

Jewish Agency Hits British Sabotage, Demands Arms

The Jewish Agency for Palestine strongly attacked Britain's sabotage of the UN partition plan yesterday, demanding arms for the Jewish community and the "early organization" of a Jewish militia. Dr. Moshe Shertok, political secretary of the Agency, in a special press conference indicated great anxiety over the Jewish position both as regards possible Security Council action and within Palestine itself.

Shertok, who has been mentioned as foreign minister of the proposed Jewish state, and who guided the partition fight in the UN, called upon "international opinion to uphold and defend the international verdict."

"DOOMED TO FUTILITY"

His prepared statement, given at the Agency headquarters, 16 E. 66 St., and his replies to a score of questions indicated Jewish leaders are worried about three main things:

(a) While Britain has announced beginning the evacuation on May 15, a statement by Arthur Creech-Jones, colonial secretary, on Dec. 11 said the UN commission should not arrive until a short period before this date.

Since the commission was supposed to report to the Security Council by April 1 on the progress of its work, the British attitude means "that the UN commission would be forced to negotiate with the mandatory power at a distance of thousands of miles from the scene of action" Shertok complained, "adding that it would be doomed to futility."

To make matters worse, only Czechoslovakia and Panama have appointed commission members so far. Denmark, the Philippines and Bolivia have been silent, despite a request from the UN Secretary-General on Dec. 2.

BRITAIN CAN BLOCK

(b) Jewish leaders are worried about how to get the Security Council to act. Shertok disclosed that the Agency does not expect a Council meeting before the New Year, and does not know when the Council will put Palestine on the agenda in 1948.

The Agency has asked for the right to be heard when the Council does take the matter up.

The difficulty is that so long as the mandate is held by Britain, until May 15, the Security Council is in a legal box and Britain can block any move to put Palestine on the agenda. It should not be forgotten

that the General Assembly action was only a recommendation, which, as Shertok said, Britain has "virtually disregarded."

(c) The Arab League is "preparing plans for open and armed defiance of the UN authority, the British administration has given the Jewish community "inadequate" protection while "Jewish self-defense has been obstructed and penalized."

Harvesting the citrus crop is occupying both Jews and Arabs during this winter, Shertok explained, noting that only two or three Jewish agricultural communities have been attacked out of about 500. But the Agency leader was clearly worried that Arab attacks, encouraged by Britain's defiance of the UN and refusal to arm the Haganah, the Jewish defense force, will inflame large-scale violence next spring.

HITS BEVIN STATEMENT

Shertok expressed the strong hope that a ban on American arms shipments to the Middle East, announced some weeks ago, would impede the Arab countries defying the UN decision.

At the same time, he demanded arms for the Jews, without specifying who was to give them.

The Jewish Agency leader gave three examples of British behavior which he called "particularly outrageous."

The first was a statement by Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin, refusing to allow any immigration into Palestine until May 15, 1948. The UN decision provided that the British clear a seaport and surrounding territory by Feb. 1st to allow for "substantial immigration." This is being ignored by London.

During the first attack upon Jews in Jerusalem, the British police allowed arson and looting for two hours. When the Haganah intervened, the British arrested its members and disarmed them.

At Holon, south of the Arab city of Jaffa, the Haganah repelled an Arab attack, losing one man. When the British police arrived, they searched Jewish quarters and arrested the Haganah squad.

Shertok also disclosed that Jewish

bus drivers have been denied licenses to carry pistols, and local Jewish police in the agricultural settlements have been refused the right to convoy trucks, thus leaving them a prey to "ambushing parties."

"This situation is intolerable to the Haganah and to the entire Jewish community," Shertok declared. Referring to the Irgun and Stern groups, whose political intelligence he put on a "low and primitive level," Shertok added that the British attitude "serves as an excuse for acts of blind revenge and criminal folly by dissident Jewish groups."

Labor School Parley to Hear Union Leaders

Trade union leaders and experts on the labor movement will speak at a series of monthly conferences scheduled to begin the weekend of Friday, Dec. 19, at 7:3 p. m. at the Jefferson School's Labor Institute.

James Lustig, district representative, CIO United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America; Joseph Selly, president, CIO American Communications Association; and labor attorney Harry Sacher are the speakers scheduled for the first session, which will continue through Saturday, Dec. 20. The subject is "Labor and the Taft-Hartley Law."

The Jefferson School reports that registrations are already being received from unions. Three conferences have been planned, and the fee for each is \$5.

The next two conferences will discuss "Labor and the Negro Worker," and "The Fight for a United Labor Movement."

2 Killed in Clash On Parish Boundaries

QUITO, Ecuador, Dec. 17 (UP).—Two persons were killed and several wounded in an armed clash today