

United States Senate WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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June 20, 1946

Dear Mr. President:

The case for the immediate admission into Palestine of 100,000 Jews who have been the victims of Nazi persecution is written in blood and suffering:

1. From 1933 on, the Jews of Europe were the first signal and final depths of Nazi persecution and barbarism.
2. In Hitler's concentration and extermination camps, 6,000,000 Jews were tortured, gassed or burned to death. The rest suffered horrors not much better than death.
3. The 1,500,000 Jews still left alive in Europe are largely destitute, unwanted or homeless with a well-grounded need and want to migrate to Palestine and to leave the scene of the horrors inflicted on them.
4. The Jews still left in Europe had hoped that when victory was achieved over the Nazis more than a year ago, they would then have a reasonable opportunity to go to Palestine soon.
5. On August 31, 1945, you wrote to Prime Minister Attlee asking that 100,000 of the displaced European Jews be allowed to migrate to Palestine.
6. The British Government turned down this request and suggested instead an investigation. The Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, made up of distinguished British as well as American representatives, was appointed to make this investigation.
7. The Anglo-American Committee started its work on January 4, 1946. It completed and published its report on April 30, 1946. It unanimously endorsed your proposal of August 31, 1945 that 100,000 European Jews be admitted to Palestine--and it recommended that this be done immediately.

8. The British Government then began to propose conditions of military and economic assistance which, it is understood, had been considered and previously rejected by the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry.

9. Now new committees have been set up, presumably to give technical advice, but it is not clear whether these committees are instructed to speed up the actual admission of the 100,000 Jews, or whether they are again to investigate and examine various alternatives. Already spokesmen for the British Government have explained that the current negotiations regarding the technical problems involved in the admission of 100,000 Jews into Palestine are merely advisory, and that the decision on this point will have to await decisions on the entire Report of the Anglo-American Committee.

10. On the basis of past experience, it is likely that an attempt will be made to utilize the proceedings of these new committees to bring up new conditions and hurdles. Instead of speeding up the carrying out of your request to admit immediately 100,000 Jews into Palestine, these committees may serve in effect to undo this objective.

11. The situation has become further aggravated by the events of last week: Foreign Secretary Bevin's statement of June 12, in which a clearly hostile attitude toward the idea of admitting the 100,000 Jews was bolstered by manifestly biased and untenable arguments; and the flight, under highly suspicious circumstances, of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, whom the British Government had consistently refused to indict as a war criminal despite a wealth of evidence against him--an event calculated to foster those very Arab disorders which the British Government pretends to fear.

12. Neither the gallant people of Britain nor the other peoples of the world, and certainly not the American people, can be in favor of such delaying toying with the souls and hearts and bodies of persecuted and destitute human beings.

13. You will be acting in accordance with world opinion, and in the sense of true humanity and statesmanship if you use your influence to put an end to slow death and torture by committees, investigations, and other delaying devices. Action, not more committees, is what is required today.

14. We urgently request you, through direct communications with Prime Minister Attlee, to press again and without let-up, for the admission at once of 100,000 European Jews into Palestine. That would be only right and just.

15. The Government of Great Britain cannot be permitted to repudiate its commitments. To that end, it is high time that British leaders gave heed to the urgent promptings of the President of the Nation that helped to keep the British people themselves from being exterminated.

Very truly yours,

Robert E. Wagner

Robert E. Wagner

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Homer Ferguson
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