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2ND JUNE, 1947

CABINET

PALESTINE: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

PROPAGANDA TO JEWS IN EUROPE

Memorandum by the Official Committee

It will be recalled that in the Official Committee's first report of progress they reported arrangements for broadcast talks, based on factual information, on the B.B.C. European Services to counter Zionist propaganda to Jews in Europe; they also reported their opinion that there was scope for propaganda in other directions, e.g. by leaflet and whispering campaign.

2. Since then the Official Committee has taken expert advice and has considered the possibilities of a full scale propaganda campaign. Such a campaign would comprise propaganda which may conveniently be divided under two headings:-

- (a) 'White' propaganda, namely articles in the Press and talks on the radio, based on factual information.
- (b) 'Black' propaganda, which in most cases would involve some clandestine action such as introducing leaflets to D.P. Camps by agents, spreading rumours, and perhaps even setting up secret radio stations. 'Black' propaganda would not necessarily have a strict regard for facts.

3. It is notorious that 'Black' propaganda may, unless most carefully directed and handled, prove most embarrassing to the Government. Before any 'Black' propaganda can be started therefore, it is essential to set up a competent organisation in London to direct it. The Committee was informed that approximately a dozen experts would be necessary for this, and that, although men of experience are available in London, they are doing different work and would have to be specially recruited.

4. For spreading the propaganda to Jews in Europe, suitable agents would have to be placed in the right positions. No agents at present exist where they would be required, and it would clearly be a matter of time before they could be recruited and worked into position.

5. It will be seen therefore, that quick results can not be expected from 'Black' propaganda. Moreover, there seems to be some doubt as to whether a full scale propaganda campaign would have any great effect on the Jews; it has been represented that they are so steeped in Zionist traditions that diametrically opposite views might make little impression on them. On this matter however, the evidence is somewhat conflicting, and it is possible that among the Jews in Europe there are a large number of waverers who are not ardent Zionists and who might be swayed if we could reach them with the facts about conditions in Palestine and during the voyage there.

6. Nevertheless, it seems clear that the setting up of the machinery needed to control and direct 'Black' propaganda is too long term a project to have any possible effect before next October when this year's campaign will come virtually to an end. Even if a decision by the United Nations does not bring the Illegal Immigration traffic to an end by that time, the autumn weather will do so.

7. The Committee are therefore of the opinion that no good purpose would be achieved this year by a decision to embark on a full scale propaganda campaign. This does not mean, however, that they consider that all propaganda to the Jews should be abandoned. 'White' propaganda, since it does not need the elaborate machinery essential for 'Black' propaganda, can take effect more quickly. Broadcast talks by the B.B.C. have already begun. Information amounting to 'White' propaganda will in any case naturally follow from the full scale publicity which, as is recorded in the Official Committee's latest report of progress, they consider should be given to all aspects of Illegal Immigration and measures to combat it.

8. The Official Committee intend to take steps to ensure that this publicity drive is fully co-ordinated and that all useful information gleaned from Palestine and the immigrants who arrive there is fed into the Press and the B.B.C. both of whom have shown much willingness in the last few days to be helpful in this matter.

Conclusion and Recommendation

9. The Official Committee's conclusion is that no good purpose would be achieved this year by a decision to embark on a full scale propaganda drive, but that the Press and B.B.C. should be encouraged to give full publicity to His Majesty's Government's point of view in this matter. They request the approval of the Ministerial Committee for this line of action.

(Signed) J.I.K. LLOYD.

Cabinet Office, S.W.1.

2ND JUNE, 1947.