

GENERAL
ASSEMBLYASSEMBLEE
GENERALEA/AC.13/26
27 June 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

FIRST REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE TWO

At its Tenth Meeting on 21 June, the Special Committee decided to set up a Subcommittee composed of the Delegates of Australia, the Netherlands, Uruguay and Yugoslavia, together with Mr. Hoo, to study the written evidence submitted to the Committee and to suggest the persons and organizations to be heard by the Committee.

The Subcommittee held two meetings on 24 and 25 June. At the first meeting, Dr. Blom (Netherlands) was elected Chairman.

I. Criteria by which the granting of hearings shall be determined.

The Subcommittee recommends that oral hearings be granted to the following categories of organizations and individuals:

- A. Political organizations, representative of considerable groups of the population of Palestine;
- B. Other organizations representing viewpoints of particular interest for the problem under investigation;
- C. Individuals having relevant information or personal viewpoints of particular interest for the problem under investigation not submitted by representatives of organizations under A or B;
- D. Authorities of the various religions having relevant information with regard to Article 5 of the Resolution of the General Assembly (A/309, I, Terms of Reference of the Special Committee).

II. Recommendations regarding applications for hearings

On the basis of the above criteria, the Subcommittee recommends:

- A. That oral hearings be granted the following organizations and individuals:

Agudath Israel World Organization, Jerusalem
Askhenasic Jewish Community, Jerusalem

/Communist

J. W. Abileah, Haifa

The Subcommittee considers that Mr. Abileah should be heard by the Special Committee under Category C. He promotes the idea of particular interest, i.e., a united Palestine and Trans-Jordan under the rulership of King Abdullah in order to facilitate a large scale immigration. A preliminary memorandum by Mr. Abileah was distributed to the Committee on 16 June. He has informed the Secretariat that he proposes to submit a fuller memorandum within a few days' time.

Dr. Chaim Weizman

It is recommended that a hearing be granted under Category C. Dr. Weizman has asked to be heard after the Jewish Agency and before 15 July, when he is due to leave Palestine.

The Subcommittee further recommends that representatives of British and other business communities be invited to testify before it.

Organizations and Individuals whose applications should be rejected:

International League against Anti-Semitism, Tel Aviv.

From the memorandum submitted by this organization, it is clear that nothing of particular interest is included. It is recommended that this request be rejected.

League for the Equal Right to Work for Every Jew, Tel Aviv.

The League applied for a hearing without submitting any document. The available information is that it is not an organization of any standing. The Subcommittee recommends that no hearing should be

/granted.

Ligue Mondiale de la Paix, Central Committee, Jerusalem.

From the information available, it appears that this is not an organization of any standing it is therefore recommended that no hearing should be granted to it.

The Palestine Communist Union, Central Committee,
Tel Aviv.

This party is a break-away from the Palestine Communist Party. The reason for the break was the attitude of the Palestine Communist Party towards Zionism. The Union recognizes Jewish national aspirations and guardedly supports partition. The number of members is not more than a few hundred. As no viewpoint of particular interest could be expected from this party, the Subcommittee recommends that no hearing should be granted.

Cases in which it is recommended that a decision be deferred:

Alliance Israélite Universelle, Paris.

No decision was reached in the Subcommittee on this organization. It claims to be the oldest of the big Jewish organizations and recommends a trusteeship system for Palestine under the United Nations. In other respects, however, its views do not differ substantially from those of the Jewish Agency.

Anglo-Jewish Association, London

This Association has stated that it will be glad, if requested to do so, to submit a memorandum and supplement it by oral evidence.

It is recommended that the Special Committee request the Association to forward the

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memorandum, on receipt of which a decision could be taken as to whether or not an oral hearing should be granted.

League for Peace with Justice in Palestine

A long memorandum received from this organization was distributed on 25 June. It is recommended that a decision regarding an oral hearing should be taken once this memorandum has been studied. The League for Peace with Justice in Palestine has no membership in Palestine nor a membership of any size anywhere else. Its leader, Benjamin Freedman, is a wealthy anti-Zionist. The interest of the League's proposals lies in the fact that it puts forward a solution similar to that advocated by the Arabs, and the delegate of Syria, Mr. Al Kheury, urged that the League's memorandum should be taken into consideration by the Special Committee.

Rahel Ber, Haifa, and D. Pantofaru, Haifa

These persons wish to make oral petitions on behalf of their husbands, now under arrest in Kenya. The Subcommittee is of the opinion that these two petitions are closely related to the large number of communications received asking that the Committee investigate cases of private individuals or intervene on their behalf. The Subcommittee did not take any decision on these two requests pending a decision by the full Committee as to the feasibility of taking action on such petitions in general.

/B. Zaroubine,

B. Zarubine, Tel Aviv.

This person, who is a historian, submitted a written statement to the Anglo-American Committee. As this statement is not available to us, it is suggested that he be requested in the first instance to submit a written statement in 30 copies to the Committee.

A number of individual applicants have given little or no indication of the reasons why a hearing before the Committee would be justified. The Subcommittee, therefore, suggests that a member of the Secretariat be instructed to communicate with these applicants with a view to making a preliminary investigation as to whether they have relevant information or viewpoints of particular interest for the problem under investigation not included in the statements of organizations. He would then report to the Subcommittee on the advisability of inviting these persons to testify before the full Committee.

III. Date of Hearings

The Subcommittee recommends that oral hearings should be held on and after 4 July.

IV. Requests of Applicants Regarding Hearings

The Subcommittee recommends that, in the arrangement of the hearings, the requests of the witnesses be taken into due consideration.

V. Organizations and Individuals Having Testified Before the Anglo-American Committee

The Subcommittee recommends that in the reply to all applicants and individuals

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having testified before the Anglo-American Committee in Jerusalem, it should be explained that the Special Committee has taken note of their statements made before the Anglo-American Committee and asks them not to repeat the testimonies already presented in March 1946.
