the sudden repudiation by your administration of the United Nations decision on Palestine, which our Government had helped to achieve. It is with deep regret that I must express my sense of disillusionment with your administration, Mr. President, because of this betrayal of Jewish hopes, of the United Nations and of your own pledges. I support the Jewish state and fervently hope that your administration will heed the voice of the people on this vital question."

It was estimated that more than a million of these postcards were mailed to the President.

Jewish religious organizations in Palestine, England, South Africa, Australia and Canada also held special services, giving the day of prayer and protest a world-wide character.

Rabbi Milton Steinberg Calls Upon U.S. Government to Retrieve its Misstep.

In their sermons, the leading rabbis of the country joined in denouncing the Administration's repudiation of its pledges and obligations regarding Palestine and called for a return to the support of the United Nations decision of November 29, 1947.

Rabbi Milton Steinberg, of the Park Avenue Synagogue, declared: "Many harsh things can rightfully be said concerning our country's reversal of

position on the Partition of Palestine: that it is shocking in its capriciousness; unconscionable in its abandonment, under the threat of force, of a course carefully weighed and deliberately adopted as the right; brutal in its desertion of the D.P.'s rotting in their internment camps and of Jewish Palestine fighting for its existence, wanton in the damage it has inflicted on the U.N.; humiliating in its besmirching of American honor and prestige; a bad political bargain in that it has won for our country only the undependable, mercenary friendship of the Arabs, a friendship always available to us so long as the weather remains fair and we have money to spend; and, finally, stupid, being that kind of political move of which Talleyrand once said mordantly: 'It is worse than a crime, it is a blunder.'

"But the one proposition which most requires to be pronounced and acted upon is that this misstep -- whether it be sin, blunder or both -- can and must be retrieved.

"It must be retrieved, in the first instance, for the sake of those tens of thousands of Jewish homeless to whom Palestine is the sole hope of a home, whose plight President Truman recognized over two years ago but has forgotten since; and, in the second instance, for the sake of those Jews who trusting the nations of the world, America among them, have devoted their lives to laying the foundations of a progressive, democratic Jewish state in Palestine.

"Most of all, it must be retrieved for the sake of the United Nations, that its decisions may not be put to mock and mankind's hope of peaceful adjudication of international disputes frustrated.

"The misstep, finally, must be retrieved for America's sake, that our country's pledged work shall not be set for sale in return for oil concessions, that its determination may not be shown so weak as to be swayed by the threats of anyone, that its good repute and moral integrity may be vindicated before all the world.

"Than our democracy there is, as Lincoln taught us, no better hope for all the world -- provided America remains true to its best self in all things, in this crucial matter of Palestine not least of all."

Rabbi Irving Miller Says U.S. Government's "New" Palestine Policy is Threat to Democracy.

Rabbi Irving Miller, Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Zionist Organization of America, speaking at the Congregation Sons of Israel, Woodmere, Long Island said: "On this day of Mobilization and Prayer, we should concern ourselves with the moral and ethical, rather than with the political or strategic, aspects of the Palestinian situation. What concerns us is the moral climate of our country. And it is precisely in that respect that we are forced to give utterance to our sense of shock and dismay at our country's 'new' policy on Palestine. For this 'new' policy must be viewed against a background of thirty years of implicit and explicit support of the Jewish National Home. Beginning with November 2, 1917, when President Wilson approved the text of the Balfour Declaration, and ending on November 29, 1947, when America cast its affirmative vote for Partition, the record is replete with congressional resolutions, party pledges, and presidential pronouncements. Why then this reversal of a record of three decades? Must all this give way to oil and profits? Is there a price at which America's plighted word and honor can be bought? Is this the moral climate in which democracy and fair play are to become the heritage of future generations?

"There is yet one more aspect that must give serious concern to all American citizens who believe in the American way of life. In this struggle, as in all other struggles, there are two sides. On the one hand, is the Yishuv which over several decades has built up in the Middle East an outpost of civilization and democracy with benefits to Arab and Jew alike. The Yishuv's adversaries in this struggle are not the Arab people, but a band of feudal

kings, effendis, and chieftains, led by former Nazi collaborators similar to those who were condemned to death by our country among others at Nuremberg as war criminals. On whose side is our country? By placing an embargo on arms to Palestine, by warning Jewish G. I.'s in Palestine that they will forfeit their passports if they defend themselves against Arab attacks, by creating the impression in the American call for a truce that Jews and Arabs are equally the aggressors, and now by abandoning Partition and proposing a trusteeship which would make the neighboring Arab States parties to the agreement, our country -- the world's greatest spokesman for democracy -- is giving clear evidence that it has turned its back on the democratic Yishuv and is collaborating with the Mufti and his ilk. Can democracy thrive in such a climate?"

Rabbi Levinthal Says America's Last Word on Jewish Palestine Has Not Yet Been Spoken.

Rabbi I. H. Levinthal, of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, said: "We pray for the people of Israel that they may be sustained in their faith and in their courage to establish the Jewish State in Palestine in these dark days when they are forsaken by those who were their allies in their hopes. Verily, as the prophet Jeremiah bewails, 'I called to my friends, but they have betrayed me.'

"But we pray, too, for our beloved America, that she may regain her true soul, that she may remain faithful to her ideals, that she may not sell her birthright of national honor for a mess of pottage or oil.

"America, as an exemplar of world morality, could indeed have made the United Nations the instrument for world peace. By her reversal on the Palestine solution and by yielding to threats of force, she struck a mortal blow to the United Nations, which has rendered it impotent as a serious influence for the solution of world problems.

"We believe, however, that the last word of America on Jewish Palestine has not yet been spoken, and that the conscience of America will yet force those in authority to do justice to that people that was denied world justice through so many ages."

PRESS RELEASE from AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Associated Organizations

Zionist Organization of America • Hadassah • Mizrahi Organization of America • Labor Zionist Organization of America-Poale Zion
United Zionists-Revisionists of America • Hashomer Hatzair • Achdut Havodah-Poale Zion (United Labor Zionist Party)

342 Madison Avenue • New York 17, N. Y. • MU 2-1160

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL CALLS UPON
PRESIDENT TRUMAN AND SECRETARY OF STATE MARSHALL
TO TAKE IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO SECURE RELEASE OF
"MARINE CARP" PASSENGERS SEIZED BY LEBANON

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New York, May 21 -- Immediate measures to secure the release of all of those seized by Lebanon from the American steamship "Marine Carp" were called for today by the American Zionist Emergency Council in telegrams to President Truman and Secretary of State Marshall.

The Council, which speaks for all Zionist organizations in the United States, urged the President and the Secretary of State to "obtain binding guarantees of no further interference with American vessels sailing between the United States and Israel."

The Council added that if the Lebanese Government does not agree to release the seized "Marine Carp" passengers from the concentration camp where they have been interned, and if Lebanese agreement to guarantees against further interference with United States vessels is not obtained, "we are certain that you will apply appropriate sanctions against the Lebanese Government."

The text of the Council's telegram to the President and the Secretary of State follows:

WE WISH TO REGISTER OUR CONCERN AND EXPRESS OUR INDIGNATION OVER THE ACTION OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IN REMOVING UNITED STATES CITIZENS EN ROUTE TO

(more)

ISRAEL FROM THE AMERICAN SHIP "MARINE CARP" AND INTERNING THEM IN A CONCENTRATION CAMP. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PERMIT SUCH INTERFERENCE BY THE LEBANESE OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT WITH THE FREEDOM OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND WITH AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY. WE ARE EQUALLY HOPEFUL THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PERMIT LEBANESE OR ANY OTHER AUTHORITIES TO TAKE DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS OF JEWISH FAITH TRAVELLING ABOARD AMERICAN VESSELS. WE LOOK TO YOU TO TAKE IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF ALL THOSE INTERNED BY LEBANON IN THIS INCIDENT AND TO OBTAIN BINDING GUARANTEES OF NO FURTHER INTERFERENCE WITH AMERICAN VESSELS SAILING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL. IF LEBANESE AGREEMENT TO SUCH RELEASE AND GUARANTEES IS NOT OBTAINED, WE ARE CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL APPLY APPROPRIATE SANCTIONS AGAINST THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. RESPECTFULLY YOURS.

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R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, after nineteen centuries of national homelessness, the Jewish people has proclaimed and established the independent State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Israel was created on the basis of a decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which on November 29, 1947 called for the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab States; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish displaced persons, still languishing in the camps of Europe, will at long last be enabled to emigrate to the new Jewish State and there rebuild their lives in a progressive and democratic community; and

WHEREAS, the United States, the Soviet Union and other nations have already given official recognition to the Republic of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the new-born Republic of Israel is now engaged in a critical struggle for survival, since it has been ruthlessly invaded by the armies of neighboring Arab States, who are bent upon the destruction of the Jewish State; and

WHEREAS, the Jews of Palestine are imbued with the highest ideals of democracy and are animated by the same high principles which guide Americans in their devotion to freedom and human rights;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we _____, extend our congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to the President of the United States for his immediate recognition of Israel, and we look forward to the early exchange of diplomatic representatives between the two countries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we respectfully call upon the President to translate our country's recognition of Israel into the practical and logical steps which the present situation demands, and that the United States immediately revise its arms embargo, so that the embattled Jews of Israel may be given the opportunity to defend their lives -- and their newly-gained independence -- against Arab aggression.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States withhold further financial assistance from Great Britain as long as that government persists in providing monetary subsidies and military equipment to the Arab Legion and the other Arab forces now invading Israel.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and the United States delegation to the United Nations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASKED TO DENY BRITAIN FUNDS

WHICH AID ARAB AGGRESSORS

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RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARAB LEGION ATTACKS RESTS SQUARELY ON
GREAT BRITAIN, AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL CHARGES

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New York, May 19 -- "The time has come for the United States to deny to Britain the means to supply Arab aggressors," the American Zionist Emergency Council today declared in commenting on the British Foreign Office's announcement that the British Government will continue to supply arms, money and officers to the Transjordan Arab Legion and to the armies of other Arab states.

The Council, which speaks for the entire Zionist movement in the United States, declared that the responsibility for the Arab Legion's acts of aggression in Palestine -- "for the loss of life and the destruction of property inflicted by the British-financed, British-trained, British-supplied and British-officered Arab Legion -- rests squarely on Great Britain. . . . The use of a puppet's army in such attacks may save the lives of British soldiers, but does not diminish Britain's culpability."

The Council added that "the United States Government cannot be expected to finance indirectly an organized onslaught on a friendly State. Nor can peace-loving American citizens -- Jews and non-Jews -- be expected to contribute to the British-led Arab war to annihilate Israel."

The text of the Council's statement follows:

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On April 16th, Sir Alexander Cadogan, Great Britain's chief delegate to the United Nations, made an official statement reaffirming previous undertakings of the British Government to withdraw the Transjordan Arab Legion from Palestine before May 15th, the date of the termination of the British Mandate. These official undertakings of His Majesty's Government have been unabashedly and cynically broken.

The Arab Legion has not only remained in Palestine, but has both before and after May 15th engaged in open aggression against Jewish settlements in the area of the Republic of Israel, as well as in the area of the Arab portion of partitioned Palestine. The responsibility for these attacks -- for the loss of life and the destruction of property inflicted by the British-financed, British-trained, British-supplied and British-officered Arab Legion -- rests squarely on Great Britain. The British Government's responsibility for these acts of aggression is as great today as it would be if units of the British Army itself had attacked Kfar Etzion, Neve Jacob, Geshar and Naharaim. The use of a puppet's army in such attacks may save the lives of British soldiers, but does not diminish Britain's culpability.

Having sought to create the impression in American public opinion that the Arab Legion is no longer under British command, and having failed in that attempt, the Foreign Office in London now announces that it will not halt its monetary subsidy and supply of arms to Abdullah's Legion unless and until the United Nations decides that the Arabs are acting illegally. This shocking statement coincides with an official inspection of the Arab Legion's positions around Jerusalem -- the international city to be placed under the direct rule of the United Nations -- by Brigadier Glubb, a British officer officially assigned by the War Office to command the Transjordan Legion. Furthermore, the British Foreign Office has announced that Great Britain will continue to supply arms, money and officers to the armies of other Arab states as well.

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Having failed in its attempts at subterfuge, Great Britain has evidently decided openly to admit its active participation in the murderous assault on Israel, a state created on the basis of a decision by the overwhelming majority of the United Nations General Assembly, and a state first recognized by the United States of America.

These facts should be known by all; and the inescapable conclusions therefrom must be acted upon. Great Britain today supports Arab aggression from Transjordan, Egypt and Iraq with money which comes from the American Treasury; with money supplied by the taxpayers of America.

If moral principles, human decency, justice in international relations and the expressed will of organized mankind have no effect upon the Government of Great Britain, the time has come for the United States to deny to Britain the means to supply Arab aggressors. The United States Government cannot be expected to finance indirectly an organized onslaught on a friendly state. Nor can peace-loving American citizens -- Jews and non-Jews -- be expected to contribute to the British-led Arab war to annihilate Israel.

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