

204

November 19, 1947

Dear Senator:

I certainly appreciated yours of the fifteenth in regard to Palestine. #

As you know, I have been wrestling with the Palestine problem for two and one-half years. I thought we had the matter settled but the federal autonomous state proposition last year by the New York Jews knocked that out and the matter had to finally be turned over to the United Nations. They have offered a settlement, which is practical, but I have my doubt as to whether it will be put into effect.

x76-c
x85-A

The Arabs are now asking for the same sort of program which the American - British Commission recommended a year and a half ago.

x48 misc

I have about come to the conclusion that the Palestine program is insoluble but I suppose we will have to keep working with it.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Honorable Elbert D. Thomas
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

x 8871988
x Sen

ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH., CHAIRMAN
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE
ALEXANDER WILEY, WIS.
H. ALEXANDER SMITH, N. J.
BOURKE S. HICKENLOOPER, IOWA
HENRY CABOT LODGE, JR., MASS.

TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY.
CARL A. HATCH, N. MEX.

FRANCIS O. WILCOX, CHIEF OF STAFF
C. C. O'DAY, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

November 15, 1947

THE WHITE HOUSE
NOV 18 8 20 AM '47
RECEIVED

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear President Truman:

I do not know Palestine from first-hand knowledge today, but during the days that I wandered over the earth, I did cover Palestine quite carefully and I do know the country. It now appears that a solution of the Palestine problem is to be attempted again.

The wisdom of the solution is not my point. The division, though, may and undoubtedly will bring trouble. Is it, therefore, not time to be thoughtful about our distribution of arms to either side? Surely the logical action for us to take after the division has been consummated so that we will not see the equivalent of civil war will be the control of the sale of our arms. Both sides, of course, have enough to do great damage now, but we should endeavor to limit the bloodshed. At least we should not be a party to it. And above all, we should not take sides after United Nation's action; we should sustain that action.

Since I saw you, I have driven through most of the states by car, taking it slowly, and I have met scores of people. I have many reactions. It was good to do again a bit of political scouting on my own. I suppose I cannot get a bet out of anybody because no one seems to be interested, but I am.

I trust you are fine.

Most sincerely yours,



Elbert D. Thomas