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American Zionist Emergency Council, communications to
chairmen of local emergency committees, 1949.

MEMORANDUM

To Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees

Date January 6, 1949

From Abe Tuvim

Enclosed you will find a press release issued today by the American Zionist Emergency Council on Great Britain's anti-Israel role and its persisted efforts to destroy the Jewish State.

During the past year, both in the councils of the United Nations and in the public press, the British have been responsible for a series of maneuvers, the clear objective of which has been to undermine the UN partition decision of November 29, 1947, and ghettoize the Jewish State.

The record of these acts is outlined in the release sent herewith and you are most urgently requested to give this material the widest possible public attention.

It should be made the subject of sermons in both Jewish and non-Jewish houses of worship and wherever possible these sermons should be publicized by press releases; it should be placed in the hands of high public officials, county, state and national, to be used by them for speeches and statements for the press and radio; it should be made available to radio commentators, editors and columnists and publicized by all other methods at your disposal.

We cannot and dare not underestimate the perfidious ends to which Mr. Bevin's anti-Jewish policies will continue to strive. Only an aroused and fighting public opinion expressed through the press, radio and the public and legislative halls of America can serve to keep strong the backbone of American resistance to present and future British schemes to injure or to destroy the Jewish State.

There is a big job ahead. Mobilize all our friends and our workers. Carry out this program without delay. If you need additional releases or other material they will be supplied to you. Call on us for any help you think we can give to make your campaign successful.

Kindest regards.

AT:RB
Enc.

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

ZIONIST MEMORANDUM ON BRITISH ROLE IN WAR AGAINST ISRAEL CHARGES BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVE ALLY OF ARAB STATES

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BRITISH THREAT OF UNILATERAL ACTION IN SUPPORT OF EGYPT IS DESIGNED TO INDUCE
U.S. INTO JOINING SANCTIONS MOVE AGAINST ISRAEL, ZIONIST COUNCIL DECLARES

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New York, Jan. 6 -- The American Zionist Emergency Council today released the text of a memorandum charging that "the most recent actions of Great Britain with regard to Israel have established conclusively that the British Government is in fact an active ally of the Arab states in their war against Israel." The Council is headed by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman, and represents all Zionist organizations in the United States.

The memorandum, which is being submitted to members of Congress and other leaders of American public opinion, assails the British Government's threat of unilateral action in support of Egyptian warfare with Israel and declares: "Great Britain obviously hopes to induce the United States into joining a renewed British attempt to bring about the imposition of sanctions against Israel by the Security Council, and in order to achieve this, Britain warns that if she fails to bring about the international action she desires she will be 'compelled' to act unilaterally in support of Egypt."

Noting that Israeli accusations concerning British troop movements to the port of Aqaba in Transjordan have now been confirmed by British sources, the memorandum states: "Having committed itself to the support of Egyptian warfare against

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Israel, it would seem that the British Government is now concerned lest peace materialize between Transjordan and Israel. If the British-officered, British-supplied and British-financed Transjordan Arab Legion should re-enter the war at any time in the future, it will be generally understood that Great Britain alone will be responsible."

Declaring that "at this time the American Government and people would profit from a review of the British record in the war against Israel," the memorandum presents a six-point outline of that record, as follows:

"1. Immediately after the adoption of the partition resolution by the United Nations General Assembly on November 29, 1947, the British authorities in Palestine systematically and deliberately opened the frontiers of that country to armed Arab bands entering for the express purpose of engaging in a military struggle with the Jews in order to upset the decision of the United Nations by force of arms. At the same time, British representatives in Arab countries incited and encouraged the Arab states to greater efforts against the Jews and the United Nations resolution.

"2. Britain also actively participated in this aggression by supplying the Arab states with financial aid, by creating a stockpile of war supplies and equipment for the Arabs, by providing officers and administrative help to the invaders. Simultaneously, Britain made every effort to prevent the Jews from arming for their own defense.

"3. When - despite all of these British maneuvers - the Arab attacks did not succeed in overcoming Jewish resistance and the State of Israel was proclaimed on May 14, 1948, Great Britain encouraged the Arab governments to launch full-scale military invasions of Palestine with the declared aim of over-running and subjugating Israel. The attack was led by the Transjordan Arab Legion, a military force completely equipped, financed and officered by Great Britain.

"4. In the early days of the war, when the invaders were on the move, Great Britain did nothing to bring hostilities to a halt, but, on the contrary, maneuvered ceaselessly in the Security Council to keep the Arab states from being punished as aggressors. At that time Great Britain saw no violation of the United Nations Charter, although the action of the Arab states in invading Palestine was explicitly

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denounced as international aggression by United States Delegate Warren Austin (May 22, 1948). Then the British worked indefatigably to induce the Security Council to refrain from taking the action which was clearly indicated.

"5. However, when the tide turned and the Israeli Army turned back the aggressors, there were immediate British moves for truces, Israeli troop withdrawals and --finally, the bitterest irony -- sanctions against Israel for successfully defending its own territory.

"6. Now that Israel has inflicted a series of decisive defeats on the Arab armies and has, in the course of one military engagement, attacked legitimate military objectives on Egyptian soil, Great Britain threatens unilateral military action against the Jewish state."

Pointing out that the United Nations truce "is being used by Egypt as a mere device to continue in occupation of territory outside the national boundaries of Egypt," the memorandum states: "In the circumstances, the Israeli Government is naturally concerned with the need to eliminate the aggression within its territory and the threat to its existence. Any military action undertaken by Israeli authorities and designed to expel the Egyptian invaders from its national territory and to eliminate this threat is a lawful and necessary exercise of sovereignty and is fully consonant with the fundamental right of self-defense accorded under international law to all sovereign States and referred to in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

"As long as the necessity for such self-defense has not passed, it would be unjust and unfair to interfere with the conduct of military operations by one party only, permitting the Egyptian forces to occupy parts of Palestine but prohibiting Israel from taking action against the bases of the enemy's attack. If this attitude were sanctioned, it would amount to nothing less than assurance to the aggressor that he may indefinitely continue his attack in the knowledge that he will never suffer a counter-attack on his homegrounds.

"We cannot believe that the Government of the United States or the American people would for one moment sanction so biased and unfair an approach.

"It is generally understood today -- despite the distortions and misrepresentations of British propagandists -- that Israel has no designs on the territory of any of its neighbors and retains but one objective in its current defense of its political and territorial integrity: peace. The prolongation of the conflict, and the resulting strain on the young state's economy, has created an unendurable situation for Israel and its people -- a situation which cannot be further continued if Israel is to maintain itself economically. It has no alternative but to compel Egypt to negotiate peace -- and this all-important fact must be considered in connection with Israeli military operations in the Negev.

"Finally, it is respectfully suggested that the Government of the United States should refuse to lend itself, either directly or indirectly, either in its diplomatic relations with the parties to the Palestine controversy or as a member of the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Palestine Conciliation Commission of the United Nations, to any attempt to restrict the freedom of Israel to eject the Egyptian invaders. Instead, it is respectfully suggested that the Government of the United States, both in its direct relations with the parties to the controversy and as a member of the United Nations, should pursue the aim of achieving an armistice and peace between Egypt and Israel on the basis of mutual respect of the respective territories of the two States."

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Constituent Organizations

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
MUrray Hill 2-1160

February 11, 1949

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Friend:

You will recall that the American Christian Palestine Committee has conducted four annual seminars in which Christian leaders participated as delegates selected by local Zionist communities. The Executive Council of the American Christian Palestine Committee has decided to hold the fifth National Seminar in ISRAEL, and has requested our cooperation in what will be the most significant event yet planned in our nation-wide public relations program.

The assembly date in Tel Aviv for this American Christian Palestine Committee Study Tour to Israel is tentatively planned for April 28th; the tour will close in Israel on May 12th. As many participants as possible will leave on the S.S. Queen Mary from New York on April 20th so as to profit from the round table discussions planned aboard ship. Delegates who find this sailing date inconvenient will take the trip by plane a few days later.

May I urge you to assist this project by arranging for the participation of a carefully selected non-Jewish representative, man or woman, of your community. Please think in terms of a newspaper editor, a college president, an outstanding professor, a prominent churchman or a leader of management or labor. The individual selected should have several of the following qualifications: (1) sympathy with Zionist aspirations, (2) standing in the community, (3) ability as a public speaker or as a writer, and (4) capacity for action. He need not be fully informed on all aspects of the question; the seminar will provide him with all of the facts.

The Executive Council of the American Christian Palestine Committee believes that the American people need firsthand reports of Israel today,--its achievements and its problems, - its economic needs and possibilities for industrial and agricultural development. They submit that while we have gone a long way in educating the public, we are still beset by hostile propaganda groups seeking to undermine the State of Israel by false accusations concerning its politics, its form of government, its intentions towards Arab neighbors and its potentials as a world force for good will and moral advancement. The American Christian Palestine Committee delegates to Israel will be in a position to counteract these hostile influences, after an intensive study of conditions in Israel, under sponsorship of Israeli experts.

I would urge local Zionist Emergency Committees to defray travel, hotel and personal expenses of their delegate for this important and unprecedented public relations project. The cost is estimated at a maximum of \$2,000 from New York to Israel and return, depending on mode of travel. A number of communities are already planning to distribute the costs by joining with one or two nearby cities and thus sponsor a delegate jointly.

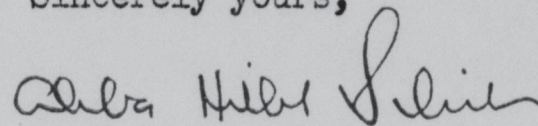
All steamer and transoceanic plane tickets will be reserved through an agency

February 11, 1949

chosen by the American Christian Palestine Committee, which is arranging for a block of plane and steamer reservations. Please forward to us immediately the name, address and profession of your delegate so that an official invitation may be issued by the American Christian Palestine Committee. I know that I can count on you and your Zionist colleagues to cooperate in this important undertaking.

Your early action and reply are requested.

Sincerely yours,



Abba Hillel Silver
Chairman, Executive Committee

AHS:SHK

P. S. Under no circumstances is money to be sent to the Emergency Council or to the American Christian Palestine Committee. You will receive a directive as to the travel agency which is handling this matter.



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

MEMORANDUM

To Members of American Zionist Emergency Council Date February 15, 1949

From Abe Tuvim

Serry

Attached you will find copy of a letter which Dr. Silver has sent to the Chairmen of Local Emergency Committees throughout the country. It will acquaint you with the plan of the American Christian Palestine Committee to organize a series of Seminars in Israel late in April for a group of outstanding American Christian leaders.

The letter has also been sent to the parties affiliated with the Emergency Council with a memorandum from me requesting that each of the parties sponsor a Christian leader of their choice, in consultation with the American Christian Palestine Committee.

I would urge the members of the American Zionist Emergency Council to do everything they can within their parties to help bring about the successful culmination of this project.

Kindest regards.

AT:RB

SM
are we sending out
any directive on
this? *ju* *2/15/49*

No!

I send copies to
The Regional Bureau
only! That!

as far as we go.
Thy
Ad