

ecclesiastical tribunals generally. I believed that the Custode della Terra Santa, Father Diotallevi, did not take by any means the same attitude with regard to the administration of Palestine as had been adopted by Mgr. Barlassina.

The Pope said that he had heard of the speech to which I referred. The Patriarch had explained that what he had said had been misunderstood. The Pope would, however, be seeing him very soon and would take up the point.

I assured the Pope that the Government of Palestine would very readily examine and endeavour to remedy any grievance of which the Catholic Church might complain, and would be grateful if any such grievance were brought to its attention. His Holiness said that the Vatican would not fail to act in that sense, and again expressed his confidence that the impartiality of a British Administration would ensure peace in Palestine, which he himself was most anxious to promote.

On my leaving, the Pope presented me with a medal with his effigy. In expressing my thanks I mentioned that the Prime Minister had told me how much he had appreciated the action of the Pope in sending him his personal medal. The Pope made some very friendly observations with respect to the Prime Minister and also recalled with pleasure his acquaintance with Lord Curzon.

I subsequently went to see the Cardinal Secretary of State. Count de Salis was present at the interview.

Cardinal Gasparri was also gratified at the general sense of the British reply to his note to the League of Nations, and particularly at the recognition that article 14 in the draft mandate could not stand in its original form. On the general question of Palestine, he thought it of great importance that it should be made clear that responsibility for good administration rested with the British Government. He did not understand why the mandate referred in various places to the Palestine Administration as something separate from the mandatory, and empowered the Administration to act in certain matters apparently independently, but subject to the approval of the mandatory. I answered that this distinction was due to the very principle of the mandatory system itself, which was not equivalent to annexation, but which contemplated a gradual progress towards autonomy. The constitution of Palestine would comprise a Legislative Assembly, mainly elective, and would unite together the representatives of the mandatory Power and of the people of Palestine. The various sections of the population would be represented in the Assembly in proportion to their numbers. The Zionists had no share in the administration, and this had been made quite clear in the declaration recently published. Cardinal Gasparri agreed that that was so, but repeated that he thought it of first importance that this should be made known to all the world.

He thought that the new form of article 14 was a great improvement on the old, but that it was obscure in some particulars. Count de Salis will no doubt report to the Foreign Office if the Cardinal Secretary of State has any specific amendments to suggest. So far the terms of the British reply have not been officially communicated to the Vatican by the League of Nations.

Neither the Pope nor Cardinal Gasparri mentioned the question of the Cenacolo in the course of these conversations.

I am sending to Count de Salis a copy of this despatch.

I have, &c.

HERBERT SAMUEL.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers

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