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Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel
181

Box
67

Folder
696

Statement on Churchill and Roosevelt on Palestine, 1945.

DR. SILVER SCORES CHURCHILL, F.D.R. STATEMENTS

New York (JPS) -- Asserting that this was in the nature of a reply to numerous inquiries addressed to him regarding Prime Minister Churchill's statement on the Palestine question and President Roosevelt's brief reference to the Jewish problem there, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, of Cleveland, issued the following statement:

"Prime Minister Churchill's statement with regard to the Palestine question and President Roosevelt's passing reference to the Jewish problem there, will come as a shock only to those who have been misled into expecting an imminent decision favorable to our cause. Mr. Churchill has made it clear that no decision on Palestine has been taken, nor is one contemplated until the end of the war. In my opinion there was never solid ground for anticipating a positive pro-Zionist declaration to issue from Malta, Yalta or Egypt. I made no secret of my views but always cautioned against false hopes and unfounded optimism. Repeatedly I warned my fellow Zionists that our battle was far from won, and advocated a policy of constant vigilance and unrelenting militant action along our whole political front to ensure ultimate victory. For this I was bitterly attacked and my policy denounced by those who thought they knew better, who imagined themselves to be in the know, and who fostered a false atmosphere of inflated expectation. They attached exaggerated importance to their personal standing in official circles. They decried public agitation and the pressure of public opinion as harmful and a Congressional Resolution on Palestine as superfluous, untimely and inconsequential. They believed the time had come for our 'diplomats' to take over. Events have proved them to be hopelessly in the wrong. The new Zionist line they adopted already stands defeated and discredited.

"Where do we go from here? Are we to be doomed again to subsist on pledges while fulfillment is repeatedly deferred? It is pertinent to recall that it is now almost six years since the White Paper was issued and almost five years since Mr. Churchill took office. During these years Jewish blood has flowed in torrents but the Palestine issue still remains where Chamberlain left it. No doubt a few crumbs of consolation will be thrown our way in the form of some immigration permits -- granted perhaps 'with Arab consent; as envisaged in the White Paper -- in lieu of the basic political solution so long overdue and so persistently postponed.

"In the face of this new and bitter disappointment, our movement must recover its sense of reality, shake off illusions and gird itself for the great struggle which still lies ahead. We must rally our forces and mobilize all our resources once more for a united, all out effort to bring about the realization of our historic aspirations. The future of Israel is at stake. This is no time for weakness and cautious 'moderation.' The moment calls for high courage and a return to a vigorous, militant policy."

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