

# The Palestine Resolution

By Abraham Chapman

Every grouping in American Jewish life has expressed its opposition to the White Paper in Palestine. There is virtual unanimity in American Jewish life on the question of the White Paper. Zionists, non-Zionists and anti-Zionists have called for the abrogation of the White Paper. Large sections of American public opinion recognize that the White Paper discriminates against the Jews in Palestine and is harmful to the war effort because it hinders the full mobilization of Palestine for victory. Both the CIO and the AFL have called for the abrogation of the White Paper.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee is holding hearings on a resolution on Palestine, introduced by Representatives Wright and Compton, and endorsed by the House majority leader and the House minority leader, as well as by the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Sol Bloom.

The full text of the resolution reads:

"Whereas the Congress of the United States on June 30, 1922, unanimously resolved, that the United States of America favors the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of Christian and all other non-Jewish communities in Palestine and that the holy places and religious buildings and sites in Palestine shall be adequately protected, and

"Whereas, the ruthless persecution of the Jewish people in Europe has clearly demonstrated the need for a Jewish homeland as a haven for the large numbers who have become homeless as a result of this persecution.

"Therefore be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the United States of America that the United States shall use its good offices and take appropriate measures to the end that the doors of Palestine shall be opened for free entry of Jews into that country, and that there shall be full opportunity for colonization, so that the Jewish people may ultimately reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth."

What will be the immediate effect of the passage of this resolution?

Unquestionably, the immediate importance of this resolution, which has such broad support, is its opposition to the White Paper. That is the most significant aspect of the resolution and is an end which is supported by all Jews, by the entire labor movement, by the anti-fascist forces of all nationalities and faiths. And that is why this resolution has won the very broad support that it has at present.

It is unfortunate that in addition to the opposition to the White Paper, on which there is unanimity among the Jews, the resolution in Congress also includes the question of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. The Jewish Commonwealth proposal is a controversial one. There is no unanimity among the Jews on this question and there is no unanimity within the Zionist movement on this question. Even within the American Jewish Conference, a number of large organizations abstained from supporting or opposing the Commonwealth resolution.

Within the Zionist movement, such an outstanding world-Zionist leader as Miss Henrietta Szold, founder of the Hadassah, a number of leaders of the Histadrut and the Hashomer Hatzair, affiliated to the world-Zionist organization, offer various proposals for state forms of Jewish life in Palestine based upon Jewish - Arab collaboration and friendship. Anti-Zionists are vocally and actively opposed to the Jewish Commonwealth.

It was a mistake, we believe, to link the question of the Commonwealth, on which there are many differences of opinion, to the question of the abrogation of the White Paper, on which there is unanimity in Jewish life and in the labor movement.

## DIVERTED FROM ISSUE

As a matter of fact, the hearings on Wednesday deflected, for the major part of the time, from the question of the White Paper to a debate on whether or not the Jews are a religious group or a national group, and on the pros and cons of the Commonwealth proposal. The testimony of the American Council for Judaism helped deflect attention from the White Paper to this unfortunate debate at the House Foreign Affairs Committee, but the essential fact is that by linking the Commonwealth question to the fight for the abrogation

of the White Paper, controversy was introduced where there could have been and should have been complete unanimity without a dissenting or disagreeing voice.

Responsible non-Zionists, however, cannot and will not allow the presence of the Commonwealth clause, even though it is a mistake, to divert them from their wholehearted opposition to the White Paper in Palestine. Even though we disagree on the manner in which the Commonwealth question was projected into the Resolution and even though we believe that the projection of the Commonwealth proposal in this manner was a mistake, we support the passage of the Palestine Resolution in Congress as a contribution to the fight against the White Paper.

## JEWS-ARAB AMITY

We believe that the best interests of the Yishuv in Palestine, that the security and national development of the Yishuv in Palestine, can be secured only on the basis of Jewish-Arab collaboration and friendship. The White Paper, as a matter of fact, came into being as a product of the policies of Jewish-Arab hostility, as fruit of the Chamberlain policy of division between Jews and Arabs. The White Paper, which we are fighting today, could never have been born if there were Jewish-Arab collaboration and friendship, and this Paper, which is so harmful to the Jews of Palestine, must be a grim reminder that to get to the roots of the fight against the White Paper mentality, the solidarity, friendship and collaboration of the Jews and Arabs must be strengthened and during the last few months there have been very significant developments in the direction of Jewish-Arab collaboration.

Within the Zionist movement a growing number of leaders and rank-and-fliers see the future of the Jews in Palestine on a basis of Jewish-Arab friendship. Certainly the White Paper is a serious obstacle to Jewish-Arab friendship.

The decisive thing now is the abrogation of the White Paper. The main effect of the present resolution in Congress will be to advance the fight against the White Paper. Therefore, this resolution should be supported by all opponents of the White Paper, including those who have differences of opinion with the political Zionists on the question of the Commonwealth.