

# The Balfour Declaration: November 1917



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.



*"Passion is the ruin of Princes and peoples... Those who have persecuted or condemned the Jews could tell you the tale. The Empire of Spain in the old days and the Empire of Russia in our time show the road of ruin that Jewish persecution leads to.*

*You say to yourself what is this race despised, rejected, abhorred, that cannot fight, that has no home and is no nation?*

*O Feisal, I can read your heart and your thought, and there are counselors about you who will whisper similar things in your ear. Believe I speak the truth when I say that this race, despised and weak, is universal, is all-powerful and cannot be put down."*



British diplomat and Middle East adviser Sir Mark Sykes (of the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916) in a letter to Prince Feisal Hussein, son of Sharif Hussein of Mecca and the Hejaz.

Jonathan Schneer; *The Balfour Declaration*; (Bloomsbury 2011) p 371

*"The Lord their God is with them; the shout of the King is among them. God brought them out of Egypt; they have the strength of a wild ox."*

(Numbers 23:21-22)