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American Christian Palestine Committee, 1946.

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE
41 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Mr. H. Manson

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MEMORANDUM

To American Christian Palestine Committee
Liaisons and Co-workers

Date December 12, 1946

From Dean Howard M. LeSourd

Attached is the second article prepared for use in the local press, religious periodicals or a radio broadcast which is being sent to key members of the American Christian Palestine Committee in various parts of the country acting as "press contacts" for the Committee.

As was the case a month ago, we are sending it to you in the absence of a convenient correspondent in your community, trusting in your ability to establish the publicity contact needed.

We would like to know of the attitude of local editors to such material submitted. We depend fully upon your cooperation in seeing that these articles reach the reading public.

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Enc.

"THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM"

A Christmas-minded world is turning its face and heart towards the Holy Land these days, for Christianity comes from Palestine. It was born there of Jewish nurture and borne aloft on wings of Jewish genius.

Few Christians know that the lighting of the candles on the Christmas tree follows the lighting of the Chanukah candles. Chanukah commemorates the heroic struggle of the Jews against their Syrian oppressors and the victory of the infinitely inferior Jewish armies over the Syrian battalions. It was in 165 B.C. that Judas Maccabeus recaptured Jerusalem and rededicated The Temple. Ever since then, on December 18 the lights of Chanukah are lit and remain aglow till December 25, symbolizing the triumph of the light of freedom over the darkness of oppression, which, in principle, is the meaning of Christmas also. These two festivals of light are strangely related by that symbolism which lends to both of them their particular charm and loveliness.

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This year there will be Chanukah candles lit in the pitiful huts of the Jewish survivors in Europe. Their fate reminds us of events connected with the first Christmas. There are no more pathetic words in the whole Christmas narrative than those in Luke, Chapter 2, Verse 7: "there was no room for them in the inn." Centuries of Christian piety and devotion have brooded tenderly and affectionately over these words and have related them mystically to the other lyrical and dramatic events that go to make up the story of the nativity. And every returning Christmas season these words remind us that Joseph and Mary arriving in their home village of Bethlehem found no room.

Today these words have assumed a meaning both sinister and infinitely tragic. For today not a Jewish family of two or three, not only a Joseph and Mary and Joshua, seek lodging and comfort and security, but countless homeless and displaced European Jews, men, women, and children seek a place where to lay their heads and a "home" where they may find security and peace.

It would be only consistent with the spirit of the Christmas message of "peace and goodwill" if during our reading and rehearsing of the Christmas story as told by the Jewish narrators we recognized the particularly timely significance of the words "there was no room for them." For today these words express one of the world's most pressing problems. Today, thousands upon thousands of people are miserable and homeless through no fault of theirs, simply because they are "Jews." There is no room for them anywhere, simply because they are Jews. Their former homelands are closed to them by a vicious anti-Semitism; other lands refuse them admission because they are Jews, and the one land they claim as their historic homeland, the only land that has room for them and welcomes them with every unspoken expression of tradition and promise, Palestine, remains closed, its doors locked and bolted.

We can blame no one for the fact that two thousand years ago a young husband and his expectant wife found no room in the inn of Bethlehem. But will not history write another story and a fierce indictment of a world's indifference and cruel callousness when it records that in the year of our Lord 1946, when hopeless, homeless, suffering and disillusioned Jewish men, women and children sought entrance into their homeland, Palestine, "there was no room for them?"

Mr. K. Hanson

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MEMORANDUM

To Journalists, Radio Commentators
and Lecturers

Date December 16, 1946

From American Christian Palestine Committee

ON ARAB THREATS OF ECONOMIC AND OTHER SANCTIONS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES

Leaders of the Arab League in Cairo, spokesmen of the ex-Mufti's clique in Palestine and representatives of the Arab States in the Middle East, in their fight against Zionism and Jewish claims on Palestine, are increasingly threatening economic and other reprisals against the United States. This is meant to be a means of intimidation of American policy with regard to Palestine. The Arab leaders repeatedly state that if the United States Government continues to favor a solution to the tragic problem of the Jewish DP's in Europe by immigration to Palestine, as recommended by President Truman and the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, then the Arab States will withdraw all economic concessions granted to Americans in the Middle East, such as oil concessions, pipe-line concessions, rights for United States aviation companies, etc.

The most recent warning of blood-shed and unrest in the Middle East combined with intimidation to United States trade interests and an implied threat that the Arab rulers will turn to the Soviet Union should the United States Government not adopt a pro-Arab stand on the question of Palestine, has come from Dr. Fadel Jamali, president of the Arab League and Foreign Minister of Iraq.

On November 20, 1946, in Cairo, Dr. Jamali asked George A. Brownell, who, as President Truman's personal representative, was then on a mission to the Near East dealing with civil aviation rights, to warn the President that revolution could be expected throughout the Arab world if Arab rights in Palestine were violated. He added that Iraq would reserve the right to cancel any civil aviation agreement with American companies, if she considers American policy on Palestine inimical.

These Arab threats are divided into three categories: 1) Economic reprisals (oil and pipe-lines); 2) facilities for American aviation companies; 3) the threat that the Arab States will invite Russian intervention in the Middle East.

We propose to show below that all three threats are equally baseless.

Threats of Oil Sanctions

First, it is characteristic that threats to cancel oil concessions held in the Middle East by American interests are invariably voiced by Arab politicians who have no authority whatsoever in the matter, whereas those Arab rulers who actually granted the concessions and who gain therefrom are most

careful not only to refrain from making such threats, but even go so far repeatedly as to deny that they have such intentions in mind. Thus, Dr. Jamali, representing a country whose oil concessions lie predominantly in British hands, makes anti-American threats with regard to oil. Or Mr. Jamal Husseini (the nephew of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem) who is a Palestinian Arab chieftain with no influence whatsoever in oil concessions in Saudi-Arabia or in Bahrein (the two lands where American companies possess oil concessions), threatens America with oil sanctions.

King Ibn Saud, the ruler of Saudi-Arabia, on the contrary, went to great pains recently to publicly refute these threats. Speaking to an executive of the Arab-American Oil Company, King Ibn Saud stated "that rumors that he might withdraw the oil concession because of American support of the Zionists were 'hot wind'". (New York Times, November 28, 1946).

A few days later, in response to a statement by Jamal Husseini, King Ibn Saud again gave the lie to these threats. He asserted that he "has never even considered cancelling or even voiding the oil concessions that are being developed in his country by United States companies". (New York Times, December 4, 1946).

The truth of the matter is that Ibn Saud and the Sheikh of Bahrein are more dependent on American capital, industry, oil royalties and various other subventions than the United States is dependent on Middle East oil. Every honest oil expert will substantiate this. There is an old saying that "more than the calf wants the milk of the cow, the cow needs to be milked". This admirably represents the relationship between American oil interests and the Arab potentates.

Not only do the Arab rulers depend on the United States for development of their oil resources, but as matters stand today, they have no one else to whom to turn. For reasons of grand strategy, Britain acquiesced to America's economic penetration of the Middle East. American development of oil resources there continues with Britain's consent. Indeed, in light of Britain's predominating political and economic position in the Middle East, this would have been impossible from the beginning without her cooperation. Thus, British oil interests are in no position to take over American concessions in case of a conflict. Soviet Russia, on the other hand, is absolutely unacceptable to the Arab potentates on political and social grounds, even if Russia were able to outbid America commercially.

That is why one may safely endorse King Ibn Saud's characterization of these threats as "hot wind". This applies similarly to threats regarding oil pipeline concessions, which are part and parcel of the general oil development of that region.

Civil Aviation and the Fifth Freedom Right

Dr. Jamali and others threaten America with the withdrawal of the Fifth Freedom rights from American civil aviation companies; that is, the right to pick up passengers at intermediate stations in the Middle East.

As far back as August 20, 1946, the Communications Conference of the Arab League, held at Sofar, Lebanon, passed a resolution not to grant Fifth Freedom rights to any non-Arab aviation company or to companies not registered in Arab lands. This was undoubtedly a British-sponsored maneuver directed against American trade

in the Middle East, for such apparently "local" companies as the Egyptian and the Iraqi Air Lines are in part British concerns. British capital participates in these companies. The director of the Iraqi Airways, for example, is a Briton, General Cyril Smith. Obviously, since it was decided in August, 1946, to withdraw Fifth Freedom rights from American and other foreign aviation companies, there is no substance in threats to this effect made in December, 1946.

Inviting Russian Intervention

Without entering into the involved problem of Soviet Russia's claims in the Middle East, it may be said that if Russia is fated to obtain a controlling position there, she will not achieve it on the invitation or with the help of the reactionary, feudalistic and anti-social ruling cliques of the Arab lands. Whether the Moslem potentates are satisfied or dissatisfied with the position of the United States Government on the question of Palestine, they know very well on which side their bread is buttered, and they realize that Soviet penetration into the Middle East would put an end to all the positions of power, wealth and influence of the kings and effendis.

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