

Zionists Face A Split Over Immigration Issue

By Irving Dale

The resignation from the Jewish Agency Executive of Moshe Sneh, one of the most important leaders of the Zionist movements, highlights the deep crisis in the Zionist movement. Sneh is one of the few Zionist leaders who is not ready to capitulate to Anglo-American imperialism on the immigration question. The immediate cause of his resignation is his opposition to the Jewish Agency to order some 15,000 refugees that they remain in the Black Sea ports.

Zionism needs immediate and large scale immigration into Palestine. Their main propaganda, and the basis upon which they are getting the support of the Jewish masses, is their promise to quickly alleviate the plight of European Jewry. **But the facts are otherwise. As a result of the partition decision, immigration into Palestine will be even smaller in the next period.**

Under pressure from British and American imperialism, the Zionists have agreed to stop all illegal immigration. This permits the entry of only 1,500 Jews a month until the Interim Commission of the UN sets up Jewish and Arab states. This cannot be done until May 15.

NO GUARANTEE

There is no guarantee, however, that a Jewish state will be set up immediately. The matter is entirely at the discretion of the Interim Commission. There is also no guarantee that the new Jewish state will have jurisdiction over immigration. The Interim Commis-

sion can decide that they will control immigration because the question so closely affects the peace and security of Palestine.

If this occurs, the standing which the Zionists have acquired as fighters for Jewish freedom would evaporate in the wake of incontrovertible proof of their abject sellout to the imperialists.

The Zionists also promised the Jewish masses that the establishment of a Jewish state would change for all time their political standing throughout the world. After selling partition as a victory and as proof that the UN is friendly to Zionist aspirations, they are in the unenviable position of having to explain why the UN has not lifted a finger to carry out its decision. Zionist leaders like Rabbi Silver are asking the U. S. for arms as well as an international police force. Others are in London negotiating with the British (while the British colonial office foments anti-Jewish attacks).

A BLIND SPOT

In contrast to these Zionist leaders, Sneh sees the handwriting on the wall. He notes that Britain and American refuse to assist the Jews, but demand immediate cessation of illegal immigration. For him this is sufficient proof that the imperialists are not sincere in their declarations. Where the majority of the Zionist leaders are taken in by grandiose promises of statehood and try to dazzle the Jewish masses with the same hope, Sneh's realism forces him to recognize the traitorous role of Anglo-American imperialism.

But what are his conclusions?

That the present Anglo-American orientation of the Zionists is incorrect, and that all questions regarding the Jewish state should be discussed within the framework of the United Nations. This, of course, means bringing Russia into the picture. It is not that Sneh is a Stalinist. He simply believes that the conflicting aims of the different powers inside the UN will provide the Zionists with more elbow room for maneuvering. For all his realism, his Zionist beliefs give him a blind spot. He cannot see that in all the maneuvering that takes place inside the UN, small and weak peoples are used by the major powers, and not vice versa.

Sneh is a representative of militant nationalism which wants to conduct a serious and uncompromising struggle for Zionist aims. (He should be distinguished from the militant terrorist wing of the Zionist organization which has a rightist political orientation). Sneh now wants to organize a "popular" party which will fight against the weak, opportunistic policy of the official Zionist leaders.

Sneh's conflict with the other Zionist leaders does not signify that there is a fundamental difference between the two. All of them adhere to the program of establishing a Jewish national state in Palestine at any cost. The socialist "ideology" of the left wing groups that support Sneh is just so much window dressing; all of their concrete efforts center around the Zionist struggle. The present conflict will thus take place within the confines of the Zionist movement, and the dissidents will follow Zionist discipline.