

United Nations

Nations Unies

DECLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

**ASSEMBLEE
GENERALE**

A/AC.13/NC/51
10 July 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CONCERNING EMIGRATION**

The following letter and memorandum have been received from the Government of Palestine.

"GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

Chief Secretary's Office,
Jerusalem.

7th July, 1947.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the enquiry made by Mr. John Hood at the meeting between the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine and representatives of the Government of Palestine on the 16th June in regard to the number of emigrants from Palestine (page 26 of the summary record of the sixth meeting of the Committee), and to transmit herewith a note on this subject for the information of your Committee.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant

(Sgd.) D.C. MacGillivray
for CHIEF SECRETARY.

The Principal Secretary,
United Nations Special Committee on Palestine,
Y. M. C. A.
J é r u s a l e m."

/NOTE ON EMIGRATION...

NOTE ON EMIGRATION FROM PALESTINE

Before the World War of 1914-18 there was a considerable emigration from Palestine to Egypt and to North and South America. The emigrants to America were chiefly Christian Arabs. During the war, there was a great exodus from Palestine (the majority of whom were Jews) to Egypt and Syria. The wartime emigrants had, in the main, returned by 1922.

After 1920, however, Jewish emigration from Palestine consisted chiefly of immigrants who had failed to settle down in the country, or who were recalled for some reason to their old homes.

Non-Jewish emigration consisted partly of Europeans who were transferred home or to other countries from employment in Government, missionary and consular services or in commerce, etc.

Arab emigration continued up to 1930 but fell to a low level thereafter.

2. Exact statistics on emigration are difficult to obtain. The present method of ascertaining the extent of emigration is to divide all residents leaving Palestine into two groups; those who are leaving for a period of more than one year, defined as 'residents departing permanently' and those who expect to return within one year, defined as 'residents departing temporarily'. Neither Arab nor Jew will as a rule declare on departure that he is seeking to establish himself elsewhere, and it follows that his declaration of intention is in most cases to the effect that he is returning to Palestine within a year whether or not that be his true intention. Hence the recorded number of emigrants, that is to say, those who declare an intention to be absent from Palestine for more than a year, is always small.

As from 1st July, 1947, a new method of compiling statistics of emigration is being introduced. A resident whose passport bears an immigrant's visa for a foreign country will be classified as a 'resident departing permanently' irrespective of his declaration on departure. This, however, does not assist in what has passed.

3. Table I shows the number of residents of Palestine who declared on departure that they were departing for a period exceeding one year and were thus classified as 'residents departing permanently'. Detailed figures are not available before 1935 and those given in this Table in respect of the years prior to that date are minimum figures.

This picture of emigration from Palestine cannot be considered complete without examining Tables II and III.

4. Table II shows the number of residents arriving in Palestine from 1935-1946, a period of twelve years, whilst Table III shows the number of residents departing from Palestine over the same period.

5. It will be seen from Table III that over the period 1935-1946 the number of Jews who declared on departure that they were departing for a period exceeding one year and were recorded as 'residents departing permanently' was 6,573, similarly the number of Arabs was 2,053 (Table III).

However, in this same period 1935-1946, the total number of Jewish residents recorded as arriving in Palestine was 182,009 and Arabs 524,955 (Table II), whilst the total number of Jewish residents recorded as departing from Palestine was 207,999 and Arabs 543,425 (Table III). The excess of departures over arrivals was Jews 25,889 and Arabs 18,470.

Table IV summarizes the position of arrivals and departures of residents during the twelve year period 1935-1946. The residents returning after an absence of less than one year are greatly below the residents departing for less than one year. Therefore it is clear that people who declared they were leaving for less than one year actually stayed out of Palestine longer than one year. This is shown also by the excess of returning residents in the category of absences for more than one year. It appears therefore that the figure of departures for more than a year gives a minimum figure of emigration, while the excess of departures of all kinds over arrivals of all kinds gives a maximum figure of emigration. The true figure of emigration for the period 1935-1946 therefore lies between the wide limits of 6,573 and 25,990 in the
/case...

case of the Jews and 2,053 and 18,470 in the case of the Arabs. The upper limit is clearly too high in the case of the Jews since it includes a number who left Palestine in the period 1938-1940 and who could not return because of the war. This number cannot be estimated; but the number who left Palestine for destinations in Europe in these three years was 49,000.

7. Emigration is thus not easily discernible in Palestine as persons leaving the country have not, in general, declared their intention of settling permanently elsewhere. It is clear, however, from the statistics of arrivals and departures of residents of the country that the waves of immigration set up a movement in the nature of a backflow (of much smaller dimension than the inflow) of people leaving the country.

TABLE I

EMIGRATION

YEAR	TOTAL	JEWS	NON - JEWS	
			ARABS	OTHERS
1922	1,503 ⁺	1,503	+	+
1923	3,466 ⁺	3,466	+	+
1924	507 ⁺	507	+	+
1925	2,161 ⁺	2,161	+	+
1926	9,429	7,365		2,064
1927	6,978	5,071		1,907
1928	3,122	2,168		954
1929	2,835	1,746		1,089
1930	3,003	1,679		1,324
1931	1,346	666		680
1932	+	+	+	+
1933	+	+	+	+
1934	+	+	+	+
1935	783	396	196	191
1936	1,178	773	147	258
1937	1,528	889	341	298
1938	1,811	1,095	298	418
1939	1,996	1,019	277	700
1940	1,185	693	203	289
1941	1,216	426	69	721
1942	476	130	95	251
1943	432	85	57	290
1944	814	436	88	290
1945	1,460	405	123	932
1946	1,196	226	159	811
TOTAL	48,425	32,905		15,520

+ Not available.

⁺ Jews only.

NOTES : (1) Emigration statistics by race were not compiled prior to 1922 nor in the years 1932-34 inclusive.

(2) From 1935 to 1946 the figures of emigrants are those of "residents departing for a period of more than one year".

TABLE No. II

RESIDENTS ARRIVING

L/AC.13/NC/51
Page 6

Y E A R	T O T A L				Residents returning after a period <u>not</u> exceeding one year				Residents returning after a period <u>exceeding</u> one year			
	TOTAL	JEWS	NON-JEWS		TOTAL	JEWS	NON-JEWS		TOTAL	JEWS	NON-JEWS	
			ARABS	OTHERS			ARABS	OTHERS			ARABS	OTHERS
1935	64,102	23,050	34,066	6,986	62,175	21,961	33,344	6,870	1,927	1,089	722	116
1936	61,880	17,895	37,308	6,677	60,761	17,314	36,858	6,589	1,119	581	450	88
1937	105,639	31,153	65,447	9,039	103,784	30,177	64,740	8,867	1,855	976	707	172
1938	96,855	23,572	62,997	10,286	95,269	22,537	62,596	10,136	1,586	1,035	401	150
1939	66,922	19,484	39,267	8,171	64,019	18,027	37,992	8,000	2,903	1,457	1,275	171
1940	39,533	7,341	27,381	4,811	37,181	6,664	25,869	4,648	2,352	677	1,512	163
1941	38,252	5,592	28,310	4,350	36,705	5,148	27,295	4,262	1,547	444	1,015	88
1942	53,843	12,151	36,427	5,265	52,772	11,894	35,699	5,179	1,071	257	728	86
1943	60,946	11,949	42,989	6,058	59,797	11,615	42,245	5,939	1,149	334	696	119
1944	60,082	10,838	41,638	7,606	58,747	10,334	40,975	7,438	1,335	504	663	168
1945	63,809	10,205	45,742	7,862	61,872	9,298	44,937	7,637	1,937	907	805	225
1946	82,152	8,779	63,433	9,940	79,291	7,391	62,311	9,589	2,861	1,388	1,122	351
TOTAL	794,015	182,009	524,955	87,051	772,373	172,360	514,859	85,154	21,642	9,649	10,096	1,897

TABLE No. III

RESIDENTS DEPARTING

Y e a r	T O T A L				Residents departing for a period NOT exceeding one year				Residents departing for a period EXCEEDING one year			
	TOTAL	JEWS	NON-JEWS		TOTAL	JEWS	NON-JEWS		TOTAL	JEWS	NON-JEWS	
			Arabs	Others			Arabs	Others			Arabs	Others
1935	68,461	25,207	35,302	7,952	67,678	24,811	35,106	7,761	783	396	196	191
1936	70,663	24,611	38,078	7,974	69,485	23,838	37,931	7,716	1,178	773	147	258
1937	113,860	36,716	67,078	10,066	112,332	35,827	66,737	9,768	1,528	889	341	298
1938	113,074	28,429	73,432	11,213	111,263	27,334	73,134	10,795	1,811	1,095	298	418
1939	65,986	19,735	36,716	9,535	63,990	18,716	36,439	8,835	1,996	1,019	277	700
1940	39,233	6,913	26,797	5,523	38,048	6,220	26,594	5,234	1,185	693	203	289
1941	40,600	6,072	29,178	5,350	39,384	5,646	29,109	4,629	1,216	426	69	721
1942	57,645	12,601	39,095	5,949	57,169	12,471	39,000	5,698	476	130	95	251
1943	61,811	12,521	42,285	7,005	61,379	12,436	42,228	6,715	432	85	57	290
1944	66,231	11,506	45,387	9,338	65,417	11,070	45,299	9,048	814	436	88	290
1945	66,465	11,234	45,161	10,070	65,005	10,829	45,038	9,138	1,460	405	123	932
1946	89,197	12,454	64,916	11,827	88,001	12,228	64,757	11,016	1,196	226	159	811
TOTAL	853,226	207,999	543,425	101,802	839,151	201,426	541,372	96,353	14,075	6,573	2,053	5,449

TABLE IV.

MOVEMENTS OF RESIDENTS OF PALESTINE DURING
THE PERIOD 1935-1946

	ALL RACES	JEWS :	ARABS	OTHERS
(1) Residents departing for less than 1 year	839,151	201,426	541,372	96,353
(2) Residents returning after less than 1 year	772,373	172,360	514,859	85,154
(3) B a l a n c e	66,778	29,066	26,513	11,199
(4) Residents departing for more than 1 year	14,075	6,573	2,053	5,449
(5) Residents returning after more than 1 year	21,642	9,649	10,096	1,897
(6) B a l a n c e	-7,567	-3,076	-8,043	3,552
(7) Total residents departing	853,226	207,999	543,425	101,802
(8) Total residents returning	794,015	182,009	524,955	87,051
(9) Excess of departures	59,211	25,990	18,470	14,751