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May 10, 1948

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Honorable Harry S. Truman
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Tomorrow morning the Washington Post will carry, in the form of a full-page advertisement, the text of an open letter to you requesting the implementation of the November 29 resolution on Palestine.

I have been requested to send you the enclosed text of this open letter by the signators to it who are, apart from myself, Henry A. Atkinson, who is Secretary of the Church Peace Union; Bartley C. Crum, publisher of PM and your appointee to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry; Leon Henderson, who is the National Chairman of Americans for Democratic Action; Philip Murray, President of the C.I.O.; James G. Patton, President of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union; and T. O. Thackrey, editor and publisher of the New York Post and Home News.

It is our hope that in the week which remains before the end of the British Mandate, action will be taken by you to insure the recognition of the Jewish state as a means of maintaining the prestige of this country, the authority of the United Nations, and peace in the Middle East.

Sincerely yours,

Freda Kirchwey
President

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MR. PRESIDENT:

On November 29, 1947, your leadership defeated the delaying tactics of the Middle Eastern section of the State Department and brought about the decisive vote of the United Nations in favor of partition with economic union in Palestine.

On the day following that vote, however, the State Department resumed its active collaboration with the British Foreign Office to prevent the implementation of that resolution. This was reflected in the embargo on arms shipments to Palestine by the United States on December 6; in the failure of the State Department to let the Arab states know we would not tolerate their revolt; active propaganda by the Defense Department to prove the necessity of Middle Eastern oil for war purposes, and the danger that the Arabs would cancel oil leases; and in the charge of lack of patriotism against those who favor partition.

Secretary of Defense Forrestal has justified the new American appeasement policy as essential to preventing the cancellation of oil concessions by the Arab states. But the facts are that no Arab rulers have threatened to cancel oil leases; American military experts concede that Middle Eastern oil installations could be destroyed almost overnight in the event of war; and there are ample undeveloped oil reserves in the United States, Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, Columbia, Brazil, and Argentina, apart from the enormous potential of synthetic oil.

Actually, except for the determined sabotage of the partition resolution by the British and our own State Department, there is nothing in the present Palestine situation which was not anticipated last fall when you directed the American delegation to support partition.

On October 31, your representative, Herschel Johnson, told correspondents at the United Nations that if the Arabs resisted partition, there was no reason why the Jewish state could not be set up and the Arab area turned over to the Trusteeship Council. On November 22, he told the Ad Hoc Committee on Palestine of the United Nations: "We do not say we anticipate no trouble." On November 25 he voted for the inclusion in the preamble of the resolution of a specification that "the Security Council should deter-

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mine as a threat to peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, in accordance with Article 39 of the Charter, any attempt to alter by force the settlement envisaged by this resolution." On November 29 he told the final session of the General Assembly: "If we are to effect through the United Nations a solution of this problem, it cannot be done without the use of the knife."

Britain is Behind Acts of Arab League

The military and political developments in the Arab world are controlled by the Arab League composed of the governments of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Transjordan, and Yemen. Representatives of the British government were present at the meetings of the Arab League where the revolt was planned, and are in continuous connection with it.

Within a month after the November 29 resolution the Arabs were encouraged by Foreign Minister Bevin of Great Britain to believe that partition would be supplanted by a federal state. Armed shipments have been continued by Britain to the Arab states despite their known use for Palestine warfare.

The Arab world is incapable of a sustained revolt without the active support of the Western nations including moral encouragement, military supplies, and training of troops. That the present revolt has taken place is due to the direct encouragement of the British government which is in active alliance with the Arab League.

Since 1945 the British government, under the direction of Foreign Minister Bevin, has resisted every American proposal for a decent settlement of the Palestine question. This was true in 1946 when he refused to accept the proposal of the Anglo-American Committee, and your own, for the admission into Palestine of 100,000 Jews. It was true again in 1947 when he refused to accept the UNSCOP report in favor of partition.

British Deliberately Create Chaos

In 1948, the British government has deliberately created chaos in Palestine under the pressure of which it is trying to force the United States government to discard partition, to appease the Arabs, and to secure its own continuing control in the Middle East. For the British government, by arrangement with the Arab League, is to receive base rights in Haifa, the Negev, and the Galilee, if partition is shelved through one of several schemes to assure Arab dominance in the whole of Palestine.



British Intelligence Reveals

British Plot Against the United Nations and Partition

The British plot against the United Nations decision on Palestine is revealed in the secret documents of British Military Intelligence in Palestine and the Middle East. These have been incorporated in a Memorandum submitted to the United Nations and to you on April 30 by The Nation Associates.

This Memorandum proves that:

1) Representatives of the British government attended the meeting of the Arab League where the Arab revolt was first planned and that the British

representative in Egypt, Brigadier P. A. Clayton, regularly attends the meetings of the Arab League.

2) The British first suggested the use of "volunteers" in the Arab invasion of Palestine, instead of the official armies of the Arab states, as a direct means of avoiding U. N. action to curb them.

3) British Intelligence is aware of every move of the invading forces in Palestine, but the British representatives have not informed the U. N.

4) The British in Palestine have sent messages to Arab leaders requesting them to ask the invaders to be as "unobtrusive" as possible.

5) In the opinion of British Military Intelligence the Arab invaders have served as a "pacifying and stabilizing" influence.

6) The Arabs have instructions not to attack the British.

7) The British, in allowing 10,000 foreign invaders to enter Palestine, have condoned aggression.

8) Units of the Arab Legion have been deliberately retained in Palestine in order to coerce the Jews.

9) As far back as February 13 the British knew of the plan of King Abdullah of Transjordan to march into Palestine; and that under past and current treaties, Abdullah's Arab Legion, trained, armed, commanded, and financed by the British, could not move without British knowledge and consent.

10) The British have admitted into Palestine Arabs of known Nazi allegiance and training and Nazi prisoners of war in command of attacking units.

British Deliberately Destroy Assets



Further, The Nation Associates' Memorandum reveals that:

1) The Palestine administration of the British government is involved in an organized dissipation of the assets of the country in the determination that there should be a vacuum and chaos at the end of the Mandate.

2) An artificial deficit has been created.

3) The Jews have been landlocked by the turning over of two railroads connecting with the outside world to Egypt and Transjordan.

4) A deliberate breakdown of central authority has been undertaken as part of the British move to create chaos.

British Military Rights in Palestine

Laws have been drafted which would guarantee British rights in perpetuity to military bases and control of land, rail, and sea connections to the Middle East.

Partition is a Fact

Despite British sabotage, the Arab revolt, and Jewish reprisals, parti-

tion is a fact. Dr. Pablo Azcarate, head of the advance party of the U. N. Palestine Commission, on his return from Jerusalem a fortnight ago, reported that partition was in effect and could not be overthrown. The truce commission of the U. N. has reported that the Jewish Agency has taken over suspended governmental activities as the British withdraw and is functioning effectively in spite of constant warfare.

Resisting with remarkable courage the war of nerves being waged against them, and Arab assault, the Haganah has occupied the key points in almost the whole area awarded the Jewish state by the United Nations. Jewish authorities have taken over most of the services. More impressive still, they have set up an agency to safeguard the properties of Arabs fleeing from towns and villages taken over by the Jews. Arab businesses are managed wherever possible, vineyards and farms are being attended and produce used, but the assets are conserved for the legal Arab owners.

Not the United Nations, but the Jews themselves, have implemented the United Nations decision.

A Minimal U.S. Program for Palestine

Is British sabotage, Mr. President, to be permitted to serve as the basis of U.S. policy on Palestine?

The press of the United States and leading American spokesmen for the democratic way of life are unanimous in declaring the present reversal of our policy is without justification, an attack on the prestige of the United States, a threat to the authority of the United Nations, and a peril to peace and security in the Middle East and in the world at large.

You, Mr. President, have continued to endorse partition. The resolution of November 29 still stands. Justice, honor, practically all demand a new directive by you to insure its implementation.



A minimal program should be:

- 1) Recognition of the Jewish state on May 15 at the Mandate's end.
- 2) A loan to that state.
- 3) Trusteeship for the Arab areas of Palestine pending the creation of an Arab government.
- 4) A general embargo on the shipments of arms to the states comprising the Arab League.
- 5) A recommendation to the Security Council to recognize that the aggression of the Arab states is a threat to peace.
- 6) Recognition of Haganah and supplying of arms to it.

The will to carry through partition thus demonstrated by the United States can put an end to Arab gangsterism, British sabotage. It will also safeguard the authority of the United Nations and lay the foundations for a more lasting peace. To do less, to yield to Arab blackmail, is to destroy the moral foundations on which our country is built.

(Signed) Henry A. Atkinson Freda Kirchwey
Bartley C. Crum Philip Murray
Leon Henderson James G. Patton
T. O. Thackrey