

UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

GENERAL COMMITTEE

RESTRICTED
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10 August 1949
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING

held in Lausanne on Wednesday,
10 August 1949, at 4.p.m.

Present: Mr. Rockwell (U.S.A.) - Chairman
Mr. de la Tour du Pin (France)
Mr. Yenisey (Turkey)

Dr. Azcárate - Principal Secretary

Transmission of Delbes report to Arab delegations

The PRINCIPAL SECRETARY observed that the members of the Technical Committee were expected in Lausanne within one or two days; he thought it would be wise for the General Committee not to communicate the Delbes report to the Arab delegations until it had had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Technical Committee. He pointed out that the report had been requested by the Technical Committee for its own information and that of the General Committee and the Commission; it might not have been intended that it should be transmitted to the delegations in Lausanne or their Governments. He did not wish the General Committee to place itself in an embarrassing position, and he could see no great advantage to be derived from transmitting the report.

The CHAIRMAN expressed the view that the Arab delegations should be informed of the exact condition of the orange groves, in view of their continuing insistence that the proprietors and workers should be allowed to return. He felt that by placing before them a neutral expert's report such as the present one, the Committee might be able to bring more realism into the Arab attitude regarding the orange groves. He agreed that certain sentences should perhaps be deleted, but he felt that, at the least, a full analysis of the report should be communicated to the Arab delegations with as little delay as possible.

Mr. YENISEY supported the Chairman's view. The report had been drafted in a neutral and impartial manner, and should be transmitted after the deletion of certain parts. He agreed with the Principal Secretary that it would be wise to await the return of the Technical Committee and obtain their advice regarding those parts of the report which should be deleted.

Mr. de la TOUR DU PIN pointed out that the report confirmed certain information received from the Israeli delegation itself as regards the destruction of the groves. He thought it desirable to suppress certain parts of the report which were perhaps too frank; he also thought it wise to wait until the advice of the Technical Committee could be obtained, but he agreed in principle to transmission of the report.

The PRINCIPAL SECRETARY then distributed copies of the draft of an analysis of the Delbes report prepared by the Secretariat.

The Committee agreed to transmit the analysis to the Arab delegations after studying it and consulting with the Technical Committee.
