

In Palestine

COMMISSION CRITICISES
REVISIONIST EVIDENCE

Faulty Calculations Exposed

MR. AKZIN ADMITS HE IS
"NOT AN EXPERT"

Jerusalem, June 20th.

MR. AKZIN, a representative of the New Zionist Organisation (Revisionists) testified before the Partition Commission at the first public session to-day.

Dealing with the absorptive capacity of Palestine and Transjordan, he estimated that ultimately these areas could support a population of 6,800,000, so that future Arab generations could well be provided for. He believed that over four million Jews could immigrate into the country, and criticised the scheme for a Jewish State outlined by the Peel Commission, on the ground that the areas of the proposed State were inadequate for additional Jewish immigration and colonisation, while in the proposed Arab State there may exist mineral resources in the neighbourhood of the Dead Sea and the Negev.

He did not believe, said Mr. Akzin, that the Arabs would leave the Jewish State voluntarily, and was of opinion that a Jewish State without economic self-sufficiency could only exist by the aid of foreign contributions. It was, however, doubtful whether foreign Governments would allow Jews to collect funds for the arming of an alien State. Therefore, he argued, the security of the proposed Jewish State could not be maintained and the existing hostility would continue.

Instead of Arab gangs and a semi-official Jewish Haganah of to-day, said Mr. Akzin, there would be real war, each State seeking outside allies, thereby creating a new hotbed of international intrigue in the eastern Mediterranean. The Revisionists therefore urged the abandonment of the partition scheme, and intend submitting to H.M. Government their own ten year plan.

The Witness Questioned

At the conclusion of Mr. Akzin's statement, Sir John Woodhead, Chairman of the Commission, questioned the witness regarding the New Zionist Organisation.

"So you are 700,000 of seventeen million Jews?" he asked. "Since your membership is principally in Central Europe, why are your headquarters in London?"

"That is the capital of the Mandate," was the reply.

The Chairman called attention to Mr Akzin's faulty calculations in regard to the absorptive capacity of the country. According to

these calculations, there would be room only for another 700,000 Jews in an undivided Palestine.

During the afternoon session Mr. Akzin was closely cross-examined for two hours. He was particularly questioned in regard to the absorptive capacity of Palestine.

Sir John Woodhead pointed out that there were contradictions in his evidence, and that there was a discrepancy of millions in his calculations.

No Expert

When asked about economic and colonisation questions, the witness was unable to answer, remarking that he was not an expert on these matters.

Asked whether he had ever visited Transjordan or the Negev, he replied in the negative, whereupon Sir John remarked that the Commission had visited Transjordan where they saw everything.

Mr. Waterfield, a member of the Commission, remarked that he (Mr. Akzin) seemed to be most pessimistic and believed that the Jewish State would be aggressive. Mr. Akzin said that the difference between the N.Z.O. and those who favoured partition was that while the latter believed they could overcome the difficulties resulting from the Arab State, the former thought the difficulties would increase.

Asked by the Commission what the N.Z.O. would do if most Jews accepted the partition scheme, the witness did not reply, but said that he did not believe this was possible.

(A comment on Mr. Akzin's statement is contained in our Palestine letter this week.)

"TIMES" ON MR. AKZIN'S EVIDENCE

London, June 21st.

THE Jerusalem Correspondent in to-day's "Times" says: "It is unfortunate that owing to the fact that the previous sessions of the Partition Commission have been in camera the public has not heard the opinion of the majority Jewish organisation, the Jewish Agency, the more so as the Revisionist evidence tends to confirm the Arabs' worst fears."

[Our local Revisionist contemporary, in publishing the above statement, significantly omitted the portion italicised by us. Another striking example of the methods employed by the Revisionists in tearing statements out of their context so as to give them a more desirable interpretation from their own point of view!—Ed.]

SIR CHARLES TEGART
LEAVES PALESTINEReturning Later In
The Year

Jerusalem, June 20.

SIR CHARLES TEGART, the former Chief Commissioner of Police for Bengal, has now completed his task of advising the Palestine Police on essential aspects of reorganisation, and has left Jerusalem with Lady Tegart.

Sir Charles had been in the country nearly seven months. During his stay, complete secrecy shrouded his movements and the papers were not allowed to mention where or how he had travelled. This precaution enabled him to complete his mission without terrorist hindrance, and it was officially announced here that action had been taken on the various recommendations which he submitted.

He will return to Palestine later in the year in order to review the situation and assist the Government in any further way which may be required. His recommendations are said to include the creation of a rural mounted police corps and the frequent despatch of special "ambushing" parties in order to decoy the terrorists.

It is understood that he has insisted that the authorities should take the "offensive" against the terrorists, rather than allow the latter always to strike first.

One of Sir Charles' suggestions will bear his name as a permanent monument. It is the new 50-mile long barbed-wire fence, nine feet high, along the Northern Frontier of Palestine, which has been named "Tegart's Wall."

STUDENT STRIKE ENDED

Jerusalem, June 19th.

THE strike of students of the Hebrew University, which was declared last week owing to some grievances in regard to tuition fees, terminated to-day, and lectures were given as usual.

BIG OIL REFINERY
NEAR HAIFA

Jerusalem, June 19th.

THE preliminary works have been completed for the construction of an oil refinery on the south-eastern outskirts of Haifa.

The construction of the refinery, at a cost of several million pounds, will begin in October, and is expected to last three years. The initial capacity of the refinery will be two million tons, which is at present the entire output of the Mosul oil fields for export, but a development of the refinery is provided for. English, French and American interests are equally represented in the new company.

FURTHER EVIDENCE

Before

PARTITION COMMISSION

Jerusalem, June 18th.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL HAINING, Commander in Chief of the Palestine military forces, accompanied by other officers of the General Staff, gave evidence to-day before the Partition Commission.

Mr. James Ashton of London, leader of an organisation called World State Volunteers, is expected to give evidence during the week. He claims to have a new solution to the Palestine problem.

The Government is understood to be submitting to the Commission a complete list of properties in order to enable the transfers of public estates remaining in each State in the event of the Partition Scheme being carried out.

EX-MUFTI WANTS TO
LEAVE LEBANON

Jerusalem, June 20th.

ACCORDING to reports in Arab quarters, the former Mufti of Jerusalem desires to leave Lebanon and to settle in Saudi Arabia nearer Transjordan, if permitted.

HUBERMAN TO REVISIT PALESTINE

Orchestra's Brilliant Winter Programme

Jerusalem, June 20.

BRONISLAW HUBERMAN, the celebrated violinist, will make his first reappearance on a concert platform since his air accident in Batavia, when he will be soloist at a concert of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra in Tel-Aviv this winter.

The orchestra has announced that Dr. Malcolm Sargent, the British musician, will revisit Palestine as guest-conductor for the third successive season next year. Other conductors will be Pierre Monteux, famous French Jewish musician, and Eugen Szenkar. The possibility is not excluded of Arturo Toscanini coming again.

During 1937/38 the orchestra gave 81 concerts and had an attendance of 130,000, compared with 66 concerts and 120,000 listeners in the previous season. There are over 4,000 members in the supporting Symphony Orchestra Association. The cost of the orchestra is placed at £2,000 monthly.