

the Jewish Agency for Palestine" submitted the following:

The restrictive measures which constitute the main substance of Mr. French's report are objectionable in themselves, and also inconsistent with the assurances given by the Prime Minister that there shall be "as little interference as possible with the transfer of land". These assurances have been wholly ignored by Mr. French, with whose recommendations they are plainly incompatible.

The Administrative Committee therefore declares that the French Reports cannot be accepted as a basis of land policy in Palestine or of negotiations between the Mandatory Power and the Jewish agency concerning land development.

The Jewish Agency is prepared to co-operate with his Majesty's Government in working out a comprehensive scheme of development for Palestine based on the principles of the Mandate, for the purpose of facilitating Jewish immigration and colonization and the establishment of the Jewish National Home and of promoting the general welfare of all the inhabitants of the country. (74)

The Zionist influence on the British government proved to be effective. No major changes in land policy were able to survive. The draft on land legislation prepared by the High Commissioner was never completed. In June 1930, it was reported that:

Representations were received from Zionist sympathisers in this country in favour of the postponement of the projected land legislation until the general policy of the government had been announced, and Sir J. Chancellor was instructed, much against his will, to shelve the Ordinance. He referred to the Permanent Mandate Commission (cmd 3582) and urged that the Arabs would regard postponement of the land legislation as a breach of faith. (75)

Although the various reports were unable to effect new policies, in themselves they were very valuable. The reports provided vital information on the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian rural population. Of particular significance to the discussion here are the data on the indebtedness and impoverishment of the majority of the