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INDIAN MOSLEMS AND PALESTINE

RESOLUTIONS OF BOMBAY CONFERENCE

The following resolutions which were unanimously adopted by the All-India Moslem Conference for Palestine, sitting in Bombay, were communicated to the Palestinian Arab Delegation which is now in London:—

This Conference of the Moslems of India hereby declares that the Holy Land of Palestine, being included in the Jazirat ul Arab, is the trust of the whole Moslem world and not of the Mussalmans of Palestine alone, and that, therefore, the Indian Moslems are deeply concerned with regard to the existing situation in Palestine and its future administration.

While Moslems have permitted both Christians and Jews to worship in Palestine according to the tenets of their respective Faiths and to visit it as pilgrims for centuries together, they cannot, at this stage, permit it to be used as a dumping ground for the Jews of the entire world to the exclusion and detriment of the original inhabitants of Palestine, the vast majority of whom are Moslems who used to live in perfect peace and harmony with the Christians and Jewish inhabitants before the Balfour Declaration was made.

The Moslems of India cannot tolerate poor Palestinian Moslems being bought out of their ancestral lands by the immigrants, and must insist on a change of policy on the part of the Administration and the enactment of a Land Alienation Act to prevent lands from passing out from the hands of the original inhabitants of Palestine.

Similarly, the Moslems of India cannot tolerate Jewish monopolies being created which would before long make the proposed Jewish Home, according to the Balfour Declaration, a purely Jewish State, such as the Zionists clearly desire to establish in Palestine.

The only effective means for doing justice to the original inhabitants of Palestine is the establishment of a free and independent Government there, in accordance with the principles of self-determination, composed exclusively of its original inhabitants and free from any Mandatory control, whether in the interests of Zionism or of Imperialism.

This Conference, therefore, resolves that both the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate must go.

Whereas the Moslem world cannot tolerate any changes in the *status quo ante bellum* in connexion with the arrangement and administration of its Holy Places in deference to any other community, and insists that the same be continued unchanged, this Conference considers the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry with regard to the question of the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, for which Great Britain has obtained the sanction of the League of Nations, to be wholly unnecessary and dangerous and, therefore, this Conference emphatically opposes its appointment.

A Deputation is to be sent to Europe to render all possible help and assistance to the Moslems of Palestine; a permanent committee of the All-India Moslems for Palestine is to be appointed, and propaganda is to be conducted in Islamic countries.

Although the Commission appointed for inquiring into the Palestinian disturbances of 1929 did not possess the confidence of the Moslem world, yet it has admitted that the principal cause of the breach of peace was that the Jews had deliberately provoked the Arabs by insulting their religion, and, therefore, this Conference demands that the Government of Palestine, for the sake of peace and tranquility, and in order to promote good will among the inhabitants of Palestine, should forthwith release all those Moslem Arabs who have been convicted as the result of the riot.

This Conference decides to celebrate Palestine Day all over India, Burma, and Ceylon after the Juma prayers on Friday, May 16. It fully appreciates the efforts of the Arab Delegation in London in securing the just rights and claims of their countrymen, and the integrity of the Holy Places in Palestine, and assures them of the entire support and sympathy of Indian Mussalmans with their mission.

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DOPTED