May 15, 1943

Mr. Secretary:

This draft is all right from my point of view, with the exception of the last two sentences in the penultimate paragraph in the proposed message from the President to the King.

Do we wish to commit ourselves at this moment so definitely to the principle that no decision "altering the basic situation of Palestine should be considered until after the conclusion of the war"; and should we now make the commitment that we will not take part in any settlement of the Palestine problem until after King Ibn Saud has been "fully consulted and his agreement sought"?

For obvious reasons it would seem to me much more expedient for the President to be far less specific in his reply.