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Committee Meetings
in Aley

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1. At the Arab League's Political Committee meetings at Aley from July 14 to 18, Tawfiq ABU-AL-HUDA, the Transjordan Prime Minister, and Hamdi al-PACHACHI seldom mixed with the other Arab Premiers and were seen only at the meetings. Differences arose between Tawfiq ABU-AL-HUDA and Muzahim al-PACHACHI, which would have resulted in blows had not Riyadh SULEH and NUQRASHI Pasha intervened.
2. During the first meeting of the Committee, ABU-AL-HUDA Pasha said that ABDALLAH's government supports the Security Council's decision to cease fire because it is in no position to antagonize the Security Council, and is not prepared to suffer the consequent economic and military sanctions. As soon as ABU-AL-HUDA finished his speech he was followed by Premier PACHACHI who criticized him severely. PACHACHI rejected ABU-AL-HUDA's proposal and urged the necessity of continuing the fighting. At this point, Riyadh SULEH and NUQRASHI Pasha intervened to stop the arguments and PACHACHI's accusations directed against the Transjordan Government, which were about to lead to blows. PACHACHI said loudly that Iraq cannot agree to stop the fighting and regards the acceptance of the truce as treason against Palestine in particular, and against the Arabs in general. When his turn came, Yusuf KASIN, the Saudi Arabian representative, announced that Ibn SA'UD's Government would follow the views of the majority of the members of the Political Committee. He then stopped and was followed by al-MU'AYYID, the Yemeni representative.
3. Jamil MARDAM Bey severely attacked the Security Council which he accused of partiality, and demanded the severance of relations between the Arab countries and England and America. He even demanded that the Arab countries withdraw their representatives from UNO, "which has demonstrated its inability to solve international problems." He concluded his speech by saying: "The Syrian Government will not accept the Security Council's decision, unless three conditions are accepted: 1. cessation of immigration; 2. prevention of establishment of the Jewish State; and 3. the return of the Palestinian refugees to their country."

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4. NUQRASHI Pasha said that the acceptance of the cease-fire will undoubtedly be prejudicial to the Palestine cause. He said that if the Arabs had prolonged the truce, after July 9, instead of continuing the fighting, they would have held a number of positions which they occupied but subsequently lost. He added that King FARUQ's Government could not stand up under the economic sanctions which might be imposed by the Great Powers, and that Egypt felt that resignation from UNO would be harmful both to Egypt and to the other Arab States. He ended by supporting the cease-fire proposal, with some reservations.
5. Riyad al-SULH criticized the Security Council's decision, but ended by saying that there would be no harm in deciding to stop the fighting and to continue to observe the international situation. "We must be cautious," he said. "There is still time to save Palestine. Our struggle has not ended. The cease-fire does not mean acceptance of the Zionist State." He supported the cease-fire with great violence. The meeting was then adjourned.
6. Riyad al-SULH and a number of leading delegates informed the Regent of Iraq of al-PACHACHI's attitude towards the views of the majority. The Regent asked al-PACHACHI to calm down and get in line with his colleagues, with the reservations he deems necessary. The Regent then left Aley for Iraq.
7. This meeting was followed by eight others. In each meeting the majority tried to persuade the minority to agree to the cease-fire decision, but without success.
8. The meeting held on July 17 was very stormy. The voices of the debaters were so high that they were heard outside the room. al-PACHACHI's voice was heard roaring his refusal of the cease-fire. Tawfiq Pasha ABU-AL-HUDA finally announced that the Transjordan Government would walk out on the meetings if no decision was taken to stop the fighting. ABU-AL-HUDA was then violently attacked by Jamil MARDAM, who accused the Transjordan Government of delaying the advance of its army. He also attacked the British for bringing pressure on the Arabs to accept the truce.
9. After the meeting, al-PACHACHI left with a sullen face and walked straight to the al-JUBAYLI Hotel where he was lodging. From there he telephoned the commander of the Iraqi Army and asked him to follow no orders except those of the head of the Iraqi Government. He insisted upon being notified every

half hour of every movement of the Iraqi Army in Palestine. al-PACHACHI then gave the receiver to Sadiq al-BASSAM, Iraqi Minister of Defense, to confirm this order.

10. PACHACHI then ordered his car and drove to Bhamdun, returning later to his hotel in Aley. While PACHACHI, his private secretary, and the Surete Inspector assigned to him as his aide were going up in the elevator, PACHACHI ordered his secretary to take out a paper and write the following telegram:

His Highness the Regent of Iraq

I submit to Your Highness my resignation from the Government's Premiership.

Muzahim al-PACHACHI

11. On reaching his private wing in the hotel, PACHACHI ordered that the telegram be forwarded. At six o'clock of the following morning a telegram was received from the Regent telling PACHACHI that his resignation was rejected, and that if he insisted on submitting it, he should go to Baghdad to do so. PACHACHI's rebellious mood then changed to a thoughtful one.
12. On Saturday afternoon, when he was alone in his room, after telling the Surete Inspector to admit no one, Haji Amin al-HUSAYNI, the Grand Mufti, arrived at about four PM and asked to see him. The Mufti was allowed to see PACHACHI after waiting for fifteen minutes. The Mufti encouraged PACHACHI to continue resisting the cease-fire order, and added that PACHACHI's strong attitude might lead the Arab countries to stand alongside Iraq. The Mufti then proceeded to curse the Western Powers, particularly Britain and America. He then cursed the Arab countries which approved the cease-fire order, accusing them of treason. The greater number of these curses were directed against King ABDALLAH, "the British stooge and slave." The Mufti then left with signs of anger on his face.
13. On the following day, Sunday, al-PACHACHI boycotted the Committee meeting, despite the various means which his colleagues used to persuade him to attend.
14. On Sunday afternoon, while al-PACHACHI was in his private wing at the hotel, still refusing to attend the meetings, the Arab Prime Ministers, headed by Riyad SULH, telephoned him and insisted that he attend the last Committee meeting.

But PACHACHI remained steadfast. Finally, at 4 PM, Jamil MARDAM arrived, delegated by his colleagues to try to persuade PACHACHI of the necessity of attending the last meeting of the Committee, as his attendance, although he was in the opposition, would be proof of the continued understanding between the Arab countries. MARDAM Bey finally persuaded PACHACHI to attend - aided by the fact that Syria's attitude was not different from that of Iraq. al-PACHACHI stipulated that he would not discuss any matter with his colleagues but would register his reservations and views and then withdraw.

15. As soon as al-PACHACHI reached the meeting room, he proceeded to register his reservations upon which he based the acceptance of the cease-fire order.
16. While the meeting was being held, at 4:40 PM, Hajj Amin al-HUSAYNI arrived and desired to enter the meeting room. The Surete Officers did not admit him, in accordance with the order of the conferees to prevent anyone, whatever his rank, to enter the room at that time. But the Mufti in a rage refused to comply with the Surete Officers' request. He kicked the door open and entered the hall shouting abuses, openly accusing the assembly as traitors and imperialist slaves, and shouting, "You bastards! You villains! You have lost Palestine!" As he approached the table, the shouting became louder between the Mufti and the conferees, who stopped writing the text of the cease-fire telegram to the Security Council. Riyadh al-SULH finally took the Mufti out and tried to calm him down, and accompanied him to the outside door. He then came back, closing the door behind him, and asked that the place be more strongly guarded. As the Mufti walked away, he continued to curse the Arab countries and accuse them of conspiring against Palestine in tying the fate of the Arabs to the Hashimite Kingdom of Transjordan.
17. After the text of the telegram to the Security Council was drafted at five minutes to five, the conferees left the room like persons leaving a funeral, and dispersed.
18. al-PACHACHI left the meeting place for the Jubayli Hotel and dictated to the Surete Officer a telegram to the Lebanese and Syrian military authorities requesting them not to interfere with the plane carrying the Iraqi Prime Minister and Minister of Defense during its passage over the Lebanese and Syrian military sectors. In the evening, al-PACHACHI returned from his trip to Palestine after having inspected the Iraqi Army and given it certain instructions.