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GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 23 April 1952, at 3 p.m.

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<u>Members:</u>	Mr. PALMER	United States of America
	Mr. MENEMENCIOGLU	Turkey
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. CHAI	Acting Principal Secretary
	Mr. BERNCASTLE	Land Specialist

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DRAFT LETTERS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE COMMISSION TO DR. AZCARATE AND MR. ANDERSON

The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to approve the draft letters of appreciation to be sent to Dr. Azcarate and Mr. Anderson, formerly Principal Secretary of the Commission and Director of its Refugee Office respectively.

He himself felt that the appreciation should be expressed on behalf of the Governments represented on the Commission and that the letters should be signed by each member of the Commission. He proposed drafting changes in that sense.

Mr. MENEMENCIOGLU (Turkey) agreed. To send the letters to Turkey for signature by his colleague Dr. Aras, who had served on the Commission until recently, would mean a delay of about ten days, but he felt sure that Dr. Aras would wish to participate in the expressions of appreciation.

Mr. PALMER (United States of America) also strongly favoured the proposal that the letters should be signed by each member of the Commission. He suggested that the original letters should be sent to Turkey for signature by Dr. Aras, but that in the meantime, in order to avoid delay, copies should be sent to the addressees, with the explanation that the originals would follow later.

After further discussion on drafting changes, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the Secretariat be requested to present final copies of the redrafted French text for signature at the next meeting, after which they would be sent to Dr. Aras for his signature.

It was so agreed.

DRAFT LETTER TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE COMMISSION TO THE INTERESTED PARTIES

The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to consider the text of the letter which it had agreed to send to the parties concerned in the Palestine problem with a view to making the Commission's future intentions clear.

/Mr. PALMER

Mr. PALMER (United States of America) said that he must refer the letter to his Government before taking any final decision. In the meantime he suggested various tentative drafting changes.

Mr. MENEMENCIOGLU (Turkey), referring to the second sentence of the first paragraph, felt it must be clearly understood that the Governments represented on the Commission had the right to change their representatives if they so desired, and to appoint persons not included on their permanent delegations. He also considered that undue stress had been placed on the primary responsibility of the parties, which might give the impression that the Commission was to take a secondary position.

The CHAIRMAN agreed, but felt it important to give the impression of the Commission's continuity.

Mr. PALMER (United States of America) also agreed, but felt that the word "maintain" in the English text gave the right impression.

The CHAIRMAN suggested further drafting changes in the light of the suggestions made. If the Commission agreed, he thought the best procedure would be to address the letter to all interested parties, through their Government representatives in New York, and, in the case of Jordan, through that country's Minister in Washington. He suggested that the Commission should postpone final decision on the letter until its next meeting, to give members time to consult their Governments.

It was so agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

The CHAIRMAN outlined the work to be completed by the Commission in the course of the following week. In addition to examining the redraft of the letter to the interested parties, it would have to consider the two papers on compensation and blocked accounts being prepared by the Secretariat. He thought it would also be appropriate to submit an interim progress report to the Secretary General, and proposed that the Secretariat be asked to begin to draft one.

It was so agreed.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the question of the Commission's representation in Jerusalem ought also to be settled in the coming week. If a representative were to be sent there, the Commission would have to select the person and decide upon his terms of reference.

Mr. PALMER (United States of America) reserved his position on the principle of representation in Jerusalem until he had obtained instructions from his Government. If a representative were to be sent, however, he should be a person of prestige and experience, and such a person could not fittingly remain inactive; the Commission would therefore have to give him adequate guidance on what he was expected to do.

The CHAIRMAN agreed and presumed that such a person would be expected to send periodic reports to the Commission.

Mr. MENEMENCIOGLU (Turkey) assumed that any such representative would be directly responsible to the Commission and would act only in accordance with its guidance.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that, if it were decided to send a representative, the fact and the name of the person mentioned should be stated in the letter which the Commission was proposing to send to the parties.

Mr. PALMER (United States of America) agreed that, if a representative were to be sent, it would be logical to announce the fact in the letter and it would also be wise to let the parties know at once who it was to be.

Mr. MENEMENCIOGLU (Turkey) agreed.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should take a decision at its next meeting upon the principle of its representation at Jerusalem. If the decision were to send a representative, the person could then be chosen and a sentence added to the letter, informing the parties.

It was so agreed.

The Commission decided not to issue a press communiqué until after its next meeting.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.