November 15, 1944

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
The White House, Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear President Roosevelt,

I am pleased to inform you that on Saturday and Sunday, November 25th and 26th, 1944, the National Labor Committee for Palestine will hold its twenty-first annual national convention at the Hotel Commodore, New York City.

More than a million members (Jewish and non-Jewish) of trade unions in the C. I. O. and A. F. of L., members of fraternal and civic organizations are affiliated with the National Labor Committee for Palestine.

Organized in 1923, for the purpose of helping the Jewish pioneers in Palestine build a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth, our organization has made successful headway in organizing labor and progressive forces in over 300 communities throughout the United States to aid the Histadrut (organized labor in Palestine). This year, we are privileged to send the Histadrut institutions close to two million dollars, collected in shops, factories and on different occasions.

At the National Convention to be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 25th and 26th, there will be an attendance of over 3,000 delegates representing labor unions, fraternal and civic organizations from all parts of the country. The Convention will be proud and honored to receive your message of greetings, encouraging the organization to continue its good work for the Histadrut (organized labor in Palestine), for the upbuilding of a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

Forward to Victory and a Jewish Cooperative Commonwealth!
National Officers:
JOSEPH SCHLOSSBERG
National Chairman
JOSEPH BREESLAW
L. H. GOLDBERG
LOUIS HOLLANDER
ALEXANDER KAHN
DAVID PINSKE
ALEX ROSE
DVORA ROTHERM
LOUIS SEGAL
HERMAN SEIDEL
DAVID WERTHEIM
WILLIAM WOLPERT
Co-Chairmen
ISTORAG NAGLER
Chairman
Administrative Comm.
MAX ZABITSKY
ABRAHAM MILLER
National Treasurers
ISAAC HAMLIN
National Secretary
HARRY ASIAL
Benjamin Teller
Associate Secretaries
SADIA GELB
Assistant Secretary

Looking forward to the pleasure of receiving your greeting, and expressing our deepest appreciation to you for same, I am

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

LOUIS SEGAL, Co-Chairman
NATIONAL LABOR COMMITTEE
FOR PALESTINE

Forward to Victory and a Jewish Cooperative Commonwealth!
My dear Mr. Segal:

I am cheered by your splendid letter of September twenty-fifth, advising me of the action of the Jewish National Workers' Alliance in adopting that resolution at their annual conference, in support of my Administration. It is a source of real strength and encouragement in this hour of crisis in world affairs to know that I have the confidence of your steadfast and patriotic group. In return I give my solemn pledge to carry on to victory and a lasting peace.

Please express my deep appreciation and thanks to your fellow members as I want them to know how grateful I am to them, individually and collectively, for their loyalty.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. Louis Segal,
General Secretary,
Jewish National Workers' Alliance,
45 East 17th Street,
New York 3, N. Y.
HOLD — Mr. Fitzgerald says organization of no particular importance — labor people don't know anything even know him.
November 21, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF LABOR

Attention: MR. J. V. Fitzgerald,
Director of Information,
Department of Labor:

With the return of the accompanying letter, will you be good enough to prepare appropriate message for the President to send in connection with the twenty-first annual national convention of the National Labor Committee for Palestine, if you recommend such a message from the President.

WILLIAM D. HASSELT
Secretary to the President

Lot. to the President, November 15, 1944
Request for message from the President, National Labor Committee for Palestine, national convention, Hotel Commodore, New York City.
Louis Segal, Co-Chairman,
National Labor Committee for Palestine,
45 East 17th Street,
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
November 21, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF LABOR

Attention: Mr. J. V. Fitzgerald,  
Director of Information,  
Department of Labor:

With the return of the accompanying letter, will you be good enough to prepare appropriate message for the President to send in connection with the twenty-first annual national convention of the National Labor Committee for Palestine, if you recommend such a message from the President.

William D. Hassett  
Secretary to the President

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. FITZGERALD:

This is the letter about which I telephoned you this morning. Many, many thanks for your help.

Alice Winegar  
Secretary to Mr. HASSETT
Have checked with circulation service and find it is not necessary to answer.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
November 24, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hon. William D. Hassett
FROM: Jonathan Daniels

In your absence a letter from Louis Segal, Co-Chairman, National Labor Committee for Palestine, has been referred to me. He wants a message from the President to be read at the meeting of the National Labor Committee for Palestine in New York on Saturday and Sunday, November 25 and 26. The Conciliation Service of the Department of Labor feels that Mr. Segal doesn't need any such message as he has had a number of messages from the President, one as recently as September 30, 1944. It seems to me that Mr. Segal needs to be weaned or at least put on a diet.
March 30, 1944.

Dear Mr. Segal:

The President has heard with much interest, through your letter of March twenty-third, of your plans for the celebration of the annual Passover Festival by the National Labor Committee for Palestine.

As a friend of the Jewish people everywhere, particularly those who suffer Nazi persecution, the President asks me to extend his hearty felicitations to you and to all who gather with you to commemorate the liberation of the ancient Israelites from Egyptian bondage. The President's deep sympathy for Jewish people in the lands of bigotry and persecution was expressed last week in a statement denouncing "the wholesale, systematic murder of the Jews of Europe" and which also declared that the United States will persevere in its efforts to rescue these victims of Nazi brutality. I am enclosing a copy of the President's statement.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President.

Mr. Louis Segal,
Co-Chairman,
National Labor Committee for Palestine,
45 East 17th Street,
New York (2) New York.

Enclosure.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
March 25, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR
JUDGE ROSENFELD

What do you recommend with respect to this request? The President sent a message in '41; refused in '42; none was requested in '43.

attaches

TOI SAYS THE JUDGE WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH MR. HASSETT ABOUT ATTACHED.

MDP
March 23, 1944

Mr. Stephen Early, Secretary
to President Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Early,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter sent to our beloved President, extending an invitation to him to send a message of greeting to the annual Passover celebration of the National Labor Committee for Palestine.

Since the annual Passover celebration is the most outstanding event in Jewish labor circles during the year, I will highly appreciate it and be very thankful to you if you will use your good offices and help us obtain a message from the President.

Thanking you most heartily for your kind cooperation, I am

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

LOUIS BRESLAW
Co-Chairman, National Labor Committee for Palestine

LS:PMK
AFOE

Forward to Victory and a Jewish Cooperative Commonwealth!
March 23, 1944

Honorble Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear President Roosevelt,

On behalf of the National Labor Committee for Palestine, I wish to extend to you a most cordial invitation to send a message of greeting to the annual Passover celebration which will be held on Sunday, April 9th, in the Hotels Astor and Commodore, and the Manhattan Center in New York City.

Each year, during the Passover season, the National Labor Committee for Palestine, which represents more than 2,500 trade unions of both A. F. of L. and the C. I. O., and fraternal and civic organizations throughout the country, gathers to commemorate the exodus of Israel out of Egypt when the concept of freedom for nations was born, to rededicate itself to that concept as embodied in the Democracy of the United States, and to pledge itself to the extension of that concept to all peoples of the world.

This year, more than 6,000 representatives of our affiliated organizations will join in our celebration. They come from many cities and towns to mobilize material and moral resources on behalf of the Histadrut -- the General Federation of Jewish Labor in Palestine, which has made an outstanding contribution to the United Nations war effort, by providing eighty per cent of the manpower, as well as the industrial and agricultural products for the invading Allied armies.

In view of the tragic situation that befell the Jewish people in the lands of bigotry and persecution, we know that the message received from you will encourage the Committee and all its affiliated organizations in their activities on behalf of the pioneers in Palestine, who are preparing the Jewish commonwealth as a haven of refuge for the remnants of our people who withstood the severe persecution of Nazi brutality in Europe.

Forward to Victory and a Jewish Cooperative Commonwealth!
Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
March 23, 1944

We are sure that your message will be a source of joy to all the delegates present at the Passover celebration, and will especially be received with deepest appreciation by millions in America and the world over who seek to help the Jewish people to be freed from its present tragic plight and be afforded the rightful opportunity to continue to upbuild Palestine as the Jewish national home.

Hoping to receive your encouraging message, I am, with sincere wishes for a speedy victory,

Most sincerely yours,

LOUIS SEGAL
Co-Chairman, National Labor Committee for Palestine

LS:PMK

Forward to Victory and a Jewish Cooperative Commonwealth!
March 31, 1944

Mr. Stephen Early, Secretary to President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Early,

I wish to refer you to my letter of March 23rd, in which I have enclosed a copy of a letter of the same date sent to our President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Since the annual Passover celebration referred to in my letter to the President, will take place on Sunday, April 9th, our Committee will deeply appreciate and be very thankful to you for receiving a message from our beloved President, before that date, encouraging the Labor movement for its aid toward the upbuilding of Palestine as the Jewish national home.

Thanking you most heartily for your kind cooperation, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Louis Segal
Co-Chairman, National Labor Committee for Palestine

LS: FMK

Forward to Victory and a Jewish Cooperative Commonwealth!
Mr. William D. Hassett,
Secretary to President Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hassett,

I wish to thank you most heartily for your letter of March 30th, in which you inform us,

"The President has heard with much interest, through your letter of March twenty-third, of your plans for the celebration of the annual Passover Festival by the National Labor Committee for Palestine."

Immediately upon receipt of your letter, I have called a meeting of our Committee, and it was the consensus of opinion of all present that a direct word from our beloved President to the Passover Festival which takes place on Sunday, April 9th, will be received with great joy by the 6,000 delegates who will participate in the three halls in which the celebration will take place.

If it is at all possible, the President should, in his message, mention in some form the efforts of our Committee to help the upbuilding of Palestine for the suffering Jewish people.

I wish to express on behalf of our Committee, our sincerest thanks and deepest appreciation to you for your kind cooperation.

Very sincerely yours,

LOUIS SEGAL,
Co-Chairman, National Labor Committee for Palestine

LS: PMK

Forward to Victory and a Jewish Cooperative Commonwealth!
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
March 25, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR
JUDGE ROSENMAN
X5

What do you recommend with respect to this request? The President sent a message in '41; refused in '42; none was requested in '43.

W.D.H.

WDH; JHL

attachments

Letter to the President; dated 3-23-44

Louis Segel,
Co-Chairman, National Labor Comm. for Palestine,
45 East 17th Street,

Requests message of greeting to annual Passover celebration which will be held Sunday, April 9, Hotels Astor and Commodore, and Manhattan Center, N.Y.C.
Dear Mr. Schlessberg:

The President sends cordial greetings
to all who observe with the National Labor
Committee for Palestine the ancient feast of
the Passover, and an assurance of his continued
sympathy with the Jewish people in the unparalleled
sufferings they have been called upon to endure in
these war years.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSELT
Secretary to the President

Mr. Joseph Schlessberg,
National Chairman,
National Labor Committee for Palestine,
45 East 17th Street,
New York 3, N. Y.
MR. HASSETT:

This organization has had a number of messages from the President in past years; however, in November 1944, Mr. Fitzgerald said organization was of no particular importance and that labor people didn't know Louis Segal, the Co-Chairman. In a memo to Jonathan Daniels you said in effect that the organization needed to be weaned. See marked file.

Jewish Passover: Message sent '41 refused in '42 none requested in '43 message sent '44
Hon. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

On a previous occasion you were good enough to send us a message of encouragement and hope. This year, on March 31st and April 1st, we are again observing our Passover "Third Seder" dedicated to the Jewish pioneers in Palestine. This function will take place at the Hotels Astor and Commodore, and will be attended by close to ten thousand representatives from New York City and from other States throughout the Union. I am writing to invite you to address a message to be presented to those participating in the observance.

The Passover 1945 observance comes at a time when the frightful figures of the physical annihilation of Jews in Europe have been revealed as aggregating approximately four million. For the hundreds of thousands of European Jewish survivors who can still be saved, the only hope for a dignified and free existence is in the ancient Jewish Homeland - Palestine.

The Histadrut, the Federation of Jewish Labor in Palestine, has undertaken as its chief task the development of Palestine in order to absorb the survivors of European Jewry and establish them on their historic soil. The Histadrut is being supported by the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organization and numerous civic and fraternal organizations, which will be represented at our great Passover function.

Your message presented to them and the participants in similar functions all over the United States will be deeply welcome as a reaffirmation of your own stand on a Jewish Palestine and as yet another evidence of your sympathy for the unparalleled sufferings which the Jewish people have endured in these war years.

In the hope that I may have your message of greeting, I am with high regard,

Respectfully yours,

Joseph Schlossberg
National Chairman

FORWARD TO VICTORY AND A JEWISH COOPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH!
March 29, 1945

Dear Leon:

I am in town for a few hours only today - between trips - and find your telegram of March twenty-seventh. I wish it were possible to have the President send a message personally to the National Labor Committee for Palestine, but as things are at present it is simply impossible.

As you can readily surmise, the President's schedule of work steadily increases and he must reserve all of his energy for his official duties.

Very sincerely yours,

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

Leon Crystal, Esq.,
Editor,
Sunday FORWARD,
Forward Building,
175 East Broadway,
New York, N.Y.
NEW YORK NY APR 7 1944 44EP

WILLIAM D. HASSETT, SEC TO PRES F D ROOSEVELT
THE WHITE HOUSE
IN FURTHER REFERENCE TO MY LETTER OF APRIL FIRST APPEAL TO YOU TO OBTAIN OUR BELOVED PRESIDENT A MESSAGE OF GREETING TO PASSOVER FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SUNDAY APRIL NINTH OVER ONE MILLION MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS FRATERNAL ORDERS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE REPRESENTED AT FESTIVAL BY SIX THOUSAND DELEGATES STOP WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THEIR FUTURE ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE WAR EFFORT AND SUPPORT LABOR MOVEMENT IN PALESTINE ORGANIZED IN THE HISTADRUT WILL BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED

LOUIS SEGAL CHAIRMAN NATIONAL LABOR COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINE 45 EAST 17TH STREET NEW YORK NY.
The White House  
Washington  
MAR 27 7 MA 1945  

WILLIAM D. HASSETT  
WHITE HOUSE

I hope you will not consider this an imposition on your kindness because I had mentioned your name in my writings. The National Labor Committee for Palestine is urging me to intervene on their behalf. They appreciate your letter to Mr. Schlossberg, but feel very deeply that because our coreligionists are in a state of depression due to the millions massacred and the future of survivors uncertain a direct word of encouragement from the President at this time.

W21/2  

Would bolster their faith being the labor wing of the pro-Palestine movement they gather scores of thousands of the President's devoted followers for their public Passover festivals all over the United States to which such a message would be read. Anything you may still see fit to do in this matter will be appreciated by these scores of thousands of people. Personally I will be grateful for a 'yes' or no wire.

Leon Crystal City Editor Jewish Daily Forward.