

Jerusalem

August 29, 1921.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram of yesterday's date, I have the honour

to inform your Excellency that the Ministry of Jerusalem has forwarded a favourable reply to the Department of Public Instruction,

on the subject of the proposed excavations by the Palestine Exploration Fund at Tell-jagar.

This reply is embodied in a "Majbata" or decree of the Administrative

This Excellency
The Right Hon. Sir H. O'Connor, G. C. B. &c.

No. 48.

Jerusalem - 26. Aug.

cryptogram telegram.

(encl. Duchesne).

rec. 26.

Palestine Exploration Fund.

favourable report sent to

Min. of Publ. Instr. &c.

Enclosure

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place, their complaints were not
listened to.

A further difficulty had, however,
in the meanwhile arisen which -

might have caused considerable
delay in the despatch of the -

Mutassarif's reply to Constantinople.

It appears that the village of Abon

Chouki and the mound Tell-yegon

where the excavations are to take

place, belong to Mr. J. Bingham,

new landlord, between whom

and Mrs. Fann, widow of one

of my predecessors, there has

been, as your Excellency is

aware, a long pending lawsuit

respecting real estate, and that

the

Administrative Council, which
His Excellency transmits to the

department in question, and is

dated the 9th Djumadi Evil 1319,

(August 11 1319) No. 187.

In my despatch No. 46 of the

2nd instant, I had the honour to

point out that some opposition

had been raised to the intended

excavations by the villagers of

Abon Chouki, but in consequence

of my representations to the

Mutassarif here, and of those

of the British Consul Agent

at Gaffa to the Cairnham of that

place

Scientific research, such as that which was about to be undertaken by the Palestine Exploration Fund — the more especially as the building on Tell-jegar was not now inhabited by the owners — he readily consented not to raise any difficulty.

The Administrative Council

accordingly, to whom the matter was referred by the Mutassarif pronounced a decree that there was no objection to the intended excavations.

I have the honour to be
with the highest respect

Dear
Your Excellency's most obedient

Attended Servant.

John Beckton

the Stouphen family had actually built a large house on the summit of Tell-jegar. The syndic of the bankruptcy, Mr. J. Muzad, hearing that excavations were likely to take place on the mound, which is German property, and not having been previously consulted by the authorities, was about to lodge a strong protest; but on my having an interview with him, and discussing with him the desirability of his performing his assistance in a matter of scientific