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COM/GEN./SR.50  
10 February 1950

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL : FRENCH

UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTIETH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 10 February 1950, at 10.50 a.m.

Present:

Mr. BARCO	(United States of America)	Chairman
Mr. ERALP	(Turkey)	
Mr. de AZCARATE		Principal Secretary

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APPROVAL OF A COMMUNIQUE TO THE DELEGATIONS OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED  
AND TO THE PRESS ON THE REUNION OF SEPARATED FAMILIES

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the communication in question was intended to draw attention to certain information likely to create a favourable atmosphere for the work of the Commission. In reply to a question by the Principal Secretary he added that steps should be taken to ensure that the communiqué had reached the delegations concerned before it was released to the Press.

The General Committee then proceeded to a detailed study of the draft communiqué prepared by the Secretariat and finally decided upon the following text:

"In accordance with the agreement in principle reached between the Arab and Israeli delegations in Lausanne last summer under the auspices of the Conciliation Commission, Egypt and Israel on 7 February 1950 concluded an agreement, through the Mixed Armistice Commission, under which certain refugees at present in territory under Egyptian authority will be enabled to rejoin their

families in Israel. Under this agreement the first group of refugees, consisting of 115 persons from the Gaza area, will cross into Israel under the supervision of the Mixed Armistice Commission on 14 February. It will be remembered that on 2 February the General Committee of the Conciliation Commission published the figures for refugees who in the previous few weeks had returned to Israel from Lebanon and Jordan under the agreement for the reunion of separated families. In the last few days further progress has been made in the reuniting of families by the return of an additional small group from the Lebanon on 31 January and the completion of arrangements for the return of a group of 100 from Jordan on 9 February."

The CHAIRMAN took occasion to remark that the adopted text should make it clear that the work of reuniting families would be going on continuously. It was not so much the actual number of people benefiting by the scheme that was important as the fact that the principle of reuniting families was actually being put into practice.

QUESTION OF THE CULTIVATION OF LANDS BY ARABS LIVING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ARMISTICE LINE

The CHAIRMAN considered that the Secretariat should clarify certain aspects of the problem, especially in connection with certain Egyptian proposals submitted to the Commission in New York on 24 October 1949.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.