

Submitted to the Consul General of Israel,

San Francisco, May 17, 1973

On behalf of all signatories

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Statement of Purpose

The enclosed petition urges the Government of Israel to refrain from settling Jewish civilians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This petition has been circulated and signed by hundreds of Zionist Jews in fifteen countries. Signatories include active, and in very many cases leading, members of organizations dedicated to the support of the State of Israel and the defense of her interests in the Diaspora. We feel that it is important for Israel's leadership to realize the concern which members of such groups as the United Jewish Appeal, American Jewish Congress, American Zionist Youth Foundation, Bnai Brith, Hadassah, the Student Zionist Organization, etc. have over the consequences of Jewish civilian settlement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.*

We Jews, young and old, Rabbis and laymen, fund-raisers and teachers, are united in our profound commitment to the strength and permanency of Israel. We are determined to contribute to the future of Israel through financial, political, and moral support as well as aliyah (immigration). To us this support includes the responsibility of articulating our considered opinions on issues of major importance to Israel and the world Jewish community. We are confident that our opinions will be accepted by the Government of Israel in the same spirit of respect with which they are offered.

In the last 6 months the debate in Israel over the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has intensified. We are glad to add our voices to the many, including Cabinet ministers and other high officials, who have expressed the same concern for the future of Israel and the rights of the Palestinian People that is contained in this petition. They argue that populating these areas with civilians is contrary to the best interests of the State of Israel. It creates a situation which could prevent the Government from taking important steps in future which would contribute to the achievement of a secure and just peace. Thus by making de facto annexation more likely, civilian settlement in these areas raises the specter of a Jewish state containing a frustrated and rapidly increasing Arab minority of thirty to forty per cent.

* The names of the organizations are included for the purpose of identification only.

ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH SIGNATORIES ARE AFFILIATED
(does not imply organizational support for the petition)

American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
B'nai Brith (N.Y.)
Rabbinical Assembly of Boston
United Jewish Appeal
United Jewish Welfare Federation
World Jewish Congress

Congregation Degel Israel (Watertown, N.Y.)
Degel Israel Hadassah (Watertown, N.Y.)
Kibbutz Michah
Temple Beth El (Berkeley, Ca.)
Temple Beth El (N.Y.)

American Zionist Youth Federation
Ann Arbor Union of Jewish Students
Canadian Union of Jewish Students
Chevra
Federation of Temple Youth
FGEI - Italian Union of Jewish Students
Hamagshimim
Hashomer Hatzair
Hillel (Berkeley, Brandeis, Brazil, Los Angeles, Phoenix, San
Francisco, Seattle, Stanford)
Ichud Habonim - Labor Zionist Youth
Israeli Student Organization - Berkeley
Jewish Peace Fellowship
Jewish Student Federation
National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY)
Netherland Zionist Student Organization
Northern Ohio Union of Jewish Students
Philadelphia Union of Jewish Students
Radical Jewish Union - Berkeley
Radical Zionist Alliance
School for Jewish Knowledge
South African Jewish Student Organization
State University of New York at Albany Jewish Student Coalition
Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry
Student Zionist Organization - N.Y.
Union Etudiants Juifs - Brussels
Union Etudiants Juifs - Paris
United Synagogue Youth (USY)
World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS)
Young Judea - Hashachar
Youth Mobilization for Israel

ACIID

Genesis II

Hayom

Jewish Radical

Jewish Student Press Service

Network

Response

Strobe

Yugentruf

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SIGNATORIES

Countries

Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Denmark
France
Germany
Great Britain
Iran
Israel
Italy
Netherlands
Rhodesia
Union of South Africa
United States of America (see below)

States within the United States

Arizona
California
District of Columbia
Florida
Illinois
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
New Jersey
New York
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Texas
Utah
Washington

PRESS RELEASE

SUBJECT: Jewish petition protesting the settlement of Israeli civilians
in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; supports idea of Palestinian state
FROM: Organizers of the petition drive (see accompanying statement)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A petition protesting the settlement of Jewish civilians in certain of the territories occupied by Israel in the Six Day War was presented (yesterday) May 17, to the government of Israel at Israeli consulates in San Francisco and Boston. The petition, which bears the names of more than 350 Jews from many leading Zionist organizations in fifteen countries and seventeen states, was presented to the consul generals by organizers of the petition drive. The campaign was begun late last year by a group of Jewish students in Berkeley, California.

The text of the petition reads as follows:

AS JEWS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE WELFARE OF ISRAEL AND THE ADVENT OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WE THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY PROTEST THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF CIVILIAN SETTLEMENT IN THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP. CIVILIAN SETTLEMENT IN THESE AREAS PREJUDICES THE CHANCES FOR PEACE AND IGNORES THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. WE CALL UPON THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE A POLICY WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE THE EMERGENCE OF A NON-BELLIGERENT PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP.

A statement accompanying the petition emphasized that the petition campaign developed out of a "profound commitment" to the strength and permanency of Israel." The student organizers, who have all been active in Zionist organizations, describe the petition as an expression of Jewish concern that settlement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip could lead to de facto annexation of these territories.