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Harry S. Truman Library and
Museum: A Classroom for
Democracy



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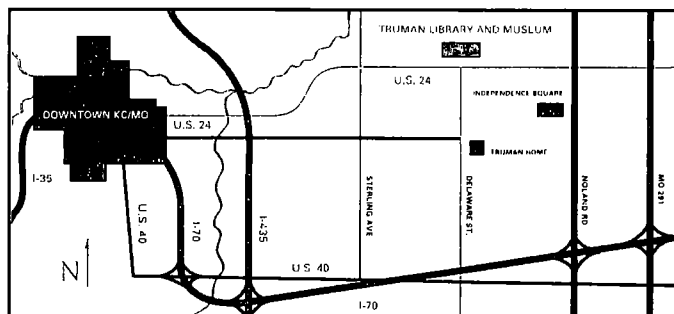
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\$5 adults
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9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Saturday
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REV. 9/96

Independence, Missouri

HARRY S. TRUMAN

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

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FOR DEMOCRACY

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Harry S. Truman Library & Museum



[Visiting the
Museum](#)

[Hours &
Directions](#)

[Programs &
Events](#)

[Educational
Programs](#)

[News &
Features](#)

[Guestbook](#)

[Israel 50th
Anniversary](#)



[Doing
Research](#)

[Truman
Trivia](#)

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50th Anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel, 1948-1998

The Truman Library is proud to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel with the information contained in this web site. If you have questions please send e-mail to the Truman Library at library@truman.nara.gov.

Research

Finding aids, scanned documents, and links to other sites of interest.

Bibliography

Gives a list of books for both adults and younger readers

Project Whistlestop

Student research files from the Truman Library

Programs and calendar of events

An overview of programs and events planned to commemorate the 50th anniversary.

Exhibits

View the exhibits hall for photographs and artifacts from the Library's collection.

Truman Library

Will take you back to the Library's home page

Historical Background and Chronology

Will provide a chronological sequence of events leading to the recognition of Israel.

The Truman Library
US Highway 24 & Delaware
Independence, MO 64050
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Historical Background and Chronology

- Historical background
- Chronology of events, 1939-1949

In 1917 Chaim Weizmann, scientist, statesman, and Zionist, persuaded the British government to issue a statement favoring the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine. The statement which became known as the Balfour Declaration, was, in part, payment to the Jews for their support of the British against the Turks during World War I. After the war, the League of Nations ratified the declaration and in 1922 appointed Britain to rule in Palestine.

This course of events caused Jews to be optimistic about the eventual establishment of a homeland. Their optimism inspired the immigration to Palestine of Jews from many countries, particularly from Germany when Nazi persecution of Jews began. The arrival of many Jewish immigrants in the 1930s awakened Arab fears that Palestine would become a national homeland for Jews. By 1936 guerilla fighting had broken out between the Jews and Arabs. Unable to maintain peace, Britain issued a white paper in 1939 that restricted Jewish immigration into Palestine. The Jews, feeling betrayed, bitterly opposed the policy and looked to the United States for support.

While President Franklin D. Roosevelt appeared to be sympathetic to the Jewish cause, his assurances to the Arabs that the United States would not intervene without consulting both parties caused public uncertainty about his position. When President Harry S. Truman took office, he made clear that his sympathies were with the Jews and accepted the Balfour Declaration, explaining that it was in keeping with former President Woodrow Wilson's principle of "self determination." Truman initiated several studies of the Palestine situation that supported his belief that, as a result of the Holocaust, Jews were oppressed and also in need of a homeland. Throughout the Roosevelt and Truman administrations, the Departments of War and State, recognizing the possibility of a Soviet-Arab connection and the potential Arab restriction on Oil supplies to the United States, advised against U.S. intervention on behalf of the Jews.

Britain and the United States, in a joint effort to examine the dilemma, established the "Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry." In April 1946, the committee submitted recommendations that Palestine not be dominated by either Arabs or Jews. It concluded that attempts to establish nationhood or independence would result in civil strife; that a trusteeship agreement aimed at bringing Jews and Arabs together should be established by the United Nations; that full Jewish immigration be allowed into Palestine; and that two autonomous states be established with a strong central government to control Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and the Negev, the southernmost section of Palestine.

British, Arab, and Jewish reactions to the recommendations were not favorable. Jewish terrorism in Palestine antagonized the British, and by February 1947 Arab-Jewish communications had collapsed. Britain, anxious to rid itself of the problem, set the United Nations in motion, formally requesting on April 2, 1947, that the U.N. General Assembly set up the Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP). This committee recommended that the British mandate over Palestine be ended and that the territory be partitioned into two states. Jewish reaction was mixed -- some wanted control of all of Palestine; others realized that partition spelled hope for their dream of a homeland. The Arabs were not at all agreeable to the UNSCOP plan. In October the Arab League Council directed the governments of its member states to move troops to the Palestine border. Meanwhile, President Truman instructed the State Department to support the U.N. plan, and, reluctantly, it did so. On November 29, 1947, the partition plan was passed in the U.N. General Assembly.

UN Resolution 181, defined the outline of a settlement in Palestine creating both a Jewish and a Palestinian homeland. The 1947 UN Partition divided the area into three entities: a Jewish state, an Arab state, and an international zone around Jerusalem.

At midnight on May 14, 1948, the Provisional Government of Israel proclaimed the new State of Israel. On that same date the United States, in the person of President Truman, recognized the provisional Jewish government as de facto authority of the new Jewish state (de jure recognition was extended on January 31). The U.S. delegates to the U.N. and top ranking State Department officials were angered that Truman released his recognition statement to the press without notifying them first. On May 15, 1948, the Arab states issued their response statement and Arab armies invaded Israel and the first Arab-Israeli war began.

- [Recognition of Israel Press Release](#)
- [Return to Israel page](#)
- [Return to Truman Library](#)

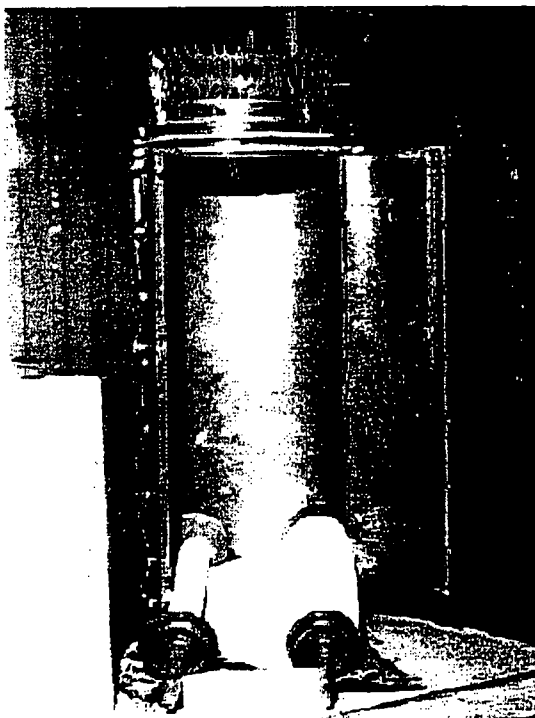


50th Anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel, 1948-1998

Torah Scroll

On May 25, 1948, Israeli President Dr. Chaim Weizmann visited the White House and gave President Truman a Torah Scroll and blue velvet mantle embellished with the Star of David. The gift was a symbol of Israel's gratitude for American recognition of and support for the new nation.

The Torah, or Scroll of the Laws, was prepared by hand by a modern scribe in accordance with Jewish tradition. It was originally prepared in honor of a Jewish Bar Mitzvah in 1940, and it belonged to the Synagogue at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York.



During the Second World War the scroll was loaned to a chaplain of the North American Division of the Air Transport Command, who used it in religious services throughout the North Atlantic from Iceland to Scotland.

After the war the Torah was returned to the Jewish Theological Seminary until it was presented to President Truman.

- [Israel exhibit hall](#): - [Ark](#) - [Menorah](#) - [Torah](#)
- [Israel home page](#)
- [Truman Library home page](#)



The United States and the Recognition of Israel: A Chronology



Compiled by Raymond H. Geselbracht from Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel (Westport, Connecticut, 1997) by Michael T. Benson

[[1939](#) | [1945](#) | [1946](#) | [1947](#) | [1948](#) | [1949](#)]

Updated January 29, 1998.

May 17, 1939: British White Paper on Palestine

May 25, 1939: Senator Harry S. Truman inserts in the Congressional Record strong criticism of the British White Paper on Palestine, saying it is a dishonorable repudiation by Britain of her obligations.

August 24, 1945: Loy Henderson, director of the State Department's Near East Agency, writes to Secretary of State James Byrnes that the United States would lose its moral prestige in the Middle East if it supported Jewish aspirations in Palestine.

August 24, 1945: The report of the Intergovernment Committee on Refugees, called the Harrison Report, is presented to President Truman. The report is very critical of the treatment by Allied forces of refugees, particularly Jewish refugees, in Germany.

August 31, 1945: President Truman writes British Prime Minister Clement Attlee, citing the Harrison Report and urging Attlee to allow a reasonable number of Europe's Jews to emigrate to Palestine.

October 22, 1945: Senators Robert Wagner of New York and Robert Taft of Ohio introduce a resolution expressing support for a Jewish state in Palestine.

November 13, 1945: The British government announces the formation of an Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry to investigate Britain's handling of the Palestine situation. The committee begins work on January 4, 1946.

November 29, 1945: At a press conference, President Truman expresses opposition to the Taft-Wagner resolution. He says he wants to await and consider the report of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry.

April 20, 1946: The Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry submits its report, which recommends that Britain immediately authorize the admission of 100,000 Jews into Palestine.

May 8, 1946: President Truman writes to Prime Minister Attlee, citing the report of the

Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, and expressing the hope that Britain would begin lifting the barriers to Jewish immigration to Palestine.

June 21, 1946: A Joint Chiefs of Staff memorandum to the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee warns that if the United States uses armed force to support the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, the Soviet Union might be able to increase its power and influence in the Middle East, and United States access to Middle East oil could be jeopardized.

September 24, 1946: Counsel to the President Clark Clifford writes to the President to warn that the Soviet Union wishes to achieve complete economic, military and political domination in the Middle East. Toward this end, Clifford argues, they will encourage the emigration of Jews from Europe into Palestine and at the same time denounce British and American policies toward Palestine and inflame the Arabs against these policies.

October 4, 1946: On the eve of Yom Kippur, President Truman issues a statement indicating United States support for the creation of a "viable Jewish state."

October 23, 1946: Loy Henderson, director of the State Department's Near East Agency, warns that the immigration of Jewish Communists into Palestine will increase Soviet influence there.

October 28, 1946: President Truman writes to King Saud of Saudi Arabia, informing the king that he believes "that a national home for the Jewish people should be established in Palestine."

1947-48: The White House receives 48,600 telegrams, 790,575 cards, and 81,200 other pieces of mail on the subject of Palestine.

February 14, 1947: The British government announces that it is referring the problem of the future of Palestine to the United Nations.

February [], 1947: The British government announces that it will terminate its mandate for Palestine on [].

April 2, 1947: The British Government submits to the General Assembly of the United Nations an account of its administration of Palestine under the League of Nations mandate, and asks the General Assembly to make recommendations regarding the future government of Palestine.

May 13, 1947: The United Nations General Assembly appoints an eleven nation Special Committee on Palestine to study the Palestine problem and report by September 1947.

August 31, 1947: The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine issues its report, which recommends unanimously (all 11 member states voting in favor) that Great Britain terminate their mandate for Palestine and grant it independence at the earliest possible date; and which also recommends by majority vote (7 of the member nations voting in favor) that Palestine be partitioned into Jewish and Arab states.

September 17, 1947: Secretary of State George Marshall, in an address to the United Nations, indicates that the United States is reluctant to endorse the partition of Palestine.

September 22, 1947: Loy Henderson, director the State Department's Near East Agency, addresses a memorandum to Secretary of State George Marshall in which he argues against United States' advocacy of the United Nations proposal to partition Palestine.

October 10, 1947: The Joint Chiefs of Staff argue in a memorandum entitled "The Problem of Palestine" that the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states would enable the Soviet Union to replace the United States and Great Britain in the region and would endanger United States access to Middle East oil.

October 11, 1947: Herschel Johnson, United States deputy representative on the United Nations Security Council, announces United States support for the partition plan of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine.

October 17, 1947: President Truman writes to Senator Claude Pepper: "I received about 35,000 pieces of mail and propaganda from the Jews in this country while this matter [the issue of the partition of Palestine, which was being considered by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine from May 13, 1947 to August 31, 1947] was pending. I put it all in a pile and struck a match to it -- I never looked at a single one of the letters because I felt the United Nations Committee [United Nations Special Committee on Palestine] was acting in a judicial capacity and should not be interfered with."

Ca. November 1947: A subcommittee of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine establishes a timetable for British withdrawal from Palestine.

November 19, 1947: Chaim Weizmann meets with President Truman and argues that the Negev region has great importance to the future Jewish state.

November 24, 1947: Secretary of State George Marshall writes to Under Secretary of State Robert Lovett to inform him that British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin had told him that British intelligence indicated that Jewish groups moving illegally from the Balkan states to Palestine included many Communists.

November 29, 1947: The United Nations General Assembly approves the partition plan for Palestine put forward by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. The 1947 UN

Partition divided the area into three entities: a Jewish state, an Arab state, and an international zone around Jerusalem.

December 2, 1947: President Truman writes to former Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., encouraging him to tell his Jewish friends that it is time for restraint and caution. "The vote in the U.N.," Truman wrote, "is only the beginning and the Jews must now display tolerance and consideration for the other people in Palestine with whom they will necessarily have to be neighbors."

December 5, 1947: Secretary of State George Marshall announces that the State Department is imposing an embargo on all shipments of arms to the Middle East.

December 12, 1947: President Truman writes to Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Zionist Organization, that it is essential that restraint and tolerance be exercised by all parties if a peaceful settlement is to be reached in the Middle East.

February 4, 1948: Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Zionist Organization, arrives in New York.

February 12, 1948: Secretary of Defense James Forrestal says at a meeting of the National Security Council that any serious attempt to implement partition in Palestine would set in motion events that would result in at least a partial mobilization of United States armed forces.

February 19, 1948: Secretary of State George Marshall says at a press conference, when asked if the United States would continue to support partition, that the "whole Palestine thing," was under "constant consideration."

February 21, 1948: Eddie Jacobson, a longtime and close personal friend of President Truman, sends a telegram to Truman, asking him to meet with Chaim Weizmann, the president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Zionist Organization.

February 22, 1948: President Truman instructs Secretary of State George Marshall that while he approves in principle a draft prepared by the State Department of a position paper which mentions as a possible contingency a United Nations trusteeship for Palestine, he does not want anything presented to the United Nations Security Council that could be interpreted as a change from the position in favor of partition that the United States announced in the General Assembly on November 29, 1947. He further instructs Marshall to send him for review the final draft of the remarks that Warren Austin, the United States representative to the United Nations, is to give before the Security Council on March 19, 1948.

February 27, 1948: President Truman writes to his friend Eddie Jacobson, refusing to meet with Chaim Weizmann, the president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Zionist Organization.

March 8, 1948: Counsel to the President Clark Clifford writes to President Truman, in a memorandum entitled "United States Policy with Regard to Palestine," that Truman's actions in support of partition are "in complete conformity with the settled policy of the United States."

March 9, 1948: Secretary of State George Marshall instructs Warren Austin, United States representative to the United Nations, that if a United Nations special assembly on Palestine were convened, the United States would support a United Nations trusteeship for Palestine.

March 12, 1948: The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine reports that "present indications point to the inescapable conclusion that when the [British] mandate is terminated, Palestine is likely to suffer severely from administrative chaos and widespread strife and bloodshed."

March 13, 1948: President Truman's friend Eddie Jacobson walks into the White House without an appointment and pleads with Truman to meet with Chaim Weizmann, the president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Zionist Organization. Truman responds: "You win, you baldheaded son-of-a-bitch. I will see him."

March 18, 1948: President Truman meets with Chaim Weizmann, the president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Zionist Organization. Truman says he wishes to see justice done in Palestine without bloodshed, and that if the Jewish state were declared and the United Nations remained stalled in its attempt to establish a temporary trusteeship over Palestine, the United States would recognize the new state immediately.

March 18, 1948: The United Nations Special Commission on Palestine reports to the United Nations Security Council that it has failed to arrange any compromise between Jews and Arabs, and it recommends that the United Nations undertake a temporary trusteeship for Palestine in order to restore peace.

March 19, 1948: United States representative to the United Nations Warren Austin announces to the United Nations Security Council that the United States position is that the partition of Palestine is no longer a viable option.

March 20, 1948: Secretary of State George Marshall announces that the United States will seek to work within the United Nations to bring a peaceful settlement to Palestine, and that the proposal for a temporary United Nations trusteeship for Palestine is the only idea presently being considered that will allow the United Nations to address the difficult situation in Palestine.

March 21, 1948: President Truman writes in his diary regarding the confusion caused by the State Department's handling of the trusteeship issue: "I spend the day trying to right what has happened. No luck. Marshall makes a statement. Doesn't help a bit."

March 21, 1948: President Truman writes to his sister Mary Jane Truman that the "striped pants conspirators" in the State Department had "completely balled up the Palestine situation." But, he writes, "it may work out anyway in spite of them."

March 22, 1948: President Truman writes to his brother Vivian Truman regarding Palestine: "I think the proper thing to do, and the thing I have been doing, is to do what I think is right and let them all go to hell."

March 25, 1948: President Truman says at a press conference that a United Nations trusteeship for Palestine would be only a temporary measure, intended to establish the peaceful conditions that would be the essential foundation for a final political settlement. He says that trusteeship is not a substitute for partition.

April 11, 1948: President Truman's friend Eddie Jacobson enters the White House unnoticed by the East Gate and meets with Truman. Jacobson recorded of this meeting: "He reaffirmed, very strongly, the promises he had made to Dr. Weizmann and to me; and he gave me permission to tell Dr. Weizmann so, which I did. It was at this meeting that I also discussed with the President the vital matter of recognizing the new state, *and to this he agreed with a whole heart.*"

May 12, 1948: President Truman meets in the Oval Office with Secretary of State George Marshall, Under Secretary of State Robert Lovett, Counsel to the President Clark Clifford and several others to discuss the Palestine situation. Clifford argues in favor of recognizing the new Jewish state in accordance with the United Nations resolution of November 29, 1947. Marshall opposes Clifford's arguments, and contends they are based on domestic political considerations. He says that if Truman follows Clifford's advice and recognizes the Jewish state, then he (Marshall) would vote against Truman in the election. Truman does not clearly state his views in the meeting.

May 12, 13, and 14, 1948: Counsel to the President Clark Clifford and Under Secretary of State Robert Lovett discuss the different views held in the White House and the State Department regarding whether the United States should recognize the Jewish state. Lovett reports to Clifford on May 14 that Marshall will neither support nor oppose Truman's plan to recognize the Jewish state, that he will stay out of the entire matter.

May 13, 1948: Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Zionist Organization, writes to President Truman: "I deeply hope that the United States, which under your leadership has done so much to find a just solution [to the

Palestine situation], will promptly recognize the Provisional Government of the new Jewish state. The world, I think, would regard it as especially appropriate that the greatest living democracy should be the first to welcome the newest into the family of nations."

May 14, 1948, late morning eastern standard time (late afternoon in Palestine): David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, reads a "Declaration of Independence," which proclaims the existence of a Jewish state called Israel beginning on May 15, 1948, at 12:00 midnight Palestine time (6:00 p.m., May 14, 1948, eastern standard time).

May 14, 1948, 6 p.m. eastern standard time (12:00 midnight in Palestine): The British mandate for Palestine expires, and the state of Israel comes into being.

May 14, 1948, 6:11 p.m. eastern standard time: The United States recognizes Israel on a de facto basis. The White House issues the following statement: "This Government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the provisional government thereof. The United States recognizes the provisional government as the de facto authority of the State of Israel." To see a color copy of this document click here.

May 14, 1948, shortly after 6:11 p.m. eastern standard time: United States representative to the United Nations Warren Austin leaves his office at the United Nations and goes home. Secretary of State Marshall sends a State Department official to the United Nations to prevent the entire United States delegation from resigning.

May 15, 1948: On May 15, 1948, the Arab states issued their response statement and Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq attack Israel.

January 25, 1949: A permanent government takes office in Israel following popular elections.

January 31, 1949: The United States recognizes Israel on a de jure basis.

February 24 to July 20, 1949: Israel signs armistice agreements with Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

Compiled by Raymond H. Geselbracht from Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel (Westport, Connecticut, 1997) by Michael T. Benson

- Return to Israel page
- Return to historical background
- Return to Truman Library Home Page

Media

Israel at 50

Truman library Web site details
1948 birth of Jewish stateBy Michael A. Levine
Staff Writer

On May 14, 1948, President Harry S. Truman was the first world leader to officially recognize the state of Israel. His recognition lent great credibility to the newly created state amidst international controversy over its founding. To celebrate Israel's 50th anniversary, the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Mo., created a special commemorative Web site,

<http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman/Israel/index.htm>, where people can learn about the important role the United States played in the world recognition of Israel as an independent nation. The site offers a wealth of information on the creation of Israel, including "Project Whistlestop," which contains a collection of Truman's archival papers from his service as a U.S. senator, vice president and president. The page also contains official White House memos and letters regarding the creation of a Jewish state from Truman while in office and after his term as president. In addition, the "Project Whistlestop" site displays maps and documents from Secretary of State Dean Acheson, Special Counsel (and former Missourian) Clark Clifford, Truman's close friend, KC's own Eddie Jacobson (see "Truman and Jacobson" in this week's special souvenir edition), the president's personal secretary and other high-ranking U.S. officials.

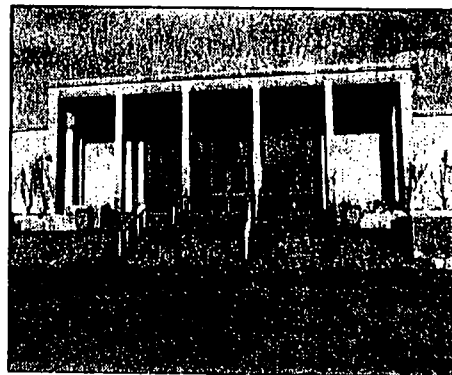
An additional page of special note is the collection of artifacts relating to Israel and Truman. The artifacts are currently on display at the Skirball Museum in Los Angeles, but they will return to the Truman Museum in April for the Israel anniversary exhibit "1948: A Year of Turmoil and Trouble."

Two other significant pages I found include an Israel events historical time line from 1939-1949 and a bibliography of relevant books. Great stuff!

The Truman site has an abundance of information on both Truman and Israel and offers the viewer a surplus of reference materials to choose from ... all this, and it's very easy to navigate. Not too many bells and whistles, just the important information you want in a clear, concise manner.

For more information on the HST Library Web site call Mark Adams, HST Library education programs coordinator, at 833-1400.

COME TOGETHER - Finally, after many centuries, hundreds of thousand of Jews around the world are reunited for a common cause: Jewish Web/Net Week featured at <http://www.jww.org>. The event official-



The Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Mo., shown here, has established a Web site contains hundreds of documents pertaining to the creation of Israel.

ly powered up on Sunday, Feb. 22, with programming supported on eight main sites: the Jewish Community on America Online (Keyword: JEWISH), the Jewish Education Service of North America - JESNA at www.jesna.org, the Jewish Communication Network - JCN at www.jcn18.com, Virtual Jerusalem - VJ at www.virtual.co.il, Shamash at www.shamash.org, JewishNet at www.jewishnet.org, Jewish Family and Life at www.jewishfamily.com and of course on the Jewish Web/Net Week home page. As of *Chronicle* press time, the JW/NW site listed seven different live programming channels to choose from including

Radio JW/NW, which hosts six more channels of streamline audio to use as background music as you surf through the site!

A great collection of activities for young and old. Congratulations to the entire JW/NW crew for pulling off a monumental on-line

convention about Judaism!

MORE FREE STUFF - The Jewish Communication Network at <http://www.jcn18.com> has just announced the addition of Jewishmail.com, free Internet-based e-mail (I assume you can still use it, even if you're not Jewish). Just go to JCN's home page or directly to <http://www.jewishmail.com> for your own free, personalized e-mail account.

NEXT TIME in JUDAISM.com - The many educational and exciting facets of Jewishfamily.com and all of their "family" of sites.

Let us know what you think. Have you seen an interesting Judaic web site or software package? E-mail us at KCJCHRON@aol.com, subject: JUDAISM.com. We may include your comments or suggestions in a future column!



THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

METRO

KANSAS CITY AND THE REGION

Monday,
April 20,
1998

★

Diplomat honors decree of Truman

**Recognition of Israel
a bold decision, says
former U.N. official.**

By RUSS PULLEY

Staff Writer

When Harry S. Truman decided to recognize Israel against the advice of his closest advisers, he made a decision that 50 years later would result in a secure and successful nation, said Abba Eban, a former U.N. ambassador who spoke Sunday in Independence.

Israel is now home to more than 5 million Jews, with an economy equal to France's or Germany's or Italy's. And it is thoroughly integrated into the international community, he said.



Eban

Eban, 83, is considered a legendary figure in the birth of modern Israel. He was its first ambassador to the United Nations and its second ambassador to the United States.

Eban was invited to speak by the Harry S. Truman Library Institute and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City to mark today's opening of a new exhibit, "1948: Year of Turmoil and Triumph," at the Harry S. Truman Library.

He spoke about Truman's legacy at the RLDS Temple. The temple, which seats about 1,600, was nearly full.

Truman's directive that the United States would recognize the creation of Israel came 11 minutes after the U.N. General Assembly vote for partition, Eban said.

"It gave Israel a sense of accompaniment in its struggle," Eban said. Soon after, he added, an "epidemic" of recognition followed.

Truman's decision, Eban said, illustrated the president's oft-quoted maxim, "The buck stops here."

"That was Truman at his best," Eban said. "It was a wonderfully lonely decision."

Eban also honored Truman's leadership in the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which proved to be one of the most significant of the president's difficult decisions.

"This has proved through the years to have held the world together," Eban said.

Diplomat sees new hope for Mideast

Former ambassador to speak on Truman's support for Israel.

By MARTIN ROSENBERG
Staff Writer

Israelis and Palestinians in just a few years will agree on peace, and the Mideast will flower once they do.

That is the upbeat view of veteran Israeli diplomat Abba Eban, who looks past the many obstacles and hostility separating Arabs and Israelis.

"Arab states have no alternative, just as the Irish people have no alternative," Eban said in a telephone interview.

When peace arrives, the Mideast will have a "period of dynamic expansion," Eban said.

Eban will speak Sunday in the Kansas City area as part of a communitywide celebration this spring of the 50th anniversary of the birth of Israel. At a previous appearance in 1956, Eban was introduced by former President Harry S. Truman.

Eban will deliver a 7 p.m. address at the RLDS Temple in Independence, focusing on the role that Truman played in supporting creation of the Jewish state. All 1,500 free tickets have been taken for the event, sponsored by the Harry S. Truman Library Institute and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City.

Eban, 83, has served at Israel's ambassador to the United Nations and to the United States, and as Israel's foreign minister.

In some of the military crises that rocked the Mideast during Eban's diplomatic watch, he frequently was on U.S. television to explain Israel's position in a manner that was widely regarded as articulate and compelling.

Eban, who has known every president since Truman, thinks Truman was the most steadfast in supporting Israel. Truman had great compassion for the Jews after the Holocaust, Eban said.

Resisting the advice of key foreign policy advisers, Truman was firm in supporting the United Nations' creation of Israel in May 1948. Truman also led the United States to officially recognize Israel within minutes of its creation.

"I don't know of any president who would have taken as courageous a stand," Eban said. "He was a man accustomed to very prompt and decisive action. He had a feeling of great compassion toward the Jews based upon the deep impression made on him of the Holocaust."

Although Truman did not visit the concentration camps, he sent aides to do so and report back to him, Eban said.

At Israel's creation, Eban never imagined the nation would grow as



The Associated Press

Abba Eban (center), Israel's ambassador to the United Nations and the United States, met in 1951 with President Truman and Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion.

strong as quickly as it did, reaching a population of more than 5.7 million.

Israel's success, he said, was a direct result of Israelis' sacrifice and hard work, and the support received from Jewish communities around the world. Jews immigrated to Israel from around the world, and others supported the country with donations.

Now, Eban places Israel with Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan as examples of small countries that evolved into economic powerhouses through hard work and commitment to education.

"The message to the rest of the world is: Small countries sometimes matter," Eban said.

Small countries also can face serious enemies.

"The most serious threat facing Israel arises from nuclear armaments in Iran and Iraq," Eban said. He supports U.S. efforts to curb nuclear proliferation, particularly in the Mideast.

"Nobody except the United States can exercise influence to keep Iraq and Iran from developing and utilizing atomic weapons," Eban said.

As for internal threats in Israel, Eban said recent divisions between ultra-orthodox and secular Israelis over issues such as Sabbath observance are "very deplorable." Also, the divisions between some orthodox Jews and Jewish communities outside Israel over issues such as standards for conversion are regrettable, he said.

"I deplore that very much," Eban said. "Jews all over the world should respect each other's spiritual beliefs."

Turning to Israeli politics, Eban faulted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for not being responsive to recent American proposals that Israel further withdraw from

"I am not an admirer of him," Eban said of Netanyahu, a member of the Likud party. Eban is a longtime member of the rival Labor party.

If Israel would embrace the American proposals, it would gain greater flexibility, he said.

"If accepted, Israel would liberate its energies for more constructive action," Eban said.

Meanwhile, any final peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians will leave Jerusalem undivided under Israeli sovereignty, Eban predicted. The world never objected when Jerusalem was under the Ottomans or the British, Eban said, implying there are no grounds to now object to Israeli control.

Also, Berlin and Belfast, Northern Ireland, have demonstrated that divided cities do not work well.

"Divided cities are a problem," he said. "United cities are not a problem. Let us not Belfastize Jerusalem."

Eban's view of Yasser Arafat?

"He's a difficult partner, but he is the only viable partner Israel has," Eban said.

<http://examiner.net>

*Eastern Jackson
County's Daily
Newspaper*

BLUE SPRINGS, Vol. 24, No. 281
INDEPENDENCE, Vol. 93, No. 196

April 18-19, 1998

Top Israeli remembers Truman's act of courage

By Frank McCleary
The Examiner

With the stroke of a pen nearly 50 years ago, President Harry S. Truman ignored nearly all of his advisers, and the United States recognized the newly formed state of Israel.



Eban

At 6:11 p.m., May 14, in Washington, D.C., (12:11 a.m., May 15, in Israel) the White House released the brief statement that read: "This Government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the provisional government thereof.

"The United States recognizes the provisional government as the de facto authority of the new state of Israel."

The recognition came only hours after David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, read a "Declaration of Independence" declaring Israel's existence beginning on May 15.

But it was Truman's actions that stunned his own advisers, and shocked and pleased Jews around the world.

"This had the most dramatic re-

percussion imaginable," said Abba Eban, Israel's first ambassador to the United Nations. "The effect was electrical. It was also unexpected."

Eban will speak at 7 p.m. Sunday, at the RLDS Auditorium, 1001 W. Walnut St. in Independence. The event is co-sponsored by the Harry S. Truman Library Institute and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City. It is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. For free tickets, call 833-1400, ext. 254.

The event is also being held in connection with the Truman Library's latest exhibit, "1948: Year of Turmoil and Triumph," which opens Monday.

Truman had expressed his support for a Jewish homeland, even as a U.S. senator. As David McCullough writes in his biography of Truman, "Like the great majority of Americans, he wanted to do what was right for the hundreds of thousands of European Jews, survivors of the Holocaust, who had suffered such unimaginable horrors. His sympathy for them was heartfelt and deep-seated."

In 1947, Truman told State Department officials to support a U.N. plan to create Jewish and Palestinian homelands in Palestine. On Nov. 29, the United Nations approved the plan, which created a Jewish state, an Arab state, and an international zone around Jerusalem.

'It was received with the utmost enthusiasm. It became impossible to question that Israel was legitimately a state.'

ABBA EBAN

Israel's first ambassador to the United Nations of Truman's decision to immediately recognize Israel once it declared its independence

Still, said Eban, who in 1949 became permanent representative to the United Nations and was Israel's ambassador to the United States from 1950 to 1959, few of Truman's advisers supported recognizing the Jewish state.

Clark Clifford, counsel to the president, was one of the few who did. But Secretary of State George Marshall did not. In fact, he told Truman at a meeting only two days before Truman recognized the new Israeli state that he would vote against Truman for president in the 1948 election.

"Nevertheless, (Truman) went ahead," Eban said. "What Truman had done with one stroke of the

Please see **EBAN**, Page 7A



Photo courtesy Harry S. Truman Library & Museum

President Truman meets with Israel's prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, right, and Abba Eban, standing, in this 1951 photo. Ben-Gurion and Eban presented

Truman with a Menorah as a token of esteem for Truman's recognition of the state of Israel in May 1948.

Eban: To speak in Independence

From Page 1A

pen was counter to what the Department of State was pursuing."

Eban said many U.S. officials believed that the new state would be overrun by neighboring Arab nations, which had already expressed strong opposition to the establishment of the Jewish state, and the United States would be drawn into protecting Israel.

At that time, Israel did not have the weaponry, or even the population, compared with neighboring Arab states, to defend itself, Eban

said. Israel's population was about 650,000; Arab nations had nearly 1.5 million residents, he said.

Fears of an Arab attack were proved correct, when later on May 15 Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq attacked Israel.

The impact of Truman's action was tremendous, Eban said.

"It was received with the utmost enthusiasm," he said. "It became impossible to question that Israel was legitimately a state."

"It was about the most influen-

tial action any president has taken on the Middle East."

The action was also surprising, he said, because only a few weeks earlier the United States had been trying to avoid recognizing Israel.

The effects linger today, 50 years later, Eban said.

"No one questions that Israel is a state," he said. "People do question that the Palestinians are a state."

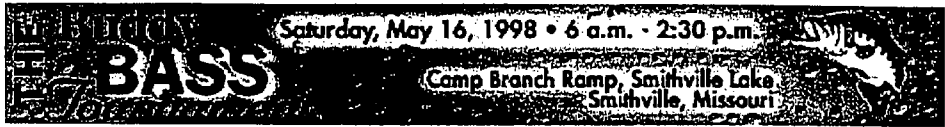
Israel, Eban points out, has grown to become the leading regional power in the Middle East. It

has a population of about 5.5 million Jews and a military far larger than surrounding nations.

"The investment that President Truman made in Israel has been a successful one," he said.

Truman's action, said Eban, showed he was willing to do what he felt was right, and not necessarily what was popular among his staff.

"It was an act of courage and an act of defiance," he said. "He showed, not for the first time, his determination to swim against the tide."



News

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Web posted Monday, April 20, 1998

A 20th century success

Rebirth of Israel owed much to Truman

By Frank McCleary
The Examiner

Fifty years after its establishment as a state, Israel is "a success story," said Abba Eban, former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations.

Eban honored Harry Truman's role in recognizing the newly established state in 1948 at a speech to about 1,300 people Sunday night at the RLDS Sanctuary. The speech was sponsored by the Harry S. Truman Library Institute and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City.

Israel was established as a state at midnight, May 15, 1948. At 6:11 p.m., May 14 (12:11 a.m., May 15, in Israel) the White House released a statement, signed by Truman, recognizing the newly established state. The United States was the first country to do so.



Former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations Abba Eban listens to taped remarks about him by Harry S. Truman during Eban's presentation in Independence Sunday night.

Examiner Photo

"It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of that action," Eban said.

Truman understood and appreciated the pilgrimage of the Jews to Israel, he said. Truman had a passion invested in Israel.

"It explains why it is a success today," he said.

That decision inspired Jews around the world, he said. It allowed the newly formed country to become a part of international associations.

Though Israel is a regional power today, that was not the case in 1948, he said.

"What Israel was concerned with at the beginning... was survival," he said.
"Nothing but survival."

Truman made the decision despite the fact almost none of his advisers agreed with recognizing Israel, Eban said, including Secretary of State George Marshall.

Eban said the decision was symbolic of one of Truman's favorite sayings, "The buck stops here."

"(He) understood there has to be one man who makes the decision, and that is the President of the United States."

U.S. recognition of Israel also created "a contagion, an epidemic of new recognitions," he said.

Not long after the U.S. action was announced on the floor of the United Nations, other countries recognized Israel.

At the conclusion of his speech, Eban took questions from the audience. When asked what he would tell Truman today about Israel, Eban said. "I would tell him only one thing: 'Israel is a success story.'"

Eban, 83, noted that Israel's population is now more than 5million, it has a powerful military, and its economy is on the same level as those of several European nations.

Eban also spoke briefly about current events in Israel. He said he would like to see a more active peace process in Israel. He said he spoke in favor of a plan presented by U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright, but the Israeli government did not give it much consideration.

Israel should establish "firm" relations with neighboring countries, he said. It had good relations with countries in North Africa and some in the Persian Gulf, but those have deteriorated.

"Since the last Israel election not enough has been done to maintain those relations," he said.

He also expressed concern over divisions in the Israeli government.

"You cannot have a divided (government) and a united Israel," he said.

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Local News

Founding father

Abba Eban to speak here about Truman's impact

By Rick Hellman
Managing Editor

Abba Eban stands alone. He's virtually the last of the generation of top Zionist leaders who were present at the birth of the Jewish state in 1948.

And he's coming to the Kansas City area next weekend to give a speech reflecting on the impact of a decision by Missouri's favorite son, President Harry S. Truman, to recognize the fledgling state of Israel. (See box at right for details.)

"It had the most momentous effect that anybody can conceive," Eban said this week in tones that can only be described as mellifluous, even via telephone from New York City.

"It projected Israel into the forefront of legitimacy. It gave Israel legitimacy from the first 15 minutes of its establishment," he continued. "It thereby refuted the Arab argument that Israel had no right to exist. And, all in all, it was one of the most momentous events that took place in that momentous year. It's very hard to exaggerate the importance of it."

In the weeks leading up to Israel's declaration of independence on May 15, 1948, Eban said, "The pre-state leadership was in very great confusion because, apart from the former leader, Chaim Weizmann, nobody knew that the negotiations (with Truman) were being held at all. They were secret negotiations in every sense of the word.

"But there had been established between President Truman and Dr. Chaim Weizmann - who was, strangely enough, the former leader of the Zionist movement, not even the active leader at the time - there had developed a trust that transcended all other obligations."

Eban said that, apart from Clark Clifford at the



In this 1951 photo, Israel's Ambassador to the United States Abba Eban (center) looks on while Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion (right) presents a menorah to President Harry S. Truman. Ben-Gurion was visiting the United States at the time.

State Department, no other high-ranking official supported Truman's instinctive decision to recognize infant Israel. In fact, Eban recalled, Secretary of State George C. Marshall "showed the most virulent opposition conceivable."

"It was extraordinary because all the other members of the State Department were hostile to Truman's action," Eban said, "George Kennan was against it. ... Nevertheless, Truman activated a presidential veto and simply said 'That's the way it's going to be.' It was a dramatic assertion of presidential authority."

Get your tickets

Abba Eban will speak at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 19, at the RLDS Auditorium in Independence, Mo., 1011 W. Walnut St. His topic will be "Reflections on Truman and the Creation of Israel." The event is being sponsored by the Harry S. Truman Library Institute and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City.

The presentation is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. For free tickets, call the library at 833-1400, ext. 254.

Eban has served as Israel's Ambassador to the United States and to the United Nations. He served for many years as a Labor Party member of the Knesset and, for a time, as deputy prime minister. He is the author of more than a dozen books, including "Heritage, Civilization and the Jews" and his newest work, "Diplomacy for the Next Century."

For directions to the RLDS Auditorium, call church headquarters at 833-1000; then press the numeral 5 twice when prompted.



ABBA EBAN

Palestine in '99?

Eban said that much of the world will react with similar swiftness if and when Yasser Arafat declares an independent state of Palestine in 1999, as he has sworn he will do.

"I think what Israel ought to do is simply accept that that's the way it's going to be," Eban said. "The original (United Nations) General Assembly resolution of the 29th of November, 1947, made a provision for two states. And President Truman himself never envisaged that there would simply be a Jewish state without an Arab state. That never entered his head for a single moment. The partition resolution spoke of two states, side by side.

ABBA EBAN/Founding father

From Page 3

"What's happened is the Palestine state has virtually come into existence. Because it has its leadership, it has its armed forces, it has its slogans, it has its anthem. There is nothing missing amongst the attributes of statehood. And that was exactly the condition in which Israel proclaimed its independence. When Israel felt it had all the conditions and attributes of statehood it then launched into the successful attempt to secure its national future.

"Now whether that is what Prime Minister Netanyahu will do is doubtful, because he does not usually do those things that I personally think are sensible and rational. Therefore, he may make some kind of fuss, but it will be in vain. Because there is a very broad opinion in the United States in favor of Palestinian statehood.

"For example, Henry Kissinger has come out for that. All kinds of people have come out for that. The Palestinians themselves are absolutely rooted in that conviction. And I believe most of the people in the upper reaches of the State Department believe that a Palestinian state is inevitable. I believe it is inevitable. Nothing can be done to prevent it. Because all that Arafat has to do is proclaim it. And I believe that would be rather a successful matter."

And what if Arafat declares that the capital of Palestine is Jerusalem?

"Well, he can't do that," Eban said. "Because he doesn't have any real position in Jerusalem. If he says that the capital is Jerusalem, it would be a

ridiculous statement because the idea that there could be two capitals living side by side within 500 yards of each other is so absurd that it has no real chance of being settled.

"Anyway, Israel is simply in charge of Jerusalem. Israel possesses Jerusalem. Israel commands Jerusalem. Israel is Jerusalem. And, therefore, if somebody else is saying that (it's his capital), it would simply be a ridiculous little chirp. And it won't have any effect whatever. It would be a silly thing to do, but that doesn't mean it won't be done."

The year 1999 has significance because that is when the final-status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, envisaged as part of the so-called Oslo Accords, were to have been completed.

Not surprisingly, Eban places the blame for the dismal state of the peace process squarely in the lap of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The fact is that Oslo was born against the will of the present Israeli government, and the present Israeli government was hostile to every part of it, every idea, every conception of it, and never considered itself bound by any of its terms," Eban said. "Therefore, it isn't surprising to find that the government ... has never carried out any of its proposals; not willingly.

"Nobody would ever say that the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority have been equal in their devotion to the peace process. That's not true at all."

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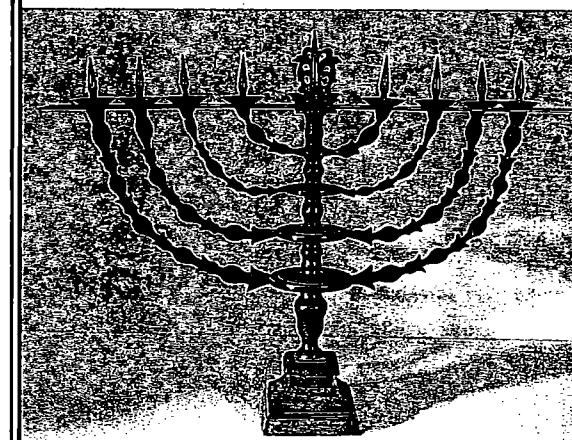
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Photo captions:

Cover: 1767 bronze menorah from the Synagogue of Buergel, Germany which was presented to President Truman by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion and Ambassador Abba Eban on May 8, 1951.

Inside: Israel's first President, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, presents a Torah Scroll and blue velvet mantle to President Harry S. Truman, May 25, 1948, The White House.

Israel's 50th Anniversary



The Harry S. Truman Library
and
The Harry S. Truman Library Institute
for National and International Affairs

On May 14, 1948, President Truman's announcement made the United States the first country to recognize the new nation — within minutes of its proclamation. The Harry S. Truman Library and Truman Library Institute for National and International Affairs have joined with the *Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City* and other organizations to commemorate this historic anniversary in a variety of ways throughout 1998.

- ◆ Abba Eban: Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 19, 1998 when *Abba Eban*, former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations and the United States, will speak in Independence, Missouri.
- ◆ September Series: The Truman Library will present three programs: *Joseph Persico*, author of *Nuremberg: Infamy on Trial*; *Greg Bradsher*, an expert on documentation on the "Nazi Gold" claims; and *Michael T. Benson*, author of the new book *Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel*.

For more information about these events, contact the Library at 816/833-1400, extension 257.



- ◆ Exhibitions: The Truman Library and the *Skirball Cultural Center* in Los Angeles will feature exhibitions opening in late April which highlight President Truman's decision to recognize Israel.
- ◆ On the World Wide Web: The Truman Library has expanded its website to include a special section of *photographs, documents, and historical background* about Israel, the Truman Administration, and related issues. www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman/
- ◆ Education: The Truman Library is pleased to co-sponsor the 1998 *Midwest Center for Holocaust Education's White Rose student essay contest*. For information about the contest call 913/327-8190. The Library's website contains information of special interest to students and teachers.
- ◆ Souvenirs: Artfully framed photos and documents from *the collections of the Truman Library* have been prepared to commemorate this anniversary. A special anniversary publication, *Harry S. Truman and the Recognition of Israel*, has also been issued

Souvenirs to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Israel

Framed Documents and Photographs

Copies of the two documents announcing the United States' *de facto* and then *de jure* recognition of Israel. Each includes President Truman's hand written revisions and signature. Also photographs of President Truman and Chaim Weizmann with the torah scrolls (left) and of David Ben-Gurion, Abba Eban, and Harry S. Truman in the Oval Office. The documents, photographs, and descriptive captions are professionally mounted into a double-matte of acid-free gold beneath deep blue and are surrounded by a gilded wooden frame behind non-glare glass. Finished dimensions are approximately 27" wide by 43" long.
Item number: 650 **\$350**

Copy of the *de facto* recognition document described above and the Weizmann-Truman photograph at the left. The document, photograph, and captions are matted and framed as described above. Finished dimensions are approximately 25" wide by 19" long.
Item number: 450 **\$225**

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Item number: 250 **\$12**

Prices include shipping within the continental U.S. To order, please send your name, shipping address (no p.o. boxes), phone number, description of your order, personal check (payable to Truman Library Institute) or Mastercard or Visa account number, expiration and signature to: Truman Library Institute/Israel 50; U.S. Highway 24 and Delaware; Independence, MO 64050.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of the document and photograph frames.

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3/19/98

Called Larry to
Say the VR
cannot be this.

A stylized handwritten signature, possibly reading "R. J.", with a large loop and a diagonal slash.

—

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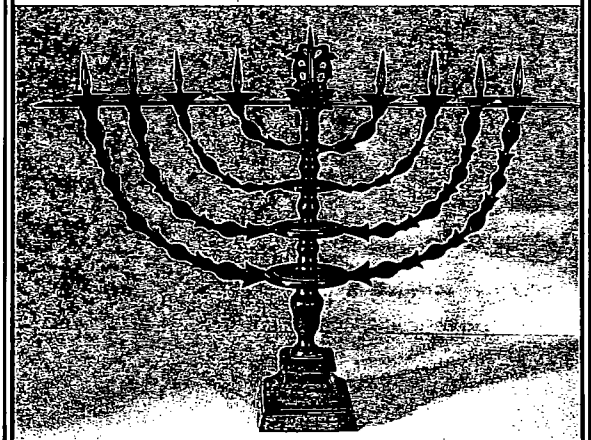
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Harry S. Truman Library

500 West U.S. Highway 24 Independence MO 64050-1798

March 16, 1998

The Honorable Al Gore
Vice President of the United States
The White House
c/o Director of Scheduling
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I am very pleased that you are considering our invitation to come to the Truman Library on May 14 or 15 to observe the 50th Anniversary of United States recognition of Israel. This is to reaffirm our invitation, and to describe several activities that might be especially compatible with your interest and with Administration priorities for education and technology.

If you come to the Library, you might want to consider one or more of the following activities:

- Laying a wreath at the graves of President and Mrs. Truman in the Library courtyard.
- Viewing a few of the original documents here that relate directly to President Truman's decision to grant *de facto* recognition to Israel on May 15, 1948 or, more broadly, to the Truman Administration and policy relating to the Middle East.
- Viewing on a big screen, with media present, the new "Israel 50" section of the Library's web page, a section that is very useful to students and teachers nationwide. Our web page also now links directly to PROJECT WHISTLESTOP, one of the technology demonstration projects supported by a grant from your Department of Education. The PROJECT WHISTLESTOP data base now contains more than a thousand important scanned documents from the Truman Library archives relating to the Truman Administration and Israel (and additional documents on other topics).
- Sending an e-mail message to selected individuals or organizations alerting them to these newly available documents made possible for education and research through the partnership between the Truman Library and the Independence School District (and several other parties) with support from the DOE technology demonstration grant.

You might choose to send this message to any or all of the following:

Israel's current President, Ezer Weizmann, whose uncle was Israel's first president. Our website section contains a photo of President Chaim Weizmann presenting a Torah to President Truman only 11 days after Independence in 1948.

Selected educational and research institutions in Israel, perhaps those named for Harry Truman.

A group of schools in the United States -- perhaps the other technology demonstration projects or schools named for Truman or Hebrew Schools. There are many alternatives.

Enclosed is a pamphlet describing some of our other "Israel 50" programs.

I hope that you will be able to come to the Library in May. In the meantime, visit the Israel Anniversary section of our web site at www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman/israel/index.htm.

Sincerely yours,

/ljh/

LARRY J. HACKMAN
Director

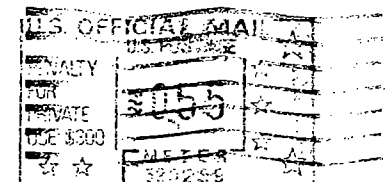
Enclosure

cc: John Carlin, Archivist of the United States
Roberta Greene, Office of the First Lady

Harry S. Truman Library
500 West U.S. Highway 24
Independence MO 64050-1798

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

The Book
Stops Here
The Truman Library



MS ROBERTA GREENE
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE FIRST LADY
ROOM 100
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20501

20501/3333





Harry S. Truman Library

U.S. Highway 24 and Delaware Street Independence, Missouri 64050

March 27, 1998

The Honorable Al Gore
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I am pleased that you will be traveling to Israel for the fiftieth anniversary observance in mid-May, though we are sorry you won't be coming to the Truman Library at that time.

While you are in Israel, I urge you to take advantage of our special web page section on Israel's anniversary, especially the archival documents from the Truman Library relating to United States recognition of Israel that have been scanned through "Project WhistleStop." This is one of the technology demonstration projects supported by your Department of Education.

It would be a very timely and highly significant gift to the people of Israel for you to demonstrate to them that key documentation relating to their very statehood is available on line to all of them for the first time. We have already begun to get Internet "hits" from Israel on this, but your demonstration of the new resource to government leaders, or to teachers or students, in Israel would be both effective and appropriate.

Enclosed is a pamphlet about our "Israel 50" programs, including the website address. Please let me know if we may assist in any way.

Sincerely yours,

/ljh/

LARRY J. HACKMAN
Director

cc: John Carlin, Archivist of the United States
Cyrus Vance, Director, Truman Library Institute for National & International Affairs
Roberta Greene, Office of the First Lady

Media

Israel at 50

Truman library Web site details 1948 birth of Jewish state

By Michael A. Levine
Staff Writer

On May 14, 1948, President Harry S. Truman was the first world leader to officially recognize the state of Israel. His recognition lent great credibility to the newly created state amidst international controversy over its founding. To celebrate Israel's 50th anniversary, the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Mo., created a special commemorative Web site,

<http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman/israel/index.htm>, where people can learn about the important role the United States played in the world recognition of Israel as an independent nation. The site offers a wealth of information on the creation of Israel, including "Project Whistlestop," which contains a collection of Truman's archival papers from his service as a U.S. senator, vice president and president. The page also contains official White House memos and letters regarding the creation of a Jewish state from Truman while in office and after his term as president. In addition, the "Project Whistlestop" site displays maps and documents from Secretary of State Dean Acheson, Special Counsel (and former Missourian) Clark Clifford, Truman's close friend, KC's own Eddie Jacobson (see "Truman and Jacobson" in this week's special souvenir edition), the president's personal secretary and other high-ranking U.S. officials.

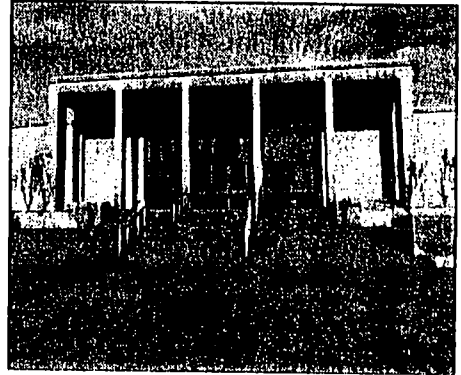
An additional page of special note is the collection of artifacts relating to Israel and Truman. The artifacts are currently on display at the Skirball Museum in Los Angeles, but they will return to the Truman Museum in April for the Israel anniversary exhibit "1948: A Year of Turmoil and Trouble."

Two other significant pages I found include an Israel events historical time line from 1939-1949 and a bibliography of relevant books. Great stuff!

The Truman site has an abundance of information on both Truman and Israel and offers the viewer a surplus of reference materials to choose from ... all this, and it's very easy to navigate. Not too many bells and whistles, just the important information you want in a clear, concise manner.

For more information on the HST Library Web site call Mark Adams, HST Library education programs coordinator, at 833-1400.

COME TOGETHER - Finally, after many centuries, hundreds of thousands of Jews around the world are reunited for a common cause: Jewish Web/Net Week featured at <http://www.jww.org>. The event official-



The Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Mo., shown here, has established a Web site contains hundreds of documents pertaining to the creation of Israel.

ly powered up on Sunday, Feb. 22, with programming supported on eight main sites: the Jewish COMMunity on America Online (Keyword: JEWISH), the Jewish Education Service of North America - JESNA at www.jesna.org, the Jewish Communication Network - JCN at www.JCN18.com, Virtual Jerusalem - VJ at www.virtual.co.il, Shamash at www.shamash.org, JewishNet at www.jewishnet.org, Jewish Family and Life at www.Jewishfamily.com and of course on the Jewish Web/Net Week home page. As of *Chronicle* press time, the JW/NW site listed seven different live programming channels to choose from including

Radio JW/NW, which hosts six more channels of streamline audio to use as background music as you surf through the site!

A great collection of activities for young and old. Congratulations to the entire JW/NW crew for pulling off a monumental on-line

convention about Judaism!

MORE FREE STUFF - The Jewish Communication Network at <http://www.jcn18.com> has just announced the addition of Jewishmail.com, free Internet-based e-mail (I assume you can still use it, even if you're not Jewish). Just go to JCN's home page or directly to <http://www.Jewishmail.com> for your own free, personalized e-mail account.

NEXT TIME in JUDAISM.com - The many educational and exciting facets of Jewishfamily.com and all of their "family" of sites.

Let us know what you think. Have you seen an interesting Judaic web site or software package? E-mail us at KCJCHRON@aol.com, subject: JUDAISM.com. We may include your comments or suggestions in a future column!

Web Site Rating

Israel 50th Anniversary
at the HST Library Web site
<http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman/israel/>
Speed: 4.5
Ease of Use: 4.5
Graphics: 4.5
Information: 4.5
Overall rating: 4.5
(Ratings are out of a possible five stars)

Harry S. Truman Library

Larry J. Hackman, Director

Harry S. Truman Library Institute

Board of Directors

Margaret Truman Daniel, Honorary Chair

Willard L. Boyd, President

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Morton I. Sosland

David Stanley

David H. Stowe, Jr.

Cyrus R. Vance

Carmen H. Warschaw

Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City

5801 West 115th Street, Suite 201

Overland Park, KS 66211-1824

913/327-8100

Israel 50 Steering Committee

Richard Berkley and Pella Fingersh, Co-Chairs

The Harry S. Truman Library Institute

U.S. Highway 24 and Delaware
Independence, Missouri 64050-1798
816/833-0425 800/769-8561 FAX: 816/833-2715

website: www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman/

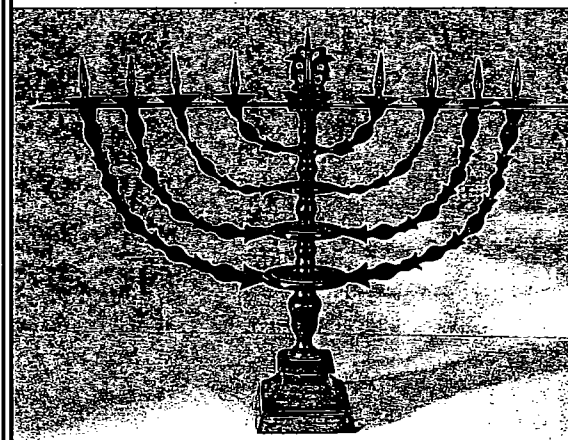
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Photo captions:

Cover: 1767 bronze menorah from the Synagogue of Buerget, Germany which was presented to President Truman by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion and Ambassador Abba Eban on May 8, 1951.

Inside: Israel's first President, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, presents a Torah Scroll and blue velvet mantle to President Harry S. Truman, May 25, 1948, The White House.

Israel's 50th Anniversary



The Harry S. Truman Library
and
The Harry S. Truman Library Institute
for National and International Affairs

On May 14, 1948, President Truman's announcement made the United States the first country to recognize the new nation — within minutes of its proclamation. The Harry S. Truman Library and Truman Library Institute for National and International Affairs have joined with the *Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City* and other organizations to commemorate this historic anniversary in a variety of ways throughout 1998.

- ◆ Abba Eban: Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 19, 1998 when *Abba Eban*, former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations and the United States, will speak in Independence, Missouri.
- ◆ September Series: The Truman Library will present three programs: *Joseph Persico*, author of *Nuremberg: Infamy on Trial*; *Greg Bradsher*, an expert on documentation on the "Nazi Gold" claims; and *Michael T. Benson*, author of the new book *Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel*.

For more information about these events, contact the Library at 816/833-1400, extension 257.



- ◆ Exhibitions: The Truman Library and the *Skirball Cultural Center* in Los Angeles will feature exhibitions opening in late April which highlight President Truman's decision to recognize Israel.
- ◆ On the World Wide Web: The Truman Library has expanded its website to include a special section of *photographs, documents, and historical background* about Israel, the Truman Administration, and related issues. www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman/
- ◆ Education: The Truman Library is pleased to co-sponsor the 1998 *Midwest Center for Holocaust Education's White Rose student essay contest*. For information about the contest call 913/327-8190. The Library's website contains information of special interest to students and teachers.
- ◆ Souvenirs: Artfully framed photos and documents from *the collections of the Truman Library* have been prepared to commemorate this anniversary. A special anniversary publication, *Harry S. Truman and the Recognition of Israel*, has also been issued

Souvenirs to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Israel

Framed Documents and Photographs

Copies of the two documents announcing the United States' *de facto* and then *de jure* recognition of Israel. Each includes President Truman's hand written revisions and signature. Also photographs of President Truman and Chaim Weizmann with the torah scrolls (left) and of David Ben-Gurion, Abba Eban, and Harry S. Truman in the Oval Office. The documents, photographs, and descriptive captions are professionally mounted into a double-matte of acid-free gold beneath deep blue and are surrounded by a gilded wooden frame behind non-glare glass. Finished dimensions are approximately 27" wide by 43" long.
Item number: 650 \$350

Copy of the *de facto* recognition document described above and the Weizmann-Truman photograph at the left. The document, photograph, and captions are matted and framed as described above. Finished dimensions are approximately 25" wide by 19" long.
Item number: 450 \$225

Harry S. Truman and the Recognition of Israel

A publication featuring recollections and observations by Ambassador Abba Eban; White House Advisor George Elsey; and Michael T. Benson, author of the new book *Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel*. Illustrated with photographs and documents from the Truman Library's collections, this booklet also features a chronology of the events from 1945 to 1948 leading to the Truman Administration's recognition of Israel. The publication will be approximately 30 pages in length and will be available after April 1, 1998.
Item number: 250 \$12

Prices include shipping within the continental U.S. To order, please send your name, shipping address (no p.o. boxes), phone number, description of your order, personal check (payable to Truman Library Institute) or Mastercard or Visa account number, expiration and signature to: Truman Library Institute/Israel 50; U.S. Highway 24 and Delaware; Independence, MO 64050.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of the document and photograph frames.

Note: Contributions to the Truman Library Institute for merchandise purchases are not considered a charitable contribution for income tax purposes.

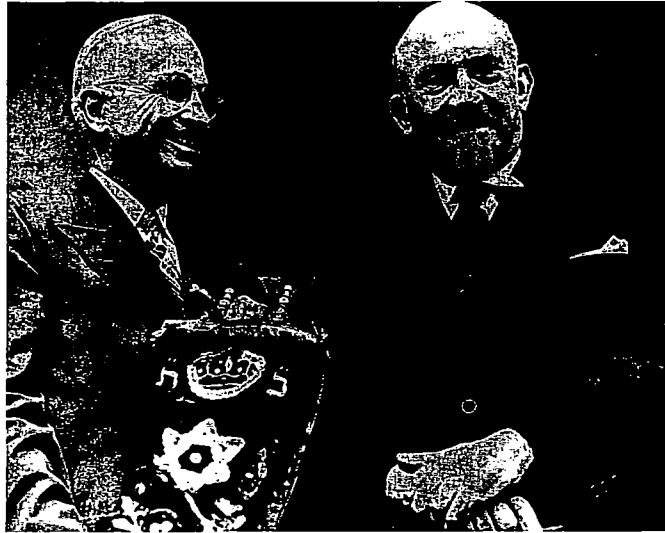
Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

Harry S. Truman and the Recognition of Israel

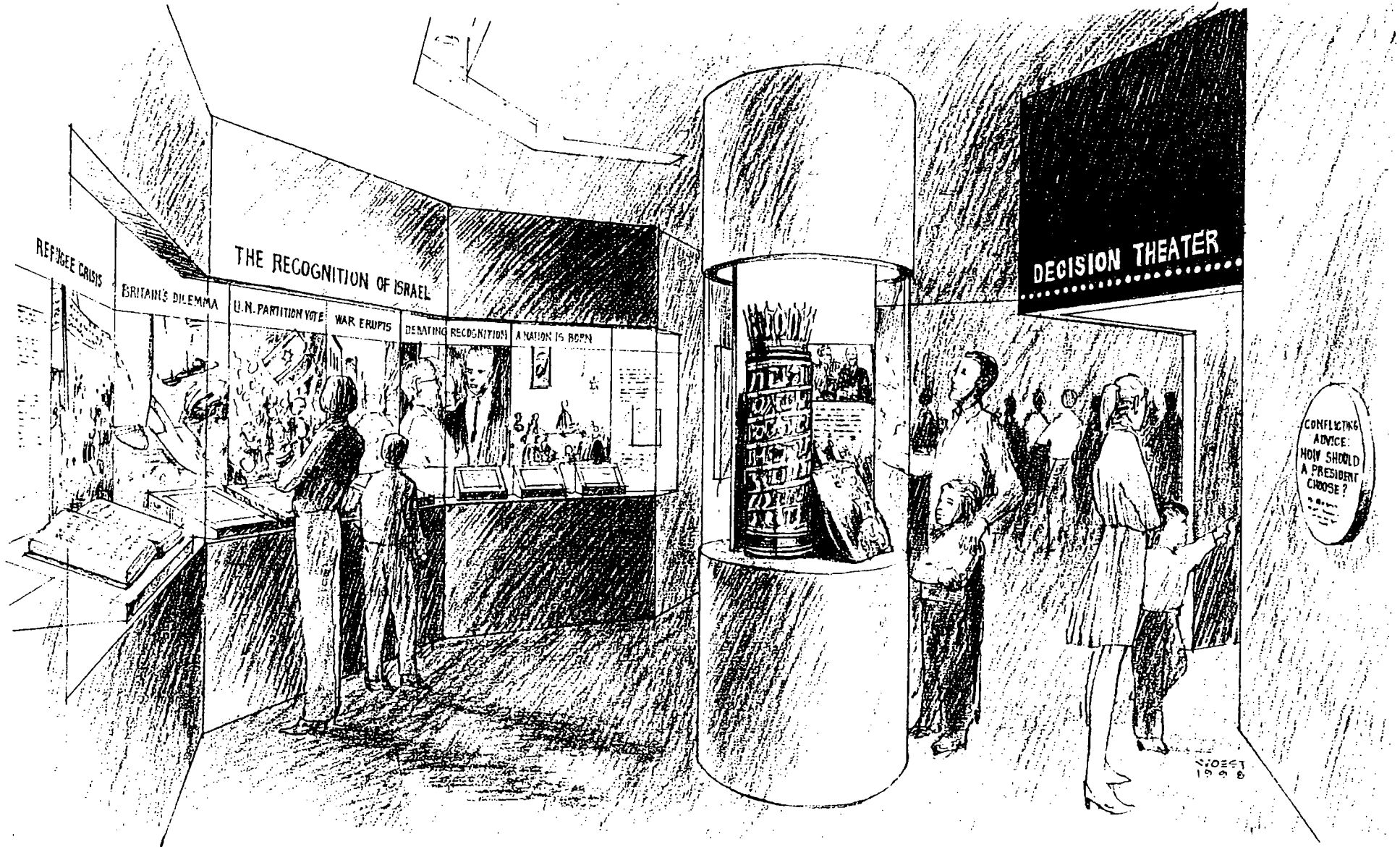


Israel's President, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, presents to President Harry S. Truman a Torah Scroll and blue velvet mantle embellished with the Star of David, May 25, 1948, The White House.

Table of Contents

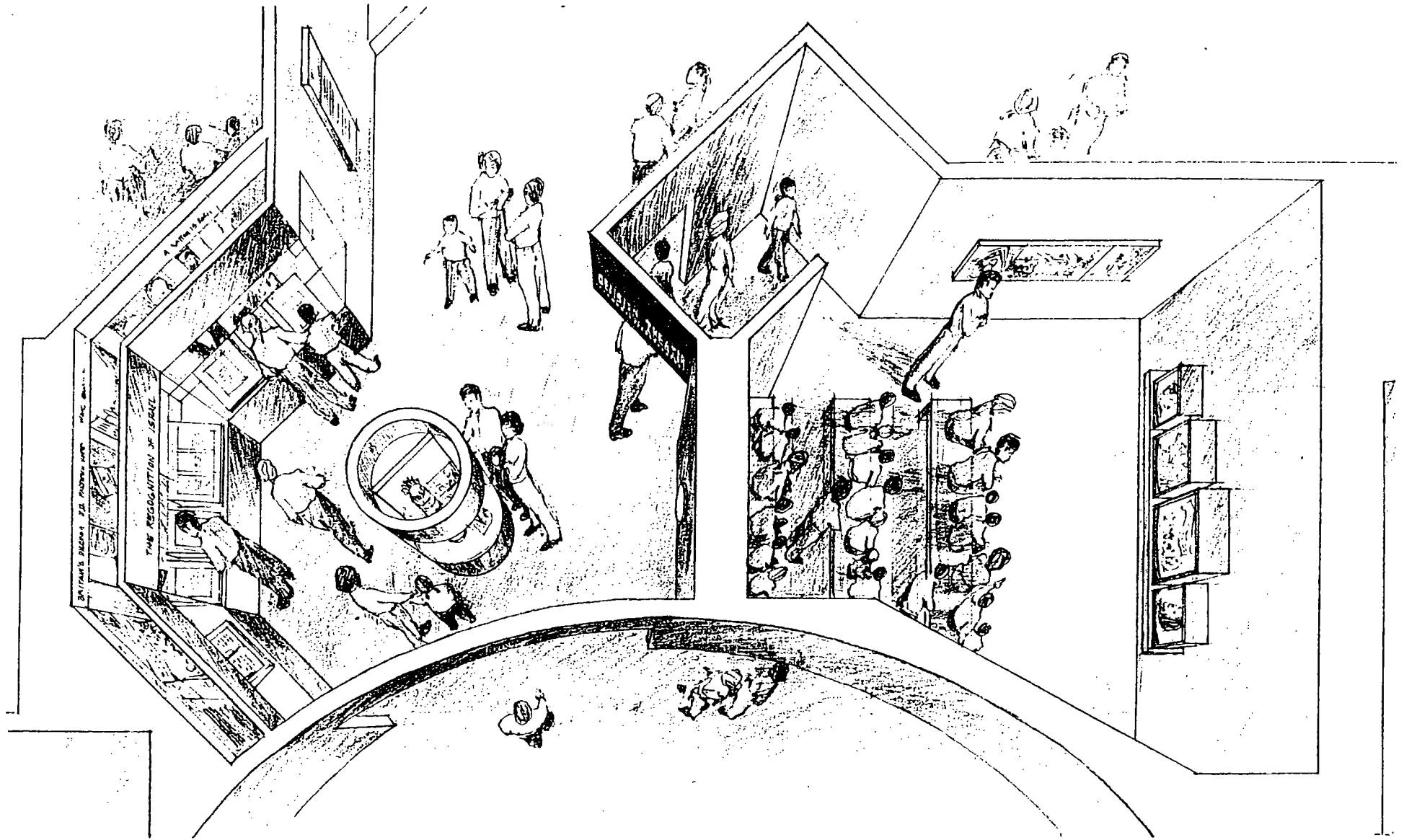
<i>The Puzzle of Palestine: Harry S. Truman and the American Recognition of Israel</i> Michael T. Benson, author of <i>Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel</i>	2
<i>Recognizing Israel: The View from the White House</i> George M. Elsey, Administrative Assistant to President Harry S. Truman	8
<i>My First Forty-Five Minutes with Harry S. Truman</i> Abba Eban, Israel's Former Ambassador to the United States and the United Nations	14
<i>The Truman Administration and the United States Recognition of Israel: A Chronology</i> compiled by Raymond H. Geselbracht, Supervisory Archivist, Harry S. Truman Library	beginning on 4
<i>Notes and Acknowledgments</i>	22

*A Publication of the
Harry S. Truman Library
Institute for National and
International Affairs
to Commemorate
the Fiftieth Anniversary
of United States
Recognition of Israel*



TRUMAN PRESIDENTIAL GALLERIES

RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL



TRUMAN PRESIDENTIAL GALLERIES

RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL



Harry S. Truman Library

500 West U.S. Highway 24 Independence MO 64050-1798

December 23, 1997

Ms. Roberta Greene
Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Room 100
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Bobbie:

Here is the press release from our December 23 press conference here. Sorry we weren't able to announce a visit by the President.

Have a great holiday season. We will be in New York City for four days with Kate, and Alex will come down from Boston.

Best regards,



LARRY J. HACKMAN
Director

Enclosure



Harry S. Truman Library

*U.S. Highway 24 and Delaware Street Independence, Missouri 64050-1798
(816) 833-1400*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DECEMBER 23, 1997

NEWS RELEASE

Contacts:

Ruth Baum Bigus 913-327-8109
Jewish Federation of Kansas City

Larry Hackman 816-833-1400, Ext. 223
Truman Library and Museum

**TRUMAN LIBRARY AND JEWISH FEDERATION ANNOUNCE PLANS TO
COMMEMORATE ISRAEL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY
- Special Activities and Events to Occur at Truman Library -**

(Independence, Mo.) The Harry S. Truman Library and Museum and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City today announced plans to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel. It was on May 14, 1948 that President Truman's announcement made the United States the first country to recognize the new nation -- within minutes of its proclamation.

The Truman Library plans a variety of events, programs and exhibitions to commemorate the anniversary. These were announced today at a ceremony at the Truman Library and Museum which was timed to coincide with the international kick off of the Israel 50th anniversary events on the first night of Hanukkah, December 23, 1997.

Truman's recognition of Israel was by no means an easy decision for him to make. The Department of State, including the highly respected Secretary of State, George Marshall, advised against it, as did much of his cabinet. But by May 14 he had decided it was the right thing to do, and so he did it, said Library director Larry Hackman.

In April, the Truman Library will open a major exhibition highlighting some of the landmark events and decisions that happened in 1948, including the recognition of Israel. 1948: Year of Turmoil and Triumph will also recall the Berlin Airlift, the desegregation of the armed forces, and Truman's famous Whistle Stop campaign against Thomas Dewey. The Library will also display a small group of artifacts relating to Harry Truman and the Jewish Community in Greater Kansas City.

On April 19, Abba Eban, Israel's first Ambassador to the United States, and later its Ambassador to the United Nations, will speak at the Truman Library. He will share his recollections of President Truman, United States recognition of Israel, and the early relationship between the United States and the new state of Israel.

- more -

Israel 50 - Page Two

Also in April, an exhibition on the United States recognition of Israel will open at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, drawing on important artifacts and documents loaned to that new museum of Jewish culture by the Truman Library. Of special note is the Torah and Torah case given to President Truman by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president. The Skirball exhibition, *Truman and Israel* runs April 20 through August 30, 1998.

In September, the Truman Library will bring several additional speakers to the Kansas City area as part of the anniversary. Joseph Persico, author of *Nuremberg: Infamy on Trial*, will speak on September 3 about the trials of Nazi war criminals. On September 10, Greg Bradsher, an expert on documentation related to the Nazi Gold claims issue, will speak on that subject. On September 17, Dr. Michael T. Benson, author of the new book *Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel*, will present his new interpretation of Truman's decision.

The Truman Library is also expanding its Web site to include a special new section relating to the recognition of Israel. Visitors to the site will have access to photographs, background information, a chronology and bibliography, as well as a link to Project WhistleStop scanned copies of hundreds of key documents from the collections of the Truman Library relating to Israel.

The Truman Library is expanding efforts to increase the awareness of available resources for students and teachers, both on site at the Library and online. As part of that initiative, the Truman Library is partnering with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education to sponsor the White Rose essay contest, which encourages students to explore the obligations and opportunities that confronted both Holocaust survivors and the United States under the leadership of Harry S. Truman following World War II. For more information about this contest, call 913-327-8190.

The Truman Library is also preparing a special souvenir booklet on President Truman and United States recognition of Israel, as well as framed copies of President Truman's recognition announcement and a photo of President Truman and President Weizmann. For further information, contact the Truman Library Institute at (816) 833-0425.

The Truman Library and Museum, one of ten Presidential Libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, is located at U.S. Highway 24 and Delaware in Independence, Mo. For more information, call the Truman Library at 800-833-1225 or visit the Truman Library's Web site at www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman/

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Harry S. Truman Library

500 West U.S. Highway 24 Independence MO 64050-1798

October 27, 1997

Ms. Roberta Greene
Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Room 100
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Bobbie:

I hope you had a good trip to Little Rock and a great trip to California.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City has appointed an extremely strong Fiftieth Anniversary of Israel Committee, and we will meet with them on October 29. A press conference at the Truman Library on December 23 will announce the many anniversary events in this area. In the meantime, I thought you might like to have access to our "Planning Guide" that we are using as we refine the Truman Library's own plans for Anniversary activities.

As you may know, Roshann Parris, who does advance work for Mrs. Clinton, is also working to encourage President Clinton to visit us next May. Congresswoman Karen McCarthy has written the President on this, and I believe Congressman Ike Skelton, Congresswoman Pat Danner, and Governor Mel Carnahan will all write soon in support of this.

I have also attached a few clippings from our fortieth birthday celebration, the Guggenheim film premiere, and the new \$4 million appropriation to support the Federal portion of our overall \$25 million renovation and education program. Also, just in case you ever have some spare time to advise me on this (and maybe for some application for a Clinton Library), I've enclosed an initial discussion outline for our "learning center." This needs a lot of work in the weeks just ahead, but it will give you some idea of one of the major thrusts we are considering.

Best regards,


LARRY I. HACKMAN
Director

Enclosures

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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This marker identifies the place of a publication.

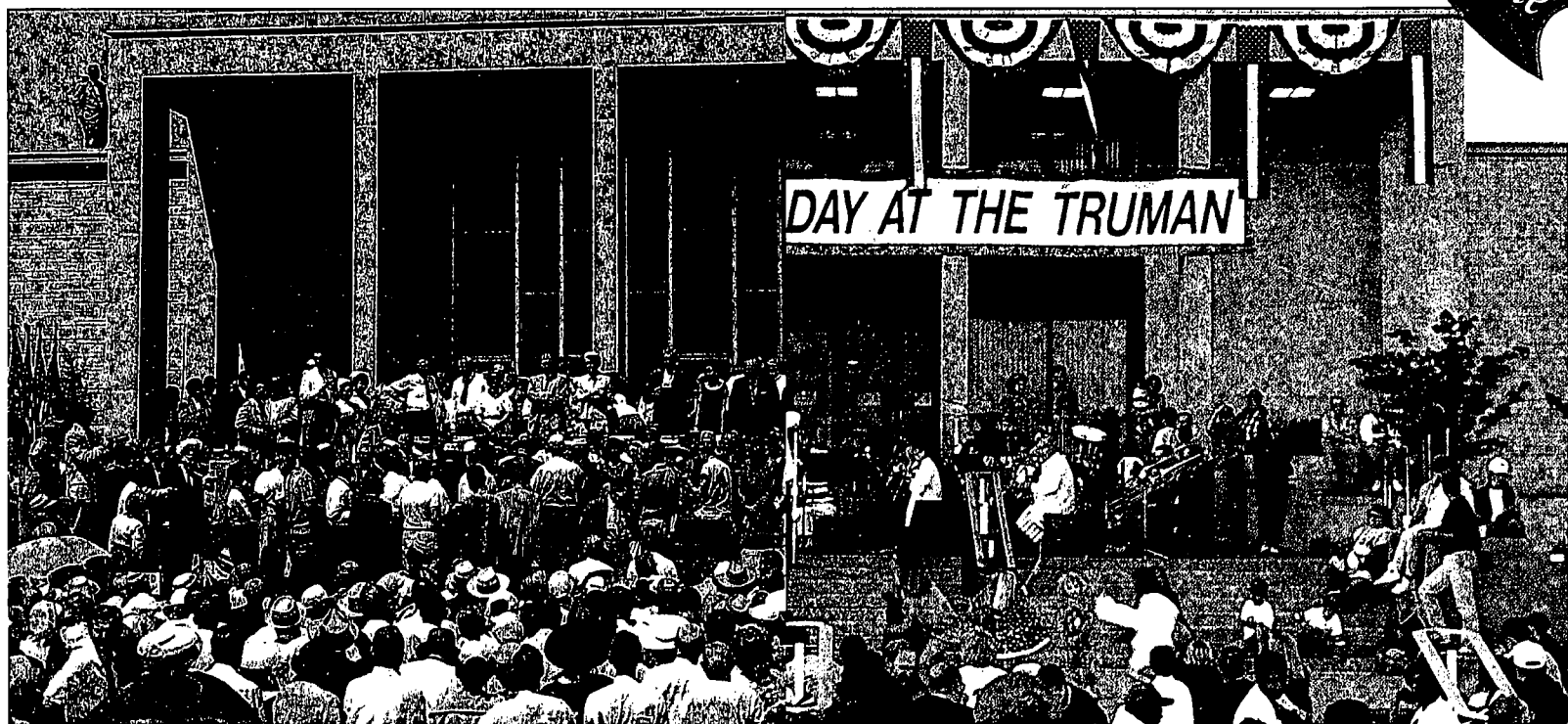
Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

WHISTLE STOP

Harry S. Truman Library
Institute Newsletter

Volume 25, Number 4, 1997

40th Anniversary Issue



July 6, 1957.

July 4, 1997.

If You Could "Stand the Heat," It Was Quite a Day

A sweltering Independence, Missouri afternoon was the backdrop for thousands to witness history as the Harry S. Truman Library was dedicated. Harry Truman's famous "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen" quip, coined years earlier, certainly applied on July 6, 1957.

This special fortieth anniversary issue of *Whistle Stop* begins with a firsthand account of "Dedication Day" and the events leading up to it by journalist Miss Sue Gentry. Her article first appeared in *The Independence Examiner* on July 5, 1997.

The Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, Independence's greatest asset, marks a milestone this year, its 40th birthday.

The imposing structure, resplendent on a small knoll overlooking U.S. 24 and honoring the nation's 33rd president, was dedicated July 6, 1957. And in those 40 years nearly 8 million tourists and metropolitan area residents have visited there. Eight presidents and past presidents have signed the guest book.

Former President Truman broke ground for his library on May 8, 1955, his 71st birthday. While contractors hurried to finish the structure before the dedication, it was only 90 percent complete and no landscaping had been done. Guests looked out over a dirt-clodded lawn.

The ceremony on the tall columned

portico drew major figures from both political parties. Mayor Robert P. Weatherford, who led the movement to locate the library in Independence after the former president acknowledged he wanted it here, was master of ceremonies.

Former President Herbert Hoover and former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt headed the distinguished delegation. And Chief Justice Earl Warren, a Republican, gave the dedicatory address at the personal invitation of Mr. Truman.

Democrat and Republican leaders of both the House and Senate were here, as well as state governors and educators representing universities and colleges. And the nation's press was everywhere.

In the ceremony, the former president presented his presidential papers to representatives of the government as well as books, mementos, and gifts from heads of

state and hundreds of Americans. Basil O'Connor, a New York attorney and president of the Harry S. Truman Library Corporation, which raised the money to build and equip the structure, presented the deed to the property.

The town took on a holiday air, welcoming the guests including Dean Acheson, Truman's secretary of state; Sam Rayburn, speaker of the House; John McCormack, House majority leader; Averell Harriman, New York governor; and young Lyndon B. Johnson, majority leader in the Senate, destined to be a U.S. president.

The Examiner published a 100-page Truman Library edition in seven sections, a copy of which was placed in the cornerstone along with a copy of the Warren dedicatory address.

Continued on page 2



LAURA R. HOCKADAY

KANSAS CITY PEOPLE

Truman documentary opens at library

More than 400 people attending a preview of "Harry S. Truman, 1884-1972" had the opportunity to visit with Charles Guggenheim, producer of the 45-minute documentary created for the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence. The film, presented every hour on the half hour, marks the library's 40th anniversary and is part of its continuing multimillion dollar renovation. Guests included Sandy Boyd of Iowa City, president of the Harry S. Truman Institute, fund-raising arm for the library. He is a past president of the University of Iowa and of the Field Museum in Chicago. The Truman Library is open daily, except holidays. Sunday hours are noon to 5 p.m.



Larry J. Hackman (from left), director of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence, visits with documentary filmmaker Charles Guggenheim of Washington, Susan Boyd of Iowa City and her husband, Sandy Boyd, board president of the Harry S. Truman Institute.

Sue Mindlin (left) enjoyed a reunion with longtime friend Charles Guggenheim and his daughter, Grace Guggenheim.



Photos by
LAUREN CHAPIN
Special to The Star



Benefactors of the Truman Library Institute include Morton and Estelle Sosland (from left), James B. Nutter and his wife, Annabel, and Mary Shaw Branton.



From left: Colleen and Charles Foudree; first lady of Missouri Jean Carnahan and Gov. Mel Carnahan; and Dorothy Johnson and her husband, Herman A. Johnson, were among more than 400 guests at a preview reception featuring the film "Harry S. Truman, 1884-1972."

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date

11/3/97

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)		Initials	Date
1. Ruth Bigus			
2. Jeffrey Byrne			
3. Congresswomen Karen McCarthy			
4. Dave Peterson			
5. ^{RM} Roberta Greene			
Action	File	Note and Return	
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation	
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply	
Circulate	☒ For Your Information	See Me	
Comment	Investigate	Signature	
Coordination	Justify		

REMARKS

FYI

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)	Room No.—Bldg.
Larry Hackman	
Truman Library	Phone No.
	816-833-1400 ext

5041-103

U.S. GPO: 1996-404-763/40015

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 1-94) 223
Prescribed by GSA



File

OCT 30 1997

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
65101

MEL CARNAHAN
GOVERNOR

October 27, 1997

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 216
(573) 751-3222

Dr. Larry J. Hackman, Director
Harry S. Truman Library
500 West U.S. Highway 24
Independence, MO 64050-1798

Dear Larry:

I received your letter concerning the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the United States' recognition of Israel. I have written to the President, urging him to fit this into his plans and come to the celebration. A copy of my letter is enclosed.

If additional follow up is needed by me or my staff, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mel Carnahan".

Mel Carnahan

MC/pa

Enclosure



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
65101

MEL CARNAHAN
GOVERNOR

October 27, 1997

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 216
(573) 751-3222

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to endorse the invitation you recently received from the Harry S. Truman Library to events on or near May 14, 1998, to observe the 50th Anniversary of the United States' recognition of Israel. A copy of the letter from Larry J. Hackman, Director of the Harry S. Truman Library, dated August 12, 1997, is enclosed.

Leading the U.S. to recognize the nation of Israel is one of the many forward-looking and historic actions taken by our late President from Missouri, Harry S. Truman. I would urge you to join the nation in recognizing this event and doing so at the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Missouri. I can think of no more appropriate place, and your attendance and participation would make the event the kind of observance it deserves.

I hope it will be possible for you to come to Independence to celebrate this great event with us.

Very truly yours,



Mel Carnahan

MC/pa
Enclosure

FIFTH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

1232 LONGWORTH HOUSE
OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4535

811 GRAND AVENUE, ROOM 935
KANSAS CITY, MO 64106
(816) 842-4545

301 W. LEXINGTON, ROOM 217
INDEPENDENCE, MO 64050
(816) 833-4545



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Karen McCarthy

October 6, 1997

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND POWER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRADE,
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I wanted to join Mr. Larry Hackman, Director, Harry S. Truman Library, in inviting you to our area in observation of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United States' recognition of Israel. As Mr. Hackman explained in his previous letter, on May 14, 1948 President Truman extended de facto recognition to the new Jewish state. It would be an honor for you to visit President Truman's home to mark the occasion.

It is with great respect that President Truman's home town commemorates the deeds of our past President. I am hopeful that you will be able to join the celebration.

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen".

Karen McCarthy

KM:lg

FIFTH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

1232 LONGWORTH HOUSE
OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4535

811 GRAND AVENUE, ROOM 935
KANSAS CITY, MO 64106
(816) 842-4545

301 W. LEXINGTON, ROOM 217
INDEPENDENCE, MO 64050
(816) 833-4545



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Karen McCarthy

October 6, 1997

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND POWER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRADE,
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Mr. Larry J. Hackman
Director
Harry S. Truman Library
U.S. Highway 24 and Delaware Street
Independence, Missouri 64050

OCT 14 1997

Dear Larry:

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter I sent to President Clinton to support his attendance of the events surrounding the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United States' recognition of Israel. I hope it is helpful. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Best personal regards,

Karen McCarthy

KM:lg

Enclosure

*I'm so pleased
with the success
of our federal
appropriation.
Steny Hoyer loves
his plague!
Let's celebrate!!*

1945-1953



A Legacy of
Leadership

Fiftieth
Anniversary
Commemoration
Committee

National
Honorary
Co-Chairmen

William J. Clinton
President of the United States

George H. Bush
*Forty-First
President of the United States*

Ronald W. Reagan
*Fortieth
President of the United States*

Jimmy Carter
*Thirty-Ninth
President of the United States*

Gerald R. Ford
*Thirty-Eighth
President of the United States*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 10, 1997

Contact: Larry Hackman (816) 833-1400x223
 Harry S. Truman Library and Museum
 Dean Davison, Julie Goldsborough or Michelle Manuel (816) 842-1500
 Barkley & Evergreen Public Relations

\$4 MILLION FOR BUILDING REPAIRS SECURED FOR TRUMAN LIBRARY

(Independence, Mo.) – The Harry S. Truman Library Institute has moved \$4 million closer to its goal of a major museum renovation. The U.S. House and Senate have included \$4 million in the 1998 budget for the National Archives and Records Administration which is earmarked to enhance the public areas at the Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Mo.

The funding will be combined with a \$4 million appropriation last year to support building repairs, handicapped accessibility, a new video theater, new temporary exhibit galleries, and to prepare the Library for additional new permanent exhibits.

“This infusion of public support for this renovation effort is a major boost,” said former U.S. Senator Thomas F. Eagleton. “We have had tremendous support from the Missouri delegation in both chambers as well as from other Senators and members of Congress. The Truman Library has been called a national treasure and this funding is an appropriate long-term investment in this national landmark.”

Eagleton is a member of the board and immediate past president of the Truman Library Institute, the private support organization for the Truman Library and Museum.

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Draft #2

9-23-97 (following Library G-6 discussion)

The Truman Library and Institute and the 50th Anniversary of U.S. Recognition of Israel

A PLANNING GUIDE

TRUMAN LIBRARY AND/OR INSTITUTE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RELATED TO ANNIVERSARY:

1) Press conference at Library, probably on December 23, in cooperation with Greater KC Community Foundation for kick-off of 50th Anniversary activities in Greater KC. This is the "official" day for the nationwide kickoff for the 50th anniversary of Israel.

Hackman as contact for time being with Ruth Bigus at Federation to confirm this and discuss arrangements. Handoff to Edeen Martin and B&E at appropriate stage.

In conjunction with press conference, might do a behind the scenes tour for Federation 50th anniversary committee, and perhaps for press as well.

The Library itself may choose to do a press release/press conference in mid-January describing in more detail its own programs relating to the 50th anniversary. Would want to do this before some artifacts are sent to Skirball in late January.

2) Skirball Center Exhibit in Los Angeles (Library loans pre-identified list of artifacts and makes available copies of film, photos and documents).

- Runs from March to September-October; objects then returned to Truman Library. Bauske is key contact with curator at Skirball (Dr. Grace Cohen-Grossman); Bauske will get exact dates and will check on status of Skirball video and on their impressions of working with Michael T. Benson as consultant.
- Truman Library Institute will probably sponsor one or more events related to this for LA supporters and prospects. Byrne will meet with Kirchner and perhaps others there to discuss this when in LA in October. .
- Skirball is producing a video for the exhibit that may be useful for Library's own exhibit or for regular showing at the Library. Bauske to assess/ obtain video for review when available.
- Truman Library staff will remind interested parties in KC area that most of the items loaned to Skirball have been displayed at Truman Library many times in past, and that exhibit in Los Angeles reflects attempt to give access to artifacts to another audience; also

that original documents, photos, and some important artifacts remain at the Library.

3) Recognition of Israel as one of the four major components in the Truman Library's in-house major exhibit on 1948 scheduled for April or May to -

- Library will also seek to add one display case somewhere in the Library to exhibit items that might be of special interest to Greater KC Jewish community; many of this of a "tribute to Truman" nature from the period after recognition. Would duplicate in part the displays prepared by Pat Dorsey in 1996.

4) Loan of second level objects (if any available and requested) and/or copies of photos or documents to interested organizations.

- Will share Library's object loan requirements with anyone requesting loan.
- Will explain that we will display most notable objects at the Library, so that the maximum number of public has opportunity to view.
- Will develop some sort of photo and facsimile display system that can be replicated for loan or sale to organizations that wish to have an exhibit on Truman and recognition of Israel on their own premises.

5) Develop and actively promote Truman Library Web page section on 50th Anniversary of Israel with links to other relevant information/documents available via internet or in other electronic form.

- Mark Adams has developed outline for webpage section and has begun to enter information. Comments and suggestions needed by October 1. Mark will work with archives staff, volunteers and others to see that contents are supplied and linkages are made.
- Mark will seek to add a chrnology/dateline to the "Historical Background" section.
- Mark will work with Ray and staff re scanning of a number of historical photos (non copyright) in our collection and perhaps in NARA's into the "Exhibits" section, and with Clay and staff re scanning in photos of some of the interesting artifacts.
- As realistic plans are firmed up, the WebPage section should be promoted via national press release, probably by a press conference and demonstration at the Truman Library, and in article in KC Jewish Federation special newsletter (see below).
- Need especially to provide link to Project WhistleStop for digitized B-file on Israel and perhaps Displaced Persons document set.

- Should we/can we add any other sets of documents; e.g. topic of displaced persons from B-file set. Mark will check on Univ. of Mo./WhistleStop group on their plans on this.
- Should we issue a CD-ROM consisting entirely of the B-file topics relating to Israel?

6) Formal cosponsorship of the 1998 White Rose essay contest by Midwest Center for Holocaust Education.

- Mark Adams has already worked with Center. Library will need to promote in our own materials (Web page/newsletter/etc.)
- Jewish Federation special newsletter for 50th anniversary will cover this in first issue in October.
- Presentation ceremony will take place at the Library on May 11 or May 18 (latter preferred).?
- Mark A. will check with National History Day director to gauge reactions to a Truman Library Institute national award to best 1997 history day project relating to Israel and closely related issues acceptable within the 1997 "migrations" theme.

7) Sponsorship of presentation by Ambassador Abba Eban (if he agrees to recent request to come to University of Iowa and to Kansas City). If so, Institute may also sponsor presentations in several other cities.

- If Ambassador Eban comes to KC area, we would want to have one event for "exclusive" audience, probably for fund raising, and one open to the public.

8) Sponsorship or co sponsorship of speech by President Clinton (if he agrees to come).

- Work with Jewish Federation to invite President of Israel as a potential alternate..
- Keep in mind that May 14 is very near major speakers likely to be at the Library during Truman Week (May 3-9).

9) Regular availability of exhibit model for presidential galleries model from C&G/M, with expanded section on Israel. Include in tours for visiting groups who come to the Library in 1998 with particular interest in 50th Anniversary..

10) Cooperation (Archives and AV reference staff) with organizations attempting to put out special sections to observe 50th Anniversary, e.g. Jewish *Chronicle* in this area (Steve Rose publication.)

11) Library/Institute will also actively explore how to directly sponsor a "Truman perspective"

column during the spring of 1998 and/or to issue oral history excerpts ("History Speaks") for distribution in Jewish press nationwide. Geslebracht will examine oral histories for information of interest. These "perspective" columns might be arranged in a "countdown" approach for the several months leading up to recognition. Would need to find a writer or writers to undertake these.

12). One or more public programs on United States and Israel sponsored by the Library.

- Need to develop proposal soon. Funding likely if proposal impressive.
- One idea is to have a panel or two of distinguished journalists/pundits/historians who might, perhaps for a couple of hours, discuss broad implications of US and Israel, future of Middle East, etc. with some reference to historical aspects as well, e.g. Tom Wicker, Gary Wills, George Will, Michael Bechloss, Richard Valeriani, Roger Mudd, David Broder, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., etc. Might be appropriate for broadcast on C-SPAN.

13) Objects acquired or developed for sale in gift shop related to Israel and U.S. recognition.

- Framed item including photo of Truman and Weizmann and facsimile of Truman recognition press release.
- Perhaps busts of Truman and Weizmann by Robert Berks (see items already developed or used by Institute's former development director).
- Perhaps items from Israel
- Perhaps a poster (or tee-shirt?) of Truman and Chaim Weizmann at White House (Torah presentation).
- Perhaps sale of video produced by Skirball, if suitable.
- Perhaps a very modest publication (see Marshall Plan publication in process) developed by the Library including photos and documents from our collections.

14) A two to four flat (document/photo) display, similar to those on Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan that can be readily replicated for sale to interested organizations (e.g \$500-\$1000 plus shipping), such as Jewish congregations and organizations. Will give Library a way to respond to requests. Could be handled by the Institute. Might be marketed nationally via Jewish Federation network.

15) A series of standard but carefully developed behind the scenes tours of archives and museum collections relating to Israel for pre-registered individuals/organizations. Coordination by Martin and Byrne, working with museum and archives staff members.

INTERNAL NLT/INSTITUTE COORDINATING GROUP

MAdams, Bauske, Byrne, Goldsboro (?), Hackman, Klepac, Martin, (a volunteer?).

Red disc: Israel 50 (Programs.50)

A LEARNING CENTER AT THE TRUMAN LIBRARY

A DISCUSSION OUTLINE

Working Draft #1 September 1997

Contents

I.	Purpose and Principles	P. 1
II.	Methods and Content	P. 2
III.	Planning and Resources	P. 4
IV.	Policy Issues	P. 5
V.	Typical Learning Center Sequence	P. 6
VI.	Decision Case Examples	P. 7

MAIN PURPOSES

- To strengthen education, especially in Greater Kansas City, in the skills of research, analysis, decision making, and communication and in the fields of modern history and public affairs.
- To improve the teaching of and learning about the Truman period, a time in which many actions were taken that have continuing high relevance to our international and domestic structures, policies and dilemmas.
- To increase appreciation and understanding of democracy, civic responsibility, and leadership.

GENERAL APPROACH

To draw on the Truman period, and especially the unique resources of the Truman Library, for highly effective experiential learning.

AUDIENCES

- Students and their teachers, especially from middle school and upward.
- Decision makers in business, education, government, and the non profit sector.
- Interested adult groups.

PRINCIPLES AND ASSUMPTIONS

- That there is presently a dearth of experiential learning opportunities, especially related to public policy and public affairs and using primary documentation and real historical examples.
- That participatory decision making and role playing based in analysis of historical situations, and drawing on their documentation, can support highly effective learning in a variety of skills and subject matter fields.
- That tools and materials developed for a given historical decision can support learning across a broad range of educational levels from middle school to college to managers in a wide variety of organizations.
- That these tools and materials can respond to the time available to learning groups, e.g. from several hours to several weeks.
- That the holdings of the Truman Library, linked to a well conceived learning center, offer a unique, largely unrealized educational resource to Greater Kansas City unlikely to be matched by any other area resource.
- That a center for experiential learning at the Truman Library can serve as a catalyst and laboratory for other presidential libraries and for other learning centers with similar skills and subject matter interests.

METHODS

- Role playing and other participatory decision making techniques drawing on case study situations (and materials relating to them) on matters from the Truman years that have a continuing interest or application.
- Use of the learning center on a pre-scheduled basis with visits usually scheduled at least 60 days in advance.
- Maximum group using the center is 40 (or 80?)
- Active involvement of teachers and parents where possible.
- Enhancement of decision making exercises by use of appropriate White House settings (White House and departmental offices, Cabinet room, White House press room) replicated at the Truman Library learning center in an approximate, affordable, and highly flexible manner suitable for group experiential learning.
- Incorporation of Truman Library exhibits, films, and other resources into pre and post learning center activities.
- Adaptation and transfer of proven learning tools and materials to electronic formats where feasible.
- Adaptation of decision making cases for use by a range of audiences and suitable to their knowledge, interests, and time available.
- Summer courses and other educational opportunities for teachers to create and expand a cadre of educators knowledgeable about the Truman period, the Truman Library, and the use of experiential learning tools and techniques.

- Year long or semester long internships or scholarships for established or aspiring teachers in the operation, evaluation, enhancement, and export of the Truman Library learning center.

LEARNING CENTER SKILLS

These include, for example, research and analysis, decision making, leadership, teamwork, communication.

LEARNING CENTER SUBJECT MATTER

These include, for example, recent history, social studies, government, economics, politics, and international affairs.

CONTENT AREAS FOR CASE STUDY AND DECISIONS

Case studies, situations, roles, and materials in, for example, the following issue areas from the Truman years are of continuing importance to our present and future:

- regulation of the economy
- foreign relations (unilateral and multi-lateral)
- defense and military organization and policy
- development of social and economic policy
- structuring, placement and operation of government programs
- intelligence and investigative functions
- intergovernmental relations
- relating foreign and domestic decisions to domestic politics
- the appointment of government officials
- corruption and scandal
- government-business relations
- media relations
- science and technology

LOCATION AND CONFIGURATION OF LEARNING CENTER

- Located on the lower level of the Truman Library building and/or in a nearby building.
- Highly flexible space that can be separated and combined for following functions: initial briefing area(s); small group (4-8 people) meeting areas; cabinet room (probably two such areas); lunch room; and press conference room.

PLANNING AND INITIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

- Critique of an initial rough concept paper through discussions with selected audiences, e.g. library staff, existing advisory group of teachers, education specialists in National Archives, Project Whistlestop Council, Learning Exchange staff, RAND.
- Discussion of a revised concept paper with selected leadership groups/individuals in Kansas City who might support its implementation, especially if involved in conceptualization, e.g. Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, Francis Families Foundation, Hall Foundation, etc..
- Development of a formal learning center description and plan, perhaps with the assistance of consultants, for endorsement by the Truman Library and the Truman Library Institute as a major continuing component of the Library/Institute's educational program.
- Preparation of a learning center funding proposal and presentation to a series of major potential supporters.

RESOURCES

- Commitment of space and general institutional support by the Truman Library with approval of the National Archives and Records Administration.
- Core annual operational support for learning center from the educational endowment (\$3 million) of the Truman Library Institute capital campaign to be completed by 2,002.
- Active use of interns (especially teachers) and volunteers to supplement Library educational staff.
- Fees collected from groups participating in learning center programs, perhaps including annual membership fees by school districts and corporate and non profit users (perhaps some scholarship type assistance to some classes).

SOME KEY POLICY ISSUES FOR THE TRUMAN LIBRARY RE A LEARNING CENTER

- What is the key research that needs to be done regarding the feasibility of a learning center and how to maximize its potential for success? What literature to examine; what examples to visit and assess; what experts to consult?
- Who are the key potential supporters who should be consulted very early on while even the very broad issues remain open? Who are the major sources of potential support who are most likely to appreciate a very early opportunity to comment?
- At what point should an informal advisory group be created who can invest themselves very early in fostering the learning center?
- Should the Library/Institute operate such a center independently, or in a continuing relationship with one or more partners, or based in a consortium? Or, perhaps with a strong advisory body representing some parties likely to have continuing interest or role, e.g. major funders, Greater KC and Truman Heartland Community Foundations, UMKC, Independence and several other major school districts, State of Missouri Department of Education, representatives of major elected officials, representatives of several chambers of commerce, etc.
- Should the learning center seek a direct relationship with curriculum goals of Missouri or Kansas?
- How to accommodate the levels of students (high school/college) and other users who are unlikely to be able to use the Learning Center for an extended period during the week?
- How to set aside space (where and how much) for a learning center so that we can make effective decisions in the months ahead on the work to be done under Federal appropriations. How relative to decision to seek support to extend triangle addition to lower level?
- Does design and operation of a learning center area relate to design and operation of any other areas in the Library, e.g. a separate area for younger students, operation of permanent exhibits (perhaps with supplemental educational materials) for school groups, set aside of an area where students or others might eat lunch or snacks. etc.
- What are the high potential spin-off/follow up programs from a learning center. e.g.
 - Invite several major speakers each year to the Library for presentation where students who have used the learning center (and their teachers and parents) are the major audience or in which they play a prominent role as panelists, questioners, etc.
 - More intense summer institutes at the learning center during the summer or during school breaks for advanced students or those who cannot attend during school week.

- Use of present officials/experts/journalists involved in public affairs as resources for programs related to the learning center.
- Use of the Library's "Student Files" document sets on loan or CD-ROM as pre or post learning center visit resources.
- Development of a corporate membership program whereby groups representing the corporate member have special access to the learning center.
- Development of some related cases, based on learning center models, which do not come from the Truman period but are related more directly to issues currently facing Greater Kansas City.
- Development of a portable learning center that can be part of a "Truman Truck" to visit communities and groups unable or unlikely to visit the Library.

TYPICAL LEARNING CENTER SEQUENCE

A typical sequence for use of the Truman Library learning center might include the following.

- Pre-visit: (One day to several weeks)
 - Classroom discussion of materials available on-line from or otherwise supplied by the Truman Library
 - Selection by teacher and students of a case study/decision area, e.g. foreign policy, economic policy, social policy, politics.
 - (Perhaps) A visit to selected exhibits in the Truman Library
- At the learning center: (Two to six hours)
 - Presentation of the case, players and roles, and description of available documentation by learning center staff. (Note: probably two decisions being worked on, with half of class assigned to each)
 - Assignment of roles (perhaps done before visit). Note: teachers and parents play roles as note takers, information gatherers on request, assist with reconfiguration of spaces, and other non-directive roles.
 - Small group work in White House or departmental offices to develop positions and options.
 - Discussion in cabinet room presenting positions and persuading President and responding to his questions and concerns (President probably "played" by Learning Center staff or highly experienced volunteer.).
 - President announces decision to the participants in cabinet room discussion.
 - Discussion in cabinet room of how to present decision to the press/public.
 - Press conference announcing and explaining decision and responding to questions from press. (Group A decision announced by President and explained by students, followed by questions from Group B acting as press; then Group B decision announced and explained, followed by questions from Group A acting as press.)
 - (Perhaps) Critique of decisions and press reaction in discussion led by President.

- Post-visit:
 - Perhaps additional readings, use of on-line tools, discussion organized by teachers and students.
 - Perhaps a presentation to other students or teachers at the school or in the district.
 - General critique and debriefing by students and teachers, with feedback (required of all groups) provided to the Truman Library learning center.

DECISION CASE EXAMPLE #1

ISSUE: The Truman Administration and creation of a joint defense agreement with European nations.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS:

- What should be the purposes of such an organization?
- Who should be asked to become a member and on what terms?
- How should such a proposal be advanced in the United States and internationally?
- What near term complications should be expected in implementation, and how might they be overcome?
- What are the potential long term costs and benefits to the United States? To others?

DECISION POINT: Should the United States advance a proposal for a joint defense agreement with certain countries in Europe? If so, what should the proposal be, and how should it be described to the American public?

LOCATIONS: Discussions in the offices of the President's special counsel and in the cabinet room. Presentation of the decision in the press secretary's conference room.

EXAMPLES OF PLAYERS/ROLES

- The President
- The leaders and experts of the Department of State and the Department of Defense
- The key leaders of both parties in the House and Senate
- The President's advisors on politics and on economic affairs
- The ambassadors of European countries and of the Soviet Union
- The press secretary
- Members of the press

EXAMPLES OF TECHNIQUES

- Each small group is assigned a player to represent.
- Each learner is given a general summary of the case, general background on all the individual players, and more detailed information about the characteristics and perspective of the player represented.
- All learners are given access to relevant historical documents from the period.
- Learners work in small groups to develop the positions of each role player and to participate actively in the major decision point and, if time permits, in the various subissues.

- Each group organizes support for its position and prepares arguments to be used in presentations to the President.
- The designated “role player” in each group is supported in Cabinet presentation by “members of his staff” (the other learners in his group).
- The President in announcing his decision often has his major advisors at the podium with him to explain or comment.

ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF CASE STUDY ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

DECISION CASE #2

President Truman, at the Potsdam Conference in June 1945, has just learned that the United States has successfully tested the first atomic bomb and that several bombs may be ready for use in a few weeks. He has asked for your advice on the several questions: (A) What, if anything, should he now tell Churchill? Stalin? The Japanese? The American public? (B) What are his realistic options regarding use of the bombs? (C) Which should he choose when there are bombs ready to use?

PLAYERS/ROLES:

- The President’s military advisors
- The President’s foreign policy advisors
- Churchill and his advisors
- Stalin and his advisors
- The Japanese government
- The President and his press secretary
- Members of the press

DECISION CASE #3

It is September 1, 1945, more than ten days after the United States has dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki. The Japanese have not surrendered. The President has asked the State Department, the War Department, and his White House Counsel to each present two practical options to him and to indicate which is preferred. What options should be advanced by each? Finally, what should the President do, and what should he say about it to the public?

PLAYERS/ROLES:

- The President
- The Secretary of State and his advisors
- The Secretary of War and his advisors
- The President’s main White House advisors, including his press secretary
- Members of the press who cover the White House

DECISION CASE #4

In the Spring of 1947, to the surprise of the British and the United States, the insurgents in

Greece have established military control of most of the country, forcing the Greek government to flee the country. What options should be considered by the United States, and what steps should then be pursued?

DECISION CASE #5

Former Secretary of Defense Forrestall has committed suicide by jumping from his hospital window. The President's Counsel has been notified that Forrestall left a note stating that his death was his only way to draw attention to the fact that the President's unification of the armed services was a grave mistake that cannot be implemented effectively and will endanger the safety of the country. Should the public be informed of the note? What comment should the President make about the death of Forrestall? What other actions should he take?

DECISION CASE #6

Secretary of State George Marshall has come to the White House privately on May 13, 1948 to inform the President that if the United States recognizes Israel the next day, as now seems likely, that he, Marshall, will resign immediately. What should the President say to Marshall? What should he do over the next 24 hours?

DECISION CASE #7

It is November 10, 1948. As expected, Governor Thomas Dewey of New York has defeated Harry Truman and will become President in late January. What should be President Truman's goals for the next 60 days, and how should he seek to achieve them?

Other prime candidates for decisions:

- Something hypothetical earlier in Truman's career regarding a Jackson County decision with a strong Pendergast factor.
- Berlin airlift: If Russians act differently or if supplies aren't sufficient to feed Berliners.
- Corruption issues: How should Truman react to reports of influence peddling in his Administration?
- Civil rights: Perhaps connected to resistance of military services but better not to duplicate decision theater in museum. Something relating to 1948 election, perhaps a major threat by Southern leaders to create a separate party early in 1948.
- Something on Korea, perhaps involving MacArthur as well.
- Something of refugees at end of WWII.

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a:/outline.lc

Film revives Truman's legacy

Documentary makes its premiere today at presidential library.

By BRIAN BURNES
and ROBERT W. BUTLER
Staff Writers

Harry Truman was the last 35mm president.

So says filmmaker Charles Guggenheim, a four-time Oscar winner whose last several months have been ruled by reels of archival footage of the 33rd president.

The result is Guggenheim's latest documentary, "Harry S. Truman, 1884-1972," which premieres to the public today at the Harry S. Tru-

man Library in Independence.

The striking clarity of some antique images on the library's big screen may surprise viewers. One reason: the size of film stock used by those newsreel photographers who tracked Truman in the 1940s and 1950s.

"All those newsreels were shot in 35mm, which is a far better quality of film than the 16mm film used on presidents for the next 20 years," the filmmaker said in a recent telephone interview from Los Angeles.

The library, now observing its 40th anniversary, is presenting the 45-minute orientation film as another installment in its ongoing overhaul of permanent exhibits. This makeover, expected to contin-

ue for several years, represents a determined effort to bring the Truman story to a new, younger audience.

"This film gives anyone enough to understand a good deal about Truman and the importance of his presidency," said Truman Library Director Larry Hackman.

Although it can stand alone, the film ideally will be viewed as part of the larger multimedia experience that the Truman Library intends to offer eventually after all of its exhibit overhauls are completed.

But since those other elements aren't there yet, some oversights seem glaring.

For instance, a young woman
See **FILM, B-7**, Col. 1



Photo courtesy of Truman Library

Image of Harry S. Truman from the Charles Guggenheim film "Harry S. Truman, 1884-1972."

Film archives offer Truman narrative

Continued from B-1

who bears a striking resemblance to Harry and Bess Truman appears now and then, but she's never identified.

That's Margaret Truman. Their daughter.

But that's also just how brutal Guggenheim's time constraints were. Given the crowded narrative arc of the Truman administration, some epochal events do not appear. Truman's considerable record on civil rights is mentioned only in passing, and the 1945 founding of the United Nations is mentioned not at all.

Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb survives. Much of the enduring controversy, however, does not.

"In a larger film you would be more susceptible to criticism," said Guggenheim. "In my film I drop the bomb in a minute and a half, and it's over with."

Still, Guggenheim mourns the footage left out. Unlike John F. Kennedy or Lyndon Johnson — whose presidential libraries also feature films by Guggenheim — Truman was president for nearly two full terms.

"Truman faced more crises in the 20th century than any other occupant of the White House," he observed. "My first edit had the founding of the U.N. in there. It was cut because I had to keep bringing down the running time. It was dreadful.

"David McCullough (the Truman biographer who narrates the film) and I both anguished over that."

Even so, many images that remain may startle even the Truman buff.

Newsreel footage of the 1944 Democratic National Convention, for instance, brings new meaning to the phrase "smoke-filled room."

Delegates seated elbow-to-elbow, with wilting collars, make the Chicago convention hall resemble a nightmarish snake pit of politics.

Truman's alleged reluctance to accept the nomination, however debatable today, is nevertheless bolstered by the sight of two strong-armed security guards grabbing Truman, yanking him from his seat and dragging him figuratively into history.

Guggenheim grew up in St. Louis and his production company is a Missouri corporation, although he moved most of his operation to Washington, D.C., nearly two decades ago.

At age 73, Guggenheim says he probably should retire — but has no plans to. He just completed a documentary about Norton Simon, the eccentric industrialist who amassed the greatest private art collection in the U.S.

Yet it is the untaken photographs of Truman and other Kansas City historical figures that Guggenheim finds himself thinking about.

"That's what you cry over," he said.

"Places like Kansas City have such a rich history, you wish there had been more material," he said. "We don't revere photographers too much in this country as an archival source. With all the music and everything else that went on in Kansas City, I just wish there were more photographs of the geniuses who went through that town."



Charles Guggenheim

...only allowed 45 minutes

The Star.
KANSAS CITY

■ Read more about Harry S. Truman's presidency and visit the Truman Library on line when you go to *The Star's* site at <http://www.kansascity.com> and click on **Local News**.

kansascity.com

Guggenheim also has brought to the big screen some archival Kansas City footage that only recently has become available. That includes glimpses of the construction of the Jackson County Courthouse in the early 1930s and its dedication in 1934.

The film captures a comparatively youthful Truman preparing to leave his long-time post as Jackson County presiding judge to report to Washington as a new senator from Missouri.

The construction footage even includes an action shot of a Ready Mixed Concrete truck dumping its thick wet contents onto the courthouse site. Rarely has the connection between Truman and Boss Tom Pendergast — who owned Ready Mixed — been so vividly illustrated.

"That footage was taken by the contractor, who was proud of the work he was doing," Guggenheim said. "Thank God he gave it to somebody."

The documentary's initial minutes, meanwhile, are front-loaded with evidence of the young Truman's diminishing expectations.

"Nothing worked," said Guggenheim. "His investments failed. He studied law for a while. Banking. Even his (Truman's) father didn't think all that much of him."

In making his film, Guggenheim opted not to round up the usual subjects to be interviewed on camera. The technique, popularized by Ken Burns in his Civil War documentary, is becoming "rather tiresome," Guggenheim said.

"You want to transport people into another period of time, and you can do that with wonderful old footage," Guggenheim said. "Then all of a sudden you cut to some man who is 75 years old, wearing a string tie and a suit he bought that morning at the department store who is reminiscing about it all."

"That is dramatically destructive."

For Truman buffs, the film intrigues because it carries the imprimaturs of four principal Truman scholars working today.

Richard Kirkendall, now at the University of Washington, is considered the dean of Truman scholars. Biographers Alouzo Hamby and Robert H. Ferrell worked the Truman territory for years before David McCullough produced his Pulitzer Prize-winning biography in 1992.

Among documentary filmmakers, Guggenheim is almost a brand name. For more than 30 years his treatment of topics has been consistently trenchant. His first film, "Nine from Little Rock," examined the lives of the nine African-Americans who integrated an Arkansas high school in 1957. It won the first of his four Academy Awards.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.



President Truman and Secretary of State Marshall confer at a globe in the Oval Office, November 1947.

The Truman Administration and The Marshall Plan

Table of Contents

<i>The Truman Administration Develops the European Recovery Program</i> by Dennis Merrill Professor and Chair, Department of History, University of Missouri-Kansas City	2
<i>The Curious Birth and the Legacy of the Marshall Plan</i> by David C. Acheson President, the Atlantic Council	8
<i>European Initiative Essential to Economic Recovery</i> Remarks by Secretary of State George C. Marshall	11
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	12

*T*his publication was prepared with support from the Harry S. Truman Library Institute in conjunction with a conference on the Marshall Plan held in Kansas City, Missouri, October 17 and 18, 1997. The conference was co-sponsored by the International Relations Council, The George C. Marshall Foundation, The Harry S. Truman Library, and The Harry S. Truman Library Institute.

Mission Statement

Project WhistleStop will create a virtual community of teachers and students engaged in authentic and challenging learning projects supported by new teaching and learning resources built on the original source materials of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.

Goals

- Build an on-line database of primary sources for student research projects.
- Create learning experiences that combine original sources and technology.
- Create an interactive electronic communications system to permit student research.
- Design a professional development plan that builds the expertise of the participating teaching cadre.
- Expand the learning to other schools via electronic media.



"This Library will belong to the people of the United States. My papers will be the property of the people and be accessible to them. And this is as it should be. The papers of the Presidents are among the most valuable sources of material for history. They ought to be preserved, and they ought to be used."

Harry S. Truman



Student Centered Learning

Teachers and students are learning together effective ways to research using modern technology and primary sources from the past.

Students are developing projects based on primary sources from the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum which they found on the Project WhistleStop web site. Other students are e-mailing student partners from another district about their research ideas. Groups are designing ways to share their new knowledge through presentations, plays, web pages, and video productions.

Teachers from four districts are working together to develop methods to help their students grow in project based learning by using primary sources and new technology. They are sharing ideas with students on how to analyze political cartoons, pictures, letters, official documents and artifacts.

Preservice teachers are journaling with mentors about teaching strategies and with students regarding their projects.

... All of this is possible because of

"Project WhistleStop"

Visit our web site:

<http://www.whistlestop.org>

See what we are doing. Then plan to use the documents and ideas in your classroom.

Partners

- The School District of Independence, Missouri
- Blue Springs R-IV School District, Missouri
- Lee's Summit R-7 School District, Missouri
- Platte County R-III School District, Missouri
- Harry S. Truman Library and Museum
- University of Missouri-Columbia
- Research & Training Associates
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- Central Missouri Regional Professional Development Center
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- The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Apple Computer Inc.
- Coca Cola Bottling Company of Mid-America
- Southwestern Bell

Project WhistleStop
1231 S. Windsor
Independence, MO 64055
e-mail kvest@indep.k12.mo.us
Fax: 816-252-4917
phone: 816-252-6436
<http://www.whistlestop.org>
Kathleen Vest — coordinator
Marcia Haskin — director

Project WhistleStop
1231 South Windsor
Independence, MO 64055

PROJECT *WhistleStop*



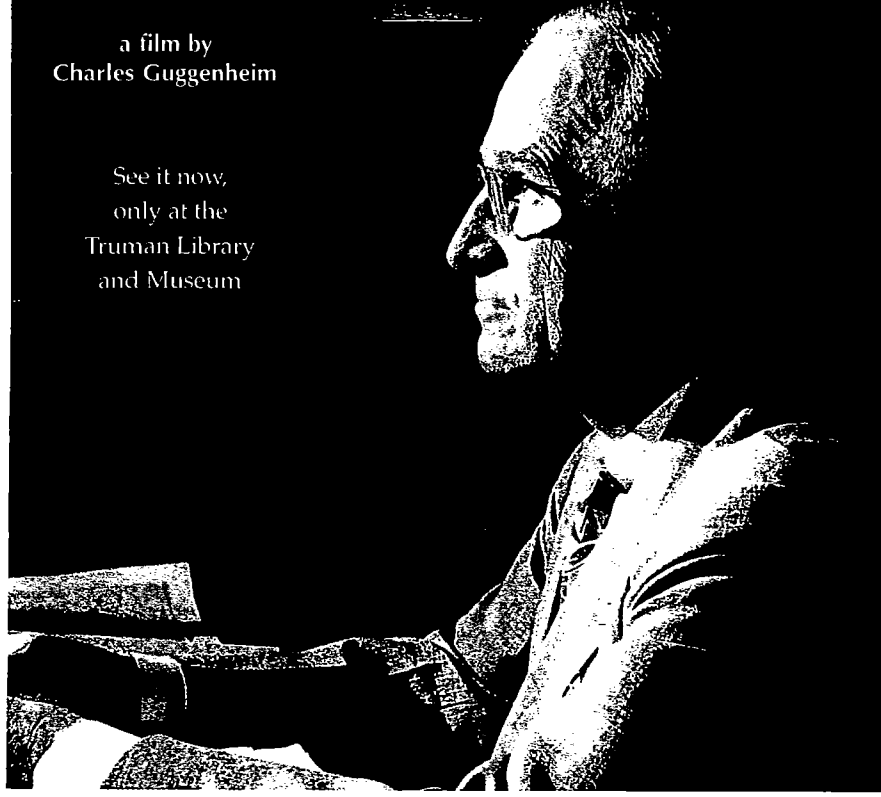
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United States Department of Education
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a film by
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See it now,
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Harry S.
TRUMAN

Harry S. Truman 1884-1972

See *Harry S. Truman 1884-1972*, a gripping new film biography of one of our country's greatest Presidents. Only at the Truman Library, starting Sunday, Sept. 21.

Director Charles Guggenheim deftly weaves vivid photos and rare film footage with biographer David McCullough's captivating narration to tell Truman's story as honestly as Truman ran the country.

Guggenheim has earned four Academy Awards and has been called the most accomplished documentary creator in the country.

See *Harry S. Truman 1884-1972* only at the Truman Library.

Buy one ticket and get one of equal or lesser value free with this card.



Harry S. Truman Library Institute
U.S. Hwy. 24 & Delaware St.
Independence, Missouri
64050-1798

Address correction requested.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



Harry S. Truman Library

500 West U.S. Highway 24 Independence MO 64050-1798

December 31, 1997

Ms. Roberta Greene
Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Room 100
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Bobbie:

I thought you would like to see these clippings from our kick off for the fiftieth anniversary observance. We had all four Kansas City television stations here for the press conference.

I hope you and Davey and Neil are having a terrific holiday season. We had a good visit with Kate and Alex in New York, with lots of good museum going, restaurants, walks, dance, theatre, and so on.

Best wishes for 1998.

Sincerely yours,



LARRY J. HACKMAN
Director

Enclosures

P.S. Wonder if the President and Mrs. Clinton would like to watch Charles Guggenheim's film on Harry Truman some time. We could loan a 35mm print for them if they want to watch it.

Celebrating the birth of a nation

Year of events in area to mark anniversary of Israel's statehood.

By KATIE WANG

Staff Writer

On Tuesday, shortly before the first evening of Hanukkah, Kansas City organizers unveiled plans for a yearlong commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the modern state of Israel.

Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver will go to Israel in March, and an April visit to this area has been scheduled by Abba Eban, Israel's first ambassador to the United States.

The trips highlight a series of events sponsored by the Truman Library and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City.

Truman was the first world leader to grant recognition to the Jewish state on May 14, 1948, just minutes after Israel proclaimed itself an independent nation.

"Truman's recognition of Israel was by no means an easy decision for him to make," Larry Hackman, library director, said at a news conference. "The Department of State, including the highly respected Secretary of State George Marshall, advised against it."

Former Mayor Richard L. Berkley and Jewish community activist Pella Fingersh are spearheading the events, which include an April exhibit of artifacts relating to Truman and the Kansas City Jewish community.

The Truman Library also will open an exhibit, "1948: Year of Turmoil and Triumph," which highlights landmark events, including the recognition of Israel.

"Recognizing Israel was one of President Truman's most important decisions in a year of many important decisions," said Hackman, referring to the Berlin Airlift, desegregation of the armed forces and Truman's election campaign.

In March, Cleaver and Rabbi Michael Zedek will lead a group of Kansas City community leaders to Israel for a one-week visit. Kansas City and the Israeli city of Ramle formed a sister-city partnership in October. Cleaver will formalize the agreement on his visit.

In September, Joseph Persico, author of *Nuremberg: Infamy on Trial*, will speak on the trials of Nazi war criminals.



JIM BARCUS/Special to The Star

"Truman's recognition of Israel was by no means an easy decision for him to make," Larry Hackman, Truman Library director, said Tuesday at a news

conference announcing a yearlong commemoration of the country's 50th anniversary by the library and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here is a calendar of local events celebrating Israel's 50th anniversary in 1998:

Jan. 9-11: Israeli Uriel Segal conducts Tchaikovsky with the Kansas City Symphony at the Lyric Theatre.

Feb. 28, March 1, 5, 7 and 8: Musical "Milk and Honey" at the Jewish Community Center.

March 1-10: Community mission to Israel. Mayor Emanuel Cleaver and Rabbi Michael Zedek are honorary tour leaders.

March 15: Israeli musician Yehuc'ah Hanani and the Kansas City Camarata at the Unity Temple.

March 17: Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company at the Folly Theater.

March 18: Batsheva Dance Company, Lied Center, University of Kansas, Lawrence.

April 19: Abba Eban, Israel's first ambassador to the United States, speaks at the Truman Library.

April 29: Communitywide celebration of Israel Independence Day, Congregation Beth Shalom.

May 2: Israeli musical group Habrera Hatveet at Johnson County Community College.

May 8-9: Israeli author Ze'ev Chafets, Congregation Beth Shalom.

June 11-26: Family mission to Israel.

Sept. 3: Joseph Persico, author of *Nuremberg: Infamy on Trial*, speaks at the Truman Library.

Nov. 14-16: Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly in Israel.

Nov. 29 - Dec. 13: "Expressions," Israeli art show at the Jewish Community Center.

The commemoration also will be spotlighted on the library's Web site www.liblib.utexas.edu/truman, where hundreds of key documents

from the Truman Library relating to Israel have been added.

Truman and Israel

■ Former president's role in nation's birth will be highlighted.

The 50th anniversary of the modern state of Israel next year has special meaning to historians and others with an interest in the career of former President Harry S. Truman. Truman, making one of the most crucial decisions in international affairs of his presidency, was the first world leader to recognize the Jewish state. His support put the prestige of the United States behind the new nation.

Truman's bold decision put him at odds with his widely respected Secretary of State George Marshall, whom the president held in high regard. Other members of the Cabinet questioned Truman's move.

Nonetheless Truman proceeded on the course that he thought was in the best interest of the United States as well as the Jewish people. It was this decision, as well as others that sometimes ran against the popular political current of the day, that brought him worldwide acclaim for forthright and courageous leadership.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Israel, the Truman Library and Museum in Independence and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City will offer a year-long program of events and exhibitions. American recognition of Israel will be part of the library's major exhibition of significant events of the Truman presidency in 1948; others include desegregation of the armed forces, the Berlin Airlift and Truman's "whistle

stop" election campaign.

Abba Eban, a prominent figure in Israel's history and that country's first ambassador to the United States, will appear at the library in April. Eban will discuss his observations of Truman and the relationship between the U.S. and Israel in the early years of the new state. He is one of several individuals who will speak during the 1998 commemoration.

Israel, despite immediate threats to its existence in 1948 and persistent hostility from neighboring countries for decades after that, still managed not only to survive but to thrive.

Israel became a champion for Jews around the world, offering protection for those who were oppressed. Its successes in agriculture, education and many other areas have served as a source of inspiration for people in many parts of the world.

From the American perspective, Israel lived up to Truman's hopes by becoming a strong U.S. ally in an important but unstable region. It serves as the only real democratic model in the Middle East.

The plans in the Kansas City area to celebrate Israel's birth and Truman's crucial decision 50 years ago should enhance public understanding of events that have proved to have a lasting impact on the Middle East and the world.

Wednesday, December 24, 1997

Truman Library to honor birth of Israel in '98

By Frank McCleary
The Examiner

Harry Truman didn't listen to his advisers in May 1948, including Secretary of State George Marshall.

He ignored the advice of his Cabinet members and, on May 14, 1948, recognized the state of Israel moments after it was established.

"This Government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the provisional Government thereof," Truman wrote in a type-written memo with handwritten corrections. "The United States recognizes the provisional government as the de facto authority of the new State of Israel."

Fifty years later, the Harry S. Truman Library and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City will commemorate the anniversary of Israel's founding throughout 1998 with several exhibitions and events at the library and throughout the Kansas City area.

"Recognizing Israel was one of

Truman's most important decisions in a year of important decisions," said Larry Hackman, library director.

Former Kansas City Mayor Richard Berkeley and Jewish Community activist Pella Fingersh are the co-chairs of the Israel 50 Committee for the federation.

"We all owe a debt of gratitude to Harry Truman for his determination... of what needed to be done," Berkeley said.

In April, the library will open a major exhibition that highlights four key events from 1948, Hackman said. Those events include the establishment and recognition of Israel, desegregation of the armed forces, the Berlin airlift, and Truman's "Whistle-stop" campaign against Thomas Dewey in the 1948 election.

On April 19, Abba Eban, Israel's first ambassador to the United States and later ambassador to the United Nations, will speak at the library. Eban will speak about the United States' recognition of Israel and the early relationship between the two countries.

The library will lend several ar-
Please see **LIBRARY**, Page 7

Library: Marks events of 1948

From Page 1

tifacts and documents to the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles for an exhibition entitled, "Truman and Israel." The exhibition will run April 20 through Aug. 30. Among the loaned items will be the Torah and Torah case given to Truman by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president.

In September, the library will be host for several speakers about Israel. On Sept. 3, Joseph Persico,

author of "Nuremberg: Infamy on Trial," will speak about the trials of Nazi war criminals. On Sept. 10, Greg Bradsher, an expert on documentation related to the Nazi gold claims by relatives of Jews killed during the Holocaust, will speak on that subject. On Sept. 17, Michael T. Benson, author of "Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel," will speak about his interpretation of Truman's decision to recognize Israel.

The library also has expanded

its home page on the Internet to include articles and documents from its archives about the recognition of Israel. The home page includes photographs, background information, chronology and bibliographies. The page is located at:

www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman/

Among the events sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City are a community mission to Israel in which Kansas

City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver and Rabbi Michael Zedek will participate. The mission will be from March 1 to 10.

On April 29, the federation will sponsor a communitywide celebration of Israel's Independence Day at 5:30 p.m., at Congregation Beth Shalom in Kansas City. The event will include a memorial service for Israeli soldiers killed in battle. In June, the federation will sponsor a family mission to Israel.

JEWISH CHRONICLE

A Tradition Since 1920



During a visit to the United States in 1951, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, presents President Harry S. Truman with a *chanukiah* (candelabra) while Abba Eban (center), then Ambassador to the United Nations, looks on.

Year to remember

K.C. Federation and HST Library plan Israel anniversary celebrations

Michael A. Levine
Staff Writer

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. — The Harry S. Truman Library and Museum and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City will jointly commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel next year.

It was on May 14, 1948, that President Truman's announcement made the United States the first country to recognize the new nation — within minutes of its proclamation.

The Truman Library plans a year-long variety of events, programs and exhibitions to commemorate the anniversary. The Jewish Federation will sponsor a community celebration of Israeli Independence Day on Wednesday, April 29, 1998, at Congregation Beth Shalom.

The golden anniversary celebration plans were announced Tuesday at a ceremony at the Truman Library and Museum. The announcement was timed to coincide with the international kickoff of Israel's 50th anniversary events on the first night of Chanukah, Dec. 23, 1997.

"Truman's recognition of Israel was by no means an easy decision for him to make," said library director Larry Hackman. "The Department of State, including highly respected Secretary of State



Michael A. Levine

The Torah scroll, yad (pointer) and ark that were presented to President Harry S. Truman from Dr. Chaim Weizmann, first president of the state of Israel, on May 25, 1948. These items, along with seven others, are being loaned to the Skirball museum in Los Angeles as part of the "Truman and Israel" exhibit that will run April 20 through Aug. 30, '98.

George Marshall advised against it, as did much of his cabinet. But by May 14 he had decided it was the right thing to do, and so he did

See **WEEKEND**, Page 10A

Local News

TRUMAN/Federation, HST Library plan anniversary events

From Page 1A
it."

In April, the Truman Library will open a major exhibition highlighting some of the landmark events and decisions that happened in 1948, including the recognition of Israel. "1948: Year of Turmoil and Triumph" will also recall the Berlin airlift, the desegregation of U.S. armed forces, and Truman's famous "whistle stop" campaign against Thomas Dewey.

The library will also display a small group of artifacts relating to Harry Truman and the Jewish community of Greater Kansas City, including Truman's friend and former business partner Eddie Jacobson, who is said to have been the main influence behind Truman's decision to recognize Israel.

Abba Eban here

On April 19, 1998, Abba Eban, Israel's first ambassador to the United States, and later ambassador to the United Nations, will speak at the Truman Library. He will share his recollections of President Truman.

Also in April, an exhibition on the United States' recognition of Israel will open at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, drawing on important artifacts and documents loaned to the new museum of Jewish culture by the Truman Library. Of special note is the Torah, Torah case and silver *yad* (pointer) given to President Truman by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president. The Skirball exhibition, "Truman and Israel" runs April 20 through Aug. 30.

In September, the Truman Library will bring several additional speakers to the Kansas City area as part of the anniversary. Joseph Persico, author of "Nuremberg: Infamy on Trial," will speak on Sept. 3 about the trials of Nazi war criminals. On Sept. 10,



Photo Courtesy of Brown-Swartz

In May 1948, Israeli President Chaim Weizman (right) presented a Torah scroll to President Harry S. Truman as a symbol of Israel's gratitude for American support of the new nation.

Greg Bradsher, an expert on documentation related to the Nazi gold claims issue, will speak on that subject. On Sept. 17, Dr. Michael T. Benson, author of the new book "Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel," will present his new interpretation of Truman's decision.

The Truman Library is also expanding its Web site, at <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman>, to include a special new section relating to the recognition of Israel. Visitors to the site will have access to

photographs, background information, a chronology and bibliography, as well as a link to "Project Whistle Stop," which contains scanned copies of hundreds of key documents from the collections of the Truman Library relating to the formal recognition of the state of Israel.

Resources available

The Truman Library is working to increase public awareness of the resources it has available to students and teachers, both at the library and online. As part of that initiative, the library is partnering with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education to sponsor the 1998 White Rose essay contest. It encourages students to explore the obligations and opportunities that confronted both Holocaust survivors and the United States under the leadership of Harry S. Truman following World War II. For more information about the contest, call the MCHE at 327-8190.

The Truman Library is also preparing a special souvenir booklet on President Truman and the United States' recognition of Israel, as well as framed copies of President Truman's recognition announcement and a photo of President Truman and President Weizmann. For more information on these items, call the

Truman Library Institute at (816) 833-0425.

The Truman Library and Museum, one of 10 presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, is located at U.S. Highway 24 and Delaware Street in Independence, Mo. For more information, call the Truman Library at (816) 833-1225 or visit the Truman Library's Web site at <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman>.

RABBI MOREY SCHWARTZ

Debra Mohile
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

342

December 15, 1997

Dear Debra,

It was an honor and a pleasure to have breakfast with you on November 21st, at the special breakfast for clergy from around the country, which took place in the East Wing at the White House.

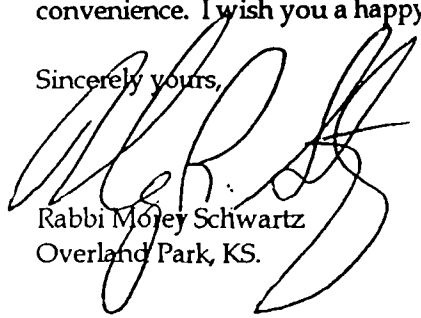
It was a particular pleasure to visit with and to hear how hard you work to link the Jewish community's interest together with those of the President. Thank you for making me feel at home and for working so hard to make the day into the memorable moment that it was.

I had mentioned at the time that our community is running what I believe to be a very special opportunity to simultaneously commemorate the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel with the 50th anniversary of the United States' recognition of the State of Israel. This combination of a Jewish communal celebration, and a moment for America to give pause to its important role in bringing about this modern day miracle, makes this event one that I believe the President would find most appealing. The event will take place at the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Missouri. We would like to schedule the event for mid May, 1998, and would be willing to accommodate the President's schedule in order to have the honor of his presence here in Kansas City.

Debra, I realize that you are inundated with requests for the President's attendance at such events; however, I really do believe that in this case, there is an opportunity not only for Jewish reflection on this holy occasion, but for American celebration of the role we have played in bringing about some of the most significant changes of this past century.

I hope to hear a positive response from you, or the President, at your earliest convenience. I wish you a happy Chanukah.

Sincerely yours,


Rabbi Morey Schwartz
Overland Park, KS.



BIAV

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RABBI

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Honorable Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

December 15, 1997

Dear Mr. President,

It was a pleasure and a honor to be invited to have breakfast with you this past November 21st, as a representative of the clergy of the United States. I think that all of us felt the great burden of responsibility which is upon your shoulders and sensed the sincerity in which you approached us in an effort to accomplish your goals, to bring about your dreams. That experience reminded me of all the best things that our country stands for.

I write to you on behalf of the Jewish Community of Greater Kansas City. We invite you to come to the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, in mid May 1998, to observe together with us the 50th anniversary of the United States recognition of Israel. We hope that you will visit the library and will deliver an appropriate address here.

It was on May 14th, 1948 that President Truman made one of his most one of his most difficult decisions to extend recognition to the new Jewish State. As a result of his statement, the United States became the first nation to so recognize Israel. Your visit to Harry Truman's hometown on or near May 14th would be a truly fitting tribute to his great decision, and perhaps one of the most monumental contributions the United States made to the establishment of the State of Israel.

I know that there are many requests being put forth for your attendance at such celebrations. I know that it must be a difficult decision, to choose where to go, where to put your priorities. I believe, however, that this combination of celebrations; of the large Jewish community together with a national institute, library, and museum established in honor of one of the greatest presidents of this country would be an excellent way for an American President to mark this occasion, in a truly American way.

It would be a great honor and the high-light of the 50th anniversary to have you here next May. We hope that you will let us know soon whether you'll consider this request so we may begin to prepare for your visit.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Morey Schwartz
Overland Park, Kansas

cc: Ruth Bigus
Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City



FEB 20 1998

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
65101

MEL CARNAHAN
GOVERNOR

February 17, 1998

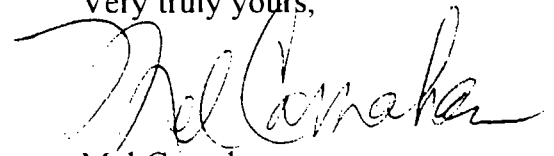
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 216
(573) 751-3222

Dr. Larry J. Hackman, Director
Harry S. Truman Library
500 West U.S. Highway 24
Independence, MO 64050-1798

Dear Larry:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from the White House Scheduling Office. As you can see, it is most non-committal. If you wish me to expend further effort on this, please give me more particulars and request me to do so.

Very truly yours,



Mel Carnahan

MC/sa

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

RECEIVED
FEB 13 1998
GOVERNORS OFFICE

February 3, 1998

The Honorable Mel Carnahan
Governor of the State of Missouri
Office of the Governor
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Governor Carnahan:

On behalf of President Clinton, thank you for inviting the President to address the Truman Library Institute for National and International Affairs in Independence, Missouri.

The White House is presently unable to confirm the President's availability in May of 1998. You will be contacted when further information becomes available.

Please know that President Clinton appreciates your interest and that your request will continue to receive careful consideration. Should you need further scheduling assistance, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Stephanie S. Streett
Assistant to the President
Director of Presidential Scheduling

SSS/jxz

August 12, 1997

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write on behalf of the Harry S. Truman Library and the Truman Library Institute for National and International Affairs. We invite you to come to the Truman Library in mid-May, 1998 to observe the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United States recognition of Israel. We hope that you will visit the Library and will deliver an appropriate address here.

It was on May 14, 1948 that President Truman made one of his most difficult decisions -- to extend de facto recognition to the new Jewish state. As a result of his statement (facsimile attached) the United States became the first nation to so recognize Israel. Your visit to Harry Truman's home town on or near May 14 would be a fitting tribute to his great decision.

We are planning a wide range of other activities to mark this anniversary, including a major exhibit at the Library on the many important events of 1948, not only the recognition of Israel but also desegregation of the armed Services in July, and the great Whistle Stop campaign and upset of Thomas Dewey in the Fall. Other plans include a special section of our World Wide Web home page devoted to documents and events related to the United States' recognition of Israel; an essay contest cosponsored with the Midwest Holocaust Education Center; a Spring 1998 lecture by former Israeli Ambassador, Abba Eban; a visit here by the President of Israel; and a variety of other programs in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City.

It would be a great honor -- and the highlight of the Fiftieth Anniversary -- to have you here next May. We hope that you will let us know soon whether you will consider this request so that we may begin to plan for your visit.

Sincerely yours,

LARRY J. HACKMAN
Director

cc:
Official File (LJH-2) ✓
LJH Reading
Reading
KMorris
NLT:LJH:rkc

Enclosures

cc: John Carlin, Archivist of the United States
Willard S. Boyd, President, Truman Library Institute
Senator Thomas Eagleton, President Emeritus, Truman Library Institute



Harry S. Truman Library

500 West U.S. Highway 24 Independence MO 64050-1798

September 16, 1997

Ms. Roberta Greene
Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Room 100
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Bobbie:

Congratulations on your appointment! What an exciting opportunity. It was great to hear that you are doing something important, something you are enjoying and something that also seems manageable from a personal standpoint. I hope that your work continues to meet all these criteria.

I have attached a copy of the invitation to our Fortieth Birthday Celebration which features the premiere of Charles Guggenheim's film. I'll send you a video as soon as we have run off the VHS copies from the master. You can then tell Charles what you think when you see him. He will be out here this weekend for the opening.

As promised, I'm also enclosing a copy of my recent letter to President Clinton re the Fiftieth Anniversary of United States recognition of Israel. I hope that you can promote this from your end, and get me some early reading on whether this will be considered seriously.

I'll continue to ponder the issues you raised relating to staffing and preparations for a future Clinton Library and I will look forward to seeing you when I am next in Washington.

Best regards,



LARRY J. HACKMAN
Director

Enclosures