

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

SUBCOMMITTEE TWO

Fourth Report

I. Applications for Oral Hearings from Organizations.

On the basis of the criteria accepted by the Committee at its 13th meeting on 27 June 1947 (Doc. A/AC.13/27, page 1), the Subcommittee recommends:

- a) That no hearings are necessary for the Ahdut Avoda (Movement for Labor Unity).

The question of inviting this organization to testify was raised at the 28th private meeting of the Committee on 13 July by the Delegate of Guatemala who pointed out that Mr. Vilner of the Communist Party had told the Committee that the Ahdut Avoda protested vehemently against partition but had been forbidden by the Jewish Agency to give evidence. This party seceded from the Palestine Jewish Labor Party in June, 1944. It differs from the latter party mainly in two respects: it is more radically socialist in internal affairs and more maximalist in matters of Zionist policy. In the last elections of the General Federation of Labor, the Party polled 18,840 votes, or 17.7% of the total. It has adopted the Biltmore program.

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As there was no application for hearing on the part of this organization, the Subcommittee did not see enough reason for singling it out for hearings as the Committee decided to invite only religious authorities.

- b) That no hearings are necessary for the Communist Union.

The Committee had already decided not to grant hearings to the Communist Union but, after that decision was taken, the Communist Union applied again for an oral hearing, stressing the fact that it represents a considerable section of the Jewish Labor movement and certainly a much greater part than is represented by certain organizations asked by the Committee to give oral evidence. It emphasized also that there are no other political organizations in Palestine which base their approach on the principle of the right to national self-determination for both nationalities in Palestine.

A member of the Subcommittee who had a long talk with a representative of the Union reported that the hearing of the Union would not fall under any of the criteria adopted by the Committee;

II. Applications for Oral Hearings from Individuals.

The Subcommittee recommends that Dr. Zalman Greenberg be granted an oral hearing under Category (c).

Dr. Greenberg was chairman of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews of the American Zone in Germany. As one of the survivors of the Nazi extermination camps, he applied to speak on behalf of those who fell and to present a plea for those who survive but who remain homeless in D.P. camps. He testified before the Anglo-American Committee and his application is supported by

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the Jewish Agency who consider him a leader for many years of the displaced persons;

III. Hearing of the Government of Palestine.

The Subcommittee recommends that a letter be written to the Government of Palestine inviting it to send a representative to a private meeting of the Committee so as to enable the Members of the Committee to ask him any questions.