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Progress Report from the Advance Party dated
10 March 1948 regarding Civil Aviation in Palestine

The following progress report by Mr. Ghosh was received in Advance Party Air-Pouch number 2 on 21 March.

CIVIL AVIATION IN PALESTINE

Interview with Air-Vice-Marshal Storrar, Director of Civil Aviation, in Palestine, on 8 March 1948

(Report by D. Ghosh)

Civil aviation is today of minor importance in the economic life of Palestine. The estimated income and expenditure of the department for 1947-48 have been put at L.P 25,000 and L.P 98,545 respectively. The administration has, however, an efficient basic organization for civil aviation and there is a natural desire to see the continuity of the organization maintained during the period of transfer of power and responsibility in the country. From the discussion with Mr. Storrar, it appeared that the following steps would be required to preserve the continuity:

1. A "shadow" managerial staff consisting of an Airport Manager, an Assistant Airport Manager, a Signals Officer and five control officers should be appointed in advance of the termination of the Mandate. An advance arrangement regarding the managerial staff will go a long way in maintaining intact the staff in the lower cadres at the airports.
2. At present the Palestine Civil Aviation Department is acting in co-operation with authorities in Cairo in respect to the training of pilots and issue of pilots licenses. Steps may be taken to continue this arrangement for some time at least.
3. A large number of international air lines are using Lydda Airport for their transcontinental and other flights, and they would like to continue to do so, provided adequate security conditions are assured.
4. In Air-Vice-Marshal Storrar's opinion, given the situation of Lydda Airport in an open country in Jewish territory bordering on the Arab zone, adequate security can be provided only by the internationalization of the airport. He feels that both Arabs and Jews may agree to this solution.