

Israeli Laborites Suffer Setback

U. S. Presses UN Assembly to Continue Uneasy Palestine Truce

By AL FINDLEY

The present truce in Jerusalem which was honored more in the breach, is showing signs of becoming an actuality. This has encouraged Britain and the U. S. to apply pressure to assure that the coming General Assembly of the UN does nothing on Palestine except extend the present truce, with its uneasy peace, and limitations on immigration, etc.

The U. S. is trying its best to present some concrete achievement to the Assembly in the form of direct Arab-Jewish negotiations. Some slight progress along this direction is being made. The Lebanese radio announced a tenuous pro-peace statement and Abdullah is reported to favor such a move. But complete success along these lines is far off, as is evidenced even from the Transjordan radio which alternates between caution and belligerence. The Palestinian press of the right-wing Revisionists and the left-wing (but Stalinoid) Mapam, are accusing the government of secretly negotiating with Abdullah. It will take some time before the Arab rulers will be emboldened enough to enter into open negotiations.

Jerusalem continues to be the focal point of interest. It is reported that the Israeli government may confront the Assembly with a fait accompli by annexing the new city of Jerusalem in the next two weeks.

The struggle between Abdullah on one hand and the Mufti, backed by Egypt, on the other, broke out in the open last week. The Mufti announced that unless the Arab League renewed the war, he would lead a force to capture Jerusalem. He was reported to have Egyptian support in the form of arms and supplies. An official spokesman of Abdullah openly warned the Mufti and his backers in the Arab League to keep out of Palestine entirely, since, according to the Transjordanian spokesman, the Mufti had lost all popular support among the Palestinian Arabs.

LABOR ZIONISTS LOSE ROUND

In the Zionist movement the spotlight in the last two weeks was held by the meeting of the Zionist Action Committee, top committee of the Zionist movement, in which the American bourgeois Zionists scored a victory over the Israeli labor movement. Officially, the struggle centered around the apparently innocuous question of separating the Israeli government from the leadership of the Jewish Agency. The Zionist bourgeoisie, led by Dr. Silver of the American Zionist Organization, demanded that none of the Israeli cabinet officers be permitted to serve as officials of the Jewish Agency Executive, which controls immigration into and capital investment in Palestine.

Publicly, they justified their de-

mand by the claim that Zionists throughout the world would be protected from the charge of "dual loyalty" if there were no direct tie-up between the Israeli government and the Agency executive.

The Palestinian Labor Party (Mapai) which is the largest party in the governmental coalition of Palestine, vigorously objected. Taking away its control over immigration and the allocation of capital investment, would place the government of Israel in the position of reigning but not ruling. It is quite obvious that for the next period at least, immigration and capital investment will be the main internal problems of the new state.

In addition to these questions, the Zionist Action Committee differed over related problems—whether to locate the Executive in Jerusalem or Washington, and the abolition of the "double vote" given to Palestine. These secondary problems are tied up with the main question, since a decision would affect the relative influence that the Palestinian labor movement would have over the World Zionist movement and the vital funds that it dispenses.

DEEP GOING STRUGGLE

All observers are agreed that the official propaganda hides the real issues, which involve: (1) a struggle for power between American bourgeois Zionists and Israeli labor Zionists; (2) whether to encourage free enterprise or the cooperative and

non-capitalist elements of the Israeli economy.

The struggle for power between European and Palestinian Zionist leaders on one hand and American Zionist leaders on the other, has been raging for sometime. The Americans feel that since they contribute most of the funds, they should control the organization. Until recently they made little headway. The existence of a large and culturally vibrant Jewish population in Europe prevented this. In addition, world politics centered in Europe, while the U. S. was isolationist. World War II changed the situation. Six million European Jews were wiped off the face of the earth by capitalism's anti-Semitic butcher, Hitler. In addition, the center of world politics shifted to Washington. Reflecting this development, a compromise was worked out several years ago, establishing a section of the Jewish Agency Executive in the U. S. The American leaders are still fighting for primacy. The leading contender is no longer the European Zionist movement, but the Israeli labor movement.

In addition to the struggle for power, there is the question of what kind of economy to encourage in Palestine. Although Israel is predominantly capitalist in economy, a section of the economy of about 5 to 10 per cent (industry and agriculture) is organized on cooperative and collectivist lines. However, they consume a much greater portion of the "national

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AVC Divided on Expulsion

Sees Ousting of Daily Worker Editor Injuring

By WILLIAM BARTON

The decision to try John Gates, editor of the Daily Worker, to determine whether he is to be expelled from the American Veterans Committee, has produced a sharp division among the supporters of the Independent Progressive Caucus in the AVC. This is the group which elected most of the members of the current National Planning Committee. The possibility of a national caucus meeting very soon is in the offing.

The charge against Gates, originally brought by two rank-and-file members, is based upon the alleged incompatibility of membership in AVC and avowed allegiance to the Communist Party. The resolution of the National Planning Committee in 1946 on "Communism" stated, in vague legal language, that "Communists" were not welcome. By signing his AVC application under these conditions, it is alleged, Gates performed an act "inimical to the interests of AVC" and was therefore constitu-

of the NPC, conducted a hearing on the case in New York. National Vice-Chairman Joseph Cloerty, presiding over the hearing, stated at the outset that its only purpose was to determine whether John Gates was a member of the Communist Party and to give him a chance to answer as he saw fit. Gates' counsel, NPC member Morris Pottish, responded with an over-all legal case in defense of Gates' "civil rights" and an all-out political attack against the NAC for staging a "frame-up."

Cloerty, doing nothing to answer Pottish's aggressive diatribes, merely reiterated that Gates' allegiance to the CP was the only issue. Pottish knew that the hearing was only the beginning of a political fight; Cloerty, in good old "liberal" fashion, seemed satisfied to stick to his legal grounds.

After two hours of political attacks and legal defense, Gates was given the floor. His membership in the CP had already been "proved" by a quotation from a speech to

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funds" and in some cases occupy decisive, key positions. It is this feature of Palestinian economy that is the real target of the Jewish bourgeoisie and the basic issue in the struggle. Dr. Neuman, president of the American Zionists, gives this away when he talks about "encouraging private capital."

The position of all bourgeois parties was in line with their interests. The Revisionists (semi-fascists), Misrachi (clericalists) and the majority of General Zionists (bourgeois) favored the American proposal and only a small section of the liberal General Zionists in Israel (organized into the new Progressive Zionist Party) favored a compromise.

MAPAM MAKES CONCESSIONS

The attitude of the Mapam (United Workers Party), if one is to accept the fragmentary reports of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was a betrayal of the interests of the Israeli Labor Movement, in return for a horse trade giving Mapam representation on the Executive.

At first the Mapam announced that it would vote for the American Zionist proposal of complete separation. Then, when Israeli liberals proposed a compromise allowing for three Israeli cabinet officials in the executive (which was rejected by the conservatives), the Mapam still supported the bourgeois demand, but this time only by abstaining from voting. This gave the conservatives sufficient voting strength to carry their proposal. The final compromise, much more disadvantageous to the Israeli labor movement than the one pro-

posed by the liberals, left only one Israeli cabinet representative in the Jewish Agency Executive.

In the horse-trade, Mapam won two seats for itself, in return for one seat to the pro-fascist Revisionists. This was agreed to by all parties. To make this palatable to the rank and file of the labor movement, the Revisionists were induced to issue a statement denouncing all ties with dissident military formations or groups which fail to obey Zionist or Israeli government discipline.

This statement, hailed as a significant victory, is an empty victory since, in the last week, the Israeli government, in its growing strength, succeeded in forcing the Irgun and Stern groups in Jerusalem to give up their independent formations, and accept its discipline of the "Zva Haganah." Details are still to be arranged. The Irgun's acceptance of this arrangement was very grudging. They blamed it on "imperialist pressure" in the government of Israel.

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