

WHITE PAPER NOTE AROUSES PALESTINE

**MacDonald's Letter Satisfies
Jews, but Arabs Criticize It
as Vague and Ambiguous.**

MOSLEMS URGED TO RESIST

**Arab Paper Cites India in Calling
for a United Front in Opposing
Moves to Europeanize the East.**

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15.—Prime Minister MacDonald's latest declaration on the British White Paper issued in October has been received in Palestine with mixed feelings.

On the one hand, the Jews regard the tone of Mr. MacDonald's letter addressed to Dr. Chaim Weizmann as an attempt by the British Government to mollify world Jewish opinion by denying the impeachments in the White Paper against the Jewish up-building of the Holy Land and his act as a reconsideration of the alleged "Jewish shortcomings." The Arabs, on the other hand, express astonishment that Mr. MacDonald should have surrendered so easily to Jewish pressure.

"This document is the strangest of its kind ever issued. There is an obvious contradiction of the White Paper, showing us how great is the power of international Jewry, and that the British Government has yielded to the influence of Weizmann, Rothschild and the others," declared tonight's Alhayat, an Arab newspaper and the organ of the Supreme Moslem Council.

That the British Government is yielding to the flood of Jewish protests from all parts of the globe and not to the personal negotiations of the Zionist leaders in London is the statement to be made in tomorrow morning's Doar Hayom, a Revisionist daily. This paper will say that the tone of this declaration has perhaps to some extent restored confidence in the British Government, shaken by the White Paper, and that the reversal of the British attitude reflects consideration of world Jewry's opinion and that the latter consequently has been justified.

Nevertheless the paper points out that the essential points on which variance arose still remain, namely, embargoes against immigration and land purchases, and that it is only the British Government's tone that has altered.

Falastin, the English supplement to a Jaffa Arab paper, says today:

"The honor of making the vaguest statement about Palestine must go to Premier MacDonald for declaring there would be no change in the White Paper policy, while at the same time assuring Dr. Weizmann of satisfaction in a letter addressed to him which 'removed a great deal of misunderstanding.' This conflict means that the Arab has been swindled in these explanations."

This paper proceeds to say that insult has been added to injury by not informing the Arab leaders simultaneously with Dr. Weizmann about the new declaration, although the Arabs were as much concerned in its amplification or removal of misunderstandings as the Jews. The paper concludes with the following statement:

"If there is a change in the White Paper which is harmful to the Arabs, then the latter must systematically range the whole East against a policy which would ruin the Arabs as a whole and not only in Palestine. The issue becomes clearer daily that Zionism means to the Arabs and other Moslems the spear point of imperialism and foreign culture, but the East refuses to be Europeanized under the false plea of civilization and intends to shape its own destiny.

"The battle which is being waged in India between two ideas has been started here by Maulana Shaukat Ali's repeated lectures against Europeanization. Just as in India the fight between the two civilizations started from political issues, it is bound to start in all Arab lands sooner or later on political pretexts. Is this letter to Dr. Weizmann such a needed blow?"

That Premier MacDonald's statement will satisfy the Jews but not the Arabs, despite the fact that the British Government's policy remains unchanged essentially, was the message given to your correspondent by Aouni Bey Abdullhahi, principal Moslem secretary of the Palestine Arab Executive.

While any definite Arab attitude

depends upon how the new British policy in the Holy Land is to be executed, nevertheless Premier MacDonald's letter to Dr. Weizmann is ambiguous and difficult of interpretation, according to Acouni Bey. The Arab Executive intends to study the new declaration with a view to further representations to the British Government, he said.

"My personal opinion is that it would be to the best interests of the Jews at present not to press their issues unduly, such as insistence on land purchases, but to consolidate the distressed financial position of the Holy Land, which is bad. Unemployment is rife on a large scale and it would be better to arrange matters locally before embarking on new ventures," said Aouni Bey.

It now transpires, according to information from a most reliable source, that last November the Palestine Government sent to both the Arab Executive and the Jewish Agency the new land and immigration laws proposed in the White Paper, which considerably restricted the Jewish undertaking in the Holy Land. It is understood the Arab Executive replied to the British authorities immediately but that the Jewish Agency withheld comment, possibly because of the negotiations in London between the Jewish leaders and the British Government. It is believed possible, however, that this new legislation may be longer withheld pending further government consideration.