

UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

GENERAL COMMITTEE

RESTRICTED
Com.Gen./SR.33
12 August 1949
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING

held in Lausanne on Friday,
12 August 1949, at 5 p.m.

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

Mixed Committee of experts on blocked Arab accounts

The PRINCIPAL SECRETARY wished to record the Commission's approval of the report by the General Committee on the question of blocked accounts and its proposal for the constitution of a mixed committee of experts to deal with the question. He suggested that the General Committee might wish to meet the Arab and Israeli delegations on Monday to receive their suggestions with regard to the composition of the mixed committee.

With regard to the question of chairmanship of the new committee, the Principal Secretary drew attention to the fact that the first members of the committee would be appointed from Lausanne, and that the committee would necessarily at first have a political character which would outweigh its technical character. The appointment of technical experts would come later, and the first group must therefore be considered as a preparatory group. He considered that the chairmanship of such a preliminary and semi-political group was responsibility which he, as Principal Secretary, could and should normally assume, if the General Committee so desired.

The CHAIRMAN thought it necessary to stress to the Arabs the purely technical nature of the mixed committee. However, he agreed that the first group must establish the basis upon which the technicians appointed later would work in the field, and he approved the offer of the Principal Secretary to preside over that group.

Mr. de la TOUR DU PIN agreed with the Chairman that the preliminary character of the first group should not be over-emphasized to the Arabs; it should simply be stated that the Secretariat would preside until experts could be provided. He warmly supported the Principal Secretary's offer.

It was agreed that the Principal Secretary would assume the chairmanship of the first group; that the committee would be called Mixed Committee of Experts on Blocked Accounts; and that the Secretariat would prepare draft terms of reference for the General Committee's approval.

Reply of the Jerusalem Committee regarding Wakf property (Com.Jer./W.28 and Com.Gen./11)

At the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN, the Committee agreed to defer discussion of document Com.Jer./W.28 until after further study.

Arab orange groves in Israeli territory (Com.Gen./W.6)

Mr. ROCKWELL thought it would probably be desirable to create another mixed working group to deal with the question of the Arab orange groves.

At the suggestion of the PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, the Committee agreed to defer a decision on the matter until it had held a meeting with the Technical Committee on Refugees. It was further agreed that the General Committee would hold meetings on Monday with the Arab and Israeli delegations, and on Tuesday with the Technical Committee.
