THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 7, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The more I think of it the more I feel that we should say nothing about the Near East or Palestine or the Arabs at this time. If we put either group on the back, we automatically stir up trouble at a critical moment. Furthermore, the question of arms for Palestine ought not to be mentioned because it is impossible from the military point of view to get them just now.

F. D. R.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MCINTYRE:

Mr. Gray in Secretary Hull's office phoned the following which he says the Secretary would like to have the President's approval on. Says perhaps it could be read to the President over the phone or sent up by wire and they would like an answer as soon as convenient.

"The Secretary would like to issue this as a statement or declaration and wanted me to say that it has his approval and the approval of his colleagues in the Department including the Legal Adviser, Mr. Hackworth.

DECLARATION OR STATEMENT

"Some uncertainty appears to exist as to the attitude of the government of the United States toward the peoples of the Near East, with particular reference to their future. It is therefore desirable to make known this government's attitude, which is as follows:

"The war objectives of the government as stated in the Atlantic Charter include the desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and respect for the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live."

"This government is of course dedicated to the application of these principles in the Near East as elsewhere. In Palestine, despite past difficulties, it is highly desirable that a political solution be reached through agreement between the Arab and Jewish communities and this government earnestly hopes that outstanding problems will be settled on that basis."
"The record shows that the Axis powers have repeatedly and cynically dishonored their promises and engagements. Therefore it is inconceivable that any Near Eastern peoples place either faith or credence in them. The Axis aggressors threaten the extension and maintenance of freedom in the Near East; consequently increased participation in the war effort by all Near Eastern peoples would be in their own interest and naturally would be welcomed by the United States government.

"The participation of the peoples of Palestine in the war effort obviously presents a difficult problem. The British government as the mandatory is responsible for the defense of Palestine. It is understood that the British army is open to able-bodied Palestinians, and that numbers of them have already enlisted. However, if it should be deemed preferable to form separate Arab and Jewish military units and if the necessary equipment can be made available, such an arrangement would be agreeable to the government of the United States. In the same way that United States forces are used wherever danger threatens these units would be utilized, under United Nations command wherever their services are required."

NOTE: The Secretary of State would like a memo from the President as to when this should be released. TOI.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
July 1, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL HASSETT

Mr. Hull would appreciate as speedy action on this as possible.

MHH
Memorandum for Mr. McIntyre

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"The Secretary would like to issue this as a statement or declaration and wanted me to say that it has his approval and the approval of his colleagues in the Department including the legal adviser, Mr. Hackworth.

"Declaration or Statement"

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"The war objectives of the Government as stated in the Atlantic Charter include the "desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned", and respect for "the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live".

"This Government is of course dedicated to the application of these principles in the Near East as elsewhere. In Palestine, despite past difficulties, it is highly desirable that a political solution be reached through agreement between the Arab and Jewish communities, and this Government earnestly hopes that outstanding problems will be settled on that basis.

"The record shows that the Axis powers have repeatedly and cynically dishonored their promises and engagements. Therefore it is inconceivable that any Near Eastern peoples place faith or credence in them. The Axis aggressors threaten the extension and maintenance of freedom in the Near East; consequently increased participation in the war effort by all Near Eastern peoples would be in their own interest and naturally would be welcomed by the United States Government.

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TOI
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
July 27, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

King Peter gave this to me when he came to say good-bye. I am inclined to think that we should take some action -- possibly a public warning to the Bulgarian and Hungarian Governments, using a part or all of King Peter's letter.

Will you take this up with the Yugoslav Minister?

F. D. R.

Letter from King Peter to Pres. July 22 in which he tells of latest reports on conditions in Yugoslavia, tragic accounts of cruelties, persecutions, death which he asks the Pres. to find a way to compel enemy to stop slaughter.