

BY AIR MAIL

الوثائق المنشورة 82 604

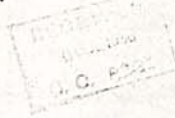
Reference to previous correspondence.

Secretary of State's
High Commissioner's } Despatch No.

Despatch No. 685
Reference No. CP/421/36.

Palestine,

30 June 1936.



Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information,

the papers noted below on the subject of the disturbances in Palestine.

Handwritten note: 685

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

His Majesty's
Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Arthur Wauchope
High Commissioner for Palestine.

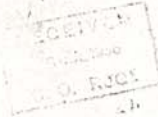
Date	Description
22. 6. 36.	Letter from the President, Supreme Moslem Council.
27. 6. 36	Letter to the President, Supreme Moslem Council.

ENCLOSURE No. 685 TO PALESTINE DESPATCH

Date: 30/6/36 83

Supreme Moslem Sharia Council,
Jerusalem.

22nd June, 1936.

His Excellency,
The High Commissioner,
Government Offices,
Jerusalem.

Your Excellency,

The Supreme Moslem Council have read the statement which was made by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, during the debate on the Palestine case in the House of Commons on the 19th June, 1936, and request Your Excellency to be kind enough to transmit to the Secretary of State, by air mail, the following observations of the Council on that statement:

The Supreme Moslem Sharia Council in Palestine had expressed their opinion to the Government of Palestine on various occasions and at different circumstances to the effect that the Arab Nation will not agree, in any way whatsoever, to the establishment of a Nation, Home for the Jews in this Moslem Arab Holy Land, nor to the Jewish immigration which imperils the existence of the Arabs in this country, nor to the transfer of lands from Arabs to Jews which results in the permanent alienation of Arab lands and in the displacement of Arabs and their dispersion.

The Council had demanded that a nation, Representative Government be established in the country and that the pledges which were given to the Arabs in 1916 and later confirmed in 1919, should be fulfilled.

While the Council see in the continuation of the present policy a danger which imperils the existence of the Arab people in Palestine, they also consider that the

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continuation of that policy involves a great danger to the Moslem Holy places, including the Holy Masjid Al-Aqsa which is held in deep sacredness by Moslems in all parts of the world.

The Council believe that the principal motive which moved the Jews to think of making of Palestine a National Home for them is a religious one. That being the case, the Zionist case is fundamentally and principally a religious case. The Jews did not refuse to establish a National Home in the various countries and territories which were offered to them at the beginning of the Zionist movement, although such countries and territories were largely ^{in fact} and wealthier than Palestine, but for a religious idea which they entertain and which aims at the reconstruction of the Jewish Temple of King Solomon in the place of the Holy Masjid Al-Aqsa. This motive was, indeed, proved by the Supreme Moslem Council through definite evidence which they produced before the Parliamentary Shaw Commission and the International Buraq Commission, when the Council were able to show the dangerous designs which the Jews have on the Holy Masjid Al-Aqsa, relying on statements made by Jewish official bodies and responsible leaders and articles published by Jewish well-known writers as well as by pictures and photographs which were circulated amongst the Jews and which decorate their homes and places of worship.

The Supreme Moslem Council associate themselves with the Nation in its just and equitable demands and ask that the policy which is being pursued in Palestine be fundamentally changed, as that policy has resulted, during the

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last eighteen years, in repeated deplorable calamities and proved that the fears which were expressed by the Arab people ever since the occupation and which are still entertained by them were undoubtedly genuine and based on sound foundations. It may be added that that policy was criticized by the various Commissions which were appointed by His Majesty's Government, in their well considered reports.

The Council, further, associate themselves with the Nation in all the lawful means which it adopts in demanding the grant of such demands and are of the opinion that it would be futile to continue to pursue a policy which has proved to be a failure and which has cost the Arab Nation and the Government such hardships and difficulties in the attempt to enforce it.

While the Council believe that the strike is one of such lawful means, they desire to assert that the measure of violence and severity which are being applied against the Arabs, especially the recent incidents in which the troops ~~disregarded~~ ^{have responded upon} some of the Mansjeds and Holy Places, are such as will make the situation more critical and increase the tension. It may be mentioned that during the night of the 14th/15th June, 1936, machine-guns were fired at the famous Jannat Mosque in Acre, to the extent that traces of such firing are still seen on the walls, windows and in the rooms of the students of religion. Further, during the demolition operations which were carried out by the Authorities at Jaffa, part of Sheikh Raslan Mosque was demolished and the other part cracked. The premises of the Sharia Court of Nablus were also occupied as a station for British troops who interfered with the records and

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registers of the Court and all its effects and destroyed part of its papers and Moslem Sharia documents. The Authorities also arrested a good number of the men of the country, including some religious heads and officers of Masjeds, religious institutions and Moslem Awqaf.

In the opinion of the Council, in the same way as the Palestine case is a national one, it is similarly a Moslem religious case which concerns the whole Moslem world. The Council, therefore, trust that the British Government will take into consideration the religious feeling of the Moslem world as well as the national feeling of the Arab nation as a whole by granting the demands of the Arabs in Palestine, in discharge of the pledges which were made to them before and after the issue of the Balfour Declaration, and in order to save the British and Arab tax-payers such expensive and purposeless expenditure and in order that peace may be maintained in a country which is sacred to all faiths.

With highest respects,

(Sgd) Mohammad Amin,
President,
Supreme Moslem Council.