

GENERAL
ASSEMBLYASSEMBLEE
GENERALEA/AC.13/73
12 August 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

DECISIONS REGARDING HEARINGS BASED ON THE SECOND,
THIRD, AND FOURTH REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEE TWO

At its Eighteenth Meeting on 6 July 1947 the Special Committee made the following decisions based on the Second Report* of Subcommittee Two:

I. Applications from Individuals

The Committee, having taken note of a request received from the liaison officer of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in a letter dated 3 June 1947 that Mr. Shertok should be allowed to testify after the other Jewish bodies, decided to ask Mr. Shertok whether he would be ready to testify on 7 July. If not, the questioning of the Jewish Agency's representatives would be continued and Mr. Shertok would have to make a fresh application should he desire a hearing.

II. Applications Received Since 25 Junea) Hearings shall be granted to the following:

The Chief Rabbinate, Jerusalem

The Church of England and Church of Scotland, Jerusalem

The Council of Jewish Women's Organizations of Palestine, Tel Aviv

The League for Jewish-Arab Rapprochement and Cooperation, Jerusalem

b) No hearings are necessary in the following cases:

Bnei Horev Movement

Lohamey Heruth Israel (Fighters for the Freedom of Israel)

(In accordance with a similar decision of the Committee regarding the Irgun Zvai Leumi b'Eretz Israel)

c) A decision shall be deferred in the following cases:**

The Democratic Club, Tel Aviv

(Further information to be obtained on the scope and standing of this body)

The Manufacturers' Association of Palestine, Tel Aviv

(The Association's memorandum, distributed on 5 July, to be studied, and further information to be obtained from this body)

* Document A/AC.13/SC.2/7

** For details as to the character of these organizations, see
Document A/AC.13/SC.2/7.

The Relatives' Committee for Detainees and Exiled Persons
(To await decision by the Committee on the feasibility
of taking action on petitions regarding detainees)

III. Order for Public Hearings

The Committee approved the following tentative order for the public hearings beginning Monday, 7 July:

Jewish Agency
Dr. Weizmann
Vaad Leumi
Chief Rabbinate, Jerusalem
Church of England, Jerusalem
Church of Scotland, Jerusalem
General Federation of Jewish Labour
Communist Party of Palestine

IV. Visit to Supreme Moslem (Sharia) Council

The Committee agreed that the Chairman of Subcommittee Two should call on the Supreme Moslem (Sharia) Council and ask whether it was prepared to give information on its religious interests.

V. Case of Mr. J. W. Abileah

At its Twenty-Third Meeting* held on 8 July 1947 the Committee adopted the Subcommittee's recommendation** that, in view of the receipt of further information, a hearing should not be granted to Mr. J. W. Abileah of Haifa.

DECISIONS ON THIRD REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE TWO

At its Twenty-Eighth Meeting on 13 July 1947 the Committee made the following decisions after consideration of the Third Report*** of Subcommittee Two:

I. Application for Hearings from Organizations

(a) Hearings shall be granted to the following:

(1) The Manufacturers' Association of Palestine, Tel Aviv.

This body has an exclusive Jewish membership. As industry in Palestine, apart from oil interests, is almost entirely in Jewish hands, the Committee considered that it would be of interest to hear its views on the possibilities of future developments.

(2) Jewish Agency for Palestine (Mr. M. Shertok)

(In a letter dated 11 July 1947, Mr. Shertok applied to be heard by the Committee before the end of the week for the purpose of answering questions put to other representatives of the Jewish Agency to which no reply had as yet been given, and to deal further with Arab-Jewish relations, the present policy of the Mandatory Power,
/and

* Document A/AC.13/SR.23, page 11

** Document A/AC.13/SC.2/7/Add.1

*** Document A/AC.13/SC.2/9

and solutions to the Palestine problem.)

The Committee granted Mr. Shertok's request on the understanding that his statement would be a continuation of the general case put forward by the Jewish Agency.

(b) No hearings are necessary in the following cases:

- (1) The Democratic Club, Tel Aviv

The Club has a membership of only a few hundred persons, living in all parts of Palestine, and from the information available, it was not considered an organization of importance.

- (2) League for Peace with Justice in Palestine

(c) The following organizations are to be informed that the Committee does not consider their testimony to be of sufficient urgency to justify a hearing in Palestine, but that the question of inviting them to testify in Geneva will be considered at a later date:

- (1) Alliance Israelite Universelle, Paris

- (2) Anglo-Jewish Association, London

II. Application for Hearings from Individuals

In accordance with paragraph 3 of the decisions regarding oral hearings adopted by the Committee at its Thirteenth Meeting* on 27 June 1947, a member of the Secretariat (Mr. Stavropoulos) was instructed to communicate with individual applicants with a view to making a preliminary investigation as to whether they had relevant information or viewpoints of particular interest for the problem under investigation not included in the statements of organizations.

The following 41 individuals applied for hearings:

Abiad, A. K.
Cornfeld, P.
Danziger, F.
Doss, J.H.
Fuchs, A.
Gold, M.
Gorenstein, M.
Grosz, D.
Helpern, G.
Heppner, E.

/Jabotinsky-Kopp

* Document A/AC.13/27, page 6.

Jabotinsky-Kopp, Therese
Kandel, A.
Kotz, L.
Lande, S.
Lelelund, E.
Levin, J.
Lifshitz, J.
Linz, E.
Lipschitz, Sarah
Low, S.
Madani, Nizam
Margalit, G.
Mosaa ben el Nai
Nadji, V.
Oliver, D.
Popper, J.
Porush, Rabbi M. M.
Pinhas, N.
Ros, A.
Rost, H.
Schnur, G. F.
Schwarzman, I.
Sedler, W.
Shmidt, Carmela
Sneersohn, E.
Socolovitz, S.
Weisl, A. von
Werber, A.
Yofe, J.
Zamir, S.
Zaroubine, B.

Mr. Stavropoulos considered that ~~twenty~~ of the above applicants had given little or no indication why a hearing before the Committee would be justified, and accordingly invited them to appear before him. Only eleven persons accepted this invitation. The remaining twenty-one applicants were examined by Mr. Stavropoulos, who reported on them and on his interviews to Subcommittee Two.

The Committee agreed with the Subcommittee's view that in certain cases the information the applicants wished to give was irrelevant, while in other case the viewpoints they proposed to develop were either of no particular interest or had already been put forward by representatives of political or other organizations.

Special consideration, at the request of the representative of Uruguay, was given to the following applicants:

Carmela Shmidt, a girl of twelve, wished to put the case of her family before the Committee. Her father is detained in Kenya, her mother seriously ill

/and in

and in consequence she herself had to take responsibility for the support of her family.

Captain Helpern, who had submitted a memorandum distributed on 12 July, considers that neither the Jewish Agency nor the Arab Higher Committee are the right spokesmen for their respective communities and further holds the view that a Jewish majority already exists among the population of Palestine.

Dr. Heppner's only son is detained in Kenya and he himself and his family are under police supervision. He wished to speak on the "police state".

After discussion the Committee decided not to hear the three above-mentioned applicants.

Captain Lifshitz, Chaplain of the Jewish Brigade during the war, wished to make a statement on the participation of Jewish soldiers in the last war.

The Committee decided not to grant him a hearing.

III. Information Concerning the Enforcement of Security Measures

It was decided to invite the Government of Palestine to submit written information on the subject and on any questions asked by Members of the Committee.

IV. Memoranda Submitted by Captain Kotz and Mr. Rost

It was decided that the memoranda submitted by Captain L. Kotz and Mr. Harry Rost should be distributed to the Committee.

V. Question of Obtaining Further Information from the Government of Palestine

It was agreed that before the Committee decided this question, the Chairman should ascertain what the Government wished to present.

DECISIONS ON FOURTH REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE TWO

At its Thirty-Fourth Meeting* on 16 July 1947 the Committee made the following decisions based on the Fourth Report of Subcommittee Two:

I. Applications for Hearings from Organizations

(a) No hearing is necessary for the following:

Ahdut Avoda (Movement for Labour Unity)

* Document A/AC.13/SR.34

(As this organization had made no application, the Committee agreed with the Subcommittee that there was no reason for singling it out for a hearing.)

(b) A limited hearing shall be granted to the following:

Communist Union

(Hearing subject to a duration of one-half hour)

II. Applications for Hearings from Individuals

The Committee decided that Dr. S. Grinberg should not be invited to appear before it nor to submit a written statement, but that the question should be reconsidered after arrival in Geneva in relation to the proposal to visit the displaced persons' camps.

III. Hearing of the Government of Palestine

It was agreed to hear a representative of the Government of Palestine at a private meeting* of the Committee on 19 July.

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