

Big Powers Maneuver for Revision Of Palestine Partition Plan in UN

By AL FINDLEY

Today, one year after the UN voted to partition Palestine into a Jewish state and Arab state, the UN continues to act as the shadow of real events in Palestine. Far from creating or even influencing anything in Palestine, the UN has merely acted to give some sort of "legality" to actual developments.

Following World War II with its extermination of 6,000,000 Jews, the Jews of Palestine completed the creation of their "state within a state," in a desperate attempt to bring a sizable amount of the remnants of European Jewry to Palestine. Weakened British imperialism, harrassed by the Haganah, Irgun and Stern groups, decided to evacuate Palestine. It was only then that the UN, under the leadership of the U. S., drew up a partition plan.

When this plan was accepted, **LABOR ACTION** pointed out that the denationalization of Jerusalem and the gerrymandering of the territories of Jewish and Arab Palestine was an invitation to bloodshed and was designed as such by all of the Big Three so as to give each—in its own way—an opportunity to expand its sphere of power politics.

Since the passage of that resolution the UN did nothing to implement its decision, thus exposing the UN for what it really is—an arena for maneuvering in an imperialist struggle. Instead, the UN under the leadership of the U. S. vacillated with every change in the military struggle of Israel against the Mufti irregulars and the invading armies of the Arab League.

WHAT THE POWERS WANT

However, neither the fears nor the ambitions of the Big Three were realized in the course of last year's struggle, and they still remain the real basis for UN resolutions and orders despite the moral language in which they are couched.

The U. S. feared Russian utilization of the Palestinian crisis for its own expansion and also wanted to keep England from garrisoning the Suez Canal and the Near East. The latter could only be accomplished by British bases in the Palestinian Negev.

Russia wanted above all to get Anglo-American troops entirely out

of Palestine, and, secondly, to establish a foothold in the Western Mediterranean.

England hoped that by giving up untenable Palestine and acting as a foil for the Arab rulers—especially Abdullah—it could re-establish its pre-eminent position in the Near East.

In line with these basic imperialist motives, the three powers are now backing three different resolutions in the UN in the final phases of the Palestinian struggle:

Russia is insisting on the letter of the original partition resolution. This would establish a weak Arab state and an almost indefensible Israel. It also opens the possibility for Stalinist control of Arab Palestine, if Abdullah can be forced out, since the only Arab group that would accept such an arrangement is the Arab Stalinists. For the Jews, this would mean suicidal war to the finish with Abdullah for the sake of pulling Stalin's chestnuts out of the fire. Beigen and his "freedom movement" also want such a war but they intend to keep all of Palestine and Transjordan.

U. S. STRATEGY

Unfortunately, this criminal policy has the support of a Jewish working-class party—the Mapam. The Mapam, whose component elements (Hashomer Hatzair and Achduth Avodah) opposed partition in November 29 and then were among the foremost advocates of its revision, now demand the observance of the letter of the November 29 resolution.

The British support the Bernadotte Plan which gives Jerusalem, the Negev, and all of Arab Palestine to Abdullah, autocrat of Transjordan and puppet of Britain.

The U. S. has introduced a series of amendments which in effect support Israel's right to the territory of the original partition resolution but attempt to get Israel to give Abdullah the Negev south of the 31st parallel if Israel wants to retain Galilee, Jaffa and get part of Jerusalem.

The U. S. is thus trying to do many things at one time. It is trying to win over a section of Israeli political opinion to the Western camp, and carry out the plans of army strategists, while at the same time throwing a bone (Arab Palestine and the Negev south of 31st parallel) to England.

The U. S. is encouraged in this compromise by recent statements on the Transjordan radio calling for negotiations. A JTA report says that Abdullah does not want the Negev but that Bevin insists that he take it. The final solution according to the U. S. resolution is to be arranged by a conciliation committee that will have a free hand to draw borders as it sees fit, if it can get the consent of the Jews and Abdullah.

NO HELP FROM IMPERIALISTS

The anniversary of the partition resolution is no cause for celebration. It is rather the occasion to relearn an old lesson: that no oppressed people or class really gains anything from its imperialist "friends" but wins only by its own power and the strength of the working-class of the world.

What of the future? The prime need of both the Jews and the Arabs is to gain peace and to prevent Palestine from being made a football of international power politics. No good can come of joining either the Eastern or Western imperialist blocs. It can only make Israel a battlefield of the cold or hot war. As long as Israel is gerrymandered and surrounded by a wall of Arab hostility, the imperialists will find fertile ground for continuing their deadly game at the expense of both Jews and Arabs.

For both Jews and Arabs it means a re-drawing of boundaries to be mutually agreed upon, that will give both comparative continuity of territory.

For Arab progressives it means a struggle for the acceptance of Israel's right to self-determination, with the guarantee of democratic rights for all Arabs whether in the Israeli or Arab parts of Palestine.

For Jewish progressives it means utilizing the needs of Arab refugees, not as an instrument of pressure, but as an opportunity to break through the Arab feudal curtain and reach the Arab masses.

For Palestine as a whole it requires an economic union that will lead to a Federal Union of both peoples.

For the workers of the U. S. it means a struggle for de jure recognition of Israel and its admission to the UN.