

Western 2485.

✓ 10/21

Oakwood,  
16. Addison Crescent.  
W.14.

9th June, 1936.

Archer Cust, Esq.,  
38, Brompton Square,  
S.W.3.

Dear Mr. Cust,

I am sorry that, owing to my absence from London during the past ten days, I have been unable to reply earlier to your kind letter of the 28th May. Many thanks for sending me the reprint of your lecture, and also the schedule with the suggested boundaries of a Jewish canton. My first reaction on studying the proposal, however, is that not only would such a division be unacceptable on historical grounds, but also that there are, from the purely practical point of view, fundamental financial and economic difficulties connected with the separation of the narrow, but relatively wealthy, strip of the Coastal Plain from the rest of Palestine. However, as I suggested at the Central Asian meeting, I am certainly willing to examine any suggestion which may lead to a solution of the political problems of Palestine, provided that the development of the Jewish National Home is not impeded thereby, and I should be happy to have an opportunity of talking the matter over with you personally.

I see from your postscript that, as I had thought, your £1,000,000 defence vote referred to the excess charges due to troops being stationed in Palestine instead of at home. These excess charges are, of course, paid by the Palestine Treasury, and not by the British Government. I see, moreover, that the impression apparently created by your remark (see, for example, the report in Great Britain and the East) was that this sum of £1,000,000 is the present annual cost of defence to Palestine. In fact, in 1934/35 (the last year for which figures are available), the amount paid by the Palestine Government to the Mandatory Power in respect of these excess charges was £144,118.

With kind regards, I am  
Yours sincerely,

*A. Weizmann*