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MASTER FILE

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE
16th Meeting

(NIGHT) SUMMARY
Press Release GA/PAL/18
16 October 1947

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE CONCLUDES GENERAL DEBATE

At this evening's meeting the Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestinian Question concluded its general debate after hearing statements by the Representatives of Syria, Norway, Guatemala and Lebanon.

At tomorrow's meeting, Representatives of the Arab Higher Committee and the Jewish Agency will each speak for one hour.

(A chronological account of this meeting is given in Takes # 1 through # 3, which follow this Summary.)

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(NIGHT) TAKE #1
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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE -- (NIGHT) TAKE #1

The first evening meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestinian Question convened shortly after 8:30 with the Vice-Chairman, Prince Subbha Vashti (Siam) in the chair.

The first speaker of the evening session was Emir Adel Arslan (Syria).

The Emir replied to criticism in a previous speech of the Guatemalan Representative. Mentioning, particularly the revolt of 1936, the Emir said that revolt was caused by the entrance of 40,000 Jews in that year, and not by the All-Moslem Congress of 1931 as he said was claimed by Guatemala.

The Emir contended the underground movement behind the terrorist attacks was not started after the 1939 White Paper, but rather after the end of the war -- after, he said, the Jews had been able to gather arms from the Americans and the English. These arms, he said, were then turned on the British.

Predicting adoption of the majority report would lead to grievous results, the Emir reiterated his declaration that for their welfare and very existence the Arabs in their solidarity would continue to oppose the UNSCOP plan.

(END OF TAKE # 1)

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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE
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(NIGHT) TAKE #2
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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE -- (NIGHT) TAKE #2

The second speaker was Mr. Wilhelm Munthe Morgenstierne (Norway). He said that the Jews as well as the Arabs have close historic associations with Palestine and that both play a vital part in the life of the country.

Mr. Morgenstierne observed that solemn international pledges had been made to the Jewish people to create for them a National Home in Palestine and that the Jewish people have had a rough deal throughout the centuries. He gave support to the majority report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, and appealed to the Arabs to make a vital contribution to the solution of the problem now confronting the United Nations, and he asked that the other Members of the United Nations also make their contribution. Norway, Mr. Morgenstierne said, has tried to do her share though necessarily on a moderate scale.

(END OF TAKE # 2)

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(NIGHT) TAKE #3
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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE -- (NIGHT) TAKE #3

The third speaker, Dr. Jorge Garcia Granados (Guatemala) answered criticism of his first speech, which had been made by the delegations of Pakistan and Lebanon.

Dr. Granados stated that the UNSCOP majority decided on partition mainly in order to keep from superimposing the will of one people over another.

The fourth speaker was Mr. Camille Chamoun (Lebanon) who, in turn, answered Guatemala's statement. The discussion centered about the interpretation of article 16 of the Treaty of Lausanne.

Dr. Granados then replied, stating that a mistake had been made in the translation of the Treaty, and that he hoped no one was purposely misquoting the Treaty.

Costa Rica, the only remaining delegation scheduled to be heard being absent, the General Debate was declared closed at 9:15 p. m.

The Committee will reconvene at 3 o'clock tomorrow with the Jewish Agency and the Arab Higher Committee scheduled to speak for one hour each.

(END OF TAKE # 3 of Press Release GA/PAL/18)