

Palestine Truce in Offing As British Shift Strategy

By ED FINDLEY

Efforts for truce in Palestine seem to be on the verge of success as these lines are written. There seems to be real hope that, for four weeks at least, the Jewish and Arab population will be given a breathing spell, that a temporary halt will be called to the fratricidal bloodshed ravaging the land.

The truce initiative belongs to the Anglo-American bloc in the UN Security Council, whose strategic and military interests in the Middle East call for an early pacification of the country.

Unsettled conditions in Palestine carry the real threat that Russia will be able to gain a toehold in this doorway to the Middle East. Two events of the last week highlight this danger: first, the demagogic but nonetheless ominous request of the Irgun Zvai Leumi for Russian military aid; second, the demand raised by Gromyko, Russian delegate to the UN, that Russian military personnel be included in the UN truce-enforcement mission.

The British Foreign Office had hoped for stabilization through quick, decisive military victories by the invading Arab forces which would lay the basis for the kind of Arab - Jewish "compromise" that would safeguard for the empire its strategic bases in the Negev region of Palestine.

PURPOSE OF TRUCE

The failure of the Arab League states to score strategically, and the unexpected assumption of military initiative on most fronts by the Israeli armies, led to a tactical shift in British policy which brought it closer to the United States.

British imperialism, giver of military aid to the Arab camp, suddenly appeared as the pious advocate of an "impartial" truce.

What is the political purpose of the truce?

Avowedly, the UN mediator is to conduct negotiations with the Israeli provisional government and with the representatives of the Arab states for a permanent settlement and peace. On what basis? The answer to this question is hidden behind the veils of secret diplomacy.

The TOTAL elimination of Israel as a state does not at this point seem to be the immediate objective of any of the interested powers. Even the Arab dynasts which undoubtedly would wish to crush the Israeli state must, for the present, content themselves with more limited objectives. Military and diplomatic realities of Palestine are not such any longer as to enable the Anglo-Arab coalition to reach their original goal.

The Arab leaders hope now for a successful diplomatic operation by the British surgeon to **AMPUTATE PARTS OF ISRAELI TERRITORY AND RESTRICT ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY IN THE CRUCIAL MATTER OF IMMIGRATION.** A truncated Israeli state with drastically reduced economic and military viability would serve the twofold purpose of: (1) saving the face of the Arab League leadership, and (2) making possible the destruction of the Israeli state, at a later and more propitious moment.

The differences that exist between the Arab plan and the British or American policies are differences in degree only. All call for concessions by the Israeli state which would reduce its ability to exist.

(Continued on page 2)

Palestine Truce —

(Continued from page 1)

The efforts of the Israeli state to defend its integrity will have, at best, a weak and vacillating ally in the U.S. and a treacherous opponent in Britain. Two-faced Russia—which

permits its satellites to imitate the "merchants of death" and sell arms to both sides—will in all probability give diplomatic support to the Israeli state in the UN deliberations. Few of the Jewish masses will be taken in by the maneuvering of this shifty imperialist power which only yesterday supported and praised the pogromist campaigns of feudal Arab overlords.

The UN truce in Palestine means that the Anglo-Arab war of aggression against Israel will be continued by other means, on the diplomatic battlefield. This is a field on which the Munichites have developed great talent in selling out peoples.

On the labor movement throughout the world, most particularly on the working class of Britain and the United States, devolves the duty to defend the right of the Jews to full self-determination in Israel.

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Burkholme Park

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11:30 a.m.

Main Entrance

Central & Coltman Ave.

Games, Sports, Refreshments