Iraq Mandate To Go in 1932

news which the Palestine Bulletin was the first to publish in this country, and whose significance was pointed out to readers of the Palestine Bulletin that Britain was likely to relinquish her role in the area after a letter, received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, was published by the Palestine Bulletin in June 1932. Great Britain will go no longer than the Morse code. For a member of the government cannot be in tutelage to another power, and when Lord Northcliffe was asked what he meant by the word "Mandate," to which the French Foreign Minister responded: "Well, it means that the French cannot do what they want, but they can do what they want."

We, the undersigned, R. O. Cafferata, Police Officer in charge of the Hebron District, and John Macqueen, Senior Medical Officer in charge of the Hebron Area, present the following statement:

I, R. O. Cafferata, was present in Hebron all day on Saturday the 24th instant, and was an eye witness of the events which took place.

1. John Macqueen, arrived in Hebron after the mob had dispersed and, during the day, dealt with all the injured nine wounded Jews and inspected the fifty-six corpses.

We saw no case of mutilation of a sexual or other nature or of rape.

(Sgd.) R. O. Cafferata, J. Macqueen.

1st August, 1939.

2. On the 6th September, a statement, signed by seven Jewish physicians of Jerusalem, was published, denying the accuracy of the statement that there had been no mutilations of Jews in Hebron.

3. On the 11th September, at the request of the Arab Zionist Executive, the Government arranged for the examination of bodies at Hebron to ascertain whether there were any mutilations or not. A committee of three British doctors was appointed by Government to report on the allusions. Three medical representatives, each of the Jewish and Arab, "were present. The report of the committee of three British doctors was published herewith, together with the statement of the Jewish doctors which accompanies it.

4. It is announced further that a report by the Department of Health, on fatal and other cases of wounding in Palestine in the course of the recent disturbances, will be made public in due course.

20th September, 1939.

Copy.
The Director,Department of Health, Sir.

In accordance with instructions received in your letter 9306 of 9. 4, 99, we have the honour to forward our report and enclose a signed statement from the representatives of the Jewish community.

We have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servants,
(Sgd.) G. St. uart, J. St. J. Orr-Ewing, J. Strathern.

Jerusalem, 13th September, 1939.

The Hebron Horror
Official Report On The Alleged Mutilations Strange Statement By Cafferata

Statements having been made that bodies of Jews and Jewsesses killed at Hebron had been mutilated and that Jewsesses had been raped, an immediate inquiry was made from the British Police Officer and British Government Medical Officer, then at Hebron, who made the following statement:

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Zionists' View Of The Hebron Horror

(Continued from page 1)

(c) it is reasonable to suppose that if mutilation had been intended, the right eye would have been similarly interfered with.

(d) there remains the possibility that the victim was a one-eyed man; the apparent bruising and ecchymosis being caused by the extravasation of blood downwards from the wound of the scalp.

On the other three bodies no claims relating to mutilation were made. The remains of the bodies exhume (sixteen in number) were in a more advanced stage of decomposition and the Jewish representatives, after examination of the corpses, came to the conclusion that no question of mutilation or otherwise could be proved, and made the request that the exhumation be not further proceeded with. Their signed request accompanies this report.

It will be noted that the whole question might be said to be limited to these four bodies, which alone could be examined properly; but the Committee wish to mention the following points which appear to be relevant to the inquiry.

(a) there was one particular case in which a specific allegation of mutilation was brought to the notice of the Committee by the Police as having been witnessed by certain individuals and widely reported. This corpse was therefore examined to establish the truth or otherwise of the allegation. It was examined by the Jewish representatives who preferred no claim to mutilation, although such, if present, could have been recognised.

(b) the state of decomposition of the bodies was indeed advanced but in our opinion not so advanced as to preclude the recognition of the removal of mutilation, for example, of the hands, feet or certain other parts of the body.

(c) two remembered hands had been separately injured with the bodies, but the bodies to which they belonged were not amongst those exhume. These hands were both left hands; they may have been cut off whilst guarding the head against a blow from a sword or other cutting instrument. No claim was preferred by the Jewish representa- tives with regard to these hands.

In view of the facts above stated the Committee is of opinion that the charge of mutilation has not been established.

The Committee wish to place on record their appreciation of the manner in which the representatives of both the Jewish and Moslem communities carried out their unpleasant task.

13th September, 1920.

ZIONISTS' VIEW OF THE MATTER

Sickening Story of Mutilations
18 wounds in vital part of body

Following upon the Government report, the Zionist Executive has forwarded to the Palestine Bulletin a Press Communication, appointed by the Executive to participate in the examination of the bodies of the Jews killed at Hebron on August 23rd and 24th, and exhumed nearly three weeks later, on the 11th of September, 1920, under arrangements made by the Palestine Government.

"The Zionist Executive have, from the outset," says the report, "deplored the controversy which arose around the question of whether the members of the Jewish community at Hebron, who were done to death on August 23rd and 24th, were the victims not only of murder with violence of appalling ferocity, but were also subject to deliberate mutilation at the hands of their murderers. It is clear that no comprehensive conclusion can be established on the latter issue from the information which took place on the 11th of September, when the condition of decay of the bodies led to the abandonment of the examination after only about one-third of the bodies had been examined."

The Doctor's Report

Nearly Half The Wounded Are Women

On the other hand, the atrocious character of the massacre at Hebron, which has never been in doubt, is equally clear: by the following report submitted to the Executive by the Surgeon of the Sharee Zedek Hospital, in regard to the survivors of the Hebron massacre whom he has examined and treated in the Birk Cholin and Sharee Zedek Hospitals at Jerusalem:

"Out of 42 cases, 4 pregnant, mutilation of the upper extremities in one case shows mutilation of the left hand, which was chopp ed off at the wrist joint; the second patient, a young woman whose husband and only child aged one year were murdered, shows mutilation of three fingers of the right hand; the third, a mutilation of two fingers of the right hand and the fourth, the mutilation of one finger of the left hand. In 50 per cent. of the cases, at least three wounds were inflicted upon the victims, and in an appreciable number of cases from eleven to eighteen wounds in vital parts of the body were produced in a most brutal way by rudimentary instruments, such as clubs, hatchets, scythes. The head injuries predominate in 70 per cent. of the cases, and half of the cases linear cuts or comminuted fractures of the skull, 45.24 per cent. of the wounded were males, 54.76 per cent., were children between the ages of one and ten, and a considerable number of both sexes were persons over sixty years of age."

Zionists thank friendly Arabs

The public communiqué issued by the Zionist Executive on the subject of the exhumation indicates that in their opinion the refutation which they claim for the charge of mutilation vindicates the Arabs from the charge of being "diggers of graves and honour" in relation to what was done at Hebron, when an entirely defenceless Jewish minority was literally decimated with unspeakable savagery. The polemical feature in this terrible story is the action of the Arab villagers, who, sometimes under the risk of their lives, sought to protect Jews who had been living among them against the fury of the mob incited to acts of barbarity by the deliberately false statements which had been circulated among them by their leaders. To those Arabs of Hebron, who thus sought to live up to the traditions of Arab hospitality, the Executive take this opportunity of expressing their appreciation."