Mr. Peter Bergson
Committee for a Jewish Army of
Stateless and Palestinian Jews
New York City

Dear Mr. Bergson:

Senator Lasker yesterday called my attention to an advertisement in the New York Times to which was added the names of some dozen or so Senators and to which the name of Senator Averell Harriman was added as Chairman.

Senator Johnson informs me this advertisement was never submitted to him for approval, and I have the same information from a number of other Senators.

I am withdrawing my name from your Committee, and you are not authorized under any circumstances to make use of it for any purpose in the future.

This does not mean my sympathies are not with the down-trodden Jews of Europe, but when you take it upon yourself without consultation to attack members of the Senate and House of Representatives who are working in your interest I cannot approve of that procedure.

Sincerely yours,

Harry S. Truman, U.S.C.
May 6, 1945

Mr. Peter Bergson,
Committee for a Jewish Army of
Stateless and Palestinian Jews,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Bergson:

I have before me a copy of an advertisement appearing in the May 4th issue of the New York Times in which, among other things, the recent Bermuda Conference is discussed adversely.

In this advertisement there appeared in a separate column the names of prominent Americans, including many Senators. My name appears as National Chairman of this organization. While there is nothing to indicate that this group of distinguished citizens endorsed the specific advertisement, the inference might be made that they do. I did not see it until it was called to my attention the next day.

The Committee and I must come to an understanding as to what greater caution be exercised in publishing the names of Senators who favor our cause.

The State Department appointed our distinguished colleague, Senator NK [illegible], one of the representatives of the United States to the Bermuda Conference. For reasons which appear important to this Conference, no report has been issued as yet. I am advised that one will be forthcoming as soon as it is deemed certain that such report will be of no advantage to our committee.

My colleagues and I have great respect for Senator Lanis and we do not deem it fair to him to prejudge or condemn the work of the committee until after it has had sufficient opportunity to make a report. None of the work of the Conference has been disclosed to me in confidence or otherwise, and in all fairness I must therefore withhold my judgment until such time as I know what actually took place in the Conference.

As you know, I have been very hopeful that the Conference would find a practical way to save five million Jews in Central Europe from death by torture.

Sincerely,

ECJEL
Mr. Baruch E. Sobieski
Committee for a Jewish Army
2317 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Sobieski:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of letter which I have just sent Mr. Peter Bergson.

Sincerely yours,

Harry S. Truman, Pres. G.
Mr. Baruch S. Rahmowitz
Committee for a Jewish Army
2317 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rahmowitz:

I appreciate very much your sending me the memorandum on the highlights of the Jewish Army.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Harry S. Truman, Jr., N.C.
My Dear Senator:

From our wire and newspaper headlines you must be aware of the serious situation now in the Middle East.

We are therefore taking the liberty of enclosing a short memorandum covering the main points of our plan for the immediate creation of a Jewish Army in that threatened area.

Sincerely yours,

Baruch E. Rabinowitz

Honorable Harry S. Truman
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

June 22nd, 1948
RENEWAL OF THE JEWISH ARMY PLAN

Nurse's breakthrough in Libya brings into sharp attention the need for a Jewish Army in the Middle East, as constantly demanded through the medium of the Committee for a Jewish Army of Palestine and Eretz Yisrael.

1. This demand is now more than ever of primary importance because 100,000 men can be instantly mobilized into a Jewish Army in Palestine and the Near East. Its shipping is necessary to transport this army because the borders of Palestine are but 70 miles from the banks of the Suez Canal. Another 100,000 stanzoless Jews, driven from their homes and countries, can also be mobilized.

2. The only population in the Near East upon which the Allied Nations can rely with utmost certainty are the Jews of Palestine and the surrounding countries. The Arabs have proven in Syria, Iraq and Egypt that they are easily misled by Nazi five-percenter activities, and that many of them will openly side with the Axis when the opportunity presents itself.

3. Palestine is the gateway to the Persian Gulf, the breadbasket to Russia. It is also where Hitler and Mussolini hope to strike south and take over the oil and minerals of the heart of the "World Island", which is the Middle East.

4. The Italian navy suffered a major setback in the latest Mediterranean sea battle, but it also achieved its objective, which was to prevent reinforcements reaching Libya, in the Middle East. The crisis of supply, which destroyed Singapore, Thalassa, Burma, Borneo, Java, Java, and other positions now threaten the Middle East. 150,000 men on the spot are worth 1,000,000 men yet to be drafted and transported. The latter defeat which the United Nations have suffered in this war can be turned almost exclusively to the loss of manpower. The last time the British fell back in Libya, they were outnumbered by Nurse's 25,000 Axis troops. Singapore was lost to 100,000 Japanese. General Stillwell said that 50,000 more troops could have frustrated the Japanese attempt on Burma. 100,000 Jewish troops in the fight can decide the fate of the Near East.

Prime Minister Churchill spotlighted this situation in the following words: "The crisis of supply is largely over and we are now moving to new bases. The crisis of manpower is not over and is worsening day by day. The crisis of leadership is gone over and is no longer a problem. We are now faced with the absolute condition of victory."

5. The Jews of Palestine, united in their love for their country, their hate for Hitlerism, and their faith in democracy, provide the unbeatable morale that is the absolute condition of victory. It was Lord Beaverbrook who said: "singapore was not lost to superior equipment. In our case — and the Jewish case is no different — superior morale is the first necessary. It is the absolute condition of victory."

6. The Jews of Palestine are determined to defend their homes against Hitler aggression. They will fight with their bare hands if need be. Armed, they will fight with a fanaticism and fervor unparalleled in history. If one lesson can be learned from the war to date, it is that the Axis hordes are best opposed by people defending their homes, families and native soil. The heroic stand of the Poles, the Belgians, the Yugoslavs, the Greeks, the Russians and the British themselves, prove this to be an irrefutable truth.

7. If the Jews of the Middle East are slaughtered unarmed, it will be the greatest blow to Allied morale in this war because the Axis of the Atlantic Charter will then be suspect wherever free men still breathe.

8. There is no doubt in the minds of any of the military experts that if the Nazi Pioneer Movement is successful in the Middle East and thus is lost to the Allies, this war will take another three years to wage, and that victory for the democracies will be far from certain. The Axis nations will become the "have" and the democracies will become the "have-nots".
*From every point of view, military and moral, the Jewish Army must be formed.*

Immediately, Lord Balfour expressed the moral point of view in a stern warning to the British people when he said in a letter to the Manchester Guardian: *"In this tragic conflict we must be for or against the Jews. There can be no neutrality. Our attitude towards them becomes the test of our professions and the sincerity of our war aims. It strikes at the root of our policy, and if we abandon the Jews we abandon everything, because Hitler has chosen to make them his special target. Whether we like it or not, and however inconvenient it may be, the Jewish people has become the focal point of the issues involved in this world struggle between right and wrong, between good and evil."

*"If we desert the Jews it may result in our losing the war, because it is a betrayal of our sacred war aims. Surely, it is the height of folly to repudiate our principles and to plot against our friends in order to curry favor with neutrals or potential enemies."

10. The issue is plain and clear: 100,000 courageous Jews to face and to stem the Nazi’s 100,000 Nazis. It is therefore imperative to impress upon the English Prime Minister, now in Washington, that he must take this matter into his own capable hands and in accordance with his own vision and vision, act before it is too late.

**THEREFORE:**

The Committee for a Jewish Army of States and Palestine Jews makes the following urgent proposals:

A. That the Imperial War Council adopt the decision to form a Jewish Army to be placed under the Supreme Allied Command.

B. That the Middle Eastern High Command begin, without delay to recruit and train such a Jewish Army in whichever of the Middle Eastern countries they can most expediently form a military point of view. Volunteers for this army will come from amongst the million Jews residing in the Middle East, particularly from Palestine. Conservative estimates show that between 80,000 and 100,000 men will answer this call.

Submitted by:
Committee for a Jewish Army
555 Fifth Avenue
New York City

SS17 – 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Mr. Pierre van Paasen, National Chairman
Committee for a Jewish Army
235 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. van Paasen:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of letter which I have just sent Mr. Peter Bergson.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Harry S. Truman, U.S.A.
Mr. Pierre van Paassen, National Chairman
Committee for a Jewish Army
230 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. van Paassen:

I will be glad to talk with Dr. A. Hadani some time at his convenience, but I am not very strong for a Jewish Army.

I am enclosing you a copy of a letter which I wrote to Congressman Borens on the same subject some time in January.

Sincerely yours,

BUTWELL

sent.

Harry S. Truman, U.S.S.
COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY

(COMPOSED OF STATELESS AND PALESTINIAN JEWS)

SIXTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

May 30, 1943

Mr. Harry S. Truman

U. S. Senate

Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I am sure that you will be interested to know that the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews has established new headquarters in Washington, D.C.

I am taking the liberty to ask that you grant an interview to Dr. A. Beidler, one of our representatives in Washington. I know how busy you are, but still I hope that you will find time to listen to our representative on our aims and the significance of our movement for the best interests of the United Nations' strategy.

Dr. Beidler is a member of the Palestinian delegation which came to this country to present the Jewish army plan. He is a brilliant scholar and authority on Middle Eastern affairs. Dr. Beidler will call upon your secretary in order to arrange for an appointment.

Thanking you for your courtesy in advance, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Pierre van Pampus

National Chairman

Continued on Page Three
Sincerely yours,

Harry S. Truman, U.S.S.

Honorable Andrew L. Sonder
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C.
January 28, 1943

Dear Congressman Sonder:

Appreciate very much your good letter of the Twenty Sixth, regarding the proposed Jewish Army.

I have had a great deal of correspondence about this suggestion but so far as the United States is concerned I think the best thing for the Jews to do is to go right into our Army as they did in the last war and make the same sort of good soldiers as they did before.

It is an honorable undertaking to organize an Army for Palestine but I think American citizens ought to serve in the American Army.

Sincerely yours,

Harry S. Truman, U.S.S.

Honorable Andrew L. Sonder
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.
January 26, 1942

Honorable Harry S. Truman,
U. S. Senate,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I have become very much interested in a movement which I believe will go far to end the persecutions of the Jewish Race by governments in the future.

We realize, of course, that the basic reason for this persecution is the defenselessness of the Jewish people. They have only in recent years established a homeland in Palestine. This was a necessary step, of course, but without the means of defending it through military preparedness, they cannot win the respect necessary to preserve them from persecution, nor can they claim a place in the conference of Nations.

To that end, I have advocated recently in a series of speeches throughout the United States, the organization of a Jewish Army for Palestine. Also, I have presented a Resolution asking the President to direct the Secretary of State to prevail upon the British Government to authorize such an Army.

I am sure that you will understand and will sympathize with those people who, for generations, have suffered persecution only because they were homeless. I would appreciate it very much if you would give me your reactions to these thoughts of mine. Any opinions you may express will be held in the strictest confidence if you feel it should be so.

Yours very truly,

Andrew W. Jerrold
Mr. William Rosewald, National Chairman
United Jewish Appeal for Refugees, Overseas
Need and Palestine
322 Madison Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Rosewald:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of letter which I have just sent Mr. Peter Bergson.

Sincerely yours,

Harry S. Truman, U.S.S.

Mr. William Rosewald, National Chairman
United Jewish Appeal for Refugees, Overseas
Need and Palestine
322 Madison Avenue
New York City

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