

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

SUBCOMMITTEE TWO

SECOND REPORT

1. Timetable of hearings of organizations and individuals which the Committee had already invited to testify before it.

The Subcommittee, having taken note of a request received from the Liaison Officer of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in a letter dated 3 June 1947 to the effect that Mr. Shertok be allowed to testify after the other Jewish bodies have given evidence, recommends that Mr. Shertok be asked to testify after the five previous spokesmen of the Jewish Agency * and before questions are put by the Committee to all the representatives of the Jewish Agency.

No exact timetable can be drawn up, as the time required for questions put to the various speakers by members of the Committee is unpredictable. Further, the schedule will be enlarged and adapted after consideration by the Committee of the present report. The Subcommittee therefore recommends the following preliminary schedule of hearings:

Monday, July 7, 9 a.m. Mr. Shertok, Jewish Agency for Palestine;
Questions by members of the Committee to
the six spokesmen of the Jewish Agency

Tuesday, July 8 Continuation of questions put to spokes-
men of the Jewish Agency (if necessary)

Dr. Weizman

Vaad Leumi (commencement of hearings if
time is available)

Wednesday, July 9 Vaad Leumi, continuation of hearings
/ Thursday,

* Mr. Ben Gurion, Rabbi Fishman, Mr. Horowitz, Mr. Kaplan,
Mr. Bernstein

Thursday, July 10 General Federation of Jewish Labour

Friday, July 11 Communist Party, Central Committee

2. Applications for hearings received since 25th July.

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

a) That hearings be granted to the following:

The Chief Rabbinate, Jerusalem

The Church of England and Church of Scotland, Jerusalem

The Council of Jewish Women's Organisations of Palestine, Tel Aviv

The League for Jewish-Arab Rapprochement and Cooperation, Jerusalem

b) That no hearings be necessary in the following cases:

Bne-Horin Movement

Consul-General of France

Lohamey Heruth Israel (Fighters for the Freedom of Israel)

c) That a decision be deferred in the following cases:

The Democratic Club, Tel Aviv

The Manufacturers' Association of Palestine, Tel Aviv

The Relatives' Committee for Detainees and Exiled Persons

The reasons for the above recommendations are set forth below:

a) Organisations to be invited to submit oral evidence:

The Chief Rabbinate:

The Chief Rabbinate is the supreme religious authority of Palestine Jewry, representing both the Ashkenasic and the Sephardic Jewish communities. Its spokesmen would be Dr. Isaac Hertzog and Rabbi Benzoin Uziel. It is recommended that a hearing be granted under Category D.

The Church of England and the Church of Scotland:

It is recommended that a hearing be granted under Category C.

/ The Council

The Council of Jewish Women's Organizations of Palestine,
Tel Aviv:

This body incorporates the majority of women's organisations in Palestine. Its purpose is to put forward the women's point of view on all issues concerning the Jewish community in Palestine. The Subcommittee considers that it would be appropriate to hear a representative of the Council under Category B, but that not more than one hour should be devoted to her statement and to questions and answers.

The League for Jewish-Arab Rapprochement and Cooperation,
Jerusalem:

Two organisations adhere to the League: The Ihud Association and the Hashomer Hatzair Workers' Party, and in addition its membership includes a number of individuals. The Subcommittee considers that it would be of interest to grant a hearing to the League, in particular because it would afford an opportunity of hearing the point of view of the Hashomer Hatzair Workers' Party, which, as it is subordinated to the Jewish Agency, has not the opportunity of presenting its case independently.

b) Cases in which applications should be rejected:

Bne-Horin Movement:

From the information available it appears that this is not a body of any standing and that its membership is very limited. The Subcommittee considers that no hearing should be granted.

Consul-General of France:

The Consul-General of France submits one copy of a memorandum on the work of French cultural and humanitarian institutions in Palestine, which, by virtue of the Franco-Turkish Treaty of 1913, have special privileges, and states that he is ready to give oral evidence, if asked to do so.

/The Subcommittee

The Subcommittee considers that no hearing is necessary.
Lohamey Heruth Israel (Fighters for the Freedom of Israel):

The Subcommittee recommends that no hearing should be granted, in accordance with a similar decision of the Committee as regards the Irgun Zvai Leumi application.

c) Cases in which it is recommended that a decision be deferred:

The Democratic Club, Tel Aviv:

The Subcommittee recommends that a decision be deferred until further information is obtained on the scope and standing of this body.

The Manufacturers' Association of Palestine:

The Subcommittee considers that a decision on the Manufacturers' Association should be deferred until its memorandum, which was distributed on 5 July, has been studied.

The Relatives' Committee for Detainees and Exiled Persons:

The Subcommittee recommends that no decision be taken on this request pending a decision by the Committee on the feasibility of taking action on petitions regarding detainees, as this request is of a similar character.

- 3) With the approval of the Chairman of the Committee and in accordance with the Subcommittee's recommendation that invitations to give oral evidence should be addressed to appropriate religious authorities ^{*}, the Chairman of the Subcommittee, accompanied by the District Commissioner for Jerusalem, paid calls on four of the principal Christian religious dignitaries in Jerusalem, the Latin Patriarch, the Orthodox Patriarch, the Armenian Patriarch, and the Father Custos of the Holy Land. He ascertained that all these persons were anxious not to become implicated in the

^{*} A/AC.13/SC.2/2, page 2, lines 1 to 3

discussion of political problems. The Chairman explained that, under paragraph 5 of its terms of reference, the Special Committee is instructed to give most careful consideration to the religious interests in Palestine of Islam, Judaism and Christianity and that the purpose of his calls was to discuss the implementation of this paragraph, asking their cooperation in providing the Committee with authoritative information on religious interests. Furthermore, the Chairman explained that the Committee had no authority and no intention of going into a discussion of the "status quo" of the Holy Places.

The Latin Patriarch and the Orthodox Patriarch announced that they would submit memoranda to the Committee and that they would be glad to give any further explanations desired by the Committee, but that they did not wish to give oral evidence. The Armenian Patriarch stated that he wished to give the question of submitting a memorandum further consideration, and that in any event he was not prepared to give oral evidence. The Father Custos of the Holy Land said that he would submit a memorandum to the Committee and that he would be ready to present this memorandum in camera and to supplement it by any necessary oral explanations.

The Chairman of the Subcommittee proposes, if the Committee so desires, to pay a further call on the Supreme Moslem (Sharia) Council.
