ISRAEL WEIGHS STEP FOR A BIG EXCHANGE OF MINORITY GROUPS
By THOMAS J. HAMILTONSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
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ISRAEL WEIGHS STEP FOR A BIG EXCHANGE OF MINORITY GROUPS

Considers Seeking Transfer of Arabs and Jews as the Best Hope of Friendly Relations

50,000 MOSLEMS INVOLVED

Plan Recalls Movement of Turks and Greeks—Bernadotte Is Going to Beirut Parley

By THOMAS J. HAMILTON
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., July 22—Israeli Government circles are discussing a possible exchange of minorities between Israel and the Arab area of Palestine, Arthur Lowrie, head of the Israeli United Nations office, disclosed today.

Mr. Lowrie, who has just returned from a visit to Tel Aviv, said that Government circles there were considering also the possibility that Jews living in Arab countries might be transferred to Israel. He charged that many Jews resident in Egypt had been sent to concentration camps.

Such an exchange has long been under discussion by delegations here, who believe that it offers the best hope for the establishment of friendly or at least correct relations between Israel and the surrounding Arab countries.

Greek-Turkish Action Cited

Admittedly it would impose severe hardships on the people who were uprooted, but such an exchange of minorities was carried out in 1924, after Turkey defeated Greece, and played an important part in establishing friendly relations between the two countries.

Under the exchange, which was carried out under the supervision of the League of Nations, about 190,000 Greek residents of Turkey were transferred to Greece and 356,000 Turks were transferred from Greece to Turkey.

According to estimates by the United Nations Special Committee for Palestine, which submitted the partition plan adopted by the General Assembly last November, the territory assigned to the Arab state was to have 804,000 Arabs and 10,000 Jews, whereas the Israeli state would have 538,000 Jews and 397,000 Arabs.

The committee estimated that the international zone of Jerusalem, including not only the Holy City but surrounding towns, would have 150,000 Jews and 100,000 Arabs.

Arab spokesmen have charged

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repeatedly that more than 300,000 Arab residents of Israel have been compelled to flee to neighboring Arab countries since the fighting began. One of the conditions attached by the Arab League to its agreement to the revival of the truce in Palestine was that these refugees should be allowed to return.

Mr. Lowrie said today that the "virtual disappearance of the Arab population from Israel was as striking as the complete departure of the British. He contended that the evacuation of Arabs began at Tiberias as a "propaganda ruse" but that this backfired and that afterward the Arabs fled "in unreasoning panic" from Israeli troops.

He added that there were exceptions, and that the inhabitants of the Arab village of Abu Ghosh, "in a Jewish-occupied area, resisted the blandishments of the Mufti's bands, and continued to live and work in peace with its neighbors." Mr. Lowrie said, however, that "the settled Arab population in Israel today does not exceed 50,000."

Count Folke Bernadotte, the United Nations Mediator for Palestine, reported today that he was estine, reported today that he planned to attend a conference of Arab states in Beirut, Lebanon, convening Saturday. He said that he was investigating complaints by both sides of alleged violations of the new truce.

However, according to information here, the new agreement is becoming firmly established, and the Mediator is now setting up more extensive supervisory machinery than was in operation during the previous four-week truce. Twenty-five of the fifty Belgian military observers arrived today, and the remainder will report tomorrow.

A large number of jeeps, trucks and other equipment is being provided by the United States, and in addition the United Nations is establishing an extensive communications network.

Transocean Air Lines will fly a planeload of walkie-talkie equipment from La Guardia Field today for the United Nations guards and other mediators in the Palestine truce.

Ordered by Count Bernadotte after the slaying of one United Nations guard and close calls for others, the walkie-talkies will enable the most remote outpost to keep in touch with his headquarters either in Palestine or in Cyprus.

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