

Palestine Partition Highlights Need of Arab-Jewish Unity

By AL FINDLEY

After a week of constant shifting of position and maneuvering, the General Assembly of the United Nations, by a vote of 33 to 13, recommended a political partition of Palestine, with economic unity.

The news of the UN vote was received with great joy by the Jews in DP camps and throughout the world. In Palestine, British soldiers joined the Jews in the celebration, hoping that partition will help them get home sooner.

No spokesman for the present Palestine partition plan accepted by the UN has claimed that it is a good plan or a desirable one. The best that can be said for it is that it provides some kind of solution which is possibly better than no solution and continued British rule, and that it does recognize, in its own way, the national rights of Jews and Arabs.

The UN plan divides the small country of Palestine into eight parts, one of which is to be the free state of Jerusalem—to be ruled by the UN Trusteeship Committee. The rest of the country is divided into three connecting Jewish areas and three connecting Arab areas, with Jaffa as an Arab enclave within the Jewish area.

Under this arrangement the Jewish state will have approximately 5,500 square miles and a population of 538,000 Jews and 390,000 Arabs. The Jewish state will have little grains or cereals for feeding its population, but will have the major share of the citrus plantations, which account for a large portion of Palestinian exports. Most of the industry is also in the Jewish area.

The Arabs will have 4,500 square miles with a population of 800,000 Arabs and 10,000 Jews. The Arab area contains most of the fertile and grain-producing land, as well as the potash plants on the Dead Sea.

BRITISH MANDATE ENDS

The British mandate is to end by August 1, 1948. The date was chosen to coincide with the announced date

of British evacuation. The two states are to become independent by October 1. Until then, a UN commission with no authority is to be in Palestine. This commission is to establish provisional governing councils and local militias to take over control when the British leave. The UN resolution asks the British to evacuate a part of the area by February 1 to allow for immigration.

As to the economic union, the plan calls for continued imperialist rule over both Jews and Arabs. A joint economic commission composed of Jews, Arabs and UN arbitrators (read "controllers") is to rule the economy of the two new states.

The present plan is sure to give rise to "irridentist" feelings in both nations and to lead to friction and violence. However, it is doubtful if there will be a concerted Arab war against the Jewish state, mainly because of the conflicting aspirations of the rulers of the various Arab countries. There is, however, a distinct possibility that King Abdallah of Trans-Jordan will attempt to annex the Arab portion of Palestine. He will probably have the support of the British, with whom he has a treaty allowing them to station troops in his country. This will enable them to have troops near the Suez Canal, i.e., southwestern portion of Palestine.

HAILED BY ZIONISTS

While the Zionist leaders, in their more serious pronouncements, recognize the many faults of the present partition plan, they hail it in their propaganda broadcasts as the beginning of the "millenium" and as THE solution of the Jewish problem.

The Jewish Morning Journal goes so far as to say that it is a "compensation" for the extermination of 6,000,000 Jews during the last imperialist war. In all statements hailing the recommended establishment of a Jewish state, the Jewish leaders express their gratitude to the great powers and especially to America and

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Russia—forgetting completely that it was these same powers which did nothing and which thereby aided and abetted the slaughter. One-third of the Jewish people of the world.

What did the great powers do during the time of the slaughter and extermination? From 1933 on, Russia and the U. S. kept the doors to their vast countries closed to the helpless refugees fleeing Hitlerism. Britain did her bit by closing the doors of Palestine. When the Stalin-Hitler pact helped start World War II, and the Russians cheerfully divided Poland with Hitler, they doomed one and a half million Polish Jews. When over 4 million Jews in Russian occupied Poland refused to accept Soviet citizenship, they were, within a ten-day period, packed into cattle cars and shipped to Siberia. One hundred thousand Jews died this way, according to most reports.

Early in 1943 when the American diplomatic service confirmed the reports of the extermination of the Jews the U. S. had many opportunities of saving hundreds of thousands, according to the memoirs of Henry Morgenthau. Nothing was done. Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin were informed by representatives of the Jewish Bund of the heroic Warsaw ghetto uprising, but did nothing to help or even take notice of it.

AN IMPERIALIST PARTITION

No! The Jews have no reason for gratitude to the imperialist rulers of the world. Their present action is a result of power politics for imperialist interests, not for the interests of the Jews. Russia wants one thing above all else: to weaken the Anglo-American military position in the Near East. For years Russia and the Stalinist parties the world over opposed Jewish immigration into Palestine. During the war they changed their position to one of favoring Jewish immigration. Then in November, 1946, they again opposed Jewish immigration to Palestine. Only when Russia decided that its immediate interest was to get England out of Palestine did they adopt their present attitude.

The U. S. too, although officially always favoring Jewish aspirations in Palestine, played a double game, as proved by Bartley Crum in his book, *Behind the Silken Curtain*. Even during the present UN session,

the U. S. blew hot and cold. What decided U. S. policy was Republican and Democratic rivalry for Jewish votes, and an attempt to get rid of the heavy financial burden of supporting the Jews in DP camps! Not the least among U. S. motives is a desire for greater influence in the strategic and oil-rich Near East.

Unlike the Stalinists, who flip-flopped on the question of Jewish immigration to Palestine, now opposing it, then favoring it, then again opposing it, according to the dictates of Stalin's foreign policy, the revolutionary socialists have maintained a firm and consistent policy in favor of Jewish immigration into Palestine.

Marxists recognized the simple fact that both the Jews and the Arabs are peoples oppressed by imperialism. The only logical conclusion was to draw up a program for a united Arab-Jewish struggle for a Free Palestine that would guarantee the freedom and the national rights of both peoples.

JEWES FAVOR PARTITION

Unfortunately, the semi-feudal Arab leaders and the Jewish leaders helped the British to divide the two peoples and prevented a joint anti-imperialist struggle. Confronted with the chance of getting half a loaf, the majority of Jews are now strongly in favor of a separate national existence in a partitioned Palestine.

For the Jews, especially the Socialist-Zionists, the establishment of a Jewish state opens a new era. The Zionist goal—a Jewish state—has been realized; but the Jewish problem remains. A Jewish state will exist in Palestine, but the danger of extermination still faces ten million Jews who cannot be absorbed by Palestine.

For Socialist-Zionist Jews this should mean a shift to a greater unity with the revolutionary forces throughout the world. For all Jews, workers and middle class alike, must be made to realize that their only hope for survival is the destruction of the breeder of fascist barbarism—capitalism. For the Jews, socialism is not an ideal, but is a stark personal necessity. The coming capitalist depression will give rise to a great waves of barbaric anti-Semitism. The continued existence of capitalism may mean the literal extermination of the Jews.