

March 23, 1946

Dear Congressman Celler:

I appreciated very much your letter of March twentieth in regard to the special Committee examining the Palestine situation.

I have heard nothing from them since they left here, officially or unofficially, and I am waiting patiently for the report which they were expected to make after a four month examination of the situation.

Of course, it is premature to make comments on this report until it is in the hands of Prime Minister Attlee and myself. We can then arrive at the conclusion which conditions warrant.

I highly appreciate your interest, of course, but a premature comment on a report that is not made will not help the situation one little bit.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Honorable Emanuel Celler
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

EMANUEL CELLER
15TH DISTRICT NEW YORK

MEMBER OF
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON SECRETARIES:
BESSIE EFFRAT MARGARET BROOKS

NEW YORK OFFICE:
1450 BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY

1524 NEW HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

NEW YORK SECRETARIES:
JACOB GRALLA MARY DOUGHERTY

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THE WHITE HOUSE

March 20, 1946

The Honorable Harry S. Truman
President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

It is clearly evident from the rift that has arisen between the American and British members of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine that the British are determined to control completely this inquiry. Mr. Bartley Crum was justified in demanding that an interim report be published, as had been previously promised, recommending that your request for the immediate entrance of 100,000 Jews into Palestine be complied with. The British have decided there is to be no interim report and the reason is readily discernible. The final report has already been written in Whitehall Street.

Mr. Crum's views are shared by other American members of the Committee, and their threat to resign is proof positive that the Inquiry is being hampered by established British colonial policy and that its much vaunted objectivity is entirely absent from its proceedings.

The apparent concern of the British for the Arabs, it is interesting to note, played no part in their activities in Indonesia, nor were Moslem feelings spared in Mr. Attlee's statement on India's independence. It appears that only in Palestine do the British fear to alienate the affection of the Moslems.

Can we with any honesty praise the Committee's objectivity when we learn that its official record of Tuesday, March 12th, did not contain the statement made by Auni Bey Abdul Hadi, Arab spokesman, to the effect that the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem cooperated with the Nazis because he thought they might win?

I believe it is time to give serious consideration as to whether we shall continue in this inquiry, thereby committing ourselves to a conclusion reached not by study, nor based on moral principles, but to one pre-formed by the foreign policy of Great Britain.

I respectfully submit that unless an interim report is published, recommending that 100,000 Jews be permitted entrance into Palestine immediately and unless the Committee is permitted

to continue its inquiry in an unbiased, objective manner, unhampered by the British Foreign Office, that the American members of this Committee be withdrawn forthwith.

With assurances of highest esteem, I am

Sincerely yours,

Emanuel Celler
EMANUEL CELLER