

Reference:-

CO 733/310/75528

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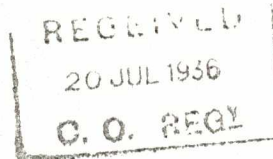
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BY AIR MAIL

Reference to previous correspondence:-

Secretary of State's
High Commissioner's } Despatch No. 685
of 30.6.36.

Despatch No. 738
Reference No. CF/421/36.



No. 604. 28

Palestine,

13th July, 1936.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information,

the papers noted below on the subject of the disturbances in Palestine.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

His Majesty's

Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies.

Arthur Wauchope
High Commissioner for Palestine.

Date	Description
6. 7. 36.	Letter to His Eminence, The President, Supreme Moslem Council.
1. 7. 36.	Letter from His Eminence, The President, Supreme Moslem Council.

CO. 733/310

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ENCLOSURE No. 738
 No. 14/7/36
 SUPREME MOSLEM COUNCIL,
 JERUSALEM.

1st July, 1936.

His Excellency,
 The High Commissioner,
 Government Offices,
 Jerusalem.

Your Excellency,

*2nd. and
No. 604.*

I have received from the Chief Secretary a letter dated the 27th June, 1936, expressing Your Excellency's desire that our attention be drawn to certain paragraphs of our letter dated the 22nd June, 1936, in connection with the speech of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, delivered during the debate on Palestine in the House of Commons on the 19th June, 1936, and to reply as follows, in explanation of the matters raised therein:-

2. There was no intention to raise a fourth issue in addition to the three issues which the Arab people are demanding as a basis for changing the policy which is being pursued in Palestine.

The Supreme Moslem Council, whenever an occasion arose and especially whenever anxiety prevailed amongst Moslems as to the destiny of the Holy Places expressed their fears as well as the fears of Moslems owing to Jewish designs. In expressing such fears the Council relied upon evidence and proofs which were made available to them, by following up the aims and intents of Zionism, and which were concluded not only from pictures, as was intimated in your letter, but from statements of official Jewish bodies, declarations of responsible Jewish leaders and articles published by Jewish leaders, which are calculated to cause anxiety amongst the Moslems at such Jewish designs and intentions. I shall submit to Your Excellency, under/

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a separate letter, some distinct documents which will show that the Palestine case is, for the Jews, fundamentally and principally a religious case, and which will disclose the extent of their designs on Moslem places.

3. At this juncture, I feel compelled to state that paragraph (4) of the letter under reference quoted an incomplete paragraph of the Shaw Commission's Report and omitted the paragraphs immediately following and completing it, which support us in entertaining such fears, and which read :

"On the other hand, the Mufti or any educated Moslem might etc.,"

4. In their capacity as the principal Moslem religious authority in Palestine, the Supreme Moslem Council had, on many occasions, officially addressed themselves to the Government here and in London and to the League of Nations with regard to such Jewish designs. The Moslem world has shown great concern about the Palestine case, the effect of which was manifested in the case of the place of the Holy Buraq when delegations were sent to take part in the defence before the International Buraq (Wailing Wall) Commission as well as in the Moslem Congresses which were held on behalf of Palestine locally and in other countries and in the societies which were formed in many Moslem countries under the name of societies for the protection of Holy Places in Palestine. All this will clearly indicate that the religious aspect of the Palestine case is not a new aspect which is now raised.

5. Likewise, it was not our intention in our previous letter to make a new appeal to religious feelings throughout the Moslem world in order to achieve certain political aims in Palestine. Indeed, the Moslem world has previously shown its feelings towards Palestine on every occasion and is now showing its feeling without the

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necessity of making an appeal to them as the Palestine case is a well known case to the Moslem world.

6. Indeed, the object of our letter was to appeal to His Majesty's Government not to continue to be influenced by Jewish propaganda to an extent that they ignore the religious feelings of the whole Moslem world and to remind them of the connections which all Moslems have with Palestine, as the Right Honourable the Secretary of State omitted to make any reference to such connection in his speech in the House of Commons.

No matter what developments the Palestine case may take it will continue to be a religious case to the Moslem world and a national case to all the Arabs, and His Majesty's Government, as we are confident, are anxious to maintain their friendship with Moslems and Arabs and to regard their feelings with deference.

We trust that neither Your Excellency nor the Right Honourable the Secretary of State will entertain the thought that we are not extremely anxious ^{to see} that peace and tranquility is restored to the Holy Land. I wish to assure Your Excellency that the sole purpose of our previous letter was to draw the attention of the Secretary of State and the Government in London to the necessity of paying attention to Moslem Holy places in order that Moslem public opinion be reassured, and in appealing to His Majesty's Government to respect Moslem religious feelings, we desire to show the actual facts which the Jews exert every endeavour to conceal so that His Majesty's Government may continue to take their side, and to be influenced, together with Parliament, ^{by} with their propaganda, for ever. As regards myself I am still of the same attitude to which Your Excellency refer in your letter ^{in that I} ~~and~~ am actuated by a keen and distinct desire to follow lawful and peaceful means in asserting the nation's

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rights.

7. In conclusion, I hope I have made it perfectly clear that we had no intention to raise a fourth issue anew nor to excite religious feelings in such critical circumstances, and succeeded in explaining the paragraphs to which you refer in a manner which will leave no room for concluding any other intention.

With highest respects,

(SGD) MOHD. AMIN,

PRESIDENT,
SUPREME MOSLEM COUNCIL.