

UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

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Recommendations for the Economic
Survey Mission, to accompany Report of Technical
Committee on Refugees on 20 August 1949

1. For purposes of repatriation and resettlement of refugees, it is suggested that the Economic Survey Mission take into consideration the estimate prepared by Mr. Loftus and contained in the Technical Committee's report of 20 August 1949.
2. A very close liaison should be maintained with UNRPR and the three relief organizations, particularly to follow up the efforts of the small special staff which (when created) will be directed by the UNRPR to collect, among other things, precise data on place of origin, occupation, etc.: for individuals and families to facilitate their repatriation and resettlement.
3. The Economic Survey Mission should be put into contact with the UNRPR with a view to determining, with the help of the relief organizations, the number of displaced persons, and steps which could be taken to return them to their places of origin in the so-called former "threatened areas".
4. The attention of the Economic Survey Mission might be drawn to the fact that in a camp near Bethlehem the refugees are building houses on the hills nearby, thus freeing cultivable land presently occupied by their tents. This type of project might be examined by the Survey Group to see if the experience in Bethlehem could serve as a precedent for other camps.
5. It is recommended that the Economic Survey Mission be advised of the work already started near Jericho on the agricultural resettlement programme of the Society for the Arab Development Scheme. It is urged that an agricultural expert be despatched as soon as possible to examine this project with a view, if the project appears to be a sound one, to providing all possible support.

6. Provided international funds were made available to subsidize existing farms and industries, the Economic Survey Mission could examine with the Arab States concerned, the possibility of their permitting refugees to accept employment along with indigenous workers.
7. It is strongly urged that, in the course of repatriation or resettlement, every possible consideration be given to the social needs of the individuals and families concerned. This would entail the full utilization of such social services as now exist within the three relief organizations or elsewhere in the Middle East; it would also necessitate close cooperation with Arab welfare workers and other Arab technicians concerned.
8. It may be advisable to constitute an Arab advisory group or board composed of leading Arab technicians in the economic and social fields, chosen from Palestine and the Arab countries concerned. This board or group would be most helpful in indicating to the Survey Mission, the local needs and conditions with respect to any economic and social programmes which might be undertaken, facilitating local cooperation on a technical level.