

The attitude of the Church was set forth in an "Aide Memoire" to the Council of the League of Nations on June 4, 1922. A copy is attached to this letter. There is also a copy of a letter from Cardinal Gasparri under date of March 6, 1922.

In this question two points must be considered. The first concerns the Holy Places (for example, the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, Bethlehem, etc.). Catholics rejoice in certain rights regarding these places and in justice their rights must be recognized, and respected. Repeated formal assurances that these rights will be respected are ever necessary and will again be required after the present war.

The second point concerns Palestine itself. Catholics the world over are piously devoted to this country, hallowed as it was by the presence of the Redeemer and esteemed as it is as the cradle of Christianity. If the greater part of Palestine is given to the Jewish people, this would be a severe blow to the religious attachment of Catholics to this land. To have the Jewish people in the majority would be to interfere with the peaceful exercise of these rights in the Holy Land already vested in Catholics.

It is true that at one time Palestine was inhabited by the Hebrew Race, but there is no axiom in history to substantiate the necessity of a people returning to a country they left nineteen centuries before.

If a "Hebrew Home" is desired, it would not be too difficult to find a more fitting territory than Palestine. With an increase in the Jewish population there, grave, new, international problems would arise. Catholics the world over would be aroused. The Holy See would be saddened, and justly so, by such a move, for it would not be in keeping with the charitable assistance non-arians have received and will continue to receive at the hands of the Vatican.

I am confident that from these points, Your Excellency will appreciate the position of the Holy See in this matter.

With sentiments of esteem and every good wish, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) A. G. CICOGNANI.
Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate.