

S E C R E T

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CABINET

CONFERENCE ON PALESTINE

INVITATIONS TO JEWS AND PALESTINE ARABS

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for the Colonies

1. The States Members of the Arab League have been invited to send delegations to London "to enter into negotiations on the subject of Palestine", in accordance with the undertaking that His Majesty's Government would consult all parties concerned before reaching a decision on the recommendations of the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry. The date of the proposed conference will, if possible, be so arranged as to enable the conversations to take place before the session of the United Nations General Assembly which, as at present planned, will begin on the 23rd September. This invitation has been published and it has also been intimated that it is intended to invite representatives of the Palestine Arabs and of the Jews.

2. As regards the Palestine Arabs, the invitation will presumably be addressed to the Arab High Executive (which has recently taken the place of the former "Arab Higher Committee"), of which the Vice-Chairman is Jamal Husseini. The Chairmanship of this Executive has been left vacant for the Mufti and the Executive would no doubt wish to nominate him as head of their delegation. I recommend, however, that, in conveying an invitation to the Executive, the High Commissioner should make it clear that His Majesty's Government would not be prepared to accept the Mufti's nomination. I propose also to ask the High Commissioner if he considers the Arab Higher Executive sufficiently representative of the Palestine Arabs or if he would wish to issue additional invitations to any individuals. At the St. James's Palace Conference (1938-39) two representatives of the Defence Party were included in the Palestine Arab Delegation, which otherwise consisted of persons who, in effect, represented the Arab Higher Committee.

3. As regards the Jews, the position is more difficult. On the occasion of the St. James's Palace Conference, the invitation on the Jewish side was addressed to the Jewish Agency, who were asked "to nominate representatives to attend the forthcoming discussions". This invitation was accompanied by a personal letter from the then Secretary of State for the Colonies to Dr. Weizmann, in which he wrote - "No suggestion is contained in the official letter with regard to the numbers or composition of the Jewish Agency delegation as it was felt that these are matters on which it was hardly appropriate for the Government to lay down any principles. On the latter point I have nothing to add to what I said to you in recent conversations. As regards numbers, I realise the difficulties with which you may have to contend, but I hope that it will be found possible to limit the delegation to a reasonably small number". The list of names submitted

by the Jewish Agency before the commencement of the Conference is appended to this paper. It will be seen that, besides members of the Jewish Agency Executive, the delegation included Jews from the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Belgium and Palestine, besides representatives of Agudath Israel and the Board of Deputies.

4. It seems appropriate once more on the occasion of the forthcoming conference to extend an invitation to the Jewish Agency. It was made clear that the operations commencing on 29th June were not directed against the Agency as such, but only against those responsible for instigating and directing the campaign of violence, and that it was not the intention at that time to proscribe the Agency. So long as His Majesty's Government continue to recognise the Agency, it seems appropriate that the latter, in view of its position under the Mandate, should be taken into consultation as the principal body representative of the interests of world Jewry in Palestine. I suggest, however, that, in conveying an invitation to Dr. Weizmann, I should make it clear (and this could perhaps best be done orally) that His Majesty's Government will not be prepared to accept as delegates members of the Executive now in detention or Mr. Ben Gurion (who would have been detained had he been in Palestine). The Zionists will no doubt point to the fact that the Arab leaders then in detention in the Seychelles were released to take part in the St. James's Palace Conference (though not allowed to enter Palestine); but, in view of the recent publication of evidence implicating the detained leaders, I should see very great objection to any concession in this matter on the present occasion. Apart from anything else, I fear that the release of the detainees would have a grave effect on the morale of the Services in Palestine.

5. Although, however, I recommend that the Jewish Agency should be asked to take part in the discussions, I do not think it appropriate, in the light of its recent record, that the Agency should, on this occasion, be asked to nominate Jewish representatives other than members of its Executive. I propose that the selection of such members of the Jewish delegation should be left to myself, in consultation with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. I should see no objection (and it would indeed be my intention) to consult Dr. Weizmann and the Chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews on this matter, in his purely private capacity.

6. To sum up, I recommend -

- (i) that an invitation to the forthcoming negotiations should be addressed to the Palestine Arab Higher Executive on the understanding that the Mufti would not be an acceptable delegate and that the High Commissioner will be consulted on the question of adding any other names to the Palestine Arab delegation;
- (ii) that an invitation should be extended to the Jewish Agency to nominate as representatives members of its Executive, excluding Mr. Ben Gurion and those now in detention; and
- (iii) that the Jewish delegation should be completed by the nomination of representatives of other interests (including, for example, Agudath Israel) by myself, in consultation with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and after taking advice from Dr. Weizmann and the Chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and such others as I consider appropriate.

G.H.H.

ANNEXST. JAMES'S PALACE CONFERENCE ON PALESTINE, 1938-39JEWISH DELEGATION

(as nominated at the commencement of the Conference)

Jewish Agency Executive

Dr. Ch. Weizmann, President of the Jewish Agency.
 Mr. David Ben-Gurion, Chairman of the Executive.
 Dr. Selig Brodetsky, Head of Political Department, London.
 Rabbi J.L. Fishman, Palestine.
 Dr. Nahum Goldman, Representative in Paris and Geneva.
 Dr. M.B. Hester, American non-Zionist representative.
 Mrs. Rose Jacobs, former President of Hadassah, New York.
 Mr. Louis Lipsky, New York.
 The Rev. M.L. Perlzweig, London
 Mr. M. Shertok, Head of Political Department, Jerusalem.

Members

Mr. Schalom Asch, representing East European Jewry.
 The Viscount Bearsted.
 Mr. I. Ben Zvi, Palestine, Chairman of National Council.
 Rabbi M. Berlin, Mizrahi, Palestine.
 Rabbi Blau, representing the Agudath Israel.
 Mr. Lionel Cohen, K.C.
 Dr. Israel Feldman, Chairman of Palestine Committee of
 Board of Deputies.
 The Rev. J.K. Goldbloom, Chairman, English Zionist
 Federation.
 Sir Osmond d'Avigdor Goldemid.
 Dr. I. Herzog, Chief Rabbi of Palestine.
 Mr. Neville Laski, K.C., President of the Jewish Board of
 Deputies.
 Mr. B. Kaznelson, Editor of "Devar", Tel Aviv.
 Mr. B. Locker, Palestine.
 Professor L.B. Namier.
 Dr. B. Mossinsohn, Palestine.
 The Marquess of Reading, K.C.
 Mr. J. Rosenheim, representing the Agudath Israel.
 Mr. H. Sacher.
 Mr. J. Rothschild, M.P.
 Professor Herbert Speyer, Brussels.
 Mr. I. Stein.
 Mr. Robert Szold, New York.
 Mr. J. Suprasky, Palestine.
 Mr. M. Ussischkin, Chairman of Zionist General Council.
 Rabbi Uziel, Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv.
 Dr. B. Weill-Halle, Paris.
 Rabbi Stephen Wise, New York.

ARAB DELEGATIONSPALESTINIAN ARABS

Jamal Eff. Husaini.
 Auni Bey Abdul-Hadi.
 Musa Bey al-Alami.
 Mr. George Antonius.
 Yaqub Eff. Farraj.
 Dr. Husain al-Khalidi.
 Ragheb Bey Nashashibi.
 Alfred Eff. Roch.
 Amin Bey Tamini.

Yaqub Eff. Ghusain.
 Fuad Eff. Saba.

Dr. Izzat Tannus.

EGYPT

H.H. Prince Mohamed Abdul-Moneim.
 H.E. Hassan Nashat Pasha,
 Egyptian Ambassador in London.
 H.E. Ali Maher Pasha,
 Chief of the Royal Cabinet.
 Abdul-Rahman Bey Azzam,
 Egyptian Minister to the Iraqi
 and Saudi Arabian Governments.

IRAQ

H.E. General Nuri al-Said,
 Prime Minister and Minister
 for Foreign Affairs.
 H.E. Rauf Bey Chadirji.
 Saiyid Eff. Abdullah Bekir
 (Secretary).
 Mr. Lloyd.

SAUDI ARABIA

H.R.H. the Amir Faisal,
 Minister for Foreign Affairs.
 Sheikh Hafiz Wahba,
 Saudi Arabia Minister in
 London.
 Fuad Bey Hamza,
 Deputy Minister for Foreign
 Affairs.
 Ibrahim Eff. al-Suliman
 (Secretary).

TRANS-JORDAN

H.E. Taufiq Pasha Abul-Huda,
 Chief Minister to the
 Government.
 Najib Bey Aluruddin.

YEMEN

H.R.H. Prince Saif ul-Islam al-Hussin.
 Al Qadhi Muhammad 'Abdullah al-Shami.
 Al Qadhi Ali ibn Husain al-Amri.

Sayed Ali ibn Akiel
 Mahmoud Aby el Soud
 Ibrahim el Mogi.



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