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35

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12

Folder
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Jewish Agency, Aleh League council meetings, 1947.

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SUMMARY OF LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING AT ALEH

1. Relying on talks between Arab representatives and U.K. and U. S. ministers in various M.E. capitals, as well as Azzam's talks with political and military leaders in U.K. and U.S., Jamil Nardam believes possibility final decision Palestine problem this session U.N. can be avoided.

2. The following steps were taken by Arabs to prove to the world, and especially to the Jews and the Americans, that the Arab world is prepared to fight for Palestine independence:

- a. Strong notes were presented to U.S. and U.K. governments;
- b. participation of Arab military leaders in Council meeting;
- c. orders were given to some Syrian and Lebanese troops to move towards Palestine frontiers;
- d. sensational news about troop concentrations various Arab countries were disseminated;
- e. Mufty was brought to Beyrouth;
- f. Kaukgi authorized to open in Lebanon recruiting office for volunteers and set up arms stores;
- g. foreign correspondents were made to believe that Arab resistance may lead to third World War or, at least, a la Spain.

3. League Council in five secret sessions neither confirmed nor rejected Sofar decisions. Because of internal and external difficulties implementation Sofar decisions very difficult. It is impossible to compel Ibn Saud to renounce American financial support or induce Egypt to disregard U.N., or to permit Abdullah to invade alone Palestine. Furthermore, Jewish strength unknown. Most experts estimate Haganah at 80,000 well trained and modernly equipped men with not insignificant air force. In addition to this, strength of terrorist organization must be counted. Therefore, Council to consider whether 40,000,000 Arabs should enter struggle with tiny Yishuv with prospect of being defeated. Mufti endeavored to convince Council members that Jews would be defeated in a couple of days. Any delay in attack gives Jews time for additional organization and acquisition of equipment. Mufti threatened to open activities independently without waiting for Arab States cooperation. He was supported by Transjordan and Iraq.

The opposition was led by Hokrashy, who pointed out that Arab case Palestine concerns all Arab countries which have to consider their strength and interests. He therefore suggested:

- a. to set up military experts commission and other commissions to prepare plans for intervention, resistance, economic blockade, etc.;
- b. to ask every Arab State to state within two months what kind of military, financial and medical help it is able to render to the common fight;
- c. to authorize Lebanese Prime Minister to reconvene Council meeting at any time to consider League's success developments and suggestions made by the various committees set up by the League Council.

Hokrashy emphasized that probably long struggle ahead with many disappointments for Arabs. Also agreed to establishment Palestine Arab Government under Mufti. He was strongly supported by Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Lebanon and Syria.

4. At the end of the meeting Mufti received following promises:

- a. grant of considerable funds in very near future;
- b. free movement for himself and his people in Arab countries and support for purchase of arms and training of gangs;
- c. Arab States will intervene immediately, even before British evacuation in case of Jewish aggression against Arabs, their property and their Holy Places, or in case Jews attempt to seize all Palestine.
- d. all Arab States will abstain from any separate action in Palestine and will pledge to effect simultaneously after the liquidation of the Jewish State and the end of hostilities. Azzam was commissioned to make the heads of all Arab States to sign pledge this regard.