ACPC Takes a Stand (cont.)

"It is possible that if Israel had been represented at Bandung, the exclusive concern voiced in the declaration for 'the rights of the Arab people of Palestine' might have been modified; or that the ambiguous reference to 'the implementation of United Nations resolutions' might have been clarified. The fact remains that a hitherto closed door seems now to be at least opened. This warrants the use of every means to lessen the existing tensions in the Near East -- tensions which the conference itself recognized as a 'danger ... to world peace.'

"In subscribing to the declaration, Egypt, the most powerful of the Arab states and the one on which the fate of the Near East's peace depends, has apparently seen the wisdom of coming to terms with Israel. Only four months ago the Egyptian Minister of National Guidance was reported by The Times of London to have declared that 'Egypt was not disposed to conclude peace with Israel even if the latter accepted the United Nations resolutions on the partition of Palestine and on the refugees.'

"If, as it now appears, the United States is prepared to consider the offer of Chou on Formosa at close to its face value, may we not hope that the United States will also exercise its influence in furthering the declared desire of the Arab states to reach a settlement with Israel -- a course the Israeli Government has always advocated?

"Recently, another great Western power and our staunchest ally, namely, the United Kingdom, has taken a promising step in this direction. At the beginning of this month, Sir Anthony Eden announced that the British Government was prepared to offer guarantees of support of any settlement between Israel and the Arab states.

"With the declaration from Bandung and the announcement from London the way seems sufficiently prepared for a display of American initiative. The vital goal of peace in the Near East calls for a dedicated effort by all free peoples. The United States Government must not lag behind both East and West in searching out ways to reach that goal."

Sincerely,

Karl Baehr
Executive Director

Carl Hermann Voss
Chairman, Executive Council