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BY AIR MAIL

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PALESTINESECRETREFERENCE NO. CF/431/33HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE,
JERUSALEM.

January, 1934.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that there are indications in the Arabic Press that the Moslem feast at the end of Ramadan called Eid al Fitr, will be made the occasion for political demonstrations and processions.

ENCLOSURE IENCLOSURE II

In this connection, I enclose a copy of a communication I have received from Musa Kazem Pasha, Head of the Arab Executive, and my letter in reply to that communication.

I have instructed Major Campbell to visit the Pasha, who is now in Jericho, to see if some arrangement can be made with the Arab Executive to prevent illegal demonstrations on the 16th January, or any other date.

2. I had a very friendly talk with the Mufti on January 2nd. I told him that I had informed Musa Kazem Pasha very clearly that I would allow no procession without the permission of Government and that I would allow no procession to pass within the neighbourhood of Government Offices.

The Mufti said he fully accepted these two principles, but that he believed that the people merely wished to walk peacefully through the streets of Jerusalem and other towns as a protest against Jewish settlement in Palestine, and that they had no wish to cause disturbances.

The Right Honourable

Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, G.B.E., M.P., etc., etc.,
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

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I said I believed that was true of the people in general, but I was doubtful if it were true of all the leaders and that some of the leaders had made speeches that might well excite people to commit illegal acts.

The Mufti remarked that there were many excitable individuals both among the Arabs and the Police, but in order to prevent disturbances he would be willing to select a number of respected people whom he could trust to walk with the crowd on leaving the Mosque on the 16th, and these men would act as a steadying influence on the crowd. On the other hand, he hoped that I would give orders to ensure that the Police should show every forbearance so long as the people remained orderly.

I replied that His Eminence could be sure of that, but I would make a further request to him that he should give definite instructions to all preachers in the various Mosques of Palestine not to adopt a merely negative attitude in their sermons on the 16th and on the preceding Friday, but that these preachers should use all their influence by advising the crowd to behave in an orderly manner.

His Eminence promised he would do this.

I then quoted to him some inflammatory words reported to have been used by two prominent Waqf officials, whom I named.

The Haj replied that these two men were by no means personal friends of his, and, as a matter of fact, he was now being accused by his opponents of being pro-British in sentiment and of acting under my instructions, but, none the less, he was grateful that I had given him this information regarding these two officials.

I then said that Government could not allow any procession, even if it started peacefully from the Mosque, to proceed by the route proposed by the Pasha, and the

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Mufti at once said that he would use all the influence that he possessed to persuade the leaders to give up this route and to confine the movements of the procession to the cemetery, very close to the Mosque, and a short route which I had suggested. He added that he thought there would be more chance of my proposal being accepted if he could induce the Arab Executive to make the suggestion as if it came rather from them than as an order from me.

I said that Major Campbell, the District Commissioner, would be in touch with the Arab Executive, and I should be very glad if His Eminence could induce the Arab Executive to make this plan on their own suggestion.

The Mufti said he thought he could persuade them, but personally I have the gravest doubts if anyone can now induce the Arab Executive to listen to moderate councils. I emphasized the strong feeling that would be roused in England if an Arab crowd were to cause the death of British police or British soldiers, and how such feelings, if once excited in England, would adversely affect Arab interests and would make the adoption of a liberal policy in Palestine all the more difficult.

3. It is hard to see clearly into the mind of any Arab, especially such an acute mind as His Eminence possesses. I am confident that the Mufti likes me, respects me and is anxious to help me; how far he is sincere in his promise to be of active assistance to the Government is a more difficult problem. He realizes the folly of unlawful demonstrations and clashes with authority, but he fears that the criticisms of his many opponents that he is too pro-British may weaken his influence in the country. The

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The fact, however, that his influence is on the side of moderation is of definite value; were it contrariwise I consider widespread disturbances would be inevitable.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Arthur Wauchop

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE.