

COPY

Washington, D.C.  
May 7, 1943

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

Dear Mr. Bergson:

Senator Lucas yesterday called my attention to an advertisement in the New York Times to which was signed the names of some dozen or so Senators and to which the name of Senator Edwin C. Johnson was signed 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 on 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.S.



HST:MLD

# COPY

May 6, 1943

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 endorses 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 at once that greater caution be exercised in publishing the names of Senators who favor our cause.

The State Department appointed our distinguished colleague, Senator Scott W. Lucas, one of the three 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 enemies.

My colleagues and I have great respect for Senator Lucas 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,

ECJ:SL



COPY

Washington, D.C.  
May 7, 1943

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

Dear Mr. Rabinowitz:

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

Sincerely yours,

HST:MLD  
encl.

Harry S. Truman, U.S.S.



COPY

Washington, D.C.  
June 26, 1942

Mr. Baruch E. Rabinowitz  
Committee for a Jewish Army  
2317 15th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rabinowitz:

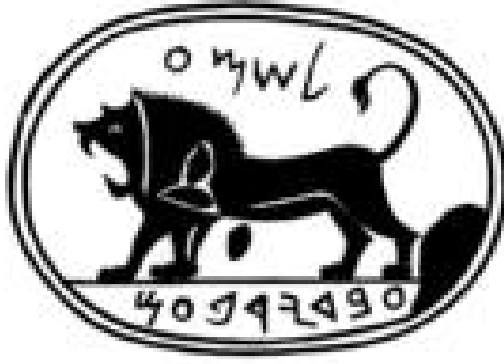
I appreciate very much your sending me the memorandum  
on the highlights of the Jewish Army.

Sincerely yours,

HST:MLD

Harry S. Truman, U.S.S.





2317-15TH STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
Telephone: ADams 0840

COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY  
OF STATELESS AND PALESTINIAN JEWS

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*

BARUCH E. RABINOWITZ

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

June 22nd, 1942



HIGHLIGHTS ON THE JEWISH ARMY PLAN

Rommel's break-through 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 Palestinian and Stateless Jews.

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. No shipping is necessary to transport this army because the borders of Palestine are but 75 miles from the banks of the Suez Canal. Another 100,000 stateless 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 molded by Axis fifth-column 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 back-door to Russia. It is also where Hitler and Hirohito hope to join hands and thus have complete access to 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 manpower, which destroyed Singapore, Malaya, Burma, Crete, Hongkong and other positions now threatens the Middle East.

100,000 men on the spot are worth 3,000,000 men yet to be drafted and transported. The bitter defeats which the United Nations have suffered in this war can be traced almost exclusively to the lack of manpower. The last time the British fell back in Libya, they were outnumbered by Rommel's 90,000 Axis troops; Singapore was lost to 100,000 Japanese; General Stillwell said that 50,000 more troops would 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 equipment is largely over and an ever broadening flow is now assured. The crisis of manpower and womenpower is at hand and will dominate the year 1942."

5. The Jews of Palestine, united in their love for their country, their hate for Hitlerism, and their faith in democracy, provide the unbreakable morale that is the absolute condition of victory. It was Lord Beaverbrook who said: "Singapore was not lost to superior equipment. On the contrary, the weight of munitions was on our side -- unbreakable morale is the first necessity. 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 unequalled in this struggle. 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 Phillipinos, the Chinese, the Yugoslav Chetniki, 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 aims 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 Pincer Movement is successful in the Middle East and Suez is lost to the Allies, this war will take innumerable years to wage, and that victory for the democracies will be far from certain. The Axis nations will become the "haves", and the democracies will become the "have nots".



9. From every point of view, military and moral, the Jewish Army must be formed immediately. Lord Davies 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 morale, 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 personification 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 avowed war aims. Surely, it is the height of folly to repudiate our principles and to cold-shoulder 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 Rommel'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 wisdom and vision, act before it is too late.

THEREFORE:

The Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian 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 find most expedient from 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  
535 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

2317 - 15th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.



COPY

Washington, D.C.  
May 7, 1943

Mr. Pierre van Paassen, National Chairman  
Committee for a Jewish Army  
535 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Mr. van Paassen:

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

Sincerely yours,

Harry S. Truman, U.S.S.

HST:MLD  
encl.





COPY

Mr. Pierre van Paassen, National Chairman  
Committee for a Jewish Army  
535 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 Somers on the same subject some time in January.

Sincerely yours,

HST:MLD  
encl.

Harry S. Truman, U.S.S.



"We must learn to know that guerilla warfare against the Germans in Serbia helps us; that a successful Russian offensive against the Germans helps us and that British successes on land or sea in any part of the world strengthen our hands."

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

## COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY (COMPOSED OF STATELESS AND PALESTINIAN JEWS)

535 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
Murray Hill 2-7237

"The decision of the war will be fought out in the Near East, over the Evangelic hills of Galilee. There will take place the ultimate clash between us and the evil forces of our time. That is why a Jewish army is not a matter of concern for the Jewish people alone. There is time to make the Jewish Army a reality. Now it can be done. Now it must be done."

PIERRE VAN PAASSEN

May 19, 1942

### Hon. Chairmen

Dr. SAMUEL HARDEN CHURCH  
Col. JOHN HENRY PATTERSON  
U.S.O.

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

PIERRE VAN PAASSEN

LOUIS FITCH, K. C.

ALFRED A. STRELSIN

MEIR GROSSMAN

PETER H. BERGSON

GABRIEL A. WECHSLER

Secretary

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, (2317 - 15th Street, N.W.).

### Committee

Very Rev. H. P. ALMON ABBOTT

HALLEY ABEND

Rabbi AARON ASHINSKY

Repr. WILLIAM B. BARRY

Dr. CARL BECK

Y. BEN-AMI

Repr. GEORGE H. BENDER, (Ohio)

A. BEN-ELIEZER

Rabbi BERNARD BERGMAN

Rabbi JOSHUA BLOCH

Rabbi PHILIP D. BOOKSTABER

Rabbi JACOB BOSNIAK

Repr. FRED BRADLEY, (Mich.)

Repr. MICHAEL J. BRADLEY

JOSEPH BRAININ

Rabbi WILLIAM G. BRAUDE

Hon. MILLER M. BRISTER

LOUIS BROMFIELD

Senator PRENTISS M. BROWN

Rev. DUNCAN H. BROWNE

St. James Church, Chicago

I am taking the liberty to ask that you grant an interview to Dr. A. Hadani, 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. Hadani is a member of the Palestinian delegation which came to this country to promote the Jewish Army plan. He is a brilliant scholar and authority on Middle Eastern affairs. Dr. Hadani will call upon your secretary in order to arrange for an appointment.

Thanking you for your courtesies in advance, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*Pierre van Paassen*

Pierre van Paassen  
National Chairman



Continued on Page Three

Sincerely yours,

COPY

HST:MLD

Harry S. Truman, U.S.S.

Washington, D.C.  
January 26, 1942

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

Dear Congressman Somers:

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 sug-  
gestion but so far as the United States is concerned I  
think the best thing for the Jews to do is to go right in-  
to 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,

HST:MLD

Harry S. Truman, U.S.S.

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



ANDREW L. SOMERS, N. Y., CHAIRMAN  
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 EUGENE WORLEY, TEX.  
 JAMES DOMENGEAUX, LA.  
 SAUL C. COHEN, CLERK

## House of Representatives U. S.

Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures

Washington, D. C.

January 26, 1942

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

My dear Senator::

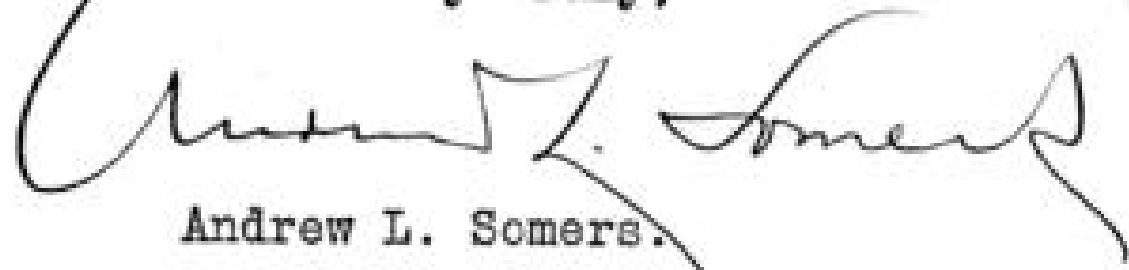
I have become very much interested in a movement which I believe will go far to end the persecutions of the Jewish Race by governments in the future.

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 these 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 L. Somers.



COPY

Washington, D.C.  
May 7, 1943

Mr. William Rosenwald, National Chairman  
United Jewish Appeal for Refugees, Overseas  
Needs and Palestine  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York City

Dear Mr. Rosenwald:

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

Sincerely yours,

Harry S. Truman, U.S.S.

HST:MLD  
encl.

