

Tring Park<sup>62</sup> 31

Tring

12 October 1917

To

the Secretary  
of the War Cabinet.

Dear Sir,

In acknowledging your letter 18/OA/5, I wish first to thank the Prime Minister for the great honour he has done me in asking my opinion.

I would welcome a declaration on the lines of the draft you send me for I think it will

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to a great extent meet  
the objections raised by the  
anti-zionists.

Personally I think that the  
proviso is rather a slur  
on Zionism as it presupposes  
the possibility of a danger  
to non-zionists which  
I deny. However I welcome  
this declaration because  
it would show that His  
Majesty's Government is  
benevolently disposed towards  
& would lend its potent  
support to the aspirations  
<sup>62</sup> of the great mass of the  
Jewish people. These

aspirations being to have <sup>83</sup>  
a home where they could  
speak their own language,  
have their own education,  
& have their own civil and  
religious institutions under  
the protection of the Allied  
Governments. I should like  
point out that the opponents  
of Zionism have almost  
entirely framed their  
opposition on the false  
hypothesis, that the possession  
of a national home and  
status by one body of Jews  
would necessarily react  
on those Jews, who preferred  
to remain citizens of the

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countries they now live in.  
In expressing my opinion that  
this belief is wholly unfounded,  
I would like to indicate that  
of the 12<sup>600,000</sup> millions of Jews  
in the world, at least  
10<sup>100,000,000</sup> millions are either active  
Zionists or else pro-Zionist.  
The greater part of these 10  
millions hold that they as  
Jews have a historical &  
inviolable right to a  
national home, & moreover  
a home in Palestine  
the land of their forefathers.  
One of the chief aims  
63 of the Zionist Federation, when

the settlement in Palestine takes place, is to see that while obtaining as large a measure of autonomy as possible, no encroachment on the rights of the other inhabitants of the country should take place.

The relations between the Palestine Jews & their neighbours have hitherto been scanty & spasmodic which is mainly due to mutual ignorance & indifference; but I have no fear that this would continue if a

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settlement under the  
aegis of the Allied Powers  
is carried out.

I feel sure that this  
hour of crisis offers a  
great opportunity for a  
most beneficial development  
of a country rich in  
possibility, and a broad  
basis for permanent & cordial  
relations between Jews,  
Armenians, Arabs & the  
other inhabitants of the  
country. Among the  
450, ~~thousand~~ <sup>000</sup> Jews of

the British Empire  
only some <sup>10,000 or 15,000</sup> 10 or 15 thousand  
are opposed to Zionist<sup>65</sup>  
aspirations.

I would conclude by once  
again welcoming the declaration  
as an expression of the  
benevolence of His  
Majesty's government  
towards the Jewish  
people.

Yours faithfully  
Rothschild

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