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AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

March 4, 1947

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In your report to the 80th Congress on the state of the Union, on January 6, 1947, you reiterated your concern that the United States has not done its part in admitting displaced persons and refugees, and you urged the Congress to enact new legislation so that "the limitation of existing law and established quotas" be revised to permit a fair share of the victims of Nazi aggression to find shelter in our country.

The American Jewish Conference is grateful to you for expressing the humanitarian convictions of the American people and for giving voice to one of the fundamental principles of American democracy. Indeed, your request to the Congress represents no new departure in American policy. On the contrary, to give haven and sanctuary to the homeless and oppressed is in keeping with our most cherished traditions. These traditions are based not only on humane considerations, but on proven experience that immigration has made a vital contribution to the growth and development of our country. Now, more than ever, we must perform our historic life-saving role. Only by our example can we hope to induce other countries to accept their share of the refugees and thereby solve one of the most pressing problems of the post-war world.

Although we feel a special responsibility for the fate of Jewish displaced persons, the American Jewish Conference envisages a liberalization of the present immigration laws which would bring relief to thousands of refugees of all faiths, of whom the Jews are but a minority. It is in this spirit that the American Jewish Conference, the democratically elected spokesman of the overwhelming majority of American Jews, extends to you, Mr. President, the assurance of its fullest support and backing.

Respectfully yours,

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(signed)

HENRY MONSKY, Chairman
Interim Committee