

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

The following letter has been received from the Government of Palestine.

Chief Secretary's Office,  
Jerusalem

15th June, 1947<sup>o</sup>

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency the High Commissioner to refer to the request which you have made verbally to me to-day that written evidence may be furnished to the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine by the Palestine Administration in regard to the constitution of the Government of Palestine and the manner of its administration.

2. In reply to your request I am directed to forward, for the information of the members of your Committee, twenty copies each of the following documents which have been prepared by the Government of Palestine:-

- (a) A Survey of Palestine in two volumes. These volumes were written in December 1945 and January 1946 for the information of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. A brief account of the constitution and structure of the Government of Palestine is contained in the first volume, at the fourth chapter.
- (b) A supplementary volume to this Survey of Palestine. When the General Assembly of the United Nations resolved on 15th May last to appoint a special committee to "investigate all questions and issues relevant to the problem of Palestine" and to "conduct investigations in Palestine" steps were immediately taken by this Government to revise some of the data which is contained in the two volumes which were prepared last year for the Anglo-American Committee. This revised data is contained in the supplementary volume which is now formally presented for the information of the Special Committee. So that this volume of supplementary data might be ready for presentation at the outset of the Committee's investigations in Palestine no attempt has been made to bring up to date all the detailed particulars contained in the original volumes; only

/that

that material which it was thought would be of particular interest to the Committee has been included. The method adopted for presentation of this new data has obvious disadvantages; this Government would have wished to revise and reprint the original volumes so that the factual material which they contain might have been presented to your Committee in self-contained form, but the limited time available has dictated the less satisfactory method of including the revised data in a supplementary volume; any inconvenience caused thereby will, it is hoped, be excused.

- (c) The draft estimates of the revenue and expenditure of the Government for the financial year 1st April, 1947, to 31st March, 1948, together with an explanatory memorandum. These estimates are as submitted by this Government to the Secretary of State for the Colonies whose approval of them is now awaited.
- (d) A set of nine maps.

3. I am also to inform you that this Government proposes to present a memorandum which is intended as an account by the Palestine Administration in general terms of its experience in attempting to carry out the obligations imposed by the terms of the Mandate with which His Britannic Majesty's Government was entrusted under Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations. It is anticipated that it will be possible to complete this memorandum and to furnish copies for the information of your Committee before the end of this week.

I am, <sup>sir</sup>  
Your obedient servant,

H.L.G. Gurney  
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE  
GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE.

The Principal Secretary,  
United Nations Special Committee on Palestine,  
Y. M. C. A.,  
Jerusalem.