

British Win on Preventing Embargo End as Uneasy Truce Begins in Palestine

By AL FINDLEY

An uneasy truce has been achieved in Palestine. Despite local violations, Count Bernadotte's truce is in effect. Though scheduled to last four weeks while peace talks take place in the Greek island of Rhodes, few observers expect it to produce a lasting peace. The truce is to be enforced by 21 military observers from each of the Truce Commission countries—Belgium, France and the U. S. In addition there will be planes and ships to blockade the coast and enforce the truce. Russia's bid for observers has been ignored.

In addition to a military standstill, the truce conditions contain dangerous limitations on immigration, despite an explicit and special amendment by France that excluded limitation on immigration.

Should the truce last only four weeks and then fighting resume, it will have given little advantage to either side. Whatever advantage will have accrued, will have been gained by the Israelis, as time is on their side. The longer the state of Israel is in existence, the more difficult it will be to negotiate it out of existence. In addition, Israel will have gained time to uncrate cargo and for the purchase and assembly of new heavy armament.

Should the four weeks truce end in a just settlement, it will of course be of benefit to all. This, however, is the LEAST probable outcome of the truce. A few optimists point to the Republic of Indonesia to prove that once a cease fire is arranged, it leads to ultimate peace. A fine example and a warning of what can be expected from the UN! If the truce does not break down, the most probable outcome will not be a peace, but an extension of the truce for an indefinite period, or a series of extensions which would continue to limit immigration and sovereignty in the hope of whittling away the independence of the Jewish state in the same way that the independence of the Republic of Indonesia was whittled away, so that now it is little more than a semi-colony of Holland.

BRITISH ACHIEVE AIM

England, sponsor of this truce, has achieved her main aim—preventing the lifting of the embargo by the U. S. According to the CBS London correspondent, British intelligence is convinced that the only way to preserve the present military stalemate and prevent a Jewish military victory is by preventing the lifting of the embargo. British intelligence does not expect any peace to result and is concentrating its efforts to convince the U. S. to maintain the embargo. As usual, they are using the known Russian expansionist ambitions as the bogey.

British intelligence has been correctly pointing out that the pro-British rulers of the Arab states are shaky and that a defeat would easily topple many a regime. They then bring up the possibility of those re-

gimes being replaced by Stalinists or by extreme nationalists who would play the Kremlin game. They are trying to convince the U. S. not to lift the embargo and to use its power to force a solution favorable to the Arabs, or at least giving them enough to save face. Most of official Washington is inclined to listen favorably to such talk.

In the meantime the political schemers have sharpened their pencils and are drawing up any number of elaborate solutions. Many of their schemes NOW begin by recognizing the existence of Israel and devising ways to bribe the Arab rulers into accepting this fact. One such proposal envisages partitioning the Arab portions of Palestine between Egypt, Transjordan and Syria. However, the main speculation revolves around Abdullah. Walter Lippman writes that there are only two military powers in Palestine—Israel and Abdullah. He therefore proposes that all of non-Jewish Palestine be given to this autocratic monarch of Transjordan without consulting the population. The Jewish state and enlarged Transjordan are then to be joined in a political confederation and an economic union.

Washington undoubtedly hopes for such a solution, provided that Abdullah will guarantee American interests. From an imperialist point of view and from short-term Zionist *real-politik*, this would undoubtedly be the best solution. It is, however, totally unacceptable to Jews and to all anti-imperialists and to Arab progressives. For Jews, it would only strengthen the hand of ambitious Abdullah, who will not and cannot be satisfied with Arab Palestine. Once having digested Arab Palestine and assumed leadership of the Moslem world, he would find as his immediate political and strategic need—the sea coast. For Arab progressives it can mean only delay in the essential need for the democratization of Arab political life by arbitrarily submitting Palestine to the despotism of an absolute monarch. To anti-imperialists it means helping Great Britain in building up its prime tool for influence in the Near East.

ISSUE OF EMBARGO

While the American politicians talk compromise, the Arab rulers caught in the web of their lying propaganda about victories in Palestine and under the pressure of the extreme nationalists, have refused to recognize or negotiate on the basis of the existence of the state of Israel. They have gone so far as to refuse to sit down at one table with Jewish representatives. They hope that with the aid of the British they can once again change "Intransigent" Harry's mind on Palestine. If worse comes to worse, they can rely on muddleheads like Henry Wallace to prevent lifting of the embargo.

It is clear that even from an imperialist point of view, the only way

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Uneasy Palestine Truce —

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that the U. S. can carry out its present policy of securing a compromise acceptable to the moderate and pro-Western Zionists is to lift the embargo and prepare shipments to leave as soon as fighting is resumed.

From a socialist point of view, the raising of the embargo is and remains the most effective and concrete way the American workers can help to defend the exercise of the elementary right of self-determination by the Jews. Lifting the embargo must remain the focal point of all present demands on the U. S. government in relation to Palestine. The second demand must be for the immediate admission of DPs to Palestine. NOTHING must be allowed to interfere with providing a home for these long-suffering people.

Inside the Arab camp the Mufti and the Lebanese and the Syrians are opposed to the truce and are doing their best to break the truce and smear Abdullah's acceptance of the truce as treachery.

ISRAEL'S FACTIONS

In Israel, Social Democratic Premier Ben-Gurion has removed the commander of the Haganah, Israel Gallilee, from his post purely for political purposes. Gallilee was a member of the United Workers Party (a centrist Marxist and pro-Russian party formed by fusion of the Hashomer Hatzair and the Achduth Avodah). This is part of the general trend in Palestine to give the bourgeois groups much larger representation than they are entitled to according to their actual strength.

The status of the Irgun remains unclear. The Irgun has resisted absorption into the official Jewish Army, but has finally yielded. They now form a separate entity within the Jewish Army. Menahim Beigin, commander of the Irgun, in an order of the day on June 13 took leave of the Irgun in territory of Israel, but simultaneously proclaimed the contin-

ued independence of the Irgun in Jerusalem and "other places" and the creation of a "Freedom Movement" to function politically in the territory of Israel. It is still not completely clear whether the Irgun will be a separate field army in Israel and have a measure of freedom of action or will be forced to be an integral part of the official Jewish Army. The course of the political struggle will probably determine that. But one thing is sure—that the Irgun will maintain its military power and use it as a political force. The nature of the new "movement" is still unknown, but it reminds one of the de Gaullist movement in present-day France. The "fascist" revisionists will use the Irgun and its prestige acquired in resisting Britain as the axis of a political struggle for totalitarian power in Palestine.

In addition to this social struggle, the issue of pro-Russian and pro-Western alliances dominates the political scene. The Sternists are definitely committed to Russia. The Irgun and Revisionists are divided on this question, with the Irgun pro-Russian and the Revisionists undecided. At the last convention of the American Revisionists, this was the main point on the agenda and the convention voted (by a slim majority) for a pro-Western orientation. On the other hand, Dr. Chaim Weitzman, president of the Provisional Council, refused to mention Russia as one of the countries with which Israel hopes to establish friendly relations. When pressed by reporters, in an interview in Paris, he finally mentioned Poland in the East, but not Russia.

RUSSIAN GAME

"Mishmar," publication of the United Workers Party of Palestine, has raised as one of its primary political slogans the demand that Israel exchange diplomatic representation with Russia. This has been taken up by Stalinist fellow-travelers, like B. Z. Goldberg, who are using Irgun

phraseology—such as accusing Ben-Gurion of having a "Diaspora" psychology, that is, cringing in front of Western powers and not properly playing the game of power politics.

For these neo-Stalinist Machiavellians we have little concern. But we are concerned for the sincere militants in the United Workers Party who are being misled by politicians like Moshe Sneh (former Rightist) into support of the Russian imperialist camp. After placing trust in England, and being sadly disappointed, they now turn to Stalinist Russia. Their new imperialist love will be as cynical as John Bull. The available evidence proves that Russia is NOT SENDING heavy equipment to Israel, but allows her Arab Stalinist stooges to support the war against Israel; allows recruitment in Yugoslavia for the Mufti and permits Czechoslovakia to send arms to the Arab League. In addition it places the greatest barriers of ANY country on immigration into Palestine. Only last week a Mizrahi leader was sentenced to fifteen years for aiding Russians to emigrate to Palestine.

If this evidence is insufficient, a study of Stalinist hypocrisy in Ethiopia and its sell-out of the American Negro struggle for freedom during the war should convince any worker that the only hope for Jews lies not in one or another of the imperialist camps but in themselves and in their working class allies all over the world, and in the Arab world too.

But Not One Cent For Public Housing

"Today's action concluded the appropriations by the House for the military establishment, during which slightly more than \$10,000,000,000 was appropriated for defense in a twenty-hour period."—N. Y. Times, June 4, 1948.