

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM, INC.

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The American Council for Judaism, Inc.

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Philadelphia, Pa.

November 13, 1944

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Mr. Bernard Bernstein
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

I beg to call to your attention the enclosed copy of a letter to Secretary of State Hull and his reply in regard to the postwar status of Jews.

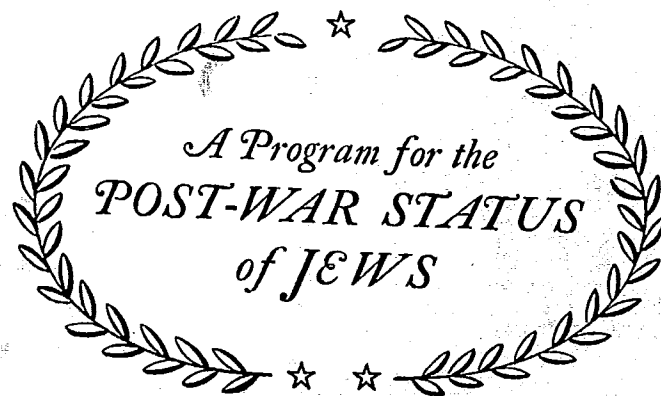
The plight of the Jews of Europe in the past few years have brought their condition to the forefront of world consideration.

The letter to Mr. Hull charts a program designed to meet the basic problems involved.

May I respectfully suggest that you read the enclosed. We would welcome your opinion.

Sincerely yours,

Elmer Berger
Elmer Berger



A Program for the
POST-WAR STATUS
of JEWS

CORRESPONDENCE between
LESSING J. ROSENWALD,
President, AMERICAN
COUNCIL for JUDAISM and
the SECRETARY of STATE,
the HON. CORDELL HULL

700521

On October 19th, 1944,
THE AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM made public a memorandum submitted to Secretary of State Cordell Hull dealing with a proposed program for the postwar status of the Jews of Europe and the world over. This memorandum and the reply from the State Department are reprinted in the following pages.

The Council is a nation-wide organization of Americans of Jewish faith having as its program the acquisition of a status of equality for Jews all over the world. Consistent with that point of view, the Council opposes the Zionist program.

Correspondence is invited on this program and on the general work of the Council.

From Mr. Rosenwald

September 25, 1944.

The Honorable Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Secretary:

I respectfully submit the following in behalf of the American Council for Judaism, Inc., of which I have the honor to be President:

We are deeply impressed by the fact that our Government is demonstrating its concern with basic human problems, the solution of which will be essential to the maintenance of peace and the attainment of security upon which the hopes of the world are based. We are heartened by the conferences on relief, education and international cooperation. We are especially grateful that our Government is actively engaged in alleviating the plight of persecuted and under-privileged people everywhere; recognizing that when persecution and injustice are permitted to endure, they leave the world scarred with hatred, miseries, wars and devastation.

As American citizens of the Jewish faith, we present herewith our views on one aspect of these problems—the situation confronting our co-religionists abroad.

The official history of the Nazi accession to power in Germany began with a long series of odious acts of discrimination, persecution and violence against Jews. These acts mounted in ferocity until they attained the indescribable horrors of extermination camps. I shall not here recapitulate the full chronicle of this infamy. The tragic facts are fully known to you.

A sober regard for a world free from fear and from the persecutions which breed hatred and war, have, no doubt,

persuaded you that the fullest consideration must be given for the restitution, restoration and future security of all the victims. You have, yourself, proclaimed the high standard that we must have a world in which Jews like all men are free to abide in peace and in honor. In an effort to realize that goal, we submit the following as the cardinal consideration:

Jews living in all parts of the world as members of a religious faith, are entitled as of right and not on sufferance, to full equality all over the world.

We, therefore, ask this — and only this — for our fellow Jews: equality of rights and obligations with their fellow-nationals. This means equality in the countries in which Jews live and choose to remain; equality to return to those lands from which Jews have been forcibly driven; equality to migrate wherever there is an opportunity for migration. We urge this as the cardinal concept by which post-war plans affecting Jews must be measured. We trust that the United States of America, in accordance with its traditions, and in its own enlightened self-interest will exert its fullest influence for the universal acceptance of this concept of full equality of rights and obligations.

Jews were singled out as the first victims of Axis aggression and have, therefore, suffered longer than others. Precisely because this is true, their future, if it is to be more hopeful than their past, must not be built upon policies that continue to segregate them for any treatment departing from the principle of full equality.

Fundamentally, the solution to the problems of Jews, a religious and not a national group, rests on recognition of the inalienable rights of the individual. Once that concept of human freedom is unqualifiedly accepted, Jews will require no special measure.

Accordingly, we look confidently to our Government to aid in the restoration to, or if need be, acquisition by, Jews of equality of religious, civic and political rights inherent

full citizenship. Restitution shall be provided with equality for all citizens, based upon the degree of injury suffered.

We also look to our Government for assurances that in all programs for resettlement, repatriation, reconstruction and migration, it will steadfastly call for adherence to the principle of equality of all nationals regardless of race or creed.

Millions of all faiths have been uprooted by this war and may need or desire to find new homes. In their behalf we urge the maximum simplification of migration policies and procedures; economic aid to migrants; and the extension of generous support to all potential centers for larger post-war immigration in those territories holding forth promise of development in the near future.

We urge our Government to use its offices to guarantee that in those potential centers of immigration not now having the status of a sovereign nation:

1. Immigration shall not be limited by racial or religious qualifications but shall be determined by the expanding economic capacity and political stability of these territories.
2. The institutions of self-government shall be speedily established as soon as populations demonstrate a capacity for self-government — and by no other standard.

One such territory is Palestine. The adoption of these principles would mean abolition of the British White Paper of 1939 and its unjust discrimination against Jews.

We urge the adoption of the following principles in a clear declaration of policy on Palestine that would take the place of all previous documents and commitments which have been variously interpreted, and which have led to confusion among our co-religionists and others. Such a policy should, we urge, stress the special character of Palestine as part of the religious heritage of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and make adequate provision for the maintenance of the holy places under international control. It should aid immigration consistent with the fullest possible economic

development and political well-being of the country without special limitations or privileges. It should lead to the earliest possible acquisition of self-government, in which fulfilling the requirements of citizenship shall be free to participate.

We oppose the establishment of Palestine or any local Jewish State or Commonwealth. We regard as fundamentally undemocratic the procedures involved in such an establishment, such as a preferred status in immigration to those of one religious faith and an arbitrary and indefinite postponement of self-government.

Such proposals will, we believe, embroil Jews now in Palestine in continuing civil strife and place in jeopardy the equality of status of Jews everywhere who are integrated in their respective homelands and do not wish to be party to a Jewish State or Commonwealth. Our emphasis therefore, is on the attainment of the status for Jews of full equality for citizenship—its rights and its responsibilities.

We are, of course, aware that stipulations of equality are not, in and of themselves, adequate to prevent serious discrimination and the engendering of fear and insecurity. We therefore urge their implementation by the establishment of appropriate international machinery, to which those deprived of such rights may turn and obtain redress.

Finally, we commend for the earnest consideration of our Government the adoption of a policy to implement the principles set forth above; a policy whereby the United States of America, when it is contemplating the extension of assistance to a country, will consider, as one of the major factors, that the country under consideration accepts the concept of equality of all its nationals without regard to race or creed. Such a condition to the extension of American aid, either alone or in concert with others of the United Nations, would be an effective, practical demonstration of our determination to foster the principles of democracy in the post-war world.

The foregoing is submitted to you, Mr. Secretary, in the earnest belief that every effort towards the elimination of persecution and discrimination is a contribution to world peace and is, therefore, in harmony with our fundamental national interest.

I should be very happy to put myself and this organization at your disposal for any services that we may be able to render.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) LESSING J. ROSENWALD

From Secretary of State Hull

Department of State
Washington, D. C.

October 14, 1944.

My Dear Mr. Rosenwald:

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 25, 1944 with which you enclosed an interesting memorandum prepared by your organization with regard to the postwar status of the Jews.

I am very glad that you sent me this statement, which has been carefully noted by the members of this department who are working on the different matters involved. We were already familiar with the standpoint of the American Council for Judaism, but it was of considerable value to have this additional statement of your position, particularly one that is so penetrating.

In so far as concerns your request for permission to make this statement public, I believe that this is a matter for decision by your organization.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) CORDELL HULL

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DIGEST OF PRINCIPLES

We Believe That:

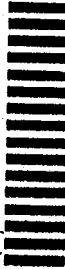
1. The basis of unity among Jews is Religion.
 2. Jews consider themselves nationals of those countries in which they live and those lands their homelands.
 3. The present tragic plight of our fellow Jews can be remedied only through ultimate victory for and a beneficent program of reconstruction and rehabilitation for men of all faiths, undertaken by the United Nations.
 4. The United Nations should attempt to provide the earliest feasible repatriation or resettlement under the best possible conditions of all uprooted victims of Axis aggression.
 5. Numerous localities must be found throughout the world where resettlement can be effected under favorable auspices. Palestine, due to its splendid accomplishments, should continue to be ONE of the places where resettlement should be fostered.
 6. Any hopeful future for Jews in Palestine depends upon the ultimate establishment of a democratic government there, in which Jews, Moslems and Christians shall be justly represented.
- We Oppose:**
7. The effort to establish a Jewish National State in Palestine or elsewhere, and its corollary, a Jewish Army, as a project that has been and will be deleterious to the welfare of Jews in Palestine and throughout the world.
 8. All philosophies that stress the racialism, the nationalism and homelessness of the Jews as injurious to their interests.

(Over)

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Rabbi Elmer Berger, Executive Director,
The American Council for Judaism, Inc.
1321 Arch Street
Philadelphia 7, Pa.

Date

As an American of Jewish faith, I subscribe to the principles of the American Council for Judaism, Inc.

I herewith grant the Council permission to publicize my name as one of its endorsers.

I herewith enclose \$2.00 as my annual membership dues.

(Optional) In addition, I herewith contribute \$..... to further the work of the Council.

I authorize the Council to consider me a member and to bill me at the beginning of the fiscal year for dues, each June 15th, until such time as I may, in writing, inform its Secretary to the contrary.

Name

Address

City

(Over)

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