

Foreign Office,

November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

'His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country'.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours  
Arthur James Balfour

Learning about the nation of Israel begins with the 1917 Balfour Declaration, the San Remo Conference in 1920, and the subsequent approval of the Mandate for Palestine in 1922.

It is crucial to understand and be able to explain that the Allied powers of World War I met in San Remo, Italy, in April 1920, and passed a legally binding international resolution that charged the British government with implementing the Balfour Declaration and establishing a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine (which at that point consisted of modern-day Jordan as well as Israel).

It is for that reason that Chaim Weizmann famously labeled the San Remo Resolution as, “the most momentous political event in the whole history of our movement, and it is, perhaps, no exaggeration to say in the whole history of our people since the Exile.”

Two years later in 1922, the League of Nations — the precursor to the United Nations — officially ratified the resolution, which is still binding and applicable today according to the UN’s own charter.

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-san-remo-conference>