

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION

STATEMENT AND DRAFT RESOLUTION CONCERNING
JEWISH CHILDREN IN ASSEMBLY CENTERS IN
EUROPE AND CYPRUS

Proposal Submitted by the Delegation of Uruguay

1. The Majority Report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine appointed by the General Assembly of the United Nations recommends, for the transitional period between the present time and the date when the independence of the two States proposed by the said report is established:

"to admit into the borders of the proposed Jewish State 150,000 Jewish immigrants at a uniform monthly rate, 30,000 of whom on humanitarian grounds." (Pag. 125, Vol. I, Chap. B, Section (c)).

This proposal by the Committee refers not only to one of the most serious aspects of the Palestine problem, namely the immigration question, but to the most grave, urgent and humanitarian of the various questions constituting the problem itself: the situation of Jewish children in the Displaced Persons camps of Europe and the Assembly Camps on the island of Cyprus. It is to these children that the figure of 30,000, added "on humanitarian grounds" to the initial immigration figure adopted by the Majority Committee in its plan, refers.

2. On that occasion the delegate of Uruguay, who was a Member of the Special Committee on Palestine, and who is also the signatory of this Draft Resolution, proposed to the Committee an emergency plan which provided for:

- (a) The setting apart from the Palestine Question as a whole of the study and immediate action demanded by the situation of the children in question;
- (b) arrangements for their immediate and free entry into Palestine;
- (c) entry into Palestine of the parents of the children, if necessary on a temporary immigration certificate, pending final settlement of the problem;
- (d) these children and their mothers and fathers, where they had them, to be placed under the care of the Zionist Agency described and defined in Article IV et seq. of the text of the Palestine Mandate granted by the League of Nations in 1922 as a "public body".

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The resolution of the Special Committee on Palestine adding the figure of 30,000 persons to the new immigration quota for the transitional period, was based on that Emergency Proposal, after a sub-committee appointed for the purpose had visited and investigated some of the D.P. camps in Germany and Austria.

3. Subsequently, whilst stating the principles and reservations concerning its vote on the majority report now being studied by the Ad Hoc Committee, the delegation of Uruguay stated: (Page 22, Annexes and Appendix):

"The delegation of Uruguay has, on the other hand, lent its full support to the provisions concerning immigration made in the report. When this point was being dealt with, the delegation of Uruguay submitted a proposal for the establishment of a special emergency regime which included provision for the Jewish children who are at present huddled together in the DP camps of Europe and in the detention camps on the Island of Cyprus.

"A million and a half such children made up the tragic total of mass exterminations which the conscience of the world did not succeed in stopping. The children who survived this great and terrible tragedy now, in innocent distress, people the places destined to hold the refugees and persons driven from their homes by persecution and war. The situation of these children is absolutely desperate. It was because of this situation that the delegation of Uruguay formulated its proposal, to the Committee, for the drafting of special resolution with regard to sending immediately to Palestine all the thousands of children and thousands of mothers now undergoing this trial.

"It should be added that in the present circumstances, it will be very difficult for many of them to survive the hardships of the coming winter.

"The Committee's resolution setting at thirty thousand the number of persons who, for humanitarian reasons, should make up the quota of immigration to Palestine during the 'transition period' has afforded a very noble and comprehensive solution to this imperative problem, thus lending its worthy support to the proposal put forward by the delegation of Uruguay.

"The delegation of Uruguay will, however, again submit this same proposal to the General Assembly of the United Nations, setting it apart from the problem of Palestine as a whole, in order to obtain the urgent solution which this grievous situation demands."

It is this proposal that the delegation of Uruguay is once more submitting, now that the General Assembly of the United Nations holds in its hands the life and fate of many thousands of human beings whom the

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racial theories pursued in Europe to their most brutal limits did not succeed in destroying.

4. Approximate figures for the Jewish children, with whom this draft resolution is concerned, and who are at present housed in the D.P. camps referred to above, are as follows:

Children under 12 months	6 000
from 1 to 6 years	8 000
from 7 to 17 years	<u>16 000</u>
Total	30 000

To these must be added the number of those that are to be found in the Assembly Camps in Cyprus who, according to recent information, are being taken to Palestine.

It will be noted, moreover, that the children under 12 months were all born in the D.P. camps of Europe, on the island of Cyprus, or in the Jewish immigration ships seized in the Mediterranean, far removed from any native land or anything they can call home, victims of the same fate which since long before the dawning of their innocent lives has dogged the history of their people and their race. It will also be noted that many of those now four or five years old were born on the road during the flight from their homes, in the darkness of the ghettos, or in hiding in kindly Christian homes which sheltered many of the youngest of this martyred generation.

All those who are left, numbering thousands, are the survivors of the extermination of one and a half million children, of children like themselves and like our own children, a figure representing an unspeakable terror, which is part of the figure of six millions of Jews of Europe who ended their lives in the gas chambers and in the crematoria of the nazi regime. Approximately four thousand of these children in the D.P. camps are orphans of that crime.

5. But that is not all. Judgment has already been passed on this crime at Nuremberg and in the opinion of the world. Nevertheless - let it be admitted here and now - the world has shown very little concern for the orphans and survivors.

We must emphasize that the situation in which the 30 thousand Jewish children referred to in this Draft Resolution find themselves is beneath any human condition. Cramped, without shelter, hygiene, or adequate nutrition, above all without that affection to which as children they have a right, an elementary right, and which can come only from those who possess the sacred quality of motherhood but are now ill-treated or absent; sleeping and living in most cases among the compact mass of adults, a

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despairing restless multitude in this continental exodus along the roads of Europe; that is the drama of those children which the United Nations must now bring to a close and thereby stanch the most ghastly wound left by a system and an epoch.

We also suggest that this problem, in view both of the fact that it constitutes a complete whole in itself and of the responsibility attaching to it, should be set apart from the study of the entire question of Palestine in its various aspects. We consider that the fate and the life of these children should not be neglected or deferred for later consideration in the complexity of the political debates to which the question of Palestine will again give rise. We maintain that at least these 30 thousand children, like the children of all the mothers of the world, of whatever condition or race, must be rescued from those forms of suffering inseparable from concentration camps and Displaced Persons camps, from the hopeless agglomerations of refugees, renewed flights along the roads of the earth or beyond the horizons of the seas, and the endless hoping for decisions which never come.

6. We propose to amplify this statement during the examination of this question but in the meantime have the honour to submit for the consideration of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestinian Question the following Draft Resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestinian Question:

Having regard to the utterly inhuman conditions in which Jewish children now in Displaced Persons camps, or in the Island of Cyprus, or in other places of detention or assembly, are now living with imminent danger to their lives or their shattered physique and morale;

And considering:

That the situation of those children, survivors of the mass exterminations carried out by the Nazis, was duly confirmed by the Subcommittee of the Special Committee on Palestine which visited the said camps; and that these children are included in the figure of 30 thousand persons mentioned "on humanitarian grounds" in paragraph B, Section (c) of the Majority Report of the said Committee.

Resolves:

1. That as an emergency measure, and in view of the extreme urgency of the problem, immediate and free entry into Palestine be granted to 30 thousand Jewish children at present in Displaced Persons Camps and other places of detention or assembly and to all who may arrive or be taken to such places subsequently to this resolution.

/2. That in view

2. That in view of the same extreme urgency of the problem a special immigration quota for Palestine be established, to which due priority shall be given and which, shall include:

(a) the mothers and fathers of the said children;

(b) pregnant women now in the places mentioned in the previous article.

3. That the children and other persons referred to in this Resolution be forthwith entrusted to the care and protection of the Jewish Agency defined in Article IV et seq. of the text of the Palestine Mandate as a "public body".

4. That, after adoption by the Ad Hoc Committee, this Resolution be communicated forthwith to the General Assembly of the United Nations for its urgent consideration, independently from the debate and final resolution on the whole problem of Palestine.
