PLAN FOR REALJUSTMENT OF ARAB PALESTINE AND JEWISH PALESTINE

1 - Purpose of trip to attend Council Meeting.

a. To postpone implementation of Royal Commission Report.

b. To equalize apparatus of Agency between Z.O. and Non-Z.O.

c. To evolve better scheme of living with neighbors and for improving peaceful and progressive development.

d. To improve the resolutions and the actions of Zionist Congress by more moderate suggestions.

Result Achieved:

a. Since our decision to go abroad Parliament itself refused to endorse the report but referred it to the Mandate's Commission in Geneva.

The Jews objected to it. The Press came out against it. The Arabs came out against it.

The Z.O. came out against it in its present shape but empowered the Executive to pursue negotiations further.

b. The apparatus of the Non-Zionists—Zionists has been much improved by

The President is put under obligatory consultation with Advisory Council created by Z.O. plus Non-Zionist Advisory Board, such as Lionel Cohen, Lord Reading, F.M.W. or Gotschalk, Laski.

A small Administrative Committee of 16, half and half, Z.O. and Non-Z.O. was recreated in Palestine as advisors and policy prescribing body.

Executive equalized by having at least the following self-declared independents, Shertok, Rupin, Mrs. Jacobs, plus Hexter, Senator, Karpef.

c. To evolve better scheme of Arab-Jewish relations, the Mandate Commission of Geneva requested continuation of Mandate until satisfactory solution is found, suggesting some form of cantonization similar to the scheme of which we spoke.

The Eden Committee to be appointed to discuss modus vivendi with Palestinian Arabs and Jews.

d. The Resolution of the Agency asked for conference between Jews and Arabs for a similar purpose.
II. - What will be our contribution to that Conference and what should be our attitude?

a - Can we American Jews find and agree on a satisfactory promising program - Z.O., Non-Z.O. alike?

b - Can we agree that such program must satisfy

Jewish demands for large number of Jewish immigrants;

Arabs demands not to be outnumbered;

English demands for the four points of importance, harbor, aviation and military base, oil and exit to Akaba.

Some of us feel that we can satisfy all three standpoints. The English demands must be fulfilled as condition sine qua non. The Arab demands for financial help to the upbuilding of Trans-Jordania and Iraq are important and must be seriously considered by us.

We come to the Arab Conference table not empty handed. From what we are told, there is a strong desire on behalf of the Trans-Jordanian Government for the erection of an electric power plant and in consideration of this enterprise a large acreage will be put at the disposal, for 99 years, of Jews and Arabs who will develop this scheme. The remuneration paid to these people will no doubt be spent in Trans-Jordania and will be helpful to the establishment of the Trans-Jordanian Canton if that is to be established. And by the number of Jews who are infiltrated into Trans-Jordania in that way space will be created for additional Jews in Palestine.

Iraq - In regard to that country, which once supported well millions of inhabitants, now reduced to an insignificant population, we know that a very interesting and important irrigation dam has been built by an English concern for the reestablishment of that once fertile valley situated between the Euphrates and the Tigres. Iraq needs immigration, and while it prefers Arab immigration, it has not been possible to attract that type of immigration which will be steady and land-improving. We are told that considerable amount of money might be raised for promising development in Iraq, and a serious group is considering this scheme.

Could we satisfy the Arabs that, taking the Arab population of the three countries, Palestine, Trans-Jordania and Iraq, as millions, even a population of a million Jews would not be endangering their independence?
Jewish Demands:

Is it possible to reach an agreement, American Jews, Non-Zionists and Zionists, to work for one purpose, peaceful, large immigration into the three countries mentioned above, with one Jewish Canton to start with?

Some of us feel that, logically, it should be possible if we look at the problem disregarding the vanity attracting idea of Jewish State. The Jewish State limits us to the small size and puts upon our shoulders the responsibility of a defensive attitude against unfriendly neighbors. The cantonization gives us a large field, with large possibilities. Can anybody vote for a small complicated state when he has the choice of larger numbers in larger territories against small numbers in small territories?
III. - What would be Washington's attitude to these schemes?

It has been pointed out that the United States has a standing, to be heard and satisfied if any Mandate conditions are changed. We know how difficult it is diplomatically to obtain changes once a scheme has been promulgated. Perhaps if the Royal Commission had consulted the United States prior to declaring its Royal Commission Report as its policy, something more satisfactory might have been presented by the two important Anglo-Saxon powers.

Might it not be advisable therefore to have the progress and the proceedings of that Commission in Palestine watched by an American advisor or observer, while the work is going on. A Jewish observer would naturally be considered partial, but would it not be fortunate and desirable if a man of the type of Messerimith, now in the State Department of the United States, could be delegated by the State Department for such a post of "observer". The standing of Mr. Messerimith, his sympathetic energy, is so well known that it would command the respect of all parties involved from the first moment on. And I wonder if the right party, persona grata in Washington, might not test Mr. Hull's or the President's attitude in regard to this question.
During the last two days a proposition has come before us for a Christian organization to call together a round-table conference of Jews and Arabs, right here in the United States.

The Arabs approached seem to be anxious for it, and the matter should receive most serious consideration, and it would of course be necessary to obtain consent from Agency headquarters to go into this further. We have to impress the English Commission when it sits with the interest that American Christianity, Arab and Jewish population, take in the working out of this problem. On the same day as this invitation was issued, I received a printed pamphlet from one, Saphir, giving the documents and history, with photostatic copies, of very serious conference between Jews and Arabs which took place with Dr. Weizmann's permission and approval, which led up to an agreement ready to be signed by the parties involved. When, so to say, an agreement was reached in 1922, a powerful influence, source unknown, brought these negotiations to a sudden end, and one can only surmise what might have been the reason for it. Perhaps the ambitions of one or the other side increased suddenly. Perhaps it was not in the interest of the big powers to see Arab and Jew come to such amicable settlement that the demands for territorial or safeguard purposes would have been left unprovided for. Some of the people involved in those negotiations are still alive and can check up such story and the circumstances which prevailed. In any case, if Arabs and Jews were still on such terms that they felt that such an agreement was desirable and possible in 1922, why not try to avoid the difficulties which wrecked the negotiations then and try to resume with proper safety guards in the hope that a similar arrangement might be worked out now.

cc to: Stephen Wise
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