

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly



Distr.  
RESTRICTED

A/AC.21/AP/23  
12 April 1948



---

UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION  
Communication Received from the Advance Party Concerning  
Board for Scientific and Industrial Research

The attached Memorandum from Mr. P. de Azcarate was received in Air Pouch No. 4 and 5 received on 12 April 1948.

---

PALESTINE COMMISSION ADVANCE PARTY  
BOARD FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH  
(Memorandum by P. de Azcarate)

1. The Board is actually a Government service, entirely supported by Government funds. The administrative expenses (LP.2,000) are included in the Budget of the Government. Besides this, an allocation of LP.10,000 is vented for its research work. The enclosed report gives full information about the Board's organization and activities.
2. The administrative expenses will be stopped, as the rest of the Palestinian Administration, on 15 May. The last allocation granted for research work covers the financial period 1 April 1947 to 31 March 1948, but funds are still available to continue the work until next August.
3. To solve the financial problem of the Board it is suggested that the Commission agree to the Mandatory Power's allocating to the Board as from now a global sum of LP.12,000 for its administrative expenses and the continuation of its present research work during one year.
4. As regards the organization of the Board, it would be, in my opinion, most advisable to explore the possibility of reorganizing it for the time being as an autonomous body, working under the auspices of the United Nations and financially supported by the successor authority in Palestine. For this exploratory work I suggest the Commission's getting in touch with the Director of UNESCO in order to secure the collaboration of its Office in Cairo. The Chief of this Office is already in touch with the Board and I can assure you that his personal collaboration in this exploratory work would be most welcome to the Board.
5. One difficult point about the future of the Board is Arab collaboration. At present there is none, and it is obvious that since the Arab scientists are not collaborating, the "Palestinian" character of the Board is more than doubtful. I have good reason to believe that the actual leading members of the Board realize this point and are most anxious to secure real Arab collaboration. If the Board were reorganized on the lines suggested above as an autonomous body, a good opportunity would present itself to approach this delicate question.
6. My personal view is that this institution (like the others of similar character) should not only be maintained under the successor authority but should be greatly encouraged, developed and enlarged. Scientific research applied to the economic development of the country as a whole and to the improvement of health conditions is the ideal field in which to attempt, successfully, cooperation between the two sections of the Palestinian population. And, in the long run, it is a *sine qua non* for the satisfactory working of any political and administrative regime in Palestine.

[Document in PDF format](#)