

GENERAL
ASSEMBLYASSEMBLEE
GENERALEA/AC.13/SC.3/3
2 August 1947
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

SUBCOMMITTEE THREE

FIRST REPORT

At its forty-third meeting on 31 July, the Special Committee decided to set up a subcommittee composed of the delegates or alternates of Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, India, Iran, Netherlands, Sweden, Uruguay and Yugoslavia, to visit assembly centers for Jewish refugees and Displaced Persons in Europe.

The Subcommittee held two meetings, on 31 July and on 1 August. At the first meeting, Mr. Hood (Australia) was elected Chairman.

1. Itinerary - A proposed itinerary, as outlined by the Secretariat (see Appendix I) was discussed and in the main adopted. There was however general agreement that the duration of the visit should be limited to seven days, and that therefore a visit to Salzburg in the United States zone of occupation in Austria might be excluded.

The main points en route will be as follows: Geneva-Munich in the United States zone of occupation in Germany - Vienna-Berlin-Bergen-Belsen in the British zone of occupation of Germany.

2. Working plan - The Secretariat submitted a list of assembly-centers for Jews situated in or in the neighbourhood of the towns mentioned above. The Subcommittee decided that the choice as to which of these centers should be visited,

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should be made after arrival at the main stopping places.

A questionnaire to be used when questioning the inmates of the assembly centers was adopted in principle along the lines proposed by the Chairman. It was however agreed that the method of questioning the refugees and displaced persons should be as flexible as possible.

3. Terms of Reference - The Subcommittee recommends that its terms of reference as set forth in Appendix II be adopted by the Committee.

APPENDIX I

PROPOSED OUTLINE SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF PROGRAMME FOR THE VISIT OF A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE UNSCOP TO ASSEMBLY CENTERS FOR JEWISH REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

The following itinerary is proposed on the basis that direct contact be established between the UNSCOP and the occupation authorities on the highest level in the United States and British Zones of Occupation in Germany and in the United States Zone of Occupation in Austria. Such a contact would facilitate the clearance of necessary formalities for entering the zones of occupation, the provision of living accommodation and food, as well as the means of transportation. Direct contact could be established between the Chairman of the UNSCOP through the representative of the Secretary-General and the Commanders in Chief of the zones (General Clay for the United States Zone of Germany, Sir Sholto Douglas for the British Zone of Germany and General Keyes for the United States Zone of Austria), if possible by telephone. The Commanders in Chief should be asked whether an aeroplane could be put at the disposal of the Subcommittee (a DC3 takes 20-22 passengers) and whether all possible facilities could be provided for the Subcommittee during its stay. The Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations at Lake Success should be informed of the abovementioned steps taken and be requested to notify formally the Governments of the occupation authorities concerned.

The itinerary as follows is believed to cover most of those Assembly Centers for Jews which are of major importance:

/1. Aeroplane

1. Aeroplane from Geneva to Munich in the U.S. Zone of Germany with visits to Assembly Centers in the neighbourhood of Munich (1 to 2 days).
2. Automobile from Munich to Salzburg in the U.S. Zone of Austria with visits of Assembly Centers in the neighbourhood of that town (1 to 2 days).
3. Aeroplane from Munich to Vienna. Visit of Assembly Centers in the U.S. sector of the town (2 days).
4. Aeroplane from Vienna to Berlin and visit to Assembly Center in the U.S. sector of the town (2 days).
5. Aeroplane from Berlin to the British Zone of Germany to visit the Jewish Assembly Center at Bergen-Belsen and return to Geneva (1-1/2 days).

Expected duration of visit: 8 to 10 days.

Re (1) The main Assembly Centers for the Jews in the U.S. Zone of Germany are to be found in the neighbourhood of Munich.

Re (2) The distance between Munich and Salzburg can be covered by car in approximately two hours. Quite a number of Assembly Centers for Jews are to be found around Salzburg.

Re (3) A visit to Vienna may be of specific interest as it is reported that some new influx of Jews from Poland, Roumania and Hungary has lately taken place into that town. A contact with the Austrian authorities might also be useful, although the initiative for approach perhaps should be taken by the Austrian Government. From a technical point of view, no official notification to the Austrian

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Government is needed concerning the intended visit.

Re (4) The visit to Berlin will also give the members of the Subcommittee an opportunity to have the views of the highest responsible occupation authorities of Germany on the problem of Jewish refugees and displaced persons after having obtained a first-hand impression for themselves.

Re (5) Bergen-Belsen is the only Assembly Center for **Jews** in the British Zone of Germany which is of any significance.

An eventual visit to the British Zone of Austria will necessitate a prolongation of the trip of another 2 days. The main Assembly Centers for Jews in that zone are situated in the neighbourhood of Klegenfurt which is a 6 hours' drive by automobile from Vienna. It has not yet been ascertained whether there are facilities for aeroplanes of the size of a DC3 to land near Klagenfurt. A drive by automobile will necessitate the obtaining of permission from the USSR occupation authorities to pass through their zone. The Subcommittee may find that a visit to the British Zone of Austria will yield information of comparatively small value as only a small number of Jewish refugees (some 2000) are living in that zone.

The Secretariat is in close touch with the Preparatory Commission for I.R.O., which organization has promised all possible assistance as well regarding the planning of the visit as during the tours of the Assembly Centers, if desired.

It must be expected that 3 to 4 days will be needed for the preparation of a visit **as** outlined above.

APPENDIX II

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Subcommittee shall visit selected representative assembly centers for Jewish refugees and displaced persons in Germany and Austria, with a view to ascertaining and reporting to the Committee on the attitude of the inmates of the assembly centers regarding resettlement, repatriation or immigration into Palestine.
