

International Refugee Organization. The linking of the refugee problem with Palestine has made, and will continue to make, the solution of both problems infinitely more difficult, if not impossible.

These are two different and distinct problems, and each must be solved on its own merits, and all countries of the world must participate and share in the responsibility of its solution.

The Arab Higher Committee deems it absolutely essential that a recommendation be made to the mandatory to take immediate steps for the complete stoppage of all Jewish immigration into Palestine, whether termed legal or illegal. For, in the view of the Arab population, all immigration of Jews into Palestine is illegal.

In the fourth place, the problem of Palestine cannot and should not be regarded as one of historical connection. The Zionists claim Palestine on the grounds that at one time, more than two thousand years ago, the Jews had a kingdom in a part of it. Were this argument to be taken as a basis for settling international issues, a dislocation of immeasurable magnitude would take place. It would mean the redrawing of the map of the whole world. It has been said you cannot set back the hands of the clock of history by twenty years. What should then be said when an effort is made to set the clock of history back by twenty centuries in an attempt to give away a country on the ground of a transitory historic association?

These are the observations which we wish to put before you at this stage. I hope I have succeeded, without overtaxing your patience, in indicating the real cause of the disease. I trust that the Committee of Investigation, and later on the General Assembly, will be convinced that this apparently complex problem cannot be solved except on the basis of principles already agreed upon by all the civilized world and sanctioned by the Charter.

It is high time that Palestine's right to independence be recognized and that this tormented country enjoy the blessing of a democratic Government. It is high time, also, that a policy which has been impairing the ethnological and political structure of the country be brought to an end by the highest body in the world.

We are not asking something which is out of line with what humanity has striven throughout the ages; nothing more than what each of you would wish for his own country; nothing more than what is consecrated by the lofty principles and purposes of your very Charter; nothing more than what the greatest of Masters, who arose from that holy but to-day tortured land, taught every one of us when he said: "Do unto others as ye would have them do unto you."

Thank you.

2. QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE BY VARIOUS DELEGATES

Mr FIDERKIEWICZ (*Poland*): I would like to ask the representative of the Arab Higher Committee of Palestine the same questions that I asked the Jewish Agency representative.

First, who represents the Arab Higher Committee in Palestine, how many organizations? How is the Executive Committee established and organized, and how does it work?