

U. S. Abandons Partition Plan For Palestine

By AL FINDLEY

The declaration by former Senator Warren R. Austin to the UN Security Council that the U. S. is now in favor of a "temporary" UN trusteeship for Palestine and is abandoning partition for the present, had the impact of surprise, though it had been predicted in various quarters.

LABOR ACTION reported two months ago that General Marshall personally had changed his mind. We also reported that the U. S. was retreating but had not reached a definite rejection of partition and independence for Palestine, pending the outcome of some undercover negotiations with British and Arab politicians.

The greatest element of surprise was the speed with which the new announcement was made and the fact that the abandonment of partition came directly and openly, without customary diplomatic subterfuge.

JEWS, ARABS OPPOSED

The reasons given by Austin are that partition cannot be implemented peacefully and that in order to prevent bloodshed when the British



leave, a trusteeship is necessary. The United States therefore requests that the Security Council call a special session of the General Assembly, without polling the member states, and that the Council recommend to the Assembly a trusteeship, and that the Council instruct the Palestine Commission of five very lonely men to cease doing the little they are doing to implement partition.

The reasons given by the U. S. for its change of policy are obviously fraudulent. The U. S. was the main proponent of partition. It whipped reluctant nations into support of partition—despite all arguments about bloodshed, oil and strategic position. Nothing new has been added to the situation.

The newest trusteeship proposal is certain to require more, not less, force to carry it through. It is sure to result in a greater bloodbath. Instead of having the opposition of only one nation, trusteeship will be opposed by BOTH the Jews and Arabs.

The trusteeship proposal will find no support among organized Jewish groups in Palestine, with the possible exception of the Dr. Magnes "Ichud" group, and the handful of intellectuals who support him. The Hashomer Hatzair, which originally called for a twenty-five year UN trusteeship as a step to parity binationalism, is sure to reject this attempt as too late and, in its present context, as a betrayal of Jewish national rights to Palestine. In any case, they would not accept a UN trusteeship without the participation of Russia.

Among the Arabs trusteeship will fare no better. The politicians of the Arab League who are considering accepting trusteeship with the conditions that it (1) forbid Jewish immigration, and (2) rule out all Jewish NATIONAL rights in Palestine, will find themselves vetoed by the Arab nationalists and by the Palestinian Arabs. While the Arab nationalists are opposed to partition and hailed Austin's statement as an anti-partition stand, they demand independence and will not accept continued foreign rule. One has only to look at the fate of the "model" British-Iraq treaty, accepted by the politicians but thrown out by the people.

IMPERIALIST MOTIVES

The next question is—who will be the trustee? **LABOR ACTION** long ago reported that the U. S. was always in favor of keeping Anglo-American troops in Palestine, and turned to partition only after the British refused to remain. Even after the partition plan was accepted, the U. S. kept pressuring England to remain in Palestine in one way or another. But the declining British Empire felt too weak to stay. The advocates of withdrawal from Palestine carried the day in British imperial councils and at the time of this writing are still in control.

The day after Austin's statement, the British government named May 15 as the date for the termination of the mandate in a bill before Parliament. Foreign Office statements that the U. S. did not consult Britain before making the statement to the UN tends to indicate that Britain has not yet agreed to stay.

It is clear that the U. S. will not accept a collective trusteeship for Palestine that will include Russia. The only possible trustee that can win the support of the small nations in the UN is the United States, with some other participating powers as an international "front." This would mean the use of American troops to suppress both the Jews and Arabs. It is extremely doubtful whether the American people will permit such a useless waste of American lives. It is not outside the realm of impossibility for the firm and intransigent Truman to shift once again on the Palestine question. In this connection it is advisable to take into consideration reports that the real aim of the State Department is not a trusteeship, but some form of federalization.

Among the reasons given for the Truman shift are: (1) the complete subordination of politics to military

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needs; (2) the need for Mid-East oil; (3) the Czech coup that has sharpened the antagonisms between Russia and the U. S.; and (4) the fact that the Democratic Party has already accepted the loss of New York State, since the victory of a Wallace candidate in a Congressional election.

The Russians will use the situation for their own imperialist propaganda purposes. Originally the Russians were in favor of a UN trusteeship but turned to partition as the most effective way to get troops of the Anglo-American bloc out of Palestine. Now that the U. S. has changed its position in favor of a trusteeship without Russia, the Russian diplomats will remain firmly in favor of partition. This pro-partition policy does not prevent the Russians from also playing a dual game through their puppets.

The Arab Stalinists continue their opposition to Jewish immigration and Jewish independence. The Czechs are selling arms to the Arabs, and in totalitarian Yugoslavia, Tito has permitted the opening of a Moslem recruiting office. Already 92 volunteers have been given passports. In addition, the New York Post reports that a Yugoslav Moslem is one of the commanders of a sector in Palestine.

The disappointment of the Jews in the broken promises of British and American imperialism will only be duplicated if the Jews place their hopes in Russian imperialism.

FULL INDEPENDENCE

The only present hope for saving the freedom and independence of both nations in Palestine is through

independent action by themselves, with no reliance on American or Russian imperialism or on the UN.

Some such realization is starting to penetrate even the members of the Jewish Agency. Ben-Gurion, leader of the Agency, has announced that the Jewish state exists, and a formal declaration is expected before this is printed. The Provisional Government will consist of a council of 32 members, representing all parties, and a cabinet of 13 members. The council will have representatives of all political parties now represented in the Jewish National Assembly of Palestine, plus one Stalinist and four representatives of religious and clerical groups which have not participated in the official Jewish community until now. The 32 can be roughly divided in 14 Labor Party and left-wing groups, 14 from conservative parties and the rest from the clerical groups, who will vote with the conservatives.

The United Labor Party (formed by the unity of Hashomer Hatzair and Achduth Avodah) is protesting the representation and the agreement between the Haganah and Irgun. Before the U. S. change in policy, the United Labor Party refused to name its candidates. What it will do now in the new crisis remains to be seen.

The Revisionists and the Irgunists who demand Jewish rule over all of Palestine have been strengthened. Unless the Jewish labor organizations lead a real and immediate struggle for independence, they will lose the leadership of the Jewish masses and lose a favorable opportunity for a struggle for freedom and independence.