

הישוב העברי החדש. חולדות הישוב סימי חחרבן
ער הסאה תי"ט. הישוב החדש - העירוני והכפרי. ההחלטות
החדשה בעיר ובכפר. הישוב ברוק הזה.

ו. כלכלה הארץ.
כרעה, ציד, חקלאות, תעשיה, סחר.

19 May 1920

In reply to your letter No 2894 of 18 May I regret that I cannot alter the decision given in my previous communication to you. I represented your arguments to field Marshal the Viscount Allenby who endorsed my decision that such an Assembly is unlawful and illegal, under the laws and Usages of War as laid down for the guidance of the Military Occupant O.E.F.

Para (1) of your letter: I understand that the Provisional Assembly which first met in June 1918 was in no way a constitutional elected body but merely an informal meeting of nominated representatives to discuss purely informal matters.

Para (2) As far as this head-quarters is concerned no permission was asked to hold these elections nor was any thing known of the matter until the election had taken place.

Para (3) There is no record of this Administration being warned as to the holding of such an Assembly last September.

Para (4) The general prohibition holds good in all cases. The law was not drawn up so as to remove the possibility of any pressure being brought to be bear by the power in Military Occupation on the inhabitants of the country but to enable the Military Occupant who is assuming the authority of the late ruler of the state to restore and ensure as far as possible public order and safety, respecting at the same time, unless absolutely prevented, the laws in force in the country.

It cannot be accepted that the holding of such an assembly is respecting the status quo ante bellum.

Approval for the nomination of members of the Z.C. in this country has up till now been in the hands of the Foreign office and I have no information altering that policy.

Para (5) It is hoped that these explanations when conveyed to the Jewish people will satisfy them as to the propriety and legality of my procedure.

L. J. Bols
Major General
Chief Administration.