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FOR THE USE OF THE COLONIAL OFFICE

MIDDLE EAST

No. 64
(PART I.)

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CONFIDENTIAL

NARRATIVE DESPATCHES

FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

REPORTING ON THE

SITUATION IN PALESTINE

FROM

26th SEPTEMBER 1937

TO

31st DECEMBER 1938

LOSED
UNTIL

1970

(PART 2 OF THIS VOLUME CONTAINS SIMILAR DESPATCHES
COVERING THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY, 1939, TO 20th
AUGUST, 1939.)

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THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT

to

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Received 28th October, 1937.)

(SECRET)

Jerusalem, 14th October, 1937.

Sir,

1. I have reported to you by telegraph the successive developments in the situation in this country since the 26th September, but I feel that the time is now opportune to give you a full account of the events which have taken place since the tragic murder of Mr. Andrews and British Constable McEwan in Nazareth.

2. The story of the murder may be briefly told. As Mr. Andrews and Mr. Pirie-Gordon accompanied by Mr. Andrews' escort Constable McEwan were walking to Evensong at the Anglican Church in Nazareth, they were set on in the narrow twisting road leading to the Church by four Arab assassins. Constable McEwan, who was walking behind Mr. Andrews, was shot first and died within half an hour without regaining consciousness. Mr. Andrews was killed outright and Mr. Pirie-Gordon who slipped as he turned to go to Mr. Andrews' help, had a miraculous escape as while he was on the ground, several shots were fired at him.

3. Within twenty minutes of the murder all the roads in the Galilee District had been closed by the Police; but despite this promptness, the murderers made good their escape and have not been arrested. At dawn on the 27th, the police dogs which had been sent overnight from Jerusalem, were taken to the scene of the murder and given scent from two different tracks both of which led to the main Nazareth - Haifa road, where they lost the trail. Subsequent enquiry indicates, however, the possibility that the murderers took to the hills on foot and were not picked up by a waiting motor car, as was at first suspected.

4. Immediately after the murder Mr. Keith-Roach arrived from Haifa and took over temporary charge of the Galilee District, and during the night of the 26th/27th September I gave orders for the arrest of all suspects in the District. Forty four were taken that night and by the 30th September, altogether one hundred and ninety six orders of detention in Acre Detention camp had been signed.

5. Next morning the two bodies were conveyed to Jerusalem by road. Their passage across the Emek where the Jewish population turned out en masse to pay their last respects, and later through Samaria by way of Jenin and Nablus, created a deep impression; and at the funeral in the afternoon which I attended officially with the General Officer Commanding the British Troops in Palestine and the Executive and Advisory Councils, a very large number of the British and Jewish Communities was present and also a few Arabs, including Dr. Hussein Khalidi, the Mayor of Jerusalem. The two men were buried with military honours side by side in the British Cemetery overlooking the Valley of Hinnom.

6. The news of the murders spread very rapidly and created a deep impression among all sections of the population, and on the 27th September, I published a notice expressing the deep regret of the Government. Later in the day the Arab Higher Committee issued a statement deploring the crime and condemning its perpetrators, and on the following day the Vaad Leumi issued its statement in which Mr. Andrews' service towards Palestine generally and the Jewish National Home in particular, was eloquently described.

7. On the 28th September, all the Arabic daily newspapers published the statement of the Arab Higher Committee without comment; but on the following day, by which time a considerable number of political undesirables had been placed in the Acre Detention Camp, they opened their columns to comment on the lines that while no section of the Palestine population was more sincere than the Arabs in their condemnation of the two murders and of terrorism in general, the Government was far from justified in exploiting the tragic event by imprisoning without trial hundreds of innocent Arabs.

8. On the 29th September, further evidence became available that this was the official version of Arab reaction, in the shape of a request to me by the Arab Higher Committee to receive them as a body. I realized that they proposed to make an official protest over the arrests and refused to see them, intimating that I was prepared to consider what they had to say if they addressed me by letter. Their written protest reached me on the morning of the 1st October.

9. On the 30th September I received your final telegram of instructions and proceeded to put them into immediate execution according to arrangements which I had previously made with the General Officer Commanding British Troops in Palestine and the Acting Inspector-General of the Palestine Police. No arrests were made during the day but police leave was stopped and in the evening the Force stood to while the troops were in readiness.

10. The necessary Defence Regulations had already been prepared covering the issues of deportation, the declaration as unlawful associations of the Arab Higher Committee and the National Committees in Palestine, and the deprivation of Haj Amin Eff. Al Hussein of his two posts of President of the Supreme Moslem Council and Chairman of the General Wakfs Committee. These Orders were published on the 1st October and I am enclosing copies* for your information.

11. It had been known overnight and it was even published in the local Press on the morning of the 1st October, that Police leave had been stopped, but although the news had caused some comment, it is nevertheless a fact that the action which you had authorized and which was put into operation at dawn on the 1st October, completely took the country by surprise, and, in fact, the first intimation that reached the public generally that anything was afoot, was when they learned that the telephone service had been suspended on my orders during the period when the arrests were due to be effected.

12. Dr. Hussein Khalidi, the Mayor of Jerusalem, and Fuad Effendi Saba, the Secretary of the Arab Higher Committee, had been taken early in Jerusalem and a few hours later Ahmad Hilmi Pasha, the Treasurer of the Arab Higher Committee and the Director of the Arab Bank Limited, was apprehended in Gaza; and early in the afternoon, these three gentlemen were placed on board H.M.S. "Sussex" which had arrived at Haifa late on the previous evening. They were joined on board by Rashid Haj Ibrahim, the Manager of the Haifa branch of the Arab Bank Limited, whose arrest for deportation I had ordered earlier in the day.

13. The remaining two members of the Arab Higher Committee against whom warrants had been issued, Yacoub Effendi Ghussein and Jamal Effendi Al Hussein, could not, however, be found during the day; but early on the following morning Yacoub Effendi Ghussein surrendered himself to the Police at Ramleh and was embarked at Jaffa at mid-day on board H.M.S. "Active", to which the other four deportees had been transferred from H.M.S. "Sussex" on the previous evening. H.M.S. "Active" then left for the Seychelles whither she is proceeding direct.

* Not reprinted.

14. Jamal Effendi Al Hussein has not been arrested, and is believed to have escaped into Syria where he is reported to be living in Damascus.

15. This narrative must now revert to the morning of October 1st and to Palestine.

16. As soon as I had ascertained that four of the deportees were in the hands of the police, I raised the suspension of the internal telephone service with the exception of four lines in Jerusalem, two belonging to the Supreme Moslem Council, one to Haj Amin Effendi Al Hussein and the fourth to the Moslem General Congress. These four lines are still suspended. Simultaneously, however, I used my powers under Regulation 12 of Defence Regulations 1936 and prohibited the use of all telephones - except a very limited number of official and consular lines - for the purpose of effecting or receiving trunk calls with and from countries outside Palestine. This precaution prevented the spread of untrue and exaggerated reports being sent out of Palestine to the foreign Press and elsewhere in neighbouring Arab-speaking countries; and with the same object in mind, I also ordered a censorship of all press telegrams to Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Trans-Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia and further of all local telegrams containing messages of a political nature. These prohibitions were subsequently lifted at midnight on the 5th/6th October.

17. I did not impose a censorship on press telegrams to Europe and I am glad to say that, with few exceptions, the local correspondents of the British and European Press were commendably restrained and accurate in their reports.

18. At 12.15 p.m. on the 1st October by which time the prayers in the Mosques had been made without any incident, I issued Official Communiqué No. 16/37 the contents of which were communicated to you by telegram.

19. Just previously, I saw Dr. Bernard Joseph, who in the absence of Mr. Shertok, was temporarily in charge of the Jewish Agency and acquainted him with the contents of the Communiqué, which was later broadcast at 7 p.m. and again at 9 p.m. in the three official languages from the Studios of the Palestine Broadcasting Service.

20. Earlier in the afternoon I had forbidden the issue by several local newspapers of broad-sheets containing the terms of the Communiqué, as I was anxious to prevent the gathering of probably excited crowds in the streets of the towns.

21. Simultaneously with the issue to the local press of the terms of the Official Communiqué, I had thought it advisable in the interests of public safety to address all Editors under Regulation 11(3) of Defence Regulations 1936 prohibiting them from making any reference to or comment on the events of the day in their columns until further notice.

22. The last action taken by me that day was to order a search of the Jerusalem premises of the Arab Bank Limited by the police accompanied by officials of the Treasury.

23. That there was no open reaction to the measures ordered by Government throughout the whole day of the 1st October, was largely due to the fact that the news of the day's events only filtered slowly through the country and, indeed it was not until the 7 p.m. broadcast that they were at all generally known.

24. During the following day, the 2nd October, however, the public gradually became aware of the scope of the action taken; but beyond a ragged demonstration of Arab youths in Jerusalem which by threats forced almost all the shops in the Old City and a few elsewhere in the outlying

quarters of the town to close their shutters, no incident of any magnitude occurred. But on the next day - Sunday - the movement to close the shops had made certain progress and was effective in varying degrees not only in Jerusalem, but also in Jaffa, Safad, Gaza and Tulkarm. .

25. During the night of the 3rd/4th October, there was a case of sabotage on the Lydda - Jerusalem railway involving the cutting of telephone lines and the wrecking of a railway water-tank, while four shots were fired on a party of railway workers when they were removing some stones which had been placed on the track. Suitable action was at once taken against two villages from the direction of which the shots had been fired.

26. Already by the evening of the 4th October the shop-shutting movement had lost whatever momentum it had ever had, and by the 5th October, it had completely petered out. An attempt was made to ascribe this collapse to an appeal issued by Haj Amin Al Husseini in the form of a manifesto calling on the Arabs to return to work. But in reality the movement was never more than a half-hearted affair. Intimidation generally failed and in Jenin where the movement persisted longest, an order from the Assistant District Commissioner to re-open the shops was complied with without delay or fuss.

27. As I have already stated, I removed at midnight on the 5th/6th October, the prohibition laid on the local press to mention or comment on the events of the 1st October; but when an intimation to this effect was made to all the Editors, I caused a letter to be sent to each of them, drawing their attention to the terms of Section 19 of the Press Ordinance and warning them against the publication of comment likely to provoke inter-racial animosities or of false reports or false rumours.

28. It was thus possible to exert a considerable control on the tone and accuracy of the local newspapers, but, as was perhaps inevitable, the press of the neighbouring Arab-speaking countries, which circulates freely in this country, was at once filled both with a type of comment which was likely to, and probably designed to foment trouble and also with the wildest reports which had no foundation in fact. In the end, the danger of the circulation of these comments and reports became sufficiently serious for me to impose, on the 7th October, a general censorship of all Egyptian, Syrian and Lebanese newspapers entering Palestine. This censorship is still in operation.

29. There remained the question of the control of pamphlets such as had been issued by Haj Amin Al Husseini on the 4th October; and to meet it, I caused censors' orders under Defence Regulation 11 (5) to be issued declaring all printed matter (including photographs and pictures) dealing with Haj Amin's movements and activities to be prohibited matter and liable to seizure by the Postal and Customs authorities or by the Police if it was found in this country.

30. I am enclosing with this despatch a copy of a memorandum by the District Commissioner, Northern District. It will serve to supplement the narrative which I have already given. I wish to refer you in particular to paragraphs 12 and 30 of Mr. Keith-Roach's memorandum, and to associate myself fully with his appreciation of the work accomplished by Mr. and Mrs. Blackburne, Dr. Mac Lean, Mr. Foot, Mr. Pirie Gordon, Mr. Faraday, Mr. Barker and the Police of the Northern and Galilee districts. They deserve the greatest credit for the way in which they faced a situation fraught with potential danger and for the calmness and energy with which they handled the tragic and difficult situation with which they were faced.

31. Finally I would wish to bring to your notice the outstanding services rendered by Mr. Keith-Roach himself. He acted throughout with energy and decision and was a constant source of encouragement and

inspiration to those working under him, and I am most grateful to him personally for his help.

32. I have already sent you on the 10th October, by telegram my appreciation of the situation on that day, and I propose to keep you informed on similar lines as and when occasion demands.

33. From the standpoint of public security the country has been undisturbed for the last week with the exception of one armed hold-up on the 9th October on the Jenin - Nablus road when five cars were stopped by a barricade of stones across the road and their occupants robbed by four armed Arabs.

I have, &c.,

W. D. BATTERSHILL,

Officer Administering the
Government.

Enclosure in No. 1

(CONFIDENTIAL)

THE CHIEF SECRETARY

9th October, 1937.

Subject:- Assassination of Mr. L. Y. Andrews, District Commissioner, Galilee, and Mr. P. R. McEwan, British Constable.

I submit the following Report for the information of the Officer Administering the Government.

On Sunday evening, September 26th, a few minutes past 6 o'clock I was informed by telephone that Mr. Andrews, Acting District Commissioner, Galilee, and his Police guard, British Constable McEwan, had been murdered as they were going up the narrow lane to evening service at the Anglican Church in Nazareth. Mr. Pirie-Gordon, who accompanied them, had escaped being hurt.

2. I informed the Officer Administering the Government of the occurrence by telephone and said I would go immediately to Nazareth, with which he concurred.

3. I picked up Mr. Faraday the D.D.S.P. of Galilee - himself in sore distress - who was spending the evening in Haifa in attendance on his newly married wife who is in Haifa Hospital having been suddenly stricken with infantile paralysis and is lying there paralysed from the waist downwards.

4. We reached Nazareth before 7 and I found Mr. Blackburne calm and collected in the office and Mr. Pirie-Gordon obviously shaken at the horror of the ordeal he had passed through but bearing up extremely well.

5. Two weeks before the murder Mr. Andrews had told Mr. Pirie-Gordon that he was expecting an attack from Saffuriya village near Nazareth. A search of Mr. Andrews' personal papers carried out by Mr. Blackburne and Mr. Pirie-Gordon produced a list of the dangerous characters of this village, and a party of Police were sent immediately under A.S.P. Ring to effect arrests, round up the villagers and find out who were absent from their houses.

Piquets had been placed on all roads preventing cars from leaving

the town and a curfew had already been imposed by Mr. Pirie-Gordon on the special authority of the Officer Administering the Government.

6. I ascertained that Mr. Andrews - who had taken particular precautions during the last few months, never travelling in his motor-car without two armed policemen, having an armed policeman outside his bedroom door in the hotel in which he lived and an armed policeman in the garden at night under his window - had been in the habit of proceeding to the Anglican Protestant Church in Nazareth every Sunday at the same hour. The church is on the top of a little hill and is actually reached through a courtyard where the bell-ringer lives and the courtyard itself is at the top of a steep lane. Mr. Andrews and Mr. Pirie-Gordon reached the end of the lane in their cars at the same time. They started to walk up the lane with the policeman behind them and after crossing a little cross-lane Andrews pushed Pirie-Gordon in the side, calling "Run for your life"! The constable was shot down and subsequently fired at while he was on the ground. Mr. Andrews, as he rushed to the very steps of the courtyard was shot evidently through the jugular vein, and the assassins later - as he fell - poured further shots into the body and then fired at Mr. Pirie-Gordon who mercifully at that moment fell over some spilt water and so his life was spared.

7. A curfew was immediately put upon Nazareth and all was quiet in the town.

8. The bodies of Mr. Andrews and his escort had been taken to the mortuary but Dr. MacLean, the doctor in charge, had suggested that they be transferred to Haifa as the mortuary was at present occupied by another body. The bodies were therefore brought back to the Police yard and I requested instructions from the Chief Secretary as to whether his Excellency desired the burials to take place in Jerusalem or in Haifa. I subsequently received instructions that the burials were to take place in Jerusalem.

Having personally viewed the bodies, despite the painfulness of the occasion I requested Dr. MacLean - who had himself seen the murder of the constable from the church wall - to assist Dr. Tucktuck, the local Medical Officer of Health, to perform an autopsy as I considered it essential that bullets - if there were any - should be extracted. This was carried out.

9. Some days previous to this assassination we had, on the instructions of the Officer Administering the Government, revised all lists of persons whom it might be desirable to arrest should an emergency arise. These lists had been divided into two portions:-

- (a) Terrorists, and
- (b) Political suspects.

Instructions were received by telephone from the Acting Chief Secretary that all persons in lists (a) and (b) throughout the Northern and Galilee Districts were to be arrested. Accordingly, instructions were issued to every District Officer and to the Police throughout the Districts and by the early hours of the morning of Monday 44 persons had been arrested in Galilee, 44 in Haifa and 21 in Samaria. I consider the work of the Police in making these arrests excellent as it was done with precision and speed.

10. At the request of the D.D.S.P. Galilee I retransferred Police control of Acre sub-district to the D.S.P. Haifa and instructed Mr. Barker to assume command there again.

11. Before midnight Mr. Kingsley-Heath and Mr. Fitzgerald, both of the Criminal Investigation Department, arrived and we gave them such detailed information about the murder as we then had.

12. Finding everything was proceeding satisfactorily in the two districts, I retired to bed in the early hours of Monday morning.

I cannot, however, close this account of the day's proceedings without expressing our sincere thanks to Mrs. Blackburne. In our hour of need when calmness was essential, she set an admirable example to everybody and rendered just that efficient moral and spiritual help to soothe jaded nerves.

13. Early on Monday, the 27th, the Police dogs arrived in Nazareth and subsequently on test proved that the assassins had - after committing the deed - gone via a devious route leading to the main road and had evidently escaped in a waiting motorcar, and the car had left too soon after the incident for it to be caught up by the Police patrols that had been thrown out to guard the exits of Nazareth.

Although the murderers must have obtained first hand knowledge of Mr. Andrews' movements and also the lanes of the town, I decided the weight of evidence then available went to prove they were not Nazarinnes and so I did not advocate a heavy fine being imposed on the town. We must await the final C.I.D. Report.

14. I asked the Chief Secretary for Mr. Gibbs to be sent up to Nazareth to help Mr. Blackburne, and sent Mr. Pirie-Gordon into Haifa to take over my headquarters work as Mr. Scrivenor was in hospital having been operated upon for appendicitis.

15. During the morning, after seeing the bodies of Mr. Andrews and Constable McEwan off - under the care of Mr. Harris who had come up from Jerusalem - in coffins which had been obtained from the prison workshops by Mr. Barker D.S.P. Haifa, I got in touch with all the District Officers. The arrests, although they included several religious personages and Sharia Court officials, did not cause noticeable excitement or tension anywhere.

After assuring myself that tranquillity remained throughout the two districts, I left by aeroplane at 2 o'clock for Jerusalem to attend the funeral which was attended by his Excellency the Officer Administering the Government.

16. After the funeral I discussed the whole question of public security with Mr. MacLaren the District Commissioner of Jerusalem and we ventured to submit a joint memorandum of our opinion which I presented personally to the Officer Administering the Government. I then returned by car to Haifa.

17. The 28th and 29th were spent in checking up such terrorists and undesirable politicians who were still at large and by the end of Wednesday we had "picked up" the following persons:-

Haifa, Rural, Acre	61
Samaria	31
Galilee	104

18. My general impression was that there was some genuine grief in parts of Galilee and Haifa at such a lovable, simple man as Andrews, who had rendered great service to the people, being killed but on the whole Arab callousness for life and the absence of any word for murder in their colloquial language prevented them from expressing such feelings as may have been touched. In Samaria and the Jordan Valley, Beisan excepted, where he was less well known, owing to the propaganda which had been conducted against Mr. Andrews for many months past both in the press and elsewhere there was amongst most local Arabs little feeling of sorrow or show of sympathy.

19. On Thursday, September 30th, I received a delegation of Arab Moslem and Christian notables from Haifa who came to express the regrets decided upon at a meeting attended by 70 persons held the day before. At the end of an hour and a half I was impressed by the fact that the expressions of regret were more lip-service to pave the way to ask for the release of those interned under the Emergency Regulations than a true expression of sorrow.

20. Later during the day I proceeded to Nathanya on the coast, preparatory to opening the Great North Road and while I was there I received a personal letter from His Excellency stating the action he was going to take. After the ceremonies were over and I had returned to Haifa in the evening I got in touch with Captain Blagrove of H.M.S. "SUSSEX" which had arrived and made arrangements with him for the reception of those persons whose arrest had been ordered and effected.

21. On Friday, October 1st, we received the persons who had been arrested in Jerusalem and they were taken off at the basin built by the Palestine Electric Corporation.

Having obtained Mr. Battershill's authority for his deportation, I caused the arrest of Rashid Haj Ibrahim - Manager of the Arab Bank in Haifa - who has been a consistent follower of both the Mufti and the policy adopted by His Eminence and the Arab Higher Committee, and he was put on board His Majesty's Ship.

22. I arranged for Mr. Barker, D.S.P., to see the persons leave the shore and I personally saw them arrive in the ship and then handed His Excellency's warrants to the Captain.

1. Ahmed Hilme Pasha, General Manager, the Arab Bank.
2. Dr. Khalidi, Mayor of Jerusalem.
3. Fuad Saba, Accountant.
4. Rashid Haj Ibrahim.

23. Early on Saturday October 2nd the deportees were transferred outside the harbour to the destroyer H.M.S. "ACTIVE" which left for Port-Said. As however one other person was arrested at Jaffa, she was recalled to embark the last of the passengers, Yacoub Ghussain, for Seychelles.

24. On Sunday October 3rd memorial services for Mr. L. Y. Andrews and Mr. P. R. McEwan were held at Haifa in the morning and Nazareth at night. In the service we tried to express praise and triumph. I enclose the order of service.

The services were well attended by all communities and at Haifa the French and Italian Consuls were present, and representatives of His Majesty's Forces.

At Nazareth all the local religious heads were present including Catholics, Moslems and many Jews.

I attended both services and read the lesson.

25. A half-hearted attempt to shut up shops at Haifa, October 3rd, was quickly suppressed, but strikes at Tulkarm that day and subsequently at Nablus and Jenin took firm handling and persons had to be arrested and orders issued to open under 14A of the Emergency Regulations. The Safad Mayor also had to be talked to very severely.

26. Little tension or excitement was caused by the action taken by the Officer Administering the Government against members of the Higher Committee: indeed, both villagers and townspeople appear to have a sense of relief and seem anxious to continue their occupations in peace.

A few extremists who are still at large and cannot yet be traced will undoubtedly do their utmost to create fresh trouble.

27. The result of the swift action taken has undoubtedly had a three-fold reaction. It has firstly restored some confidence in the Administration. Secondly, it has been a great shock to Arab opinion as they at last realize that the Mandatory power will not give way to intimidation and, thirdly, it has made it possible for more moderately minded people to consider reviewing the whole question, and has undoubtedly done a great deal to reassure the Emir Abdallah and his friends in Palestine.

28. While therefore I do not suggest the policy of partition will be any more popular, at the same time it means that any further Commission sent to this country will possibly have a chance of hearing more moderate Arab opinion than heretofore. Many Arabs have been to see me privately in various places and have expressed to me their satisfaction at the firm hand Government has taken.

29. The Jewish community, while stunned by the shock of the death of an official who had proved himself a friend - as indeed he had to the Arabs - nevertheless openly congratulate Government on what they believe is the opening up of a new era.

30. I would add the following about Dr. MacLean and my colleagues.

Dr. MacLean of the Scottish Hospital at a time of great personal distress carried out the autopsy.

Mr. Blackburne's quiet and efficient grasp of the abnormal situation made my presence in Galilee almost unnecessary. His appreciation of what to do and general conduct were admirable.

Mr. Foot, Assistant District Commissioner, Samaria, acted with most commendable swiftness and understanding, and undoubtedly his handling of the attempt at striking in his three principal towns saved a situation from developing.

Mr. Pirie-Gordon quickly threw himself into the tasks at Headquarters and has been of great service to me.

I consider the work of the Police has been admirable. The Palestinians did not flinch from arresting religious leaders and well known politicians.

Despite his terrible personal sorrow, Mr. Faraday was alert and acted quickly.

Mr. Barker showed exceptional talent in preventing a crisis from arising in Haifa.

I have, &c.,

E. KEITH-ROACH

District Commissioner.

No. 2

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT

to

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Received 26th October, 1937.)

(SECRET)

Jerusalem, 25rd October, 1937.

Sir,

In my despatch Secret of the 14th October,* I reported to you in narrative form the events which had taken place in this country between the 26th September and the 15th October, and in my concluding paragraph I was able to say that with the exception of one armed hold-up, there had been no serious breach of public order during the week preceding the 15th October.

* No. 1

2. On the evening of the 14th October, however, this lull was suddenly and violently broken by a series of outrages which were staged on what would appear to have been a pre-determined time table.

3. Just after dusk, two attacks were made on Jewish buses in the vicinity of Jerusalem. The first of these attacks was made by an Arab bomb-thrower who, owing to the premature detonation of the bomb, was himself killed. The bus was slightly damaged and three passengers slightly wounded. The second attack was made by a party of armed Arabs about five miles outside Jerusalem on the Jaffa Road. The attackers fired at close range into a passing bus, killing one Arab passenger and wounding another. Ten Jewish passengers were also injured - some as the result of broken glass.

4. About the same time a basket containing two live bombs which fortunately did not explode, had been found in a Jerusalem Cafe, which was known to be largely frequented by the British personnel of the Palestine Police.

5. These incidents naturally created great excitement and I issued a curfew order covering the town planning area of Jerusalem at 9.30 p.m.

6. Meanwhile an exaggerated report had been received of an attempt on the evening passenger train from Haifa to Jaffa, according to which the train had been blown up and set on fire causing a large number of casualties. Investigation, however, proved that though the attempt had been thoroughly organized, what might have been a major disaster had been prevented by the coolness and bravery of British Constable Turton who was the Police escort with the train.

7. The attack took place just north of Ras-el-Ain Station. Some rails had been removed by armed Arabs and a mine which failed to explode had been placed on the track. A number of bombs exploded under the rear carriages of the train after the engine had left the line. Immediately after the derailment, the train was attacked by about twelve Arabs who fired into it, fortunately without causing further damage. Some sixty passengers were travelling in the train, the majority of whom were Jews. After firing a number of rounds, the Arabs attempted to board the train, shouting as they did so "Are there any Jews here?"

8. Constable Turton was travelling on the train on duty, though not actually as escort. He was accompanied by an Arab Constable. The former was armed with a service revolver, the latter with a rifle. Constable Turton concealed himself until the first burst of fire was over and did not reply to it, wishing to lead the attacking party to believe that no armed police were on the train. The Arabs then attempted to board the train, whereupon Constable Turton fired at one Arab wounding him. Two of his companions tried to drag the wounded Arab away and Constable Turton immediately took the Arab Constable's rifle and fired at them, killing both. The rest of the Arab band then fled.

9. Constable Turton went to the front of the train where he found the engine driver pinned beneath some coal. The engine was overturned. After extricating the driver, Constable Turton decided to call for help at once and accompanied by the Arab Constable hurried towards Ras-el-Ain Railway Station, some four kilometres to the south. On his way he met an Arab riding a horse which he commandeered and then rode the rest of the way to Ras-el-Ain. On reaching there, he summoned police reinforcements and reported the derailment to headquarters.

10. When the scene of the derailment was examined, two tins of benzine were found beside the line. A rifle and a bandolier of ammunition were found beside one of the two Arabs who had been shot and killed by Constable Turton and whose bodies had not been removed by their companions.

11. It is evident that but for Constable Turton's presence of mind and gallant conduct, the Jewish passengers in the train would have been killed and the coaches set on fire.

12. The rest of the night of the 14/15th was very disturbed especially in the Jerusalem and Galilee districts. There was sporadic shooting of varying intensity on Jewish settlements; the troop train which was transporting the Royal Sussex Regiment to Egypt was heavily fired on in the mountains south-west of Jerusalem; the Iraq Petroleum Company pipe line was damaged just west of the Jordan and the escaping oil ignited; telephone wires were cut on a fairly extended scale; and shortly after midnight a strong police patrol which had been despatched to Hebron where trouble, which happily did not materialise, was feared, was heavily ambushed near Solomon's Pools and Police Constables Harrison and Malia were killed.

13. The following day, Friday, the 15th October, passed without any major incident. Curfew was, however, maintained in Jerusalem. Late in the day, when it was learned that the Mufti had not attended the prayers in the Al Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem, rumours started that he had left the Haram. These rumours incidentally were denied from authorized Arab quarters where it was given out that he was suffering from tonsillitis.

14. The night of the 15/16th October was quiet until midnight and there was a decrease both in the amount of stray shooting and of sabotage of the telephone lines. Shortly after midnight, however, a large party of Arabs penetrated the premises of the Lydda airport and having cut the wires, set on fire and completely burned out the temporary wooden buildings, housing the Customs and passport offices and the wireless installation.

15. During the day of the 16th October, I ordered action against Lydda Town and Qula and Rantis villages in connection with the train incident on the night of the 14th and the burning of the airport on the following night. In Lydda, a twenty three hour curfew was imposed for four days; the collective fine imposed last year of LP. 5,000 was re-affirmed and an order was given for LP. 250 to be collected as soon as possible; two houses were demolished; and forty eight suspects were arrested. In both Qula and Rantis two houses were demolished.

16. The night of the 16/17th was generally quieter, but about midnight some shots were fired on a Jewish settlement near Rehovot and a Jewish boy was killed; and early in the morning of the 17th, an attempt was made to blow up a culvert on the Jerusalem - Jaffa road.

17. Late in the afternoon of the 17th, three incidents occurred in Jerusalem and its vicinity. A Jewish youth was attacked and severely stabbed by an Arab; an Arab was shot dead in the Old City by an unknown Arab; and a party of Jewish quarrymen who were preparing to return to Jerusalem were heavily fired on but fortunately without injury to any of them. During the night there was a recrudescence of sporadic shooting and three extensive cases of telephone wire sabotage.

18. Shortly after dusk, also on the 17th, a large band of armed Arabs raided the Police Post at Dahariya on the Hebron Road between Hebron and Beersheba. The constables who were having their evening meal, were caught by surprise and after cutting the telephone lines, the raiders seized five rifles and a store of ammunition and decamped. Assistance was brought from Hebron and Beersheba and the following day, the 18th October, a collective fine was imposed on the village of LP. 2,000 to be paid in sheep; and a strong punitive police post was established in the village at the cost of the inhabitants, thirty of whom were ordered to report daily to the Police at Hebron. This punishment was given full publicity by wireless.

19. Early in the morning of the 18th October, two isolated incidents of shooting occurred in Jerusalem.

The two persons attacked were an Armenian (who has since died) and an Arab workman who was only slightly injured. Their assailants have not been arrested and it is believed that they were Jews and that the motive was reprisal.

20. I cancelled the curfew order on the night of the 19th October. It had been in force for four nights.

21. This narrative has not touched on two important developments which have occurred during the period under review - the appointment of a Commission to control and manage the Finances of the Moslem Awqaf in Palestine which was made public on the 16th October and the departure of the Mufti, the circumstances of which are still only vaguely known.

22. I shall be reporting to you again on the lines of this despatch as and when occasion demands.

I have, &c.,

W. D. BATTERSHILL,

Officer Administering the Government.

No. 3

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT

to

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Received 23rd November, 1937.)

(SECRET)

Jerusalem, 18th November, 1937.

Sir,

My Secret despatch of the 23rd October* described in narrative form the events which occurred in this country between the 13th and the 20th of the month, and in my telegram No. 496 of the 24th October, I was able to report that although isolated incidents of telephone and telegraph wire cutting and some sniping at night had occurred, the normal life of the country had been little affected. This appreciation still applies; for although there have been certain incidents - some of them grave - which are described in the four following paragraphs, there has been no dislocation of communications in the country; acts of sabotage have shown signs of decreasing; and the day to day routine of Palestine life has not been outwardly disturbed.

2. Late in the afternoon of the 26th October, a convoy of potash lorries from the Dead Sea was heavily ambushed half way up the Jericho-Jerusalem Road by an armed gang, estimated at about twenty strong, a Jewish driver being killed and an Arab constable in the escort wounded. The remainder of the escort returned the fire and dispersed the gang and on the following day police dogs trailed an Arab from the scene of the attack to the village of Mukhmas where he was found carrying arms and, after a short resistance, captured. His statements are being investigated.

3. On the 19th and 25th October and on the 1st November there were cases of bomb throwing in or near Gaza Station. No casualties resulted but on one occasion the mail-train to Egypt was held up for an hour.

4. On the night of the 27th October, the "Balfour" Forest near Nazareth was set on fire from two directions and extensive damage was done to the trees.

5. The Iraq Petroleum Company's pipe-line was twice damaged in the eastern end of the Plain of Esdraelon on the 22nd October and again on the 3rd November. On the first occasion the escaping oil was set on fire.

* No. 2

6. On my instructions the District Commissioners have been energetically using their powers on punitive lines to check lawlessness and outrage and will continue to use those powers fully to meet each separate case as it occurs.

7. I regret to say, however, that instances of isolated murder have recurred during the period under review. I have already reported to you in my telegram No.496 of the 24th October, the five cases of murders and attempted murder including the fatal attack on Mr. Avinoam Yellin of the Department of Education, which occurred on the 21st and the 22nd October.

8. Between the 23rd and the 31st October there followed a second series of outrages and then, after a lapse of four days, there was a further outbreak between the 5th and the 10th of November. For purposes of record, I am describing each incident in detail.

9. The cases of murder and attempted murder between the 23rd and the 31st October are as follows:-

(a) Shortly after midday on the 23rd October, in a western suburb of Jerusalem, a Christian Arab was shot and wounded. He is recovering.

(b) In the early evening of October 24th, a Jew was shot and slightly wounded in a suburb of Haifa. He described his assailant as an Arab.

(c) On the 26th October, shots were fired from a passing motor-car on the Jenin-Haifa road not far from Haifa, at a Jewish youth and girl. The youth was wounded but is recovering.

(d) On the 29th October shortly before sunset a Jewish workman was shot and wounded near Herod's Gate, Jerusalem. He is recovering. Subsequently the police dogs followed a trail round the outside of the City Walls and through St. Stephen's Gate to an Arab café where eight Arabs were arrested.

(e) On the 29th October about an hour after the incident described in (d) above, four Jews, returning from their Sabbath eve prayers at the Wailing Wall were attacked by unknown persons in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. One of them was shot dead and another wounded. Their assailants escaped. Following on this incident and that described in (d) above, a curfew was imposed on the Old City of Jerusalem between the hours of 6 p.m. and 5 a.m. and a force of twenty additional supernumerary police was drafted into the area for patrol purposes, the cost of their employment to be defrayed by the inhabitants as part of a collective fine. The curfew was raised on the 3rd November, the date of the official opening of the fasting month of Ramadan. This relaxation of the curfew order was accompanied by another order forbidding for the month the sale of intoxicating liquors within the Old City during the hours of darkness.

(f) Two days later, at 11 a.m. on the 31st October, an unknown person described as wearing a hat and European clothes and believed to be a Jew, fired three shots in the Jaffa Road, Jerusalem not far from the District Commissioners' Office. An Egyptian was hit and subsequently died and a Jew seriously wounded. The assailant was not arrested.

10. The outrages between the 5th and the 10th November occurred in and around Jerusalem.

(a) Between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. on the 5th November two soldiers of the Black Watch were attacked in the Valley of Hinnom. One was shot dead and the other died without regaining consciousness. A Jewish watchman who had seen the attack from a distance, reported that the assailants, whom he described as three Arabs, had escaped in the

direction of the Arab village of Silwan; and after precautions had been taken to isolate the scene of the crime during the night, a force of Police and Military early the next morning entered the village following the Police dogs who led them to three houses which were searched. In the first house, four rounds of revolver ammunition were found, one of which was of the same calibre as the empties found on the scene of the murder of the two soldiers; in the second there was one round of rifle ammunition; and in the third a bag of gunpowder and some percussion caps. The owners of the three houses were arrested. On entering the village some of the villagers threw stones and attempted to resist and some shots were fired on the troops who replied killing one villager and wounding another. A curfew order was put on the village until further notice that evening.

(b) On the 9th November five Jews, including a Jewish supernumerary Police Constable, who belonged to the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Hanavim ten kilometres from Jerusalem on the Jaffa Road and who were proceeding to road making work in the hills behind the settlement, were shot dead by an armed Arab band, estimated to be eight strong. The Police were promptly on the scene and the dogs followed three trails, the murderers having apparently separated in their flight. All three trails ultimately led to the Arab village of Yalu, where the dogs marked several houses and seventeen Arabs were arrested, one of whom was in a house in which ammunition was found. During the tracking and at the entrance of Yalu village, empty rounds of the same ammunition as had been used for committing the murder were picked up by the Police. During the pursuit the Police received prompt and valuable assistance from the Military who co-operated in the search and from the Royal Air Force who patrolled above the area throughout the day.

(c) On the following day, the 10th November, three shooting incidents occurred in Jerusalem itself just before sunset.

The first victim was an Arab from Ain Karim who was shot dead in the Schneller quarter on the western outskirts of the town by two men whom witnesses of the crime described as Jews.

Subsequently two Jews were arrested on suspicion in a house where, according to onlookers' evidence, the assailants had fled.

The second attack took place in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City where an elderly Yemenite Jew was shot and seriously wounded as he was entering the Yemenite Synagogue. Jewish witnesses of the attack gave evidence that the assailant was an Arab and one man was arrested by the Police.

The third incident also occurred in the Old City. An Arab Sheikh, by name Mahmud Daud al Ansari, a person of some standing and importance, was shot and slightly wounded by another Arab as he was walking past the Austrian Hospice on the road which leads from the Damascus Gate to the Haram esh Sherif. No arrests have been made.

As a result of these two last-named outrages, curfew was at once re-imposed on the Old City.

11. A feature of the situation existing during the period which I have described to you in narrative form in this despatch and in my two preceding situation despatches (Secret) of the 14th and the 23rd October, has been the careful tone adopted by the local Press and in particular by the Arabic newspapers. I have already described to you in my despatch Secret of the 14th October the steps which I took to induce caution and reason among the various editors. These instructions have been taken to heart and I am glad to be able to report that I have not had reason since the 1st October to take any action against the Arabic daily newspapers under the Press Ordinance. It would be incorrect to say that this circumspection is due to other than a healthy respect for

the penalties which all editors know will be inflicted without hesitation should they in any way exceed the limits of comment which I have set. At the same time their caution, from whatever motives, has been welcome and, in a negative way, has been of assistance to Government. The Jewish Press has, on different lines, been equally circumspect. To Jewish editors, of course, the action initiated by Government on the 1st October and consistently pursued since that date has been generally a source of unconcealed satisfaction. Their view was that Government was pursuing a policy long advocated by the Jews and that the Arabs were at last reaping where they had sown. At the same time it has been clear that the Jewish editors have made some effort to keep their comments within the bounds of reason and decency.

12. One Hebrew newspaper, however, the 'Davar', which is the organ of the Federation of Jewish Labour, was suspended for a week from the 24th to the 31st October. The publication of the draft new Immigration Ordinance was received with strong criticism by the "Palestine Post" and the three Hebrew daily newspapers; but generally these criticisms just kept within the limits of fair though bitter comment. The 'Davar' itself in its criticism - qua-criticism-followed the main lines of Jewish protest; but on the 22nd October it appended to its main editorial the unjustified comment that "the whole document (the Immigration Ordinance) bears witness to a shameful submission to the gangs of agitators and their followers, the destroyers of the country and the enemy of Jewish immigration". I considered the case at once in Executive Council and ordered the action which I have already described. There were protests from Jewish Labour quarters, but I am of opinion that the suspension of so locally powerful a newspaper has had a good effect and, indeed, the editor of another Jewish newspaper of the same way of thinking as 'Davar' subsequently informed the Press Officer that 'Davar' richly deserved all it had got.

13. I have, however, had trouble both with the Arabic Press published in neighbouring Arabic-speaking countries and with the news-services broadcast both in Arabic and English from the two European stations at Berlin and at Bari.

14. The Arabic Press in Egypt, Syria and the Lebanon and, to a lesser extent, in Iraq found a ready market in this country after the events of the 1st October, largely on account of the simultaneous control which I imposed under Defence regulations on the local Press. This control achieved an accuracy in report among the local newspapers which was, perhaps inevitably, construed by a suspicious and sensation-loving public in this country as a suppression of the truth by Government order. Naturally no such control was possible outside Palestine and the newspapers entering this country from neighbouring Arabic-speaking countries lost no time in providing Palestine readers with the wildest reports and comments which, under the circumstances, were eagerly read. I was thus obliged to take action against these newspapers and, in addition to imposing a censor's scrutiny under Defence Regulation 11 (2), no less than fourteen Orders of Exclusion from Palestine were made between the dates of the 9th October and the 8th November. I attach for purposes of record a list of the orders so made. This policy of exclusion has eliminated a good many evil influences from Palestine for a period; and, in addition, the periodic confiscation orders against individual issues of those foreign newspapers which survived exclusion, made by the scrutinizing censor under Defence Regulation 11 (2), have had the effect of making the proprietors of such newspapers as wish to circulate in Palestine, realise that the powers of this Government are adequate to involve them in definite pecuniary losses. The result has been that those newspapers which have not been excluded, have tended towards a certain caution which has justified me in removing as from the 11th November the Censor's scrutiny which I have already described. This scrutiny can be easily and promptly re-imposed, should occasion demand.

15. The question of countering the blatant misrepresentations and untruths broadcast from Bari and in a minor degree from Berlin has caused me considerable concern. I am inclined to believe that the Berlin Radio acts more out of ignorance than from a wish to be mischievous or troublesome; and I am fortified in this belief by the fact that Berlin has been willing on two occasions to publish denials of reports already broadcast on receiving official intimation to this effect from the Jerusalem Correspondent of the Deutsches Nachrichten Bureau - the German Official Agency.

16. I cannot, however, find any reasonable explanation for the persistence with which Bari broadcasts highly detailed items of news which have absolutely no foundation in truth. These false reports have recently concentrated on an imaginary revolution in Trans-Jordan; on fictitious aggression on the Saudi-Arabian frontier; and on demonstrations of British anxiety regarding the future of Aqaba which has perturbed His Majesty's Government to the extent of landing British troops from British warships at the port and moving them to positions covering the Suez Canal. These reports have been promptly and fully denied from the Jerusalem Station of the Palestine Broadcasting Service and by notices sent to and published in the local Press. Nevertheless they persist. It is to me an odd fact that the Italian Consul-General in Jerusalem, whose jurisdiction includes Trans-Jordan as well as Palestine, should not of his own volition have reported to Rome the falsity of this alleged revolution in Trans-Jordan so as to stop the inaccuracies regarding that country which continue to be broadcast from an official Italian Station.

17. Before leaving the question of Bari, I would add that the Arab population here is losing its faith in the accuracy of these reports, which are thus comparatively harmless here. Palestine is so close to Trans-Jordan that revolution or attempted revolution there would be known here within a few hours; but I feel, that in the more remote Arabic speaking countries, these reports may find some credence and I am, therefore, proposing to continue whenever necessary the systematic issue of broadcast démentis from the Jerusalem Station which can be heard in Egypt, Syria, Saudi-Arabia, Iraq and Aden.

18. It is of interest - although I would not stress the fact too strongly - that apart from eloquent appeals to Jewish self-control made by the two Chief Rabbis in this country and by the Vaad Leumi at the end of October, the Ulema of Gaza have also published a manifesto condemning terrorism and sabotage; while, following on the attack on the Potash Convoy on the 26th October which I have described in paragraph 2 of this despatch, the Arab personnel in the Potash Works published a statement deploring the death of their Jewish colleague and the spread of terrorism and sabotage generally.

19. I am closing this narrative on the 10th November and shall be reporting to you again in a similar form as occasion demands.

I have, &c.,

W. D. BATTERSHILL,

Officer Administering the Government.

Enclosure in No. 3

<u>Name of Newspaper</u>	<u>Exclusion No.</u>	<u>Date of Exclusion</u>	<u>Period</u>
Al Istiqlal al Arabi (Damascus)	17	9th October	6 months
Al Muqattam (Cairo)	18	9th October	1 month
Al Insha (Damascus)	19	9th October	3 months
Al Nahar (Beirut)	20	9th October	3 months
Al Jazireh (Damascus)	21	9th October	3 months
Fata al Arab (Damascus)	22	14th October	3 months
Al Jihad (Aleppo)	23	14th October	3 months
Al Nadhir (Aleppo)	24	14th October	3 months
Al Ittihad el Lubnani (Beirut)	25	14th October	3 months
Sowt al Ahrer (Beirut)	26	14th October	3 months
Al Bashir (Beirut)	27	14th October	3 months
Alef Ba (Damascus)	28	29th October	3 months
La Chronique (Damascus)	29	29th October	2 months
Al Jihad (Cairo)	30	8th November	3 months

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT

to

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Received 6th December, 1937.)

(SECRET B.)

Jerusalem, 23rd November, 1937.

Sir,

1. In my Secret despatch of the 18th November,* I described in narrative form the course of events in this country between the 20th October and the 10th November.

2. With the exception of a series of serious shooting incidents which took place in Jerusalem during the period covered by this present despatch and to which I shall later refer in detail, the general condition of the country outside the capital has improved. On the 12th November an unsuccessful attempt was made to blow up a bridge a few miles outside Jerusalem on the main Jaffa road and there have been a few cases of tampering with telephone and telegraph lines and of haphazard shooting at Jewish settlements, but generally the life of the country has been outwardly undisturbed.

3. In addition I am informed that as a result of the energetic punitive measures which have been and are being taken by the Police and the District Officials in villages which were suspected either of harbouring terrorists or of implication in acts of lawlessness, a number of law-breakers who had entered the country from outside to foment trouble and to commit acts of violence, have been so ill-received by the local inhabitants that they have drifted back across the frontiers whence they came.

4. As I have already informed you, the Defence Regulation establishing Military Courts for the trial of certain types of offence, was published on the 11th November.

This Defence Regulation and my accompanying explanatory Official Communiqué No. 20/37 of the 11th November were given the maximum publicity for a week in the Press and by broadcast, and were posted in every village in the country with appropriate translations.

The new Regulation came into force on the 18th November and its terms have, I believe, had a definite psychological effect on the people of the country. They have been specially impressed because the Courts are military, a fact which, in the minds of most, implies something summary and drastic; and the recurring phrase 'the penalty of death' has an ominous ring.

5. On the 15th, 16th and 17th November there was an encounter in the area between the Acre-Safad road and the Syrian Frontier between a Military force and a band of armed Arabs.

As a result of information that Abdulla Asbah, a notorious gang-leader who had for some time been a source of trouble in the Galilee District, and a band of some twenty to thirty armed men had spent the night of the 14th November in the frontier village of Deir el Qasi, troops of the 1st Battalion, the Essex Regiment proceeded to the neighbouring village of Fassuta which lies north of Deir el Qasi, thus placing themselves between the band and their probable line of retreat into Syria.

* No. 3.

The troops reached Fassuta shortly after mid-night on the 15th November and delivered a surprise attack on the band, three of whom were shot. It is not known whether the three men were killed as they were dragged away by their companions but later three dead horses with blood-stained saddles were found on the scene. One British private soldier received a bad flesh wound in the face. He is progressing favourably.

After this experience, the band quickly disintegrated, the majority, it is understood, returning to their villages in the Acre District, while a subsequent search by the troops and police of the country in the neighbourhood of the encounter produced no results.

One armed man was captured and the Police are investigating his statement that he had nothing to do with the band.

6. On the 11th November an Arab Police Constable was shot and wounded while on sentry outside the Police Station at Bethlehem. On the following day the police dogs followed a trail from the Police Station to a house in the town in which two revolvers, several rounds of revolver and rifle ammunition and a small supply of explosives were found. The two owners were arrested. This incident was greatly exaggerated in the press telegrams sent to London, and that same evening Palestine, to its great surprise, heard in the British Broadcasting Empire News Service that the Palestine Police had unearthed an extensive depot in Bethlchem whence arms were being circulated to the terrorist bands all over the country. I caused a correct version of what had happened to be broadcast later in the evening from the Jerusalem Studio.

7. Four days later, on the 15th November, an Arab was shot dead at dusk in Acre town. He had been used by the Police as an informer.

8. On the 18th November a young Jewish land-worker from the settlement of Tel Amar near Beisan was found murdered. He had been shot and stabbed. His assailants were not discovered.

9. The outbreak in Jerusalem to which I have referred in paragraph 2 of this despatch followed quickly on the shooting of the five Jews of Kiryat Anavim on the 9th November and the three shooting incidents on the following day which I described in detail in paragraph 10(b) and (c) of my Secret despatch of the 18th November.* As a result of the events of the 10th November, I had ordered the imposition of a curfew in the Old City of Jerusalem.

10. The following day, the 11th November, there were two bomb throwing incidents in Jerusalem.

Late in the afternoon a primitive bomb was thrown among a group of Arab labourers in the neighbourhood of the Railway station. It exploded but did no damage and there were no casualties. No trace was found of the assailant.

An hour later, just as the sunset Ramadan gun was being fired, a second bomb exploded among a group of Arabs in a side street below the Jaffa Road and not far from the Post Office. One man was killed and three others, one of whom subsequently died, were wounded. According to eye witnesses who made statements to the police, the bomb which was contained in a box, was either thrown or dropped from a distance. I at once extended the curfew order to cover all the town-planning area of Jerusalem. Later, to correct an unfounded report that the bomb had not been thrown at the Arabs, but had exploded prematurely in their hands when they were preparing to hurl it into a near-by restaurant much frequented by British police constables, I issued an official communiqué setting forth the facts of the case according to the evidence of the eye witnesses. These two attacks were generally believed to be incidents of Jewish reprisals, a view which I am inclined to share although no direct evidence has been forthcoming to inculcate anyone.

* No. 3.

11. There followed three days of quiet but on Sunday, the 14th, three more incidents occurred in three Jewish suburbs of the town.

Early in the morning two Arabs were shot at in the residential Jewish Quarter of Rehavia. One was killed and the other seriously wounded.

Less than half an hour later in the poor Jewish quarter of Beit Israel on the western outskirts of the town two Arabs were shot, one dying at once and the second shortly afterwards. The incident took place near a building which was in course of construction and where Arabs and Jews were employed together. In the excitement following the shooting, the two parties came quickly to blows and started stone-throwing. Two Arabs were injured and four Jews, one of whom subsequently died in hospital.

Two hours later an Arab bus was heavily fired on when passing through Mahne Yahuda, another poor Jewish quarter in western Jerusalem. Three of its passengers were killed, among them two Christian Arab women, while two Jewish women who were standing in the road where the bus was attacked, were also wounded but only slightly.

12. This quick succession of incidents inevitably provoked a mass of rumours which were extremely hard to check and there was much confusion as to what had actually happened until towards noon when it became possible correctly to assess the truth and to issue corrections of false reports. In the interval, however, the Jerusalem correspondents of the three local Hebrew newspapers either lost their heads or decided to throw all caution to the winds with the result that a series of unfounded reports were telephoned to the editors in Tel-Aviv for publication in the respective afternoon editions.

It was a deplorable exhibition of sensational journalism and I have taken action under the Press Ordinance against all three. Two of them, "Haaretz" and "Haboker", refrained to a slight extent from extreme excess and, as neither had for some time come under the ban of the Press Ordinance, I caused official warnings to be conveyed to each editor with an intimation that any further lapse would earn a period of suspension for the newspaper.

"Davar", however, in addition to publishing every rumour as fact, embroidered their accounts with reports supported by worthless or non-existent evidence that the assailants had been Arabs. I ordered the suspension of the paper for five days from the 17th November.

I would add that less than a month previously I had caused a final official warning to be conveyed to the Editor of "Davar" following on the publication in his paper of a false report of a clash between the police and a crowd of Arabs in Hebron which alleged that there had been casualties on both sides.

13. This action against "Davar" produced the usual protests, but in the end the Editor who was received by the Acting Chief Secretary, admitted that he had been in the wrong. I hope that this lesson will have a salutary effect on his future conduct of the newspaper.

14. As a result of these incidents, I ordered the police to establish punitive posts of ten men in the Beit Israel and Mahne Yahuda quarters at the expense of their inhabitants and also drafted into the Rehavia suburb an extra force of policemen for patrol purposes, the cost of this service to be defrayed by the local householders.

15. It is the general belief in all quarters - both Arab and Jewish - that these three incidents were Jewish reprisals for the murder of the five Jews near Kiryat Anavim on the 9th November and I had no hesitation in ordering the immediate arrest of forty five persons who belonged to the extreme section of the Revisionist Party and had unsatisfactory Police

records. Twenty four of them have been sent to the Detention Camp at Acre and twenty one have been placed under police supervision. This action had a calming effect on the country generally.

16. The reaction to this outbreak in the more moderate Jewish sections was notable. No attempt was made - on the usual lines - to associate Arab terrorists with the crimes and there was a commendably frank recognition of the obvious probability that the assailants had been Jews and an equally frank expression of anger and disgust that Jews of whatever way of thinking should have degraded themselves by such tactics. The initiative in this direction was taken with meritorious promptitude by the Palestine Post, which on the morning following the crimes, published a leader under the title "Black Sunday", the text of which is enclosed for your information. This was followed by public statements on similar lines by the Vaad Leumi and the Executive of the Jewish Agency.

17. The reaction of the Revisionist Press to the arrest of its members was interesting. It naturally attacked Government for its allegedly unjustifiable action; but the bulk of its wrath was visited on the head of the Jewish Agency, which it represented as having inspired the action which I took with the object of publicly discrediting the Revisionist cause in the interests of party politics and orthodox Zionism.

18. A further development arising from the events of the 14th November was an attempt to associate Arab opinion publicly with Jewish opinion in an expression of horror regarding terrorism generally and in an appeal to the population of the country to stamp it out. The results of this attempt have not been happy.

19. On the morning of the 15th November the District Commissioner called an extraordinary meeting of the Jerusalem Municipality. The Jewish Deputy Mayor attended and was supported by the three Jewish Councillors and by three out of four Arab Councillors now in Palestine. The fourth, Yacoub Effendi Farraj, refused to attend on the grounds that he would be present at no Council meetings until Government had replied to his enquiries as to the future composition of the Council following on the deportation of Dr. Khalidi, the Mayor.

The meeting proceeded on the District Commissioner's suggestion to consider the question of an appeal to the people to assist the Government to put a stop to the present terrorist campaign and to publish this appeal together with an expression of their abhorrence of murder. All present agreed to the principle of such a proposal, but it was eventually decided that the public appeal should be made separately, the Arab members signing one for publication in the Arab Press and the Jews following a similar procedure in the Hebrew newspapers. It was therefore perhaps unfortunate that the Deputy Mayor should without further consultation with his Arab colleagues have drawn up a joint resolution based on the discussions and agreement of the morning, and have issued it on his own to the local press and the Jerusalem correspondents of foreign newspapers. It was broadcast that night in a rather theatrical form by the British Broadcasting Corporation and was published in all the Hebrew and in one Arabic newspapers here on the following morning.

In the outcome the Arab Councillors, with some justice, felt they had been manoeuvred into a false position and tersely abandoned all idea of themselves signing an appeal for publication in the Arabic press.

20. The following day an appeal for moderation from an obscure and probably doubtful source appeared in the Hebrew Press unsigned as emanating from a joint body of Arab and Jewish merchants in Jerusalem. Its authenticity was at once challenged by the Arab newspapers and little more has been heard about it.

21. These two episodes are generally explained as being due to a well-meant Jewish desire to influence public opinion against terrorism; but they have been so maladroitly handled that Arab opinion has interpreted them as exhibitions of an underground Jewish strategy designed somehow to jockey Arabs generally into committing themselves politically to the Jews on a far wider scale than that included in the appeal to suppress terrorism of which both sides are heartily sick.

22. On the 15th November I received a delegation from the Palestine Defence Party, consisting of Ragheb Bey Mashashibi, its President, Yacoub Eff. Farraj, its Vice-President, and Mr. Moghannam Moghannam, its Secretary. They stated the political aims of their party along orthodox lines and lodged a series of protests against various actions which I had ordered since the 1st October. In reply, I informed them that I had taken note of what they had said but that I would not embark on a political discussion regarding the future of Palestine. All the energies of Government were concentrated on the suppression of terrorism which I was determined to exterminate at all costs.

23. Two days later, on the 17th November, I received a deputation of Arab ladies, headed by Mrs. Moghannam. Their specific protest was in connection with the murder of the two Arab women in the bus on the 14th November which I have described in paragraph 11 of this despatch. Otherwise their representations followed generally the lines of those of the Palestine Defence Party. I returned a similar reply to that described in the preceding paragraph.

24. I am closing this narrative on the 23rd November and am thus able to include in it the story of the capture on the night of the 21st/22nd November of Sheikh Farhan es Sadi. As I have informed you by telegraph, he and three other Arabs arrested with him will be tried by the Military Court at Haifa tomorrow, the 24th November.

He has been a prominent figure in our troubles for the last two years. Originally he was employed in the Palestine Police, but leaving it, he associated himself with the activities of the notorious Sheikh al Qassam who was killed in an affray with the Police in November 1935, and whose name occurred in the Annual Reports for 1935 and 1936 and who was also mentioned in the Report of the Royal Commission. At the time of Sheikh al Qassam's final outbreak, Sheikh Farhan was in disagreement with the policy of violence against the police advocated by Sheikh al Qassam; but he apparently revised his views during the ensuing six months, and during the troubles last year he was, with Fauzi al Kawokji, one of the most prominent gangsters in the country. It is believed that he was wounded on more than one occasion in encounters with the troops and the police, and when the Arab Higher Committee in October 1936 abandoned their policy of violence, he, with other leaders, escaped from the country and it is understood took refuge in the Hejaz. He re-appeared some two months ago and since then has been one of the main inspirations of the terrorist campaign which we have been dealing with since September.

Two days ago, on the 21st November, acting on information received that Sheikh Farhan was sheltering in the Jenin District, a military force from the Haifa Brigade, working in co-operation with the police, carried out an encircling movement of the hill village of Al Mazar, nine kilometres north east of Jenin, and after a well executed manoeuvre in appalling weather, took the village completely by surprise shortly after midnight. In the ensuing search the Sheikh was captured in a house where he was found hiding in a corn bin. Three other Arabs, all of whom were wanted by the Police, were also arrested and four rifles, fifteen hundred rounds of ammunition and some revolvers were seized.

The operation reflects the greatest credit on the 2nd Battalion, the East Yorkshire Regiment, who were the troops employed, and on Mr. H. M. Foot, the Assistant District Commissioner, Nablus, who represented the Civil authorities during the events.

25. Since the 18th November, there has been a lull and no incidents of terrorist activity of any importance have been reported for the last five days.

26. Copies of this despatch are being sent to Cairo, Baghdad, Jedda, Delhi, Beirut, Damascus and Amman, to whom copies have already been sent of my previous narrative Secret despatches of the 14th and 23rd October and the 18th November.

I have, &c.

J. D. BATTERSHILL.

Officer Administering the Government.

Enclosure in No. 4

From the 'Palestine Post' of the 15th

Jerusalem's Black Sunday

Last night's communique, colourless as its language is, summarising the outrages in Jerusalem yesterday morning will be read with the deepest grief by every humane person in the country of whatever community or affiliation. Not only is the harvest of death - five Arabs and one Jew - as high as any recorded except during the mass attack of Arabs upon Jews in 1929 and again in April 1936 (always excepting the five young Jewish workmen struck down at one fell blow at Kiryat Anavim last Tuesday) but there is a very strong suggestion that in these outrages Jews were among the assailants. In sorrowing over the deaths of innocent Arab labourers and peaceable wayfarers - two Arab women and an unidentified Arab - every Jew must ask himself if it can indeed be true that Jewish miscreants fired some of these shots. There is of course no evidence one way or the other, except the perhaps purely fortuitous circumstances that the Arabs were shot down in or near districts inhabited by Jews.

But however vague the evidence, however faint the suspicion, the Jews will lose no time in instituting a searching self-examination in order to discover whether there has not occurred some fissure in their moral defences. Not because there has been the ghastly total of five Arab victims, but if there was but one whose death pointed to a Jew's guilt or complicity, the depraved wretch or wretches would have to be excommunicated. Indeed, it is doubtful whether such gentry are properly of the Jewish community, and whether they are not the agents of some alien interests which has made it its business that the sun shall not set on Jerusalem without some bloody deed intervening. Whoever these agents are who seem to be outside the reach of the Jewish authorities who have solemnly given expression, time and again, to their repugnance to violence and their abhorrence of counter-violence - whoever they are, they must be found, faced and dealt with. The Jewish community need not be told that not by such means will the blood of the Kiryat Anavim martyrs be avenged. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of Zionism. It is not the seed of savagery.

The fact that during the last twenty months life has been made cheap can give the Jews no excuse for a further depressing of its value. The Jews have many grievances - and their principal one is that after April 1936 shooting had proved to be effective in obtaining redress of Arab grievances, real or fanciful - but they will not stoop to the Arab terrorists' way of thinking that force is a permissible means of gaining one's end. Not only is it inconsistent with the Jewish way of life, not only does it run counter to their true interests, but it is a derogation from a moral plane for the sake of which the Jew is hammering once more at the door of the Holy Land.