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EASTERN (PALESTINE).

[August 16.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 3.

[E 8091/987/65]

No. 1.

Foreign Office to League of Nations.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, and is directed by the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston to inform him that the representative of His Majesty's Government intends to raise the question of the simultaneous coming into force of the British mandate for Palestine and of the Treaty of Lausanne during the forthcoming meeting of the council, and to request that a note to this effect may be placed on the agenda.

2. The accompanying memorandum, explaining the reasons which have led His Majesty's Government to make this request, is transmitted herewith for circulation to the members of the council.

Foreign Office, August 16, 1923.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Memorandum.

ON the 22nd July, 1922, the council passed the following resolution :—

“ In view of the declarations which have just been made and of the agreement reached by all members of the council, the articles of the mandates for Palestine and Syria are approved. The mandates will enter into force, automatically and at the same time, as soon as the Governments of France and Italy have notified the President of the Council of the League of Nations that they have reached an agreement on certain particular points in regard to the latter of these mandates.”

2. It is now over a year since the terms of the Palestine mandate were finally approved, and meantime peace has been signed between the Allied Powers and Turkey at Lausanne. Under the treaty, Turkey has agreed to accept the disposal of Palestine effected by the parties concerned, and in all probability the treaty will come into force in the relatively near future. In order to enable the administration of Palestine to be thereafter conducted under the mandate, it is essential that such mandate should be brought into legal operation not later than the coming into force of the Treaty of Lausanne.

3. The French and Italian Governments have had more than a year in which to reach agreement in regard to the assurances to be given by the former to the latter in connection with the Syrian mandate, and, up to date, the council have received no information tending to show that an agreement was likely to be reached in the near future. The absence of such an agreement no longer constitutes adequate justification for not regularising the position of His Majesty's Government in Palestine. In these circumstances, His Majesty's Government invite the council to reconsider their decision of the 22nd July, 1922, and to take a decision which will bring the mandate for Palestine into legal operation not later than the coming into force of the Treaty of Peace with Turkey.

Foreign Office, August 16, 1923.

[573 q—3]

SEP 19 Rec'd

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers

Memoranda & Notes

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