

UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION  
ADVANCE PARTY

ACCOMMODATION OF THE COMMISSION

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 1

1. The question of housing the Commission was discussed at several meetings between Mr. Azcarate and Mr. Stavropoulos and Sir Henry Gurney and the Director of Public Works. During the discussions the Palestine Government expressed a doubt whether the Commission would like to sit in Jerusalem.

The Palestine Government is seeking a truce between the two elements of the population of Jerusalem, and negotiations are in progress. They seem to fear that if a truce were called and subsequently the Commission were to arrive in Jerusalem; fighting would start again. There might also be some unwillingness to receive the Commission in Jerusalem on 1 May while the Palestine Government will be winding up.

2. The only suggestion regarding accommodation of the Commission made by the Palestine Government is Wilhelma. Wilhelma is a small village at a distance of three to four miles from Lydda airport, built by German settlers. Although inside the proposed Jewish State's boundaries, it is surrounded by Arab villages and lies in a completely Arab area. As stated in the first general report of the Advance Party, Wilhelma was visited by members of the Advance Party. It consists of one main road crossed at a junction by a shorter road. It is inhabited today by about 270 Germans. The intention of the Palestine Government is that these Germans should be transferred to Australia or Germany, even if the Commission does not wish to use Wilhelma. There are altogether about 55 houses, 25 of which only have inside sanitation and running water. The 55 houses have about 228 rooms. Only some of those rooms are adequately furnished. There is no electricity and there are no telephones.

3. Wilhelma presents the following defects:

- (a) It lies inside an Arab area in flat country, and as a result a strong guard would be needed for the security of the Commission.

- (b) It has no electricity
- (c) It has no telephones
- (d) Inadequate furniture
- (e) Only 25 houses have inside sanitation
- (f) Catering will have to be provided on a large scale.

Given time and money, some of the above defects may be eradicated.

However, it will be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to maintain telephone communications with the rest of the country and the outside world.

4. Notwithstanding the above defects, Wilhelma may have to be used if nothing else is found in the meanwhile, at least for the period until 15 May.

Regarding the housing of the Commission after 15 May, contact was made with the Manager of the King David Hotel with a view to continuing the lease of the hotel after it is relinquished by the Palestine Government and the British military authorities. The Manager of the Hotel was asked to submit estimates for housing the Commission in the Hotel and for catering. It was understood that part of the hotel would be used as offices. Should the Hotel be leased, the problem of housing the Commission would, in principle, be solved. If further accommodation is required, it may be found in adjoining houses to be leased or requisitioned. It should be pointed out, however, that this would be a very costly transaction. At present the Hotel is used as Government offices and there are about 400 civil servants and officers working in it. The Manager is going to submit his estimates within the next ten days, after having consulted with the Directors of the Company.

5. The German Hospital, Augusta Victoria, seems to be out of the question. Not only has it no furniture and other accommodation, as has the King David Hotel, but also it entails commutation through a thickly populated Arab district, which would make very difficult for the Jewish element the collaboration with the Commission.

6. On being asked by the Advance Party, the Chief Secretary answered that he regretted that at present he is unable to suggest any alternative to Wilhelma. However, a meeting has been arranged for tomorrow with the Chief Secretary to consider the question again.

Attached you will find a description of the buildings of Wilhelma prepared by the Department of Public Works.

WILHELMA - Built-up Area.

1. It has been reported to me by the Sergeant in charge at Wilhelma that the buildings generally are in good condition.
2. All those houses with laid on water sanitation are referred to in the description by the letters W.C. All others are provided with bucket closets.
3. There is no electricity laid on to the area.
4. A brief description of each building is given below:-

Parcel No.	<u>BLOCK No. 6308</u> Description	Remarks
1	<p>Built-up area: 2 houses.</p> <p>1. House: 1 floor and 1 apartment, 3 rooms hall, kitchen, larder, bath, w.c., 2 verandas and cellar.</p> <p>2. House: Parterre, cellar and 1 apartment; 5 rooms, kitchen, corridor, larder, bath, w.c., 2 balconies and verandah.</p> <p>Parterre, workshop, garage, laundry rooms, store room, corridor and staircase.</p> <p>Road</p> <p>Cellar: Store rooms and closed cistern for rain water.</p> <p>Road Flot Road</p>	
2	Plot. Road	
3	Flot Road	
4	Flot	
5	<p>Built-up area: 1 house: 1 floor, cellars and 1 apartment; 4 rooms, kitchen, larder, corridor, bath, w.c. and 2 terraces.</p> <p>Cellar: 3 stores and 1 room, 1 cowshed without loft.</p> <p>Road</p>	
6	Flot	
7	Flot Road	
8	Flot	
9	Flot Road	
10	Flot Road	
11	Built-up area: 2 houses.	

Parcel No.		Remarks
	<p>1. House: Cellar: 5 stores and chicken house; 1st floor: 4 rooms, hall, kitchen, bath, w.c. verandah and balcony.</p> <p>2. house: 3 rooms, big hall &amp; kitchen, 1 shed with loft; 1 hut of corrugated iron.</p>	
12	Built-up area: 1 house; 1 shed.	
13	Built-up area: 2 concrete stores and stable of 1 chicken house, store room, laundry & baking room, calf shed and horse stable. Road.	
14	Built-up area: 1 house, shed, workshop, and farm. 1 cellar. 1st floor, 1 apartment, 2 rooms, hall, kitchen, verandah Garret 4 rooms. 1 hut - workshop and stable. 1 house, 1 cellar, 1 apartment: 4 rooms, kitchen with larder, corridor, bath. w.c. and 2 terraces. cellar: 4 store rooms, 1 cowshed with loft.	
15	Road 1 house: 2 floors and cellar. 1st floor: 2 rooms, hall, kitchen, w.c. bath and verandah, terrace, larder. 2nd. floor: 4 rooms, cellar: 4 store rooms. 1 cowshed with loft	
16	Road	
17	Built-up area: 1 house, 1 floor and 1 apartment of: 2 rooms, kitchen and corridor. Cellar 2 rooms, garret: corridor and 2 rooms, 1 hut shed with loft. Road	
18	Built-up area: 1 house, 1st floor, 1 garret & cellar w. apartment, 2 rooms, kitchen, hall, terrace, garret: 2 rooms and 1 store; cellar: 2 store rooms, 1 shed with loft, 1 chicken house, 1 laundry store.	
19	Built-up area: 1 house of 1 floor; 1 apartment and 1 cellar. 1st floor: 2 rooms, hall kitchen and balcony. Garret: 2 large rooms. cellar: 2 stores, 1 shed with loft. 1 concrete chicken house, 1 separate laundry hut and store. Road	
20	Built-up area: 1 house, 1 floor, 1 cellar, 1 garret and 1 apart. 1st floor: 2 rooms, kitchen hall, terrace. garret; 2 store rooms and store. Cellar: 2 store rooms, 1 cowshed, with loft, 1 chicken house and laundry room. 1 horse stable.	
21	Built-up area: 1 house: 1 floor and 1 apartment; 3 rooms, kitchen, cellar: 3 stores, 1 cowshed with loft, 1 stable with chicken house, workshop and loft.	
22	Road	

Parcel No.	Block No. 6308 cont'd.	Remarks
38	Road	
39	Road	
40	Road	
41	Road	
<u>Block No. 6309</u>		
1	Plot	
2	Built on wood	
3	Plot	
4	Road	
5	Road	
6	Plot	
7	Plot	
8	Plot	
9	Plot	
10	Built-up area: 1 house of 1 floor, 1 apartment and 1 cellar. 3 rooms, kitchen, larder, corridor, w.c. and bath.	Plot
11	Built-up area: 1 house of 5 rooms and kitchen, 1 cowshed.	
12	Built-up area: 1 house of 1 floor, 1 apartment and cellar. 4 rooms, hall, kitchen large larder, terrace and cellar: 3 store rooms and w.c. 1 shed.	
13	Plot	
14	Plot	
15	Cemetery	
16	Wood on built on area	
17	Plot	
18	Plot	
19	Plot	
20	Built-up area: 1 house of 1 floor, 1 apartment, cellar and garret, 4 rooms, kitchen corridor, (adjacent by house with 1 rooms as workshop); upstairs garret for storing.	
21	Plot	
22	Plot	
23	Plot	
24	Plot	

Parcel No.	Block No. 6309 cont'd	Remarks
25	Flot	
26	Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 1 apartment and cellars. cellar: 3 store rooms. 1st floor: 2 rooms, hall, kitchen, larder, w.c., bath. terrace and balcony. 2nd. floor: 3 rooms and hall.	
27	Built-up area: 1 house of 1 floor (below cowshed) 2 rooms, kitchen, bath, w.c., larder, terrace and hay store.	
28	Built-up area: 1 house, 1 floor, 1 apartment and cellar. Cellar: 3 store rooms, 4 rooms, entrance room, hall, kitchen, with larder, w.c. bath verandah and terrace. 1 shed with loft.	
29	Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 2 apartments 1st floor: 3 rooms, kitchen, bath, w.c.; 2nd. floor: 2 rooms, kitchen.	
30	Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 1 apartment cellar, garret. 1st floor: 3 rooms, kitchen, corridor, w.c., store room, 2nd. floor: corridor 3 rooms and terrace; garret: 2 offices, 1 garret store, cellar: 1 store room. Adjacent to building bakery and little kneading room and four workshop rooms, 1 shed (store) old, 1 cowshed with loft and grain store.	
31	Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 1 apartment and 1 cellar. 1st house: 2 rooms, hall, kitchen terrace; 2nd. house: 2 rooms, hall. 1 cowshed.	
32	Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 2 apartments and cellar. Cellar: 4 store rooms. 1st floor: 3 rooms, kitchen, hall, bath, w.c. larder, 2 terraces. 2nd. floor: as above. 1 shed with loft.	
33	Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 1 apartment. 1st floor: 1 room, kitchen, stair, hall, 2nd. floor: 2 rooms, 1 cowshed, 1 chicken house.	
34	Built-up area: 1 house of 1 floor, 1 apartment, garret and cellar. Cellar: 2 storerooms, garret: 1 room and 1 store room. Flat: 2 rooms, kitchen hall with stairs and 1 verandah. 1 shed, 1 chicken house.	
35	Built-up area: 1 house of 1 floor, 1 apartment and attic (loft). 7 rooms, kitchen, bath, w.c. & laundry.	
36	Built-up area: 1 house of 1 floor, 1 apartment and 1 cellar. Cellar: 4 store rooms. Flat: 4 rooms, hall, kitchen, larder, w.c. Bath, terrace and balcony. 1 laundry and chicken house.	
37	Built-up area: 1 house of 1 floor, 1 apartment. Flat: 2 rooms and kitchen, 1 adjacent shed.	

and stables.

- 40 Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors and 1 apartment. Groundfloor: 1 room, 3 storerooms, though equipped for dwelling purposes now. 1st floor: 4 rooms, entrance room, terrace with kitchen, Separate: w.c. and bath. 1 adjacent house: 1 hut used as stores, 1 chicken house.
- 41 Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 2 apartments and cellar. Cellar: 1 room and 3 stores. 1st flat: 3 rooms, 2 kitchens, corridor, bath & w.c. 2nd. flat: 1 garret, 2 attics, terrace and balcony 1 cowshed with loft.
- 42 Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 1 apartment. Groundfloor: 2 rooms, kitchen, store room and corridor. 1st floor: 4 rooms and corridor. 1 cowshed with little store, loft with little store for grain and seeds.
- 43 Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 1 apartment and cellar. Cellar: 1 room, dwelling: 7 rooms, hall and kitchen. 1 little workshop.
- 44 Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors and 1 apartment. Groundfloor: 2 rooms, kitchen with store corner. 1st floor: 3 rooms, 1 shed with store room, loft and grain store, 1 chicken house with little store and laundry.
- 45 Built-up area: 1 house of 1 floor, 1 apartment, 1 cellar and attic. 4 rooms, hall, kitchen. Top: 3 attics (rooms) 1 shed with loft.
- 46 Built-up area: 1 house of 1 floor: Dairy: 8 rooms, main hall by rooms, 2 cold stores. Below: Engine room, work room, corridor hall, 3 store rooms. Roof: Brine and oak room, attached (ground) w.c. washrooms. 1 Boiler house. Mechanic equipment: 1 engine Dentz and 1 MAN Diesel - 24 / 18 H.P. Reception tank, Meass apparatus, cream separator, 2 milk pumps, 2 ice compressors, 1 dynamo generator, pasteurizer, 2 milk coolers, 1 butter drum, another pasteurizer, bottle cleaners, softening apparatus tank, car rinser, foam destroyer, cans etc.etc.
- 47 Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 2 apartments, 1 cellar. 1st floor: 4 rooms, kitchen, bath, hall with stairs. 2nd. floor: 5 rooms, kitchen, hall and balcony. Cellar: 3 stores, 1 cowshed with loft.
- 48 Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 2 apartments. Groundfloor: 3 rooms, kitchen entrance, hall, with staircase. 1st floor: 4 rooms, kitchen, hall, attachment. Larder, bake room, store. Chicken house and closette; 1 shed with little store and top loft.

Parcel No.	Block No. 6309 cont'd	Remarks
49	Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 1 apartment and cellar. 1st floor: 2 rooms, kitchen hall with stairs, bath. Top: 3 rooms and hall. Cellar: 2 store rooms, 1 shed with loft.	
50	Flot	
51	Built-up area: 1 house of 1 floor, 1 apartment and garret. Groundfloor: 4 rooms, kitchen and verandah. Garret: 1 garret entrance room, 2 garret stores. 1 adjacent to house NE side formerly saddlery workshop.	
52	Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 1 apartment and cellar. Groundfloor: 2 rooms, kitchen larder, entrance hall with staircase, bath and 2 terraces. 1st floor: 4 rooms (garret) Cellar: store and laundry, 1 bake house with chicken house.	
53	Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 2 apartments, cellar. Cellar: garret store. 1st floor: 2 rooms, hall, kitchen, verandah. 2nd. floor: 3 rooms, kitchen, corridor, terrace. 1 carpentry shop and store. 1 cowshed with loft 1 laundry house with chicken house.	
54	Built-up area: 2 houses. 1st house: 2 halls, corridor - school. 2nd. house: Teachers house with cellar. A. groundfloor: 4 rooms, kitchen and corridor. B. 1st floor: 4 rooms, kitchen, corridor, bath and w.c, and terrace. 1 hut - w.c. lavatory, laundry, store.	
55	Built-up area: 1 house of 2 floors, 1 apartment and cellar. 1st floor: 3 rooms, kitchen, hall larder, bath, w.c. corridor. 2nd. floor: 6 rooms bath and w.c. corridor and terrace. Cellar: 3 store rooms. 1 shed with loft.	
56	Flot	
57	Flot	
58	Road	
59	Road	
60	Road	
61	Road	
62	Road	
63	Road	