

UNSCOP Plan Sets Trap For Jews, Arabs Alike

On Aug. 31 at Geneva, the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), the sixth commission to take a junket to Palestine since the Balfour declaration 30 years ago, officially filed its recommendations for solving the conflicts convulsing this country, so long a pawn in imperialist power politics.

UNSCOP has emerged from months of deliberation with two reports. Seven delegations (Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, the Netherlands, Peru, Sweden and Uruguay) supported the majority proposal to partition Palestine into

two politically autonomous, yet economically federated, Jewish and Arab states. The Jewish section would embrace more than 60% of the total area, including virtually the entire coastal region, plus the ports of Haifa and Jaffa, which are predominantly Arab in tradition and population.

The heart of the country, the area around Jerusalem, including the little town of Bethlehem, would constitute a "trusteeship" under the permanent administration of the League of Nations, that is to say, of Wall Street.

The minority report, supported by the Moslem delegations (Iran and India) and Yugoslavia, is opposed to partition, favoring instead a federated Arab-Jewish state, guaran-

teeing the majority to the Arabs.

Australia, which straddled the fence, joined the other delegations in unanimously voting that Britain should give up her League of Nations "mandate," held since 1923, at the earliest possible moment. In the meantime, however, England is to conduct the administration "under United Nations auspices."

White the minority delegations demanded that the question of Jewish immigration be left open, the majority report would quadruple the number of immigrants, allowing 150,000 in the next two years as against the current British quota of 18,000 annually.

Both reports will come before the General Assembly which convenes on Sept. 16 and which has no power to compel acceptance of any decisions that may be adopted.

A bloc of British, Soviet and Arab delegations could prevent the two-thirds majority necessary to pass any "recommendations." From the action of the Stalinist controlled delegations (the Czechs voting with the majority, the Yugoslavs with the minority), it is obvious that the Kremlin is open to bids from the two decisive disputants involved in the Palestinian issue—English imperialism vs. Wall Street.

The Zionists, whom Washington is now using as puppets much in the same manner as London did after World War I, are happy to play the game. They have accepted the American-sponsored version of the Balfour declaration. The Arabs are bitterly opposed.

Behind the diplomatic verbiage about "eventually" granting independence to a partitioned or federated Palestine, is the imperialist rivalry, especially over oil. Whoever controls Palestine, controls not only strategic sea lanes to the oil reserves of the Middle East, the richest in the world, but also the terminal ends of oil pipe lines from these fields.

So far as the Kremlin is concerned, its aim is to inject itself as a third partner in this dirty grab for oil, a bottleneck today in the Soviet fuel supply.

Washington diplomats have scored a big victory in achieving the first step toward elbowing Britain out of Palestine. If the British remain there at all it will be only as Wall Street's junior clerks.

The majority report was obviously inspired behind-the-scenes by the U. S. State Department. It has already received the warm approval of the *N. Y. Times*, most authoritative spokesman for the oil magnates and other millionaires. The *Times* editors hailed the majority report as pointing "the way to a solution," that is to the trenchment of Standard Oil in Palestine.

So far as the Arab and Jewish people are concerned, neither the majority nor the minority plan offers them any hope. Even in the event that one or the other is actually accepted, it will essentially altar nothing.

Palestine will remain what it has been—the arena for internecine warfare between Arabs and Jews for the benefit of this or that group of greedy imperialists. Wall Street will take the place of Downing Street in reaping the profits, and nothing more.

It is in irreconcilable struggle against both British and American imperialist brigands, with the Jewish population fighting shoulder to shoulder with the overwhelming majority of Arab workers and parents, that Palestine will finally gain her freedom by establishing a socialist state there.

English Miners Strike As Mass Unrest Rises

The dissatisfaction of the British workers with the perfidious Attlee government, which is saddling monstrous privations upon the masses in order to preserve capitalism in Britain, flared into the open last week, when the full crew of 2,700 coal miners walked out of the Grimethorpe pits in protest against the firing of 140 men. Thousands of other Yorkshire miners joined them.

The fired men had struck on Aug. 14 in refusal to accept the new speed-up regulations of the government's coal board, approved by the union officials.

Attempts of the authorities, governmental and union alike, to herd the men back to the mines, have thus far proved unavailing. The union chieftains "cannot even get more than a small minority of strikers to attend mass meetings or to vote on whether or not to return to work," *N. Y. Times* correspondent Herbert L. Matthews reported on Sept. 1. This discreditment of the official labor leadership in the eyes of the rank and file will become more and more widespread in the days ahead.

The strike of the Grimethorpe men has aroused deep response throughout the whole Yorkshire area. By Sept. 2, despite the frantic efforts of the Laborite misleaders and betrayers, sympathy walk-outs had spread to 29 pits, involving more than 30,000 miners. Some 50,000 are employed in Yorkshire.

Meanwhile, the coal industry faces additional difficulties. The clerical workers, with a membership of 10,000, served notice that they would go out on strike after Sept. 7, because of the stalling of the National Coal Board. The clerks demand recognition of their union, as a body separate and apart from

the National Union of Mineworkers.

The next day, Sept. 3, 46 collieries in Yorkshire were shut down as 50,000 miners walked out. The men, increasingly bitter against their own union officialdom, were determined to defy both the National Coal Board and the Laborite Ministers. The depth of their resentment is apparently not appreciated in London.

A London cable to the *N. Y. Times*, Sept. 4, states: "A tour of this south Yorkshire area between Doncaster and Barnsley, including Grimethorpe, and talks with many people, showed that the situation is even more dangerous than it looked from London."

The Laborite ministers and union chieftains, who have been vilely attacking the Yorkshire strikers, are afraid lest the movement spread over the whole Yorkshire area and beyond it.

This highly explosive coal strike occurs precisely at a moment when the Attlee government has announced that after Oct. 1 it will drive the workers' living standards below those in the darkest war days.

The meat ration has been slashed another 15%, permitting workers only 20 cents worth a week. Bread which remained unrationed during the war is to be doled out in starvation portions of 63 ounces a week. Sugar will be slashed to the wartime low of 8 ounces weekly; bacon to 2 ounces (as against the wartime low of 3 ounces); cheese, 2½ ounces (wartime low was 2 ounces).

While determined to keep wages frozen, Attlee and his friends have taken the initiative in boosting prices. By government decree, coal has been hiked more than 10%, with another increase coming on Oct. 1 when rail freight charges will also be raised.

Higher coal prices and freight rates will not only deprive millions of the main fuel for cooking and warming themselves in winter, but it will set off a general price rise.

While the Laborite leaders blame higher coal prices on the miserable wage increases, on the "inefficiency" of the coal miners, "absenteeism," and so on, they keep mum about the millions of pounds in dividends annually guaranteed to the erstwhile coal operators, who are now bondholders of the "nationalized" coal industry.

ist Labor School

evening, Oct. 6,
in October

LE CONFLICT THEN AND
the class struggles in the mid-
the American Civil War. . . .

iam F. Warde

LE AND MARXISM: The crisis
olution and the trends in modern
Materialism, the young science
d limitations .

: B. Lens.

follow each lecture

rsity Place

cents per session.

employed workers