

Office of Economic Adviser  
SEP 27 1924

NO. 25  
DEPT. OF STATE  
SEP 27 1924  
AMERICAN CONSULATE,

Jerusalem, Palestine. September 4, 1924.

Department of State  
SUBJECT: Friction between Christians and Jews in Palestine.

OCT 1 1924

Division of  
Political and Economic Information

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEP 20 1924

DIVISION OF  
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to report to the Department that The Palestine Opera Company has been producing some very creditable operas in Hebrew, during the past year.

An opera entitled "La Juive", one of Mr. A. Halevy's world famed operas which had been translated into Hebrew for the occasion, was presented in the Zion Hall, Jerusalem, on June 16, 1924, to a crowded house. It was advertised for a second performance on Monday, June 23, but in the meantime, it appears that protests on the part of various religious circles, particularly Catholic, led to the Government prohibiting a further performance. His Beatitude, the Latin Patriarch, stated that the Cardinal's role in the opera touched the feelings of Catholics and indeed of Christians generally.

As the Opera Company had spent considerable money in translating, rehearsals, scenery, and so forth, it was practically faced with bankruptcy in case it could not give further performances in various parts of Palestine. The Acting District Governor, Mr. J.E.F. Campbell, however, was firm in prohibiting

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a reproduction without extensive changes.

The "Doar Hayom" wrote a very strong article in which it stated:

"We do not know whether Mr. Campbell took into consideration that by his hurried action he is insulting not only the Jews. Did he think for instance that by his action he is insulting the French Government and the French culture? Did Mr. Campbell think he is insulting the cultural world at large, the world of music? Did he realize that he is bringing us back to the period which "La Juive" represents and that he is introducing a new inquisition into Jerusalem?"

The various religious circles in Jerusalem have recently been deeply stirred and a good deal of bitter feeling has been shown against the Jews on account of an article published in a daily Hebrew paper, the "Doar Hayom", dated August 15, 1924, a copy of which, with translation attached, is enclosed herewith, in which it is claimed by certain people that Jesus Christ has been attacked.

It may be stated that the writer of this article is in the habit of furnishing the "Doar Hayom" every day with a humorous or sarcastic article on some subject, and he does not hesitate to attack Government officials or anyone else, and is, in fact, no respecter of persons.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Oscar S. Heizer*  
OSCAR S. HEIZER,  
American Consul.

Enclosure:

Copy of "Doar Hayom" dated August 15, 1924, with translation attached.

File No. 710  
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