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Crossman, Richard, 1946.

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

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October 21, 1946

The United Palestine Appeal invites you to attend a luncheon and reception to be tendered to the Hon. Richard Crossman, M. P. from Coventry, England, on Sunday, November 3rd, 12:30 P. M., at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. This will be the only Philadelphia appearance of Mr. Crossman and one of the five throughout the country.

Mr. Crossman is one of the outstanding Labor members of Parliament. He is looked upon as the most courageous and dynamic of the younger Parliamentarians. As a member of the British section of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, he manifested unusual courage in his criticism of British policy in Palestine and in his independent action on the Committee. He has attacked British treatment of Jews in Palestine in his lectures and in a recently published book. A gifted orator, editor of the liberal "New Statesman" and "Nation", he leads an opposition force within the Labor Party.

Mr. Crossman has agreed to discuss frankly the present situation in Palestine. He will also describe his recent visit to Palestine and the D. P. Camps of Europe.

The number of reservations are limited and we would like you to be with us to hear this intimate report. Would you be good enough to indicate on the enclosed card your intention of being present.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel H. Daroff
SAMUEL H. DAROFF
Philadelphia Chairman
U. P. A. Council

Louis E. Levinthal
LOUIS E. LEVINthal
National Co-Chairman
United Palestine Appeal

P.S. There will be no solicitation of funds.

\$2.75 per plate



November 5, 1946

Crossman *did not Mr. Silver*
This abstract is being dictated without notes three days after Mr. Crossman delivered ~~his~~ speech November 3rd at a Luncheon in Philadelphia, arranged by the U. P. A.

I do think that the major ~~political~~ points, which made some impression will be correctly given. Mr. Crossman began by stating that he was, as is well known, in opposition to the policy of the British Labor Government regarding Palestine. He said without elaborating that it was still his feeling that had the Anglo-American Committee's report been accepted when published, the Palestine crisis would be well on the way to solution. Then he continued to say that in his view, a new situation has arisen which is not fully appreciated even in Zionist circles. The Jews of Palestine, and of Europe are not refugees and their problem is not a refugee problem. There used to be for a European Jew three alternatives ~~(1)~~ (1) to be prepared to go to Palestine in the near future (2) to be an assimilationist (3) to be pro-Zionist in sentiment. The third alternative no longer exists for European Jewry. The large majority knows that there is no future except in Palestine, and there is a tremendous drive towards the Homeland. The minority, ^{who are} either professionals, who are re-establishing themselves, or those who have thrown their lot with the Communists, plan to remain in Europe as individuals. There cannot be a reconstructed Jewish Community in Europe. ~~Only~~ Individual Jews disappear as ^{part of} a group entity.

Mr. Bevin and Mr. Atlee make the mistake of not understanding this new situation. To them the the DP's ~~is~~ a refugee problem, which it is not. It is a National problem and they haven't yet begun to think of it in terms of Jewish Nationalism. Since it is a matter of Nationalism, even offers in good faith of homes other than Palestine must fail to satisfy.

In Palestine, the Jewish community has only one object - to get rid of the mandate. The center of the struggle is that they want to be once and for all masters of their fate. The British Colonial Official in Palestine is not a Laborite. He comes to the country with an old tradition of Imperial rule and deals with the Arab ~~and~~ with a Native. The Jew is too creative and too fast for him. He therefore resents ~~him~~. Mr. Crossman then went on to a rather lengthy defense of Partition - not in terms of the Morrison-Grady Plan, but rather as an opportunity for full national sovereignty for the Jews. He maintained that there are large districts in the central plateau of Palestine in which no Jews live and a Jewish Commonwealth in all of Palestine which would attempt to rule the tightly packed Arab area, would fail; nor is a Jewish majority in all of Palestine before 10 or 15 years possible under the most favorable conditions. A solution is necessary immediately, otherwise as the situation, because of illegal immigration, becomes ever more tense, the moderate forces in the Yishuv lose people to the Irgun and the Stern Gang. ^{There may be} ~~That is~~ Civil War,

and ^ofull scale war against the British, which would result in liquidation of the Yishuv, is an immediate possibility. He cautioned us not to underestimate the force of Arab Nationalism. True, it is being used by the effendis and the British for their own purposes, yet it exists and must be reckoned with. Certainly any solution including partition would have to be imposed from without and there would probably be an immediate Civil War with the Arabs if it were carried through. Still the sooner the better - that would reduce the violence and the impact of that war.

He concluded by advising all of us Jews, and of course people like himself, who are fighting the Zionist cause, to unite behind the position of the Jewish Agency. He said that the Executive of the Jewish Agency are men of such extraordinary calibre, that the Government of the largest nation could be entrusted to them.

Immediately at the end of his talk, he was asked the question, ~~and~~ "granted that Zionists announce that they are all ready to accept partition, will the British give us a Jewish State in part of Palestine?" That question was repeated to him in various forms a number of times that afternoon. The closest he came to a direct answer was to say that the Anti-Zionist and the Anti-Semitic sentiment in England was high in May and June, and that the good job that has since been done by the Haganah is creating increasing respect for Jews ^{among the} ~~in~~ English, and he feels that a united clamour of Jews and liberal Laborites like himself would get partition. It is the maximum ~~was~~ ^{to be} hoped for immediately and is a crying necessity lest all control is lost of the situation both by Jewish and English moderate leaders. He made no answer to the question "Is England Prepared to Grant Partition."

November 8, 1946

Mr. Richard Crossman
Hotel Warwick
65 West 54 Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Crossman:

I regret more than I can tell you that I haven't had the pleasure of seeing you during your brief and welcome stay in this country. I could not be at the meeting you addressed last night because I was presiding at a mass meeting at the Manhattan Center in honor of Dr. Moshe Sneh. I had intended to be at the dinner preceding your meeting but was unfortunately tied up with a great many preliminaries and details connected with the mass meeting and in fact missed my supper altogether.

Mr. Arthur Lourie has told me briefly of a conversation he had with you in which you expressed doubt whether Dr. Silver, President of the Zionist Organization of America, would care to meet you. I would be very sorry indeed if you left America with that impression, for which there is not the slightest foundation in fact. I am quite close to Dr. Silver and know that he has the highest admiration for the clarity, persuasiveness and magnificent courage with which you have been championing the just cause of the Jewish people.

I am quite certain that Dr. Silver would have been delighted to meet you had it been possible. Unfortunately he is in Cleveland and will not be in New York until the middle of next week, whereas as I understand, you will be leaving for England tomorrow.

Personally I shall seek the opportunity of seeing you privately today and I hope it will be possible for us to meet. In any case I feel impelled to write you at once to correct any erroneous ideas regarding Dr. Silver's attitude towards you, the origin of which mystifies me.

With warmest regards and all good wishes,

Faithfully yours,

Emanuel Neumann

EN/M