

GENERAL
ASSEMBLYASSEMBLEE
GENERALEA/AC.13/NC/82
12 August 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

COMMUNICATION FROM THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
RELATING TO JEWS IN SYRIA

The following letter has been received from the Jewish Agency for Palestine, relating to Jews in Syria.

The Executive of the Zionist
Organisation/The Jewish Agency
for Palestine

Geneva Office,
Genève, 11th August, 1947.
37, quai Wilson

Sir,

I am informed by the Executive in Jerusalem that, according to the reports which have reached them, the Syrian Government had addressed a memorandum to the Committee on the position of the Jews in Syria in which they said that the number of Syrian Jews had increased from 12,000 in 1920 to 24,000 to-day. This alleged doubling of the number of Jews in Syria is presented as proof of the political equality and economic prosperity which they enjoy.

I beg to state that, in accordance with the data in the possession of the Jewish Agency, the figures quoted by the Syrian Government are fantastically untrue. According to our information, exactly the opposite of the alleged increase has happened in the above period: In 1920 there were 15,000 Jews in Damascus and 25,000 Jews in Aleppo; to-day there are less than 13,000 Jews in both cities. The migration has not been to other towns in Syria, where there are no Jewish communities at all, but to Palestine and overseas countries, and to some slight extent also to Beirut where, in view of the predominant position of the Maronite community in the Lebanon, the conditions are more tolerable.

I shall be grateful if this information could be brought to the notice of members of the Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) M. Shertok
EXECUTIVE OF THE JEWISH AGENCY

The Chairman,
United Nations Special Committee on Palestine
Geneva.