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10 February 1948

UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION

The attached letter, dated 6 February from Mr. Moshe Shertok of the Jewish Agency for Palestine is circulated for the information of members of The Commission.

COPY

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
16 East 66th Street
New York 21, N.Y.

February 6, 1948.

The Chairman
United Nations Palestine Commission
United Nations
Lake Success, New York.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to make the following submission on the status of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in relation to Part I Section A Paragraph 4 of the General Assembly's Resolution on the Future Government of Palestine which provides for the constitution of Provisional Councils of Government "as rapidly as possible" and "after consultation with the democratic parties and other public organizations of the Arab and Jewish States".

2. The Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was elected by the World Zionist Congress in December 1946. The following Jewish parties in Palestine participated in these elections and sent their delegates to the Congress:

Labor:

Mapai
Achdut Haavodah
Hashomer Hatzair
Hapoel Hamizrachi

Non-Labor:

Aliyah Hadashah
General Zionists
Mizrachi
Revisionists

3. The Jews of Palestine periodically hold countrywide elections not only for the World Zionist Congress, but also for the Elected Assembly of Palestine Jews (Asefat Haniivcharim) whose executive organ is the Vaad Leumi. The representative character of the Jewish community thus organized is officially recognized by the Mandatory Government under the Organisation of Communities ordinance.

4. I enclose a telegram which the Jewish Agency has just received from the President and Chairman of the Vaad Leumi in all negotiations for the establishment of a Jewish Provisional Council of Government.

5. The enclosed telegram gives a list of the parties and organisations represented by the Vaad Leumi; with their relative numerical strength in the Elected Assembly.

6. The only Jewish party or group which is outside the organisational framework both of the Jewish Agency and of the Vaad Leumi is the organisation known as Agudath Israel - a body of orthodox Jews. The Jewish Agency invariably consults with the Agudat Israel on all major political matters affecting Palestine Jewry and full agreement has usually been reached. The Jewish Agency will certainly take steps to ensure that the views of the Agudat Israel are canvassed before proposals are made for the constitution of a Provisional Council of Government.

7. It is submitted that the Jewish Agency for Palestine by virtue of its own representative character and its authority to speak for the Vaad Leumi represents the interests of the overwhelming majority of Palestine Jews. The Jewish Agency hopes shortly to submit the agreed views of the "democratic parties and public organisations in the Jewish State" on the composition which they propose for the Provisional Council of Government.

I have the honor to be,

Faithfully yours,

/s/ M. SHERTOK

Moshe Shertok

MS/bfa

Enclosure

COPY OF CABLE RECEIVED FEBRUARY 5th, 1948.

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NLT SHERTOK JEWAGENCY NEWYORK

BY VIRTUE RESOLUTION ADOPTED TODAY BY EXECUTIVE VAADLEUMI AUTHORIZATION
IS GIVEN TO EXECUTIVE JEWAGENCY AND ITS ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES
WHO NEGOTIATE ALSO BEHALF GENERAL COUNCIL VAADLEUMI JEWISH COMMUNITY
PALESTINE FORMATION PROVISIONAL COUNCIL JEWISH STATE STOP FOLLOWING
PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED LAST ELECTIONS 4th ASSEFAT NIVHARIM
1st AUGUST 1944 202404 VOTERS PARTICIPATED OUT OF 300018 ENTITLED TO VOTE
STOP 274 SETTLEMENTS PARTICIPATED ELECTIONS ALSO 9219 ENLISTED MEN AND
WOMEN WHO VOTED IN THEIR UNITS IN PALESTINE AND ABROAD STOP 171 MEMBERS
ASSEFAT NIVHARIM HAVE BEEN ELECTED ON FOLLOWING LISTS MAPAI 63 HASHOMER
HATZAIR AND POALE ZION AND AHDUT AVODA 37 ALIYA HADASHA 18 HAPOEL HAMIZRAHI
AND POEL MIZRAHI WOMEN 17 MIZRAHI AND ORTHODOXS AND MIZRAHI WOMEN 7
GENERAL ZIONIST AND ZIONIST WORKER 7 YEMENITES 6 MERCHANTS AND INDEPENDENT
ORTHODOXS 5 WOMEN INTERNATIONAL ZIONIST ORGANIZATION 4 COMMUNISTS
POPULAR DEMOCRACY 3 MACCABI 3 POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR JEWISH STATE LUBOTZKY 1

BENZVI PRESIDENT REMEZ CHAIRMAN