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Jewish Agency, Kenen, I. L., 1947.

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[1947]

Wednesday, June 18

The UN committee held its first open session yesterday afternoon, Shertok was the only witness and it was the consensus that he made a good impression. He was called upon to present facts and figures and the only criticism was that he departed too frequently from the statistical and factual to argue the political question. Paradoxically, there was some criticism in the Hebrew press that he had not argued the political question enough. This morning, the Arabic press distorted his statement contending that he had asked for all of Palestine including Transjordan. Just as soon as the verbatim report is ready, I shall send it to you. The UN committee does not work as fast here as it did at Lake Success. Nor apparently do we. Ten minutes before he was to make his statement, S was still working on it, with the result that I could not give it to the press, much to my unhappiness. I also thought that he yielded to the temptation to make a long statement. But, on the whole, press people thought he did well.

The questioning was not unfriendly, except for that of the Indian. However, you probably got all of that in the press.

While the full committee met to hear Shertok, the alternates met in sub-committee to plan the itinerary. There was an interesting conflict. It was agreed that the committee would visit Haifa tomorrow and the Indian delegate insisted that at Haifa the committee should see two Arab factories and two Jewish factories. The Jewish liaison officers, Eban and Horwitz were attending the meeting, and Eban pointed out that this was more or less absurd since Haifa was 80 per cent Jewish. The British liaison officer, McGillivray, agreed, and so it was decided to visit one Arab factory, the oil refinery and two or three Jewish factories. On Friday, the committee is to visit Potash and Beth Haavara, but there is some question about Saturday. It was suggested since it was Saturday, that the committee visit the Negev. Objection was raised that the committee could not visit Jewish settlements, whereupon the Indian insisted that it was not necessary to visit the Jewish settlements. Our people pointed out that this was a critical issue. Could there be any settlement in the Negev. Finally, it was agreed that if the committee visited the Arab places in the Negev on Saturday, it would return later to see the settlements.

Today was very difficult. In accord with custom, the committee started touring by going to the Holy Places first. I need not tell you how unpleasant such a journey can be. None of us naturally, went to the Arab places. When we started for the Jewish quarter, there was apparently the traditional dispute between the Ashkenazi and the Sephardi, and accordingly, while the committee had originally intended to go to only the Churveh synagogue, it split up and half went to receive a Herzog blessing the other half went to hear Uzziel. I do not know what is accomplished by prayers on such occasions. I suspect the committee was not comfortable. Then for good measure, another synagogue was thrown in, and there were more psalms, more prayers, more speeches. As a result the committee was forced to eliminate Bethlehem from its itinerary. Add to this the presence of the sons and daughters of Halukah begging Nadava, and the fact that there is little difference in living standards between the peoples in this part of the world and the fact that one always feels, in the Holy Places, that political considerations should not be considered in Palestine, and you come to the conviction that the government is engaged in shrewd psychological warfare when it ushers a visiting commission to the Holy Places as the first stop on the way.

KAL
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Tomorrow, we are going to Haifa and this afternoon, I arranged to have information bulletins mimeographed so that the committee will have before them, as they drive along, pertinent information about each settlement. In addition, a brief explanatory note about Haifa's importance etc.

The UN does not have enough cars to transport all the press people, and I was requested to arrange for transportation of a number of them.

K. S. S.

[1947]

Friday, June 20th.

I am kept pretty busy. I left off Wednesday evening and I've been on the go since. In addition to all the official duties, I've had to play host to press and secretariat and up to now I've been averaging about five hours sleep. "Where does one get a typewriter fixed in a few hours? Where can I arrange for my last typhoid shots? Where can we find a good place to eat? These are just a few of the questions. Wednesday evening I was host, at dinner, to a number of the secretariat and after that, we went up to Scopus to look at the city.

Thursday morning (yesterday) we started on the trip to Haifa. There were a number of complications. We had pointed out to the commission the desirability of having guides for them, and so on Wednesday, we were asked to provide six Agency guides who could ride in the Commission cars. But yesterday morning, when our people showed up, it was ruled that no Agency people could ride in any of the official cars, and as a result, our people went along by themselves. Then, after we had carefully fixed up a mimeographed guide to the route, using the Jaffa-Lydda-Haifa road, the commission went by way of Nablus. Our sheets were useful going back, but only for part of the route, since the last half was by night and you could not see anything. Some people thought this was a deliberate maneuver to make our work useless and to obscure the Jewish part of Palestine by darkness, but there was no real evidence of that. The truth is, of course, that one makes much better time, by day, along the Nablus road, which does not have any traffic, and at night over the coast road, since traffic is barred by curfew and there are fewer hills. Some of the papers made an issue of it, but we didn't.

I think the committee barred Agency people from their cars because they wanted to avoid the impression that this was a Jewish show. The committee is extremely upset by the Arab boycott, which is now redounding to our disadvantage. The aloofness of the Arabs makes Jewish cooperation, however dignified and proper, appear to be aggressiveness, by comparison. The committee therefore is constrained to protect the Arabs. How long this will keep up I do not know. For the sake of world opinion, however, the committee seems eager to make every effort to reach the Arabs if possible and maintain a balance. As time wears on, however, the committee may become annoyed and indignant. There is a limit to how much any self-respecting body will pursue people who are ignoring it.

We reached Haifa shortly before noon. I was not distressed by the route we had taken, by that time. It worked to our advantage. Going through Nablus and Jenin, there is so little to see, and as one proceeds west, the first sign of civilization is Mishmar Haemek, which makes such an excellent impression. And, later, Haifa offers the sharp contrast between the two worlds.

At City Hall, we had the first taste of Arab non-cooperation. Shertek had spoken on Tuesday of Arab-Jewish cooperation in Haifa, in reply to a question from one of the members of the commission. The Arabs were determined to prove him wrong. The Jewish mayor, the Christian vice-mayor, the Arab town clerk, and the six Jewish councilmen received the Commission. The Arabs remained away. The welcoming reception was reasonably brief. Then we visited Shemen. Questions from members of the commission brought out that Shemen buys much olive oil from Arabs, about 200,000 pounds a year. After Shemen, the commission went to lunch. At the Zion Hotel, the Secretariat notified us that the commission had been informed that it could go to the Arab cigarette factory, but the Jewish Agency people were requested not to come. However, Jewish journalists were permitted to enter. I did not know this (I had lunched elsewhere with the newspaper men - we took them up to the top of Mt. Carmel) and when I arrived at the factory, I accepted a package of cigarettes. I was informed then of

what had happened and indignantly returned the gift. My associates (I am told) made much of what happened. It is curious, however, that some of the secretariat reacted in a different way. They naturally were not sympathetic to the exclusion of our people. But, said one, this works both ways. It proves that cooperation between the two peoples is non-existent. The inference from his statement was that all was hopeless. It had to be pointed out that the committee could not permit its judgement to be dictated entirely by the will or the favor of the Arabs.

On the other hand, a number of the commission people were conscious of child labor in the cigarette factory. Later in the day we went to the oil refinery and to Ata. They stayed there longer than anywhere else and they asked many questions about the source of cotton and the market for the products.

On the way back, we went up the mountain and looked over the town. We had just come from the oil refinery and on the top of the hill we stopped to see the entire city and bay, as well as the ships in the harbor. The point was not lost. It was the town where oil flowed in freely, but human beings were barred.

The Haifa press swarmed about the commission and we had a lot of people there throughout the day. I had the impression that we had far too many eager guides and the committee felt they were prisoners. They wanted to see and poke around for themselves. And so last night, upon our return to Jerusalem, I pleaded with our people to cut down on the number of guides. This was agreed to. I felt that it was much better to have committee members talk to informed people on the spot. I know from experience with the press that you cannot pressure people, you give them the facts as and when they want them.

After dinner, one of the boys who wanted to get a story on police regulations and I went for a midnight walk to some mutual friends. It is not a pleasant experience to be stopped by armed sentries and closely catechized.

Early this morning, we drove down to the Dead Sea. In line with last night's discussions, there were only two of us from the Agency in the convoy. This time, Aubrey rode with the chairman, who insisted that he join him. The party was much smaller and it was easier to move around.)Parenthetically, Aubrey had previously suggested to the commission that it would be better if they split into two and that half of them go to one place one day, the other half the other day. The commission said this would take too much time!!)

After visiting the petash plant, where the Indian once again asked about profits (the figures have been sent in and they actually show losses because of double taxation.) we went on to Beth Haavavah. I had arranged for mimeographed sheets telling the story of both the plant and the settlement and these were much appreciated by both the press and the commission, since they didn't have to take notes.

The settlement made a deep impression on the commission. Of that, there is no doubt at all. But what was most striking was the way in which the settlers handled themselves. There is a new dining room there, built since my last visit, and when the commission came in and sat down, they all found settlers who could speak their own languages who acted as their hosts. There was a Persian girl who talked to the Iranian, a Czech who talked with the Czech, and so on. All this had been worked out in advance and I think it is extremely worth while. I have an idea that commission members are more apt to remember the face of a settler who talked their language than an epigram in a memorandum.

Upon our return to town, we obtained the itinerary for the next two weeks. The commission will leave here July 20 after hearings are completed. It will tour the country until July 5. We are satisfied with the itinerary. I have been insisting on as much variety as possible so that the trip will be broken by interludes and will not be packed with too much solid matter. Thus, for example, I want the committee to go to Ein Gev for the boat trip, to get a chance to swim, wherever possible, to see Manarah, etc. It's my experience that after ~~wh~~ a while settlements get to look alike and there is a limit to how many factories one can see.

One of the tourists observed to me the other day that he could always see a factory in his native land and he was bored. But he became very interested when he saw afforestation. Incidentally, I ran into Lillie's friend who established a reputation for hostility straight off when, pressed for a decision on the first day of his arrival, he observed that he thought the country should be given back to the Bedouins. Which Americanism was not too well understood.

Tonight dinner at Gershon Agronsky's with a number of visiting newspapermen. Tomorrow we're off to the south.

Yours,

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[1947]

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Thursday, July 3

Dear Arthur :

I have just received a letter from Meir Grossman who tells me that Mr. Lipsky is most anxious that I return to New York by August 1 so that I can help make arrangements for the fourth session of the Conference. As you know, the Conference is passing through a most critical period and if Mr. Lipsky feels that I should be back I must accordingly alter my plans.

Inasmuch as the UNCOP will be winding up its work here around July 20th, the probability is that I can continue with the committee to Geneva, remain there a few days and then board a plane for New York. I suspect that nothing will be lost by this arrangement. While I might be of some use in Geneva were I to remain there while the committee writes its report, I am somewhat dubious. There will be others. And, so far as the press is concerned, I doubt that we will have much to say while the committee is at work in Geneva.

In the meantime my work here will continue to be arduous, particularly for the next few weeks, not only because the hearings are on but because the Agency spokesman here is leaving on Sunday for some conferences in Europe.

I wish you would inform Dr. Silver and members of the executive of the situation. I believe they will understand the reasons for Mr. Lipsky's request and my desire to comply with it.

Best regards.

Si.

Monday, July 11, 1947

Dear Arthur:

There has been so much going on during the past few days that I have lost track of time. This has been the longest week of my life. Just a week ago, we were all sitting quietly at the YMCA hall listening to Justice Rand cross-examine Dr. Magnus. Then came news of martial law at Mathania and ten of us grabbed cars to go up there. It was like going into a dead city. All the 12,000 inhabitants of the neighborhood were confined to their homes as the soldiers swept from house to house looking for people who could not give an account of themselves. It's difficult to put on paper. You've seen it in pictures; little groups of Jews trudging down sandy roads, with soldiers at their backs, queuing up in front of a tent, where the police check their cards. You've seen it in Germany. It was like this at Firth a year or so ago when the DPs were taken out of a camp and transferred to another. And it was like this in Germany before that. And for all that, the soldiers are extraordinarily polite, and some of them are invited to have lemonade inside the houses, and the major is very courteous to the correspondents.

There are just a few civilians walking about the town. You are one of them and you are constantly halted by patrols and you must show your pass a dozen or more times. There are some UNSCOP people up to see what it's all about.

That was last Tuesday. We came back late at night.

Wednesday, Shertok started to testify, winding up the Agency case. He was exceedingly good. He spoke from notes - he did a job not unlike his concluding statement before the committee a year ago. But one had the feeling that much of it was a reiteration of the past. There is a limit to the number of times we need to make a point. After a while it ceases to sound convincing. Everyone thinks we have over-stated our case. Actually, we couldn't help ourselves. Every Jewish institution had to tell its story. It so happens that we have a lot to tell, and we're so afraid that some one will miss even a little part of it.

Wednesday evening, there was a ballet at the Hebrew University, and virtually the entire UN came up there. I am not an expert on the subject - I am told there are better dancers, but I felt that there could not be a more beautiful blending of costume and background. The pastels of the robes faded into the pinks and blues and mauves of the hills to the east. I write of this because I have a suspicion that the scene will be remembered long after some of our memoranda.

That night I took sick. There was an east wind from the desert. I could not eat dinner and went home to bed. Later I discovered that most people were under the weather, and because of it.

Thursday morning Moshe continued his speech. He was still in good form and he finished after an hour. It was significant that there were no questions except from Guatemala and Uruguay. It was quite evident the committee had heard all it wanted to hear.

In the meantime, there was a new development. The UN had undertaken to secure passports to Beirut for all the newspapermen who had come along from New York. But it was doing nothing for the local Jewish press and it was clear that they were out of luck. I asked them to form a committee and to submit applications for a reasonable number, say six or seven, and to insist that UN act on their behalf. I stirred up a number of correspondents on the issue and finally we won our point. All except Gerold.

About a week before, we had notified the UN that we weren't going along. We didn't see any point. There were a number of reasons. They had seen and heard enough of us. It was time we retired from the scene. Accordingly, in view of our decision, the issue even our passports never arose.

It seemed to me that the incident was worth a lot of testimony. Here were correspondents who could not get visas because they had no government of their own to act on their behalf. The world in which we live is one in which you must have the power of retaliation. MS made quite a point of it in his closing address.

Friday we were to have lunch at his home. About nine overseas correspondents. But Friday morning, news came that the President Warfield was coming into Haifa. I got the news of the attack on the ship early and spread it and by 1 P.M. most of us were on our way to Haifa, and MS was having an awful time wondering what to do about 12 uneaten lunches. Couldn't be helped. It wasn't pleasant.

We got there just as the ship came in. I told Vic Bernstein that all the old cliches kept on climbing into a lump into my throat. He couldn't take it after awhile and we went up to the town to write stories.

Before leaving for Haifa, we appealed to the UNSCOP to go up and take a look. Sandstroem and Simich were at Athlit, as it happened, and they came to the dock just as we did. I am told that Sandstroem made a very simple, very moving account to his colleagues when he returned on Saturday.

You've seen the scene on the dock many times because you've seen it in pictures. The ship has been bashed in on both sides, and you thank god that these hundreds of little kids are still alive. They come off the boats in single file (there's another queue) and they pass by what might seem to be a customs check. Actually, their knapsacks are searched and emptied of canned goods, cutlery, bottles, anything that might prove to be a weapon or that might be used in suicide. And then they go quickly to the shining steamer alongside.

And this is evidence, more compelling, more conclusive than a dozen memoranda. You think back of the last 72 hours. How event has been substituted for propaganda and how more cogent is the event. Here was martial law, the search, the collective imprisonment, the collective punishment. Then came discrimination, the correspondents who suffered discrimination because there was no government to protect their rights. And now, finally, the wandering Jews, with packs on their backs and bewilderment in their eyes. And the stretchers. You count them. There are 17 that are carried past you. There were 37 in all.

Up in town you run into some of your correspondent friends. It is suggested perhaps that you are exploiting the misery of these people in a propaganda demonstration. You keep your balance and your even temper and you enter into a discussion which goes back to 1856 and the Copperheads and the Abolitionists. You see carbon copies of the stories the following day and you know you have won the argument and you suspect that you were being baited to see how you would react. Of course, there are some you can't talk to. They are busily writing stories about hell ships on the road to Gehenna.

You encounter Grauel and you closet him and Vic for a special story. In the evening, you dine at Lev Hacarmel but below you see the ghost ship bathed in blue flood lights and you hear the depth charges. And so you go back. And now, on the dock there are hundreds of DPs. You have seen their faces. You know that these were the men, women and children who poured out of Kielce last summer. These are family units and they must be the weary pilgrims who fled across Poland in 1939, who went to Siberia. You cannot talk to them. No one may talk to them. They are isolated. You may, however, talk with a dapper major who cocksurely swings a swagger stick. And you talk to a lance corporal who explains it all. The Jews run blighty. Control Parliament. Most MPs are JEWS. So in the United States. Wendell Wilkie was a German Jew. Why is America interested in Palestine anyway? Maybe because it is interested in Greece. You give up. You are closely questioned as you leave the dock and finally you are allowed across the barbed wire. And back to the mountain.

The ride back to Jerusalem is uneventful. In the afternoon, a correspondent wants a statement about it all. So you try to draft one. But the words don't fit the event. You can't let yourself go. But you do the best you can (it created a stir, as it turned out) and you get it around.

Then there's a UN cocktail party. Secretariat reciprocating hospitality. And, disheveled and tired, you go up. The London Times isn't interested in your statement. It's old stuff. It will all be forgotten by the time his paper goes to press. It will never be forgotten, you tell him. You go out with some UN people. And then there's a land mine and an explosion and a siren and you are trapped in a hotel and you can't move. Finally you make up your mind to walk. It's a risky business. But you get by the sentries.

You show your pass. You don't like cocked guns, but you do have to get home. Then, at the hotel, there's a big crowd of marooned friends. You and your UN friend (once a student of Isaiah Berlin) persuade the hotel to feed you.

During all this time, you have resumed daily press conferences at Agency headquarters. Hirsch is in Europe and so, in addition to the UNSCOP business, you are acting as agency spokesman. It isn't easy. Because you must steel yourself to be unemotional and to be reserved.

Each noon, Friday, Sunday, today, you meet with the press and you must answer their questions. Most of the boys are up in Beirut, but there's still a big contingent of regulars. And they all have questions, and some of them are tricky, and you must not fall into traps. And you must come here about 8 A.M. to get your material together.

You've been here about five weeks and you are beginning to find your way around. Who knows what, and how to find out. It's a devil of a job.

Sunday I arranged a press conference for Goldstein. Last evening, I finally had dinner with Walter Eytan. He has been in the background, doing a lot of writing. Never gets out to see people. But has a splendid personality. Then, just as we are finishing, the siren goes. You know there's going to be hell. This is the first night UNSCOP is out of Jerusalem. No danger of diplomats being hurt. And sure enough, Jerusalem sounds like London during the war. There's a constant exchange of rifle fire, machine guns, bren guns. The bullets are flying about a block away. In Jaffa road and over on King George. They're uncomfortably close.

Meanwhile, there's a persistent report that the ships are off to France. You and Walter have nothing to do. You turn down Teddy's invitation to a bridge game and you retire to your room to write speculative statements.

Everybody has left the garden, except Oscar Gass, who is by far the largest target. Most of them are huddled in the hall of the Eden. This goes on until after midnight. Then the siren goes and people can go home.

The shooting dies down and you fall asleep.

Today, no one knows where the ships are. We're trying to find out. There's growing feeling. And tonight there will be curfew. You issue a statement expressing disquiet and concern. Maybe I've been agitated and I write that way. But I don't think I've begun to report all of the week. It certainly is the longest I've been through in a long time.

I'm off to Geneva on Friday. Will stay there a week or 10 days. Then home. Will be at the Hotel Angletorre in Geneva. Best regards to all.

Si.

Saturday, July 12, 1947

Since I wrote you last Saturday, we have had a very busy time, inasmuch as the Agency has been presenting its case and we have made every effort to get texts and documents into the hands of the committee and the press.

Sunday: - Dr. Bernstein and Dr. Kaplan testified and I believe made a very effective presentation. I found Dr. Bernstein's brief and succinct speech one of the highlights of the entire case, for he gave a temperate and striking story of the way in which the Jewish economy is retarded by hostile regulations and practices.

Monday: - BG answered questions. On the whole he handled himself well, although he is aggressive. Monday evening the Agency's political memorandum came off the press. Although it was late, I released it immediately because I felt it should go in before the non-Agency testimony which was to begin the following day.

Tuesday: - Dr. Weizman's testimony made a great impression on the delegates. I assume that press reports gave you a complete picture. I have not heard him often in recent years, but I am told that he was at the top of his form. He was reserved and dignified and yet he was good-humored, and there can be no doubt that delegates were captured by his charm. Those who questioned him were polite and considerate, in contrast to the manner of questioning the previous day. It is interesting, too, that when BG resumed the stand, the questioning continued to be polite and BG's manner was somewhat more reserved.

Wednesday: - The testimony of the Vaad Leumi, while interesting, was somewhat anti-climactic. One had the feeling that the Jewish case had been concluded when Dr. Weizmann ended his statement, and there was little to add.

Thursday: - The Vaad Leumi continued and the rabbis, Hozog, Uzzial, and the Agudah followed. Some of the correspondents had the impression that enough was enough and that the committee was plainly and obviously bored.

Friday: - The English churchmen testified today. They started by complaining that the committee was holding ^{back} on Sunday, further evidence of the lack of respect for religion in Palestine. (When the session concluded, the chairman announced another Sunday session.) It was extraordinary to hear the ministers asking for what amounted to religious minority rights and representation for the religions in the government. I was reminded forcibly of the way in which the peace conference brushed aside our request for minority political rights.

While the evidence is being submitted, the Agency has been presenting written statements, viz. the economic progress in the last two years, Zionism and the Arab world, the plight of the dps. I had been saving these since I did not want the Agency to be in competition with its own spokesman. I released one on Thursday and another on Friday.

There will be more of these this coming week.

And now for some general impressions. I had a long talk with some close friends the night after Weizman testified. It was their view that up until a few days, few of the delegates had been coming to any definitive conclusions, and with the possible exception of the Indian delegate, none has made up his mind about anything. Within recent days, they have been turning to the problem of solutions. Many of the delegates have been playing with new ideas and new formulations, but - and this is emphasized - while each may have a pet idea, partition appears to be the second choice of most of them. It is possible, therefore, that when the committeemen sit down to talk about solutions, and begin rejecting all the pet ideas, the committee may fall back on partition.

We complained about the decision not to go to Cyprus. The sideline commentator has the idea that this decision was bound up with renewed invitation to the Arabs. But a number of delegates explain that there was no necessity to go to Cyprus. They all know there are 17,000 Jews there waiting to go to Palestine, and they all know what internment camps are like, and they see no point in securing confirmation of what they already know.

Yet, I am troubled by what is happening. It seems to me that, having concentrated all their time here on the relations between Jews and Arabs, the committee may tend to see this problem solely in terms of the future government of Palestine, without relation to the problem of the future of the Jewish people, per se. The problem of immigration, somehow, has faded into the background. The committee, not having gone to the camps, not having seen the Jews in Europe, unaware of the terrific pressure to come here, is preoccupied with the political problem. It is somewhat of a paradox. As a maximal Zionist, I have always emphasized statehood and deprecated the arguments of those who talked of immigration alone. Now I find that people here are not sufficiently conscious of the immigration problem. The point was driven home to me by an American correspondent who, wholly sympathetic to our development and progress here, has lost sight of the needs of the Jews of Europe, and questions whether more immigrants should come in. And one has to argue with him, not on the basis of the needs of the Jewish people as such, but on the theory that more immigration will be good for the country and all its inhabitants.

It is a great pity that the committee did not go to the camps or to European Countries. Yet the situation may change when it goes to Europe, and if it sees the plight of the Jews there, in contrast with their progress and high standard here.

We have been hurt, also, by the Arab boycott. The effect has been to make this a one-sided presentation. It is idle to explain that we have so much to say, that we have such a complete case. Of course, we never suffer from restraint in the presentation of our point of view. We count that day lost when we do not produce a document. All this would be very well, but for the fact that no one is appearing for the other side, and the committee, like any good court of equity in an undefended lawsuit, is assuming the role of protector of the absentee party. It is something that we cannot help. However, the balance may be restored if the committee does hear the Arab League, as now seems likely. An American correspondent said to me two weeks ago that if only the committee will go to Cairo and see an Arab state, and the disparities between the population strata there, and we shall win our fight.

Within recent days, there have been a number of pessimistic reports emanating from the committee. Some of this is based on the fact that some of the delegates who appear to be sympathetic have been asking

questions

cantonization, make-shift solutions. One turned up during the past few days with a cantonization plan. I personally do not share this pessimism. I think all this speculation is premature. I may be overly-optimistic, but I am convinced that the committee has seen so much of the substance of Jewish life and achievement here that it cannot subscribe to a solution which might in anyway prejudice its future. Furthermore, there is an awareness of the high rate of development, etc. which argues against an indefinite trusteeship.

One delegate said the other day to a newspaperman, "There must be some finality to what we do. We can't let this thing drag on indefinitely. It will get worse if we do not impose a decision which settles matters once and for all."

I gather that our legal case does not make the most persuasive argument. People are inclined to scoff when the Indian delegate begins his cross-examination about who was here first and longest. But the delegates are impressed by achievement and the old moral criterion of what is best for the greatest number. That is why I am so hopeful that the committee goes to the camps-as I think it will.

On the whole, I think it is much too early to speculate. And I have told some of our correspondents who are evolving sensational dispatches about speculative comment that most of the delegates are extremely guarded.

I keep busy, day and night, I spend most of the day with the correspondents at the hearings. And in the evening there is a round of receptions, dinners, etc. Last Saturday evening, I was host to some correspondents and others at a dinner and dance in Talpith. Sunday afternoon, after the hearing, two of us drove to Tel Aviv to keep an appointment with Zebulon and his entire family, swimming, dinner and dance. We were guests of local people. We did not return to Jerusalem until 2 a.m. Tuesday evening, the Agency was host at a reception to all the overseas press, British and American, and to the entire secretariat. Wednesday evening, I was host at a dinner party and dance at Talpith for eight correspondents and friends. Thursday evening, the Philharmonic played and later there was a reception for the delegates and others in a private home. And last night, we took the evening off (that is, eight of us spent the evening quietly at the Eden.) I reserved today for letter writing.

One averages about five hours sleep. I am looking forward to the meal that I can eat by myself. Reserve a stool for me at the Chock Full of Nuts along about August 4.

With best regards

Si.