

GENERAL
ASSEMBLYASSEMBLEE
GENERALE

RESTRICTED

A/AC.13/NC/86
27 August 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED DURING THE
PERIOD 19 JULY - 26 AUGUST 1947

Note: The communications listed below do not include communications which have been issued as documents, or written testimony in the form of letters already distributed to the Special Committee. (Previous communications received by the Committee were listed in documents A/AC.13/NC/6, A/AC.13/NC/6/Add.1, A/AC.13/NC/33, A/AC.13/NC/35, A/AC.13/NC/46, and A/AC.13/NC/64.)

A. Communications Submitting Memoranda.

1. Letter dated 26 June 1947 from Mr. Zalmon Berul, New York, enclosing a memorandum entitled "Partition of Palestine in Law and Justice". The author's main purpose is to protest against the proclamation of independence of Trans-Jordan, which he considers a geographical term for the Eastern part of Palestine.
2. Letter dated 30 June 1947 from Mr. Bernard A. Rosenblatt, New York, enclosing a memorandum on a federal union of Palestine.
3. Letter dated 4 July 1947 from Professor I. Elazari-Volcani, Rehovoth, enclosing two copies of a paper on the "Agricultural Research Station, Rehovoth", read at the Conference on Middle East Agricultural Development, Cairo, February 1944.
4. Letter dated 7 July 1947 from the Central Agudath Israel, Jerusalem, enclosing a memorandum protesting against the refusal of the Government to accord recognition to the orthodox Jewish community in Palestine. The memorandum further suggests that the Government of Palestine should be asked to (a) confer on the Rabbinate of Agudath Israel the jurisdiction of a religious court (similar to that conferred on the Chief Rabbinate of the Vaad Leumi), and (b)

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authorize members of the Agudath Israel to register charitable trusts at a Special Charitable Trust Office attached to their Rabbinate.

5. Letter dated 8 July 1947 from Dr. Arthur Meissner, Sao Paulo, submitting a paper in which he suggests that the Palestine problem could be solved by establishing a small Jewish "motherland" in Palestine and putting at the disposal of the Jews a "colony" in Africa to which all future Jewish immigration should be directed. The author argues that Province Lindi, in the southern part of Tanganyika, would be suitable for this purpose.
6. Letter dated 11 July 1947 from Mr. M. Aharon, Tel Aviv, enclosing a memorandum in Hebrew which the author submitted to the Royal Commission. He asks that it be brought to the attention of the Committee.
7. Letter dated 17 July 1947 from Mr. Gustav Kahn, Haifa, enclosing a pamphlet entitled "Palestine, Your Questions Answered", published by the American Jewish Committee, New York. (A memorandum presented to the Committee by the American Jewish Committee was transmitted to members in New York).
8. Letter dated 30 July 1947 from Agudas Israel World Organisation, London, transmitting one copy of a printed memorandum entitled "The Jewish People and Palestine". This consists of a statement and evidence presented to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, and is now submitted to the Special Committee. (Previous memoranda from Agudas Israel were circulated to members of the Committee on 19 June and 2 July 1947).
9. Letter dated 30 July 1947 from Dr. Mayer Ebner, Tel Aviv, enclosing a memorandum entitled "For a Dualistic -- not a Bi-National Palestine (Unity Notwithstanding Partition)". The author, who was formerly chairman of the Jewish National Party in the Rumanian Parliament,

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suggests two sovereign states with a common customs union and cites the example of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy.

10. Memorandum submitted on 1 August 1947 by Mr. John Fitzgerald, Secretary of the Proportional Representation Society of Great Britain, London. The title of this paper is "Safeguards for the Representation of Majority and Minority Opinions".
11. Letter dated 1 August 1947 from Mr. Solomon Zeitlin, Philadelphia, enclosing page-proofs of his article on "Jewish Rights in Palestine" to be published in the October issue of the Jewish Quarterly Review.
12. Letter dated 2 August 1947 from Mr. John E. Bitar, Director of the "Encyclopedia for the International Press", Beirut, submitting a copy of his testimony presented to the Anglo-American Committee urging that Palestine should become an independent Arab State.
13. Memorandum submitted on 5 August 1947 by Mr. John Fitzgerald (see 10 above) examining the constitution of Switzerland with a view to considering the question of its possible application to Palestine.
14. Letter dated 11 August 1947 from Colonel S.F. Newcombe, London, submitting a memorandum stressing (a) that the National Home has already been established; (b) that in the first World War the Arabs stopped fighting for the Allied cause when they heard indirectly of the Balfour Declaration and only recommenced when Commander Hogarth explained to King Hussein that the National home was "non-economic and non-political"; (c) that the 1939 White Paper was based on the findings of the Maugham Committee set up to consider the McMahon correspondence* and not on a policy of appeasement; (d) that the solution of the Palestine problem would be for all countries to take their share of Jewish immigrants ready to become citizens of those states, and that a territory such as Dutch Guiana should be set aside for those Jews who feel bound by race into a nation. (Colonel Newcombe is a secretary of the General Asian Society and one of the leading supporters of the Arab cause in Britain).

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B. Communications Presenting Petitions.

1. Letter dated 22 June 1947 from parents of boys and girls detained in Latrun and other camps, appealing to the Committee to intervene with a view to obtaining their release.
2. Letter dated 23 June 1947 from 22 residents of French Carmel, ~~protesting~~ against their eviction from their homes and requesting the Committee to approach the Government of Palestine on their behalf.
3. Letter dated 24 June 1947 from Mr. Y. Weissman, Tel Aviv, who writes on behalf of himself and of thousands of other persons who entered Palestine illegally, were subsequently released from detention but are unable to obtain Palestinian citizenship. The Committee is asked to approach the Administration in the matter.
4. Letter dated 30 June 1947 from Miss Judith Strick, Tel Aviv, asking the Committee to assist her fiancé, formerly a soldier in the Greek army and now in a displaced persons camp at Salzburg, to immigrate to Palestine.
5. Letter dated 6 July 1947 from S/Sgt. M. Steinbruch, Abergavenny, Wales, asking the Committee to intervene with the Administration in order that he may immigrate to Palestine where he wishes to support his mother. The writer is a German refugee aged 22, and served with the British Army in Italy and Germany. The British Army has agreed to consider arranging his conveyance to Palestine, should an immigration certificate be forthcoming.
6. Letter dated 8 July 1947 from Mr. Arye Itti'el, Jerusalem, who owns some land which was requisitioned by the Army during the War. Half the rent he receives is deducted for land taxes, and he is anxious for the land to be vacated by the Army. No action has been taken on his many applications, and he begs the Committee to intercede on his behalf.
7. Letter dated 8 July 1947 from Mr. Y. Kauftheil, Tel Aviv, who writes on behalf of himself and of thousands of other persons who entered Palestine illegally, were subsequently released from detention but

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are unable to obtain Palestinian citizenship. The Committee is asked to approach the Administration in the matter.

8. Letter dated 13 July 1947 from Mrs. Heni Meiseles, Tel Aviv, begging the Committee to assist her to obtain an immigration certificate for her one remaining relation, her brother, who fought in the Polish and Russian armies throughout the War, and is now in a displaced persons camp in Italy.
9. Letter dated 14 July 1947 from Mr. Jacob Phisher, Petah-Tiqvah, asking the Committee to assist him in obtaining an immigration certificate for his brother and family who are in Austria and are the sole survivors of his family in Europe.
10. Letter dated 14 July 1947 from Mrs. Sure Steinbruch, Tel Aviv, appealing for assistance in obtaining an immigration certificate for her only son whom she needs to help support her in her old age.
11. Letter dated 15 July 1947 from Mr. Leon Levin, Tel Aviv, explaining that he is unable to find employment, is becoming submerged in debt and begging the Committee to assist him in emigration from Palestine.
12. Letter dated 15 July 1947 from Mr. N. Schmidt, acting President of the German Templers in Palestine, Jerusalem, describing his organization, explaining that about 300 of its members of whom about 110 are over 60 years old are in internment camps, and requesting the Committee's help in (1) setting these persons free; (2) assisting them to become Palestinian subjects if they choose; (3) recovering their property and (4) enabling those who cannot earn their living in Palestine to emigrate to Lebanon.
13. Letter from Mr. Menahem Garbut, Hadar Colony, requesting the Committee's assistance in obtaining the papers necessary for him to return to his birthplace in Stolin, Poland.

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14. Letter from Mr. M.M. Hazan, Tel Aviv, explaining that since being discharged from work two years ago he has been unable to find employment to support his wife and seven children and appealing to the Committee to investigate his case and help him.

C. Other Communications.

1. Letter dated 15 June 1947 from the Union of Rabbis, Jewish Central Committee of U.S. Zone, Austria, Salzburg, transmitting a resolution urging the United Nations to restore Palestine to the Jewish people.
2. Letter dated 19 June 1947 from the General Secretary of the Iqbal Academy, Rangoon, transmitting a resolution adopted on 17 June at a mass meeting of Mussalmans in Rangoon. The resolution expresses confidence in the Arab Higher Committee, condemns the pro-Zionist policy of Britain and America and urges the United Nations to do justice in Palestine.
3. Letter dated 23 June 1947 from the New Jersey Chapter of the Young Progressive Citizens of America, Newark, transmitting a resolution calling for the relinquishment of the Mandate by Great Britain, the settlement of the Palestine problem by the Jews and Arabs themselves, and the opening of all countries to immigration of displaced persons.
4. Letter dated 24 June 1947 from Mr. Maurice B. Vick, Chicago, enclosing a copy of an advertisement by the United Jewish Appeal published in the "New York Times" of 24 June, reproducing General McNarney's report on the crisis facing the Jews of Europe.
5. Letter from the Council of Jewish Private Agriculture, Tel Aviv, enclosing a series of resolution on agricultural questions.

6. Telegram dated 30 June 1947 addressed to the Secretary-General by Rabbis Kamlem and Mnachem, New York, expressing the wish that the Committee visit displaced persons camps and the Arab countries.
7. Telegram dated 1 July 1947 from a group of residents of Ramleh, protesting against a statement alleged to have been made by the Assistant District Commissioner, Jaffa, to the effect that the Lydda District was opposed to the boycott of the Committee. The writers affirm wholehearted support for the Arab Higher Committee.
8. Letter dated 2 July 1947 from Mr. W.J.F. Hannemann, suggesting that Jewish displaced persons should be sent to the Jewish Republic of Birobidjan where, the writer states, they would be welcomed and could be easily accommodated.
9. Letter dated 3 July 1947 from the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, conveying a resolution adopted by the Council's Executive Committee on 1 July. The resolution expresses concern that the Holy Land should be subject to internal discord and to violence and affirms that Christians, as well as Jews and Moslems share responsibility for preserving peace in Palestine.
10. Letter dated 3 July 1947 from Jewish Political Prisoners, Central Prison Acre, urging (a) that prisoners who are members of the Underground should be given the status of prisoners of war; (b) that an international body be set up to ensure that the above recommendation be carried out. The writers enumerate eleven instances of alleged atrocities committed by the British forces in Palestine, and describe in particular the incidents on 4 May 1947 at Acre prison.

11. Letter dated 3 July 1947 from the New England Zionist Region, transmitting a resolution adopted by delegates of over 16,000 Zionists in New England calling for the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine, through United Nations action.
12. Letter dated 5 July 1947 from the Secret Arab Organization for Saving Palestine, putting the blame for the present impasse jointly on British imperialism and Zionism. The letter calls for the total evacuation of Palestine by Britain and the selection by the International Court of Justice of three judges (American, British and Russian) who would be responsible for dissolving the Jewish Agency and the Arab High Executive, for disarming all Arab and Jewish organizations, and for establishing an elected parliament of Arab and Jewish representatives. Jewish immigration would be regulated according to an annual quota established by the International Refugee Organization.
13. Letter dated 10 July 1947 from the Freedom Defence Committee, London, expressing regret and concern at the decision of the Committee not to examine individual cases of detainees or take any action on their behalf.
14. Letter dated 10 July 1947 from Mr. Clive Garsia, London, enclosing a copy of his letter to the London "Times" on 10 May outlining a possible settlement for the Palestine problem based on the principle that democratic justice requires recognition of the right of self-determination, and that this right belongs to the Arabs of Palestine. His plan calls for a small Jewish State, a few square miles in extent, the rest of Palestine becoming an independent Arab State. The two States would form a customs union.

15. Telegram dated 16 July 1947 from the parents of Jewish political prisoners, Tel-Aviv, asking the Committee to visit the prisons and study conditions therein.
16. Telegram dated 17 July 1947, from the Yiddish Writers Union, New York, urging that the United Nations call the Lebanese Government to account for its "flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter" in barring Jewish correspondents from accompanying the Committee to Beirut.
17. Telegram dated 20 July 1947 from the Central Committee of all Zionist Parties, Poland, protesting against British action regarding the "Exodus" and urging the Committee to open Palestine to Jewish immigration.
18. Letter dated 20 July 1947 from Dr. A. Werber, Jerusalem, emphasizing the importance of solving the water problem in Palestine.
19. Telegram dated 21 July 1947 from the Central Committee of Jewish Refugees in Italy protesting against British action regarding the "Exodus" and urging the United Nations to open Palestine to Jewish immigration.
20. Telegram dated 23 July 1947 from inmates of Displaced Persons Camp, Turin, protesting against British action regarding the "Exodus" and calling on the Committee to open Palestine to Jewish immigration.
21. Letter received 23 July 1947 from Jewish detainees at Latrun, surveying the application of the Emergency Regulations in Palestine and their repercussions, and calling for their abolition. The hope is expressed that the Committee would visit the detention camps and make direct contacts with the detainees.
22. Telegram dated 23 July 1947 from the Patriotic Committee of the Lebanon, voicing apprehension of Zionist expansion in Palestine.

23. Telegram dated 25 July 1947 from the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Zionist Organization, Sofia, protesting against the British action regarding the "Exodus" and urging the Committee to intervene in the matter.
24. Telegram dated 25 July 1947 from Mr. Vahid Mizrahy, representative of the Jewish Community in the Syrian Parliament, stressing that Jews have lived happily together with other communities in Syria for centuries and that the proclamation of Palestine as an independent state will provide the only solution to the present problem.
25. Telegram dated 26 July 1947 from delegates representing 25000 Jewish displaced persons in the British Zone of Germany, urging the Committee to visit their camps.
26. Letter dated 29 July 1947 from Mr. R. T. Ledger, Amman, suggesting that the United Nations recommendations regarding Palestine should be carried out by the local heads of the three main religions, assisted by an Advisory Committee and working in conjunction with an elected Legislative Council of two chambers, laymen and ecclesiastics.
27. Telegram dated 31 August 1947 from the Lebanon National Block Party, Sofar, welcoming the announcement of the Committee's visit to the Lebanon but declaring that the present Lebanese Government does not represent the nation and was irregularly elected on 25 May 1947.
28. Telegram dated 1 August 1947 from the American Jewish Committee, New York, condemning the murder of two English soldiers by Palestinian terrorists as an act of unjustifiable lawlessness and brutality wholly at variance with Jewish traditions and prejudicial to a sane solution of the Palestine problem.

29. Telegram dated 2 August 1947 from the Jewish Central Committee, U.S. Zone, Austria, Salzburg, welcoming the Committee's decision to visit the camps.
30. Telegram dated 2 August 1947 from the Jewish Refugees of Italy, Rome, welcoming the Committee's decision to visit the camps and urging that the Committee visit Italy.
31. Telegram dated 5 August 1947 from the United Zionists Revisionists World Headquarters, Paris, condemning the arrests of Jewish mayors and revisionist leaders and the declaration of Betar as an illegal organization as a violation of the United Nations' appeal for peace in Palestine. The Committee's intervention is requested to prevent aggravation of conflict.
32. Telegram dated 8 August 1947 requesting that the names of the President and Secretary of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews, Berlin, be added to the memorandum submitted by the Central Committee in the U.S., British and French Zones of Germany, and in Austria and Italy. (This memorandum was distributed to the Committee on 31 July 1947).
33. Letter dated 11 August 1947 from the Council of Jewish Communities in Bohemia and Moravia, Prague, submitting a resolution adopted by representatives of all groups of Czechoslovak Jewry protesting against British action regarding the "Exodus", the hanging of the three condemned men in Acre prison, and the reprisals following the murder of the two British soldiers.
34. Letter dated 15 August 1947 from the Delegation of Refugees in Switzerland, Geneva, drawing the Committee's attention to the aspirations of 2000 Jewish refugees who, out of the total number of 6000 Jewish refugees in Switzerland, wish to go to Palestine.

35. Thirty-eight miscellaneous letters offering solutions to the Palestine problem and setting forth individual viewpoints thereon.
 36. Sixty postcards received up to 20 July 1947 stating that the British Army is torturing the Jewish population and endangering the security of Palestine. The United Nations is urged to bring about the evacuation of the British Army from Palestine. (The total number of these postcards received by the Committee during its stay in Palestine was 6856.)
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