

Palestine Deadline Near; UN, Russia Play Power Politics With Jews, Arabs

By AL FINDLEY

While the UN Assembly talks and talks, the fateful day of May 15 nears for Palestine. On that day Britain will legally relinquish its mandate and it is doubtful that the UN will be able to forge a new foreign rule for Palestine by then.

The Jews will declare their independence and the existence of a Jewish state. There is still some disagreement in the leading circles of the Jewish Agency on whether to declare a "de facto" state and leave the door open for some form of UN "neutral emergency administration" or declare a full-fledged independent state. Unlike the propaganda declarations, official statements are guarded on this point. Should Jewish military success continue in Palestine, the chances are that a "de jure" (legal) state will be created.

The U. S. is putting the utmost pressure on the Jewish Agency not to declare an independent state. On the other hand, it is reported that three countries in the Russian bloc will recognize the Jewish state as soon as it is declared. England too is reported ready to give "de facto" recognition to a Jewish state.

LULL IN FIGHTING

As soon as the mandate ends, the Jews hope to get considerable arms, now waiting in European ports. Jewish officials hope to bring in 150,000 Jewish refugees in the next twelve months, whether fighting continues or not.

In the last two weeks, there has been a lull in the Palestine fighting. A cease-fire has been arranged for Jerusalem, which may become a truce. The British, with about a quarter of the force they previously had in Palestine, are now keeping some order. In practice, what the present British order amounts to is guaranteeing to the Arabs those portions of Palestine assigned to them by the UN. This once again proves that had there been any will, there would have been little bloodshed in Palestine.

All reports of Arab countries invading Palestine have not materialized. The United States is exerting pressure to prevent open warfare in order to keep Russia from intervening. While organized warfare by the Arab League is unlikely, continued incursion of Arab "volunteers" can be expected. The war council of the Arab League has broken up with the withdrawal of Abdullah. To forestall Abdullah, the Syrian and Lebanese who had favored large-scale "guerrilla" warfare as soon as partition was voted, are now taking a pessimistic view and have declared that it is now too late for invasion, since a "Jewish state has already arisen." They are trying to place the blame for this on Abdullah, for waiting until May 15.

Abdullah threatens to invade all of Palestine. There seems little doubt that he will march. The question is how far he will go. There are still many who hope and believe that Abdullah, under the guidance of the British, will take only the Arab section. This may take place, but only after an attempt, or at least a pretense, at the conquest of all of Palestine.

POWER POLITICS

In the UN the game of power politics continues. The U. S. has given

up its plan for trusteeship, since it could not get British and French troops to patrol Palestine. Instead, the State Department is now supporting the British proposal for a "non-political emergency administration" to carry out the essential minimum functions that are needed by both sections of Palestine and the economic union. The aim of the United States is not to preserve the peace and to save lives, but to maintain the Anglo-American domination of the Near East, and above all, to prevent Russia from moving in. In their haste—and with supreme confidence in their power to dictate any solution—they failed to work out a plan that was feasible even from their OWN imperialist point of view.

Russia is playing a dual game. On one hand, in the UN Russia supports partition. On the other hand her stooges, the Arabian Stalinist parties, continue to oppose a Jewish state; her satellite, Czechoslovakia, sells arms to the Arabs, and Yugoslavia officially allows recruiting for the Mufti forces. Yet these governments will be the first to recognize the Jewish state.

Like the U. S., Russia is not interested in the Jews or Arabs, but in the military and strategic advantage to herself. Russia is primarily interested in getting English troops out of Palestine. At the same time she is maintaining her contacts with the Mufti elements and may in the near future repeat the inglorious performance of 1929, when the Stalinists supported the Mufti pogroms.

UNITY ESSENTIAL

Now that the formation of the Jewish state in Palestine seems to be in the bag, it is especially important to remember that for the Jews all over the world there will be little improvement over their present insecurity and weakness. Palestine will be able to accommodate only 6 to 10 per cent of the Jews. About 90 per cent of the Jews will remain outside of Palestine. In the last analysis, the 6 to 10 per cent will not be

(Continued on page 2)

Natalia Trotsky Slander Drive

By NATALIA SEDOFF TROTSKY

The French weekly France Dimanche presented to its readers on March 21 of this year a testament supposedly drawn up by Trotsky on May 20, 1940. (See LABOR ACTION, April 19—Ed.) This political will attributes to Trotsky a change of heart regarding the socialist revolution and his faith in the working class. The editors of the paper hasten to attest to their complete objectivity in publishing this "sensational document." They did not bother, however, to question me on the subject. They found it more objective to refer to their interview of December 8, 1946 with the assassin "Jacson-Mornard," whom they designate, repeating the lie of the GPU, as a collaborator of Trotsky's. This fact alone suffices to brand them as paid hirelings of the Stalin apparatus. The unscrupulous

Deadline Near In Palestine War Crisis—

(Continued from page 1)

able to stand alone. The fate of the Jewish state is dependent on the fate of the world in general and the fate of the Jews of the world in particular.

The Jews of the world face the danger of modern anti-Semitism, a new and special form of minority oppression. Ancient anti-Semitism wanted to force the assimilation of the Jews. It offered them the choice of expulsion or adoption of the dominant culture. Modern anti-Semitism, flourishing in the rotten soil of decaying capitalism and used as a "stimulant" to keep capitalism alive—rejects the Jews even as abject slaves.

Thus, in a fundamental sense and in a very real personal sense, the survival of the Jews is dependent on the overthrow of capitalism. "The Jewish proletariat is in need of revolution more than any other." The Jewish middle class and intellectuals have no choice but to fight for socialism if they want to live, either as a people or as individuals.

The establishment of a Jewish state does not by itself solve the Palestine problem nor does it eliminate the need for Arab-Jewish cooperation. The sizable Arab minority in the Jewish state, the braided borders of the Jewish and Arab states, the economic interdependence of the two areas only pose the question of Arab-Jewish rapprochement in a new form.

Not only the Jews but Arabs too have a stake in the fight for Arab-Jewish unity. War or irridentism on the part of the Arabs can only lead to the strengthening of the reactionary forces in both communities—the Mufti among the Arabs and the fascist Irgun-Stern groups among the Jews. War between the Arabs and Jews will lead to a reimposition of foreign rule through a protectorate or an "emergency administration." The Arab labor movement can and will realize that the road to a united Palestine leads through the acceptance of the right of the Jews to self-determination, and from that basis work towards a federation that will guarantee the NATIONAL rights of both peoples.

The American labor movement—which is in the position to affect the policy of the American government, must take upon itself a large share of the fight for a people's solution of the problems of Palestine. It must call for:

(1) Immediate independence for all of Palestine—no form of foreign rule, whether emergency authority or Hashemite dynasty for any portion of Palestine.

(2) Recognition of the Jewish state.

(3) Lifting of the embargo on arms to the Haganah.

(4) Independent economic union of Jewish and Arab Palestine without the meddling of the UN.

(5) Reunification of Palestine through Arab - Jewish cooperation into a federal union.

(6) For a Socialist United States of the Near East.