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MEETINGS OF THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL

No 1023

1. In the afternoon of Sunday, ~~March 21~~ 1948, after the adjournment of the extraordinary session of the Political Committee was announced, it was decided to begin the eighth ordinary term of the Arab League Council. The first session of this term was headed by His Excellency Ahmad KHASHA'BA Pasha, the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the chairmanship of the sessions of this term belong to the Egyptian Government. It was attended by the delegates of the Arab states who attended the meetings of the Political Committee, as well as Hajj Amin al-HUSAYNI, Mu'in al-MUCCI, and 'Izzat DARWAZAH, representing Palestine.
2. After the meeting was opened, ~~Head~~ al-SULH read a message from His Excellency, the President of the Lebanese Republic, to the Arab nation. He was answered by the League's Secretary General in the name of the Arab League.
3. The Secretary General then submitted a detailed report on the activities of the seventh term of the League Council, chief among which were the Palestine and the Yemen questions. All al-HU'AYYID, Yemen delegate, then thanked the League for its honorable stand on recent events in his country and referred to the merits of the League's intervention to stop bloodshed. He was followed by Jamil MARDAN Bey, Syrian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, who submitted the following proposal from his Government:

"The world is passing through a grave stage in its history. The existing horrible struggle between the two great contending blocs will expose the Arab countries to dangers the results of which are known to Allah only. Therefore, the Syrian delegation deems it advisable, in reiterating the proposal it submitted in the session of the Arab League Council held in Cairo in February, that the League Council expedite the study and adoption of this proposal. The adoption by certain Arab states of special policies and of ties which affect all the other Arab countries, is incompatible with the interests of these countries. Therefore, the Syrian delegation will submit to your Council memorandum on the dangerous situation which has arisen from these conditions."

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RLB-321
29 March 1948

Page 2 of 2 pages

V. No. 1

MAHMOUD-SULEH inquired concerning the meaning of the proposal, and whether it includes the Franco-Lebanese monetary agreement. Jamil MAHDAM Bey replied that his proposal covers only political and military agreements.

4. Hajj Amin al-HUSAYNI then expressed the sincere thanks of Palestine for the continued efforts of the League and the Arab countries for Palestine. He said that the failure of partition was proof of the great effect of their united efforts. He continued by explaining that Palestine had national aspirations similar to those of the other Arab countries, and that efforts will continue for realizing its independence. He concluded by saying that he was sure of this because of the great sacrifices which the Arab countries are making for the cause.
5. The Chairman then announced the adjournment of the meeting. ~~The Council will hold its next meeting in Egypt at a date to be fixed later.~~

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