

Defeatists Use Palestine Issue To Disrupt Home Front Unity

By Abraham Chapman

Chamberlain's 1939 White Paper on Palestine, which discriminates against the Jewish people, remains in power. This stubborn relic of Munich still persists, hindering Jewish victims of Nazi persecution from finding refuge in Palestine and haunting the war effort of the United Nations. Today every section and grouping of the organized Jewish community in the United States, large sections of American public opinion, the CIO and the AFL, have called for the abrogation of the White Paper. On March 9, President Roosevelt declared that the United States Government had never given its approval to the White Paper.

While every anti-fascist force in America has raised its voice against the White Paper, the irony of the present moment is that those, who are still trying to carry forward the treacherous Munich policies of Chamberlain, are trying to pose as the great opponents of this infamous paper. The mantle of "champions of the Jewish people" ill befits the Munichite and anti-Teheran Congressmen and Senators who are trying to utilize the just fight against the White Paper as a partisan instrument for political advantage against the Roosevelt administration.

The White Paper will never be undone by more Chamberlains. The unscrupulous opponents of the Roosevelt administration who are now mouthing saccharine phrases of friendship for the Jews of Palestine are no allies in the fight against the White Paper. The Senators Taft, Clark and Johnson who are trying to blame the administration for the deferment of action on the Palestine Resolution in Congress by the House Foreign Affairs Committee are interested in anti-Roosevelt votes and not in the fate of the Jews in Palestine.

The main effect of the Wright-Compton Resolution in the House and the Wagner-Taft Resolution in the Senate would be to express the opposition of the American government to the White Paper. In addition to this the Palestine Resolution in the House and Senate also expressed approval for a Jewish Commonwealth as the form of state to prevail in Palestine after the war. This proposal is a controversial one, even within the Zionist movement.

The War Department and the

White Paper Provisions

1. For a five-year period, beginning April 1939, a limited Jewish immigration of only 75,000 was authorized. After March 31, 1944, there is to be no further Jewish immigration into Palestine, except that those Jews (within the 75,000 limit) who have been unable to get transportation by that time may use their certificates after the dead line.

2. In much the greater part of Palestine all sales of land to Jews are prohibited.

3. Ten years after the promulgation of the Paper a Palestine state shall be established on the basis that the Jews shall not exceed one-third of the population.

Chief-of-Staff of the U. S. Army called for deferment of any action on this resolution at the present time.

NO CHANCE IN CONGRESS

The Palestine Resolution has now been tabled in keeping with the request of the U. S. military authorities. It is clear that at this time the resolution has no chance of being adopted by the Congress. The other day, Senators Clark of Missouri and Johnson of Colorado tried to use the President's statement against the White Paper as a club against the War Department in their pressure for action by Congress, despite the appeal for delay by the Army High Command. In his press conference on March 28, the President stated that his statement against the White Paper conformed, rather than conflicted with, the position taken by the U. S. military authorities.

The President made it clear that the Palestine Resolution has not been knifed, as some have maintained. The President stressed the fact that there was a military question, on the one hand, and a civilian question for the future, to be worked out in connection with the peace, on the other. The President said there was a temporary bar to further discussion of the Palestine Resolution at this time, and a very serious bar, he emphasized, growing out of the military aspects of the present situation.

The President's March 9 statement on the White Paper is clearly an expression of the spirit and the essence of Teheran. A repudiation of the White Paper on the one hand, and a promise of justice for the national rights of the Jews in Palestine on the other.

The form that the fight against

the White Paper must take today is clear. To unite the Jewish people and to unite all anti-fascist Americans to support President Roosevelt's March 9 statement as the basis for further action against the White Paper and in support of the Jewish national community in Palestine, and to oppose pressure for action by Congress on the Palestine Resolution to a more favorable time.

The resolution recently adopted by the American Zionist Emergency Council—a coalition of all Zionist organizations and parties in the United States—called for action on the Palestine Resolution "consistent with the exigencies of the war effort." In other words, the Zionist organizations of America have not opened war against the U. S. military authorities. The pressure for action by Congress now against the War Department appeal is coming from anti-Roosevelt politicians, from Senator Taft and Senator Champ Clark of Missouri, and Senator Johnson of Colorado and Congressman Compton of Connecticut.

Any Zionist, any Jew, any American who joins these gentlemen in pressure for action by Congress on the Palestine Resolution now is only damaging the position of the Jews in Palestine and in America and is merely giving the Tafts and Hoovers another chance to play partisan and defeatist politics against President Roosevelt.

The fight against the White Paper must continue. But it must continue in the form of rallying further support and even greater unity behind the President's war policies as a whole and behind the President's declaration on Palestine in particular. This is the only road which will lead to the security of the Jewish community in Palestine.