

The participants in those meetings agreed to prepare the population for future attacks, to collect information on the amount of arms the Jews possess, and to propagate among the military officers (British) that they should remain passive during future attacks.

The Zionists endeavoured to counter the activists by a concerted effort to divide the Palestinian ranks by establishing 'Moslem National Societies' and, later, 'National Christian Societies'.

The object of these Societies is stated to be to work with the Government and promote good relations between the different sections of the community.<sup>95</sup>

Zionist efforts in this direction failed to achieve the desired results as all Arabs who were associated with these Societies were considered by the Arab Press and the Palestinians as traitors.<sup>96</sup>

Samuel viewed these Societies with misgivings, as it was public knowledge 'that these Societies have been established largely owing to Jewish influence',<sup>97</sup> and to the influence of Mr Kalvarisky (a Jewish member of the Advisory Council) in particular.

Sensing a resurgent fighting mood among the Palestinians owing to an accumulation of political and economic frustrations, the High Commissioner resumed his efforts to gain political advantage by conciliating Muslim opinion through relegating Muslim control over Muslim Religious Affairs (*Awqaf*, *Shari'a Courts*, etc.).<sup>98</sup>

Towards the end of October the 'Palestine Committee in Egypt', issued a leaflet calling upon the people of Palestine to desist from work, to close their shops and to mourn the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. Although orders were given for the seizure of the leaflet where found, it had obtained a wide circulation in Palestine whereupon strict security measures were taken to prevent disturbances throughout Palestine. Arab notables in Jerusalem and Jaffa undertook, as far as lay in their power, to prevent protestations. In spite of these precautions and undertakings a disturbance took place in Jerusalem on the morning of the Declaration's anniversary.

When 'Arab roughs' appeared in the Jaffa road, they were dispersed by the police but soon after gathered for an attack on the Jewish quarter which was averted by the police. Shots were exchanged between the Arab crowd and a crowd of Jews inside the Jewish quarter. Thereafter troops patrolled the city and the Governor, accompanied by the 'principal Moslem notables walked through the streets and restored order'.<sup>99</sup> Five Jews and three Arabs were killed and thirty-six

persons were wounded. Although there were no disturbances in other cities, the atmosphere was tense throughout Palestine. On the following day the political notables of Jerusalem publicly disassociated themselves from the 'unseemly and illadvised' behaviour of irresponsible youths on 2 November. However, these notables found themselves compelled to protest against the nature of the Court set up to deal with the disturbances, and the unduly harsh sentences passed against the Arabs by it, in contrast with the lenient sentences against the Jews.

A show of mild defiance to the Government by the notables was staged at a meeting held in Jerusalem on 11 November. The Muslim-Christian Society unanimously decided not to obey the Ordinance conferring upon Governors the power to exact a bond of security for good behaviour from those suspected of political or other offences. 'These protestations notwithstanding, the political notables appeared in the eyes of the Palestinian public as failing their duty to lead opposition to Zionism and British Zionist policies. In the aftermath of the November disturbances the Government's Intelligence Service had reported that, 'A somewhat disquieting feature is a tendency of the populace to act apart from the notables and to disregard their advice'<sup>100</sup>

#### All Classes Suffer

The events of November stimulated Samuel and his assistants to bring about the settlement of the Beisan Land Question and that of the *Awqaf* and Muslim Religious Affairs in order to create a good impression in the country. This favourable impression was shortlived owing to the seizure of 300 revolvers and a quantity of ammunition at Haifa consigned to Isaac Rosenberg, which revealed Zionist efforts to smuggle arms on a wide-scale. This event was the cause of considerable excitement and agitation in the press and elsewhere. Further attempts, albeit on a smaller scale, to procure arms and ammunition were resumed in the following month. The continued presence of unemployed immigrants in Jaffa and Haifa was considered by the Arabs as proof that the Administration did not intend to carry out the undertaking given on 3 June 1921, that only such immigrants for whom work can be found or who can support themselves should be allowed to enter the country. 'It is reported that the formation of a society to be known as the "Palestine Youths Society" has been mooted. The promoters are stated to be extremely Pan Arab'.<sup>101</sup>

Jewish immigration and British policies were augmenting Arab distress and anxiety in an economic as well as a political sense. A report by the Governor of Haifa, G.S. Symes, on the reasons for