

the whole sub-district. The final estimates were then rounded off to the nearest digit of tens.

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7. Estimates of population have been prepared only for the settled population. No reliable data are available for the nomadic population at the end of 1944 as no records of their vital occurrences or migration are kept. To indicate the order of magnitude of this population, the data of the Census of 1931 have been inserted in the tables. It should, however, be pointed out that these figures may be very far from being representative of the nomadic population in 1944, since the size of this population as a whole has probably been changed by natural increase, migrations and settlement. In addition, the distribution of this population by locality is a very transient one."¹

In 1947, the Palestine Government supplied the United Nations Special Political Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), which visited the country and later recommended partition, with figures estimating the total population at the end of 1946 to be 1,936,000, made up of 1,293,000 Arabs (an increase of 114,000 over the 1944 figure), 608,000 Jews (an increase of 54,000) and 35,000 'Others' (an increase of 2,000).²

The total Arab population as in mid-May 1948, had the expulsion of the Moslem and Christian inhabitants not taken place, would have been 1,380,000. This figure has been arrived at by using as a guide the increase of 114,000 in the Arab population which had occurred during the 24-month period of the years 1945 and 1946 and by calculating the estimated increase for the 17½-month period of 1947 to mid-May 1948. It is realized that this method may not be the proper one, but the resulting figure is near enough to give an idea of what the Arab population would have been on 14 May 1948 had the Mandate over Palestine not been terminated.

As regards the Jewish population, the Government Department of Statistics estimated the Jews in July 1947 to have increased to 626,000.³ The Israeli Government in subsequent years claimed that the Jewish population had risen to 649,600 by 14 May 1948 when the state of Israel was proclaimed.⁴

Whether we accept the Palestine Government figure of 626,000 as in July 1947 or the Israeli Government figure of 649,600 as given for 14 May

(1) 'Explanatory Note' in the *Village Statistics 1945*, p. 2.

(2) U.N. Document A/364 — UNSCOP Report, Chapter II, paras. 12-13 and footnote 11.

(3) *Ibid.*, Chapter IV, p. 54.

(4) *Statistical Abstract of Israel 1968*, p. 18.