

Press Division
Lake Success, Nassau County, New York.

MASTER FILE

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE
14th Meeting

SUMMARY
Press Release GA/PAL/16

LEBANON AND THE YEMEN STATE THEIR CASE ON PALESTINE PROBLEM.

At this afternoon's meeting the Committee continued general discussion of the Palestine question.

Mr. Camille Chamoun (Lebanon), speaking for the second time in the general discussion, listed a four-point view of the Palestine question as follows:

1. Palestine must be a single and undivided state.
2. It must have a democratic government representing all citizens in proportion to the numerical size of their respective groups without discrimination as to race or religion.
3. In the State of Palestine each ethnic group must have an opportunity to develop its own life and culture.
4. Freedom of worship must be a sacred right for all.

He said, that "we shall not swerve from this ideal and between the powers opposing us and the weakness of the Palestinian Arabs we place the fundamental and immortal principles of the Charter."

He refuted arguments made earlier in the debate in favor of partition.

If a decision for partition were taken, he said, it would be necessary to post over the entrance to the United Nations a sign proclaiming that that organization had established a special procedure whereby "the political independence of nations and their territorial integrity will be dependent on the whim of the political, religious and racial minorities living in their midst."

MORE.

The second speaker Dr. Hassan Baghdadi (Yemen) opposed the proposed plan of partition because, he said, it was contrary to the principles of the Charter and of international justice. In addition, the idea of a Jewish National Home was, he said, "fundamentally artificial."

The Mandate, he said, at no time made mention of a division of the territory entrusted to it, but, did instead, specifically state that neither Palestine or any section, should be ceded to a foreign Power.

The setting up of a Jewish State, he said, was equivalent to ceding part of the territory to a foreign Power.

He asserted that the creation of a Jewish State in Palestine would have the gravest consequences, leading to widespread agitation by religious minorities and to the eventual disruption of the integrity of many countries.

The question of displaced persons, Dr. Baghdadi said, should be dealt with by the IRO.

The Committee will meet tomorrow at 3 and 8 P.M.

(A chronological account of the meeting is given in takes #1 through #5, which follow this summary.)

UNITED NATIONS
Department of Public Information
Press and Publications Bureau
Lake Success New York

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE
14th Meeting

(AM) TAKE #1
Press Release GA/PAL/16
15 October 1947

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE - (AM) TAKE #1

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestinian Question continued its general discussion this afternoon.

Speaking for Lebanon, Mr. Camille Chamoun listed a four-point view of the Palestine question as follows:

- "1. Palestine must be a single and undivided state.
2. She must have a democratic government representing all citizens in proportion to the numerical size of their respective groups without discrimination as to race or religion.
3. In the State of Palestine each ethnic group must have an opportunity to develop its own life and culture.
4. Freedom of worship must be a sacred right for all."

"We shall not swerve from this ideal," he continued, "and between the powers opposing us and the weakness of the Palestinian Arabs we place the fundamental and immortal principles of the Charter."

If a decision for partition, "imposing the will of the minority on the majority" were taken, Mr. Chamoun concluded, it would be necessary to post over the entrance to the United Nations a sign proclaiming that that organization had established a special procedure whereby "The political independence of nations and their territorial integrity will be dependent on the whim of the political, religious and racial minorities living in their midst."

(END OF TAKE #1)

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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE
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(PM) TAKE #2
Press Release GA/PAL/16
15 October 1947

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE -- (PM) TAKE #2

In the opening parts of his speech, Mr. Chamoun stated his opposition to the admission of Jewish refugees to Palestine, particularly as advocated by the delegates of Uruguay and Poland, and asked whether the integrity of the territory of the Palestinian Arabs and their national unity must "be sacrificed to political Zionism in order to save the delegates' conscience, or even to remedy the deficiencies of European statesmen who have been unable to protect the Jews from persecution."

He went on to refute some of the arguments made in behalf of partition by the delegates of Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Guatemala and the United States, declaring that as a Christian, "I tell you straight and in all conscience: The cause of the Palestine Arabs is just and there is no denying their rights in that country."

(END OF TAKE #2)

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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE
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(PH) TAKE #3
Press Release G.I./PAL/16
15 October 1947

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE (PH) TAKE #3

Mr. Chamoun asserted that the statement of the Guatemalan delegate that the Christians of Lebanon favored the creation of a Jewish state was based on the testimony of only one bishop, who had subsequently been denounced by his superior and whose attitude had been disapproved by all the Christian communities in Lebanon.

The United States attitude in Palestine he characterized as "strangely like a 'dictate' in the atmosphere of this Assembly." It was not, he contended, based on the principles which had guided the American nation in the past. In this connection, Mr. Chamoun cited statements made by such Americans as the late Presidents Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as the attitude of the US Delegation in asking the Assembly to "safeguard the political independence and the territorial integrity of Greece and Lora."

The US Position, Mr. Chamoun charged, was based on two main factors: domestic electoral policy and appeasement of the Jewish voter, and a "desire for political penetration in the Middle East dictated by a pitiless capitalism, with Zionism in the van."

With regard to the Polish proposal that Jewish refugees should be admitted into Palestine, Mr. Chamoun asked what answer Poland had to give for the refusal of thousands of Polish Jews, now in concentration camps, to return to Poland.

Large scale Jewish immigration into Palestine would, he said, convert the Arab majority into a minority.

Of the Guatemalan attack on the Grand Mufti, Mr. Chamoun said that such reference was not relevant. The Mufti, he said, was "an essentially ephemeral person". The issue at stake was the future of 1,400,000 Arabs.

(For Full Text of Speech See Press Release PM/645)

(END OF TAKE #3)

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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE
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(PM) TAKE #4
Press Release GA/PAL/16
15 October 1947

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE -- (PM) TAKE #4

The second speaker was Dr. Hassan Baghdadi (Yemen) who presented the speech of H.R.H. Prince Seif El Islam Abdullah.

Dr. Baghdadi said that the Yemen Delegation considered the idea of the creation of a Jewish national home as "fundamentally artificial".

He quoted a statement made in 1918 by the then President of the world Zionist Organization to the effect that the Jewish State never was a part of the Zionist program.

Saying that the results of the Balfour Declaration had led to the "worst situation that ever arose in the Middle East," Dr. Baghdadi urged the Committee to face the solemn and grave facts and the "political realities" of the question.

Dr. Baghdadi maintained that the inclusion of the Balfour Declaration in the Preamble of the Mandate for Palestine and the contemplation of the Jewish National Home were inconsistent with the provisions and the spirit of the Covenant of the League of Nations.

He contended that it was under Zionist pressure that the League devised the "scheme" which he called "totally different from the letter and spirit of Article, 22 of the Covenant."

Claiming that the injustices of the Mandate was evident - even in Britain - as early as 1922, he quoted from statements by the late Lord Islington and the late Lord Sydenham. Both, in a debate in the House of Lords, he said, had expressed worry over the results of the Mandate.

(End of Take #4)

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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE
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(PM) TAKE #5
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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE - (PM) TAKE #5

Dr. Baghdadî then asked whether it would be lawful to partition Palestine ceding a part of the Territory to the proposed Jewish state, which he termed undoubtedly a "foreign power", when Article 5 of the Mandate declares the Mandatory shall be responsible for seeing that no Palestine Territory be ceded to any foreign power?

"The Mandatory," said Dr. Baghdadî, having receivedan undivided territory, must in conformity with the principles of the 'sacred trust of civilization' provided for by Article 22 of the Covenant, give it back to the people 'whose rights were suspended by the Mandate'".

The partition scheme, he declared would violate the Charter even more flagrantly if it were to be imposed by force.

It is for these reasons, said Dr. Baghdadî, that Yemen is against the proposal plan to partition Palestine,

The problem of refugees and displaced persons, he said, did not come within the jurisdiction of the Ad Hoc Committee. That problem, he said, should be dealt with by other organs of the United Nations such as the IRO or the Preparatory Committee of the IRO.

Returning to the question of Palestine itself, he said that "to single out" this Jewish Minority in Palestine and give it preferential treatment would open the door to the most grave consequences. It could result in a consequent disruption of the integrity of many countries.

The meeting then adjourned.

The Committee will next meet at 3:00 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, 16 October, and again tomorrow evening at 8:00 p.m.

(END OF TAKE #5 AND OF PRESS RELEASE GA/PAL/16)