

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Communicated to the
Council, the Members
of the League, and
the Permanent Mandates
Commission.

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C.P.M.1924.

Geneve, August 4th, 1937.

PALESTINE.

Communication from the Government of Iraq
dated July 31st, 1937.

Delegation Permanente d'Irak,
Geneve.

July 31st, 1937.

To the Secretary-General of the League.

I have the honour to communicate to you here-
under the text of a telegram which I have just received
from my Government:

"Baghdad, July 30th, 1937.

The Iraqi Government is and has always been vitally interested in the situation in Palestine for racial, political, religious, economic and strategic reasons. It is also concerned as the Ally of the Mandatory Power. It believes that a just solution of the present difficulties can be found through the exercise of their powers by the Permanent Mandates Commission and the Council and the Assembly after full consideration of all the elements of the problem in a true perspective. Iraq special concern with this problem was emphasised when His Majesty the King of Iraq in consultation with Their Majesties the Kings of Saudi Arabia and the Yumen and the Emir of Trans-Jordan intervened with the Arabs of Palestine last October to secure peace in Palestine by sending the following appeal: "We have been deeply pained by the present state of affairs in Palestine Stop For this reason, we have agreed with our brothers the Kings and the Emir to call upon you to resolve for peace, in order to save further shedding of blood. In doing this, we rely on the good intentions of Our Ally Great Britain who has declared that she will do justice. You must be confident that we will continue our efforts to assist you." The Iraqi Government thereby accepted the gravest moral ~~xxxxx~~ responsibility towards the Arabs of Palestine and pledged itself to continue its efforts to assist them. The Arabs of Palestine having acted in accordance with this appeal, once more accepted the Government's advice, and in spite of their bitter

disappointment that Jewish immigration did not even temporarily cease, they finally cooperated with the Royal Commission. The Iraqi Government now seeks further to implement its pledge to the people of Palestine and to assist in reaching a solution of the problem which will be permanent, sending to the Permanent Mandates Commission its emphatic protest against the proposals of the Royal Commission and in particular the proposal for the partitioning of Palestine. In the opinion of the Iraqi Government, the partitioning of Palestine would be an injustice to the people of that country, which could not be viewed without the gravest alarm. This proposal of the Royal Commission is not only incompatible with the integral independence of that country solemnly envisaged by the Mandate and the Covenant, but holds no hope of being a permanent settlement. Such hope depends upon the recognition of an integral independent Palestine, in which the Jews accept now once and for all the position of a minority. So far as the control of immigration can secure it, the proportion of the Jewish population to the population of the whole of Palestine should be fixed approximately as at present. In every essential point, the Balfour Declaration has already been fulfilled, and Jewish immigration is no longer a condition of the continuance and development of Jewish institutions in Palestine. The Iraqi Government firmly believes that the way to secure the Jews in the enjoyment of the fruits of the Balfour Declaration is to recognise an independent, undivided Palestine which will take its place among the other Arab nations. On this basis, it is reasonable to expect that the development of Palestine in accordance with the legitimate aspirations of its people which has been so long and so disastrously delayed, will proceed peacefully, in harmony not only with past assurances of justice for the people of Palestine, but also with political realities. The Iraqi Government hopes that its solemn protest against the Royal Commission's proposals for the dismemberment of a neighbouring country, will assist the Permanent Mandates Commission better to appreciate the political implications of the problem now before it and to express an opinion which will aid the Council and the Assembly and the Mandatory Government to reach a conclusion on the lines indicated above in the interests not only of the Arabs of Palestine, but of all. The Iraqi Government intends to make a further communication to the League containing more detailed proposals for a final solution of a problem which touches it so closely.

NAJI - ASIL

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Kharjiyah."

(Signed) Sabih Najib,
Permanent Delegate.
