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LORD BALFOUR, LLOYD GEORGE AND SMUTS IN JOINT STATEMENT, ASK NEW COMMISSION FOR SEARCHING PROBE OF ADMINISTRATION OF PALESTINE MANDATE

Three Members of British War-time Cabinet That Issued Balfour Declaration and Were Responsible for Policy of Jewish National Home. View Present Palestine Situation with Anxiety

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

London, Dec. 20—A new commission to investigate the whole working of the Palestine Mandate and to carry out a searching inquiry into the major question of the policy and administration of the Mandate was urged in a gravely-worded joint statement to the London "Times" today by the three members of the British war-time cabinet, which was responsible for the Balfour Declaration and for the policy of a national home for the Jews which it foreshadowed, Lord Balfour, David Lloyd George and General Jan Christian Smuts.

Viewing the present situation in Palestine with anxiety, the trio of British statesmen declare that:

"As members of the war cabinet which was responsible for the Balfour Declaration twelve years ago and for the policy of a national home for the Jewish people which it foreshadowed, we view with deep anxiety the present situation in Palestine. On the events of last August which are now the subject of an inquiry by a special commission we forbear comment. But it seems clear that whatever the finding of the commission may be on the responsibility for the August outbreak, the work to which Britain set, her hand at the close of the war is not proceeding satisfactorily.

The Balfour declaration pledged us to a policy; the Palestine mandate entrusted us with vital administrative duties; but causes which are still obscure have impeded the task of administration and consequently the full carrying out of the policy.

"In these circumstances we would urge on the government the appointment of an authoritative commission to investigate the whole working of the mandate. The commission at present in Palestine was appointed with limited terms of reference to inquire into specific matters. This commission, in our view, must, as soon as it has reported, be supplemented by a searching inquiry into major questions of policy and administration. Our pledge is unequivocal, but in order to fulfill it in letter and spirit, a considerable readjustment of the administrative machine may be desirable.

"Such a commission would be an advertisement to the world that Britain has not weakened in a task to which her honor is pledged and at the same time an assurance to Jews and Arabs alike that any proven defects

in the present system of government will be made good."

Commenting on the letter, the London "Times" says that unusual interest attaches to it, since it is signed by Lord Balfour, Lloyd George and General Smuts, who were members of the war-time cabinet which took upon itself the responsibility for the Balfour Declaration. The "Times" points out that at that time, Lloyd George was the head of the government which demanded and obtained the Mandate for Palestine. These three, says the "Times," should be extremely well-informed about the conditions of the mandated territory and it is not sur-

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GOVERNMENT COUNSEL INSINUATES ZIONISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR RIOTS AND SAYS ZURICH CONGRESS FRIGHTENED ARABS

By Gershon Agonsky

(Staff Correspondent, Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Jerusalem, Dec. 20—Insinuations by government counsel Preedy that the policy of the Zionist Organization may have been responsible for the Hebron massacres and the disturbances elsewhere and the revival of the charge that the actions of the Zionist Congress at Zurich frightened the Arab leaders featured yesterday's session of the Inquiry Commission, at which Hans Sacher, chairman of the Palestine Zionist Executive, was again subject to a warm cross-examination during which questions to him by members of the Commission seemed to indicate that the Commissioners had already formed a definite attitude on the land problem.

By his questions Preedy tried to establish that the arrogance of the Jews was responsible for the August riots. He introduced Pierre Van Paassen's interview with H. C. Luke in which the latter echoed the Grand Mufti's opinion that the Zurich Congress had frightened the Arab leaders. The fact that Luke later repudiated the interview seemed to count for little with Preedy.

Referring to Sacher's proposal to have British officials destined for Palestine service instructed in the character of the mandate, Preedy admitted the suggestion, asking who would instruct them. He then read extracts of a speech made by Dr. M. D. Eder before the Zionist Actions Committee

Economic Depression Seen as Responsible for Epidemic of Deserted Jewish Infants

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Warsaw, Dec. 20—An epidemic of desertions of little children is the latest manifestation of the great misery prevailing among the Jewish population here as a result of the economic depression. Almost daily, poverty-stricken Jewish mothers have been leaving children on the doorsteps of police stations or other public buildings. Most of the children are from one day to one year old. The unfortunate mothers usually leave notes asking that their children be turned over to a Jewish founding home. The deserted infants are generally found in a semi-starved state.

ACQUIT JEW OF BLASPHEMY

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Jerusalem, Dec. 20—The Sephardic Jew, Zion Saadia, was acquitted yesterday on the charge of having cursed Islam before an Arab of Hebron.

in London in September in which Eder demanded punishment for the Arab ringleaders, enlistment of special constables and consultation with the Jewish Agency with regard to the selection of higher officials. Sacher said he had not heard the speech and would not have approved of it if he had. Preedy then read the resolutions of the administrative committee of the Jewish Agency demanding they be consulted with regard to the personnel of the government. Sacher explained that certain principles, it was felt should govern the selection of such officials. Commissioner Hopkin Morris thought those officials should be efficient, not sympathetic, to which Sacher replied that he meant officials should on the whole take a view similar to that which he would adopt if he were an official.

After asking the witness how often he visited the Walling Wall, whether he was an orthodox Jew, and whether he was a Palestinian, Preedy questioned the benefit of Jewish immigration to the Arabs. The witness replied that the Jews provided revenue otherwise unobtainable for health and education and that Jewish capital indirectly provided the Arabs with employment.

Preedy tried to show, from Sacher's speech at the Zionist Organization Congress that he aims to supplant the

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Defends Use of Palestine Money by Transjordania

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)
Amman, Dec. 20—Replying to the
opposition against the continued use by
Transjordania of Palestine currency,
the director of finance explained that
the close economic connections of the
two countries make the use of Palesti-
ne's currency a distinct advantage.
Furthermore Transjordania, he said,
receives a share of the governmental
profits. The currency itself, he said,
was stable and in world market trans-
actions could be used like the English
pound.

Jewish Communist Jailed for Refusal to Furnish Guarantee

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)
Jerusalem, Dec. 20—Baruch Kerzman
of Jaffa has been sent to prison at
Acre for his failure to deposit \$500 as
a guarantee of good behavior. Yona
Vigosin was also ordered to put up a
deposit. Kerzman, who has recently
returned from Russia, is suspected by
the police of having gone through a
course in a Communist institute for
propaganda in the East. Vigosin was
a Communist candidate at the last
municipal elections in Tel Aviv.

Report Five Jewish Students Injured at Jassy University

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)
Vienna, Dec. 20—Five Jewish stu-
dents were badly injured in Tuesday's
disturbances at Jassy University, ac-
cording to reports reaching here. The
students are Sonntag, Saxel, Sakovici,
Eera and Mayer. A Christian student
by the name of Barzan, who was an
innocent bystander, was also hurt.
Police Director Marcu is seeking the
guilty students.

LORD BALFOUR, LLOYD GEORGE AND SMUTS IN JOINT LETTER ASK NEW COMMISSION TO PROBE PALESTINE MANDATE

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prising that they regard its present
state with deep anxiety, in the belief
that the work to which Great Britain
set her hand at the close of the war is
not proceeding satisfactorily.

Continuing, the "Times" says: "The
news which they read from Palestine
during the last two months certainly
did a good deal to explain and justify
their apprehensions. It was not to be
expected that the country would set-
tle down immediately after several
days of sanguinary rioting, which
would have developed into civil war
but for the arrival of troops from
Egypt and the Mediterranean garrisons.
But there is evidence that the
political crime in the outrages against
the property of the Jewish colonists
and the anti-Jewish boycott has been
a source of profit to its organizers and
of anxiety to the authorities. In short,
the relations between these two com-
munities are nearly as bad as they
could be and show no signs of improv-
ing as long as the protracted proceed-
ings before the Inquiry Commission
continue to present the whole problem
of Palestine as a feud between Arab
and Jew.

"It would clearly have been better,
in light of the present events, that the
Commission should have been got to
work at greater speed, and it is clearly
desirable now that they should com-
plete as soon as possible their com-
paratively limited task and allow the
development of Palestine, which is the
real purpose of the Mandate, to over-
shadow the quarrels of race and reli-
gion. Lord Balfour and his fellow-
signatories ask for a deeper investiga-
tion with wider terms and with refer-
ence to the whole working of the
Mandate and in view of the attacks
that have been made upon it, there is
something to be said for their view.
It is possible that the present Com-
mission might find that the recent
troubles have been chiefly caused
by personal antagonisms rather than
by racial or religious hatred. In such a
case a change of personnel and adminis-
tration will be all that is required. It
is also possible that the investigators
will conclude that the task set the ad-
ministration is too heavy, that the re-
moval of practically all reliable armed
forces from the country exposed it over-
much to the hazards of civil commotion,
that a reconciliation of the policy laid
down in the Balfour Declaration with
the admitted rights of the Arabs re-
quired more constant attention than
it actually received at Whitehall.

"Yet the Mandate was apparently
working well. In recent years the
country was prospering. The policy
that Lord Plumer carried out with
conspicuous success in the interests of
Palestine of first and foremost equal
toleration for all religions, Christian,
Moslem and Jew, seemed gradually to
be reducing the religious factor in na-
tional politics. That was to be the
policy of his successor, whose troubles

soon after his appointment immensely
complicated his task and won univer-
sal sympathy. In any case, if the gov-
ernment, after studying the report of
the Inquiry Commission, decides that
the administrative machine needs re-
adjustment, then at least they will
well advised to repeat to the world in
general and to the inhabitants of Pale-
stine in particular, that there is no
question of the abandonment of the
Mandate or a repudiation of the Bal-
four Declaration. The success of the
Palestine Mandate is of major interest
to the British Empire, nor will the
obligations of honor and the prompt-
ing of national sentiment inspired by
associations in the Holy Land counsel
the abandonment of our plain duty."

Rabbi Klein Denies He Said Zionists to Blame for Riots

Rabbi Max D. Klein of Philadelphia
in a telegram to the Jewish Telegra-
phic Agency denies the report of his
speech in the "Jewish Daily Bulletin"
of December 17 where he was quoted
as saying that the Zionists were to
blame for the Palestine riots. Repeated
requests to Rabbi Klein from the
Jewish Telegraphic Agency to give
his version of the speech in question
have not been complied with.

Magida Quits as Director of Kansas City Y. M. H. A.

(Jewish Daily Bulletin)
Kansas City, Dec. 20—Abram S.
Magida, for the last four years execu-
tive director of the Kansas City Young
Men's and Young Women's Hebrew
Association has resigned effective Janu-
ary 1. He will retain his position as
president of the National Association
of Jewish Center Secretaries.

Minister Davila Discusses Condition of Jews in Roumania

Carol A. Davila, Roumanian Minis-
ter to the United States, conferred yester-
day with Barnett Siegelstein, presi-
dent of the United Roumanian Jews
of America, and Herman Speier, secre-
tary of the same organization, about
the condition of the Jews in Roumania.

JOLSON TO GET RECORD SALARY IN GERMANY

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)
Berlin, Dec. 20—The local papers
report that Al Jolson has been en-
gaged by the Scala, the leading vaude-
ville house, at a monthly salary of
\$30,000, which is said to be the highest
salary ever paid to an entertainer in
Germany.

Arab Woman Gets Jail Term For Looting During Riots

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)
Haifa, Dec. 20—An Arab woman was
sentenced to serve three months in
prison for looting candlesticks during
the recent riots.

EX-BRITISH COLONIAL SECRETARY SEES NEED FOR TOLERANCE BETWEEN JEW AND ARAB IN PALESTINE

By RT. HON. L. S. AMERY, Former Secretary of State for the Colonies

It would be undesirable for me at this moment, to express any opinion on the actual circumstances of the regrettable occurrences of last summer. These matters are being closely inquired into by an impartial commission.

When that commission reports we shall know more about the immediate causes of the outbreak. We shall be in a better position to judge how far it was deliberately premeditated and organized beforehand, or how far it was a sudden conflagration spreading almost instantaneously among a credulous and excitable population. We shall be able to form a truer estimate of the manner in which the authorities on the spot, whether at Jerusalem or in the countryside, handled the terribly difficult situation with which they were confronted. We shall have more material to enable us to consider how far the authorities at home had provided their representatives in Palestine with adequate force for the emergency which arose. These considerations should, I think, affect anyone who is writing or speaking about Palestine at this moment. They naturally carry a special weight with myself as the Minister directly responsible for the administration of Palestine up to within three months of the trouble.

The Commission will present its report in due course early next year. It will bring out the essential facts upon which public opinion can then base its judgment, and upon which the Colonial Office can take its measures to prevent the possibility of a recurrence of similar trouble in the future. But the Commission is only concerned with a particular situation. The fundamental position remains unaffected either by the outbreak itself, or by such facts in connection with it as may be elucidated by the commission, or by such recommendations as it may make. Great Britain has undertaken, by the Balfour Declaration, and by its assumption of the Mandate, to carry out the policy embodied in those documents, and there is no question of any British Government, whatever its political complexion, going back either on the pledges given ten or twelve years ago, or upon all the work that has been accomplished since then.

After all it is not merely a question of having put our hand to the plough and taking it off before driving our furrow. The ploughing has been done, and even if there is still much more work needed, we are well on our way towards the harvest. The progress achieved during these years, whether by the Government or by the independent efforts of the Zionist Organization may, at each stage, have seemed slow to some of the more ardent spirits. But when the immense difficulties of the situation and of the time are realized—the condition of the whole fabric of law and administration, the absence of nearly all the ele-

mentary equipment of a civilized country in the shape of roads or sanitary water supply, the tangled complexity of the land position, the economic depression of the last three years, not to speak of Arab suspicion and resentment, breaking out at intervals as in 1921 and again this August and always latent—the sum of achievement is seen in better perspective and appreciated as a great constructive achievement.

The foundations have had to be laid in difficult and insecure ground, where hasty scamped work might have been fatal to the whole future. As it is they have, I believe, been well and truly laid and the set-back due to recent events is consequently nothing more than a set-back. It has, no doubt, retarded somewhat the recovery that was showing itself in the economic field. But the recovery will come all the same, and will cover, and more than cover, I believe, the direct addition to expenditure which may be called for in the direction of a larger establishment for internal security. The turn of the tide in the direction of immigration may be delayed, but only till experience confutes it, by nervousness outside as to the danger of a repetition of the horrors of that unhappy August week. Passion and bitterness will require time to subside and as Sir John Chancellor made clear the moment he arrived on the spot, the need for a considerable time to come will be for firm government and not for experiments in constitutional development. The main conclusion is that we should get on as quickly as possible with the work in hand, show unmistakably the sincerity and tenacity of our purpose, and make good, without further ado, any ground that may have been lost.

But if our first business is to make clear that there is no weakening in our determination, it still remains desirable, looking to the future, that we should also remove misunderstandings as to what our policy is, and endeavor in course of time to secure the concurrence or at least acquiescence, in that policy of all the inhabitants of Palestine. And in that task as in the task of material development, the help of the leaders of the Zionist movement, as well as that of the Jewish settlers themselves, is an essential element.

The terms of the Balfour Declaration make it plain that the creation of the Jewish National Home did not imply the setting up of a Jewish nationalist state or the support, in favor of the Jews, of that essentially intolerant type of racial or linguistic nationalism which has devastated Europe by its conflicting claims for political domination. Equally it left no room in Palestine at least, for the assertion of that type of nationalism by the Arabs. Its basic conception is toleration, the right of both Jews and Arabs to develop a true national life with the framework of a common Palestinian state. Just as French and English Canadians have

each developed their national life and culture within the wider framework of the Dominion of Canada. It is the British conception of the non-nationalistic state, giving free play within its borders to vigorous but mutually tolerant national cultures, which underlay the Declaration. But it is a conception, which has at the back of it not only the broad policy and the pledged word of the country, but the general support of the civilized world as embodied in the Mandate.

The Jewish national home is based, not on suzerainty from the Arabs but on an internationally recognized right.

If, at this moment, the immediate task of the British Government in Palestine is to leave no doubt in the minds of the Arabs that this right will be upheld, and that no agitation or clamour will lead to concessions which will in effect impair it, there is no less an obligation upon the Government to work steadily to convince the Arabs that there is abundant room in Palestine for their national life, and no intention of suppressing or displacing that national life, and to endeavor to hold up before them continually the conception of a common Palestinian patriotism in which both communities can share. And it is on this side that the Jewish community, with its higher education and wider outlook can do much to help. By emphasizing their Palestinian patriotism as well as their zeal for their own Jewish national home, by making it clear that their nationalism is based on the same tolerance and good will towards others that they expect for themselves, by zoning out of their way, even to show their interest in their Arab fellow citizens, the Jews of Palestine, and their friends throughout Jewry, can do much to dissipate the fears and suspicions that have underlain the Arab attitude in the past. It may seem fanciful at a moment like this, to dream of a day when Jewish and Arab leaders may come together as MacDonald and Curzon did in Canada, to frame their own constitutions for Palestine as a self-governing nation within the orbit of the British Commonwealth. But in no other way can the problem of Palestine find its ultimate solution, and to pave the way, and firmly keep the door open, to that solution is the supreme task of British, and I might add, Jewish, statesmanship.

(Copyright Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Ltd., December 1929.)

Polish Newspaper Protests Unmolested Distribution of Ritual Murder Pamphlets (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Vilna, Dec. 20—Protests against the distribution of pamphlets containing ritual murder agitation are voiced to-day in the liberal paper "Kurjer Wileński," which reports that such pamphlets are being circulated. The paper asks why the government authorities do not take measures against such criminal agitation and demands to know why the anti-Semitic agitation of certain priests is permitted to go on unchecked.

GOVERNMENT COUNSEL INSINUATES ZIONISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR RIOTS AND SAYS ZURICH CONGRESS FRIGHTENED ARABS

(Continued from Page 1)

Arab laborer with the Jew. He suggested that the Arabs were justified in their fear of the formation of the Jewish Agency, and the enlistment of such men as Lord Melchett and the late Louis Marshall to work for it. The government counsel quoted from the statement of Ussishkin placing Weizmann's estimate that one hundred thousand Jews would arrive in Palestine during the next five years. Preedy also mentioned Weizmann's agreement with Lord Melchett in his dissatisfaction over the administration of Palestine, and quoted Weizmann's hope that the Agency would be able to get from the government what, till then, the Zionists had been unable to.

Sacher explained that the leaders of the Jewish Agency felt that the Government had not assisted the Jews in forming a Jewish National Home. State lands had not been given, taxation had been high, immigration had been restricted. "My own opinion is that there is no serious quarrel with the Government who reduced the proposed Zionist quota from more than 5,000 to 2,300."

"Shouldn't it make the Arabs nervous when they heard the demands of the Jewish Agency?" questioned Preedy. The witness said he would not deny those demands might have caused irritation, but he did not think they should have.

Questioning Sacher about the Zurich Congress Preedy attempted to show that the congress deliberately revived the question of the removal of the screen at the Wailing Wall. The witness reminded the government counsel that this was the first congress after the situation had occurred, and though the incident of the screen as an issue between Jews and Moslems had died down, the feeling against the Government rankled.

Sacher said he was convinced that an Arab conspiracy existed but conceded that it was difficult to prove this and indict those guilty. The Government, he felt however, should have denied through officials all over the country the allegations that Jews wished to seize Moslem Holy Places and should have published Col. Amery's refutation of this charge made in the House of Commons. Preedy made the witness admit that the "Doar Hayom," Hebrew weekly, should have been punished the same as Arab papers for inflammatory statements. Sacher, however, reiterated his statements made in the article in the "Manchester Guardian" in which he criticized the "blundering and weakness of the Palestine Government." He admitted that he used strong language but insisted that the situation could not have been handled any worse than it was. He disagreed, he said, with the statement made in the London "Jewish Chronicle" which stated that the Wailing Wall was the "gauge of Jewish prestige."

Preedy, quoting from Sacher's testimony of the day before in which he

stated "for us as well as for you, the blood of martyrs is the seed of the church," asked whether the martyrs were represented at the Zionist Congresses. "No," replied the witness, "martyrs are dead."

"May it not be the result of the Zionist policy?" asked Preedy. Sacher remarked that such a statement, coming from the legal representative of the Palestine government was interesting and said he would note that. Sir Boyd Merriam, chief counsel for the Jews, rose to his feet hurriedly, saying, "So will I." Preedy remarked that he would not be deterred from asking questions by comments from the witness or counsel. Commissioner Morris reminded Sacher that he was in the witness-box and asked him not to make comments.

"You suggest that the terms of the Mandate are inconsistent. Therefore it is unworkable and should be repealed, or amended," said Stoker, cross-examining Harry Sacher.

"You're running fast," countered the witness. "I was answering a hypothetical legal problem." Laughter broke the tension in the courtroom.

The interchange came as the result of a question which Commissioner Betterton had put to Sacher. "Assuming for a moment that there were no more land available in Palestine than what is needed for the Arab population, would you consider it the Government duty in carrying out the Mandate to prohibit any further sale of land to Jews?" he asked. Sacher refused to answer the question directly, saying only, "Such prohibition would be a violation of the Mandate, for it would be discrimination against the Jews."

Stoker, reading the complaint of the Zurich Congress that Jews do not get a fair share of government positions, tried to explain that government contracts go to the cheapest labor, therefore to the Arabs. Sacher said vehemently, "That is my complaint. The government is practicing a most miserable form of economics. In undertaking the carrying out of the Mandate it also undertakes the task of civilizing the territory. The Jews insist upon a rise in wages to a reasonable standard both for Arabs and Jews alike."

According then, from the resolutions passed at Zurich which expressed the hope that thousands of Jews would enter Palestine during the next year, Stoker remarked that the resolution was optimistic, like the immigration of 1923. Sacher answered that the labor needs of new plantations and industry were estimated before bringing in immigrants. "We do not allow them to

come on the chance that they might find work," he explained, and said that the Zionist Congress often indulged in very general resolutions, while it was the task of the Zionist Executive to "get down to brass tacks." The Congress, he said, included elements who were engaged part of the time in expressing disrespect for the Executive. Commissioner Snell said with a smile that in his experience the congresses expressed pious aspirations rather than aims which had a direct chance of fulfillment.

Sacher said that some of the resolutions passed by the Congress were more or less injunctions, while others belonged in the realm of literature. "This one," he stated, "simply instructs us to get as many Jews into the country as the economic policy requires."

Asked whether there were any limits to the ambitions of the Jews in so far as increase in population and acquisition of land were concerned, Sacher responded "only finances and the amount of land offered for purchase."

"Do you spend any consideration on the amount of land left for the Arabs?" asked Stoker. "That matter is for the consideration of the Arabs and the Government," responded the witness.

Asked if A. M. Hyamson, head of immigration affairs, was a Zionist, the witness answered in the negative. "But he was," persisted Stoker. "You had better ask him his views," retorted Sacher.

Questioned about the Government duty to encourage close settlement of the Jews, Sacher said that in his opinion the economic and tax policy of the Government was injurious to progressive agriculture, that the railways were managed without any conception of the place or possible play of the economic development of the country.

Introducing into the Commissioner's records the statement that Col. Frederick Kisch on May 4th stated to High Commissioner Chancellor that building operations at the Wailing Wall "were a flagrant change in status quo" and liable to lead to racial conflict, Sir Boyd Merriam disposed, early in the session, of the charge that Brande, former witness, invented the "status quo" issue.

Preedy, for the Government, showed that the High Commissioner told the Mufti on May 6th that he had asked the rabbis to produce evidence of their rights to the Wailing Wall, under the Turks, but as they had brought none, they probably had none. Sacher said the rabbis should have submitted evidence, but feared that the Moslems would insist on observing Turkish paper laws, whereas under Turkey, the law on paper differed materially from what was meant. Sacher said he accepted the White Paper ruling that the status quo is basis for determining the rights to the Wailing Wall as a provisional measure, but he refused, he added, to accept the implication of the White Paper that the status quo is basis for a final settlement.

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