

UNITED NATIONS

Press Division
Lake Success, Nassau County, New York

Ad Hoc Committee on Palestinian
Question 2nd Meeting

Summary
Press Release GA/Pak/2
26 September 1947

U. K. ACCEPTS UNSCOP GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS;
Will Not Implement Policy
Unacceptable By Both Arabs and Jews

The Committee this morning heard a statement from Mr. Arthur Creech-Jones, Representative of the United Kingdom, who declared that the United Kingdom Government agrees with the twelve general recommendations of the Report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, but that if the Assembly should recommend a policy which is not acceptable to both Jews and Arabs, the United Kingdom Government would not feel able to implement it.

Mr. Creech-Jones added that in the absence of a settlement, the United Kingdom Government will plan for an early withdrawal of British forces and of the British Administration from Palestine.

The Committee then heard Mr. Emil Sandstrom, Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, who explained the impossibility of finding a solution acceptable to all parties and the necessity of reaching a compromise on the Palestinian problem.

(A chronological account of the meeting is given in
Takes #1 and #2 which follow this summary.)

#####

UNITED NATIONS

Press Division
Lake Success, Nassau County, New York.

Ad Hoc Committee on Palestinian Question
2nd Meeting.

(AM) TAKE # 1
Press Release GA/PAL/2
26 September, 1947.

TAKE # 1
PALESTINE.

Meeting this morning shortly after 11.15 a.m. under the chairmanship of Dr. H.V. Evatt (Australia), the Ad hoc Committee on the Palestinian Question first heard a statement by Mr. Arthur Creech-Jones, Representative of the the United Kingdom/Mandatory Power.

Mr. Creech-Jones stated that the United Kingdom Government are in substantial agreement with the twelve general recommendations of the report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. In particular, they endorse the first, recommending that the Mandate for Palestine shall be terminated at the earliest practicable date; the second, recommending that independence shall be granted in Palestine at the earliest practicable date; and the sixth, to the effect that the General Assembly should immediately undertake the initiation and execution of an international arrangement to deal with the problem of distressed European Jews as a matter of extreme urgency.

Mr. Creech-Jones said that the United Kingdom Government are ready to assume the responsibility for giving effect to any plan on which agreement is reached between the Arabs and the Jews. But, he added, if the Assembly should recommend a policy which is not acceptable to the Jews and the Arabs, the United Kingdom Government would not feel able to implement it. Then it would be necessary to provide for some alternative authority to implement it.

"The United Kingdom Government," Mr. Creech-Jones also said, "are not themselves prepared to undertake the task of imposing a policy in Palestine by force of arms. Likewise, in considering any proposal to the effect that the United Kingdom Government should participate with others in the enforcement of a settlement, they must take into account both the inherent justice of the settlement and the extent to which force would be required to give effect to it." Concluding, Mr. Creech-Jones announced that the United Kingdom Government decided that in the absence of a settlement in Palestine they must plan for an early withdrawal of British forces and of the British administration from Palestine.

Mr. Creech-Jones was followed by Mr. Emil Sandstrom, Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Division
Lake Success, New York

Ad Hoc Committee on Palestinian Question
Second Meeting

(AM) Take #2
Press Release GA/PAL/2
26 September 1947

TAKE #2
Palestine

Referring to the Report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, Mr. Sandstrom said that no solution was possible of the Palestine problem that would be acceptable to all parties concerned, or that could objectively be considered as entirely satisfactory.

Nevertheless, he added, a solution had to be found.

Mr. Sandstrom stressed the achievements of the Jewish colonists and the fact that they had mostly settled on previously uncultivated areas. Some, however, of these settlements, he added, form pockets in the Arab districts and this increases the difficulty of finding a solution inasmuch as the Arab and Jewish populations keep apart and follow their own different ways of life.

Mr. Sandstrom mentioned the desire of the Jews for a Jewish State and the rise of Arab nationalism as further causes of difficulty. As the claims of both parties seem to be well-founded, concluded Mr. Sandstrom, only through a compromise can a solution be found for the Palestine problem.

The Committee rose at noon and will reconvene next Monday, 29 September, at 11:00 A.M.

(End of Take #2 and end of Press
Release GA/PAL/2)