

UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINEDOCUMENTS
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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY SECOND MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 5 June 1950, at 11 a.m.

Present: Mr. de BOISANGER (France)

Chairman

Mr. ERALP* (Turkey)

Mr. PALMER (United States of America)

Mr. de AZCARRATE

Principal Secretary

* Alternate

1. Representation of Palestine Refugees

The Commission examined a telegram from Mr. Fisher dated 2 June 1950, informing it that General Kennedy (UNRWA) had told him:

- a) that UNRWA did not desire to be involved in political issues, but would gladly send a representative if requested to appear before the Commission or the appropriate Mixed Committee to answer specific questions concerning refugee problems;
- b) that UNRWA's experiences with organizations claiming to represent fairly large groups of refugees had been disappointing, that the prevailing opinion was that the so-called "Ramallah Refugee Congress" did not represent the refugees at all, and that refugee organizations in the Lebanon were mostly controlled by the ex-Mufti; and
- c) that he strongly recommended that the Commission should follow the

same policy as himself of requesting the Governments concerned to appoint in their respective areas committees to represent refugees.

The Commission noted with regret the information supplied by General Kennedy concerning organizations which claimed to represent Palestine refugees, and decided to defer action on the question of their representation. It agreed not to request the Governments concerned to appoint committees to represent refugees. It requested the Principal Secretary to convey to General Kennedy the Commission's thanks for the information he had supplied.

2. Arrangements for the Proposed Mixed Committees

The PRESIDENT said that following conversations he had had with Abdel Monem Mostafa Bey (Egypt) and Mr. Shukairy (Syria) concerning the procedure planned by the Commission for the establishment of the Mixed Committees (document W/46), he wished to suggest that the Commission officially inform the parties concerned, before 12 June, on which day the next session of the Council of the Arab League was to begin, of the details described in document W/46 of the Commission's plans for the Mixed Committees, so as to make it easier for the Governments concerned to agree to the procedure. Abdel Monem Mostafa Bey had raised no objections to the procedure, whereas Mr. Shukairy had merely expressed doubts as to whether the terms employed by the Commission would prove acceptable to the Arab States.

Mr. PALMER (United States of America) said that he had discussed the proposed procedure with Mr. Mikaoui (Lebanon) and Dr. Kahany (Israel). He feared that the adoption of the Chairman's suggestion and in particular the disclosure of the Commission's plan for the Multilateral Committee on Refugees might make the Israeli authorities less willing to take part in the planned negotiations. It would also commit the Commission unnecessarily. A general press announcement relating to the Commission's plans might have a better effect than the action suggested by the Chairman, but he had doubts about the wisdom of that policy also.

Mr. ERALP (Turkey) thought that the publication of the details of the procedure planned by the Commission, in particular those relating to the

proposed bilateral committees, would make it more difficult for the Arab Governments to agree to take part in the planned negotiations.

The Commission thereupon agreed to defer taking a decision on the Chairman's suggestion.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.