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A/AC.13/NC/28  
23 June 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF NORTH AFRICA

The following letter has been received from the Committee for Freedom of North Africa:

221 West 10 Street  
New York, N.Y.  
June 6, 1947

Dr. Victor Hoo  
Assistant Secretary-General  
United Nations  
Lake Success  
New York

Dear Sir:

The Committee for Freedom of North Africa has received with great respect the communication of the Special Committee inviting it to present its views in written form on the subject of Palestine in accordance with the application made May 6, 1947 on behalf of Messrs. Salah Ben Youssef and Salah Ferhat, Secretaries of the National Destour Party of Tunisia; Mr. Abbes Ferhat, President of the Manifesto Party of Algeria; Mr. Messali Hadj, President of the Popular Algerian Party; and Mr. Omar Abdeljelil, Chairman of the Istiqlal, Independence Party of Morocco.

It was indeed gratifying to have our request met with such understanding and to have had our people granted this opportunity to express their opinion on a problem which is of such great concern to them. The natural bond that has existed since the eighth century between the Arabs of North Africa and those of Palestine, is an historical fact whose roots lay deeply embedded in the uniformity of language, tradition and religion, all genuinely identical.

Because of this tie which British, French and Italian imperialists have tried to sever but have actually only helped to strengthen, the twenty million Arabs of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia could only proclaim their solidarity with the natural inhabitants of Palestine, their Arab brothers, in their rightful and legal aspirations for self-determination and independence. By so doing, they have also demonstrated their adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter and their faith and confidence in its sacred purposes.

Assuming that your invitation was indicative not only of good will and impartiality, but was also an acknowledgement of our qualifications as interested parties, we sincerely regret our inability to respond positively at this time due to the peculiar position in which we find ourselves.

Although the Committee for Freedom of North Africa is an independent organization, our application was made on behalf and at the request of those leaders who are in North Africa and who cannot be contacted easily through ordinary channels, because of the rigid censorship which affects even personal correspondence. We are sure you will agree that it would be most improper for us to act further on their behalf without their consent or instructions.

/Therefore

Therefore to enable us to cooperate effectively in this most important investigation, may we beg your indulgence to grant us one month's extension in order to consult those who are directly responsible to the North African people. In view of the urgency of your business, however, may we suggest that as an alternative and as a measure of expediency, the Special Committee might personally invite these leaders and their organizations to present their views directly.

Understanding that in its terms of reference the Special Committee is authorized to visit not only Palestine, but also European displaced persons camps and any other places it deems necessary for a complete and thorough investigation, may we humbly suggest that they visit the North Africans whose interest in the outcome of this problem is based on more consistent and authentic values than the mysticism of Europe's displaced Jew.

We hope the honorable members of this Special Commission will receive this letter and the suggestions therein with the same understanding and consideration and will inform us promptly of their decision.

We remain, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sgd) El Abed Bouhafa, Secretary  
Committee for Freedom of North Africa