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Temple Men's Club, Cleveland, 1947.

① Dispersed with

ADDRESS BEFORE THE MEN'S CLUB
5-15-47

if Men's Club -
- El. Fishel -
Harry Geller
Leon - Harry

I Significance of the appearance of the Jewish people

- a) First time in Jewish history
- b) Recognized as a public body
- c) Attitude of UN

II A bit of background

- a) Failure of London Conference and Bevin's referral of matter to UN (Quote exact terms)
- b) A delaying device
- c) To retain Mandate under their own terms
- d) May not work out that way

III Struggle about our appearance before the Assembly -- our formal application -- our refusal to attend sessions until our application was accepted.

- a) The opposition of the United States
 - 1) Wanted a strictly limited agenda -
 - 2) No precedent established for no governmental agencies -
- b) Made it appear that United States was against us -- reaction of the country.
- c) My own work in Washington
- d) Refusal of the U.S. position -- a compromise reached -- the political committee
- e) The Arab Higher Committee not invited -- no application -- Arab states demand similar treatment for the Arab Higher Committee

IV When the Assembly opened Arabs demanded that the question of immediate independence of Palestine be put on the agenda -- voted down -- but returned to it time and again.

V Received an invitation to appear before the Political Committee on Tuesday, May 6. The Assembly had voted to give us a "hearing" -- what was meant by a "hearing" Made it clear to the chairman of the Political Committee, Mr. Pierson, of Canada, that we wanted the right of participation -- short of a vote -- that was agreed to.

- a) Dictated the address Wednesday morning -- read it to the Executive Wednesday evening -- delivered it Thursday morning.

- b) Had to be short and directed to the Terms of Reference of the Committee of Inquiry.
- c) The meeting room at Lake Success
- d) A great moment -- pleased with results
- e) Questions asked -- opportunity for reply -- Shertok -- Ben Gurion

VI The two main issues (1) the Terms of Reference (2) the composition of the committee

- a) Arabs sought to introduce "independence" -- backed by the Soviet -- reasons
- b) Attitude of the United States -- opposed to independence -- six amendments -- finally on motion of France, entire matter deleted.

VII We were anxious to tie up the problem of Jewish refugees with Palestine. Arabs opposed. Battle raged about Paragraph 4 of the Terms of Reference: "The special committee shall conduct investigations in Palestine and wherever it may deem useful. We won.

VIII Composition of the Committee -- the principal issue -- the inclusion of the Big Five or rather the Big Three

- a) Attitude of Great Britain, the United States and Russia
- b) Our attitude -- No Arabs -- No England
- c) The decision not to include the Big Five
- d) The Australian motion to elect a committee of 11 adopted.
- e) The following 11 were elected: Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, India, Iran, the Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. Of these two are of the British Dominions, two may be said to be within the Russian bloc, three are of Latin America, two of the Arab bloc and two of Western Europe.
- f) Our estimate of this committee
- g) This committee will have the widest powers to investigate all questions and issues relative to the problem of Palestine. It is to make its report not later than September 1, 1947, so that it will be considered by the next regular session of the Assembly.

IX The Arabs at the UN -- a solid bloc of five states

- a) intransigent in their position -- an Arab state and prohibition of all Jewish immigration
- b) Exploited every occasion for propaganda purposes
 - 1) Their one good presentation was by the representative of the Arab Higher Committee, Mr. Kattan.

- b) Most others intemperate -- threatened war -- boycott -- denied that the Jews coming to Palestine really descendant from the ancient Jewish people -- denied legality of Balfour Declaration and of the Mandate. Their worst break came with Ghouri -- defense of the Mufti -- Jews kill Christ. - *sent* -

X Pleasant surprise at UN

- a) Latin American states
b) Russia -- historic declaration of Gromyko

XI The first round ours -- next steps.

