



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel
181

Box
67

Folder
681

Statement to Cleveland Press, 1945.

9-5-45
To Cleve Press

Six million European Jews were slaughtered during the war. The physical and economic condition of most of the million and a half who survived is wretched indeed. Most of them cannot or do not wish to return to their original homes which for them are associated with horror and tragedy. The most recent reports made by impartial observers all point to the desire of most of the surviving Jews of Europe to emigrate to Palestine. From all parts of Europe the Jewish Agency for Palestine is receiving urgent pleas for immigration certificates to Palestine. None are to be had.

The war is over. Is there any reason why the doors of Palestine should now remain closed in view of this desperate human problem? There is a new government in Great Britain. It is committed through the platform of the Labor Party to the abrogation of the White Paper policy and to the full Zionist program. The Jewish Commonwealth has been endorsed by the two major American political parties in 1944, by 33 State Legislatures and 40 Governors, by President Roosevelt and President Truman. Both the American Federation of Labor and the C.I.O. have at their annual conventions, given their enthusiastic endorsement of the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth.

Prior to his departure for Potsdam, President Truman was petitioned by 55 senators and 261 members of the House of Representatives to use his influence with the Government of Great Britain to open forthwith the doors of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization towards establishing Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth at the earliest possible time.

A favorable decision would not only meet the needs of the survivors of the death camps of Central and Eastern Europe but would solve the age old problem of the national homelessness of the Jewish people, the root of so

much tragedy in the past and would contribute to a stable world based on justice to all peoples.

