

Dear Dr. Weizmann

January 15, 1942.

If, therefore, Norman can be brought to decide that the work already started should be carried on (and, incidentally, something obtained for your outlay of L.2500, as well as of his), it would be as well if everything could be fixed up during your visit, and the necessary funds lodged in this country, so that I can start by September (or before, according to available routes) without having to wait for any possibly delayed correspondence between New York and London.

In a few months' time it will be two years since Norman discontinued the retainer he was paying me. The last time you went to America, you were good enough to arrange for L.250 to be paid me, and during 1941 Norman (thanks, I suppose, to your kind intervention) sent me L.500.

ref 1:726

Yours sincerely,

Bell
H. I. Montague

My dear Ed.,

3rd January, 1944.

We are perfectly willing to give him an opportunity of continuing his work, and have set aside some £1600 to £2000 for that purpose.

ref 1:739

Letter. Weizmann to Norman

My dear Dr. Weizmann,

May 14, 1944

I have now written Bell that you will arrange for him to receive £500 as soon as possible. If, in accordance with our conversation, you will arrange for the K. H. to advance this amount to him for me, you can take this letter as my promise to repay the amount to the K. H., within one year from today, if not necessarily in England.

ref 1:741

Sol

Letter. Norman to Weizmann

EDWARD A. NORMAN
60 BEAVER STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

ackd.
10/24/1945

October 4, 1945

President Harry S. Truman
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am taking the liberty of writing you to place at your disposal information that might prove of value to you in connection with the Palestine and European Jewish questions, in which you are showing so much fine constructive interest.

The solution of political questions by means of the transfer of populations has become a recognized procedure. It was resorted to with considerable success in 1923, between Greece, Turkey, and Bulgaria, following the Greco-Turkish War. A current example is the case of East Prussia, Pomerania and Silesia, from which the bulk of the Germans have been or are being evacuated and into which Poles are moving. The Sudetenland is another example, and it appears probable that there may be other instances in Europe in due course.

In fact, Jewish settlement in Palestine is an instance in itself of population transfer. The difficulties that are met with in Palestine arise because of the presence of the Arabs, who might have been transferred to other locations outside of Palestine although within Arab lands. At its annual conference last December, the British Labor Party resolved:

Several years ago I made a thorough study of the capacity of Iraq to absorb a large proportion of the Palestinian Arabs. My findings, which are based on generally-accepted facts, indicate that in every way the resettling of some 750,000 Palestinian Arab peasants in Iraq would involve no practical (as distinguished from political) difficulties. Furthermore, if the Iraqi government were to provide gratis the necessary idle land, of which it is in possession of more than enough, the Arabs who would move to Iraq could expect to become far more prosperous than they ever will be able to hope to be in Palestine, and the entire cost of the operation probably could be covered by the market value of the lands they would vacate in Palestine.

I have compiled the relevant detailed facts and figures, and have collected the supporting authoritative data. I would be very happy to turn this over to you and to impart to you all that I know on the subject, for such use as you might see fit to make of it.

Respectfully yours,

Edward A. Norman

EAN:AS

ref 1:742

November 1, 1945

Mr. William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Letter to Mr. Norman WLS: dlt
DEC 28 1945 1/2/46

My dear Mr. Hassett:

Thank you for your letter of October 24, concerning mine of October 4 to the President.

In line with your suggestion, I am sending you herewith a memorandum covering the data relating to the practical, as distinguished from the political, possibilities of transferring a large number of Arabs from Palestine to Iraq.

I am in possession of or can obtain the various reports referred to in the memorandum, and am available for a discussion of any aspect of this matter at any time.

Most sincerely yours,

Edward A. Norman

ref 1:743

December 11, 1945

Mr. Herbert Hoover
Apartment 31A
Waldorf Tower Apartments
Park Avenue & 50th Street
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing this note to supplement my telephone call to your secretary this morning. I want to let you know that now that the Anglo-American Investigation Committee on Palestine has been appointed I am available with all material prepared to be placed before the commission, provided the commission should indicate a desire to hear me, in line with our conversation on November 30.

Most sincerely yours,

Edward A. Norman

ref 1:752

MEMORANDUM

ON

THE PRACTICAL POSSIBILITIES

OF

SETTLING A LARGE NUMBER OF
PALESTINIAN ARAB PEASANTS IN IRAQ

I. TRANSFER OF ARABS OUT OF PALESTINE

- 1 On account of the difficulties arising from Jewish immigration into Palestine, the British Labor Party at its annual conference (convention) in December, 1944, resolved that the Arabs resident in Palestine should be transferred elsewhere in an organized and equitable manner, but without specifying where to.
- 2 Mass transfer of Arabs to any land other than a free one with a predominantly Arab population and culture obviously would be impractical, for social, psychological, and political reasons.

II. IRAQ

- 4 The uninhabited areas appear to be exceedingly fertile and suitable, with irrigation, for the growth of just those crops of an extensive nature with the cultivation of which the Palestinian Arab peasants are familiar. ("The possibilities

III. RESETTLEMENT IN IRAQ

- 1 The transportation of a large number of people, together with their personal belongings and livestock, from Palestine to Iraq should present no practical difficulties. Palestine it-
- 2 Because of the attachment of the Arab peasants to their fellow-villagers, any transfer of Arab peasants out of Palestine and their resettlement in Iraq no doubt would be done best by entire villages, in so far as possible.

V. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 1 The material herein presented deals only with the resettling in Iraq of Arab peasants from Palestine. It does not refer to the approximately 500,000 urban Arabs in Palestine. Presumably many of these, such as artisans and merchants, would want to sell out their premises in Palestine and follow the peasants to Iraq, where they could continue to serve them from the towns.

מדינת ישראל
קונסוליה כללית
CONSULATE GENERAL OF ISRAEL

10 EAST 86TH STREET
NEW YORK 21, N.Y.
RHINELANDER 4-4200

ניו יורק.

October 15, 1948

Mr. Moshe Shertok
Israeli Delegation
15 Ave. Theophile Gautier
Paris XVI
France

Dear Moshe:

I gather that Ed Norman had written to you several weeks ago with regard to the revival of his plan about resettlement of Arabs in Iraq. From what Schechtman tells me and from a few words I had with him myself, he is a bit put out that there has been no acknowledgement of his letter. I think it would be helpful if you could drop him a few lines to tell him of the receipt of his note, thanking him for his suggestions and indicating -- if that is your view -- that the matter is not ripe for action at this time, or else that it would be useful for him to pursue his studies.

ref 1:758

Arthur Lourie

EDWARD A. NORMAN
60 BEAVER STREET
NEW YORK 4, N.Y.

December 24, 1948

His Excellency Moshe Shertok
Foreign Minister State of Israel
Tel-Aviv, Israel

Dear Mr. Shertok:

I was very pleased to learn that the very idea that I had taken upon myself the liberty of proposing to you already had occurred to the minds of yourself and some others in Israel. It so happens that through the initiative of Mr. Eliahu Epstein a meeting was held in his office in Washington last week between himself, Mr. Zalman Lifshitz, Mr. Elisha Friedman, Dr. Joseph Schechtman, and myself. Mr. Lifshitz told us about the committee, which is made up of Mr. Dannin, Mr. Weiss, and himself, and informed us that his committee felt that we here might be of very great help in this matter, in two directions in particular. The first that he mentioned was in the presentation of ideas and supporting data, on which a plan to be adopted by the Government of Israel might be based. The second was to mobilize the leaders of public opinion in this country to speak out in support of such a plan as soon as the Government of Israel would make public announcement of it.

ref 1:760

Sincerely yours,

Edward Norman

December 6, 1948.

Mr. Ezra Danin
Israeli Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
Ha - Kirya
Tel Aviv, Israel.

Dear Mr. Danin,

JOSEPH B. SCHECHTMAN
85-43 168TH PLACE
JAMAICA 3, NEW YORK
JAMAICA 6-2678

The other section contains material obtained from Mr. Edward A. Norman. I will sometime tell you the story of this venture of mine, which was all but an easy and a pleasant one and which I carried to a good end only because Mr. Lifshitz insisted so much on obtaining Norman's treasures.

But there is a condition attached to it. Mr. Norman insists that a personal letter be sent to him by Mr. M. Shertok (and by Mr. Shertok only) expressing recognition for all he has done in this particular field and for his putting at the disposal of the Israeli Government the results of his earlier activities. I had to promise most solemnly that he will receive such a letter, and I beg you to induce Mr. Shertok to send it to him. The man might be of some utility for the work to come.

ref 1:762

J. Schechtman

NOVEMBER, 1949

BOLD NEW PLAN FOR PALESTINE

By
Bartley C. Crum

ref 1:764

APPENDIX

Before World War II, Edward A. Norman of New York, working privately, quietly, and patiently for several years, interested leaders of Iraq in the idea of offering free to Arab settlers from Palestine large tracts of land in Iraq. The "Norman Plan" was: (a) voluntary settlers would move to Iraq in order to improve their own opportunities and standards of living; and (b) the transportation and resettlement costs would be covered by the sale of their land in Palestine to immigrating Jews or to Jewish colonization organizations. The outbreak of the war in 1939 put a temporary end to Mr. Norman's work.

24th February 1938

Your Excellency,

I sincerely believe that peace in Palestine can only be restored when the country is inhabited by one only of the two races now so fiercely opposed to each other. The problem, of course is not quite the same as it was in the case of Greece and Turkey where each country was dealing with its own nationals but I believe that with good will on the part of all concerned a similar happy result could be arrived at if the Arabs of Palestine were persuaded (or compelled) with the consent of the Rulers of Irak, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Transjordan to emigrate to these countries in exchange for the Jews living in the countries in question who would have to be persuaded (or compelled) to emigrate to Palestine.

EDWIN N. SALTIEL.

Edwin N. Saltiel

The Right Honourable
ANTHONY EDEN ESQ.,
H.M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
L O N D O N.

ref 1:766

PALESTINE REVIEW

FEBRUARY 10, 1939

A Territorial Solution

By EMANUEL NEUMANN

The integral solution is therefore indicated. Let the masses of Palestinian Arabs be transferred peaceably and in orderly fashion to Iraq, and the Iraqi Jews to Palestine.

We are living in a dynamic age, when far-reaching changes are taking place in international affairs with unprecedented speed. Small and half-way measures no longer serve. What might have been regarded as fantastic a generation ago, is the reality of to-day. Bold far-sighted statesmanship is wanted. It is not beyond the combined wit and resources of the British, Arabs and Jews to create a new Middle East, strong, stable, content and bound by strong ties with the progressive Democracies of the West.

ref 1:768

תוכנית מקסימום של העברת אוכלוסיה — תוכנית זו יוצאת
 מההנחה שאפשר יהיה מבחינה פוליטית להעביר את רוב בניינה
 ורוב בניינה של האוכלוסיה הערבית לארצות ערב השכנות. הכנת
 תוכנית כזו תצריך חקירה וליבון של הרבה גורמים שיקחו חלק
 בפעולה זו, כגון:

2. תוכנית לפיתוח מקסימום והעברת אוכלוסים חלקית — תוכנית
 זו מתבססת על שלושה יסודות והם:

3. תוכנית פיתוח מקסימום וריכוז אזורי של האוכלוסיה הערבית —
 תוכנית זו שונה מהקודמת בהעמידה דרישות צנועות ביותר כלפי
 האוכלוסיה הערבית. עיקר תוכנית יעמוד על יישוב חבלי הארץ
 הבלתי מיושבים או המיושבים רק במקצת באמצעות האפשרויות
 הטכניות והמשקיות המפורטות לעיל. לשם השלמת מסגרתה של
 המדינה העברית ומניעת חיכוכים בין שתי האומות אשר בארץ,
 תוצא אל הפועל תוכנית של העברת אוכלוסים בין-אזורית או
 תוך-אזורית בארץ גופא. תוכנית כזו יכולה לשקף את מינימום
 דרישותיו המדיניות כאשר היא מוצגת בתביעות קטנות ביותר אל
 האוכלוסיה הערבית.

ref 1:789

Joseph Weitz. Diary entry. 1 June 1942

1. תוכנית מקסימום של העברת אוכלוסיה — תוכנית זו יוצאת
 מההנחה שאפשר יהיה מבחינה פוליטית להעביר את רוב בניינה
 ורוב בניינה של האוכלוסיה הערבית לארצות ערב השכנות. הכנת
 תוכנית כזו תצריך חקירה וליבון של הרבה גורמים שיקחו חלק
 בפעולה זו, כגון:
2. תוכנית לפיתוח מקסימום והעברת אוכלוסים חלקית — תוכנית
 זו מתבססת על שלושה יסודות והם:
3. תוכנית פיתוח מקסימום וריכוז אזורי של האוכלוסיה הערבית —
 תוכנית זו שונה מהקודמת בהעמידה דרישות צנועות ביותר כלפי
 האוכלוסיה הערבית. עיקר תוכנית יעמוד על יישוב חבלי הארץ
 הבלתי מיושבים או המיושבים רק במקצת באמצעות האפשרויות
 הטכניות והמשקיות המפורטות לעיל. לשם השלמת מסגרתה של
 המדינה העברית ומניעת חיכוכים בין שתי האומות אשר בארץ,
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 דרישותיו המדיניות כאשר היא מוצגת בתביעות קטנות ביותר אל
 האוכלוסיה הערבית.

ref 1:796

Ra'anan Weitz. Nihoah Hashita Hakotzanit

Sieff Plans to Transfer Arabs

THE demand for organised mass emigration to Palestine after the war was made by 500 delegates in New York last Sunday, when a resolution was adopted at a meeting of the New York Region of the United Palestine Appeal.

The resolution asked President Roosevelt to call a meeting of the inter-governmental committee for refugees, for the purpose of exploring the possibilities of large-scale Jewish settlement in Palestine. At the same meeting Mr. Israel Sieff, Vice-President of the English Zionist Organisation, suggested that 1,000,000 Jews should be settled in Palestine during the next ten years, and that large sections of the Arab population of Palestine should be transferred to Iraq and other Middle-Eastern Arab States.

ref 1:799

Jewish Standard, 21 November 1941

[illegible]

באפערירונגן און סאטנאפערטער
ווער פון אפגעבעטע וואס אראפ
אדער אפגעטען פון אפגעבעטע
(3) און איינצונעמען פון אפגעבעטע
אראפ און פארשטעלען ווערען
אויסן 500 יענעלעך, וואס בא
לייגען זיך און אן דער אפגעבעטע
האבען איינשטעלן אפגעבעטע
אפגעבעטע פון פערזענלעך ווערען און
דער אלץ אפגעבעטע און ווערען פון דער
אויסערדעוונג קאמפיוטער פאר ליכט

דער דאזיקער דאקומענט וועט דאך
פון נעמען און אטראכט די פאלגנד-
ע פונקטן: (1) די גרויסע טעריטא-
ריעס, וואס די ארבעטער האבען; (2)
אויספארעכונג פון פאלעסטינער ארא-
בער און די דאזיקע טעריטאריעס, מיט
דער פארזיכערונג פון די דעכט פון
דע ארבעטער, וואס וועלען איינשיטן
צו לעבען אין דער אויטאנאמישער איר-
דישע נעמענט.

[illegible]

Der Tog
17 November 1941

ref 1:799

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

FIFTH SERIES—VOLUME 376

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST VOLUME OF SESSION 1941-42

THIS VOLUME MAY BE CITED AS 376 H.C. DEB. 5 s.

COMPRISING PERIOD FROM

WEDNESDAY, 12th NOVEMBER to FRIDAY, 19th DECEMBER, 1941

EXIT PERMIT (Mr. ISRAEL SIEFF).

24. Mr. Culverwell asked the Home Secretary upon what grounds permission was granted for Mr. Israel Sieff to travel to the United States of America, in view of the propaganda against, and attacks upon, the policy of His Majesty's Government in relation to Palestine in which this man has indulged?

Mr. H. Morrison: An exit permit was granted to Mr. Sieff on 16th September, 1941, to enable him to travel to the United States of America for the purpose of promoting export sales to the United States of America.

Mr. Culverwell: Is my right hon. Friend aware that Mr. Sieff is stirring up anti-British feeling among his co-religionists in America, and that he is antagonising the Arabs by urging that they should be sent to other Arab countries in order to make room for more Jews in Palestine? Does not my right hon. Friend think that this sort of propaganda ought to stop?

Mr. Morrison: I have no evidence that Mr. Sieff desires or seeks to stir up anti-British feeling. While there are various views on the question of Palestine, I think everybody is entitled to have his opinions.

Mr. Culverwell: Has my right hon. Friend seen the report of a speech which

Mr. Sieff made in New York, to which I drew his attention, urging that the Arabs should be displaced in order to make room for Jews, and ought not British subjects who are given trade permits to go to America be told to keep their mouths shut?

Mr. Morrison: It is, of course, the responsibility of everybody who has an exit permit, particularly trade permits, to be discreet in what he says, but I have not seen the report to which my hon. Friend refers, and I do not think he sent it to me.

Mr. Culverwell: I sent it to the Department.

Mr. Morrison: If we have received the report, I will take an opportunity of looking at it. I do not want to go so far as to seek to prevent a British subject travelling abroad from expressing reasonable views on matters on which there is not universal agreement.

Commander Locker-Lampson: Is not Mr. Sieff a very much honoured and liked representative and envoy, and did he not offer to fight for England at the beginning of the war?

Mr. Mander: And have there not been very good reasons in the past for criticising the British Government's attitude towards Palestine?

Commander Locker-Lampson: Why be anti-Semitic? That is what Hitler wants.

M. & S.

A MEMBER of the House of Commons (Mr. S. T. Culverwell) recently suggested that Mr. Israel Sieff was stirring up anti-British feeling among his coreligionists in America and antagonising Arabs by urging that the latter should be drafted to other Arab countries in order to make room for more Jews in Palestine. The proposal is, of course, not a new one, and the principle underlying it was adopted in another country with salutary effect. But what is much more interesting—and curious—is that this is not the first occasion on which Mr. Sieff has been the subject of Parliamentary questions, and that the same unsolicited attention has been bestowed on one of his business colleagues, Mr. Simon Marks. Now, though one immediately presumes that the actual Parliamentary spokesmen in these cases offer their questions and the innuendo involved in perfect good faith, the question arises whether there is anything at the back of this somewhat strange vendetta? Is it a case of the persons who prompt those innocent Parliamentary instruments indulging in mere anti-Jewish skirmishing, with a well-known Jewish firm as the object of attack? Are these two gentlemen assailed merely because they are believed to be wealthy, and regardless of the liberality with which they respond to every call, Jewish or national? Or is the nature of their business—legitimate in every way, but subject to competitors' dislike—considered to make them specially vulnerable to attacks which may conceal wider purposes?

Jewish Chronicle

26 December 1941

ref 1:814

Mr. CULVERWELL, M.P. EXPLAINS

House of Commons,
London, S.W.1.
27th December, 1941.

Dear Sir.—My question to the Home Secretary regarding Mr. Sieff's activities in the U.S.A. raises a matter which is, in my opinion, of great importance to Jews and to those who have their interests at heart. It will hardly be disputed that the best, if not the only, hope for the future of Jewry lies in an Allied victory.

Now, when the British Empire and her Allies are struggling for their existence and need all the support which they can obtain, seems a most inopportune time for Mr. Sieff to propose (as reported in the "Jewish Standard" of November 21) "the transplantation of large sections of the Arab population of Palestine to Iraq and other Middle Eastern Arab States" in order to make room for Jewish immigrants—a proposal which must obviously antagonize the Arabs and might, if adopted by the Government, drive them into the Axis camp.

Yours faithfully,

C. T. CULVERWELL, M.P.

ref 1:824 Jewish Standard, 2 January 1942

M.P.'s CRITICISM OF MR. SIEFF

Mr. Culverwell Explains

From Mr. C. T. CULVERWELL, M.P.
To the Editor of THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

SIR,—Your comments on my question to the Home Secretary regarding Mr. Sieff's speech in New York suggest that I am engaged in a sinister or malicious conspiracy against Jews in general and Mr. Sieff in particular. On the contrary, I raised the matter in Parliament because, in my opinion, it is of great importance to Jews and to those who have their interests at heart. I do not for one moment doubt Mr. Sieff's patriotism, but I regard his proposal, at this critical stage of the war, when the Allies need all the support they can obtain, for "the transplantation of large sections of the Arab population of Palestine to Iraq and other Middle Eastern Arab States" in order to make room for Jewish immigrants as most ill advised, inopportune, and inimical to our war effort. It cannot be denied that the adoption of such a policy is likely to antagonise the Arabs, and perhaps make them our active enemies. Neither will it be disputed that the existence and salvation of Jewry depends upon the success of the Allied cause. To revive during hostilities the delicate and dangerous problem of Palestine cannot assist our cause, and it was solely for that reason that I asked the Home Secretary to prohibit persons who have secured an exit permit for purposes of trade from making irresponsible and indiscreet statements likely to hinder our successful prosecution of the war.

I am, &c.

House of Commons, S.W.1. C. T. CULVERWELL.
[The comments on Mr. Culverwell's remarks in our issue of December 26 certainly did not suggest that he was engaged in a sinister or malicious conspiracy against Jews in general and Mr. Sieff in particular. We suggested the possibility of Mr. Culverwell and others having been misled by persons of less high-minded purpose, and we deplored what appeared to be an "unsporting" use of Parliamentary immunity when a gentleman was accused, as was Mr. Sieff, of "stirring up anti-Jewish feeling amongst his coreligionists in America." However, Mr. Culverwell's frank statement above adequately meets the latter objection. As for the "delicate and dangerous problem of Palestine," we believe this is grossly exaggerated. The Arabs will be, as far as the ex-Mufti and his fellow-gangsters can secure it, our active enemies. That means the politically minded Arabs. The mere suggestion by a Jew that some sort of voluntary exchange of population should be considered is scarcely likely to have much effect one way or the other.—Ed. J.C.]

ref 1:827 Jewish Chronicle, 9 January 1942

JUSTICE FOR MY PEOPLE

By Ernst Frankenstein

2. The Population

The Jewish State is the state of the Jewish people. Every Jew will have the right to settle within its boundaries. As the land is small and partly a desert, this natural right entails the necessity of handling the problem of the non-Jewish population with the greatest care. Certainly, every non-Jew who is entitled to live in Palestine will not only be protected but, if he is not a citizen of a foreign state, may become a citizen of the Jewish State and enjoy the rights and advantages of every citizen. That, however, does not apply to those non-Jews who have immigrated illegally, nor to those who do not want to become citizens of the Jewish State. Illegal immigrants will have to be gradually repatriated, while those who do not want to become citizens of the new state should be given the opportunity of settling in another country.

All those Arabic-speaking people who have to be repatriated and those who decline Jewish nationality should be given the chance of starting a better and happier life than they had led before, thus encouraging others to follow their example voluntarily. Contentment of individuals is the best guarantee against political tensions. If every Arabic-speaking peasant and craftsman of Palestine and Transjordan is given the possibility of acquiring, without any expense on his part, a house and land of his own in an Arab country, many of them may gladly take the opportunity.

ref 1:831

Sub-Committee on "Palestine and the Arab States".

Observations to the draft report.

Seven years ago I submitted to the Jewish Agency the outlines of an international scheme for the reconstruction of the Middle East, combined with the (voluntary) transfer of the Palestinian Arabs. Now, ex-President Hoover has developed a plan on exactly the same lines (cp. Zionist Review, November 30th), and the American Zionist Emergency Council has welcomed the plan (cp. Jewish Telegraphic Agency Bulletin, November 26th).

ref 1:833

London, 3rd December 1945.
Ernst Frankenstein

"NOWHERE TO LAY THEIR HEADS"

THE JEWISH TRAGEDY IN EUROPE
AND ITS SOLUTION

by

VICTOR GOLLANCZ

We give our guarantee that every Arab in Palestine shall have complete civic equality and religious freedom. But if, in spite of this guarantee, any Arab should wish to leave Palestine and settle elsewhere we will make it easy for him to do so; we will see to it that the change takes place in the best conditions, and we will provide ample funds, in each case, for the secure establishment of a new home." If even some hundreds of thousands of Arabs availed themselves of the offer, the cost would be a trifle in the budget of Great Britain alone, and infinitesimal in that of the United Nations. Would not the money be well spent? Is the tiny sacrifice it represents—were it ever necessary, as it never would be—too much to ask?

ref 1:835

Bridge Between Two Worlds

THE MIDDLE EAST CROSS-ROADS OF HISTORY. By Eliahu Ben-Horin. 248 p. New York: W. W. Norton & Co. \$3.

By PHILIP K. HITTI
Author of "The Arabs"

Finally, Ben-Horin's heart is moved with compassion and he prescribes "A Remedy for Arab Troubles." The remedy in a nutshell is "transfer of population," transfer of the bulk of the Arab population of Palestine and Transjordan—some 1,200,000—to Iraq, which some maintain can hold thirty to thirty-five millions of population. This would make room for about 3,000,000 Jews and solve the Jewish problem in all lands.

That those Arabs may not be particularly anxious to be transferred, that some of them claim descent from the Canaanites of pre-Hebraic times, that the Moslems among them—consider the

Islamic conquest of Palestine in the seventh Christian century a gift from Allah that cannot be relinquished without compromising their faith—all these and other questions either never occurred to Mr. Ben-Horin or, if they did, were not deemed by him worthy of consideration.

This "transfer of population" remedy once applied could be generalized. The author thinks that the transfer of the Armenians from Syria to Soviet Russia and the Arab-Christian minorities from Iraq to Lebanon may contribute a great deal to the elimination of strife and to greater regional homogeneity of the population. It is all as simple, painless and beneficial as extracting a sore tooth by the scientific methods of modern dental surgery.

ref 1:837

New York Times Book Review. 12 September 1943

THE MIDDLE EAST

Crossroads of History

By ELIAHU BEN-HORIN

The Palestinian Arabs will not be removed to a foreign land but to an Arab land. They will find in Iraq the same environment, the same language, religion, and mode of life. The distance between their old and new homelands is small, involving no crossing of oceans or seas, and the climatic conditions are the same. If the transfer and the colonization project are well planned and systematically carried out, the Palestinian fellah will get better soil and more promising life conditions than he can ever expect to obtain in Palestine. The city Arab, too, can find a much wider field for his activities and ambitions within the framework of a larger and purely Arab state unit.

The idea of the transfer of the Palestinian Arabs is not new. I have mentioned one project planned for this purpose. Also the Palestine Royal Commission, in its ill-fated Partition Plan, envisaged a Jewish-Arab exchange of population, which would have involved about 250,000 Arabs as against a much smaller number of Jews. The Royal Commission had suggested that the Arabs be transferred to Transjordan. What I suggest is that the bulk of the Arab population of Palestine and Transjordan be transferred to Iraq. I should like to add that if the Greco-Turkish exchange of population, involving about 1,700,000 persons (1,300,000 Greeks and 400,000 Turks), was executed within eighteen months, the transfers of population in the Middle East (Palestinian Arabs to Iraq; Iraqi, Syrian, and Yemenite Jews to Palestine; Armenians to Soviet Armenia, etc.) could be accomplished with no lesser speed.

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ההסתדרות הכללית של העובדים העברים בארץ-ישראל

הועידה החמישית של ההסתדרות

1942 באפריל 19-23

ב'ר' באייר תש"ב

י. בן שם: צריך לחשוב עד הסוף עם כל החריפות שבדבר. הארץ הזאת תהיה או לנו או לערבים. בשותפות לא תוכל להתקיים. עלינו להביא בפני העולם הגדול, הדמוקרטי, גם בפני עולם המזרח, את בעיית ישראל, את הסבל של מיליוני אנשים במשך אלפים בשנים, ואת הסבל הכללי בעולם עקב הבעיה הזאת ולדרוש את ארץ-ישראל כולה לנו. בדור האחרון שלנו ידעו לפתור בעיות טרגיות כאלה ובחייב. אני מתכוון להעביר את אוכלוסיית אג'יה לשומר הצעיר דברים אשר אמרתי להם באחת המועצות של ההסתדרות ולא שמעתי תשובה מהם: מה הוא הדבר הזה? היה כפר ערבי, במקום שנמצא כעת קיבוץ השומר הצעיר, היה כפר שני ושלישי וכך וכך, אני חושב שאופן הסידור שלנו היה חרבותי ואנושי מאוד. היה כפר ערבי בניפס, שאני עוד בקרתי בו, ועכשיו נמצאת שם שריד. אותו טרגספר, שעשיתם בניפס — אני מציע שתסדרו אלף פעמים. כל הצדק והיושר אתנו, ואנחנו צריכים לבוא לאנושיות ולדרוש סידור יסודי.

Address by Israel Ben-Shem to Fifth Histadrut Convention.
April 1942

ref 1:846