

LET US BUILD IN PEACE AND AMITY

Vaad Haleumi, National Council of Palestine Jews, Appeals to Arab People for Cooperation and Unity.

To the Arabic Nation in Palestine and the Greater Orient.

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Brethren:

The Hebrew nation, after its years of wandering in diverse lands, has commenced, during this latest epoch, to return in vast numbers, to its ancient motherland, a land held sacred by all nations. It has come back, with whole-hearted sincerity and loving friendliness, to this blessed country to toil in it, to cherish it and to revivify it. It has invested both strength and energy, made sacrifices, fructified the earth by excessive toil and in many parts even converted the veritable desert into a fount of new life, as your own eyes have witnessed.

We have come with fervid aim to work in consort with you for the upbuilding of the country, dear to us both; to work with you in perfect cordiality and accord as loving brothers who have been parted and drawn together again. We have suffered much in that world, whence we have returned, whilst among nations who failed to understand us, and the spirit animating our conduct. Here, in the birthplace of the Semites, nearest to us in stock and language, we hoped we might find a common tongue and kindred spirit and be enabled to comprehend and appreciate each other, and thus progress hand in hand towards the future upbuilding of the Holy Land.

You have been aware that, for the past forty years, the Jewish nation has introduced into the country a great wealth, which has served as a source of employment and livelinood to thousands of the Arabic race. The forty colonies and the other settlements we have established in Judaea, Samaria, Lower and Upper Galilee and in the Plain of Israel; the new towns such as Tel-Aviv, and the new suburbs on the outsirts of Haifa and Jerusalem have added much to the life and movement of the country, and have given means of livelihood to large numbers of its inhabitants. You are cognizant of, see and feel, the fact that, as with a conjurer's wand the wilderness has been transformed into a fruitful garden and the desert into a garden of Eden.

The strivings of the Jewish people w

a national development unhindered and unencumbered. (As was expressed at the Zionist Congress at Carlsbad in 1921.)

Yet behold, after the passing of many blissful years of peace, coincident with joint effort based on a covenant of love and respect, there has arisen in the country a group of men whose objects are the introducing of disharmony, the promoting of internal strife, and the creating in our country of an atmosphere of hate, suspicion and perpetual conflict. They have already launched a campaign amongst you against the Jewish nation. By way of the press and by means of verbal addresses they have commenced to circulate fables and fictions such as: that many thousands of Jews are about to land in the country in order to take possession of it, that Jews have raised battalions of soldiers, that magazines and arsenals have been secretly established. Of late their lying has attained such limits that they have dared to issue drawings depicting a Hebrew flag over the Mosquo of Omar, a place sacred to the Moslem world and revered likewise by the Hebrew nation. It is a falsehood whose baseness can be verified by any inhabitant of the Holy City. They seem to have faith in the guillibility of the readers and therefore invent fictions which are self-evident lies.

All those who have been in Palestine during the past few years, have both seen and remarked the energetic work of the Jewish immigrants, who have come to the country not with arms but with plough, spade and mallet. With the sweat of their brows they till the land, which till their coming was but desolate and void. They have encroached on nobody's preserves, have purchased only land tendered them willingly, have reclaimed rocky wastes, and have been made to suffer all manner of diseases. They do all this out of love and affection and are preparing to breathe new life into the country; while all thoughts of rebellion, or of the obtaining of dominion, or putting of Zionist flags over the Mosque of Omar, are very, very far from their minds.

Brethren, do not

chief makers. Remember that only by means of a calm and peaceful life can this sacred land of ours be regenerated. Do not heed those who provoke you to rise against your brethren, who dwell with you in perfect confidence. Remember that the responsibility for disturbances will devolve only on you, the people, should you chance to follow their counsel. Disturbances can but cause harm to the whole country and most surely hinder its development. They would bespoil that fair and honorable designation which the Arabic nation has earned for itself—the kind-hearted, the meter out of hospitality for generations past. Each new incomer brings fresh life into the country, and the Jewish immigation cannot fail to bring blessings on the land, for it is a source of wealth to the inhabitants of the country, which stands much in need of additional settlers.

Only by peacefulness, tranquility and brotherly love can this joint motherland of ours be made happy and prosperous. All those who favor disturbances, and all those who agitate, beguile, and provoke troubles are the enemies of the mother land.

Accept the, Brethren, the hand of peace proffered to you. It was with no desire for conflict that we first set our faces in this direction; nor is such our desire at this moment, after the opportunity has been given both you and us—under the guardianship of the enlightened British Government—to be in this country, to develop it and for restore its honor and glory as of yore.

Kindred Brethren!

The Hebrew nation and the Arabic nation had a common destiny in the past; they acknowledge the same patriarch: why then should there be strife twixt brethren: rather let us share the common ambition: To build the wasted portions of our Holy Land, for the welfare of ourselves and of that of all mankind!

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