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Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Palestine-partition, 1937.

For Cleveland Press - Sept 23, 1937
Abstract of address delivered M.H. - Sept 22

It is not true that the Mandate which Great Britain holds over Palestine is not workable.)

The Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations has within the last few weeks declared "that the obligations of the Mandate have not appeared to be irreconcilable." It is the fluctuation of policy on the part of the Palestine Administration which has encouraged the Arabs to believe that violence could stop Jewish immigration into the country and nullify the Balfour Declaration.

England has no intention of surrendering the Mandate unless she can get more for herself under some new arrangement - a free hand ~~to~~ to do in Palestine what she cannot do under the Mandate. If she cannot get a new arrangement, she will keep the Mandate. The threat to carry through drastic restrictions unless Partition goes through will fail for such a policy cannot be justified either before the League or before the British Parliament. There were previous occasions when the system of immigration into Palestine was threatened and British public opinion prevented it.

If Partition could bring about permanent peace between Jews and Arabs, much could be said in its favor. But the Arabs not only in Palestine but throughout the Near East have registered a strong opposition to Partition. The Arabs who favor it are being assassinated. Furthermore, there will remain in the proposed miniature Jewish State which in extent will be one-fifth the size of Vermont, a quarter of a million Arabs, about forty-five percent of the total present population. This will prove to be ^{an} ~~a~~ retractable irredentist minority. The suggestion of the Royal Commission that these Arabs be transferred to Transjordan is both impractical and immoral. Thus the Arab problem will remain as acute in the proposed "little Palestine" as in the present Palestine. What sense is there, therefore, in signing away four-fifths of the country when such a sacrifice clearly cannot achieve what it is supposed to ~~achieve~~ achieve?

An independent Jewish state is desirable provided it is one that can stand, one that has an adequate territorial basis, economic possibilities and frontier security. The present proposals offer none of these. The whole of Palestine, including Transjordan, should be opened for Jewish immigration. There is room there for all the Arabs who are now living there and for their children as well as for ~~thax~~ millions of Jews who are being driven from lands of persecution. These Jews have shown by their achievements in the last twenty years, as attested by the Report of the Royal Commission itself, that their coming is a boon to the whole country and to the Arab population. The economic status of the Arabs has been lifted far above that of ~~all~~ the Arabs in the neighboring countries. Their health and educational systems have been built up through revenues brought into the country by Jewish settlers and their own civilization is being revived.

The Jews do not wish to majorize the Arabs in Palestine. They do not wish to dominate them politically. They wish to work with them wholeheartedly for a free prosperous and undivided Palestine.