

HEBREW COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION

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FFC-76
(11-42)

CROSS REFERENCE ON HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NAT. LIBERATION

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SEP 12 1945

Dear Mr. Bergson:

As you may know, the War Refugee Board will be dissolved on September 15th. Because of your deep interest in the work of the Board, I am sending you herewith for your confidential information a copy of the summary report of its activities.

It was only through the cooperation of the private agencies that it was possible for the Board to bring some measure of relief and hope to the suffering victims of Nazi oppression. I wish, therefore, to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the Board for the support and assistance rendered by your organization to this unique humanitarian undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Peter H. Bergson, Chairman,
Hebrew Committee for National
Liberation,
2315 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,
Washington 8, D. C.

Enclosure.

FH:hd 9/5/45

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Hebrew Comm. of Nat'l Liberation

The Washington Post

SEP 7 1945

Justice Bureau Orders Bergson To Leave U. S.

The Justice Department has ordered Peter H. Bergson, leader of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, to leave the United States November 1, 1945, it was learned yesterday from the department.

He was served with a notice dated June 15, 1945, asking him to leave after the State Department refused to extend his visitors' visa, a Justice Department official explained. Bergson entered the country July 7, 1940, on a six-month "visitor for pleasure visa," and has since had several extensions, the last of which expired February, 1945, the spokesman said.

Bergson issued a statement through his secretary saying, "I have received no such order from the Department of Justice, and therefore I have no comment." He came here on a British visa and has described himself as a citizen of Palestine.

Headquarters of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation are in the mansion at 2315 Massachusetts ave. n.w., formerly occupied by the Iranian Embassy.

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Hebrew Committee of Nat'l Liberation

The New York Times.

AUG 7 1945

**BERGSON IS ORDERED
TO LEAVE COUNTRY**

Special to The New York Times.
WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—Peter H. Bergson, chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, has been ordered by the Board of Immigration Appeals to leave the United States by Nov. 1, or be deported to Palestine.

According to the Justice Department, Mr. Bergson, who came here on a visitor's permit, has received various extensions, the latest being until Nov. 1, after which, the Board of Immigration Appeals said in an order of June 16, he must leave this country. Until that date, it was added, Mr. Bergson is free to leave for any point he desires.

If he has not gone by Dec. 1, officials stated, the customary warrant would be issued and he would be sent to Palestine, of which he is a naturalized citizen, although born in Lithuania.

Immigration authorities said that Mr. Bergson could not appeal from the board to the Attorney General or the President. These officials doubted whether Mr. Bergson would find it possible to obtain a stay from the civil courts. Mr. Bergson last Wednesday announced the appointment of former Senator Guy M. Gillette of Iowa as chief political adviser to the liberation committee and president of the American League for a Free Palestine.

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Hebrew Comm. of Nat'l Liberation

Mr. Samuel Merlin

Mr. Johan J. Smertenko

request the pleasure of your presence

at a

concert of chamber music

by the

Air Forces String Quartet

and

Dorothea Zacharias

Sunday, May twentieth, eight o'clock

at the

Hebrew Committee of National Liberation

2315 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.

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General William J. Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

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2315 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.
ADAMS 8800

File out

וועד לשחרור רחמנא

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

February 8, 1945

My dear General,

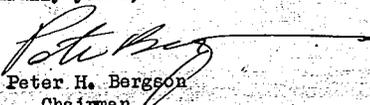
I beg to enclose herewith the text of an appeal addressed by us to the President of the United States, Marshal Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill, on the question of the rescue of the surviving Hebrews of Europe.

It is imperative, if any rescue is to be effected, that the mass murder of Hebrew men, women and children, which is still going on unabated, be officially proclaimed as a war crime for which full retribution will be exacted.

Such a declaration at this time by the leaders of the United Nations might very well completely halt Germany's deliberate slaughter of civilian populations, including our people. It is at least sure to slow them down and thus save many thousands of lives. There is no reason but indifference to the martyrdom of others why such a declaration should not be made.

I have been much heartened by the deep feelings and the determination to act which you expressed during our recent meeting, and I take the liberty to suggest that you communicate with the President and urge that the United Nations leaders take joint action on this grave problem before they terminate their present conference.

Faithfully yours,


Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

General William O'Dwyer,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

100400

Washington, February 7, 1945

His Excellency
The President of the United States,
The White House.

On historic occasion of meeting of leaders of principal United Nations, Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, while leaving aside for the moment other concerns of the Hebrew people, however vital and urgent, considers it its solemn duty to request that problem of continued mass murder of Hebrews still under German control be placed on meeting's agenda. For many months War Crimes Commission in London, on which Great Britain and United States are represented, refused to include such murder under category of war crimes punishable by United Nations. Recent American and British declarations on subject still treat these crimes differently from rest, leaving open possibility their punishment will be left to Germans themselves.

We beg to draw your attention, however, to fact that as far as Hebrew people of Europe are concerned it is not merely a question of punishing those guilty, but there is grave and urgent task of preventing Germans and Hungarians from murdering hundreds of thousands of Hebrews still in their territories. Most of these survivors were formerly Axis citizens and as things stand today Germans know that the two leading governments of the United Nations do not plan to punish these wanton acts as war crimes. We beg to stress that we are referring to "Hebrews" and not to "Jews," since crimes committed against United Nations nationals of the Jewish religion are included in crimes

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committed against the United Nations. It is only those crimes committed against Hebrews - people now referred to either as stateless Jews, German Jews, or Hungarian Jews, which are not being considered as war crimes since the Hebrews are not recognized as a part of the United Nations. These people are neither stateless nor Germans nor Hungarians. They are Hebrews, belonging to the renaissance Hebrew Nation. To the German criminal mind, which invented, planned and executed mechanized murder of millions of innocent Hebrew men, women and children, such an attitude on part of United Nations' governments means but one thing - consent and encouragement to proceed with their planned total extermination of every Hebrew in Europe.

We therefore respectfully urge that Your Excellency back our request that this conference issue a declaration proclaiming that crimes committed against Hebrews in Europe, irrespective of territory on which crime is committed or citizenship or lack of citizenship of victim at time of death, be considered as war crimes and punished as such.

We also respectfully request that representatives of the Hebrew people be given membership on War Crimes Commission and that temporarily, until such time as a Hebrew national sovereignty be re-established, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation be authorized to constitute the Hebrew representation on War Crimes Commission.

We pray that our desperate appeal on behalf of a nation which has been virtually decimated in this war not be ignored lest the just cause of United Nations be stained with moral responsibility for our catastrophe.

Respectfully,

Peter H. Bergson, Chairman
HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

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HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

2315 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, Washington 8, D.C.

STATEMENT concerning the punishment of Germany for war crimes committed against the Hebrew people, and Hebrew participation on the United Nations War Crimes Commission charged with this task, made by Peter H. Bergson, Chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

The War Refugee Board has released a detailed report containing evidence of the unspeakable atrocities systematically committed in the two extermination camps set up in Oswiecim and Birkenau, in German-occupied Poland. Men of various religions and nationalities were the victims of these atrocities, but, as was known before and as is again confirmed by this report, the main victims were Hebrews.

It is exceedingly difficult for me to discuss this report. I could hardly gather the strength to read it through. But I believe that the War Refugee Board should be highly commended for bringing these monstrous activities of Germany to the attention of the American people in full detail.

It is in connection with the publication of this first detailed report of the atrocities issued on the authority of an agency of the United States Government, that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation wishes to raise a question which can no longer be delayed. This question concerns the inexplicable abstention of the governments of the United Nations from taking any measures that would effectively interfere with this slaughter of a whole people or that would, at least, make it clear that those guilty of the slaughter will be punished.

There is a widespread impression that a joint agency of the United Nations, known as the United Nations War Crimes Commission, is sitting in London and is assembling data that would make possible to bring to just trial the people who participated in these cruelties. This impression is totally erroneous. The truth is that the War Crimes Commission, under the interpretation placed upon its terms of reference by the Chairman of that Commission, Sir Cecil Hurst, has refused to take into consideration any acts committed against persons other than nationals of the United Nations. The truth is, further, that despite all efforts, none of the governments of the major powers among the United Nations has instructed its representative on the War Crimes Commission to broaden its activities so as to include crimes committed against stateless persons and persons who are or were subjects of the Axis nations.

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In the case of the Hebrews slaughtered by the Germans, a great many were subjects of the Axis nations. In the course of the war, most of them were deprived of their citizenship by the governments of those nations. They have thereby become stateless in name, after having been stateless in effect for quite some time. Others among those slaughtered Hebrews have been stateless all along.

The consistent refusal of the War Crimes Commission to take into consideration crimes committed against these persons, the consistent refusal of the major United Nations to instruct the War Crimes Commission to change its stand, amount, in the circumstances, to a declaration that crimes against such people are of no concern to the United Nations and, as far as they are concerned, may remain unpunished. It amounts to a declaration that people who committed these crimes are not regarded by the United Nations as war criminals and, as far as the United Nations are concerned, may go scot free and continue in the post-war world preaching the doctrine which they have been practicing in Oswiecim, Birkenau and in innumerable other charnel houses. This attitude amounts to proclaiming that a Jew may not be tortured or killed if he happens to be a citizen of one of the United Nations, but that his life is considered of no value if he is a stateless Jew - a Hebrew.

Against this cold-blooded and cynical refusal to include the crimes committed against well over a million Hebrews and Hebrews who had held the citizenship of the Axis nations, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation raises its voice in vehement protest.

This attitude may have resulted in many cases from a lack of attention given to this issue. It is a product of thoughtlessness rather than of cruelty. This is why we hereby draw public attention to the issue and its implications.

One implication is the stake which, whether it realizes it or not, the world has in a just solution of this problem. In 1933 the Germans began their butchery of Hebrews who were Axis subjects. The world shut its ears to warnings that the butchery was not going to stop with Hebrews. Today millions of the best youths of many nations are dead because this warning was not heeded and the activity of the German murderers was not curbed before it spread. We feel duty bound to sound another warning today. The German nation-murderers have created a precedent which carries in it all the threats of neo-barbarism in which nations will try not merely to subjugate other nations and conquer their territory, but in which nations will endeavor to bring about the extermination of entire segments of populations. If humanity and civilization are to survive, this system must be eradicated at its source. Leaving unpunished crimes of this kind on the pretext that they were committed only against Hebrews would mean to leave in existence a free zone for crime and extermination. Within this free zone the philosophy of barbarism would continue to feed itself on its own cruelties and make the coming peace only an armistice which is sure to be followed by another war, just as surely as the present war followed the last.

Another implication concerns the moral issue involved: Is it tolerable or is it not that the United Nations wash their hands of the wholesale murder of the kind described in the report being published by the War Refugee Board? This, and this alone, is the moral question involved. Attempts are being made to disguise this moral issue by raising objections allegedly springing from respect for international law. It is suggested in some quarters that the United Nations are

estopped from assuming jurisdiction over these murders on the ground that they concern people who did not have a right to the protection of the United Nations during their lifetime.

It is difficult to conceive that this objection is made in good faith. Intervention in the treatment of persecuted stateless individuals in foreign countries and even in the treatment of members of persecuted minority groups is a well established procedure in international law. It was practiced in numerous cases by the United States, by the British Empire, by Russia and by many other nations of the western world, even in time of peace. More reason why such intervention and consequent retribution be practiced in times of war. At the basis of such intervention there always lay the assumption that the systematic and large-scale extermination or persecution of human beings sins against the elementary precepts of humanity and that civilized nations have a right and a moral obligation to prevent their occurrence.

Since this is the case, the refusal of the United Nations to include the perpetrators of such crimes in any scheme for punishment of crimes against humanity committed by the Axis nations during the present war cannot be justified on the ground that the acts in question have not hitherto been regarded as war crimes. It is true that no specific punishment has been proclaimed as applicable to such crimes previous to their commission, and that no specific tribunal has been given jurisdiction over such crimes before they have occurred. But this is equally true of all crimes over which the United Nations, acting through the War Crimes Commission or otherwise, are ready to assume jurisdiction. With the sole and narrow exception of crimes foreseen under the Hague Conventions, the War Crimes Commission is taking cognizance of cruelties committed by the Axis on the sole and sufficient ground that the conscience of civilized mankind considers them to be crimes. Unless it is desired to emphasize, for the guidance of some future Himmlers, that exterminating Hebrews is no crime in the conscience of mankind, it is inconceivable that the exception which has been made will be allowed to stand.

The issue, therefore, is not one between morality and far-sighted statesmanship on the one hand and international law on the other. No valid objection can be raised under international law to a course of action which is so obviously dictated by both morality and statesmanship. The objection can proceed from two sources only: indifference or bad will.

This issue is being submitted hereby to the people of America, the standard bearers of decency and true justice, in the hope that they will raise their voice and induce their government, as well as other governments concerned, to instruct the War Crimes Commission that a German who tortured and killed Hebrew men, women and children coming from Berlin, Budapest, Bucharest, Rome or Sofia, is no less a war criminal than had he tortured and killed men, women and children coming from Moscow, Paris, Warsaw, Brussels or Amsterdam.

There is another point to which attention is drawn herewith.

The extermination of the Hebrews by Germany was not directed against citizens of particular countries. It was directed against the Hebrew people as such. Some of the Jews who found their death in the horrible manner described in the report being published by the War Refugee Board will be more or less wholeheartedly represented by the delegates of their respective countries on the War Crimes Commission.

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But who will represent those Jews who did not have the status of citizenship in one of the United Nations and who nevertheless suffered horrible death to the number of over one million? Who will represent the Hebrews? It is because they were and are unrepresented that the thoughtless injustice against which we are compelled to protest publicly today could have occurred. No one thought of them because no one represented them.

We, therefore, believe it only fair and proper that the Hebrew people as such be given representation on the War Crimes Commission and thus be accorded the chance, equal to all other victims of Axis cruelty, to see to it that the guilty be punished. It is a travesty upon justice that the War Crimes Commission should include representatives of all nations against whom atrocities were committed except the one nation against which more atrocities were committed than on all the others combined.

There is a third point to which attention may be drawn at this juncture, because it too illustrates the injustice resulting from the Hebrew people's being recognized by the Axis only but not by the decent peoples of the world: Time after time leaders of the United Nations gave warning to the Axis Powers against using poison gas, declaring that should poison gas be used against any of the Allies, retaliation would be practiced against Germany. For a long time it has been known that Germany had consistently used poison gas against the Hebrew people. The report now being published by the War Refugee Board again confirms this fact. The report states that well over a million Hebrews were murdered by poison gas. The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation has on numerous occasions in the past drawn the attention of the Government of the United States and the Government of Great Britain in repeated communications that the warning which was given to Germany against the use of poison gas be specifically extended to cover the use of poison gas against Hebrews. We feel constrained to express our deep regret that no action has been taken on these proposals, and confidently hope that the publication of the present governmental report on the use of poison gas will be followed by an appropriate warning, and unless effective, appropriate action will be taken against the Germans.

The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation is therefore following making the/requests of the governments of the United Nations concerned:

1: That they issue a joint declaration proclaiming that crimes committed against Hebrews in Europe, irrespective of the territory on which the crime was committed or the citizenship or lack of citizenship of the victim at the time of death, be considered as a war crime and punished as such.

2: That the governments of the United Nations concerned instruct their representatives on the War Crimes Commission to see to it that the above mentioned declaration is put into effect.

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5: That representatives of the Hebrew people be given membership on the War Crimes Commission and that temporarily, until such time as a Hebrew national sovereignty be re-established, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation be authorized to constitute the Hebrew representation on the War Crimes Commission.

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הוֹצֵא לְשִׁחְרוּר הָאוֹמָה
HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

Bulletin

Copies of this Bulletin are filed with the Department of Justice where the statement of Hebrew Committee of National Liberation which is registered as representing the interests of the Hebrew Nation is available for public inspection.

Issued by the Information Department, 2315 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C.

DEMAND HEBREW REPRESENTATION ON UNITED NATIONS WAR CRIMES COMMISSION

Following is the text of a statement made by Peter H. Bergson, Chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, at a press conference Saturday, November 25, 1944, concerning the punishment of Germany for war crimes committed against the Hebrew people, and Hebrew representation on the United Nations War Crimes Commission charged with this task.

The War Refugee Board has released, for publication on Sunday, November 26, a detailed report containing evidence of the unspeakable atrocities systematically committed in the two extermination camps set up in Oswiecim and Birkenau, in German-occupied Poland. Men of various religions and nationalities were the victims of these atrocities, but, as was known before and as is again confirmed by this report, the main victims were Hebrews.

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There is a wide-spread impression that a joint agency of the United Nations, known as the United Nations War Crimes Commission, is sitting in London and is assembling data that would make possible to bring to just trial the people who participated in these cruelties. This impression is totally erroneous. The truth is that the War Crimes Com-

mission, under the interpretation placed upon its terms of references by the Chairman of that Commission, Sir Cecil Hurst, has refused to take into consideration any acts committed against persons other than nationals of the United Nations. The truth is, further, that despite all efforts, none of the governments of the major powers among the United Nations has instructed its representative on the War Crimes Commission to broaden its activities so as to include crimes committed against stateless persons and persons who are or were subjects of the Axis nations.

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mitted than on all the others combined.

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1: *That they issue a joint declaration proclaiming that crimes committed against Hebrews in Europe, irrespective of the territory on which the crime was committed or the citizenship or lack of citizenship of the victim at the time of death, be considered as a war crime and punished as such.*

2: *That the governments of the United Nations concerned instruct their representatives on the War Crimes Commission to see to it that the above mentioned declaration is put into effect.*

3: *That representatives of the Hebrew people be given membership on the War Crimes Commission and that temporarily, until such time as a Hebrew national sovereignty be re-established, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation be authorized to constitute the Hebrew representation on the War Crimes Commission.*

An And

Mr. President:

We take the liberty to request the United States by using its good offices to break the deadlock which has arisen in the Government of Great Britain and

The territory of Palestine was supposed to be transformed into a Jewish state. This League of Nations Mandate of the United States and the Treaty of 1924.

The Mandatory Power of Palestine was supposed to be transformed into a Jewish state. This League of Nations Mandate of the United States and the Treaty of 1924.

The Government of Great Britain is strictly adhering to that which it has barred all entry of under international law, the

In view of the diabolical crimes and her satellites have been the Hebrew people in Europe, helped in a way to deliver him the hands of their murderers. To half of the estimated three million European Jews have been alive in the White Paper policy which of escape, and indirectly, all other

We believe that the Hebrew people and is of right, though not recognized by the United Nations and therefore an ally of the Axis powers. The settlement of the boundary problems ought to be settled together because of this that we advocate for Palestine. But the fact that Axis tyranny certainly does not the internationally illegal policy of the rescue of hundreds of beings. We therefore took issue with the question of the right of the Hebrew people to Palestine.

In our deep anxiety to maintain the status of foreign refugees for Hebrews into which all Hebrews should be saved and so that the political and the way of saving them. We were status of foreign refugees for Hebrews into which all Hebrews should be saved and so that the political and the way of saving them. We were status of foreign refugees for Hebrews into which all Hebrews should be saved and so that the political and the way of saving them. We were

All the above mentioned facts great country in bringing to a head which throws serious aspersions very principles for which the United Nations stand.

We maintain that the Hebrew people suffering losses in this war and should suffering endlessly and aimlessly, territory should not be abandoned Germany because of an unjustified Britain, and the Hebrews in the

100409

An Anglo-Hebrew Round Table

Text of Letter to President Roosevelt, Appealing for the Convocation of an Anglo-Hebrew Round Table Conference

Mr. President:

We take the liberty to request the assistance of the Government of the United States by using its good offices to intervene in the present deadlock which has arisen in the conflict between the policy of the Government of Great Britain and the interests of the Hebrew nation.

The territory of Palestine was mandated to Great Britain for the purpose of transforming it into the national home of the Hebrew people. This League of Nations Mandate was ratified by the Government of the United States and recognized in the American-British Treaty of 1924.

The Mandatory Power of Palestine was obliged and did report annually to the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations on the progress of its administration. No policy regarding Palestine could be put into effect without the approval of that Commission. Palestine now is being administered in accordance with the policy announced in the White Paper of April 1939, which was submitted to the Mandates Commission and rejected by it as being incompatible with the terms of the Mandate.

The Government of Great Britain, however, saw fit to persist in its strict adherence to that unauthorized policy and in accordance with it, has barred all entry of Hebrews into the territory which is, under international law, the Hebrew national home.

In view of the diabolical campaign of extermination which Germany and her satellites have been conducting in recent years against the Hebrew people in Europe, the closed doors of Palestine have helped in a way to deliver hundreds of thousands of Hebrews into the hands of their murderers. It is justifiable to say that more than half of the estimated three million Hebrews who lost their lives in Europe could have been alive in Palestine and elsewhere if not for the White Paper policy which closed to them this main avenue of escape, and indirectly, all other avenues of escape.

We believe that the Hebrew nation is a co-belligerent in this war and is of right, though not recognized, a member of the United Nations and therefore an ally of Great Britain. We have, therefore, repeatedly stated that the settlement of the Palestinian political and boundary problems ought to be postponed until after the war, when they would be settled together with other inter-allied problems. It is because of this that we advocate full co-operation with the Mandatory for Palestine. But the fact that we are allied in a war against Axis tyranny certainly does not compel or oblige us to acquiesce in the internationally illegal policy which stood, and still stands, in the way of the rescue of hundreds of thousands of martyred human beings. We therefore took issue with the Government of Great Britain on the question of the right of every Hebrew in Europe to escape to Palestine.

In our deep anxiety to maintain good relations between allies, we offered a series of compromise proposals, culminating with the suggestion that there be established in Palestine emergency rescue shelters into which all Hebrews should be admitted temporarily, without prejudice to their future status, so that their lives might thereby be saved and so that the political controversy not continue to stand in the way of saving them. We were willing to accept temporarily the status of foreign refugees for Hebrews in their own national home, a status similar to that of the European refugees in the emergency rescue shelters in the United States and in French and Middle Eastern territories. Even this was rejected.

All the above mentioned facts compel us to seek the help of your great country in bringing to an end a tragic situation and one which throws serious aspersions on Great Britain's adherence to the very principles for which the United Nations are waging this costly global war.

We maintain that the Hebrew nation has already suffered staggering losses in this war and should not be called upon to continue the suffering endlessly and aimlessly. The Hebrews in German-occupied territory should not be abandoned to death at the hands of the Germans because of an unjustifiable and stubborn policy of Great Britain, and the Hebrews in the liberated territories of Europe

should not be forced to remain, to be starved and humiliated, in their shattered ghost-ridden homes, amidst the scenes of horror and destruction which they miraculously survived.

But the Government of Great Britain continues its present policy in Palestine despite the horrible toll of suffering and death for which this policy is responsible.

In view of all the above, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation respectfully requests your assistance in order to bring this tragic conflict to an early end. We propose that you, Mr. President, take the initiative to convene a round table conference between representatives of the British Government and representatives of the Hebrew nation in which, under the guidance of your representatives, animated by impartial justice and equal friendship for both sides, it should not be too difficult to arrive at some understanding and bring to an end the present intolerable situation. Our confidence in the success of such a conference is due to our conviction that the present deadlock is not a result of cruelty or bad will, but rather a result of inertia fostered by the confusion of the Zionists themselves, and once scrutinized under the guidance of American good will and common sense, it will become easy to eliminate misunderstandings and the relatively minor obstacles which are now responsible for a very tragic situation.

We beg to submit, Mr. President, that the confusion and the lack of status of the Hebrews in Europe today not be permitted to stand in the way and block the realization of our proposal as it has blocked every constructive effort to solve this problem in the past. Let not the deluge of organizations amongst American Jews and the perpetual debates amongst them be the reason for continued inaction, for it does not concern them. It concerns solely Hebrews—those people who are persistently misnamed and referred to as refugees, as Germans, as Hungarians, or stateless Jews, but never by their own name—Hebrews.

There are no Hebrews in the United States. There are Americans of Hebrew descent or Americans of the Jewish faith. It is not a religious problem that we are dealing with, and American clergymen (of the Jewish faith) should not be asked to determine it. We ask the help of the United States to solve the present conflict between our need for survival and the policy of the British Government. American Jews have no conflict or the right to have a conflict with the British Government. They have appreciation of and sympathy for us Hebrews, the victims of that conflict, as indeed have the overwhelming majority of the American people.

In view of the lack of an as yet recognized national representation or authority to speak for the Hebrew nation, we propose that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation be invited to compose the Hebrew representation, which would include those members of the Jewish Agency for Palestine who are Hebrew nationals, barring, of course, the participation of those members of the Jewish Agency who are nationals of other nations owing exclusive allegiance to those nations and therefore ineligible to be spokesmen for the Hebrew nation at any international conference.

Mr. President, not only the people of your great nation but the people of many lands—indeed humanity at large—are already indebted to you for your magnificent leadership in world affairs. Throughout the earth men thank God for having given you the greatness, the vision and the strength for such leadership. On behalf of our martyred nation, which has reached the very end of its endurance, we appeal to you to apply the genius of your initiative and leadership for the restoration of life and dignity to our ancient nation.

I remain, Mr. President, with respect and admiration,

Faithfully yours,

Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

His Excellency
The President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D. C.

the others combined. point to which attention at this juncture, betrays the injustice re- Hebrew people's being Axis only but not by of the world: Time of the United Nations the Axis Powers on gas, declaring that be used against any nation would be prac- any. For a long time that Germany had poison gas against the report now being War Refugee Board is fact. The report er a million Hebrews y poison gas. Th of National Libera- tious occasions in the attention of the Gov- nited States and the at Britain in repeated at the warning which many against the use specifically extended to poison gas against l constrained to ex- ret that no action has e proposals, and con- the publication of the tal report on the use l be followed by an ng, and unless effect- action will be taken ns.

Committee of National erefore making the fol- of the governments of ons concerned:

issue a joint declara- that crimes committed in Europe, irrespective on which the crime was e citizenship or lack of e victim at the time of er as a war crime and h.

governments of the concerned instruct their n the War Crimes Com- it that the above men- n is put into effect.

esentatives of the He- given membership on mes Commission and y, until such time as a al sovereignty be re- Hebrew Committee of tion be authorized to ebrew representation on Commission.

AN ANSWER TO CHURCHILL

The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation addressed a communication to Prime Minister Churchill in answer to his statement of November 17th.

The communication was over the signature of Peter H. Bergson, Chairman.

"Your series of statements came as a shock to those of us who admired and will never forget the greatness of your leadership in the days of destiny that followed Dunkerque.

"Mr. Prime Minister, the more than three million Hebrew men, women and children systematically murdered by Germany in the past three years have not caused you to express your ire in public even once. The use by Germany of poison gas against us, the death factories, the extermination camps of Treblinka and Majdanek, none of this has moved you to tell the House of Commons that these crimes have "shocked the world." But the death of one man, Lord Moyne, has prompted you to do

so. . . .
"I do not believe that there is that much difference in the quality of human blood. In fact I do not believe there is any differences at all, and I consider the life of every Hebrew mother or infant, tortured to death, to have been as holy as the life of a dead Tommy or of Lord Moyne. They are all casualties of the present world cataclysm. . . .

"You included the Irgun Zvai Leumi in your demands that certain groups and organizations of Hebrews be eradicated, root and branch. You may recall, and if you do not you ought to recall, the great services which the Irgun Zvai

Leumi rendered the British people during the bleakest months of this war, when Iraq tried to stab Britain in the back as the enemy advanced to Alamein. These heroic services have remained unacknowledged, and the men who rendered them have remained nameless. But you, Mr. Prime Minister, ought to remember both the services and the men. Or is it that you do remember them and that you take this opportunity to get rid of the men in order not to have to reward their nation for services rendered? . . .

"There was a time when Hebrews the world over thought of you indeed as a friend of their cause. They read with a thrill the strong words you uttered against the proposed policy for Palestine in 1939 when not a member of the Cabinet. But you yourself, in your statement of November 17, have suggested

that strong words do not suffice and that you expect strong words to be translated into deeds. . . .

"I am afraid your friendship has been vitiated by the heartlessness with which you held it in abeyance during the years when millions of our people needed it as they needed it never before and as they will need it never again. . . .

"The survivors of the nation which Germany tried to eradicate, not only refuse to die but also refuse to remain passive objects who are not allowed to determine their own fate, and who are expected to be satisfied with pious and meaningless words of pity and friendship. We have arisen from the abyss and have asserted our right to self-determination as free human beings. By God's grace we shall achieve the liberation of our country and the deliverance of our people."

In the Spirit of Wingate

(The following is an excerpt from a letter received by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation from Mrs. Lorna Wingate, widow of the late General Orde Charles Wingate.)

"I had hoped, and I know that you and your Committee shared my hope, that the Jewish Army would be a great fighting force under General Wingate and that each would have added to the other's renown. At this moment, when your valiant efforts have been crowned with some success, I should like to send you my most sincere congratulations on the establishment of the Army Group. The achievements of the Jews in this war will write another chapter, and a glorious one, in the history of a gallant nation. I know that General Wingate would salute your victory."

THE PRESS ON THE MOYNE ASSASSINATION

The American Press devoted considerable attention to the assassination of Lord Moyne and to the subsequent statement by Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons.

In the *N. Y. Post*, the *Mirror*, the *Journal-American* appeared editorials pointing out that the blame for the terroristic activities in Palestine is to be laid at the door of the Colonial Office.

P.M. carried a "Letter from the Editor" and the *World-Telegram* and *Times* magazine—letters to the editors—expressing the same opinion.

The November 29 issue of the *Amerihanische Schweizer Zeitung*—the organ of the Swiss colony in the United States—carries a very interesting article by Max Plus on the Jewish problem.

The author sharply criticizes Britain's policy in the Palestine problem, as well as the attitude of the Jewish Agency which, he says, has become a stooge of the Colonial Office.

A Christian himself, he calls the Christian world to act to assist the Jews in their fight for a homeland, and to support the work of the American League for a Free Palestine.

As above
continued after p. 10
1. description

New York ~~World~~ Telegram

JAN 29 1945

Jews Will Defy Palestine Ban, Bergson Says

Declares Blockade Will Be Ignored As Soon as War Ends

By ROGER W. STUART,
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Open defiance of the British government with respect to its policy on limiting immigration of Jews into Palestine was voiced today by Peter H. Bergson of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, who said Jews from Europe will be "aided in every way possible to reach Palestine, regardless of British opposition."

"We intend to run the blockade immediately after the war," Mr. Bergson declared, "and will do so even before that if it is possible to obtain ships."

League Ruling Cited.

He pointed to the committee's new statement of policy which insists that "the regulations which the British government has enforced and which bar the migration of Hebrews to Palestine are illegal since they have been rejected by the mandates commission of the League of Nations."

The statement adds that "it must be remembered that Palestine is not and never has been a British territory. It is an international territory mandated to Great Britain for the purpose of restoring it as the national territory of the Hebrews."

Warnings Urged.

The plan about to be put into operation, according to Mr. Bergson, is similar to that which was followed in the years 1937-40, when members of the committee were instrumental in organizing plans which resulted in taking about 40,000 Jews into Palestine, despite the fact their entry was ruled "illegal" by the British.

The committee also is preparing to forward an appeal to the Big Three Conference, urging that the German government be warned that the murdering of Jews in Europe henceforth will be considered a war crime and punished as such.

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Handwritten initials

NEWS

From **HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION**
2315 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, Washington 8, D. C.
ADams 8800

Copies of this Bulletin are filed with the Department of Justice where the statement of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which is registered as representing the interests of the Hebrew Nation, is available to the public. The fact of registration should not be construed as approval by the United States Government of the contents thereof.

FOR RELEASE:

Saturday,
January 27, 1945

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE TODAY BY PETER H. BERGSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION, ON THE ISSUE OF WAR CRIMES IN CONNECTION WITH THE REMOVAL OF MR. HERBERT C. PELL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS WAR CRIMES COMMISSION IN LONDON

The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation has learned with deep regret that Mr. Herbert C. Pell, the United States representative on the War Crimes Commission, has been withdrawn from his post. Mr. Pell has been in this country for consultation, and it was generally hoped that on his early return to London he would bring with him the backing of a definite policy of the United States Government for an intensification of the Commission's work. The statement made today by Acting Secretary of State Joseph C. Grew, however, indicates that there is as yet no readiness on the part of the United Nations either to clarify the issue or to accelerate the work of the Commission.

Since it is a matter of public knowledge, reported in the press, that Mr. Pell has constantly advocated a positive course of action by the Commission on crimes committed against the Hebrew people, we feel naturally apprehensive over this development.

For several months the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation has endeavored to the best of its ability to move the governments of the United Nations, and more particularly the Government of the United States and the Government of Great Britain officially to clarify their stand in relation to Germany's wanton mass murder of the Hebrew people of Europe. While more than three million people have thus been murdered, the attitude of these governments amounts to maintaining that, unless the victims happen to be citizens of the United Nations, this does not constitute a war crime, and since it is certainly not considered a crime under the national laws of the Axis, the murder and extermination of the

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Hebrews of Europe appear to have been agreed all around,

The issue is not one of especially stressing the punishment for crimes committed against Frenchmen or Dutchmen of the Jewish religion, but crimes committed against Hebrew nationals -- now referred to as "stateless Jews," "German Jews" or "Hungarian Jews". These people are neither stateless nor Germans nor Hungarians. They are Hebrews, belonging to the renaescent Hebrew Nation.

We wish to stress most emphatically the extreme urgency of this situation. Close to a million and a half Hebrews are still in territories dominated by Germany and are still being murdered daily. To maintain that this does not constitute officially a war crime is tantamount, to the barbarous Germans, to tacit consent and practical encouragement to proceed with the mass murder.

After innumerable communications and appeals the situation has not changed. The United Nations War Crimes Commission still refuses to announce that the murder of Hebrews constitutes a war crime. As far as the United Nations War Crimes Commission is concerned, therefore, it is quite proper for Germany to continue the mass extermination of Hebrews, and since the United States is represented on that Commission, its tacit consent to this attitude must be presumed.

The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation maintains that the overwhelming majority of the American people, who have been shocked to the depths of their beings by the Axis' diabolical atrocities, will come to our aid and back our request that this issue be immediately clarified.

We propose that the Government of the United States issue a declaration proclaiming that crimes committed against Hebrews in Europe, irrespective of the territory on which the crime is committed or the citizenship or lack of citizenship of the victim at the time of death, be considered as war crimes and punished as such.

For weeks we have been waiting for such, or a similar, statement to be forthcoming, but it seems that this will not be done unless public opinion in this country vociferously demands it.

The Secretary of State declared at a press conference some time ago that while this question has not yet been officially decided, it is being "attacked with forcefulness and determination." We are issuing this

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appeal in the hope that it will also be with speed.

In view of the desperate position of surviving Hebrews still in Germany's clutches, we feel duty bound to state that every additional day in which the governments of the United Nations concerned continue to maintain their present position in this matter makes them morally passive partners in Germany's wanton crime against our nation.

(Thirty)

Another instance would be a 38-foot motor launch returned to our yard here by the Coast Guard. A crew of five, a lieutenant, a petty officer and three enlisted men, brought this vessel down from Baltimore. Two more enlisted men came down from Baltimore with a station wagon to pick them up. In all seven men took 2 days to do work that two men should do in 1 day, a labor wastage of 600 percent.

These are only isolated cases, but I am sure that if you have been around any of the large bases or shipyards doing Government work on a renegotiation basis, you will agree that the criticism is fair and the situation general.

That the Government itself is wasting all kinds of man and woman power in the civil service, in the armed forces and in industrial plants, is hard to deny. Some of this wastage is to be expected in the confusion of a war, but a lot of it must be stopped before the ordinary citizen can take the Chief Executive seriously.

Very sincerely yours,

RALPH H. WILEY.

Cancellation of Ration Points

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. P. W. GRIFFITHS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 1945

Mr. GRIFFITHS. Mr. Speaker, having sat here and heard it said how the women of this country reacted to the cancellation of the ration-point coupons, I should like to insert a letter I have received from my home town on the subject. I might add that although I have received many letters, I have not had one solitary letter from anyone in my district taking an opposite view.

The letter follows:

MARIETTA, OHIO, January 14, 1945.

The Honorable P. W. GRIFFITHS,

Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. GRIFFITHS: I am one of those who resent Senator PATMAN's sweeping statement that the women of this country are solidly back of those responsible for invalidating our coupons after allowing us to believe that they would be honored when we needed them.

I have written the following to Senator PATMAN, sending it special delivery, and I am hoping that it will reach that gentleman instead of going by way of a secretary into the wastebasket. And now to the letter:

"Although realizing and resenting the fact that this administration began by breaking every promise but the one to bring back liquor before Christmas, I was one of those who kept faith with the Government by declaring every can of food on my shelves, my sugar, and truthfully revealing my age.

"Perhaps this leaves me a shade more bitter about the last dishonest move put over on the women of this country who have been complacently believing the promise that our coupons would be honored when we faced emergencies in our homes.

"Also perhaps this leaves me a bit more indignant over your sweeping statement that the women of this country are solidly back of the move to deprive them of their use. Of course, I realized that the removal of points was a political move because of the time when it was made, but I was stupid enough, with thousands of others, to believe

that I need have no worry as to the danger of their being invalidated.

"I think that now even the most loyal New Deal women have learned a lesson that we have all been slow in learning and that we will not wait again for real need of canned food or for shoes.

"I am wondering how many office windows in Washington are open these days to give comfort to the countless Government workers in the overheated rooms, as was the case last winter, while it is demanded that homes be kept uncomfortably cold.

"Notwithstanding what I regard as criminal extravagance, and despite blundering incompetence in Washington, the odoriferous John L. Lewis' \$500,000 gift, the Brown-Hillman and many other episodes, I have supported the President in many of his foreign policies, beginning with lend-lease.

"I am hoping that some day before the war is over, he will come forward with the positive statement of our principles, which, to many of us, seems an imperative necessity.

"It is unpleasant to write a letter of this kind to a Senator, but I cannot allow your statement to pass unchallenged. All the women of this country are not solidly back of those responsible for the coupon hoax.

"There are still many of us who revere the truth and despise trickery from whatever source."

I want you to know, Mr. GRIFFITHS, how much I admire your aggressive services in Washington. It is a comfort to us to have a man who stands for integrity and decency and who is fearless, never dodging an issue, representing us.

I hope that you approve of this letter to Senator PATMAN. Do you think there is the remotest chance of his seeing it?

Very respectfully,

MYRTIS E. SIDLEY.

Selection of Farms for Veterans

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. REID F. MURRAY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 1945

Mr. MURRAY of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the following article in the January 11 issue of the Adams County Times published at Adams, Wis., should be of interest to every citizen in our country:

FARM LEADERS TO HELP VETS SELECT FARMS

Agricultural leaders of central Wisconsin are already planning to help returning war veterans locate only on land suited for farming rather than to repeat the mistakes after World War No. 1 where too many were attracted to the farm regardless of its value or its adaptability to successful operation.

Members of the veterans' advisory committee, which has been formed in Adams County, are Mr. J. B. Jones, Friendship; Mr. Owen Owens, Friendship; Miss Shirley Young, Westfield; Mr. Leo Baggot, Wisconsin Dells; Mr. B. A. McBride, Adams; Mr. H. O. Spudler, Grand Marsh; Mr. Jerry Filip, New Rome; Mr. J. C. Lambert, Grand Marsh; and Mr. Merton Thaurer, Strongs Prairie.

Emil Jorgenson, district agricultural extension leader, reports that central Wisconsin counties are well dotted with farms whose operators will retire when the war is over but who have kept on farming because it was a patriotic effort to aid food production.

One of the main objectives in central Wisconsin, he adds, is to encourage local boys to settle on good land in their home counties and to keep poor land off the market.

Unless a war veteran has had adequate farm training and experience, has lived on a farm, and has adequate financing, he may be cautioned to go slow in deciding to start farming, say members of the county advisory committees. In this connection it is also pointed out that some veterans would be better off, if, instead of acquiring farm ownership, they would become tenants or hired men on farms until they acquire a nestegg and more experience, rather than to go on the land without enough money or experience to make it go.

Veterans' advisory committees have been formed in most counties of the central area to work with the county service officer in advising returning veterans as to the opportunities as well as the hazards in farming. County agents have been designated liaison officers by the United States Department of Agriculture between the veterans and the advisory committees.

Mr. Speaker, you will note from this article that Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, made a wise decision when he asked for the cooperation of rural people in connection with farm purchases under the G. I. bill.

You will also note the alertness of the Agricultural Extension Service of Wisconsin in that they are giving this project immediate attention. The State of Wisconsin has been making a land-use study for over 20 years and the agricultural college is in a position to render excellent service in farm selection.

The people of the State are evidently not going to be content with flag waving when the veterans depart for service—they are going to give a practical application to the welcome home.

Hebrew Group Seeks F. D. R. Aid in Palestine Problem

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. THOMAS J. LANE

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 1945

Mr. LANE. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I wish to include the following letter which was written November 29, 1944, by Mr. Peter H. Bergson, chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, Washington, D. C., to the President of the United States; this letter was published December 29, 1944, in the New York Journal-American:

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF

NATIONAL LIBERATION,

Washington, D. C., November 29, 1944.

HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

The White House,

Washington, D. C.

MR. PRESIDENT: We take the liberty to request the assistance of the Government of the United States by using its good offices to intervene in the present deadlock which has arisen in the conflict between the policy of

the Government of Great Britain and the interests of the Hebrew nation.

The territory of Palestine was mandated to Great Britain for the purpose of transforming it into the national home of the Hebrew people. This League of Nations mandate was ratified by the Government of the United States and recognized in the American-British Treaty of 1924.

The mandatory power of Palestine was obliged and did report annually to the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations on the progress of its administration. No policy regarding Palestine could be put into effect without the approval of that Commission.

Palestine now is being administered in accordance with the policy announced in the white paper of April 1939, which was submitted to the Mandates Commission and rejected by it as being incompatible with the terms of the mandate.

The Government of Great Britain, however, saw fit to persist in its strict adherence to that unauthorized policy and in accordance with it, has barred all entry of Hebrews into the territory which is, under international law, the Hebrew national home.

In view of the diabolical campaign of extermination which Germany and her satellites have been conducting in recent years against the Hebrew people in Europe, the closed doors of Palestine have helped in a way to deliver hundreds of thousands of Hebrews into the hands of their murderers.

It is justifiable to say that more than half of the estimated 3,000,000 Hebrews who lost their lives in Europe could have been alive in Palestine and elsewhere if not for the white paper policy, which closed to them all other avenues of escape.

We believe that the Hebrew nation is a cobelligerent in this war and is of right, though not recognized, a member of the United Nations and therefore an ally of Great Britain. We have, therefore, repeatedly stated that the settlement of the Palestinian political and boundary problems ought to be postponed until after the war, when they should be settled together with other inter-allied problems.

It is because of this that we advocate full cooperation with the mandatory for Palestine. But the fact we are allied in a war against Axis tyranny certainly does not compel or oblige us to acquiesce in the internationally illegal policy which stood, and still stands, in the way of the rescue of hundreds of thousands of martyred human beings. We therefore took issue with the Government of Great Britain on the question of the right of every Hebrew in Europe to escape to Palestine.

In our deep anxiety to maintain good relations between allies, we offered a series of compromise proposals, culminating with the suggestion that there be established in Palestine emergency rescue shelters into which all Hebrews should be admitted temporarily, without prejudice to their future status, so that their lives might thereby be saved and so that the political controversy not continue to stand in the way of saving them.

We were willing to accept temporarily the status of foreign refugees for Hebrews in their own national home, a status similar to that of the European refugees in the emergency rescue shelters in the United States and French and middle eastern territories. Even this was rejected.

All the above-mentioned facts compel us to seek the help of your great country in bringing to an end a tragic situation and one which throws serious aspersions on Great Britain's adherence to the very principles for which the United Nations are waging this costly global war.

We maintain that the Hebrew nation has already suffered staggering losses in this war and should not be called on to continue the suffering endlessly and aimlessly. The

Hebrews in German-occupied territory should not be abandoned to death at the hands of the Germans because of an unjustifiable and stubborn policy of Great Britain, and the Hebrews in the liberated territories of Europe should not be forced to remain, to be starved and humiliated, in their shattered ghost-tidden homes amidst the scenes of horror and destruction which they miraculously survived.

But the Government of Great Britain continues its present policy in Palestine despite the horrible toll of suffering and death for which this policy is responsible.

In view of all the above, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation respectfully requests your assistance in order to bring this tragic conflict to an early end. We propose that you, Mr. President, take the initiative to convene a round-table conference between representatives of the British Government and representatives of the Hebrew nation in which, under the guidance of your representatives, animated by impartial justice and equal friendship for both sides, it should not be too difficult to arrive at some understanding and bring to an end the present intolerable situation.

Our confidence in the success of such a conference is due to our conviction that the present deadlock is not a result of cruelty or bad will, but rather a result of inertia fostered by the confusion of the Zionists themselves, and once scrutinized under the guidance of American good will and common understanding and the relatively minor obstacles which are now responsible for a very tragic situation.

We beg to submit, Mr. President, that the confusion and the lack of status of the Hebrews in Europe today not be permitted to stand in the way and block the realization of our proposal as it has blocked every constructive effort to solve this problem in the past. Let not the deluge of organizations amongst American Jews and the perpetual debates amongst them be the reason for continual inaction, for it does not concern them. It concerns solely Hebrews—those people who are persistently misnamed and referred to as refugees, as Germans, Hungarians, or stateless Jews, but never by their own name—Hebrews.

There are no Hebrews in the United States. There are Americans of Hebrew descent or religious of the Jewish faith. It is not a religious problem that we are dealing with, and American clergymen (of the Jewish faith) should not be asked to determine it. We ask the help of the United States to solve the present conflict between our need for survival and the policy of the British Government.

American Jews have no conflict or the right to have a conflict with the British Government. They have appreciation of and sympathy for us Hebrews, the victims of that conflict, as indeed have the overwhelming majority of the American people.

In view of the lack of an as yet recognized national representation of authority to speak for the Hebrew nation, we propose that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation be invited to compose the Hebrew representation, which would include those members of the Jewish Agency for Palestine who are Hebrew nationals, barring, of course, the participation of those members of the Jewish Agency who are nationals of other nations and therefore ineligible to be spokesmen for the Hebrew nation at any international conference.

Mr. President, not only the people of your great Nation but the people of many lands—indeed humanity at large—are already indebted to you for your magnificent leadership in world affairs. Throughout the earth men thank God for having given you the greatness, the vision, and the strength for such leadership. On behalf of our martyred na-

tion, which has reached the very end of its endurance, we appeal to you to apply the genius of your initiative and leadership for the restoration of life and dignity to our ancient nation.

I remain, Mr. President, with respect and admiration,

Faithfully yours,
 PERCY H. HANSON,
 Chairman.

The Ratification of Treaties

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. CHESTER E. MERROW

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 1945

Mr. MERROW. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Record, I include the following address on the ratification of treaties delivered by me before the General Court of New Hampshire on January 17, 1945.

Mr. Speaker, Governor Dale, members of the Governor's council, president of the State senate, members of the general court and guests, you of the New Hampshire Legislature by inviting me to speak from this rostrum today have conferred upon me a singular honor. I recall with keen pleasure my service in this house as chairman of the committee on ways and means in 1939. It is delightful to be here again and to renew my many acquaintances. The friendships I made during my service in this house are among my most treasured possessions. You were good to me in the 1939 session and subsequently you have aided me in my several campaigns for Congress. It is a privilege to serve my State in the National Capital. For this opportunity I am most grateful to the electorate of New Hampshire.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to you for the invitation extended to me by the legislature of my own State to discuss here this morning the subject of treaty ratification. This issue, aside from winning the war, is, I believe, the most important single question of the day. It is a subject to which we must give our careful attention since on its correct solution may well depend the happiness of future generations.

THE PEACE—A VITAL CONCERN TO ALL

We are winning the most devastating war in history; a war fought for democracy and the institutions of freedom. This conflict reaches the lives of all our people. You who are listening have sons, daughters, or other relatives in the armed forces. Just as this unparalleled struggle touches each individual in the country so will the peace be a vital personal concern to every man, woman, and child in the Republic. Our major objective then, following the winning of the war, is to lay the foundations for a just and lasting peace so that our posterity will not be required to sacrifice, bleed, and die in another international clash of arms. We must keep faith with those who are achieving such notable triumphs on every fighting front. The statesmanship of the Republic must succeed in pointing the way to permanent peace. The United States of America is a great and growing world power and with power comes the responsibility for exercising constructive leadership. As a Member of Congress I will tirelessly devote my energy to forging the governmental machinery essential to the construction of a peaceful world order. I will work with all the ability I possess to assist in preventing an-



NEWS

From HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

2315 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, Washington 8, D. C.
ADams 8800

Copies of this Bulletin are filed with the Department of Justice where the statement of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which is registered as representing the interests of the Hebrew Nation, is available for public inspection.

FOR RELEASE:

P.M. Papers, Friday,
January 12
Morning Papers, Saturday,
January 13, 1945

Peter H. Bergson, Chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, today issued the following statement in connection with the resignation of Sir Cecil Hurst as Chairman of the United Nations War Crimes Commission:

On November 26 the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation made public an appeal to all the member governments of the United Nations War Crimes Commission, as well as to the Government of the Soviet Union, which is not a member of the Commission, pointing out the Commission's failure to act on crimes committed against the Hebrews of Europe. It was stated that the issue was not one of especially stressing the punishment for crimes committed against Frenchmen or Dutchmen of the Jewish religion, but crimes committed against Hebrew Nationals - now referred to as "stateless Jews", "German Jews" or "Hungarian Jews". These people are neither stateless nor Germans nor Hungarians. They are Hebrews, belonging to the re nascent Hebrew Nation.

The Committee at that time made the following requests deemed essential to remedy the situation:

- 1: That the governments of the United Nations concerned issue a joint declaration proclaiming that crimes committed against Hebrews in Europe, irrespective of the territory on which the crime was committed or the citizenship or lack of citizenship of the victim at the time of death, be considered as a war crime and punished as such.
- 2: That the governments of the United Nations concerned instruct their representatives on the War Crimes Commission to see to it that the above mentioned declaration is put into effect.
- 3: That representatives of the Hebrew people be given membership on the War Crimes Commission and that temporarily, until such time as a Hebrew national sovereignty be re-established, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation be authorized to constitute the Hebrew representation on the War-Crimes Commission.

Now that the whole issue has been brought to the attention of United Nations public opinion, the Hebrew Committee wishes to raise once again its voice in vehement protest against the present inexplicable attitude on this matter.

What makes this a very grave and urgent problem is that most of

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the estimated million or more Hebrews still alive in German-occupied Europe are former Axis citizens and while being in constant danger of death, which hundreds of them meet daily, the Germans know that crimes committed against them are not considered war crimes. The German murderers in their criminal way of thinking might very well look upon the present policy of the War Crimes Commission as tacit consent to their continuing mass murder of Hebrew men, women and children.

We are indebted to Sir Cecil Hurst for acting with the courage of his convictions and resigning. The Hebrew Committee also wishes to express its deep appreciation for the forthright attitude of Mr. Herbert Páll, the American representative on the Commission, and his manifold attempts to remedy the situation.

We are shocked to learn that the callousness of the British Government to the disaster that has befallen the Hebrew people in Europe could go that far. While President Roosevelt has repeatedly voiced his abhorrence, Prime Minister Churchill did not find it necessary to make one single statement during these horrible long months in which more than three million Hebrews were exterminated.

In view of the historical and deep friendship between the British and Hebrew peoples, only a tragic blunder can be responsible for the attitude of the British Government.

The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation appeals to the people of the United States to support this Committee's proposals as outlined above, so that our British allies may revise their present position in this matter. What less can be done for a nation which has already lost in this war more than fifty per cent of its entire population?

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January 6, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

(For the Secretary's Diary)

On December 19 Mr. Peter Bergson called on the Secretary at the request of Congressman Andrew Sowers. Also present were Mrs. Klotz and Messrs. DuBois and Luxford.

Mr. Bergson complimented the Secretary on the enormous contribution he had made to the refugee problem through the War Refugee Board and stated that the Secretary was one of the few men in this country who seemed to grasp the true proportions of the tragedy experienced by the Jewish people in Europe.

Mr. Bergson then spent a few minutes explaining the philosophy underlying the activities of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. He emphasized that in his opinion it was a mistake to confuse American Jews with the stateless Jews or those Jews in Europe who, after the war, would find themselves in a hostile environment or otherwise anxious to forget the past and begin anew. He said that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation was primarily concerned with the future of that segment of the Jewish population having no real home and it was for them and not the American Jews (for example) that the Palestine issue became important.

Mr. Bergson stated that he felt it was unfortunate that the Palestine issue was constantly raised in political terms by Jewish groups in this country and elsewhere. He said that in raising the issue in terms of making Palestine a Jewish Commonwealth, it was always discussed on ideological grounds. He felt that if the issue were discussed as a simple humanitarian measure, and with no attempt to resolve at this time the political status of Palestine, the proposal would receive far more sympathetic consideration in all quarters, including specifically Congress and the British.

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He said that it was more important to find homes in Palestine for the homeless Jews than it was to obtain abstract political concessions at this moment.

Mr. Bergson complained that the War Crimes Commission had failed to include as war criminals those persons in Germany guilty of slaughtering stateless Jews. He said that this attitude accentuated his conviction that these Jewish groups must be given representation at the peace table, so that they could insist upon their rights being considered and protected the same as every other group.

Mr. Bergson then mentioned that he was distressed by the fact that recently a number of Jews had been transported from Rumania to Turkey with the expectation of getting permits from the British authorities authorizing their entry into Palestine and that the British without warning and without consultation with Ambassador Steinhardt had refused to issue the permits in question. As a result, the Jews were compelled to return to Rumania. Mr. Bergson felt that the War Refugee Board should intervene in the situation and stated that the War Refugee Board had refused to step in. It was explained to Mr. Bergson that the position had been taken that the War Refugee Board's mission under the Executive Order establishing it was limited to the rescue of Jews and other refugees in imminent danger of death at the hands of the enemy; that since Rumania had been liberated and was now in Allied hands the Board had felt that the problem Bergson raised did not fall within this category. The Secretary suggested that Mr. Bergson discuss the matter further with representatives of the War Refugee Board.

Mr. Bergson stated that he felt it was important that the United States obtain effective representation on the Intergovernmental Committee. He said that since Myron Taylor was resigning, he would urge that Senator Gillette be named to represent the United States on this Committee. The Secretary stated that he felt that there was much to be said for Mr. Bergson's suggestion.

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As Mr. Bergson departed, the Secretary told him that he did not need to arrange appointments to see the Secretary through Congressmen or others and that if Mr. Bergson wished to see him, he should call directly. Mr. Bergson thanked him and departed.

AFL:nrd - 1/6/45

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Speech by: SENATOR GEORGE M. GILLETTE (IA.)

December 15, 1944

Reports emanating from German-occupied Europe make it evident that Germany's campaign of mass murder against the Hebrew people is still continuing unabated. For sheer diabolism this crime and its methods are beyond the comprehension of civilized human minds. According to a report recently issued and confirmed by the War Refugee Board millions of men, women and children have been murdered and are still being destroyed by methods which so shock the mind as to make them incredible, and yet there seems to be no choice than to conclude that the findings of the War Refugee Board are reasonably conclusive.

There are still approximately a million and one-half Hebrews in slave labor battalions, in concentration camps, and in other areas in German-occupied territories. Unless some new and drastic measures be undertaken by our government and the other governments of the United Nations, even these survivors will be slaughtered by the Germans.

I believe that not only is it our duty to attempt to save them, but there are reasonably good chances for success. The Germans must know they have lost the war militarily. We believe now that they are continuing fighting in the hope that they may obtain better armistice conditions. There have been some indications that they have abandoned at least some of their barbaric cruelties. They have improved their treatment of prisoners of war. Under pressure from the United Nations they have factually agreed to consider the members of the Polish and Czecho Slovakian Underground as prisoners of war. All this proves that the Germans in selfish interest realize that they cannot continue to ignore the will of the United Nations.

It is imperative, therefore, that our will be strongly applied in an effort to save the Hebrews still in their clutches. While all our sympathies go out to those unfortunate victims we are not sure that the Germans realize our abhorrence and may not be convinced of our earnest sincerity in this respect. As a matter of possibility their distorted pathological approach to this problem may induce them to conclude that we are not opposed to their campaign of extermination. They may find support in this conclusion in the fact that the United Nations War Crimes Commission in London, which is preparing for the punishment of German war crimes, does not consider the murder of Hebrew people as a war crime. It seems that the Commission intends that the Germans should be punished for crimes committed against the United Nations and their citizens, irrespective of religion, but they maintain that since the Hebrews are not recognized as one of the United Nations there could be no punishment under international law for crimes committed against them. They seem to conclude that because a huge segment of

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these Hebrews are citizens of Germany or its satellites that their murder is not a war crime.

This is a very sad situation for the people of our land have been deeply shocked by the horrors which the Germans have inflicted upon the Hebrews of Europe and honestly believe that the War Crimes Commission is engaged in the investigation of these gruesome crimes and in the preparation of punishment of those guilty. We cannot afford to allow a conclusion to be extant that the American people and world civilization can or will condone mass murder of huge segments of people on the grounds of race or religion even though these groups are citizens of the country which is engaged in their destruction. The conscience of the world, and particularly the conscience of the people of the United States revolts against such interpretation. The destruction and contemplated destruction of these unfortunates is not only a crime against humanity but a war crime, and as fully a war crime as any other in the category of war atrocities. Effective action and a clear expression of our deep abhorrence will perhaps go a long way towards saving the lives of the countless thousands of Hebrews in Europe today. We must let Germany and the world know that we consider these atrocious murders war crimes.

The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which is very much concerned with this present situation, has advanced several proposals that seem to me to be proper and effective. Among these proposals which I endorse are these:

1. That the government of the United Nations concerned issue a joint declaration proclaiming that crimes committed against Hebrews in Europe, irrespective of the territory on which the crime was committed, and irrespective of the citizenship of the victim at the time of death, be considered as a war crime and punishable as such.
2. That the governments of the United Nations concerned instruct their representatives on the War Crimes Commission to see to it that the above declaration is put into effect and that fully publicity be given this policy.

I have tried in the past to do all within my power to secure governmental action in the humanitarian task of saving the lives of these Hebrew people and I was gratified when the President took action on a resolution which I introduced looking to the establishment of the War Refugee Board, which was unanimously approved and passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The appointment of this Board by the President has been of signal aid in the premises and I pray once more that the action suggested by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and which I quoted a few moments ago be speedily taken. It cannot possibly be harmful and it might result in the saving of thousands of lives.

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November 29, 1944

Mr. President:

We take the liberty to request the assistance of the Government of the United States by using its good offices to intervene in the present deadlock which has arisen in the conflict between the policy of the Government of Great Britain and the interests of the Hebrew nation.

The territory of Palestine was mandated to Great Britain for the purpose of transforming it into the national home of the Hebrew people. This League of Nations Mandate was ratified by the Government of the United States and recognized in the American-British Treaty of 1924.

The Mandatory Power of Palestine was obliged and did report annually to the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations on the progress of its administration. No policy regarding Palestine could be put into effect without the approval of that Commission. Palestine now is being administered in accordance with the policy announced in the White Paper of April 1939, which was submitted to the Mandates Commission and rejected by it as being incompatible with the terms of the Mandate.

The Government of Great Britain, however, saw fit to persist in its strict adherence to that unauthorized policy and in accordance with it has barred all entry of Hebrews into the territory which is, under international law, the Hebrew national home.

His Excellency
The President of the United States of America,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

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In view of the diabolical campaign of extermination which Germany and her satellites have been conducting in recent years against the Hebrew people in Europe, the closed doors of Palestine have helped in a way to deliver hundreds of thousands of Hebrews into the hands of their murderers. It is justifiable to say that more than half of the estimated three million Hebrews who lost their lives in Europe could have been alive in Palestine and elsewhere if not for the White Paper policy which closed to them this main avenue of escape, and indirectly, all other avenues of escape.

We believe that the Hebrew nation is a co-belligerent in this war and is of right, though not recognized, a member of the United Nations and therefore an ally of Great Britain. We have, therefore, repeatedly stated that the settlement of the Palestinian political and boundary problems ought to be postponed until after the war, when they should be settled together with other inter-allied problems. It is because of this that we advocate full co-operation with the Mandatory for Palestine. But the fact that we are allied in a war against Axis tyranny certainly does not compel or oblige us to acquiesce in the internationally illegal policy which stood, and still stands, in the way of the rescue of hundreds of thousands of martyred human beings. We therefore took issue with the Government of Great Britain on the question of the right of every Hebrew in Europe to escape into Palestine.

In our deep anxiety to maintain good relations between allies, we offered a series of compromise proposals, culminating with the suggestion that there be established in Palestine emergency rescue shelters into which all Hebrews should be admitted temporarily, without prejudice to their future status, so that their lives might thereby be saved and so that the political controversy not continue to stand in the way of saving them. We were willing to accept temporarily the status of foreign refugees for Hebrews in their one national home, a status similar to that of the European refugees in the emergency rescue shelters in the United States and in French and Middle Eastern territories. Even this was rejected.

All the above mentioned facts compel us to seek the help of your great country in bringing to an end a tragic situation and one which throws serious aspersions on Great Britain's adherence to the very principles for which the United Nations are waging this costly global war.

We maintain that the Hebrew nation has already suffered staggering losses in this war and should not be

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called upon to continue the suffering endlessly and aimlessly. The Hebrews in German-occupied territory should not be abandoned to death at the hands of the Germans because of an unjustifiable and stubborn policy of Great Britain, and the Hebrews in the liberated territories of Europe should not be forced to remain, to be starved and humiliated, in their shattered, ghost-ridden homes, amidst the scenes of horror and destruction which they miraculously survived.

But the Government of Great Britain continues its present policy in Palestine despite the horrible toll of suffering and death for which this policy is responsible.

In view of all the above, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation respectfully requests your assistance in order to bring this tragic conflict to an early end. We propose that you, Mr. President, take the initiative to convene a round table conference between representatives of the British Government and representatives of the Hebrew nation in which, under the guidance of your representatives, animated by impartial justice and equal friendship for both sides, it should not be too difficult to arrive at some understanding and bring to an end the present intolerable situation. Our confidence in the success of such a conference is due to our conviction that the present deadlock is not a result of cruelty or bad will, but rather a result of inertia fostered by the confusion of the Zionists themselves, and once scrutinized under the guidance of American good will and common sense it will become easy to eliminate misunderstandings and the relatively minor obstacles which are now responsible for a very tragic situation.

We beg to submit, Mr. President, that the confusion and the lack of status of the Hebrews in Europe today not be permitted to stand in the way and block the realization of our proposal as it has blocked every constructive effort to solve this problem in the past. Let not the deluge of organizations amongst American Jews and the perpetual debates amongst them be the reason for continual inaction, for it does not concern them. It concerns solely Hebrews - those people who are persistently misnamed and referred to as refugees, as Germans, as Hungarians, or stateless Jews, but never by their own name - Hebrews.

There are no Hebrews in the United States. There are Americans of Hebrew descent or Americans of the Jewish faith. It is not a religious problem that we are dealing with, and American clergymen (of the Jewish faith) should not be asked

to determine it. We ask the help of the United States to solve the present conflict between our need for survival and the policy of the British Government. American Jews have no conflict or the right to have a conflict with the British Government. They have appreciation of and have sympathy for us Hebrews, the victims of that conflict, as indeed have the overwhelming majority of the American people.

In view of the lack of an as yet recognized national representation or authority to speak for the Hebrew nation, we propose that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation be invited to compose the Hebrew representation, which would include those members of the Jewish Agency for Palestine who are Hebrew nationals, barring, of course, the participation of those members of the Jewish Agency who are nationals of other nations owing exclusive allegiance to those nations and therefore are ineligible to be spokesmen for the Hebrew nation at any international conference.

Mr. President, not only the people of your great nation but the people of many lands - indeed humanity at large - are already indebted to you for your magnificent leadership in world affairs. Throughout the earth men thank God for having given you the greatness, the vision and the strength for such leadership. On behalf of our martyred nation, which has reached the very end of its endurance, we appeal to you to apply the genius of your initiative and leadership for the restoration of life and dignity to our ancient nation.

I remain, Mr. President, with respect and admiration,

Faithfully yours,

Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

Bergson Group

A number of good people have protested that the series of news articles about the Hebrew "embassy" reflects unfairly upon the eleemosynary work of the maze of the various agencies which are affiliated with the "embassy" through the person of Mr. Peter Bergson. That was not our intention. One of these bodies, indeed, has been praised in our editorial columns. We refer to the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. This body, under the active leadership of Mr. Bergson, played a great part in developing public and congressional opinion in support of the Gillette resolution, which resulted in the establishment of the War Refugee Board by executive order of the President. On January 25 we referred to "the industrious spadework" done by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People in Europe in connection with presidential action. The War Refugee Board, as we have hitherto said, is a very necessary agent in saving the Jewish refugees from the Nazi fiends.

There appears, likewise, to be no question about the financing of the emergency and, in point of fact, the other related committees. In this respect our news stories may have given a misleading impression, particularly by stating that relief work constituted a very small part of the work of the committees, as if the money had been improperly collected. Some readers may have deduced from this statement that funds were raised for relief work when in fact the committees stated clearly in their successive appeals that financial aid was needed in carrying the committee's message to the American people.

No one can object to any body of men, in this free country of ours, prosecuting any cause within our laws. All we have suggested editorially in this connection is that any agency which is collecting funds from the public should be compelled to make a public accounting for them. That is in line with a Post campaign of several years standing. In the case of these associated committees there has been a voluntary accounting by certified public accountants, except in the case of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which has had \$30,000 available to it, \$5000 of which was in the form of unsolicited contributions, the remainder being a loan for the purpose of the

initial down payment on its headquarters at the Hebrew "embassy." This committee, however, is registered with the Department of Justice as the agent of a foreign principal.

At the same time The Post is under obligation to its readers to explain any movement which is appealing for public sympathy and patronage. In this connection we find that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation from its headquarters at the Hebrew "embassy" hasn't the representative character that it purports to have. It was denounced by the American Zionist Emergency Council on June 2 as "a group of frauds."

Settling aside, the fact is that under the mandate, the Jewish Agency represents the people of Palestine. The agency is elected as to some of its members by the people of Palestine, as to the others, they are nominated by Zionist organizations throughout the world. The Jewish Agency has nothing to do with the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. From Palestine there is no evidence that the Hebrew Committee is authoritative. Vaad leumi, the Jewish Community Council, has repudiated it. On May 26, the Jewish Labor Organization, a body on a par with the American Federation of Labor, cabled from Palestine to Mr. Max Zeritsky, chairman of the American Jewish Trade Union Committee for Palestine, "This group (Bergson's group) must not be allowed to continue to deceive public opinion, and it is necessary that you open the eyes of those following it in good faith but who are ignorant of the facts."

At this point one may drop the designation of Hebrew Committee and Hebrew "embassy" and call it the Bergson group. Now the Bergson group started out with a committee. One of the members was Capt. Jeremiah Helpern, who lives in London. Immediately after the dispatch arrived announcing his name, Captain Helpern insisted that the *Jewish Chronicle* and the *New Judea* print a retraction. Another director is named Arieh Ben Eleazar. This gentleman is now under detention in Palestine on suspicion of being connected with the Irgun, or National Military Organization.

We do not propose to try to trace any tie-up between the Hebrew Committee and the terrorists in Palestine. Indeed, the Hebrew Committee seems to have no mandate either from the Right or the Left in the political life of Palestine. It is seeking to establish its own title in Palestine by enlisting the sympathy of the American people with the Jewish sufferers from Fascist persecution. The American people are not informed on the politics and inter-pine feuds among the Jews themselves in Pal-

The Washington Post

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ting. They are likewise not informed of the manifold Zionist organizations, recognized by the Jewish Agency, already in existence of which the maze of the Bergson group is a duplicate. Doubtless in this respect the Bergson group would contend that the previously established organizations have not been persistent and energetic enough in prosecuting the cause of the refugee Jews. The successful campaigning of the Emergency Committee at least to some extent seems to substantiate this contention.

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WASHINGTON POST A VICTIM OF BRITISH AND ZIONIST INTRIGUES?

AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. EUGENE MEYER, PUBLISHER
AND EDITOR OF THE WASHINGTON POST FROM
PETER H. BERGSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE HEBREW
COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION.

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COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION.

Published by the

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

2315 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington 8, D. C.

October, 1944

100433

FOREWORD

"The reactionary clique of the British Colonial Office is not content to keep the gates of Palestine mercilessly shut in the faces of our dying brothers in Europe, but is preparing new plots against our hopes and future, and schemes to enforce the ghetto regime in Palestine forever.

"Most tragic in this deplorable situation is the fact that the Zionist leadership and bureaucrats, as in the past, are ready this time again to give in to the scheming of the British Colonial Office and accept the humiliating defeat, heralding it as a victory. Thus, these Zionist defeatists play in Hebrew affairs a similar part to that played by Petain in France during and after the French national debacle."

Against these conspiracies the Hebrew Freedom Movement stands and fights.

The British Colonial officials and the Zionist defeatists are therefore united in a campaign of slander and vilification, in order to discredit and thus gag the Hebrew Freedom Movement.

A startling manifestation of this vilification campaign is the series of stories published in the *Washington Post*, October 3rd to 6th, inclusive. It seems that Mr. Eugene Meyer has agreed to offer his American paper as a platform for British imperialist and Zionist defeatist slanders. We are reproducing in full, in the second part of this pamphlet, the first story which appeared on October 3rd. This story is a more or less comprehensive and exhaustive compilation of all the rumors, gossip, insinuations and slanders against us uttered or whispered during the last four years by British and Zionist officials.

The letter by Mr. Peter H. Bergson, Chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, contains a detailed refutation of all these innuendos and also throws light upon the background and motives of this campaign. It seems that in the meantime Mr. Meyer and his staff on the *Post* discovered that they were the victims of a British-Zionist conspiracy, and tried not only to retract, but also to make amends.

In this booklet is reproduced also the story that the *Washington Post* felt itself compelled to publish on October 8, in the belief that this partial retreat would satisfy the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and its American friends. The *Washington Post* went even further and tried to forget the whole incident—on October 9 it published Mr. Bergson's condolence message to Mrs. Willkie in a prominent front page story, among the messages of heads of foreign governments and leading Americans. On October 13th, the *Washington Post* retracted in a long editorial its most vicious allegations. Although the tone of the retraction was embarrassed and apologetic, it was far from being gracious and magnanimous.

Some insinuations still have not been explicitly and squarely withdrawn, and the Hebrew Committee insists that the *Post* repudiate every one of them; the damage done must be repaired. Therefore the Hebrew Committee cannot drop the matter unless Mr. Meyer publishes a detailed retraction with due apologies. Even then, the damage wrought the cause of the Hebrew Freedom Movement will by no means be adequately repaired.

We are servants of a foreign people who came to this country in order to appeal to the people of America for help in the cause of our freedom. Our ultimate success depends upon your response. Therefore, in this incident, too, we consider you the highest tribunal, and since we know the noble traditions of the American people that fostered and upheld the fight for freedom of every nation whose representatives have come to this country for help, we do not doubt your pronouncement. What we ask from you is to make your sentiment and your pronouncement known.

We did not seek this trouble and we shall be happy to see the incident closed.

October 10, 1944

Mr. Eugene Meyer,
Editor and Publisher,
THE WASHINGTON POST,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Great injustice and incalculable damage have been committed in the recent series of stories in your newspaper on the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, to the cause of a martyred people, to the institutions and men attached to this cause, and to those many leading Americans who give it their support and assistance.

This attack upon us was the first disappointing and dismaying experience with an American newspaper during the more than four years of our activities in this country, in which period we have been constantly and foremost in the public eye. During these years of Hebrew national disaster and desperate fight for the survival of our people, we were deeply impressed and gratified by the attitude of the American press toward the cause of our people and our struggle for survival. This attitude of the American press more than justified the fame it has acquired all over the world as being of the highest standard and integrity. But you have chosen for your publication to be an exception.

You will probably remember the only conversation (on the telephone) I had with you. It was in 1942. At that time I asked you to give editorial support to the demand for a Hebrew Palestine Army. You denied this support with the excuse that "the WASHINGTON POST is not a Jewish paper." I remarked that it was true that the WASHINGTON POST is not a Jewish paper, but that the fact that it has a Jew as a publisher does not explain why, like a hundred other newspapers in the United States, probably all owned by non-Jews, it would not support the Hebrew Army demand editorially.

I cannot recall that at any time your newspaper came out for three or four days consecutively with a campaign on any disastrous event occurring to the Hebrew people of Europe or to any of the proposed policies of action and solution.

Tribute to the
American Press

Is the *Washington Post*
a Jewish paper?

Mr. Meyer's sin
of omission

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Nothing moved you to such a step. Other American newspapers did come out, but it is true that they are owned mostly by non-Jews.

Mr. Meyer's sin of commission

And now you have stepped into an internal Jewish campaign of vilification against us, led by Zionist bureaucrats, by giving this campaign for four consecutive days exceptional front-page prominence, implying that the man who is the head of the Hebrew National Liberation Committee and who has devoted his life to the cause of his people, who has the support of many American leaders in all walks of life, who deals with governments concerning the most tragic and desperate problem of our times, is, in sum total, a crook, who on the torrents of blood of his people raised a million dollars without giving an accounting of how it was spent. You also implied that hundreds of good, intelligent, forthright leading Americans were but dupes and stooges in the hands of this racketeer. I am very eager to know in what capacity you started this campaign: whether as a publisher of an American newspaper, or as Eugene Meyer, the Jew, who has let his American newspaper become a tool in the hands of narrowly partisan Zionist bureaucrats and anti-Zionist British officials united in their opposition to our movement. The fact remains that except for some purely Jewish papers, not a single American daily but yours has taken the initiative to adopt this point of view of prejudiced hostility.

Providing fuel for anti-semites

You even overlooked the fact that such a campaign of vilification against a servant of the Hebrew people will provide excellent fuel for all sorts of anti-semites who will delight in your slandering of a Hebrew man and institution, and that this campaign will also put despair into the hearts of many sincere friends and supporters of the Hebrew cause. But who cares when partisan bias and fanaticism prevail over common sense and justice?

Extent of moral and material damage

The Zionist bureaucrats, you realize, are taking full advantage of the stories in your publication. They have sent out, to our knowledge, thousands of copies and reprints and reproductions of your paper's stories, all over the country. In a letter from Chicago dated October 5, we are informed, "The WASHINGTON POST article is going around Chicago like wild-fire!!!"

All this injustice and all this damage was done to our cause, to the Hebrew Committee and to myself. I will give you a few examples which will prove the extent of this moral and financial damage:

1. At a dinner given by me on October 5 in honor of two American statesmen who contributed to the creation of the Hebrew Brigade, no less than eleven diplomatic representatives and American Government officials did not attend, after they had expressly accepted the invitation.

2. Already some members of the American League for a Free Palestine and the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe have sent in their resignations after they received a copy of a reprint of your publication sent to them by the Zionists.

3. In Chicago and elsewhere the Emergency Committee is in the midst of preparations for a big benefit. Very substantial groups who were engaged in the organizing of these affairs have withdrawn already, after they received from the Zionists copies of your stories.

Disconsolate state ...

I am writing to you without bitterness but with a feeling of deep sadness for the disconsolate state of my people in despair and agony, persecuted by brutal enemies and mistreated, misjudged, forgotten and betrayed by those from whom one could have expected understanding and support - the free and wealthy Jews in democratic countries.

It is in that state of mind that my friends, representing the different American organizations who support us, tried to bring the incident with your paper to a quick and friendly close. They visited you and left with the impression that the stories in your publication were a result rather of mistakes of your managing and city editors than of any personal sinister intentions on your part, and that you were willing to right the wrong by publishing refutations of all the misstatements and thus to limit the damage and somehow to repair it. I was very happy about the reports of these friends of mine - for two reasons: First, because we have very important and urgent tasks to fulfill and matters to attend to; second, because I wanted to believe that you personally are not involved in this nasty affair. Mr. Merlin, the Secretary General of the Hebrew Committee, has sent you a memorandum refuting the charges and allegations in your stories, as well as giving a background story of the history of our activities in the past, and Mr. Smertenko, Executive Vice Chairman of the Emergency Committee, has prepared a statement on behalf of the Emergency Committee.

Bias ...

We also expected as an expression of good will to see a formal retraction in the form of an editorial clarifying and explaining the matter and thus bringing the whole incident to a satisfactory conclusion. To our great amazement, except for the background story of our activities, none of the material has been published; no editorial has appeared. Worse than that: your staff tried in the most vicious manner to question the authenticity of the signatures appearing on a telegram signed by leading officers of the Emergency Committee, protesting against the stories in your paper, and took the trouble to call them up wherever they were - in Washington, New York and Los Angeles - to verify their signatures and statements. After

the signatories not only acknowledged the contents of the telegram, but made statements of their own in the strongest terms, you did not find it necessary either to publish the protest telegram nor did you see fit to publish any of these statements - eloquent expressions of their indignation.

I therefore do not see any other possibility than to appeal to you once more and for the last time to make a full retraction. I shall attempt in this letter to repudiate all the misstatements and vicious insinuations that the stories in your newspaper contained. I will ask you in all fairness to print these refutations contained in my letter as they will follow from the next paragraph, and I expect an editorial of apology to the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and myself. I will then consider the incident with you and your publication as closed, and will go back to my more important and urgent tasks.

An interview that never took place

1. At the press conference I held on October 3, one of the newspapermen present was most insulting. Upon asking his name, I learned he was Edward F. van der Veen of the WASHINGTON POST. To the amazement of all the journalists present, I told him that I was very surprised to meet him for the first time at this press conference. And even the man in question seemed embarrassed when I said, "You were supposed to have interviewed me a few days ago and you even quoted me quite profusely in your story of that interview, though I have never seen nor even talked to you."

The other signatory to the story about me in your paper, a Miss Gloria Lubar, had been calling my office for some time recently in an effort to get an interview with me, which she explicitly said was for a "picture story in the Sunday supplement of our paper (the WASHINGTON POST)." When I finally came back from New York some days ago, my secretary called the young lady and made an appointment for her. When she arrived, together with her photographer, she again explained just where the story would be featured and even mentioned the date that it would be printed - some three or four weeks from the day of the interview. I saw her for a short while, gave her some information, by no means bearing upon the matters quoted in the story which then appeared - not in three or four weeks and not in a Sunday supplement - but in two or three days, on the front page of your paper. I know that sometimes interviews are misquoted. However, it is the first time that I have seen an interview published which did not take place at all. I can, of course, finish the argument with this. But, since your story is a part of a general malicious campaign against the Hebrew freedom movement, I shall take time to repudiate the untruths, half-truths, and malicious innuendos assembled in the story in your newspaper.

Personal background

2. The manner in which you reported that my name is Hilel Kook insinuates that I accepted an alias for disreputable reasons. It is true that my real name is Hilel Kook. I changed it years ago, for I did not want to drag into the heat of partisan fights a name which is one of the most respected in the modern history of my people. My late uncle, my father's brother, was the Chief Rabbi of Palestine and was reputed to be among the greatest Talmudic and Rabbinic authorities of our time. My father is a prominent Rabbi at the head of a Talmudic seminary in Jerusalem.

Ridicule—an old trick of abuse

3. Your attempt to ridicule our movement by asserting that I styled myself a "misance diplomat" and that I was most "emphatic when declaring to possess a dynamic personality," is an old trick of abuse. By no means do I wish to compare myself in any way to that great French leader, De Gaulle, though I consider him an inspiring example for all fighters in the cause of oppressed peoples. However, we all remember how not so long ago he was ridiculed by such phrases as the "self-styled Joan of Arc", etc. There were a great many prominent Frenchmen, too, who joined in the campaign against De Gaulle. Yet, he came out the victor. Ridicule and slander did not destroy him.

Hebrew Committee raised no funds

4. Before I go any further, I want to take up your most vicious insinuation, the question of the funds, of a "million dollars raised" and my being "vague as to their use." I regret deeply not being able to report the raising of such a sum. Believe me, had I done so, I should not be at all vague as to my intentions as to how to use it. The deplorable fact, however, is that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation did not raise a million dollars, nor one hundred thousand dollars, nor ten thousand dollars, nor any money at all, except for a few contributions that came in without any solicitation. The fact is, that the Hebrew Committee, since its inception in May, has spent only about \$30,000, including the cash payment on the building purchased for our use in Washington.

Although it is no one's business where we got this \$30,000, it is not a secret at all, since we are registered with the Department of Justice as foreign agents, and all our financial transactions are submitted to the scrutiny of that Department. Anyone can consult the files of the Department and receive information as to the friends or institutions who have donated or loaned us this money.

American organizations to whom the Hebrew people will forever be grateful

5. What the POST may have been referring to was probably the funds collected by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, of which I am one of eleven co-chairmen, and possibly the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews of which I was one of the leading officers during the period of its activity. Both these

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organizations have done and are doing a most valuable work for which the Hebrew people will remain eternally grateful. However, these are American organizations. They have a full slate of officers and executive boards consisting of some of the most eminent men in American public life.

The expenditures, as well as the collection of money by the above-mentioned organizations has been a matter of public record, issued in quarterly reports by certified public accountants. To my knowledge, these organizations never raised a million dollars nor anything approaching it. These reports have been distributed to the responsible officers of the organizations and can be had for the asking by anyone interested in the work done by these organizations, including the WASHINGTON POST, which has not taken the trouble to get a single copy of such reports before publishing these disproved accusations.

To insinuate, as the POST story does, that there is any suspicion attached to the expenditure of the funds collected by these organizations is to impugn the integrity of all the men who are holding responsible executive and administrative positions on these committees.

Under the impact of
fascist and nazi
influence . . .

6. The essence of the story contained in the faked interview headlined "Bergson Admits Million Dollar Fund Raised, Vague on Its Use" is so vicious and is such a complete contradiction of the facts, that only in these confused times, and under the impact of Fascist and Nazi influences, could such a distortion be printed in an American newspaper. Not only did I not raise a million dollars, or any funds at all, but any institution I am connected with has the characteristic of being explicit and outspoken, in the face of a watchful public opinion and bitter opposition. The novelty of our work in this country, and any other country where we have worked or are working today, consists in abolishing the old, bankrupt and undignified system of subjecting the Hebrew people to back-door pleas before subaltern or high government officials. In abolishing this shameful system we represent the sentiment of indignation of our people in agony in Europe. We abandoned this system of secret bargaining with this or that government official and we brought the whole problem out into the open. This system of appealing directly to the peoples of the world, to public opinion, constitutes a revolutionary change in the activities on behalf of our people. This is a great stride forward in the direction of democracy.

In strict accordance with this democratic principle, we have dealt openly and squarely with the people of America. We have introduced and practiced the method of direct messages to millions of people through full-page or large-size advertisements, through local or nationwide radio hook-ups, through

posters and various forms of pamphlets, booklets and letters running into the millions of copies. (Some of them contained full financial reports.) In these messages, always accessible to the largest possible audience, we not only explained in the most explicit terms what our program is, but also the developments and results of our activities. More than that, not only did we constantly report, week in and week out, the progress of our endeavors, but even our failures. In a dozen leading newspapers all over the United States, among them the WASHINGTON POST of October 6, 1943, we published a full-page advertisement under the headline "A Report of Failure" . . . The leading paragraphs of this advertisement read as follows:

"The foremost duty of workers in a humanitarian cause is to be honest and sincere with themselves as well as with the public. Nothing is more harmful to the cause one serves than the normal urge to delude oneself with glimpses of success or victory; nothing is more dangerous than to be satisfied by mere words of sympathy and pity from high places. No matter how disagreeable it may be, we refuse to delude ourselves and we refuse to take words as a substitute for deeds.

"No, we don't cherish any illusions; during the months between the closing session of the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe and today, nothing has been done by the Allied Governments to stop the slaughter or to alleviate the torments of five million people.

"Two months have elapsed since the experts attending the Emergency Conference to Save the Jews of Europe worked out a program that would enable hundreds of thousands of Jews to escape the death sentence passed upon them by Hitler - death by starvation, death in gas chambers, death in front of machine-gun squads.

"Two months have passed since this program was presented to our President, to Secretary of State Cordell Hull, to the leaders of both Houses of Congress, to the Ambassadors of the United Nations."

Probably such candor and such square dealings with the public have no precedent, at any rate in so far as any organization dealing with the Hebrew problem is concerned.

Nevertheless, in spite of admitted failure, we did not despair but issued a call to the American people to persevere in its demands for immediate action, and action on behalf of governments came. In a few months the War Refugee Board was created.

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Humanity's greatest
bargain

7. The WASHINGTON POST story quotes me as having admitted that "relief work has been a small part of our work. Our major activity is mobilizing the understanding of the American people for an integral and positive solution of the problem of the Jewish people in Europe."

If I were to give an interview to the WASHINGTON POST or any other paper, I would speak not only about our educational work of mobilizing public opinion, but also about the activities and record of achievements of our representatives and officers in London, Turkey, Palestine and, lately, in liberated Bulgaria.

But let us ignore for a moment all these activities emanating from us all over the world. Let us ignore the so-called "illegal" immigration into Palestine. Let us even ignore such major events as the creation first of the Palestine Regiment and now of the Jewish Brigade. Let us ignore for a moment that that War Refugee Board and the refugee shelters - things we fought for all the years of our activity in this country - have something to do with the record of our achievements - for after all, we were the only ones who advocated their establishment, while the Zionist leaders and their front organizations came out officially against the formation of the War Refugee Board; let us ignore for a moment to whom your own WASHINGTON POST gave full credit in its editorial of January 25, 1944, for the creation of the War Refugee Board, in the words: ". . . The industrious spadework done by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe had contributed to this prospect, and the Committee is likewise entitled to credit for the President's forehanded move. . . ."

Well, even ignoring for a moment all these activities, I still firmly believe that if the propaganda and advertising in which we have engaged for the last four or five years had cost not the modest sums the organizations have spent, but millions of dollars, it would still be considered the greatest bargain for the cause of my people as well as of humanity at large.

This "propaganda" and this "advertising" relentlessly appealed to public opinion, aroused it to its responsibilities, demanded that the Hebrew people be not forgotten, and insisted that they have a right to live, to fight and be free. This not only I but many men and women of good will consider a most important service to the cause of a forgotten people.

You, Mr. Meyer, are certainly in a position to judge the impact and effect of this work, not only because you published our advertisements and not even because you gave editorial credit to our achievements, but also as a man who, at the head of a great paper, constantly tries to influence public opinion.

You remember how, before we came to this country, Jewish news, with but a few exceptions, was usually relegated to either the obituary pages or the religious pages of the daily papers. And if we had confined ourselves to an effort that achieved only the general effect of gaining the attention and respect of the American people and government for the Hebrew people, and had not resulted in the many concrete accomplishments we have to our credit, I should still consider that the results have fully justified the small cost involved.

8. As far as my personal income is concerned, it is no secret either. I receive my salary from the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. It amounts to \$75.00 a week. In my bank account at the American Security and Trust Company my balance is about \$100. I have no other bank accounts, nor do I have any investments or property. If it would satisfy your curiosity, I would also tell you that my personal residence in New York, where I spend half of my time, consists of half a room - sharing one room with a colleague in a furnished rooming house. In Washington I live at the headquarters of the Hebrew Committee. The furniture in my bedroom there consists of a bed, a radio and a chair.

9. In the "interview" an innuendo of doubt is cast upon my integrity, by referring, indirectly, to my affiliation with more than one organization, as if it were a crime for anybody to be affiliated with more than one organization. In your ill-will you refuse to concede that the Hebrew situation, as any other situation dealing with human lives and their manifold problems, has many aspects and requires various solutions to its diverse questions. No American wonders why it is necessary to have a USO, a Red Cross, an A. F. of I.; why it was necessary before the war to have a WPA and during the war a WPB; and, with the approach of peace, a whole series of reconversion institutions. Everybody understands that the problems are many and for each a specific institution must be created. This also applies to the problems of our people which are even more diverse and complicated. Of course, the members of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation were interested and tried to bring about the formation of instruments for each specific purpose.

At the same time we have seen to it, and we were definitely careful, that the purposes of each instrument are not mixed nor confused, taking into consideration the fact that some people are willing to support one phase of activities and not another; that some are ready to cooperate and fight from a purely humanitarian and emergency viewpoint along the lines of rescue of the Hebrew people of Europe and are not interested in, or are even opposed to, the formation of a Hebrew Army. We have merely based our activities on fair play towards the men

A "millionaire"
who is broke

What is accepted as
a matter of course for
any other people is
denied to Hebrews

and women of good will in America who are engaged in this noble work.

Whose signatures were misused?

10. Many paragraphs of the "interview" spoke about the misuse of names in advertising of messages to the American people - namely, that names were used as if they were sponsoring one or another organization, which in reality they never did. Mr. Meyer, again you are in a position to be a good judge. You published many of these advertisements, some full page and some even double spread, because the signatures ran into the thousands. THE POST is a Washington newspaper and hundreds of the signatories are high government officials, Senators and Congressmen who live in Washington. I should like you to tell me whether you received one protest, or one denial, from all those thousands of signers published in the advertisements in your paper. Of course you did not. Otherwise you would have called the attention of the officers of the organization that placed the ads to that matter. The fact is that from over five thousand American leaders who, in one way or another, expressed support, endorsement or participated in the committees supporting the cause of the Hebrew people, none denied their affiliations. Some, maybe a score and a half, resigned in the course of the past four years, under terrific pressure from British Embassy officials, anti-Zionists or Zionist bureaucrats. We regret all those who withdrew their support and are thankful to all of them for whatever they did for the cause of our people, to all but one - Pierre van Paassen, who not only withdrew but has written a libelous attack against us. For that he will answer in Court, since he is now under a libel suit.

Why Senator Lucas and Congressman Bloom protested

11. It is true that Senator Lucas did not like our point of view, stated in an advertisement about the failure of the Bermuda Conference, which we called a mockery in the face of the total extermination of our brethren in Europe. It is also true that Congressman Bloom did not like it. But it is also true that the names of these two gentlemen did not appear in that advertisement and it is not coincidental that their names never appeared among the five thousand-odd American leaders who have, in one way or another, endorsed the fight for Hebrew freedom and survival.

A series of lies and misstatements easily repudiated

12. I have not seen Senator Wagner's letter in which he denounced the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, but I am enclosing Senator Wagner's insertion in the Congressional Record of August 28, 1944, of a speech delivered by Senator Elbert D. Thomas over the CBS on Tuesday, August 8, in which the latter endorsed these policies of the Hebrew Committee ideology and methods of activities.

13. In your story it is stated that Mrs. Louis D. Brandeis has declared the use of her name was "completely unauthorized". This statement was already denied by her in the NEW YORK TIMES of June 8, 1944, when a reporter of that paper showed her a photostatic copy of the signature under a membership declaration of the Sponsoring Committee of the American League for a Free Palestine.

We doubt whether Senator Tammell told you that: "It appears that they published a statement that I had become identified with their organization. I don't think that an entirely legitimate organization would do this without my consent." The American League for a Free Palestine has in its possession the Senator's signature under a declaration accepting membership of the League's Sponsoring Committee, a photostatic copy of which is enclosed.

14. Again, I have not seen Rabbi Herzog's purported denial of having anything to do with me or the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. But I have before me a cable received recently - one of several communications received from him - in which he informs me that he gave a statement endorsing our support of the Thomas-Somers resolution concerning the establishment of emergency shelters in Palestine.

"Persona non grata" with British imperialists: An insult or an honor?

15. From your story it seems that I and my colleagues are disliked in many quarters, and that prominent among those who dislike us are some British officials. "The British Government," it is stated in the story, "considers Bergson 'persona non grata'." Probably this was also intended to be part of the campaign to discredit us, but I think that this particular statement is likely to have the opposite effect. You may be certain that millions of Americans, if only informed of the true situation of Palestine, would consider the "persona non grata" epithet a compliment when applied to any Palestinian. Apropos, may it be mentioned that the British declared, only recently, as "persona non grata" a certain prominent American statesman for having an independent opinion about the situation in another country under British rule - India. And, after all, Americans will not have forgotten the circumstances of the birth of their own nation.

When thinking back to my activities during these trying years of catastrophes, aggravations and disappointments, the fact that the British officials considered me as "persona non grata" will give me solace and fortitude. This does not reflect upon my attitude towards the British people whose courage and resourcefulness I admire and in whose midst I had the pleasure of living a few years, and some of whose great men are true friends of our cause and our fight. The Hebrew people will forever be indebted to such men as Lloyd George,

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Lord Strabolgi, Lord Davies and above all, to our good friend Colonel Patterson, now residing in this country, as well as to the departed friend of the Hebrew cause, Lord Wedgwood.

When an honorable official lies . . .

16. The "persona non grata" paragraph contains, however, a lie asserting that "the British official dealings with him (i.e. me) had been of a military nature" - referring to my selective service status. The fact, however, is that I was received by Lord Halifax in my capacity as National Director of the Committee for a Jewish Army. The fact is also that I had the pleasure of discussing, at least four times, the Hebrew Army situation with Field Marshal Dill, British member of the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

17. As far as my draft status is concerned: in your story it is told that "Bergson, who entered this country in 1941 as a citizen of Palestine, is thirty-four. . . . Shortly after his arrival he informed the British that he wanted to join their Army." This is not so. I never volunteered to the British Army shortly after coming to this country. It is true that I am thirty-four, and I was once rejected as physically unfit by the American Army, and now, due to my age, my case is pending along with many others who are not being inducted, since they are over thirty.

Young Britishers who do not join their army

As for the challenge of the unnamed British official that I join the "Jewish Brigade" now that it has been created - I am sorry that I cannot give the gentleman that satisfaction. I will remember how the British, in forming the Palestinian Regiment, expected this gesture to quiet all further Hebrew demands. Now they expect the same of the Jewish Brigade. Our task is as yet unfinished. The anonymous gentleman probably considers his work in Washington on behalf of the British Embassy as more important than to stay in the army. I consider my work on behalf of the Hebrew people as also more important. Britain today faces a brighter future than my people, and nevertheless the dozens of youthful secretaries of the British Embassy are sticking to their posts.

The illegal immigration - who was responsible for it?

18. In the story you and the Zionists question the fact of whether "we have been responsible for 40,000 Jewish refugees having entered Palestine illegally from Europe during the seven years." You then state that high British officials "made plain that in matters pertaining to legal entry of Hebrews into Palestine, the British government deals only and directly with the World Zionist Organization." Now, the question is: who is responsible for the tens of thousands of Hebrews who were evacuated "illegally" from the danger zones of Europe to Palestine? The Zionists? Are they too engaged in "illegal" activities? To a major part, I am happy to say, we and our comrades abroad are responsible for initiating and

organizing the evacuation to Palestine of well over 30,000 Hebrews from eastern Europe.

"Flotsam and Jetsam" - borrowed from the Nazis

The anonymous British gentleman objects to this: "It leaves wide open an opportunity for 'flotsam and jetsam' and Nazis posing as refugees to enter mandated territory without first being investigated." If we were instrumental in saving this "flotsam and jetsam" from Hitler, we are proud of it. We did not seek this country to accept them, nor the country of the British gentleman, nor any other country in the world. We brought them to the country promised to them as their very own National Home.

As for his allegation that there are Hitler spies among them, this myth has long ago been exploded. The former Colonial Secretary, Malcolm MacDonald has sought for a long time to dangle that alleged danger in support of his anti-Mandate regime in Palestine, until, under the relentless questioning of liberal members of Parliament, he had to admit that not a single Hitler spy has been found among the "illegal" Jewish immigrants.

Who is behind the conspiracy?

But all this is of secondary importance. The paramount fact, however, is that the story in the Washington Post plays inadvertently into the hands of the schemers against the rights and very existence of our people.

The reactionary clique of the British Colonial Office is not content to keep the gates of Palestine mercilessly shut in the face of our dying brothers in Europe, but it is preparing new blows against our hopes and future, and schemes to enforce the ghetto regime in Palestine forever.

Most tragic of this deplorable situation is the fact that the Zionist leadership and bureaucrats, as in the past, are ready this time to again give in to the scheming of the British Colonial Office and accept the humiliating defeat, heralding it as a victory. We are sorry that these Zionist leaders and bureaucrats are defeatists in this make-up. They are not Quislings, but they are Petains.

But the worst of the lot are the American Zionist leaders. They conducted a vicious and unscrupulous attack. No lies have been too great, no rumor too fantastic, no trick too despicable to be used by those people. Every individual of prominence active in our work throughout the country has been nagged and tormented and abused with the hope that these high pressure tactics would either frighten them into submission or make the situation so unbearable for them that they would give up the fight.

The infamy of this action lies not only in the moral turpitude displayed by these malicious libelers, who hold lucrative jobs at exaggerated salaries of \$20,000 a year, or more; it lies not only in the fact that the Jewish Agency, though

registered as a foreign agent, i.e., a purely political body, is getting its budget from charitable (tax-exempt) funds. It lies in the fact that during the greatest crisis ever faced by the Hebrew people, Jewish organizations which appeal for public support and for public funds are wasting nine-tenths of their time and energy in this vicious effort to destroy the only positive and relentless campaign for the rescue of the tormented Hebrews of Europe. When the history of this dark era is written, the record of these organizations will constitute the most shameful chapter of the book:

Not only did these Zionist leaders sabotage the rescue efforts we have made, as mentioned above, but their heaviest responsibility lies in the fact that they completely succeeded in confusing the issues of Hebrew national redemption. They persist in insisting that all the Jews the world over are one people, one political entity. Thus, on one hand they have sown division and strife among the Jews in this country who consider themselves, from a political and national point of view, as an integral part of the American nation, and, on the other hand, they have paralyzed any chance of success for the demands of the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine who definitely constitute a distinct ethno-political entity, since they owe no allegiance to any nation but their own. As is known, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation tries to defend and to fight for the interests only of the Hebrews in Europe and Palestine, and by no means does it speak for the American Jews, whom we consider part and parcel of the American nation.

All this confusion surrounding our nation's problems and its accompanying slander is very tragic. Our struggle against all these forces is a difficult, uphill fight. We are sorry that, moved by I don't know what motives, without giving us a chance to present our side, you choose to join and spearhead the attack on us. In doing so you did not simply attack a group of young Hebrew men, devoted to their people; you helped to insure that the Hebrew people remain homeless and defenseless.

Already in your follow-up stories after October 3 there are clear indications, not only of retreat, but also that you yourself do not believe in the scurrilous allegations contained in the first story. Why then persist in refusing a full and square retraction appropriate to the dignity of such a public figure as yourself?

Since you have not found it necessary even to acknowledge the letters, telegrams and statements sent to you by Mr. Samuel Merlin, I feel it my duty to tell you that if this letter does not receive your favorable consideration, I shall be compelled to have it given the widest possible circulation, and also to consider taking other steps to protect the advancement of our cause and our good name.

Yours very truly,

PETER H. BERGSON

Chairman

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OCTOBER 3, 1944

Reprint from The Washington Post of October 3, 1944

Bergson Admits \$1,000,000 Fund Raised, Vague on Its Use

'For Liberation of Jews'

By Gloria Lubar and Edward F. van der Veen

From his \$63,000 residence at 2315 Massachusetts ave. nw., formerly the Iranian Embassy, Peter Bergson, self-styled "nuisance diplomat," boasts his Hebrew Committee of National Liberation with its numerous affiliates has collected one million dollars "from a generous American people." He became vague, however, when a Post reporter insisted he tell what use has been made of the million dollars.

"Relief work has been a small part of our work," Bergson said. "Our major activity is to mobilize the understanding and help of American people for an integral and positive solution of the problems of the Jewish people in Europe."

Bergson (his real name is Hillel Kook) is a slight man with pale-blue eyes, darkish blond hair and a mustache. His voice cracks or squeaks when he gets excited.

He was emphatic when declaring he possessed a "dynamic personality." He added that "we have been responsible for 40,000 Jewish refugees having entered Palestine illegally from Europe during the last seven years."

"I and my workers managed to accomplish this feat through underground methods," he added.

The American Jewish Conference, headed by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, and Dr. Stephen S. Wise of New York, formed under a mandate of 64 reputable Jewish national organizations, agrees with Bergson that his groups have undoubtedly collected a million or more dollars in (tax-exempt) contributions from "persons who have mistaken propaganda for performance and advertisement for achievement," but join with British officials in deriding his assertion he has been the means of smuggling 40,000 Jews into Palestine.

"The public might be interested in knowing just how much has been collected and what disposition was made of the money," the Interim Committee of the Jewish Conference commented. "To date Bergson has made no such accounting."

British Disapprove

"If Bergson has been responsible in any way for aiding Jewish refugees in their attempts at illegal entry into Palestine, this is certainly looked upon with disfavor by the British government," a high British authority here said. "It leaves wide open an opportunity for 'lootam and jetsam' and Nazis posing as refugees to enter mandated territory without first being investigated."

This official made plain that in matters pertaining to legal entry of Hebrews into Palestine, the British government deals only and directly with the World Zionist Organization, not in any way connected with Bergson's committees.

He emphasized that the British government considers Bergson "persona non grata," and made plain that Britain's only official dealings with him had been of a "military nature."

Bergson, who entered this country in 1941 as a citizen of Palestine, is 34, single, and has been declared physically fit in both British and American Army medical examinations. Shortly after his arrival, he informed the British he wanted to join their army. As Palestine is mandated territory, there can be no British conscription; fighters must volunteer. The British accepted his offer, put him through the physicals, and told him to appear for service. Instead, it is said, Bergson sent a letter saying he had decided he should do his fighting in a Hebrew army.

Classified I-A

Upon receiving this letter, the British turned the matter over to the American Selective Service, where he was immediately classified I-A. This classification was affirmed on appeal by the New York City Board of Appeal and is now under advisement by the National Selective Service Board. Bergson's appeal, it is understood, was based on "indispensability."

"It is odd," the British official stated, "that a Jewish brigade has now been formed, but Mr. Bergson has not yet enlisted."

A case concerning Bergson's stay in this country is now before U. S. Immigration authorities.

At the time Bergson first attempted to buy the Iranian Embassy, he declared he wanted it for a Hebrew Embassy. This appeal was turned down by the District Zoning Board on the grounds the proposed "embassy" had not been recognized by the U. S. State Department. District officials state Bergson later received permission to buy the property when he stated he wanted it as a private residence. Bergson's salary by his own admission, is \$75 a week. Formerly, he said, it was \$45.

No Business Permit

Investigation by The Post discloses that Bergson neither holds a permit to conduct any sort of business from this highly restricted residential address nor, under the law, can he get one.

The "embassy," castigated by the American Jewish Conference as a "fraud, a buffoonery, and a comic opera drollery, if it were not so tragic," has a telephone switchboard and business office on the first floor. Bergson's private office, and the offices of his private secretary and clerical force, are on the third floor.

Zoning officials, informed the residence was being used for business offices, asserted the license and police departments

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was "completely unauthorized." Forty-six American rabbis also protested against use of their names in literature distributed by the American League.

Senator Robert F. Wagner (D., N. Y.) in an open letter, denounced the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation as "an organization which serves no useful purpose and can only confuse and mislead American public opinion."

Dean Alfange, leader of the Liberal Party in New York, announced his resignation as co-chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, because he did "not approve of its political affiliations."

Pierre van Paassen, author, once an active worker with Bergson, has gone on record with a scathing denouncement calling the Emergency Committee a "cruel hoax perpetrated on the American public." Paassen accused two of Bergson's organizations of being sponsored by the "Fascist" party in Palestine, the Irgun.

Dr. Francis E. McMahon of the University of Chicago, and 14 other officers also announced their resignation from the Emergency Committee because of "increasing confusion between objectives of the various committees."

Rabbi Herzog, Chief Rabbi of Palestine, has denied any ties with the Emergency Committee.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; R. J. Thomas, president of the U.A.W., CIO; and Max Zaritsky, president of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers of America, also have denounced the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

Mrs. Louis D. Brandeis, wife of the late Supreme Court justice, has declared use of her name as sponsor of the American League for a Free Palestine, and the Liberation Committee,

OCTOBER 8, 1944

Reprint from *The Washington Post* of October 8, 1944

Bergson's Actions Defended

Hebrew Committee Official Replies to Articles in Post

Pointing out that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation was formed to win recognition for the Hebrew nation as one of the United Nations in this war, Samuel Merlin, secretary-general of the committee, a Palestinian, has replied to *The Post* series of articles relative to the Liberation Committee, Peter H. Bergson, its chairman, and its fund-raising American committee.

Merlin stated that the Liberation Committee had purchased the Hebrew "embassy," at 2315 Massachusetts ave. n.w., "in order that the Hebrew Nation may be represented in a manner appropriate to the dignity of an ancient people."

He stated that the Liberation Committee planned to finance its activities through floating a loan of a million dollars in this country.

The statement follows:

"The series of articles published by *The Post* in the last few days have done a grave injustice to Peter H. Bergson, chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, and serious injury to the cause for which this committee is

working. The impression was given that Mr. Bergson and this committee have raised a large sum of money in this country for their use without offering an accounting to their contributors. The facts completely contradict this impression.

"The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation has made no public appeal for funds at any time whatever. I want to state emphatically as possible that the only source of income was the modest sum totaling about \$5000, contributed by a few sympathetic persons and loans amounting to \$25,000 given us to buy the building we occupy, in order that the Hebrew nation may be represented in the United States in a manner appropriate to the dignity of an ancient people. Of all the members of the Hebrew committee, Mr. Bergson has been least concerned with financial arrangements. His work has been that of a spokesman and representative of the Hebrew nation.

"In order to enable us to push our work with increased tempo and vigor, a Hebrew Liberation Fund has been incorporated in the State of New York. This fund will soon seek a loan of a million dollars. A similar action was taken by Eamon

De Valera in the interest of Irish freedom. During the last war he floated a loan in this country for several million dollars. By means of this loan, the American public contributed to the cause of Irish freedom on a promise that it would be repaid by a grateful Irish nation. We are confident that an equally enthusiastic response by the American public will support our work in behalf of the martyred Hebrew people.

Work Opposed by Some

"It is unfortunate that *The Post* was misinformed about the public activities of the committee and that it reiterated the charges of those who have been opposing our work, although these charges have been repeatedly disproved and discredited. One of the most malicious of these accusations is that the American organizations with which the members of the Hebrew Committee have been associated have not given a complete accounting of the funds they collected and spent.

"The fact is that every one of these organizations has published quarterly statements of certified public accountants indicating the amount of income and the character of their expenditures. These have been submitted as a matter of course to the eminent leaders of American life who were members of the executive boards of the organizations in question; and, furthermore, they have been freely offered to all persons interested in learning about our work.

"The aims and purposes of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, as well as of the American organizations which this committee has founded, were incorrectly presented to the American public in a series of articles by *The Post*. In order to clarify the confusion existing in the minds of many people, he submitted a summary of the character and activities of these organizations from the time that he and his associates arrived in this country.

Seven Formed Committee

"The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation was formed by Mr. Bergson and six other Palestinians to win recognition for the Hebrew nation as one of the United Nations in this war, and as such entitled to representation on the War Crimes Commission, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and other agencies dealing with postwar reconstruction. The committee also seeks the establishment of an independent state in Palestine, where Hebrews and Arabs will enjoy equal political status, free from British domination.

"The establishment of a Hebrew committee is the culmination of a series of organizational activities on the part of these Palestinians, who came to this country in 1939 to get American support for measures to alleviate the tragic plight of the Hebrew people.

"At the time of their arrival, the rise of Nazism in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe threatened the lives of the Hebrew inhabitants, and the first effort of the Palestinian group was to get American aid for their work of transporting as many Hebrews as possible to Palestine. For this purpose they organized the American Friends of a Jewish Palestine. The organization raised \$33,385 to provide funds for this work. In order to get permission to send its money abroad, this organization was registered with the State Department and submitted monthly reports of collections and expenditures both in this country and in Europe.

30,000 Sent to Palestine

"In the course of the next two years, more than 30,000 Hebrews were landed on the shores of Palestine, contrary to the wishes of the British administration. Small boats and large steamers were chartered to get these people across the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. Some of these ships landed their human cargoes on deserted beaches in Palestine at night; others sailed right into the harbors. In February, 1940, the SS Sakarya brought 2400 persons into Haifa. These were confined in an internment camp for over six months. Eri Jabotinsky, the leader of this expedition and now one of the members of the Hebrew Committee, was interned along with the immigrants.

"Upon the outbreak of the war, the Palestinians who constitute the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation determined to organize a Hebrew army that would fight in Allied ranks against Hitler. They founded the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews in this country.

"This, too, was a purely American organization headed by some of the most eminent men in American life, including Senators Gny M. Gillette, Arthur Capper, James E. Murray and Elbert D. Thomas; Representatives Andrew L. Somers, Louis J. Capozzoli, Thomas H. Cullen, T. D'Alessandro, Jr., John D. Dingell and George Grant; Governors Dwight Griswold, Robert A. Hurley, R. M. Jeffers, Henri F. Schrickler, and Lieutenant Governor Charles Polett; also William Green, Philip Murray, President Frank P. Graham, President Ray Lyman Wilbur, Robert R. Nathan, Professor Max Lerner, Professor Reinhold Niebuhr, Professor Constantine Panunzio, Hallett Abend, Clare Boothe Luce, Taylor Caldwell, Waldo Frank, Ben Hecht, Rex Stout, Eddie Egan, Mrs. John Guther, John T. O'Rourke, William Allen White and William Zorach.

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"The committee raised \$251,630.86 in the course of three years of its activity. It established offices in Washington and London, as well as in New York, in order to gain the approval of American and Allied governments for its proposal.

"Representative Andrew L. Somers introduced a resolution in Congress requesting the President to direct the Secretary of State to petition the government of Great Britain to permit the organization of all-Jewish military units in Palestine. Public sentiment was mobilized behind this resolution and the press throughout the country came out in editorial support of the Army proposal.

"In England as well as in the United States a large section of Parliament was convinced by this committee of the need and feasibility of having a Hebrew Army as one of the Allied forces.

"Its English supporters included Lord Strabolgi, who heads the sister committee for a Jewish army in London; John D. Mack, M.P., Aneurin Bevan, M.P., Sir Robert Gower, M.P., Comdr. Oliver Locker-Lampson, M.P., Brig. Gen. W. H. Gibbon, Sir Maurice Bonham Carter, and the Rev. Prof. W. O. E. Oesterley.

Challenge to British

"Recently 63 members of Parliament demanded a question period in which the Government would be challenged on this issue. The British government compromised by authorizing the creation of an exclusively Jewish brigade in the British army. This has been declared inadequate by the committee.

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and efforts are still being made to enlarge this brigade into a full-sized independent force like that of the Greeks, Norwegians and Poles.

"The revelation in November, 1942, by our State Department in official statistics that over one million Hebrews in Europe had been murdered by the Nazis in extermination camps established in Poland and eastern Germany diverted the energies of these Palestinians from the army issue to the need of effective action by United Nations governments in stopping this mass murder.

"They sent out a call for an Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe, to which experts in the field of international relations, military affairs, transportation, relief, etc., were invited. A program of findings and recommendations was formulated as a result of the seven days of deliberation by these experts. The public interest evinced by a country-wide news coverage of the Conference, and favorable editorial comment encouraged the formation of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. This again was an American Committee headed by Louis Bromfield, Ben Hecht, Dr. Max Lerner, Representative Will Rogers, jr., and Madame Sigrid Undset.

Public Sentiment Program

"The emergency committee set about its task of awakening American public sentiment to press for effective measures of saving the Hebrew people of Europe. It was responsible for the introduction of resolutions in both Houses of Congress, which ultimately resulted in the creation of the War Refugee Board and the establishment of emergency refugee shelters in the United States and other countries, thus contributing to the only positive rescue work done since Hitler began his mass murders.

"In the course of its 14 months of activity, the emergency committee raised about a half million dollars. The last statement of its certified public accountant, giving the figures up to June 30, shows that \$423,252.68 was collected and spent by this committee.

"In its educational campaign the committee called upon the people to support its work morally as well as financially, and a generous response was forthcoming.

"The Emergency Committee sent representatives and delegations to England, Palestine and Turkey. Representative Will Rogers, jr., flew to London to organize a similar committee in England and to negotiate with British officials concerning the program of the Emergency Committee. Arieh Ben Eliezer and Eri Jabotinsky were sent to Palestine and Turkey, respectively, the latter going with the authority of the War Refugee Board to aid in its task of getting the surviving Hebrew people out of the Balkan countries.

More Shelters Sought

"The Emergency Committee is now backing congressional action on a resolution introduced by Senator Gillette asking the President to establish more emergency refugee shelters in this country as temporary havens. In connection with this work, it recently presented a half million signatures to the President and Congress, urging this action and also the establishment of similar refugee shelters in Palestine.

"In order that the Hebrew nation might have adequate representation in the councils of the United Nations at a time when plans and programs for postwar reconstruction were being formulated, Mr. Bergson and his associates organized on May 18, 1944, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation as the spokesman of the Hebrew people of Eastern Europe and Palestine.

"This committee consists of Palestinians and, as such, it is registered as a foreign agent with the Department of Justice. It has, however, the backing of an American organization called the American League for a Free Palestine, which was established about the same time for the purpose of supporting the aims and activities of the Hebrew Committee. To date the American League has raised \$16,520.78 in membership dues and contributions. Its membership dues are \$1 a year.

"At the recent UNRRA Conference in Montreal, the Hebrew Committee and the American League sent a delegation urging that the Hebrew nation receive representation on the UNRRA Council and membership in the various committees of the council and the administration. Its request was formally presented by the Cuban delegate, but was later withdrawn.

Some Proposals Approved

"Nevertheless, a number of the recommendations made by this delegation were acted upon favorably at the Montreal session of UNRRA, the chief of them being the recognition that the surviving Hebrew people who had previously had the status of Axis nationals would be treated on the same basis as the nationals of the Allied countries.

"We recognize, probably better than anyone else, how much credit for this record of achievement on the part of a handful of Palestinian foreigners is due to the sympathy and understanding of the American people. If ever there were need for proof of the democracy and humanitarianism of this great nation, it is indelibly recorded in the welcome and understanding and support we have received here from the day of our arrival. Whatever may be the result of our efforts, one thing is certain: the Hebrew nation will throughout its future existence look upon the American people as its truest and most generous friend."

OCTOBER 13, 1944

Reprint from The Washington Post October 13, 1944

EDITORIAL

Bergson Group

A number of good people have protested that the series of news articles about the Hebrew "embassy" reflects unfairly upon the eleemosynary work of the maze of the various agencies which are affiliated with the "embassy" through the person of Mr. Peter Bergson. That was not our intention: One of these bodies, indeed, has been praised in our editorial columns. We refer to the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. This body, under the active leadership of Mr. Bergson, played a great part in developing public and congressional opinion in support of the Gillette resolution, which resulted in the establishment of the War Refugee Board by executive order of the President. On January 25 we referred to "the industrious spadework" done by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People in Europe in connection with presidential action. The War Refugee Board, as we have hitherto said, is a very necessary agent in saving the Jewish refugees from the Nazi fiends.

There appears, likewise, to be no question about the financing of the emergency and, in point of fact, the other related committees. In this respect our news stories may have given a misleading impression, particularly by stating that relief work constituted a very small part of the work of the committees, as if the money had been improperly collected. Some readers may have deduced from this statement that funds were raised for relief work when in fact the committees stated clearly in their successive appeals that financial aid was needed in carrying the committee's message to the American people.

Nobody can object to any body of men, in this free country of ours, from prosecuting any cause within our laws. All we have suggested editorially in this connection is that any agency which is collecting funds from the public should be compelled to make a public accounting for them. That is in line with a Post campaign of several years standing. In the case of these associated committees there has been a voluntary accounting by certified public accountants, except in the case of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which has had \$30,000 available to it, \$5000 of which was in the form of unsolicited contributions, the remainder being a loan for the purpose of the initial down payment on its headquarters at the Hebrew "embassy." This committee, however, is registered with the Department of Justice as the agent of a foreign principal.

At the same time The Post is under obligation to its readers

to explain any movement which is appealing for public sympathy and patronage. In this connection we find that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation from its headquarters at the Hebrew "embassy" hasn't the representative character that it purports to have. It was denounced by the American Zionist Emergency Council on June 2 as "a group of frauds." Epithets aside, the fact is that under the mandate, the Jewish Agency represents the people of Palestine. The agency is elected as to some of its members by the people of Palestine, as to the others, they are nominated by Zionist organizations throughout the world. The Jewish Agency has nothing to do with the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. From Palestine there is no evidence that the Hebrew Committee is authoritative. Vaadleumi, the Jewish Community Council, has repudiated it. On May 26, the Jewish Labor Organization, a body on a par with the American Federation of Labor, cabled from Palestine to Mr. Max Zaritsky, chairman of the American Jewish Trade Union Committee for Palestine, "This group (Bergson's group) must not be allowed to continue to deceive public opinion, and it is necessary that you open the eyes of those following it in good faith but who are ignorant of the facts."

At this point one may drop the designation of Hebrew Committee and Hebrew "embassy" and call it the Bergson group. Now the Bergson group started out with a committee. One of the members was Capt. Jeremiah Helpem, who lives in London. Immediately after the dispatch arrived announcing his name, Captain Helpem insisted that the *Jewish Chronicle* and the *New Judea* print a retraction. Another director is named Arieh Ben Eliezer. This gentleman is now under detention in Palestine on suspicion of being connected with the Irgun, or National Military Organization.

We do not propose to try to trace any tie-up between the Hebrew Committee and the terrorists in Palestine. Indeed, the Hebrew Committee seems to have no mandate either from the Right or the Left in the political life of Palestine. It is seeking to establish its own title in Palestine by enlisting the sympathy of the American people with the Jewish sufferers from Fascist persecution. The American people are not informed on the politics and internecine feuds among the Jews themselves in Palestine. They are likewise not informed of the manifold Zionist organizations, recognized by the Jewish Agency, already in existence, of which the maze of the Bergson group is a duplicate. Doubtless in this respect the Bergson group would contend that the previously established organizations have not been persistent and energetic enough in prosecuting the cause of the refugee Jews. The successful campaigning of the Emergency Committee at least to some extent seems to substantiate this contention.

Congressional Record

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

of

HON. ROBERT F. WAGNER

of New York

In the Senate of the United States

Monday, August 28 (legislative day of Tuesday, August 15), 1944

Mr. WAGNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have inserted in the Appendix of the Record an address delivered over the Columbia Broadcasting System on Tuesday, the 8th of August, by the senior Senator from Utah (Mr. Thomas).

There being no objection, the address was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

Fellow Americans, pressing reconversion measures with which the Senate Military Affairs Committee are busy have prevented me from speaking to you tonight as I originally planned from the platform of the Second Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

This second emergency conference, which ended tonight in New York City, had before it—as its name suggests—a most important and urgent task, the task of formulating concrete claims and proposals to effectuate the rescue of the several million Jews surviving in Europe today.

The fact that a Second Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe was necessary, following the first one, held just over a year ago, is sad in itself. For, despite the able planning of the first conference and despite the very active work of the crusading emergency committee to save the Jewish people of Europe during the elapsed year, this most tragic problem is still before us awaiting determined and large-scale action by the governments of the United Nations.

We all know well enough the magnitude of the disaster which has befallen the Jewish people of Europe; nearly 35 percent of their total have been murdered. Proportionately this would mean 18,000,000 British casualties, 62,000,000 Russian casualties or 46,000,000 American casualties.

The disaster has not come suddenly. It is the culmination of long decades of persecution and confusion in which nothing is definite and clear, not even the meaning of the term "Jew."

And it is the confusion about their status which has made the wholesale murder of the Jews of Europe possible and has hampered intervention on their behalf.

I believe, therefore, that it is of the utmost importance to the rescue efforts that their position be clarified, at least as to terminology and definition.

There are Jews in Russia and there are Jews in England. Millions of my fellow Americans are Jews. What is their relation to, and what differentiates them from, the Jews of Axis Rumania and Hungary or from the Jews of Poland? Spiritually they are all Jews. But, practically speaking, American Jews are members of a great and mighty free Nation—the United States of America; the Jews of England are English-

men; the Jews of Russia are Russians; but the Jews of Warsaw and Bucharest, like the Jews of Jerusalem, are—what?

This "what" is the stumbling block of all efforts to rescue the Jews who live under that great question mark. The Axis maintain that they are nationals of the country in which they live and that their slaughter is a purely internal affair.

The fact, however, is that these people together with those of their kinsmen who were fortunate enough to make their way back to Palestine, constitute a nation whose national life was suspended for 1,800 years and which is now reborn.

Thus, these people of Europe and Palestine factually constitute the renaissance Hebrew Nation. Consequently, Hebrew nationality does not mean Englishmen who practice the Jewish religion; it most certainly does not mean the millions of Americans, commonly referred to as Jews, who are actually Americans of Hebrew descent and of the Jewish religion. They do not belong to the Hebrew Nation, nor more than President Roosevelt belongs to the Dutch Nation or Mr. Wendell Willkie belongs to the German Nation. They are Americans first, last, and always. Their ancestors way back, 2,000 years ago, were Hebrews.

Justice Frankfurter, for example, is not a Hebrew. He is an American of Hebrew descent, practicing the Jewish religion, exactly as Justice Murphy is an American of Irish descent, practicing the Catholic religion.

This might be an abstract and academic problem as far as Justice Frankfurter and the other millions of Americans of Hebrew descent are concerned. To the Hebrew Nation in Europe it is a problem of the gravest urgency and reality. Indeed, it is a problem of life and death.

Now, if we understand the true status of the Hebrew in Europe we are in a position to take immediate action to check, at last, the continued slaughter of millions more of innocent men, women, and children.

Up to several weeks ago in Hungary, thousands of Hebrews were daily packed into cattle trains which took them to the extermination camps of Poland. The International Red Cross in Geneva has made it known on the authority of the Hungarian Government that all Hebrews in Hungary "holding entrance visas to Palestine will receive permission from the authorities to leave for that country."

This creates an entirely new situation in which the responsibility is thrown on our shoulders and, more particularly, on the shoulders of the British Government.

As an American and as a Christian, I venture to suggest to

the British Government, as the mandatory for Palestine, that it is their inescapable moral duty to answer the Hungarian Government—through the International Red Cross—that every Hebrew will be admitted into Palestine.

I am, of course, aware of the unfortunate disagreements regarding the political status of Palestine which have forced this land to play such a tragically small and passive part at a time when its sons and daughters have undergone the greatest ordeal of their martyred history.

I was happy to learn, therefore, of a proposal made in this direction by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation which separates the rescue question from the complexity of the Palestine problem.

The Hebrew committee proposes that there be established in Palestine emergency rescue shelters—free ports—into which all Hebrews fleeing their German tormentors should be admitted and kept in a manner similar to the emergency refugee shelter which the President has established at Oswego, N. Y.

At the recent conventions of both the Republican and Democratic Parties, resolutions were passed and planks inserted in both platforms to the effect that the gates of Palestine be thrown wide open to all escaping Hebrews. This represents the will of practically the entire American Nation. Certainly we are all, therefore, for the immediate establishment in Palestine of emergency rescue shelters.

It is creditable that the Hebrew committee, moved by the horrible plight of its people, should concentrate all its efforts to obtain the establishment of emergency rescue shelters. But I venture to suggest that is not enough; that the time is overdue when we of the United Nations must extend to the tormented Hebrew people our brotherly hand of solace and

that this should be done with the dignity due an ancient and honorable nation which, in the time of its sovereign existence, gave us the greatest book of all, the Bible.

It was more than 2 years ago that I first urged that we recognize the Hebrew nation as one of the United Nations—and a fellow partner in the common war against Axis tyranny.

Let it be made clear that the 3,000,000 Hebrew men, women, and children who have died in this war have not died in vain as useless victims of German mass murder but that they have died as honored casualties in a world struggle for decent humanity.

Let us recognize the surviving 5,000,000 Hebrews as a renaissance nation whose banner waves among those of the other United Nations.

Let the Hebrew guerrilla bands who are fighting the enemy in Europe and the 30,000 Hebrews in the Palestinian Regiment be given the chance to fight in their own name and under their own banner in a Hebrew Army.

Let us permit their own statesmen and representatives to participate in the councils of the United Nations where their interests are involved, such as the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, and, above all, on the Inter-Allied Commission on War Crimes in London, for it is against the Hebrews that 80 percent of the atrocities in this war have been committed.

And finally, let their statesmen as representatives of a people who have lost more than one-third of their population in this war participate in the settlement of the peace and in the planning of a better world in which their nation too can live in freedom and with honor in a world free from the fear of aggression and war.

We reproduce here a speech by Senator Elbert D. Thomas, inserted in the Congressional Record by Senator Robert F. Wagner. The main purposes for which the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation is fighting are clearly formulated in this excellent speech.

This serves to indicate the attitude of outstanding Americans toward the Hebrew Committee and the movement which it represents.

Curiously enough, the Zionist leaders have never come forward to refute these aims, nor have they mentioned any opposition to them.

Recognizing the solution of the age-old problem of the Hebrew people in Europe as one of the objectives of Democracy and as a preliminary condition to permanent peace in the world, I am in accord with the general principles and objectives of the American League for a Free Palestine and agree to become a member of its Sponsoring Committee.

Name Mrs. Louis D. Brandeis
Address 1205 California St.
City Washington D.C.

I enclose herewith one dollar (\$1.00) as my annual membership dues.

(see page 13)

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See BERGSON, Page 14, Col. 2.

From Page 1

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"In England as well as in the

United States a large section of Parliament was convinced by this committee of the need and feasibility of having a Hebrew Army, as one of the Allied forces.

"His English supporters included Lord Strabolgi, who heads the select committee for a Jewish army in London; John D. Mack; M. P. Aneurin Bevan; M. P. Sir Robert Gower; M. P. Comdr. Oliver Locker-Lampson; M. P. Brig. Gen. W. H. Gribbon; Sir Maurice Bonham Carter, and the Rev. Prof. W. O. E. Oesterley.

Challenge to British
"Recently 63 members of Parliament demanded a question period in which the Government would be challenged on this issue. The British government compromised by authorizing the creation of an exclusively Jewish brigade in the British army. This has been declared inadequate by the committee, and efforts are still being made to enlarge this brigade into a full-sized independent force like that of the Greeks, Norwegians and Poles.

"The revelation in November, 1942, by our State Department in official statistics that over one million Hebrews in Europe had been murdered by the Nazis in extermination camps established in Poland and eastern Germany diverted the energies of these Palestinians from the army issue to the need of effective action by United Nations governments in stopping this mass murder.

"They sent out a call for an Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe, to which experts in the field of international relations, military affairs, transportation, relief, etc., were invited. A program of findings and recommendations was formulated as a result of the seven days of deliberation by these experts. The public interest evoked by a country-wide news coverage by the conference, and favorable

ment encouraged the formation of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. This again was an American Committee headed by Louis Bromfield, Ben Hecht, Dr. Max Lerner, Representative Will Rogers, Jr., and Madame Sigrid Undset.

Public Sentiment Program

"The emergency committee set about its task of awakening American public sentiment to press for effective measures of saving the Hebrew people of Europe. It was responsible for the introduction of resolutions in both Houses of Congress which ultimately resulted in the creation of the War Refugee Board and the establishment of emergency refugee centers in the United States and other countries, thus contributing to the only positive rescue work done since Hitler began his mass murders.

"In the course of its 14 months of activity, the emergency committee raised about a half million dollars. The last statement of its certified public accountant, giving the figures up to June 30, shows that \$423,252.68 was collected and spent by this committee.

"In its educational campaign the committee called upon the people to support its work morally as well as financially, and a generous response was forthcoming.

"The Emergency Committee sent representatives and delegations to England, Palestine and Turkey. Representative Will Rogers, Jr., flew to London to organize a similar committee in England and to negotiate with the British Government regarding the Jewish people.

THE WASHINGTON POST
October 8, 1944

Emergency Committee. Arieh Ben El-Mechaie and Eri Jabotinsky were sent to Palestine and Turkey, respectively, the latter going with the authority of the War Refugee Board to aid it in its task of getting the surviving Hebrew people out of the Balkan countries.

More Shelters Sought

"The Emergency Committee is now backing congressional action on a resolution introduced by Senator Gillette asking the President to establish more emergency refugee shelters in this country as temporary havens. In connection with this work, it recently presented a half million signatures to the President and Congress, urging this action and also the establishment of similar refugee shelters in Palestine.

"In order that the Hebrew nation might have adequate representation in the councils of the United Nations at a time when plans and programs for postwar reconstruction were being formulated, Mr. Bergson and his associates organized on May 19, 1944, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation as the spokesmen of the Hebrew people of Eastern Europe and Palestine.

"This committee consists of Palestinians and, as such, it is registered as a foreign agent with the Department of Justice. It has, however, the backing of an American organization called the American League for a Free Palestine, which was established about the same time for the purpose of supporting the aims and activities of the Hebrew Committee. To date

the American League has received \$10,520.76 in membership dues and contributions. Its membership dues are \$1 a year.

"At the recent UNRRA Conference in Montreal, the Hebrew Committee and the American League sent a delegation urging that the Hebrew nation receive representation on the UNRRA Council and membership in the various committees of the council and the administration. Its request was formally presented by the Cuban delegate, but was later withdrawn.

Some Proposals Approved

"Nevertheless, a number of the recommendations made by this delegation were acted upon favorably at the Montreal session of UNRRA, the chief of them being the recognition that the surviving Hebrew people who had previously had the status of Axis nationals would be treated on the same basis as the nationals of the Allied countries.

"We recognize, probably better than anyone else, how much credit for this record of achievement on the part of a handful of Palestinian foreigners is due to the sympathy and understanding of the American people. If ever there were need for proof of the democracy and humanitarianism of this great nation, it is indelibly recorded in the welcome and understanding and support we have received here from the people of our country. Whatever may be the result of our efforts,

we know that the Hebrew nation will throughout its future existence look upon the American people as its truest and most generous friend."

Profusion of Committees

Functions of Various Groups Backed by Bergson Explained

By Gloria Lubin and Edward F. van der Veen

Here are the million-dollar committees and the funds which Peter H. Bergson, who now lives in a \$63,000 "embassy," and his six Palestinian co-patriots have helped found during their stay in this country:

American Friends of a Jewish Palestine.

Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews.

Emergency Conference.

Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

American League for a Free Palestine.

Palestine Defense Fund.

Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

Hebrew National Liberation Fund, Inc.

There is also a National Jewish Council in New York City the one which sent a bitter telegram to The Post Wednesday with 105 signers. This telegram called The Post biased and lauded Bergson.

American Friends of Jewish Palestine functioned prior to our entry into the war, and was the first of the Bergson committees in this country.

This was Bergson's and his six co-patriots' first self-appointed attempt to speak for European Jewry.

Its function was to "mobilize the understanding of American people for a positive and integral solution to the problem" Bergson told a press conference Tuesday.

The committee was followed by the Committee for an American

Stateless and Palestinian Jews. Its function was to "mobilize the understanding of American people for a positive and integral solution to the problem." One new function was added: "To press for the formation of a Jewish army made up of Stateless and Palestinian Jews."

The desert rout of German Field Marshal Rommel brought about the decline of this committee.

Next an Emergency Conference was held in New York to decide how to "mobilize the understanding of American people for a positive and integral solution to the problem."

Out of this conference emerged the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, Inc. which has raised \$420,000 through contributions from the American people. Its sponsors are listed as Louis Bromfield, Ben Hecht, Congressman Andrew L. Somers, D., N. Y., Konrad Bergson, Dr. Davidson, Michael Potter, Arthur Szyk, Stella Adler, Johan J. Szwarc, Rabbi Baruch Kurt, Gabriel A. Wechsler and Mrs. Frances Gunther.

This committee appears to have had a definite purpose. Funds were set up in various cities all over the country. For instance the Washington Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, Inc. got its own funds for expenditures. These funds are accounted for by Frederick P. H. ...

Expenses of the group are paid and accounted for in New York.

A group of representatives and women who had returned from Europe including ... Fowler Harper, Mrs. Guy ... John O'Rourke and Henry ... became interested and consented to become sponsors. Straight propaganda to averse action was its aim not to send money direct to aid the Jews in Europe.

It was this group which helped to bring pressure upon Congress to pass the resolution calling for a War Refugee Board and introduced by Senator Guy M. Gallinger, D., Iowa, and Representatives Will Rogers Jr. (D., Calif.) and Joseph C. Baldwin (R., N. Y.). The board, appointed by the President and made up of the Secretary of State, Treasury and War, was formed "to take action for the immediate rescue from the Nazis of as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe from enemy savagery."

The spade work of the board had long been carried on by ... and hundreds of other ... in the way ... Bergson committee ... of one ... result of the combination of ... these ...

Soon there appeared ... an League for a Free ... Its function was to ... understanding of American people for a positive and integral solution to the problem.

Sometime during ... came the educational ... American people ... Never Die ... Hecht and ...

When the educational ... came to an end \$25,000 ... Since the money could not ... for the committee ...

... Bergson said ... Hecht ...

Propaganda Was Aim ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

... the ...

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Washington Post 10/5/44

New Repudiations Registered Against Bergson's Committee

By Gloria Lubar and Edward F. van der Veer

Nationwide repudiations of Peter H. Bergson and his numerous committees continued to flow into The Post last night.

Mrs. Raymond Clapper, widow of the late famous war correspondent, once a member of the Washington Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, declared:

"In the future, I will not serve on Peter Bergson's committees. When I consented to become a sponsor I was under the impression that the purpose of that committee was to use the money collected to give actual aid to get Jewish refugees into Palestine. I was amazed to find out that the money was used to propagandize the American public."

Dr. Albert Joseph McCartney,

pastor of the Presbyterian Church, 18th and N. sts. n.w., who said he was among the original sponsors of the Washington Emergency Committee, declared that after attending several meetings at private homes he became suspicious.

Senator James M. Tunnell (D., Del.) said he became estranged because the American League for a Free Palestine, one of Bergson's several organizations, also engaged in the business of raising funds, used his name in a handout printed in the New York Times to the effect that he had agreed to become one of their sponsors. He wrote constituents that "while he is anxious to do all he can to help relieve the great tragedy which has befallen the Jews of Europe, he was 'suspicious' of this organization."

See BERGSON, Page 4, Column 2

THE WASHINGTON POST
Thursday, October 5, 1944

BERGSON

From Page 1

organization and had been "warned about them."

"It appears that they published a statement that I had become identified with their organization," Senator Tunnell stated. "I don't think that an entirely legitimate organization would do this without my consent."

At the same time, Senator Tunnell wrote directly to the American League on May 28, 1944:

"I was yesterday informed that the New York Times stated that I had agreed to become one of the sponsors of the American League for a Free Palestine. I do not have any recollection of statement. I find that there seems to be a good deal of dissatisfaction among Jewish people with reference to your organization. I, at the request of a Miss Keane, did place in the appendix of the Congressional Record an article which she desired to have placed there. I don't think this authorizes any assumption that I am in any way connected with the organization."

Bitter Telegram Sent Post

Of 105 names signed to a bitter telegram sent to The Post from the National Jewish Council, New York City, from the same address, 25 West 45th st., where at least one of Bergson's committees, etcetera, have offices, 20 persons were contacted. Of these 20, called and reached by The Post, only two endorsed the work of the council. One of these said he had not been informed of the telegram, and the other admitted he did not see The Post stories, which were attacked in the telegram.

time or other I joined the council.

Rabbi Jacob M. Lesin, Dorchester, Mass.—I know nothing about the telegram, Bergson, or his committee. I have a vague impression that many months ago an organization calling itself the National Jewish Council held a meeting in Boston, and that I attended. So far as I know, I am not a member.

"The British-Zionist unholy alliance is an attempt to undermine public confidence in Mr. Bergson . . ." the telegram continued.

Chaplain Meyer J. Goldman, Boca Raton Field, Fla.—I had not been informed of the telegram, and decidedly object to the use of my name.

Rabbi Herman Bick, Lynn, Mass.—I withdrew by name from the Emergency committee two months ago. The use of my name was absolutely unauthorized and improper.

Rabbis Harold Baumgard, Milwaukee, and S. A. Pardee, Chicago, both declared they never were members of the council and knew nothing about the telegram.

Withdrew Membership

Rabbi Israel Lev, Gloucester, Mass., explained to The Post that he withdrew membership in the council when the "embassy Hebrew government" was organized in Washington. He did not authorize the use of his name, he said.

Two other rabbis explained that they were members of the council, but knew nothing about the telegram or Bergson.

Rabbi Herman Kahan, Newark—I am a member of the council, but should have been made aware of the use of my name on the telegram.

No trust . . . you will give

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into The Post last night.
 Mrs. Raymond Clares, widow of the late famous war correspondent, once a member of the Washington Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, declared:
 "In the future, I will not serve on Peter Bergson's committees. When I consented to become a sponsor I was under the impression that the purpose of that committee was to use the money collected to give actual aid to get Jewish refugees into Palestine. I was amazed to find out that the money was used to propagandize the American public."
 Dr. Albert Joseph McCartney,

the Washington Emergency Committee, declared that after attending several meetings at which he became suspicious.
 Senator James M. Tunnell (D. Del.) said he became outraged because the American League for a Free Palestine, one of Bergson's several organizations, also engaged in the business of raising funds, used his name in a handout printed in the New York Times to the effect that he had agreed to become one of their sponsors. He wrote constituents that "while he is anxious to do all he can to help relieve the great tragedy which has befallen the Jews of Europe, he was 'suspicious' of this or-
 See BERGSON, Page 4, Column 2

BERGSON

From Page 1.
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"We trust . . . you will give space in your daily in answer to your biased description of Mr. Peter H. Bergson," the start of the council telegram read.

Rabbi Chaim Williamowsky, 4402 15th st. n.w.—The Post was not biased. I am not now a member of the Council, and asked sometime ago that my name be removed. I know absolutely nothing about the telegram, and am angry that my name was used.

Rabbi Williamowsky was the only "signer" of the telegram who said he had read The Post article, despite the fact that Samuel Rosen, vice chairman of the Council, first told The Post that the signatures on the telegram had been received after each one had been sent copies of the telegram and the first Post article.

Later last night, in another telephone conversation, Rosen corrected his statement by saying that he was getting ready to send the copies to the "signers."

Undaunted in Loyalty

"We who follow the leadership of Mr. Bergson are undaunted in our spirit of loyalty to the cause of the afflicted and oppressed of the Hebrew nation," another portion of the telegram read.

Rabbi Gedaliah Kaprow, Buffalo, N. Y.—I do not approve of Bergson, and did not authorize the use of my name.

Rabbi Israel Porath, Cleveland, Ohio—I do not know Bergson personally, or anything about him. I know nothing about the telegram. It may be that some-

time or other I joined the council.

Rabbi Jacob M. Leis, Dorchester, Mass.—I know nothing about the telegram, Bergson, or his committee. I have a vague impression that many months ago an organization calling itself the National Jewish Council held a meeting in Boston, and that I attended. So far as I know, I am not a member.

"The British Zionist unholy alliance is an attempt to undermine public confidence in Mr. Bergson . . ." the telegram continued.

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Two other rabbis explained that they were members of the council, but knew nothing about the telegram or Bergson.

Rabbi Herman Kahan, Newark.—I am a member of the council, but should have been made aware of the use of my name on the telegram.

Rabbi S. H. Klibansky, St. Louis—Yes, I am a member of the council, but I know nothing about the telegram of Bergson.

Other telephone responses, from so-called signers of the council telegram, continued along the same line.

These Charming People

By AUSTINE
CASSINI

MOST talked about house on Massachusetts Avenue's Embassy Row has been the "Hebrew Embassy". . . You know how people are about a new neighbor . . . From behind shades up and down the street even ambassadors peeped at the "doings next door." saw the Iranian Minister and Madame Ehayesteh move out . . . beds, carpets and cooking utensils . . . saw the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation move in . . . Lovely Countess Illia Tolstol (ex-daughter-in-law of Russia's great novelist) is one of Washington's most talented decorators. She was commissioned to decorate the enormous new headquarters for Peter Bergson's Hebrew Committee . . . She did a sweeping and grandiose job, too . . . The huge salon is pale gray, chalk white, and olive green . . . She had the draperies made in New York and bought period furniture at auction . . . American Countess Tolstol in her dealings with Bergson has come to admire him very much . . . "He's an honorable man," she says. She'll make a lecture tour of the U. S. for his cause in early November.

'For Liberation of Jews'

Bergson Admits \$1,000,000 Fund Raised, Vague on Its Use

By Gloria Lubar and Edward F. van der Veen

From his \$63,000 residence at 2315 Massachusetts ave. nw., formerly the Iranian Embassy, Peter Bergson, self-styled "nuisance diplomat," boasts his Hebrew Committee of National Liberation with its numerous affiliates has collected one million dollars "from a generous American people." He became vague, however, when a Post reporter insisted he tell what use has been made of the million dollars.

"Relief work has been a small part of our work," Bergson said. "Our major activity is to mobilize the understanding and help of American people for an integral and positive solution of the problems of the Jewish people in Europe."

Bergson (his real name is Hillel Kook) is a slight man with pale-blue eyes, darkish blond hair and a mustache. His voice cracks or squeaks when he gets excited.

He was emphatic when declaring he possessed a "dynamic personality." He added that "we have been responsible for 40,000 Jewish refugees having entered Palestine illegally from Europe during the last seven years."

"I and my workers managed to accomplish this feat through underground methods," he added.

The American Jewish Conference, headed by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, and Dr. Stephen S. Wise of New York, formed under a mandate of 64 reputable Jewish national organizations, agrees with Bergson that his groups have undoubtedly collected a million or more dollars in (tax-exempt) contributions from "persons who have mistaken propaganda for performance and advertisement for achievement," but join with British officials in deriding his assertion he has been the means of smuggling 40,000 Jews into Palestine.

"The public might be interested in knowing just how much has been collected and what disposition was made of the money," the Interim Committee of the Jewish Conference commented. "To date Bergson has made no such accounting."



PETER BERGSON

British Disapprove

"If Bergson has been responsible in any way for aiding Jewish refugees in their attempts at illegal entry into Palestine, this is certainly looked upon with disfavor by the British government," a high British authority here said. "It leaves wide open an opportunity for 'flopsam and jetsam' and Nazis posing as refugees to enter mandated territory without first being investigated."

This official made plain that in matters pertaining to legal entry of Hebrews into Palestine, the British government deals only and directly with the World Zionist Organization, not in any way connected with Bergson's committees.

He emphasized that the British government considers Bergson "persona non grata," and made plain that Britain's only official dealings with him had been of a "military nature."

Bergson, who entered this country in 1941 as a citizen of Palestine, is 34, single, and has been declared physically fit in both British and American Army medical examinations. Shortly after his arrival, he informed the British he wanted to join their army. As Palestine is mandated territory, there can be no British conscription, fighters

must volunteer. The British accepted his offer, put him through the physicals, and told him to appear for service. Instead, it is said, Bergson sent a letter saying he had decided he should be fighting in a Hebrew army.

Classified I-A

Upon receiving this letter, the British turned the matter over to the American Selective Service, where he was immediately classified I-A. This classification was affirmed on appeal by the New York City Board of Appeal and is now under advisement by the National Selective Service Board. Bergson's appeal, it is understood, was based on "indispensability."

"It is odd," the British official stated, "that a Jewish brigade has now been formed, but Mr. Bergson has not yet enlisted."

A case concerning Bergson's stay in this country is now before U. S. Immigration authorities.

At the time Bergson first attempted to buy the Iranian Embassy, he declared he wanted it for a Hebrew Embassy. This appeal was turned down by the District Zoning Board on the grounds the proposed "embassy" had not been recognized by the U. S. State Department. District officials state Bergson later received permission to buy the property when he stated he wanted it as a private residence. Bergson's salary, by his own admission, is \$75 a week. Formerly, he said, it was \$45.

No Business Permit

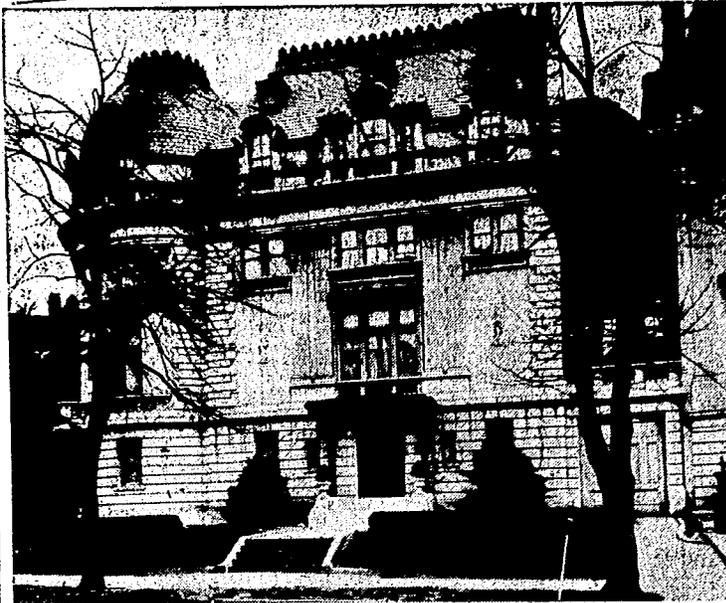
Investigation by The Post discloses that Bergson neither holds a permit to conduct any sort of business from this highly restricted residential address nor, under the law, can he get one.

The "embassy," castigated by the American Jewish Conference as a "fraud, a buffoonery, and a comic opera drollery, if it were not so tragic," has a telephone switchboard and business office on the first floor. Bergson's private office, and the offices of his private secretary and clerical force, are on the third floor.

Zoning officials, informed the residence was being used for business offices, asserted the license and police departments would be interested to know Bergson has been operating a business without an occupancy permit.

Bergson, who formerly had declared the \$63,000 "embassy" was purchased for him by friends, admitted to The Post it was paid for out of funds received for by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. The second floor, which makes up the living quarters, are beautifully furnished.

Hebrew Committee's Office



This \$63,000 building is the residence of Peter Bergson and the office of his Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. Post Staff Photo

Purchased by Fund
Despite Bergson's assertion to the zoning board that the residence was to be a private dwelling, the deed filed September 22, 1944, shows it was purchased by the Hebrew National Liberation Fund, Inc.

Organized Jewry points to the continuous change of sponsors as published in the many full-page advertisements asking for funds. The American Jewish Conference charges names are used without permission, and that other so-called sponsors have repudiated the use of their names on grounds they do not agree with the committees' alleged political affiliations with the Irgun, a terrorist party in Palestine which Bergson has publicly praised.

Senators Scott Lucas (D., Ill.), Harry Truman (D., Mo.), vice presidential candidate, and Senator Albert Chandler (D., Ky.) have announced that advertisements had committed some members of the Senate to a point of

view of which they had no advance knowledge, and that their names were used without specific permission.

Mrs. Louis D. Brandeis, wife of the late Supreme Court Justice, has declared use of her name as sponsor of the American League for a Free Palestine, and the Liberation Committee, was "completely unauthorized." Forty-six American rabbis also protested against use of their names in literature distributed by the American League.

Senator Robert F. Wagner (D., N. Y.) in an open letter, denounced the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation as "an organization which serves no useful purpose and can only confuse and mislead American public opinion."

Dean Alfange, leader of the Liberal Party in New York, announced his resignation as co-chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, because he did "not approve of its political affiliations."

Pierre van Passan, author, once an active worker with Bergson, has gone on record with a scathing denouncement calling the Emergency Committee a "terrible hoax perpetrated on the American public." Passan accused two of Bergson's organizations of being sponsored by the "Fascist" party in Palestine, the Irgun.

Dr. Francis E. McMahon of the University of Chicago, and 14 other officers also announced their resignation from the Emergency Committee because of "increasing confusion between objectives of the various committees."

Rabbi Herzog, Chief Rabbi of Palestine, has denied any ties with the Emergency Committee.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; R. J. Thomas, president of the U. A. W., CIO; and Max Zaritsky, president of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers of America, also have denounced the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

700454

SEP 20 1944

Dear Mr. Bergson:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of September 16, 1944, in reply to our letter to you of September 11, 1944.

Your suggestions and comments with respect to our views concerning the second proposal of your letter of August 14th are appreciated and have been duly noted. However, I feel that my September 11th letter fully and adequately states the position of the Board at this time.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Peter H. Bergson,
Chairman,
Hebrew Committee of National
Liberation,
2315 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.,
Washington 8, D. C.

Original signed by Mr. Fehle

JW Fehle

FH:JBF:hd 9/20/44

000455

2315 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

ADAMS 8800

וועד לשחרור האומה

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

September 16, 1944

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 11th, and to thank you for your answer to the first proposal submitted to you by this Committee. The joint declaration of the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom of August 17, was indeed an encouraging development. You will permit me, however, to express my deep sorrow at the fact that so few Hebrews were able to take advantage of the pledge given in this declaration. Please be assured that this Committee deeply appreciates the humanitarian efforts made by your agency to come to the assistance of the Hebrews of Hungary and I should like to express the hope that all obstacles notwithstanding you will succeed in making it possible for a large number of these Hebrews to benefit from the pledge given by the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom.

With reference to our second proposal -- that, in view of the specific statement made by the Hungarian government that it will release Hebrews to go to Palestine, the government of the United States use its good offices to obtain from the government of the United Kingdom acceptance of this offer -- I should like to request you to reconsider the answer given in your letter of September 11. It is the belief of this Committee, and you will surely agree with us, that havens for refugees cannot be discussed or found in the abstract. Such havens are a matter of precise locations. The point of our proposal was precisely to suggest that Palestine, both by reason of its accessibility and of its special status, is the most logical locality which should be considered for this purpose. Our point was further that, since Palestine was specifically named in the Hungarian offer, it also ought to be specifically mentioned in connection with the acceptance of this offer. Finally, your letter emphasizing that the question of existing

The Honorable John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

000456

The Hon. John W. Pehle

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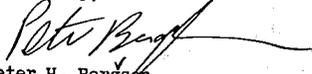
September 16, 1944

facilities should be considered in connection with any havens, provides a further reason for considering Palestine; indeed, upon investigation, you will find that the existing facilities for the admission of refugees to Palestine are far better developed than those in any other area accessible within a reasonable distance of Hungary. Allow me to draw your attention, in this connection, to the fact that emergency shelters have been established in Palestine for a large number of Polish, Greek and other refugees. It is difficult to perceive how a country possessing the special status of Palestine, and deemed suitable to become a large scale place of refuge could avoid being given first and foremost consideration to the problem of sheltering Hebrew refugees.

In the light of the foregoing, I would deeply appreciate your reopening the consideration of the second proposal of my letter of August 14.

Your answer to the third proposal of my aforementioned letter is appreciated. Accordingly, the Committee will address this proposal to the military authorities of the United States.

Yours faithfully,


Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

PHB:1

100457

SEP 11 1944

Dear Mr. Bergson:

Reference is made to your letter of August 14, 1944, submitting three proposals concerning efforts to rescue the Jews of Europe.

With respect to your first proposal, I send you herewith a copy of the joint declaration issued by the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom on August 17, 1944. You will note that the two Governments have accepted the offer of the Hungarian Government for the release of Jews and have undertaken to make arrangements for the care of such Jews leaving Hungary who reach neutral or United Nations territory, and to find temporary havens of refuge where these people may live in safety.

As to your second proposal, we are not in a position, in view of recent events, to know how many Jews will be able to leave Hungary and reach neutral or United Nations territory before the termination of hostilities. Although havens will be found for all such people who may escape, until we know how many persons are involved and how adequate existing facilities are, we are unable to pass judgment on any particular program.

Your third proposal concerning the issuance of a statement to Germany on the use of poison gases is one involving military considerations and on which the Board is not prepared to comment.

Very truly yours,
(Signed J. W. Pehle
~~(Signed) John W. Pehle~~

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Peter H. Bergson,
Chairman,
Hebrew Committee of National Liberation,
2315 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,
Washington 8, D. C.

JH *W* *JH*
PH:lab 9/11/44

200458

2315 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

ADAMS 8800

ועד להחילוואת

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

August 14, 1944.

The Honorable John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

We have been advised by the Department of State to address to you our proposals, directed to the Government of the United States, regarding rescue efforts of the Hebrew people of Europe, more particularly the Hebrew people of Hungary. We therefore beg to submit to you the following proposals:

1. That, in view of the offer made by the Hungarian Government to release all Hebrew children under a given age in possession of visas to other countries, the United States Government take the initiative to secure the consent of various other United Nations Governments so that Hungary can be informed that these countries jointly will accommodate all Hebrew people that Hungary will let out.

2. That, in view of the specific statement made by the Hungarian Government that it will release Hebrews to go to Palestine, the government of the United States use its good offices to obtain from the government of the United Kingdom, acceptance of this offer. Indeed, we believe it is the duty of the Government of the United Kingdom, as Mandatory for Palestine, to inform the Hungarian Government and to make it generally known that all Hebrews fleeing from Hungary and other areas where they are exposed to enemy persecution will be admitted into Palestine.

In view of the present policy of the Mandatory Power which prohibits the further immigration and settlement there of Hebrew people, we propose that emergency rescue shelters - free ports - be established in Palestine into which all Hebrews be admitted on a temporary rescue basis, without prejudice to their future status.

100459

The Honorable John W. Pehle
Washington, D. C.

August 14, 1944.

In this connection, copy of a letter sent by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation to the British Ambassador on July 25 is enclosed for your information.

3. That energetic measures be taken by the government of the United States with a view to stopping the extermination of Hebrews in Europe by the use of poison gases. Indeed, on various occasions the Government of the United States, through Presidential statements, has warned Germany to refrain from the use of poison gas against either civilian or military populations, and has declared that if poison gas should be used against the inhabitants of any one of the United Nations, the United States would retaliate in kind against Germany.

It has been repeatedly established that many thousands of Hebrew people in Europe were asphyxiated through the use of poisonous gases. We therefore request that a specific warning be issued stating that unless the practice of using poison gas against the Hebrew people ceases forthwith, retaliation in kind will be immediately ordered against Germany.

We beg to stress the importance of this not solely because it might induce Nazi Germany to stop the use of poison gas; such a warning is important because of the constant need to impress upon Germany the fact that the governments of the United Nations consider and treat the Hebrew people of Europe as human beings deserving full equality and consideration with other members of the United Nations.

I trust that the War Refugee Board will give the above proposals favorable and early consideration and will recommend their acceptance by the other appropriate agencies of the United States Government.

I shall be grateful if you will be good enough to keep us advised of the decisions taken in respect of our proposals.

I beg to remain, my dear Mr. Pehle

Yours faithfully,


Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

PHB:zl

000460

SEP 5 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I wish to thank you for your letter of September 2, 1944 (840.48 Refugees/8-2244).

The views of the State Department with respect to the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation have been noted and the War Refugee Board will be guided accordingly.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State.

*Original pgd by
Mr. Pehle*

JWP

FH:JWP:1hh 9/5/44

000461

PLEASE OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

September 2, 1944

In reply refer to
840.48 Refugees/8-2244

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I refer to your letter of August 22, 1944 enclosing copies of correspondence received from Peter H. Bergson of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation relative to the rescue of Jews from Hungary. In reply to your inquiry with regard to the attitude of the Department of State toward this organization, I may say that the Department does not recognize the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation as having any representative status.

While the matters which Mr. Bergson discusses in the correspondence transmitted with your letter fall within the competence of the War Refugee Board, I suggest that in considering his proposals you be guided by the foregoing statement of the Department's position toward his organization. In other words, his proposals should receive the same consideration as those presented by any other interested private organization or individual.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

000462

Attacks

Bergson Admits His Committee Has No Right to Collect Funds

By Gloria Lubar and Edward F. van der Veen

Peter H. Bergson held a press conference late yesterday. Bergson wanted to discuss and denounce yesterday's Washington Post story about his activities in this country.

Bergson presented a prepared statement in which he charged the tone of The Post story was one of deliberate misrepresentation and insinuation to present him in the worst possible light.

Bergson admitted when questioned, however, that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation of which he is chairman, is not American; has no right to collect funds; is taking no action toward direct relief to "Hebrews;" and does not, to their knowledge, represent either European or Palestinian "Hebrews."

(The use of word "Hebrew" as a noun is Bergson's stock in trade. He contends that a Jew may be a citizen of any country, but that "Hebrew" is a "stateless Jew.")

In a telegram calling the press conference, Samuel Merlin, a co-patriot of Bergson, charged The Post was the tool of "British imperialists and defeatist Zionist leaders."

Earlier in the day, Third Precinct police said they plan to call Bergson into court to explain why he has operated a business from 2315 Massachusetts ave. n.w., a highly restricted residential area, without an occupancy permit.

Police said they told Bergson when he moved into the "quarter."

See BERGSON, Page 15, Column 1

From Page 1

that if he wished to conduct a business he must go to the District Commissioners and have them change the zoning restrictions. Bergson did that, police said, and reported that he had been refused.

Police said they then told Bergson he must obtain an occupancy permit from the zoning commission. According to the Zoning Commission, this request also was refused on the ground the only business that could be operated in that restricted area would have to have been established there prior to 1920, or be a recognized embassy or legation.

At the press conference persistent questioning by The Post as to whom he (Bergson) represents, repeatedly brought this answer: "I represent myself."

Demand for a more explicit explanation as to what he meant by "myself" caused Bergson to add:

"I embrace all stateless 'Hebrews.'"

Bergson insisted that part of the capital of the Hebrew National Liberation Fund, Inc., was provided for by Billy Rose, night club impresario.

Reached in New York last night by The Post, Rose denied any connection with Bergson, his committees, or the fund.

"Let him show me one single check I ever signed," Rose said. "It is true that I did stage the pageant 'We Will Never Die,' both in New York and at Constitution Hall in Washington for Ben Hecht, who wrote it. I did it because it was a good show. That was my only connection with the pageant."

Representative Sol Bloom (D., N. Y.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, questioned as to Bergson's accomplishments during his stay in this country, declared: "No authorized Jewish agency approves of the methods adopted by Bergson and his groups."

Charging that Bergson's methods were purely lobbying and high-pressure, Bloom exhibited a telegram from the Emergency Com-

mittee to save the Jewish people of Europe last year, asking those who receive the telegram to give a generous contribution so that the committee could "force passage of a resolution" then pending in Congress "to force Washington, London, Palestine, England, Turkey to continue work on larger scale."

"If that isn't high-pressure and lobbying, I would like to know what is," declared Bloom.

Bloom recalled Bergson's appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Committee last fall:

"I asked him if he had come into this country legally," the Congressman said.

"I don't know," Bergson told me. Swore at Witness

"What the hell do you mean you don't know?" I thundered.

Chuckling, the Congressman added, "It's the first time I ever recall member swearing at a committee hearing."

Bergson told Bloom he still didn't know.

"Where were you born?" I persisted, Bloom went on.

"Bergson said it was none of my business. I then dismissed him."

SEP 5 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

I am sure you will be interested in the attached copies of our exchange of correspondence with the Department of State concerning Bergson's Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

Jet.

000464

2025 REFUGEE W/28-2244
8/12/5 M. T.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

September 2, 1944

In reply refer to
840.48 Refugees/8-2244

My dear Mr. Pehle:

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Sincerely yours,

/s/ Cordell Hull

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

000465

RECEIVED
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUGUST 22 1944
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM DATED August 22, 1944

AUGUST 22, 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to the enclosed copy of a letter dated August 14, 1944, which the Board has received from the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

Before replying to this letter I would appreciate being advised as to the attitude of the Department of State toward the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, and any guidance which your Department is in a position to give in connection with the Board's dealings with the Committee.

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. W. Pehle

Executive Director

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

000466

2315 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington 8, D. C.
Adams 8800

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

August 14, 1944.

The Honorable John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

We have been advised by the Department of State to address to you our proposals, directed to the Government of the United States, regarding rescue efforts of the Hebrew people of Europe, more particularly the Hebrew people of Hungary. We therefore beg to submit to you the following proposals:

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2. That, in view of the specific statement made by the Hungarian Government that it will release Hebrews to go to Palestine, the government of the United States use its good offices to obtain from the government of the United Kingdom acceptance of this offer. Indeed, we believe it is the duty of the Government of the United Kingdom, as Mandatory for Palestine, to inform the Hungarian Government and to make it generally known that all Hebrews fleeing from Hungary and other areas where they are exposed to enemy persecution will be admitted to Palestine.

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000467

- 2 -

Honorable John W. Pehle
Washington, D. C.

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I trust that the War Refugee Board will give the above proposals favorable and early consideration and will recommend their acceptance by the other appropriate agencies of the United States Government.

I shall be grateful if you will be good enough to keep us advised of the decisions taken in respect of our proposals.

I beg to remain, my dear Mr. Pehle

Yours faithfully,

/s/ Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

000468

of the United States
after suitable clearance of
the Department of State
in accordance with the
Hebrew Committee of National Liberation
in this connection, copy of a

Washington, D. C.
The Honorable Earl of Halifax

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

July 25, 1944

Excellency:

On June 10 I had the privilege of addressing to you a communication on behalf of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, to be conveyed to the Government of the United Kingdom, regarding the establishment of emergency refugee shelters in Palestine, to be open to all Hebrews escaping from enemy persecution.

In our appeal we suggested that "the establishment of these shelters should be publicly proclaimed and broadcast to the people of occupied Europe so that Hebrews, with the aid of their neighbors, will be able to escape. Countless thousands of Hebrews could thus be saved from a horrible and useless death."

And now it is with great relief that we have received the official communication of the International Red Cross to the effect that "following on the steps taken in Budapest by the ICRC in Geneva Hungarian authorities have given the Committee official assurances that transportation of Jews beyond Hungarian frontiers has ceased. The Committee are . . . empowered to cooperate in the evacuation of all Hebrew children under ten years of age who are in possession of visas to reception countries, and all Jews in Hungary holding entrance visas to Palestine will receive permission from the authorities to leave for that country."

In view of the repeated threat of German leaders to exterminate all of the Hebrew people of Europe before the end of hostilities, the task of evacuating as many of them as possible from Hungary and other Balkan countries is of extreme urgency. The opportunity to save the Hebrews of Hungary is at hand - an opportunity which may be denied tomorrow.

The Right Honorable the Earl of Halifax, K. D.,
H. B. M. Ambassador,
Washington, D. C.

000469

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REPRODUCTION ON BUREAU OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

EXCERPTS:

The Hebrews are permitted to leave and multitudes of men, women and children can be saved if only they will be permitted to enter Palestine.

We therefore reiterate our suggestion that the Government of the United Kingdom start without delay the establishment of emergency refugee shelters in Palestine. We suggest also that the Hungarian Government and people be informed of this by radio, through the Red Cross and other neutral channels so that the process of evacuation may start immediately.

It is not suggested that the financial burden of this program fall upon the British people. Undoubtedly existing international agencies would be willing to share these expenses and we would the Hebrew people of Palestine who are clamoring for a chance to be of aid.

Though Palestine is not a British colony but a mandated land, entrusted to His Majesty's Government by the League of Nations - a land in which Hebrew immigration and settlement was officially granted to the Hebrew people as a right and not through tolerance - we offer the compromise of emergency shelters so that the task of saving lives be not affected by political or boundary controversies, the settlement of which we are ready to postpone until the day of victory.

In view of the extreme urgency of the situation, we wish to express our hope of immediate consideration of and action upon our proposal.

I beg to remain, Excellency,

Yours faithfully,

Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

100470

AUG 28 1944

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Very truly yours,

{Signed} J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

JH
PH:JCH 8/21/44

000471

2315 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

ADAMS 8800

ועד לשחרור העם

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

July 25, 1944

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The Right Honorable the Earl of Halifax, K. G.,
H. B. M. Ambassador,
Washington, D.C.

000472

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

ADAMS 8800

ועד לשחרור ארצנו

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

-2-

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I beg to remain, Excellency,

Yours faithfully,

Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

000473



An address by
PETER H. BERGSON, CHAIRMAN
HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION
Delivered at the TOWN HALL, New York City
and Broadcast over Radio Station W Q X R
July 19, 1944

under the auspices of the
AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE

000474

A NOTE ABOUT THE SEAL

From the genius of Mr. Arthur Szyk, world-renowned artist and illustrator, came the inspiration for and the execution of the seal of the American League for a Free Palestine.

Pre-eminent, as is appropriate to a wholly American organization whose ideals are in the American tradition of aid to the oppressed seeking liberation, is a conventionalized shield of the United States. Immediately below is the crown of Solomon, surmounting the tablets of the Law brought by Moses to his people. Flanking the tablets are the lions of Judah. The tablets rest on the firm foundation of the six-pointed Shield of David, which contains in its center the cup of sorrow, overflowing with the blood of 1800 years of slaughter, crying aloud for liberation.

An Address by

PETER H. BERGSON, CHAIRMAN

THE HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

YOU are all aware of the gruesomeness of the disaster that has befallen our people. You also know that it has not come suddenly, but that it is the culmination of long decades of persecution and pogroms; yet nothing really complete and drastic has been suggested as a remedy. All that the Jews the world over had to counteract Germany's savage might was confusion and wishful thinking.

And even today, after three years of wholesale massacre, when out of some eight million Jews in Europe only five millions survive, that confusion still prevails, that same *status quo* of centuries, which has made the Jews a chosen people—chosen for discrimination and abuse.

We abhor the fact that nothing new was done. Worse than that, nothing new had even been proposed, despite our three million dead. We believe that the present structure of the organization of the Jews the world over, which has led to the present catastrophe, must give way to a new system under which there may be hope for survival.

Let me say that it was the Jews who have clung to the *status quo*. Let me say further that it was the so-called leaders who have lulled us from disaster to disaster by glib oratory about the unity of the Jewish people, and who kept pointing out to us that we survived all tyrannies before.

I condemn these easygoing preachers. I condemn them, for they were never there. They preached *status quo* not from the ruins of Warsaw, the ghettos of Bucharest or Budapest, but from the security of New York or Philadelphia or Cleveland.

Yes, there has always been a Jewish people and there always will be one, but this is abstract rhetoric which did not save the millions of our dead and will not save those remaining.

Of course, I agree that spiritually, and academically, we are all Jews. But practically speaking, American Jews are members of a great, mighty and free nation, the United States of America; the Jews of Warsaw or Bucharest, like myself, for example, are members of another nation. For the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine have been

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THE HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

remolded into one entity and are in fact one nation—the Hebrew Nation. It is because this nation has not yet been formally recognized that the disaster which has befallen it has been so vast, and the way for remedy blocked.

We must not permit the confusion resulting from 1800 years of abnormal existence to continue to stand in the way. Some of the dispersed Hebrews accepted other nationality and assumed allegiance to other nations, thus becoming an integral part of those nations. Others clung steadfastly to their Hebrew nationality; they have always regarded themselves—and have been regarded by others—as Hebrews in exile.

It is these Hebrew people, living mostly in Europe and Palestine, who factually constitute the Hebrew Nation. Consequently Hebrew nationality does not embrace Englishmen who practice the Jewish religion; it most certainly does not embrace the millions of Americans, commonly referred to as Jews, who are actually Americans of Hebrew descent and of the Jewish religion. They do not belong to the Hebrew Nation any more than President Roosevelt belongs to the Dutch nation or Mr. Willkie belongs to the German nation. These "American Jews" are Americans first, last, and always. Their ancestors, way back 2,000 years ago, were Hebrews. Justice Frankfurter is not a Hebrew. He is an American of Hebrew descent, practicing the Jewish religion, exactly as Justice Murphy is an American of Irish descent, practicing the Catholic religion. Mr. Frankfurter can perhaps acquire Hebrew citizenship by renouncing his allegiance to the United States, if he wishes. But no matter how hard he wished, he could not have both American and Hebrew nationality.

This might be an abstract and academic problem so far as Justice Frankfurter and the other millions of Americans of Hebrew descent are concerned. To the Hebrew Nation in Europe this is a problem of the gravest urgency and reality. Indeed, it is a problem of life and death. The Hungarian Jews are crying out for the salvation implicit in this solution. They demand recognition as citizens of the Hebrew Nation. Only this will take them out of the jurisdiction of the Axis and place them under the protection of the Red Cross and a neutral Protective Power.

The Hebrew Nation has had 3,000,000 casualties. This is 35 per cent of its population. Proportionately, this would mean 20,000,000 British casualties; 45,000,000 American casualties. In the face of such a disaster, we have no right to be timid and frightened by new realities or new formulas. Added to our long history, these 3,000,000 casualties out of 8,000,000 have remolded the surviving 5,000,000 into the renaissance Hebrew Nation.

An Address by PETER H. BERGSON, Chairman

It is as a nation that we are being attacked and massacred and it is therefore only as a nation that we can be saved. It is an evil formula which insists on calling us German, Rumanian, or Hungarian Jews, and regarding us as individuals under the laws of these nations. It is worse to persist in calling us Stateless Jews and placing us outside the law of any nation. It is this *status quo* more than any other single thing which is responsible for our horrible position today.

The first thing that must be done is to recognize us as a nation amongst the nations of the world, for without this recognition we can have no representative to speak for us on a level of parity with representatives of other nations. We cannot get representation on commissions or conferences of nations. Thus the one flag conspicuously and tragically missing amongst the 42 United Nations' banners is the Hebrew. Thus our flag does not wave over the Palestine Regiment when it marches into battle, and the graves of Hebrew heroes who die fighting Nazis are not marked with the insignia for which they lived and died, but are marked with the insignia of foreign nations.

Furthermore, thousands upon thousands of Hebrews now referred to as "Stateless Jews" are still immobilized and have no opportunity at all to fight our Nazi enemy.

It is because the Hebrew Nation is not recognized that its representatives were absent when 42 nations gathered in Atlantic City to map plans for United Nations relief and rehabilitation. It is this lack of recognition which is responsible for the paradoxical situation of our not being represented on the Inter-Allied Commission on War Crimes in London, although it was against us that 80 per cent of those crimes were committed.

It is because of this that our problem has never received any international consideration which was in any way commensurate with the magnitude of the problem.

We can no longer tolerate the situation which distinguishes the Hebrew people of Europe merely as 5,000,000 human beings marked for slaughter by the barbarous Nazis. We must insist on their recognition as a positive entity; as a full partner in the world struggle for descent humanity. Our dead must no longer be considered merely as useless victims of Nazi bestiality. They must be recognized for what they are—honored casualties of the United Nations' common war for freedom.

Our soldiers have fought and killed Germans and died in some of the epic battles of this war. The 28-day battle of the Warsaw ghetto ranks with Dunkirk, Stalingrad, and Tarawa. (This is not my appraisal but that of an editorial in the *New York Times*.) The ghetto of Bialystok was another heroic battlefield. Some of Europe's fiercest,

000476

THE HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

most indomitable fighters today are Hebrew guerrilla bands, daily harassing German battle lines and communications. Should they be denied recognition merely because they are outnumbered by the Nazis a thousand to one? And then there are the fighting Hebrews of Palestine—30,000 of whom fought and died in Greece, in Egypt, in Libya, in Tunisia, in Abyssinia, and are today fighting with your gallant Fifth Army in Italy.

The Hebrew Nation's casualties alone exceed the total populations of some of the United Nations. Yet these small nations are treated as honorable and equal partners. We are treated as miserable and pitiful victims.

If you view the situation as factually and as dispassionately as possible, you will find that while the Germans are murdering Hebrew people at the rate of *thousands per day*, the War Refugee Board, the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees and the many private charitable organizations combined are rescuing at most several *hundreds per month*.

But despite this horrible disproportion, the old organizations, operating under the same old formulas, but dominated by weakness and inertia, are holding on to the *status quo*. Their intentions may be of the best, but for them this *status quo* means life and liberty in a free country. For the Hebrew people in Europe the *status quo* means death and humiliation.

In this intolerable situation, it is only natural that some Hebrews who managed to escape from Warsaw took the initiative to formulate a plan. It has one tremendous overriding value—it is new, it is different, and it shatters the *status quo*. Hence it offers a hope of life and dignity.

The proposals of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation have drawn sharp and bitter abuse. But is there an alternative proposal? None has been advanced. All there is, is the same old hush-hush, do-nothing policy based on wishful thinking and unctuous preaching. The tragedy of this is that the preaching is done in the comfort and security of America, at the expense of the Hebrews in the depths of misery and despair in Europe.

I present a summary of what the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation proposes, in the cold, diplomatic language in which it was offered to Secretary of State Cordell Hull in an official communication:

- (a) Recognition of the Hebrew Nation as a co-belligerent ally in the war against the Axis and as a member of the United Nations.
- (b) Participation and representation of the Hebrew Nation on the Inter-Allied Commission on War Crimes, the United Nations Relief

An Address by PETER H. BERGSON, Chairman

and Rehabilitation Administration, and all other councils of the United Nations in which the interests of the Hebrew people are involved.

(c) Acknowledgment of the participation of the Hebrew Nation on the field of battle through the unification of the Hebrew-Palestinian units of the British Army, of the many fighting Hebrews now enrolled as "stateless" in the forces of various United Nations, and of the Hebrew underground forces into a Hebrew Army to fight under Allied command and with a status similar to that of the other United Nations overrun by Germany.

(d) Admission into emergency rescue shelters of every Hebrew escaping from Nazi mass murder who reaches the shores of Palestine.

We further propose that the United Nations recognize the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation as the temporary representative of our Nation. Once such recognition is within view, the present composition of the Committee, which I am privileged and honored to head, would be expanded to include additional representative Hebrews from both Palestine and Europe.

Our proposals are directed toward the United Nations. They can very easily act upon them if they so desire. If they do not, it is for the reason that they do not wish to do so.

I must say in all fairness to the governments of the United Nations, that not they alone are to be blamed for the present horrible condition of our people. As men and as decent men, we must first of all blame ourselves. I reiterate: It is the abnormality of our position which is responsible, and it is we who are responsible for allowing this abnormality to continue. Until the formation of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, not a semblance of a practical political program existed, not one attempt at realistic political international negotiation was made.

It was not the right to worship God in their own way that we needed to secure for our people in Europe. It was not religious excommunication that we needed to have others impose on the Nazis as punishment. It was a political status and the right to live; it was the diplomatic and military might of the United Nations that had to be mobilized.

Yet how and through whom have we attempted to secure such governmental action? Through a maze of religious or charitable organizations without political status whatsoever. Secretary of State Hull, with the best of intentions in the world—which from conversations with him I know he has—cannot possibly negotiate with Rabbi Wise, for example, or with any other American citizen, on international political matters, in which that American citizen purports to represent

THE HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

another nation. Consequently, the scores of Jewish delegations received by Secretary Hull are regarded by him as visiting compatriots; he listens to them as to constituents pleading for distant friends in distress. Such visits could not therefore produce serious results in the field of international diplomacy and warfare. This is true in the case of Dr. Weizmann—an Englishman—in his conversations with his government.

The United States and Great Britain have officially confirmed reports that the Germans have killed with poison gas 1,000,000 Hebrews of Europe. Who is there to demand that Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill make good their oft-repeated warning of retaliation in kind for the use of poison gas against any member of the United Nations? Yet one million poison gas casualties, more than double the total of American and British war casualties, have evoked nothing, because it is not the business of American clergymen—and Dr. Wise is just an American clergyman—to tell their government to use poison gas. We of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, whose province it is to do so, demand that the American and British governments first warn, and then act, in kind, against this depraved practice.

Another example is the negotiations between Dr. Weizmann, President of the World Zionist Organization, and the British Government as the Mandatory Power for Palestine. Dr. Weizmann, sitting in London, is a member of the British nation at war. Of course, these talks cannot possibly be regarded by the Tory British officials as diplomatic negotiations, for Dr. Weizmann is their subject and must obey the will of his government, if his loyalty and allegiance mean anything. Obviously then, he cannot tell his government that its closing of the doors of Palestine is internationally illegal. Obviously, then, he cannot negotiate a compromise proposal, such as we have offered, to postpone until after the war all the political and boundary problems of Palestine, thus opening the way for the establishment in Palestine of emergency rescue shelters. When Regent Horthy has announced that every Hebrew who can go to Palestine will be permitted to leave, he cannot criticize, as we must, his Tory Colonial Office's stubborn refusal to establish emergency rescue shelters in Palestine. He cannot say, as we do, that this is a crime second only to Hungary's active participation with Germany in the mass murder of the Hebrew people.

This amateurish attitude symbolizes the present condition of so-called Jewish leadership which is largely responsible for our inability to cope with the catastrophe that has befallen us.

Let us think for one moment of Palestine as an independent state. Who is going to be its political spokesman in Washington—an American Rabbi? I say, ladies and gentlemen, that once Palestine is an independent nation it will have its own sons represent it and speak for it in the capitals of the world; and I say that in the desperate position of

An Address by PETER H. BERGSON, Chairman

the Hebrew Nation today, we need this representation by our own selves and for ourselves a thousand times more urgently. It is Luxembourgers who represent Luxembourg in Washington; it is Poles who represent Poland; it is Norwegians who represent Norway; it must be Hebrews who represent the Hebrew Nation. Only then the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine, speaking for themselves, will be in a position to negotiate political and international questions with American, British, and other statesmen.

Today we are still "*schutzjuden*," Jews protected by Americans and Englishmen who are kind enough to "intervene" on our behalf and pay courteous handshaking visits to the foreign secretaries of their own nations.

I am not a politician, and I have no aspirations to public life. I am a Hebrew who, shocked by the plight of his nation, is serving his people to the best of his ability, ever since he looked upon their misery in the ghettos and slums of Warsaw, Vienna and Budapest. I plead for understanding of the desperate position in which we find ourselves. I plead this understanding from all Americans, but more particularly from Americans of Hebrew descent—American Jews—all of whom I know are overwhelmed and grieved, despite their own remote and happy lives, by the tragedy that has befallen us—their kin.

These have not been words of criticism that I have spoken tonight. It is not a program of criticism that we advocate. It is a constructive, positive plan that we advance. Yet the leaders of the American-Jewish community, men who have conscientiously and in good faith devoted themselves for many years to the service of the Jewish people both in this country and abroad, are still blindly opposed to what we propose. And this is intolerable. Because the alternative is the *status quo* and *status quo* means additional thousands daily added to the gruesome total of our three million dead.

With the creation of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and the announcement of its program, the shapeless mass of Hitler's Jewish victims has become a national entity for which things can be done by the United Nations—and not just by Hitler. If the United Nations really want to save us, and I believe that they do, they must realize that this cannot be done by sporadic expressions of pity and by mere verbal condemnation of what the enemy is doing to us.

What must be done, first of all, is to recognize us as human beings. It is as simple as all that. We, some four to five million Hebrews, are the only people in the world today who belong nowhere. We are not

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THE HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

United Nations, and we certainly are not Axis. We are nobodies—we are just not there. If the United Nations are, as Mr. Eden claims, powerless to save our lives, what prevents them from saving our dignity and our honor? As a matter of fact, what drives them to *continue depriving us* of our dignity and our honor? It is strange to see Mr. Eden continuing to hide behind Hitler's shoulders. Even the cynicism of statesmen must have some limitations, particularly at a time when the cream of their countries' youth is dying for noble ideals of freedom and equality, which are piously chanted in the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms.

Once we are recognized as a nation—for all dignified human beings belong to some nation—then the way to the rescue of the surviving Hebrews of Europe will be clear and the action swift. Recognition will set into motion a whole machinery without which the gigantic task of saving four million human beings from a fiendish enemy cannot be accomplished: without recognition, the machinery will not function.

When we are known to the entire world, and to our Godless enemies as a co-belligerent, a member of the United Nations;

When our soldiers, under our flag, are fighting the enemy, and taking prisoners;

When our representatives sit on the Inter-Allied Commission on War Crimes;

When Switzerland, for example, or any other neutral country, becomes our "Protective Power," safeguarding the rights of our nationals;

When Hebrew diplomatic emissaries can negotiate with Turkey, Sweden and other neutrals for cooperation and rescue—for that matter, when Hebrew representatives can negotiate with the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet government;

Then, and only then, will the *status quo* be broken. A new spirit will set in—a spirit which will make extermination impractical and impossible. For Germany and, certainly, the puppet governments of Hungary and Rumania, cannot afford to proceed with the slaughter of a member of the United Nations, at a time when a United Nations victory is inevitable.

It is because of our infinite admiration for and belief in America that we came to these shores and established on its territory, in exile, a modest beginning toward the rehabilitation of our long-suffering and tormented people.

An Address by PETER H. BERGSON, Chairman

Our program, which I have outlined tonight, could begin to be effectuated immediately. Only the will is needed—the will of the United Nations.

We have infinite belief in the greatness of the nation whose traditions and whose own struggle for liberation and freedom are the beacon and the hope for the World of Tomorrow—a people to whom we candidly appeal for understanding and help; and with the help of the people of this land we know that the government will listen and act.

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AUFBAU

Friday, May 26, 1944

Is Peter Bergson a Foreign Agent? J

As announced from Washington, the Department of Justice is busying itself at present with Peter Bergson who is the leader of the "Hebrew Committee of National Liberation" which is the subject of the adjoining article by Goldmann. The investigation is to determine whether Bergson, whose name is actually Hillel Kook and who is a son of the well-known Lithuanian Rabbi, Dov Kook, is still remaining legally in the United States and whether his status is such that he should have registered as a foreign agent.

It is known that Bergson belongs to the Irgun group which came to the United States about two years ago and which developed here an extraordinarily adroit and successful propaganda campaign. The funds which they collected were used part for further propaganda and part, apparently, went into the treasury of those organizations in Palestine which the group represents here. The latest acts of terror of the Irgun in Palestine consisted in attacks on various police stations and policemen, in an attack on the Palestine broadcasting stations in Ramallah and in action which resulted in the death of two Jewish policemen..

Translated by: BA:DW:dm
RA dw

5/29/44

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Himmels deutsche Generäle

Von K. O. PAETEL Seite 2

MAX GRUENEWALD
JOACHIM PRINZ;
Kurt Blumenfeld

Seite 5

Liebe zu Amerika

Von Margaret Jacobson Seite 28

AUFBAU RECONSTRUCTION

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U.S.A. 10¢

Das 150 Mill. Dollar Projekt im Jordantal

Seite 3

Ein Hitler-Film

Seite 11

The Fifth Column

By JOSEPH ROOS

Seite 14

Gefährliche Manöver

Von NAHUM GOLDMANN

Wir vor kurzem gemeldet haben, hat das neu gegründete "Hebrew Committee for National Liberation" auf der Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, der Gesundheitsstrasse der Hauptstadt, ein Haus erworben, das als eine Art intellektueller "Gesellschaft für Palästina" dienen soll. Das Komitee hat Pläne angekündigt, wonach es für Palästina den Status eines "co-ligierten" auf der Seite der United Nations zu erreichen sucht. Ueber dem Gebäude, das für \$65,000 gekauft worden ist, weht neben der amerikanischen die jüdische blau-weiße Flagge. Leiter des neuen Komitees ist wiederum Peter Bergson. Im Nachfolgenden nimmt der bekannte zionistische Führer und Außenpolitiker Nahum Goldman, der zugleich Mitglied des Advisory Board des "Aufbau" ist, zu der Gründung des Komitees Stellung.

Die "Jewish Agency for Palestine" ist die einzige internationale Körperschaft, die unter Artikel IV des Mandats für Palästina von der britischen Regierung, den Vereinigten Staaten und dem Völkerbund als Vertretung des jüdischen Volkes in allen Angelegenheiten, die sich auf den Aufbau eines jüdischen Nationalheims in Palästina beziehen, anerkannt wurde. Sie setzt sich aus allen zionistischen Organisationen in der ganzen Welt und zahlreichen Nicht-Zionisten in mehreren Ländern zusammen.

Der Versuch einiger weniger, die aus Palästina hierher gekommen sind, ohne von irgend einer Gruppe in Palästina delegiert worden zu sein, ohne jemals eine Rolle im jüdischen Leben Palästinas oder anderer Länder gespielt zu haben, sich als die "Treuhänder der Interessen der hebräischen Nation" zu proklamieren ist eine Handlungsweise, die sicherlich von

wenn sie sich von diesen unverschämten Manövern irreführen lassen — der Sache, der sie dienen wollen, nur schaden.

Diese unbedeutende Gruppe, die die Mitglieder des neuen Komitees zu vertreten vorgibt, hat bereits in Palästina unermesslichen Schaden angerichtet durch den Versuch, die Einigkeit der palästinensischen Judenheit zu zerbrechen, und durch die Einführung von Methoden, die die überwältigende Mehrheit der palästinensischen Judenheit mit Verachtung von sich gewiesen hat. Die amerikanische öffentliche Meinung darf sich nicht durch die Aktionen einiger Männer, die ein normal organisiertes Volk als Verräter an der gemeinsamen Sache behandeln und aus seiner Gemeinschaft austossen würde, zum Narren halten lassen.

Es ist nicht die geringste Aussicht vorhanden, dass jüdische oder nicht-jüdische verantwortliche Gruppen, geschweige denn Regierungen oder der Völkerbund, diese

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Bergson gehört bekanntlich zu den Irgun-Leuten, die etwa vor zwei Jahren in die Vereinigten Staaten kamen und hier eine ausserordentlich geschickte und erfolgreiche Propaganda betrieben. Die Geldmittel, die sie aufbrachten, wurden zum Teil zu weiterer Propaganda verbraucht, zum Teil flossen sie offensichtlich in die Kasse jener Organisationen Palästinas, die die Gruppe hier vertrat.

Die letzten Terrorakte der Irgunleute in Palästina bestanden aus Angriffen auf verschiedene Polizeiwachen, einem Ueberfall auf den palästinensischen Rundfunksender in Ramallah und in Femerakten, denen wiederum zwei jüdische Polizisten zum Opfer fielen.

Masaryk erklärt:
Tschechoslowakei kennt keine Judenfrage

Das Ghetto von Ujpest

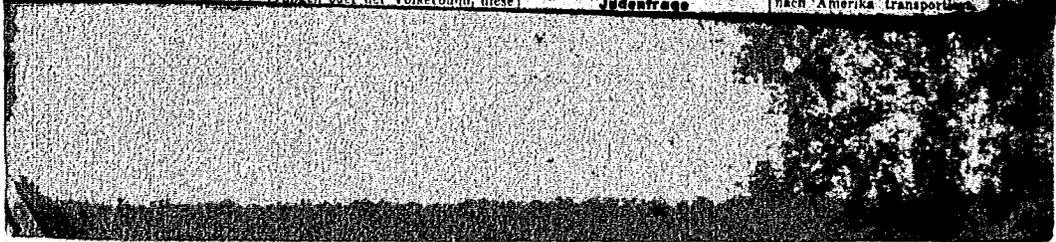
Wütende Drohungen der ungarischen Regierungspresse

Die Situation der Juden in Ungarn hat sich weiterhin verschlechtert. Die jüdische Bevölkerung Budapests ist in der Vorstadt Ujpest zusammengedrängt. Für jede Person, die in dieses Ghetto überführt wird, sind etwas über 2 Quadratmeter "Wohnraum" vorgesehen. Nur einige wenige Häuser ausserhalb der isolierten Distrikte sind noch Juden zugänglich; diese Häuser tragen einen grossen gelben Stern über der Eingangstür. Seit Beginn dieser Woche ist der Besuch von Theatern, Kinos und Konzerten der jüdischen Bevölkerung verboten. Es wird die Möglichkeit offengelassen, dass besondere "Judenvorstellungen" stattfinden würden. Die Bürgermeister aller Städte wurden angewiesen, "Restaurants für Juden" zu bestimmen. In dem Blatt der ungarischen Regierung wurde in diesen Tagen ein Artikel veröffentlicht, in dem die Liquidierung der jüdischen Bevölkerung Ungarns für den Fall angedroht wurde, dass eine russische Invasion das Land erreichen sollte.

Einer von Vielen

Guenther L. Schleimer — Held vom Ausio Speckhead

Kurt und Paula Schleimer, die Eltern von Private Günther L. Schleimer, waren nicht wenig erstaunt, als sie kürzlich in der CBS-Rundfunksendung "Report to the Nation" Quentin Reynolds den Namen ihres Sohnes nennen hörten. Günther hatte zusammen mit Captain Maurice Britt und einem anderen Private ein deutsches Maschinengewehrnest ausgereuchert. Captain Britt wurde bei diesem Püschgang schwer verletzt und nach Amerika transportiert.



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Gefährliche Manöver

Von NAHUM GOLDMANN

Wie wir vor kurzem gemeldet haben, hat das neue gegründete "Hebrew Committee for National Liberation" auf der Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, der Pennsylvaniastrasse der Hauptstadt, ein Haus erworben, das als eine Art "Institutes" für Palästina dienen soll. Das Komitee hat Pläne angekündigt, wozu es für Palästina den Status eines "sober-ligieren" auf der Seite der United Nations zu erreichen sucht. Ueber dem Gebäude, das für 963.000 gekauft worden ist, weht neben der amerikanischen die jüdische blau-weiße Flagge. Leiter des neuen Komitees ist wiederum Peter Bergson. Im Nachfolgenden stimmt der bekannte sozialistische Führer und Außenpolitiker Nahum Goldman, der zugleich Mitglied des Advisory Board des "Authan" ist, zu der Gründung des Komitees Stellung.

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Es liegt eine gewisse Gefahr darin, dass gemeinsame, nicht-jüdische Gruppen, die eifrig bemüht sind, dem jüdischen Volk in den Zeiten des Unglücks beizustehen, von den bombastischen Phrasen, missleitet werden können, welche von einer unbedeutenden Gruppe, die lärm an die Stelle von Ansehen, Autorität und Einfluss im jüdischen Leben setzen, ausgesandt werden. Diese wohlwollenden Freunde müssen darauf aufmerksam gemacht werden, dass sie

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Masaryk erklärt

Tschechoslowakei kennt keine Judenfrage

In einer Besprechung mit den Vertretern des World Jewish Congress erklärte Jan Masaryk, dass in der befreiten Tschechoslowakei alle lokalen Bürger auf der Basis absoluter Gleichheit behandelt werden würden.

"Es ist unser persönlicher Stolz", sagte Masaryk, "dafür zu sorgen, dass die Behandlung der Juden in unserem Lande ebenso gerecht sein wird, wie es in unserer Demokratie vor dem Kriege der Fall war. Es wird sich in dieser Hinsicht nichts ändern. ... Diese Einstellung kann als die einheitliche Auffassung der Tschechoslowakischen Regierung in London betrachtet werden."

Das Ghetto von Ujpest

Wütende Drohungen der ungarischen Regierungspresse

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boys for having such a splendid boy. I consider it an honor to have been his commanding officer.

"The Congressional Medal of Honor, I feel, belongs as much to him, as to me, because he was right there, at my side, battling against terrific odds, and never giving an inch."

Günther L. Schleimer ist 22 Jahre alt, stammt aus Danzig und lebt seit 1938 in den Vereinigten Staaten. Seit anderthalb Jahren dient er in der amerikanischen Armee und seit neun Monaten ist er in Italien stationiert.



Das englische Adoptivkind "Aufbau"

Bekanntlich hat unser Blatt ein englisches Waisenkind in London adoptiert. Unser Bild zeigt die kleine Ivy Bedford mit unserem Londoner Korrespondenten Paul Marcus (P.M.), der seinen Besuch bei Ivy kürzlich im "Aufbau" geschildert hat. Die Londoner "News Chronicle" und zahlreiche andere englische Zeitungen sowie Blätter der Dominions brachten dieses Interview und das Bild Ivys mit der Überschrift "This orphan child has thirty thousand foster parents", womit die Leser des "Aufbau" gemeint waren.

Wie schliesst man Frieden?

Von FRANZ M. JOSEPH

Als der Versailler Vertrag, der die Völkerbundsanstaltung enthielt, dem Senat der Vereinigten Staaten vorgelegt wurde, stimmten 49 Senatoren dafür. Es fehlten an der verfassungsmässigen erforderlichen Zweidrittelmehrheit sieben Stimmen. Auf diese Weise blieb der Versailler Vertrag unbillig und wurde nicht Mittels des Völkereides. Viele Amerikaner fürchten, dass auch nach diesem Kriege die Situation in gleicher Weise im Sturken geraten könnte. Das Sonntag-Magazin der New York Herald Tribune, "This Week", das als Beilage auch in anderen Zeitungen erscheint, veröffentlicht am vergangenen Sonntag einen Artikel über diesen zeitgemässen Thema von dem New Yorker Rechtsanwalt Franz M. Joseph. "This Week" stellt Mr. Joseph als eine "bekannte juristische Autorität" vor, der in den letzten Vereinigten Staaten Vorträge über Internationalen Recht gehalten hat. Die Tatsache, dass Franz M. Joseph erst 1935 nach den Vereinigten Staaten kam, hat für uns von ganz besonderem Interesse. Wir fragen uns, dass ein vor erst verhältnismässig kurzer Zeit Einwanderer so schnell Anerkennung als "Fachautorität" des amerikanischen Rechts gefunden hat. Der Verleger von "This Week" hat uns freundlicherweise mitgeteilt, Franz M. Josephs Artikel mit einigen kleinen Änderungen in deutscher Übersetzung zu bringen.

Die amerikanische Verfassung sieht vor, dass internationale Verträge abgeschlossen werden können, wenn zwei Drittel der Senatoren ihre Zustimmung erteilen. Jedoch zeigt Artikel I, Section 10, dass die Founding Fathers sehr

vohl wussten, dass internationale Übereinkünfte nicht nur durch Verträge (treaties), sondern auch durch Abkommen (agreements) getroffen werden könnten. Weder das Wort Vertrag noch das Wort Abkommen wurde in der Verfassung definiert. Es blieb dem verfassungsmässigen Uns überlassen, nach und nach die diese Worte zu entwickeln.

In den ersten Jahren der Vereinigten Staaten, als diese aus dreizehn Staaten bestanden, gab es nur 26 Senatoren. Daraus wurde der Senat als ein Gremium angesehen, das bei Verträgen, von den Verhandlungen bis zur Ratifizierung eng mit dem Präsidenten zusammenarbeiten sollte. Artikel 2, Section 2 der Verfassung bestimmt, dass der Präsident "die Macht haben soll, mit dem Rat und der Einwilligung des Senats Verträge abzuschliessen, vorzulegen, dass zwei Drittel der anwesenden Senatoren ihre Zustimmung erteilen."

George Washington erkannte bald, dass es schwierig war, bei Vertragshandlungen den Rat von auch nur 26 Senatoren zu erhalten. Als die Nation wuchs und die Zahl der Senatoren sich entsprecht erhöhte, wurde es verfassungsmässige Praxis, dass der Präsident die Vertragshandlungen allein führte. Erst nach der Unterzeichnung legte er die Verträge dem Senat zur Billigung vor. Seit dem Bo-

(Fortsetzung auf der 2. Seite)

Handwritten note: Amerikaner sind nicht so schlau wie wir

The Jewish Agency for Palestine

MAY 25 1944

Dear Dr. Goldmann:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 24, 1944, in which you enclosed a copy of a letter being sent to the Embassies in Washington on the matter of the Hebrew Committee for National Liberation and a statement which you released to the press.

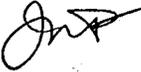
Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
The Jewish Agency for Palestine,
1720 Sixteenth Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

JWP:mgt 5/25/44



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הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

The Jewish Agency for Palestine

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1720 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W. • MICHIGAN 4480

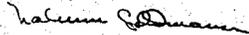
May 24, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am enclosing for your information a letter which I am sending to all the Embassies in Washington, on the matter of the Hebrew Committee for National Liberation, together with the statement I have released to the press.

Sincerely yours,



Nahum Goldmann

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המוסד היהודי לארץ-ישראל

The Jewish Agency for Palestine

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1720 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W. • MICHIGAN 4480

May 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I assume you have read of the formation of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation in Washington, which announces that it will seek recognition from governments as representing the Hebrew nation in Europe and Palestine.

As the representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, recognized by the League of Nations under Article IV of the Mandate for Palestine, and also by the government of the United States, as the Agency representing the Jewish people in all matters concerning Palestine, I feel it my duty to call to your attention that this group does not represent the Jewish community in Palestine or elsewhere. Palestine Jewry is represented in a democratically elected body called the Asefath Hanivchatim. All European Jewry is represented in the Jewish Agency or affiliated to the World Jewish Congress, on whose behalf I am also authorized to speak, as chairman of its Administrative Committee.

I thought it might be of interest to you to receive the enclosed statement issued to the press, so that you may know that no responsible Jewish organization in this country, Palestine or Europe, has anything to do with the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which has been repudiated by all the leading bodies in Palestine and America.

This group uses high pressure publicity methods and any move they may make to seek recognition among the Embassies and Legations in Washington will be used by them for publicizing their unauthorized activities, which create confusion, and harm the Jewish cause.

Sincerely yours,

Nahum Goldmann

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nahum

Dr. Goldmann, representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Zionist Organization in Washington, made the following comment on the announcement of the formation of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation:

The Jewish Agency for Palestine is the only international body recognized under Article IV of the Mandate for Palestine by the British Government, the United States, and the League of Nations, as representing the Jewish people in all matters concerning the upbuilding of the Jewish National Home in Palestine. It is composed of all Zionist organizations the world over and numerous non-Zionists in various countries. The attempt of a few persons, who have come from Palestine to this country without any authority, without having been delegated by any group in Palestine, having played no role whatever in Jewish life in Palestine or elsewhere, to proclaim themselves as the "trustees of the Hebrew Nation's interests" is an act which, I am sure, will be rejected by all sections of the Jewish people as a fraud.

There is some danger that well-intentioned non-Jewish groups, eager to help the Jewish people in its time of tragedy, may be misled by the bombastic phrases and claims made by an insignificant group, which substitutes noise for a complete lack of standing, authority and influence in Jewish life. These well-meaning friends must be warned that by allowing themselves to be persuaded by these impertinent manoeuvres, they are harming the very cause, which they wish to serve.

The insignificant group which the members of the new committee claim to represent has already done untold damage in Palestine by trying to break the unity of Palestinian Jewry and by introducing methods which the overwhelming majority of Palestinian Jewry has rejected with scorn and contempt.

American public opinion should not allow itself to be fooled by the acts of a few men, whom a normally organized people would deal with as traitors to the common cause and exclude from its community.

There is not the slightest chance that any responsible group, Jewish or non-Jewish, not to speak of governments or the League of Nations, will pay any attention to this group. But, as they have in the past, through various tricks, succeeded in misleading and confusing ~~spokes~~ spokesmen of American public opinion, this warning is necessary. Whoever wants to help the Jewish people and the Zionist movement must do it by cooperating with the established and recognized organizations, the leading one of which is the Jewish Agency, the only internationally recognized body authorized to act for the Jewish people in all matters affecting Palestine. By helping the self-styled Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which purports to speak on behalf of Jews who never gave them authority to represent them, the prestige and influence of the Jewish organizations, charged with the complex and responsible task of building the Jewish ~~in~~ homeland, will be weakened, and harm will be done to the Jewish people.

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