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E 8645

1948

PALESTINE

28 JUN 1948

Registry Number } E8645/6090/31

FROM Sir H Dow (JERUSALEM)

No. No. 5 (47)

Dated 19 Jun 48

Received in Registry } 26 Jun 48

Proclamation of Independence of the "Provisional State Council" of Israel.

Refers to Haifa despatch No. 23 of 14 Jun 48 (E8458/6090/31).

Transmits text of the proclamation of independence of the "Provisional State Council" of Israel, and of the subsequent proclamation establishing a legislative authority and repealing certain legislation of the Mandatory Government.

These texts are taken from "Palestine Post" of 30 May, and may be taken as the official English translation of the Hebrew originals.

Last Paper

E 8618

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

E 8648

(Minutes.)

This is a slightly more accurate text than that supplied by Mr MARRIOTT in E. 9658 (at present circulating)

M.S.I. Dept. 27/7
Research Dept (may care to keep spare copy).
R.W. 30/7

hanc. This is 26:vi

L.S.:viii

Two copies of the Provisional State Council's proclamation of 14th May sent to the Defence lawyers in the espionage case of Markov & Bykovskii in Jerusalem. See E 10921/6090/31

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No. 5.
(47)

British Consulate-General,
Jerusalem.

June 19th 1948

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Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Mr. Marriot's despatch No. 23 of June 14th, and to transmit the text of the proclamation of independence of the "Provisional State Council" of Israel, a summary of which was enclosed with Mr. Marriot's despatch, and of the subsequent proclamation establishing a legislative authority and repealing certain legislations of the Mandatory Government, a slightly different translation of which was also enclosed by Mr. Marriot. The texts now transmitted are taken from the Palestine Post of May 30th, and may be taken as being the official English translation of the Hebrew originals.

2. I have sent a copy of this despatch and the enclosures thereto to Mr. Marriot.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

Consul-General.

His Majesty's Principal
Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office. London.

COPY.

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Extract from PALESTINE POST, May 30th.

WHITE PAPER REPEALED.

In view of the Proclamation of Independence published today, 14th. May, 1948, according to which the Provisional State Council and the Provisional Government of Israel have been established, the State Council decrees:-

1. The Provisional State Council is the legislative authority. The Provisional State Council is entitled to delegate this right to the Provisional Government for emergency legislation.
2. Laws under the White Paper of 1939 are hereby annulled. Paragraphs 13-15 of the Immigration Ordinance, 1941, and Orders 102-I-7c under the Defence (Emergency) Regulations, 1945, are herewith abolished. The Land Transfer Ordinance, 1940, is herewith abrogated retroactively as from May 18th, 1939.
3. As long as no new laws are promulgated by the Provisional State Council, or on its behalf, the laws which have been in force in this country to this day, May 14th, 1948, will remain in force in the State of Israel, insofar as they are compatible with the above decrees and the changes arising from the establishment of the State and its governing bodies.

Promulgated on this 14th. day of May, 1948.

(Signed). PROVISIONAL STATE COUNCIL.

PALESTINE POST, MAY 30TH.

The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here, their spiritual, religious and national identity was formed. Here they achieved independence and created a culture of national and universal significance. Here they wrote and gave the Bible to the world.

Exiled from Palestine, the Jewish people remained faithful to it in all the countries of their dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return and the restoration of their national freedom.

Impelled by this historic association, Jews strove throughout the centuries to go back to the land of their fathers and regain their statehood. In recent decades they returned in their masses. They reclaimed the wilderness, revived their language, built cities and villages, and established a vigorous and ever-growing community, with its own economic and cultural life. They sought peace, yet were ever prepared to defend themselves. They brought the blessings of progress to all inhabitants of the country.

In the year 1897, the First Zionist Congress, inspired by Theodor Herzl's vision of the Jewish State, proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national revival in their own country.

This right was acknowledged by the Balfour Declaration of November, 2nd, 1917, and re-affirmed by the Mandate of the League of Nations, which gave explicit international recognition to the historic connexion of the Jewish people with Palestine and their right to re-constitute their National Home.

The Nazi holocaust, which engulfed millions of Jews in Europe, proved anew the urgency of the re-establishment of the Jewish State, which would solve the problem of Jewish homelessness by opening the gates to all Jews and lifting the Jewish people to equality in the family of nations.

The survivors of the European catastrophe, as well as Jews from other lands, claiming their right to a life of dignity, freedom and labour, and undeterred by hazards, hardships and obstacles, have tried unceasingly to enter Palestine.

In the Second World War the Jewish people in Palestine made a full contribution in the struggle of the freedom-loving nations against the Nazi evil. The sacrifices of their soldiers and the efforts of their workers gained them title to rank with the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On November 29th, 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a Resolution for the establishment of an Independent Jewish State in Palestine, and called upon the inhabitants of the country to take such steps as may be necessary on their part to put the plan into effect.

This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their independent State may not be revoked. It is, moreover, the self-evident right of the Jewish people to be a nation, as all other nations, in its own sovereign State.

ACCORDINGLY WE, the members of the National Council, representing the Jewish people in Palestine and the Zionist Movement of the World, met together in solemn assembly to-day, the day of termination of the British Mandate in Palestine, by virtue of the natural and

historic right of the Jewish people and of the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, **HEREBY PROCLAIM** the establishment of the Jewish State in Palestine, to be called ISRAEL.

WE HEREBY DECLARE that as from the termination of the Mandate at midnight this night of the 14th. to 15th. May, 1948, and until the setting up of the duly elected bodies of the State in accordance with a Constitution, to be drawn up by a constituent Assembly not later than the 1st. day of October, 1948, the present National Council shall act as the Provisional State Council, and its executive organ, the National Administration, shall constitute the Provisional Government of the State of Israel.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open to the immigration of Jews from all the countries of their dispersion; it will promote the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; will be based on the precepts of liberty, justice and peace taught by the Hebrew prophets; will uphold the full social and political equality of all its citizens without distinction of race, creed or sex; will guarantee full freedom of conscience, worship, education and culture and language; will safeguard the sanctity and inviolability of the shrines and Holy Places of all religions; and will dedicate itself to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be ready to cooperate with the organs and representatives of the United Nations in the implementation of the Resolution of the Assembly of November 29th, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union over the whole of Palestine.

We appeal to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building of its State and to admit Israel into the family of Nations.

In the midst of wanton aggression, we yet call upon the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to return to the ways of peace and play their part in the development of the State, with full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its bodies and institutions - provisional or permanent.

We offer peace and amity to all the neighbouring states and their peoples, and invite them to cooperate with the independent Jewish nation for the common good of all. The State of Israel is ready to contribute its full share to the peaceful progress and reconstitution of the Middle East.

Our call goes out to the Jewish people all over the world to rally to our side in the task of immigration and development, and to stand by us in the great struggle for the fulfilment of the dream of generations - the redemption of Israel.

With trust in Almighty God, we set our hand to this Declaration, at this Session of the Provisional State Council, in the City of Tel Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the fifth day of Iyar, 5708, the fourteenth day of May, 1948.