

# IMUN Historical Security Council

## Officer Report 2021

### *The Question of The Establishment of Israel*

#### Introduction:

World War II has just ended and, although the world seems to be at peace once again, there are still several problems that need to be fixed. Notwithstanding that some of the solutions to some problems may seem to be obvious, one of these problems is going to challenge Member Nations and alliances. The problem is going to define what will happen in the future in terms of conflict and wars. This problem is the question of the establishment of Israel.

#### Background information:

By the end of World War I, the Ottoman Empire had collapsed, and Palestine was left under British rule. Herzl and the Zionists wanted Jewish migration to Palestine, which was run, on the behalf of the League of Nations, by the British Government. The League of Nations granted the British a mandate to help them reconstitute a national home for the Jewish people. This process is also known as Zionism. It should be noted that Palestine consisted of mostly Arab people.

This problem of territory began a long time before today. In 1917 the British Foreign Secretary submitted a formal declaration that encouraged the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This formal declaration became known as the Balfour Declaration. The British hoped that this would gain the support of the Allies of World War I. This British mandate was approved by the League of Nations in 1922, the Arabs were overwhelmingly opposed to this declaration.

They believed that the creation of this Jewish homeland would lead to the extermination of the Arab Palestinians in that area. This would only be the beginning of the conflict.

Palestine, as well as other Arab countries, did not like the idea of Zionism. The Arabs felt as though their land was being stolen but the Jewish were very keen on creating their own nation. In 1937, came the British Peel Commission, which was supposed to partition Palestine between the Jews and the Arabs. As part of this plan there would still be population transfers happening to adjust ethnic divides. The Jewish agreed to this as they believed that it was the first step in creating their homeland. However, the Arabs disagreed as they felt as though they were losing land.

Another proposal that was made by the British government was The White Paper that was released in 1939. This proposal was aiming to create a Jewish homeland inside an independent Palestine, within the timespan of ten years. Both Arabs and Jews would share the government according to this plan. It also put a limitation on Jewish immigration to a maximum of 75,000 people over five years. This plan also called for restrictions when it came to purchasing land for the Jews in Palestine. Both sides were against this paper. Especially the Jewish, because they felt as though it did not ensure them a homeland and they did not appreciate the immigration restrictions. This led to further conflict between the Palestinians, the Jewish and the British administration.

An important piece of information to keep in mind is that both Jews and Muslims consider Jerusalem as a sacred piece of land. It is the home of several religious sites for both of them. It would be hard for either of the two sides to have to give up this piece of land along with the several religious sites and therefore the conflict gets even more tense.

During World War II, European Jews were seeking to escape the Nazi regime. The British restricted the entrance of Jewish immigrants into Palestine in order to appease the oil-rich nations

of Egypt and Saudi Arabia. This provoked armed resistance from the Jewish. It would later on come to unite The Hanagah (a group who looked to Britain to establish their homeland) and the groups who were willing to use terrorism to drive the British out of Palestine. The main Jewish terrorist groups in Palestine were Irgun (the National Military Organization) and Lohamey Heruth Israel (Fighters for the Freedom of Israel) also known as LHI.

Another important point to take into consideration would be the world view on the situation with the Jews. It should be taken into consideration that the holocaust had just come to an end, the holocaust was the genocide of Jewish people conducted by the Nazi Party. Around 6 million Jews had been killed. These events changed the mindset of the world. If this event had not happened, it could well be that the world opinion would have been very different. The world opinion at this time was that the Jews had earned themselves a homeland and so if that meant using another countries land, that was seen as acceptable.

As time went on the violence between all three sides grew. There were several Jewish armed groups who were waging a guerilla war against the British administration in Palestine. The British replied to this by arresting 2,700 Jewish activists. This was done to disrupt Jewish military operations. Several back and forth attacks such as this occurred in the future. All the proposals that were suggested in order to ease the conflict had not worked. Finally, with pressure from the USA, Britain has referred the matter to the United Nations.

### Focus of debate:

The focus of the debate should be on providing recommendations for the future of Palestine, which should include how it will be governed as well as how to integrate the Jewish population. The aim of this debate would be to provide the Jewish with their wanted homeland

whilst not disrupting world peace. Delegates must remember that the job of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security, so the goal for all Member States would be to achieve peace for all countries and the future Jewish homeland. One thing to keep in mind while debating is that this is happening almost right after World War II, meaning that things such as economic stability and alliances should be taken into consideration.

### Research:

For this topic delegates may only use primary sources or any form of source existing up until the debate year. An example of this would be the delegate of Great Britain that looking at the previous plans that were put into place such as The White Paper. This would help in order to assess what went wrong and how to do better for the next proposal. Another good thing to research would be the holocaust and the events that led up to it. It would be useful to look at the reasoning which led to the hate of the Jews from the Nazi Party This would be a good thing to help delegates to open their perspective on the situation and what the Jewish are currently going through. The events of the holocaust will also help delegates to understand the current world opinion on the situation with the Jews. To do this, delegates may want to look at magazines such as the LIFE magazine, published in the USA on the situation of the holocaust and World War II. Delegates should also be aware that this event is occurring right after the end of World War II, so it would be very useful to see what to look at alliances between Historical Security Council countries.

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