

## Palestine Policy

The Palestinian tragedy is building up to a final crisis as time rapidly runs out and the fratricidal war grows in bitterness and intensity. On the one hand, the reactionary Arab leadership—cheered on by Truman's crude reversal of policy—intensifies its struggle, while the equally adamant Zionist leadership throws planes into the struggle as it paves the way for full-scale, organized warfare.

The sharp worsening of the situation, together with Truman's sudden abandonment of the UN Partition plan and his current advocacy of a three-power trusteeship (excluding Stalin's Russia) demands a further statement by LABOR ACTION on its attitude toward the now still more complex problem of Palestine. We frankly admit the difficulties involved in attempting to resolve this absolutely desperate situation growing out of a futile, useless and hopeless struggle between two peoples, Arab and Jew, whose fundamental common interests have now been concealed in blood and strife, thanks to the vicious policies of their reactionary leaders.

**We repeat, and we shall continue to repeat, our fundamental slogan—addressed to both sides—of "CEASE FIRE." Sanity begins in this issue with a truce agreed upon by both warring leaderships and an attempt to work out an acceptable, common solution. The validity of this position is more than verified by the criminal bungling and mis-handling of the situation by the UN which—is it not obvious to all?—has made matters infinitely worse and driven deeper wedges between Arabs and Jews. It is still not too late for the Jews to address themselves to the Arabs, offering and requesting full collaboration in the fight against imperialism on the basis of a mutual solution of their national problems and aspirations. It is time to call a real halt to these attempts at interference on the part of the UN or any of the imperialist powers (America, England and Russia) stirring up already stormy waters. It is time now for both Arabs and Jews to declare Palestine independent and remove it forever from the realm of inter-imperialist politics.**

The Jewish Agency, true to its reactionary Zionist policies, has indicated it will again reject such a rapprochement with Arab nationalism. It has announced that it will create a provisional, independent Jewish state on May 16, immediately after the British withdraw. Although it has not announced what boundaries it will attempt to hold, it claims to be carrying out the UN proposal reneged on by Truman. We do not know if the Zionist leadership will go ahead with this adventure, rooted in desperation, but with all our strength we oppose such a proposition.

The act of setting up such a state, isolated and surrounded by hostile states and peoples, would be a disaster for the only possible long range solution of the Palestine problem—some form of Arab-Jewish unity. It would lift the present fratricidal war to the heights of organized inter-state warfare, make still more difficult—if not impossible—the efforts of those fighting for a common approach by the two peoples and the setting in motion of Arab resistance to their own reactionary leadership. In the given situation, proclamation of a Jewish state would be the action of desperate men and would endanger the very physical survival of the Jews already in Palestine. We reject and oppose such a move, just as we reject and oppose the attempt of the Arab League to impose unity on Palestine by force of arms.

But, unfortunately, we must face the prospect that precisely just such action as the setting up of a Jewish state may be taken. We cannot suddenly expect wisdom and correct policy from a Zionist leadership which has led its followers into this blind trap after so many years. Confronted with such an accomplished act, what would be the correct socialist position? We recognize that revolutionary socialists have little or no influence at present over Palestinian politics and that, despite our warning and opposition, it may well take place. Then what?

**We believe in and accept the fundamental democratic right of all peoples to self-determination, to work out their own destiny as they see fit. This right includes, of course, the right to fight for one's national existence against a reactionary force. Although LABOR ACTION was opposed to the splitting up and division of India, for example, it ardently championed the right of the Moslems to separate from the Hindus and build their own state of Pakistan. Although opposed to the creation of a Pakistan, we firmly defended the right of India's 92 million Moslems to organize it; just as we would now oppose any attempt on the part of the Hindu bourgeoisie, ruling over the Dominion of India, to destroy by war, violence or economic pressures, the state of Pakistan.**

We have the same basic attitude towards the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. Such an act would alter the present situation. For reasons stated above, we are 100 percent against such a move, but we recognize the right of the Jews to claim self-determination, if they choose to follow that path, so long as they commit no violence against the rights of other peoples in so doing.

On that ground, we declare our vigorous oppo-

sition to any embargo on arms to the Jews. Such an embargo as exists at present constitutes imperialistic intervention in favor of the Arab reactionaries exclusively.

Finally, desperate as the situation is, it still need not come to the final disaster of full-scale warfare. It is not too late to cease fire, to organize a truce, to take Palestine forever out of the hands of imperialism, to forge a unity of the Arab and Jewish masses, to work out a peaceful partition, if that should be essential to peace, or any needed democratic solution. It is not too late to prevent the taking of a road that will mean the passage of 500,000 Jews, who have suffered more than their share, through the fire of war and the hell of fratricidal strife. The road of the Jewish Agency is not the road to take!

**Leon Sedoff**

## Socialist Fighter, Foe of Stalinism

By KATE LEONARD

It is now ten years since Leon Sedoff, born in 1906, the son of Leon Trotsky and Nathalia Sedoff-Trotsky, died in Paris. The circumstances of his death on February 15, 1938 point to the GPU just as surely as the pickaxe which ended Leon Trotsky's life in Mexico.

One of our first glimpses of Leon Sedoff is as a boy in the Kremlin, dressed in a bright homemade blouse, cut from some household linen. His brother Sergei had one also, and they won an approving word from Lenin. The Kremlin must have been a lot for a boy to carry around with him, and these two brothers took different paths and yet, not so different at the end. For to participate in a hunger strike of 700 slave laborers lasting 104 days "out of solidarity"—this also happened in 1938—is in the end, to be hounded equally by Stalin's GPU. (See story on page 1.)

But Leon Sedoff is ours in a peculiar way because all his conscious life belonged to the struggle for socialism, and to our movement. While not yet twelve years old "he had, in his own way, consciously made the transition from the February revolution to that of October." Soon he insisted upon leaving the Kremlin, rejecting all privilege, to live on a par with the other students, and to take part independently in the life of the working class youth.

His parents later could say that although young in years he seemed like their contemporary. From 1923 Comrade Sedoff belonged to the Russian Opposition, and his young life was spent in the difficult struggles of the Bolshevik-Leninists in Russia, and then, accompanying his parents in exile, in Turkey. Later he worked for the Left Opposition in Berlin and in France. The closest collaborator of his father's later years, his work for the Trotskyist movement is invaluable. In exile, much of the organizational work—a good deal of this conspiratorial—fell on his shoulders.

He also made political contributions by no means negligible. For almost nine years the publication of the Bulletin of the Russian Opposition was in his hands, perhaps his greatest achievement. He wrote under the name of N. Markin, adopted from the sailor who had been his boyhood mentor in the revolutionary years. Trotsky has said, "My son's name should rightfully be placed next to mine on almost all my books written since 1928." (This and the earlier quotation came from Leon Trotsky's pamphlet, "Leon Sedoff."—K.L.) Independently, he wrote "Stalin and the Red Army—Or How History Is Written," included in Trotsky's book, The Stalin School of Falsification, and the first published reply to the Moscow Trials frameup.

His name was linked with Trotsky's in every slander, and he himself was doomed because "The Little Son does his work cleverly. The Old Man wouldn't find it so easy without him."

Dear to each of us, Leon Sedoff is our youth's own revolutionist. He is their pride and their joy, words that could seem hackneyed only to a witling. While yet in his teens, he acquitted himself like an Old Bolshevik. Youth needs no other model.

## Meat High? Raise Rabbits!

"One of the ways through which many families may attempt to solve their meat shortage and high meat cost problems, might lie in the raising of domestic, grain-fed rabbits. Rabbit meat, when quickly and properly grown and dressed at prime condition, furnishes an all-white, wholesome, tender, finegrained and kavorsome quality of meat. In most instances, highest quality of rabbit meat is to be found in the "fryer" rabbit, weighing from 3½ to 4 pounds, when primed for slaughtered at about two to three months of age. The average rabbit fryer carcass will,