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The Moslem-Christian Committee at Jaffa have resigned, having entirely failed to fulfil its purpose of watching over interests of Moslem and Christian Arabs. The Military Governor is taking steps to form a new Committee.<sup>55</sup>

Inability to change the situation by the application of internal pressure led to an abortive attempt at a world-wide Christian-Muslim appeal on behalf of the Arabs of Palestine, which was published by *al-Mustaqbal*, the Parisian Arabic paper.<sup>56</sup> In a letter of protest to Picot, Sykes described the article as 'incendiary and seditious' as it called for an 'anti-Zionist War Fund'.<sup>57</sup>

### Strategic Considerations

As the War drew nearer to its conclusion the local British authorities found it increasingly difficult to apply pro-Zionist policy in Palestine and requested greater leeway and more autonomy in the carrying out of this policy.<sup>58</sup> Simultaneously, the British were inclined to adopt an increasingly intransigent attitude regarding the necessity of retaining control over Palestine in view of its strategic importance to the defence of the Suez Canal. A memorandum on 'The Future of Palestine' by L.S. Amery of the War Office, later Colonial Secretary, stressed that

Strategically Palestine and Egypt go together. Not only is Palestine a necessary buffer to the Suez Canal, but conversely, any defence of Palestine would have its main base at Kantara. . . Palestine is geographically practically in the centre of the British Empire.<sup>59</sup>

The logical conclusions of this line of thinking were drawn in a memorandum by the General Staff at the War Office:

The creation of a buffer Jewish State in Palestine, though this State will be weak in itself, is strategically desirable for Great Britain so long as it can be created without disturbing Mohammedan sentiment and is not controlled by a power which is potentially hostile to this country.<sup>60</sup>

The first anniversary of the Balfour Declaration was a testing ground for the emerging attitudes and relationships of the three sides of the Palestinian triangle. When the Arabs heard that the Zionists intended to

celebrate the anniversary of Balfour's Declaration, they threatened 'breaking up the proceedings by a counter procession'.<sup>61</sup> Storrs threatened that any Arab who dared do such a thing would be arrested and instantly put in jail. The Military Governor of Jerusalem advised the Zionists to break their processions before they reached the Jaffa Gate where the Arabs assemble daily in numbers. Two school processions disregarded these instructions and a scuffle with two Palestinian Arabs, one Muslim and the other Christian, developed, and both received four months jail sentences which Storrs described as severe. The result was the first Arab demonstration led by the Mayor, Musa Kazem Pasha al-Husseini, who submitted written protestations to the Government. Another petition of protest was addressed to the American Government.<sup>62</sup>

### New Tactics

One week after the War was brought to an end, Clayton detected an incipient transformation in the Palestinian Arab methods of opposition to Zionism:

Christian and Moslem antipathy to Zionism has been displayed much more openly since Armistice. The recent Anglo-French declaration has encouraged all parties to make known their wishes by every available means in view of approaching Peace Conference.<sup>63</sup>

On the occasion of the first anniversary of Allenby's victory over the Turks, the Muslim-Christian Committee of Jaffa submitted a memorandum to the Military Governor which testified to the accuracy of Clayton's report and mirrored the prevailing Palestinian reactions to Zionism and their arguments against the Balfour Declaration. The memorandum started out by paying tribute to Great Britain and reiterated the Committee's faith in Mr Lloyd George's declaration regarding 'self-government for the Arabs' and President Wilson's declarations regarding 'national self-determination'. The memorandum then proceeded to affirm that Palestine was an Arab country in the full meaning of the word and expounded a full refutation of the possible Zionist arguments:

If the country be the pretext, we should hasten to say that the country as well as the inhabitants are Arabs. If the numbers be the pretext, it should not be forgotten that the Arab are 30 times more numerous than the Jews. If majority of the land be the pretext, the Jews must be warned that the portion they possess in Palestine is nothing more than 1/500 comparatively to the possessions of