

American League for a Free Palestine

San Francisco and You

A Message on Behalf of the Hebrew Nation to All Americans—Protestants, Catholics and Jews

No Hebrew* delegates have been invited to sit at the United Nations Conference in San Francisco. This means that more than four million Hebrew casualties in this ruthless world war, the tremendous contribution of the Hebrew people toward winning the certain victory of the Allied Nations, do not deserve acknowledgment. Worse than that, the wretched survivors do not deserve any consideration or any plan for rehabilitation and freedom.

The people of America look to San Francisco for an enduring formula of world democracy and world peace.

Ask yourself—How long can a democratic peace endure that starts out with omissions and reservations?

Ask yourself whether it is just—whether it is a good augury for world peace that among all the peoples of the world the Hebrews of Palestine and their brethren in Europe alone will be excluded from representing their cause before the council of the United Nations.

No people, from the last minute hand-wagon belligerents right down to England itself, has suffered such casualties and dislocations as the Hebrews—none needs more desperately to have its representatives sit at the deliberations—no nation has so old or so sore a problem to resolve as has the Hebrew people.

Democracy is an embattled cause which must be defended from every parapet—every loophole must be sealed against the re-entry of fascism and tyranny.

Americans are vitally interested in the rights of a minority people that has been battered from pillar to post and is now about to be dealt another mortal blow by the powers which purport to deliberate and plan in the name of the Four Freedoms.

That is why the American League for a Free Palestine is determined that the Hebrew question will be on the agenda of San Francisco. John W.

Your voice, the voice of America, which traditionally has championed every liberation cause ever since it achieved its own liberation, can be pivotal in this last-ditch fight against the obliteration of the Hebrew people—the foremost victim of Nazi aggression. We appeal to every man and woman in the United States, regardless of national origin or religious belief, to join us in this crusade for the life and freedom of a sovereign people.

Read our petition—see why it deserves your support—then sign it. Let your voice be counted, too.

A petition to the World Conference at SAN FRANCISCO

Whereas the blood of millions of Jewish dead in Europe and the hungry and tormented survivors have remitted a whole people into a single living entity — a renaissance Hebrew Nation and

Whereas the survivors now reject the brutal idea that they must return to the scene of their martyrdom or owe further allegiance to their tormentors,

We respectfully petition the United Nations to recognize the rights of the desolate Hebrews of Europe and Palestine to reassemble as they choose in the renaissance Hebrew Nation, and to take their rightful place among the free people of the earth as a full-fledged member of the United Nations; and to permit Hebrew statesmen to take their seats among the statesmen of the world in their forthcoming councils and deliberations, in accordance with the proposals of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

We further petition the United Nations to assume guardianship over the process of repatriating all the Hebrews of Europe who desire it, from exile to their national territory of Palestine, in the true spirit of the League of Nations mandate and to place that territory under a new, civilized and humanitarian administration, so that the Hebrews are given a chance to rebuild that country in its historic boundaries with the Arab population as equal partners in democracy—as a free state, within the framework of a world order based on the principles of the Four Freedoms and the Atlantic Charter.

In submitting this petition, we declare that this is the task and responsibility not only of the five million loyal citizens of Hebrew ancestry, but primarily the task and duty of all Americans, whatever their creed and national origin.

Sign here _____

Address _____

Contribution, \$ _____

CONTRIBUTIONS CAN HELP. This message must be brought to the attention of liberal Americans everywhere—by advertisements, by radio, by mail. Every contribution you make means added strength to the voice demanding justice and equity.

Cut This Out—Mail Now

Make Checks Payable to Mrs. Louis Untermeyer, Treasurer
All Contributions to This Organization Are Deductible for Income Tax Purposes

American League For A Free Palestine, Inc.

25 West 45th Street • New York 19, N. Y. • BRyant 9-4600

The American League for a Free Palestine is a non-sectarian organization whose aim is to achieve justice for the oppressed Hebrew* people. It supports the aims of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which seeks:

1. Recognition for the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine as a renaissance nation.
2. To rebuild Palestine in its historic boundaries, with the Arab population as equal partners—as a democratic state based on the principles of the Four Freedoms and the Atlantic Charter.

* There is a definite distinction between the terms "Hebrew" and "Jew." The two are not synonymous. The former term is purely political. Hebrews are members of the ethno-political entity of Europe and Palestine referred to as the renaissance Hebrew nation, and who owe no allegiance to any other national sovereignty. A Jew is one, usually of Hebrew ancestry, who adheres to the Jewish religion, regardless of the nation, be it America, Great Britain, or any other, to which he owes his allegiance.

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APR 7 - 1945

Dear Mr. Hecht:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 30 and to thank you for the kind invitation given me to speak at the rally in Carnegie Hall on April 19.

I sincerely regret that I shall be unable to be present for this occasion, dedicated to the problems of the Jewish people on the significant date of the anniversary of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Ben Hecht,
Co-Chairman,
American League for a Free
Palestine,
Suite 1401,
25 West 45th Street,
New York 19, New York.

EBT

EBT:imp 4/6/45

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25 WEST 45th STREET
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.
BRyant 9-4600

League for a Free Palestine inc.

March 30, 1945

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

In connection with the forthcoming United Nations Conference in San Francisco, April 25, a nationwide campaign for the restoration of the Hebrew people of Europe to life, dignity and political status, was undertaken by the various groups and organizations in the United States, in support of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. This campaign will find expression in manifold demonstrations, one of which is a mass rally in Carnegie Hall on April 19, on the second anniversary of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto.

This anniversary of the most amazing and glorious epic of our time, when men, women and children went forth to battle in the face of certain death, was a manifestation not only of deep hatred of the enemy, but also of their decision to put an end to a situation devoid of all human dignity. They fought and died not as recognized, equal partners in a war against the common enemy, but as an isolated, segregated and humiliated people, singled out for extermination by the enemy, and deserted and forgotten by their allies.

Their battlecry and their testament was "We would rather die on our feet than live on our knees!" The future generations of the Hebrew people, wherever they be, will remember this testament. There will be no return to the ghettos, whatever the regime, the guise or the flag. The survivors of the carnage and of the battles of the ghettos in that valley of death are determined to reconquer their dignity and freedom as men, or to perish. It is the duty of every God-fearing and liberal-minded person to help them, and not to desert them again.

Now it would be a fatal blow to the future structure of the peace of the world any longer to ignore the three million dead Hebrews and their survivors. It would indeed be a bad augury for world peace if among all the peoples of the world the Hebrews of Europe and Palestine alone should be barred from representing their cause before the councils of the United Nations. No people, from the last-minute bandwagon belligerents, right down to England itself, which stood at Dunkirk alone, has suffered such casualties as has the Hebrew people; none needs so desperately to have its representatives sit at the deliberations; no one has so old and so sore a problem to solve as has

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Brigadier General William O'Dwyer - 2 -

March 30, 1945

the Hebrew people. That is why we have embarked upon a campaign to bring the problem of the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine to the attention of the delegates of the United Nations, together with constructive plans for survival, rehabilitation and freedom.

In this grave hour, when the fate of peace and the happiness of mankind must be decided, we take the liberty of appealing to you to join us in the just demand for Hebrew restoration. It would be of great importance and an invaluable service to the martyred people if you would consent to appear in New York at the mass rally in Carnegie Hall on April 19 to deliver a message on behalf of the conscience of America. We count upon your understanding and sympathy. //

Sincerely yours,

Ben Hecht

Ben Hecht
Co-Chairman