

The Chips Are Down in Palestine Debate

By Joseph Starobin

LAKE SUCCESS

THE DEBATE ON Palestine has passed its first stage, and the chips are down as far as Great Britain, the Arab states and the Jewish Agency are concerned. The special Palestine committee here, which is examining the inquiry commission's report, now has a long list of speeches scheduled from the smaller states. But the major question is what the United States will say.

With each passing day, the danger grows that this session of the Assembly will do nothing on Palestine, and the whole position in that country will deteriorate into general civil war. Perhaps that is the fact what both the British Foreign Office and the State Department would not mind for a while, just as they don't mind the civil war in Greece. But that would be the outcome of a failure to act. And it is something for both Jews and Arabs to think about.

The British position is quite clear. Stripped of the double-talk, His Majesty's Labor government

enough in it to indicate a prospect of a lot of trouble.

The Jewish Agency accepts the majority report. It very properly points to certain predominantly Jewish areas which the partition plan would unfairly give to the Arab state.

Dr. Silver also correctly stresses that the interim period of two years for full independence is too long. And he also reflects genuine sentiment among the Jews in Palestine who are prepared to defend what they have created; there's more than a hint in the Agency statement that the Jews in Palestine will swing toward militant resistance if the Assembly fails to settle the question at this time.

NO MAIN PROBLEM

But the main problem does not lie between Jews and Arabs, and it would have been real statesmanship if Dr. Hillel Silver had pointed this out. To do so, of course, he would have had to stress the shortcomings of the partition plan and offered a political rapprochement with the Arabs, over and above accepting the idea of economic unity.

If the main problem is put as between Jews and Arabs, then it becomes easy for the British and the United States to avoid a decisive action, to blame both sides, to create the deadlock atmosphere that would generate civil war, or at least the ugly situation in India.

The main problem lies in the fact that neither Britain nor the United States want to give Palestine a genuine independence, with all foreign troops removed, and all military and strategic bases evacuated.

WHY MARSHALL'S EVASIVE

Britain seeks an excuse to stay or a price to leave which involves the United States; the United States is weighing the cost of getting into Palestine and how to do so in such a way as to win votes for President Truman in the next election and at the same time extend its domination over both Jews and Arabs.

The fact that Secretary Mar-



Barbed wire and soldiers are the tools whereby Great Britain imposes its imperialist will on both the Jewish people and the Arabs in Palestine.

shall has been so evasive, has an "open mind," as he told the Arab states, is not necessarily because he's making up his mind; it's because he's finding it hard to find a formula for coming into Palestine, under UN guise, and entrench Wall Street's strategic position.

One way to reach such a for-

mula is to do nothing, so that conditions deteriorate and later on provide an excuse for action. That is why I say there's a danger that after all this talk, nothing will materialize and civil war will grow between Arabs and Jews.

But there is a solution. It would require first of all a decision on behalf of the independence of

Palestine immediately, independence for the country as a whole as well as for the two states that may prove necessary. The interim period should be shortened to no more than a year.

Secondly, there ought to be a clear decision on what UN mechanism would govern Palestine in the interim period. On this point, perhaps too much emphasis is being placed on UN armed forces, and not enough on a political agreement by the Big Four. If armed forces are necessary—and that may just be a convenient imperialist fiction—it ought to be the armed forces of the smaller countries under an Anglo-Soviet-American political commission.

The third question is to achieve such amendments in both the majority and minority views which accomplish the main objective of a settlement: fullest political state rights for both peoples plus their fullest economic and political cooperation.

The majority report pledges two separate states, but even at that, it recognizes the necessity of treating Palestine as an economic unit. If both the Jews and Arabs were to see that the danger is a bloody quarrel between them which would give imperialism its excuse to thwart both peoples, a good deal of the argument over partition would become academic. Two states—yes, if necessary. But in such a tight economic and political cooperation that Palestine is once and for all extricated from its present plight.



DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
Becks Partition Plan

would like to stay in Palestine if the United States will pay for it, and the United Nations will sanction it. If not, the British will withdraw to adjoining Arab areas, providing the United States comes into Palestine.

ARAB THREAT

The Arab states threaten dire consequences if anything less than independence for an exclusively Arab states is decided; there is talk of warfare against the Jews, expropriation of American owned oil-fields, or a complete rupture of economic and diplomatic relations with the countries that thwart the Arab ambition. Most of this is bluff. But there is

PESTBROOK WIGLER, ROVING REPORTER



Letters From Our Readers

How to Fight Firings

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have been reading about veteran trade unionists being laid off through the technique of medical examination by company doctors. In addition to fighting for medical re-examination and reinstatement, it seems to me there are several other things the unions could do on this issue.

Where they are unsuccessful in reinstatement, compensation suits ought to be instituted, since high blood pressure or a bad heart condition has been shown to be caused by speed-up. It is high time that the harmful effects of the speed-up system were made compensable. Its harmful effects are no less injurious than lead poisoning or a broken arm. Pressure ought to be brought against public health agencies to officially recognize the detrimental effects of the speed-up, as well as act on it as they would upon any other health hazard.

Use ought to be made of the official positions of the American Medical Association, American

Oklahoma City.

wages to equalize with rise in food prices. People simply won't voluntarily knuckle down to such starvation diets.

BARNEY O'CALLAGHAN.

Ada Jackson's Backers Meet

Editor, Daily Worker:

On the evening of Sept. 26, a group of Flatbush women met at 2608 Albemarle Rd. and discussed the coming elections. Having reviewed the program advanced by Mrs. Ada B. Jackson to fight the high cost of living and to meet the other pressing problems of the day, the group unanimously decided to support the candidacy of Ada B. Jackson.

A committee was formed to enlist the voters of the community for her election. The first task to be undertaken by the committee will be to ring the neighborhood's bells to ensure an all-out registration next week.

SUSON BUSSI, Secy.
Albemarle Committee for
Ada B. Jackson