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Jewish (Congress)

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Washington Office  
Jewish Agency for Palestine  
2210 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 8, D.C.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT 22nd WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS  
(Basle, Switzerland - December 25, 1946)

POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS

I

The 22nd World Zionist Congress, which assembled under the shadow of the catastrophe which has befallen the Jewish people, draws new hope from the tenacious drive of the survivors in Europe toward a new life in Palestine and from the growing strength and moral authority of Jewish Palestine and the world-wide allegiance of Jews to the Zionist cause.... Events in the past year in Palestine and Europe, and the unprecedented large electorate of the present Congress bears testimony to the resolute will of the Jewish people to mobilize all its energies in order to speed deliverance.

The lesson of the European disaster, the perils facing the Jewish communities in post-war Europe, in the Orient and in other countries, the progress achieved by the Jewish people in Palestine, the independence gained by the Arab countries around Palestine all point with cumulative force to the same conclusion, the imperative solution of the Jewish problem by removal of the scourge of national homelessness and the establishment of the Jewish people as a free, independent nation in their own country.

The 22nd Zionist Congress reaffirms the following political demand repeatedly voiced by the organ of the Zionist Organization: Palestine is to be established as a Jewish Commonwealth integrated in the structure of a democratic world; the gates of Palestine are to be opened to Jewish immigrants; the Jewish Agency is to be vested with control of immigration into Palestine and with the full necessary authority to build up the country.

II

The resolution on immigration submitted by the Political Committee condemned the present immigration policy as a complete reversal of the obligations of the mandatory power to facilitate Jewish immigration, and the grossly inadequate monthly quota of 1,500 permits designed to enforce the White Paper whereby the Jewish population of Palestine may not exceed one third of the total. The Congress pledges the uncompromising forces of the Zionist movement against a policy dooming the Jews of Palestine to the status of a permanent minority.

(Copies of this bulletin have been filed with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., where the registration of the Jewish Agency for Palestine as an agent of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, Jerusalem, is available for public inspection. The fact of registration should not be considered as approval by the United States Government of the contents of this bulletin).

The American Jewish Committee

JAN 15 '47

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The attitude of the Mandatory toward the question of the transfer to Palestine of the homeless Jews in Europe, and its failure to implement the unanimous recommendations of the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee for the speedy admission of 100,000 Jews into Palestine confirm the suspicion that the appointment of that committee at the instance of the British Government was part of the policy of postponing action on the most pressing and urgent problem.

It is a profound disappointment to the Zionist Movement that the British Labor Government has made itself responsible for prolonging the misery of the worst sufferers of the war and intends to delay their hopes of rebuilding their shattered lives in their own homeland. The Congress hails the continued flow to Palestine of Jewish communities who braved every peril to reach the shores of their Homeland, and by their endurance and courage have given proof of the indissoluble bond between the Jewish people and its historic country. The Jews the world over are horrified by the tragic fate of the survivors of Nazi slaughter on the threshold of their National Home. The Congress denounces the inhuman statement of the British Government barring the doors of Palestine, deporting them with the use of brutal force, even at the cost of new exiles. The Congress upholds the inalienable rights of every Jew in need of a home to seek salvation in Palestine, and pledges the sympathy and support of the Zionist Movement to all Jews determined to exercise that right.

### III

The outrageous regime of repression in Palestine is in plain violation of the Mandatory obligation and in complete disregard of the elementary principles of the rule of law. The Jewish population is subjected to severe assault. It is denied the safety of civil liberties. By indiscriminate mass arrests, thousands of peaceful citizens were kept in detention or deported from Palestine without trial. In the wanton attempt to strip Jewish settlers of their means of defense, Jewish farms, dwellings and places of business were invaded and much destruction was wrought. Jewish men and women were shot at and killed. Elected representatives of the Jewish people and Jewish Agency and Vaad Leumi (Jewish National Council) were detained for a period of months and offices of the Jewish Agency were broken into and searched. The Congress denounces the present regime in Palestine as counter to all civilized concepts of law and order and calls upon the Mandatory to restore the fundamental home rights of the Jews in Palestine.

The Congress regards as an equal travesty of British obligations under the Mandate the scheme known as the Grady-Morrison plan, designed to divide Palestine into Arab, Jewish and British provinces all of which would be under fettered control of a British administration. While perpetuating British rule throughout Palestine, the Grady-Morrison scheme would in fact absolve the Mandatory from its obligations for promoting and developing a Jewish National Home.



The scheme completely proscribes Jewish immigration and settlement in much the greater part of Palestine and at the same time denies to Jews the right to determine what immigration is to be permitted even in the Jewish province, continuing in a new form the discriminatory land legislation promulgated by the White Paper. In all important matters, the arbitrary power of the British High Commissioner would deny to the Jews the freedom of independence even in that small area in which they would be entitled to settle. The Congress rejects the Grady-Morrison proposals, declaring them unacceptable even as a basis for discussion.

The Congress is resolved that in the existing circumstances the Zionist Movement cannot participate in the London Conference. If a change should take place in the situation, the General Council of the Zionist Organization shall consider the matter and decide whether or not to participate in the Conference.

The Congress instructs the Executive to persevere in its efforts with a view to exploring the possibility of a Jewish-Arab understanding, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Inner-Zionist Council in 1945, which made it conditional that a Jewish State be based on full equality of rights for all inhabitants without religious, racial, political, civil and national distinctions and without domination by, or subjection of, any group of inhabitants.

#### IV

The Congress protests against the deportation by the Palestine Government of hundreds of Jews from their mother country to prison camps in tropical Africa where they are kept for months, even years, without trial and without specific charges. The Congress denies the legality of the deportation of Jews from Palestine for any reason whatsoever. No authority can deprive the Jew of his right to regain Palestine. The Congress demands that all Jewish deportees be returned to Palestine and be put on trial or set at liberty.

While upholding the rights of the Yishuv's resistance policy to the present oppressive regime in Palestine, the Congress condemns murder and the shedding of innocent blood as a means of political warfare. The terrorist campaign which certain dissident groups in Palestine have resorted to in defiance of Jewish National authority serves to distort the true character of Jewish Palestine in the eyes of the world and defeat, rather than promote its legitimate struggle. The Congress pledges the full support of the Zionist Movement to the Yishuv in its efforts against terrorism.

It is hoped that members of dissident organizations will desist from further bloodshed and submit to national discipline of the organized Yishuv and the Zionist Movement.



V

No new trusteeship should be established for Palestine - superseding the mandate - which would postpone or prevent Jewish statehood.  
(full text unavailable)

VI

The Congress expresses appreciation to the President of the United States for his consistent advocacy of the admission to Palestine of refugees and to the Congress and people of the United States for their support of Zionism, voicing the hope that the President and the Congress will maintain a sympathetic attitude toward Zionist ideals and assist in their realization.

OTHER RESOLUTIONS

WIDE RECRUITMENT OF PIONEERS

A resolution submitted by the Youth Commission and adopted unanimously called upon Jewish youth throughout the world, including the English speaking countries to mobilize for pioneering in Palestine. Recommendations by the Youth Commission that representatives and delegates from Palestine be dispatched for work among youth abroad, to foster Hebrew culture and to train leaders and chalutzim, were included in the resolution. Zionist youth organizations were advised to establish in each country central institutions for joint activities.

DENUNCIATION OF "UNAUTHORIZED BODIES"

"The Congress has been informed that there is activity by new bodies operating under various names (Hebrew Committee for National Liberation, American League for a Free Palestine, Emergency Committee, and others) which are without a vestige of authority and presume to speak for the Jewish people and for the Jews of Palestine and to negotiate in their name with Governmental bodies and agencies. By drawing meaningless and misleading distinction such as between Jews and Hebrew, they confuse and distort the issues of the Jewish national cause and seek to divert to themselves the sympathies and support of Jews and non-Jews in the United States and other countries.

"The Congress repudiates the activity of these disruptive groups and calls upon Zionists to resist their efforts with all appropriate means. The only organization authorized to speak in the name of the Zionist Movement and in the name of the Jewish people in matters relating to Palestine



is the Jewish Agency for Palestine and its constituents. The only body authorized to represent and speak for Jewish Palestine is their democratically elected representative body, the Vaad Leumi. The Congress states categorically that any other organization claiming to speak for the Jews of Palestine, and for the Jewish people with regard to Palestine, is doing so in bad faith and under false pretenses."

#### REVISIONISTS ON THREE MONTH PROBATION

Declaring that all the privileges in the Zionist Organization granted to the Revisionists, including the right to sit in the Actions Committee, are to be withdrawn if the New Zionist Organization is not dissolved within three months.

#### GRATITUDE TO CHRISTIAN GROUPS

The Congress "expresses its sincere gratitude to the World Christian Committee in the United States as well as Christian pro-Palestine Committees in England, Latin America, South Africa, Australia and other countries for their important, devoted and faithful work and their willingness to give expression to the sympathy of the non-Jewish world for the Zionist Movement." This resolution also thanked the Kings of Sweden and Norway for the assistance their people gave refugee Jews.

#### SOLIDARITY WITH CYPRUS DEPORTEES

The Congress "declares the full solidarity of all its delegates with their fellow Jews lawlessly detained in Cyprus and sends them brotherly greetings in their continued ordeal. May their physical and moral endurance not fail them until their deliverance is achieved. Congress calls on the homeless and uprooted Jews in Europe and elsewhere to maintain their courage and be ready for the day when their cherished hope will be fulfilled."

#### RESOLUTION ON EDUCATION

"The Palestine Government contributes only a tiny sum to the Jewish education budget although Jewish Palestine contributes, through taxation the larger part of the country's revenue. The Government education ordinance does not provide Vaad Leumi (Jewish National Council) with legal status with respect to education, thus retarding the progress of education in Jewish Palestine causing numerous complications and difficulties and weakening the authority of Vaad Leumi inside the Jewish community."

The resolution nevertheless expressed satisfaction with the achievements of Hebrew education and culture in Palestine and abroad. It



cited the large network of educational institutions in Palestine embracing nearly 100,000 pupils, with a budget of nearly two million pounds (\$4,000,000) maintained almost entirely by the Jewish community in Palestine.

#### BUDGET RESOLUTION

The budget committee approved a \$62,000,000 budget for the coming year which is more than double the \$24,000,000 of the current year.

#### HEBREW UNIVERSITY APPROPRIATION

An increase in the appropriation for the Hebrew University with the understanding that the Executive of the Jewish Agency will safeguard national control of the institution.

#### SUBSIDIES FOR THE ARTS

A grant to the Habimah and Hapoel theatrical troupes and the Palestine Opera and Palestine Symphony Orchestra.

#### RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL NEEDS

A general grant of \$2,000,000 to meet the religious, cultural, educational and literary requirements of Palestine and the Diaspora.

#### THE NEWLY ELECTED JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE

##### Jerusalem Section

David Ben Gurion - Chairman  
Rabbi J.L. Fishman- Vice-Chairman  
Isaac Gruenbaum " "  
Mrs. Golda Meirson  
Eliezar Kaplan  
Dr. Moshe Sneh  
Eliahu Dobkin  
Moshe Shapiro  
Fritz Bernstein

##### American Section

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman, American Section  
Moshe Shertok, Chief, Political Department, Jewish Agency for  
Palestine  
Rabbi Wolf Gold



Hayim Greenberg  
Mrs. Rose Halprin  
Dr. Emanuel Neumann

London Section

Prof. Selig Brodetsky  
Dr. Nahum Goldman  
Berl Locker  
Mr. S.Z. Shragai