

UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

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SUMMARY RECORD OF A MEETING BETWEEN
THE CONCILIATION COMMISSION AND
THE DELEGATION OF ISRAEL

held in Lausanne on Thursday,
12 May 1949, at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. de Boisanger (France) - Chairman
Mr. Yalcin (Turkey)
Mr. Ethridge (U.S.A.)

Mr. Azcarate - Principal Secretary

Dr. Walter Eytan) - Representatives
Mr. Elias Sasson) of Israel

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In the course of the meeting and prior to the signing of the attached protocol, Dr. Eytan wished to make it clear (in accordance with his note to the Commission) that he was signing the procès-verbal subject to the terms of his note of 9 May to the Chairman of the Commission, in which he had stated that his delegation was ready to fall in with the Commission's proposal on the understanding that no communication on the subject was made to the press and that this readiness in no way prejudiced the right of his delegation to express itself freely on the matters at issue, on which it fully reserved its position. Dr. Eytan also recalled that he had informed the Commission, in the course of a meeting on 3 May, that his delegation could not be a party to any exchange of views with the Syrian delegation until an armistice agreement had been concluded between Israel and Syria. He was signing the procès-verbal subject to this declared reservation, which still retained its full force..

The CHAIRMAN asked for clarification of the statement that the Israeli delegation "reserved its position" on the matters at issue. He assumed this meant simply that the Israeli delegation reserved its right to reject parts of the Partition Plan boundaries and propose others, but that the Partition Plan would be adhered to as a point from which to work.

Dr. EYTAN confirmed that that had been his meaning.

Mr. EHTRIDGE made a comment in connection with the matter of communications to the press. The Commission agreed

on the principle of secrecy, but he wished to make it clear that the Commission could take no responsibility except for its own actions; it could not control the various delegations. Leakage of information was inevitable; he had already been contacted by one newspaper with a request for details regarding the agreement. The Commission had its own press officer, who gave out all official communiques to the press; if information reached the press through other channels, that press officer must be in a position to answer questions, although he need not give details of the content of the agreement.

Dr. EYTAN agreed fully with Mr. Ethridge's views; moreover, he believed that a statement might be made to the press of the fact that agreement on a basic working document had been reached. If more detailed information reached the press from other sources, he also reserved the right of his delegation to state its own position.

The procès-verbal was then signed, by Dr. Eytan for the delegation of Israel, and by the three members of the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN mentioned the matter of the committee which was to be set up by the Commission, to deal with boundary questions and all other issues the settlement of which was envisaged in the protocol. Such a committee might be called the "General Committee", or simply given a number, since its functions would be varied. It would be closely linked with the Commission and would refer back continually to the Commission for precise instructions and guidance. The Commission contemplated preliminary meetings with the delegations to determine the exact mandate which would be given to the Committee; that mandate should be in rather general terms, and it should be specified that the scope of the Committee's work would probably be extended automatically as negotiations proceeded and the problems took on more definite shape.

Dr. EYTAN agreed that the appointment of such a Committee was desirable; however, he felt that its terms of reference should be defined as exactly as possible in order to avoid duplication of the Commission's own work.

The CHAIRMAN requested the Principal Secretary to prepare a draft proposal for the Committee's terms of reference, which would be discussed with the Israeli delegation at a meeting on Saturday morning.

UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

RECORD OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE CONCILIATION
COMMISSION AND THE DELEGATION OF ISRAEL

held at Lausanne at 10.30 a.m. on 12 May 1949

Present

Mr. de Boisanger (Chairman)	-	France
Mr. Yalcin	-	Turkey
Mr. Ethridge	-	U.S.A.
Mr. Azcarate	(Principal Secretary)	
Dr. Walter Eytan	-	Israel

In the course of this meeting the following protocol was signed by the Delegate of Israel on the one hand and the members of the Conciliation Commission on the other:

PROTOCOL

The United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, anxious to achieve as quickly as possible the objectives of the General Assembly's resolution of 11 December 1948, regarding refugees, the respect for their rights and the preservation of their property, as well as territorial and other questions, has proposed to the Delegation of Israel and to the Delegations of the Arab States that the working document attached hereto be taken as a basis for discussions with the Commission.

The interested Delegations have accepted this proposal with the understanding that the exchanges of views which will be carried on by the Commission with the two parties will bear upon the territorial adjustments necessary to the above indicated objectives.

Lausanne, 12 May 1949

Signed:

Claude de Boisanger (France)-Chai

Walter Eytan..... (Israel)

Cahid Yalcin..... (Turkey)

Mark Ethridge..... (U.S.A.)