

UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

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SR/163

7 June 1950

Original: ENGLISH

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY THIRD MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Wednesday, 7 June 1950 at 10 a.m.

Present: Mr. de BOISANGER (France) CHAIRMAN
Mr. ERALP* (Turkey)
Mr. PALMER (United States of America)
Mr. de AZCARATE Principal Secretary

* Alternate

Compensation for Losses Suffered by Palestine Refugees

The CHAIRMAN said that action on the question of compensation was desirable before the Mixed Committees met.

Mr. PALMER (United States of America) said such action was necessary, but, since the Israeli authorities had already vouchsafed the information that they considered the question of compensation should be settled in conjunction with the question of reparations, any approach by the Commission to the Israeli authorities on the subject should be made in such a way as to show the Israeli authorities that the Commission felt obliged to take up the question while not making it appear that it had forgotten the views already expressed by them on that question. The Commission might inquire whether they would permit a survey to be made in Israeli territory for the purpose of determining the amount of compensation which should be paid. Since it was of paramount importance that nothing should be done which would help to

persuade the Arab Governments to refuse to take part in the work of the Mixed Committees planned by the Commission, the Commission should not approach the Israeli authorities on the subject of compensation, at least until efforts being made by the United States authorities to persuade the Israeli Government to publish an announcement which would make it easier for the Arab States to take part in the work of the Mixed Committees had had time to take effect.

Mr. ERALP (Turkey) thought that the composition of the delegation which the Israeli Government might send to the Mixed Committees might be such as to make it desirable for the Commission to discuss the question of compensation on that occasion. If that was not so, other arrangements could then be made. The alternative proposals in the report sent by Mr. Clapp, Chairman of the United Nations Economic Survey Mission for the Middle East (document W/32) might serve as a good starting point for the discussions relating to compensation.

The CHAIRMAN feared that the Mixed Committees might not come into being as soon as the Commission hoped. Moreover it might be difficult for the Commission to discuss the question of compensation with the Israeli delegation on that occasion. He was opposed to asking the Israeli authorities whether they would agree to a survey being made for the purposes of determining the amount of compensation which should be paid, since such a survey might take years to complete and the settlement of the question might be unduly delayed. He hoped that the Israeli Government might be induced to propose a method of settling the compensation question.

It was agreed to request the Principal Secretary to prepare a draft letter to Mr. Sharett, bearing in mind the above discussion, for approval by the Commission at a meeting to be held the following morning at 11 a.m., and for despatch on Monday, 12 June or thereafter, asking him for the Israeli Government's views on the question of compensation for losses suffered by Palestine refugees without alluding to the connection between that question and the question of reparations.

The PRINCIPAL SECRETARY urged the Commission to examine the substance of the question of compensation taking as a basis the recommendation made by the Economic Mission, before it discussed it with the Israeli representative.

Mr. PALMER (United States of America) expressed agreement with the Principal Secretary, and added that when formulating its position on the question the Commission could not afford to ignore the views thereon of the United Nations Economic Survey Mission for the Middle East.

The Commission agreed to request the Principal Secretary to prepare an analysis of those views in order to assist the Commission to formulate its position on the question of compensation.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

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