

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FORTY-THIRD MEETING (PRIVATE)

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva;
on Thursday, 31 July 1947, at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Chairman:	Mr. Sandstrom	(Sweden)
	Mr. Hood	(Australia)
	Mr. Rand	(Canada)
	Mr. Lisicky	(Czechoslovakia)
	Mr. Garcia Granados	(Guatemala)
	Sir Abdur Rahman	(India)
	Mr. Entezam	(Iran)
	Mr. Blom	(Netherlands)
	Mr. Garcia Salazar	(Peru)
	Mr. Fabregat	(Uruguay)
	Mr. Simic	(Yugoslavia)
Secretariat:	Mr. Hoo	(Assistant Secretary- General)
	Mr. Garcia Robles	(Secretary)

The CHAIRMAN called the meeting to order at 10.00 a.m.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Visit to Displaced Persons' Camps

The CHAIRMAN said that for the visit to the displaced persons' camps the Secretariat had prepared two proposals: one on the assumption that one subcommittee would go, and the other for two subcommittees.

The SECRETARY submitted the draft outlining the alternative itineraries.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that if two subcommittees were sent, one should comprise representatives of Czechoslovakia, India, the Netherlands, Sweden and Uruguay, and the other should consist of the representatives of Australia, Canada, Guatemala, Iran and Yugoslavia. If only one subcommittee were sent, five representatives should be

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enough. He himself favoured having two subcommittees: with only one, the work might be hurried and yield unsatisfactory results.

Sir Abdur RAHMAN (India) preferred one subcommittee, composed of as many representatives as possible.

Mr. FABREGAT (Uruguay) also considered that there should be only one.

The CHAIRMAN felt that one subcommittee might take ten or twelve days to complete the visit. There was not much point in having one subcommittee, as the intention was only to take down what the people in the camps had to say, and the records would afterwards be submitted in full to the Committee.

Mr. BLOM (Netherlands) supported the view of the Chair.

DECISION:

It was decided - six votes in favour - to have only one subcommittee.

On the request of Sir Abdur RAHMAN (India), the CHAIRMAN asked each delegate whether he or his alternate would make the visit.

The delegates of Canada, India, Iran, the Netherlands, Sweden and Yugoslavia stated that their alternates would go.

The delegates of Guatemala and Uruguay said they themselves would probably go.

The delegate of Peru gave a negative response; the delegate of Australia said he probably would not go; and the delegate of Czechoslovakia undertook to state his delegation's position later in the day.

The CHAIRMAN said the subcommittee would have to decide upon its own itinerary on the basis of the Secretariat's draft. It would have to work out its procedure, and would, he hoped, take account of what had been said at the previous meeting by the delegate of India on the method of taking hearings.

Mr. BLOM (Netherlands) considered that the subcommittee's terms of reference should first be approved by the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN felt that the terms of reference should be very

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wide, but suggested that a draft could be drawn up later: it would be four days at least before the subcommittee could leave.

Mr. ENTEZAM (Iran) felt it should be pointed out - as the alternates were unable to raise the matter - that travelling expenses as well as hotel expenses should be paid by the United Nations.

Mr. SIMIC (Yugoslavia) supported, and the CHAIRMAN felt that the proposal of the delegate of Iran would be followed as a matter of course.

Work Programme for Preparation of the Report

The CHAIRMAN invited comments on the Memorandum on the Future Work-Programme of the Committee, compiled from the draft proposals of the delegates of India and Yugoslavia and the Chair.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 were approved without discussion.

Paragraph 3

Mr. LISICKY (Czechoslovakia) favoured adding a provision to entrust the Secretariat with the preparation of memoranda.

After discussion, the CHAIRMAN felt that suggestions of delegates would be met by altering the first sentence to read:

"The discussions at each step may be based on relevant memoranda prepared by the Chairman, other members of the Committee, or by the Secretariat".

Paragraph 4

Mr. Garcia SALAZAR (Peru) pointed out with reference to subparagraph (c) that he had already objected to the discussion on independence being taken at the same time as the question of trusteeship of a mandatory Power. The question of trusteeship should be purely transitory, and its place, therefore, should be in paragraph 7.

The CHAIRMAN saw the question in the same light as the delegate of Peru, but pointed out that a lasting trusteeship had been the solution recently proposed by the Anglo-American Committee.

Mr. Garcia SALAZAR (Peru) maintained that trusteeship had always been considered a transitory measure, and instanced the relevant

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provisions in the Charter of the United Nations and the Covenant of the League of Nations.

In the course of further discussion, Mr. ENTEZAM (Iran) suggested that the point be left under 4(c), but if the Committee should decide that Palestine should become independent at some time, the point could be transferred to paragraph 7.

On the suggestion of Mr. HOOD (Australia), the CHAIRMAN said the words "of the significance" could be deleted from 4(b), so that the sub-paragraph would read:

"An appraisal of the mandate and its functioning with regard to the present situation in Palestine".

Paragraph 5

It was agreed to replace "details" by "provisions" in line 2, and to delete "detailed" from line 4.

Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 were approved without discussion.

DECISION:

The Memorandum on the Future Work-Programme of the Committee was adopted as amended.

Sir Abdur RAHMAN (India) recalled that he had asked on the previous day for the questions of fact, on which the Committee was required to give a finding, to be brought specifically before it.

The CHAIRMAN hoped that in a day or two a memorandum on the first part would be ready.

Proposal Concerning Jewish Children

The CHAIRMAN said the delegate of Uruguay had introduced a resolution concerning Jewish children.

The SECRETARY read the draft resolution,* which contained (following a preamble) these provisions:

/ "THE COMMITTEE

"THE COMMITTEE DECLARES:

"1) That free entry into Palestine be forthwith permitted to the Jewish children at present in the assembly camps of the Island of Cyprus, in the displaced persons' camps of Europe, and on the boat or boats of Jewish immigrants detained in the Mediterranean;

"2) That similarly entry be permitted to the parents of the said children, if necessary on issue of provisional certificates pending final settlement of the problem;

"3) That these children and their parents, if any, should be placed under the guardianship of the Zionist Organization described as a public body in Article IV et seq. of the text of the Mandate for Palestine.

"THE COMMITTEE LIKEWISE RESOLVES:

"That this Declaration be forthwith communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order that it may be transmitted to the Government of the Mandatory Power for Palestine for consideration."

Sir Abdur RAHMAN (India) enquired whether the proposal meant that the Committee was being called upon to decide the question of immigration to a limited extent, without devoting attention to other matters awaiting its decision.

Mr. FABREGAT (Uruguay) said the situation of children was a particular aspect of the problem studied by the Committee, and should be dealt with separately as an urgent and serious emergency problem. He believed that the progress of nations as a whole should be based on the right of children to life and happiness. He considered there was nothing to prevent the Committee, without going into the details or substance of the matter, from presenting a draft resolution on the particular situation of children. He did not suggest that his wording should be taken as final.

The CHAIRMAN, while expressing the Committee's respect for the feelings that had moved the delegate of Uruguay to make the proposal, felt it hardly appropriate to decide forthwith upon a resolution which might prejudice the final solution of the problem. He suggested

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that the matter be discussed under paragraph 7 of the Memorandum on the Future Work-Programme.

Mr. FABREGAT (Uruguay) accepted the suggestion of the Chair.

DECISION:

It was agreed that discussion of the proposal of the delegate of Uruguay concerning Jewish children should be adjourned until the discussion on paragraph 7 of the Memorandum on the Future Work-Programme.

Letter from the Vaad Leumi

The SECRETARY read a letter from the President of the Vaad Leumi, protesting against the action taken by the British Government in deporting back to France the refugees who had arrived at Palestine in the "Exodus 1947" and asking the Committee to intercede with the British Government so that the refugees might be permitted to enter Palestine.

The CHAIRMAN felt that the measure asked for was one interfering with internal administration, and should therefore be dealt with in the same manner as previous requests of the kind.

DECISION:

It was agreed without discussion to take no measures with respect to the points raised in the letter.

In reply to a query by the SECRETARY there was agreement that, in view of the pressure of other urgent work, the Secretariat should not continue to reproduce similar letters regarding which a procedure had already been agreed on by the Committee unless, after having read them, the Committee considered reproduction necessary.

Mr. Garcia GRANADOS (Guatemala) suggested that the Secretariat might prepare a list of communications received and a digest of their contents.

The SECRETARY pointed out that two issues of such a list had already been made in Palestine, and a third would be made in Geneva as soon as the necessary documents arrived.

/Duration

Duration of Visit to Displaced Persons' Camps

Mr. BLOM (Netherlands) proposed that the visit to the displaced persons' camps be limited to five or six days.

The CHAIRMAN felt it would be difficult to make a hard and fast rule: some allowance should be made for difficulties that might be encountered during the journey.

The meeting adjourned at 11.25 a.m.
