

S.A. ZIONISTS OPPOSE PARTITION

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We have never wished to make the Arabs feel that we come as conquerors. Those who spoke, or speak of imperial conceptions for the Jews in Palestine, do so without a sense of responsibility. The fear of the Arabs that we are there to dominate is clearly answered by the fact, and confirmed by the Royal Commission, that our whole development in Palestine has been on the basis of benefits for the whole of Palestine and all its inhabitants. And I quote from Dr. Weizmann's statement before the Royal Commission, in which he made it a ground for complaint against the administration that greater prospects of security in Palestine, and good relationship between Jew and Arab were lacking, because not enough had been done by it for the Arab population.

As far as the Arabs' fear of being a minority is concerned, our whole history and tradition has taught us that the treatment of a minority must be such that it shall be happy amongst the majority.

The Report, in dealing with the Arab grievances, says: "We are of opinion that most of them cannot be regarded as legitimate under the terms of the Mandate, and we are therefore not called upon to make recommendations on them." But, on the other hand, the Report bristles with examples of the complete failure of the Arab population either to develop itself or to co-operate with the Jews.

Had the Administration of Palestine carried out the first duty of a Government, which is to govern, the present position would never have arisen. I quote the following passages from the Royal Commission's Report:

"The first of all conditions necessary for the welfare of any country, is public security." So wrote the first High Commissioner for Palestine when reviewing his five years of office. To-day it is evident that the elementary duty of providing public security has not been discharged. If there is one grievance which the Jews have undoubted right to prefer, it is the absence of security. Their complaints on this head were dignified and restrained.

"Our review has shown that the steps taken at different intervals by the Palestine administration to strengthen their security services, to enforce respect for law and order, to guarantee to the Jews quiet and enjoyment of their National Home, have more than once proved ineffectual."

To sum up, Britain never made it clear to the Arabs, when she gave them large stretches of land, that she had

promised a small piece of land to the Jewish people, and that she intended them to make it their National Home. Britain has never kept the country under such firm government as to enable that intention to develop. Britain did not, through its administration, try to foster that spirit of co-operation which was necessary to bring Jew and Arab together. It is only now revealed in the Royal Commission's Report how completely ineffective the administration of Palestine has been since the Mandatory Power assumed control. There is a classical exception in the authentic story of Lord Plumer, a former High Commissioner of Palestine, who was interviewed by the Arab Higher Committee, and was told that if something or other was not done, the spokesmen of the Higher Committee would not be responsible for the maintenance of law and order. The reply of the old soldier was (and I give you an expurgated version of his reply): "Who asked you to be responsible for law and order? That is my job, and I intend to carry it out!" If that attitude had been adopted all through the chapter by the administration, there would have been no murder of Jews, no loss of precious British lives, no wanton destruction of that which was so laboriously built, and there would also have been no Arab casualties. Therefore my assertion that we contradict the Royal Commission's statement that the Mandate is inherently impossible of fulfilment, is fully borne out not only by what I have said, but by the Report of the Royal Commission itself.

And therefore our contention is that despite the great difficulties — which are not of our making—British statesmanship should not declare itself bankrupt in this instance, by bringing forward a proposal which gives no justice to the Jews, and leaves Britain with a promise unfulfilled. It is a tradition of British statesmanship to find solutions of difficult problems. The history of the Empire is a history of welding together different peoples and bringing home to them that in co-operation only does progress and happiness lie. If Britain would but now be true to these traditions and firmly declare her policy on these lines, we are confident that eventually the Arab people would accept it and the use of force would not become necessary in carrying it out. And so the problem of Palestine would be solved within the Mandate, with credit to Britain, giving justice to all.

The Resolutions of Protest

ADOPTED BY THE S.A. ZIONIST FEDERATION

THE Executive Council of the South African Zionist Federation protests against the proposal to divide Palestine and to assign one portion to the Jews and the other to the Arabs on the following grounds:

(1) It fails to take account of the immemorial connection between the Jewish people and historic Palestine which was recognised by the Balfour Declaration, by the Mandate and by the nations of the world; it fails moreover to recognise the needs and aspirations of the Jewish people as embodied in the Zionist ideal and movement, the very root of which is the aim of re-establishing Palestine, and not a portion thereof, as a National Home for the whole of Jewry and not merely for the section resident in Palestine.

(2) The basic contention of the Royal Commission that Jew and Arab are irreconcilable, and that therefore the Mandate cannot be carried out, is untenable. There is no inherent impossibility of satisfactory relationship being established between the various elements in Palestine provided that a spirit of goodwill and mutual tolerance is cultivated. The explanation of the present position is to be sought not in any insurmountable inherent difficulties, but in the weakness, vacillation and general inadequacy of the handling of the situation by the Palestine Administration. If the terms of the Mandate have not been carried out, it is because its provisions have not been applied with that firmness and insight which the situation required.

(3) Even if the situation is as the Royal Commission contend, it is gravely to be doubted whether

the proposed change will effect any improvement in the relationship of the various elements in Palestine.

(4) By cutting down the area of Palestine available to Jewish settlement and Jewish national life and development the partition proposal deprives the Jewish people of the minimum requirement of the Jewish National Home—namely, that it shall be large enough to accommodate all Jews who are unable to remain in the Diaspora. All this is in striking contrast to the satisfaction which has been given to Arab national aspirations in the Near and Middle East by grants of statehood and territory to the extent of hundreds of thousands of square miles.

(5) The proposals appear completely to ignore the present needs of world Jewry. Zionism to-day still has as its mainspring the love of and longing for the ancient Jewish Homeland and the aspiration for a Jewish revival. But conditions have further imposed upon it a most urgent and realistic objective—to provide an avenue of escape for the millions of Jews living as oppressed minorities in various parts of Europe suffering spiritual and economic degradation. To deprive the Jewish people of the greater part of that territory which means new life and hope for them is to disregard the dire needs of suffering millions. Further, this Executive rejects the alternative recommendation that Palestine shall remain under the Mandate under certain restrictive conditions: for those conditions, especially those which abandon the test of absorptive capacity in determining the rate of immigration and which deprive Jews of the undisputed right of acquiring land, effect destroy the whole principle of the Mandate and would reduce Jewish aspirations to a nullity.

"PRISONER OF SHARK ISLAND" AT COLOSSEUM

"The Prisoner of Shark Island," which is the present attraction at the Colosseum Theatre, is a strong drama based on a miscarriage of justice. Warner Baxter gives an excellent portrayal of Dr. Mudd, who unwittingly helps a murderer to escape, and who is sentenced to be sent to Shark Island. Included in the supporting cast are Gloria Stuart, O. P. Heggie, Claude Gillingwater, Arthur Byron, Harry Carey and a cast of a thousand others. Charles Manning continues to please with his Symphony Orchestra, and the rest of the programme is interesting.

PLAZA THEATRE ATTRACT

"Good Morning Boys," the delightful comedy now running at the Plaza Theatre, stars Will Hay, one of the greatest English comedians, as a Twister, headmaster of St. Michael's School. The next attraction at the theatre is also a comedy entitled "Polo Joe," starring the popular wide-mouthed Joe E. Brown. Both supporting programmes are good, the first one including pictures by airmail of the match between Springboks and New South Wales.

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