

RADOSŁAW BANIA

The Conditions of Activity of the Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry in 1946

In 1939 the British government published the so-called “White Book”. This document proposed the creation of a binational, Arab-Jewish federal state after a five year interim period in Palestine. It also limited the Jewish immigration into Palestine. In the time of the Holocaust, Jewish immigration to Palestine was illegal. The Zionist movement looked for leverage against the British policy of 1939 White Book. The leaders of the movement saw a great chance in activation of American Jewish society to provoke pressure on the American government. Such pressure would cause the official American objection against the British standing in the Palestine Problem. In 1942 in the Biltmore hotel in New York, a conference of American Zionist organizations took place. In the “Biltmore Declaration” they not only rejected the 1939 White Book but also proclaimed that the ultimate aim of the Zionist movement would be the cessation of the British presence in Palestine and the creation of the Jewish state there. After the Biltmore Conference, the Zionists sought cooperation with the American political establishment. Unfortunately, despite the fact that many American politicians, both from Republican and Democratic Parties, showed sympathy for the Zionist aims, the Roosevelt’s administration refused to give clear and full support. This situation changed after F.D. Roosevelt death. The new president Harry S. Truman sent to the British prime minister C. Attlee the cable in which he demanded free entrance to Palestine for 100.000 Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. In his response, the British prime minister, proposed the creation of a common committee whose aim would be the dissolving of the problem of Jewish refugees. The American president agreed but stressed that the committee should also make recommendations regarding the future of Palestine. After diplomatic preparations the Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry inaugurated its work in December of 1945. After four months of work, the members of the Committee assembled in Lozanne in Switzerland, prepared a final paper of recommendation. It was published on 20 April 1946. The Commission recommended that there should be a free passage for 100.000 Jewish immigrants from Europe to Palestine. The Report also said that there should be a single state in Palestine with international guarantees created. Neither Jews nor Arabs should dominate in such state. The Report was not well received. Only Americans gave it their full support. Both Arabs and Jews refused to give their acceptance because they wanted the creation of a single one-national state in Palestine. So the first post-war international initiative for dissolving the mounting conflict between Jews and Arabs in Palestine collapsed. But for the Americans it was the first, serious contact with this item. From that time, the U.S. became one of the most active sides in all phases of the Arab-Jewish conflict.

PAWEŁ CHMIELEWSKI

The Case of General Franco’s Spain in the UN Security Council in 1946

The case of Franco's Spain appeared during the establishment conference of United Nations in San Francisco. At the time was an enterprise of Mexico, it arrived at resolution. It said that a state by which government was created by armed assassination and which had led a war against The United Nations couldn't be a member of it. During conference in Potsdam, the great powers pronounced that they would not support gen. Franco's government and his endeavours to be accepted to the UN.

The beginning of this paper discusses about circumstances in which the Security Council started be interested in the issue of Spain. In April 1946 Poland took up an initiative against

Spain's causes. Poland was supported and inspired by representative of the Soviet Union. The Polish delegation presented resolution to acknowledge of Franco's regime as danger international peace and security. Poland appealed to United Nations to break diplomatic contacts with Spain. The main issue of this paper is to reconcile the proces of discussion and the resolution of Polish delegate to the UN.

The proposition of Polish delegate was refused by the Security Council because of opposition to it by western states. At the time a committee was founded with five members, including Poland, for inquiry of this issue. The conclusion of this working group was that Franco's regime activity was “potential” danger for peace. The committee suggested handing the case over to the UN and putting forward a proposal to the General Assembly. The proposal instructed all its members to break diplomatic contacts with Spain.

Finally the Security Council did not take up any resolution on this issue. It was a result of a protest by the Soviet Union. A delegate from the Soviet Union considered that denunciation of Franco's regime in form that was only “potentially” a threat to peace was inadequate.

Nevertheless the issue was retreated from by the Security Council and handed in to the General Assembly. It meanted that effort of the Polish and Soviet delegacies did not bring any expected effects [besides moral and propaganda]. There did not come to be any radical decision of the Security Council about Franco's regime.