

British Imperialism Resorts to Martial Law To Prevent Jewish Immigration Into Palestine

By A. P. FINDLEY

A new war of terrorism has been loosed against the Palestinian people simultaneous with a British announcement that it "submit" the Palestine question to the United Nations and postpone any decision on Jewish immigration.

On Saturday, March 1, the Irgun Zvei Leumi bombed a British club in Jerusalem, killing sixteen persons. The British administration immediately put into effect its often postponed plans for martial law. The entire city of Tel-Aviv (population 181,000), all communities in the plains to the East and the Mea Shearim district of Jerusalem, inhabited by oriental and orthodox Jews were put under martial law. Over 300,000 people are affected by this military straight-jacket.

NAKED MILITARY RULE

Transportation of industrial workers has ceased, phone communications are completely suspended—even within small sections, imports and exports are cut off. The effect is

that of a blitz kreig. In Tel-Aviv, industrial and economic center of Palestine—over 10,000 workers are out of jobs.

This first week of naked military rule in Palestine will go down in history as one of the blackest acts of a decaying empire. It has been characterized not only by economic strangulation, but by indiscriminate shooting, even of playing children. It has meant complete freedom for drunken imperialist soldiers, afraid of their hostile surroundings, to strike out blindly at anything and anybody.

Although officially directed against the terrorists of the Irgun and the Stern gang (a small minority of the population) martial law is actually directed against the entire Jewish community and all forms of resistance.

Even from the viewpoint of the British imperialists, the results of this brutality are of doubtful value. The arrest of alleged terrorist leaders will not mean much. The acts of terrorism against British soldiers have increased during the reign of

martial law. If anything, the "extremists" have been politically strengthened.

The only effect has been to strangle the economic life of the country. Britain, having failed to impose its will by political and military power, is now trying desperate economic pressure.

EFFECT ON COMMUNITY

Previous British reprisals against the Jewish population primarily affected the workers' communities and cooperative farms. Despite mass searches of workers' sections, destruction of their homes and possessions, the workers stood firmly with the Hagannah and resistance.

The present martial law, while causing great hardship among the working class, is also putting intense pressure on the businessmen, manufacturers and middle class elements in the attempt to force these classes to act as a fulcrum for exerting pressure in the direction of "collaboration" and appeasement of the British overlords.

Dr. Weitzman, traditional spokesman for pro-British policies, has proposed the establishment of a new top executive, with himself as head, to negotiate with the British. The Jewish press reports that this proposal has already received the approval of the Jewish agency and the Vaad Leumi (existing executive bodies) and all capitalist elements (except for the Revisionists). The Histadruth, the Jewish trade union of Palestine has not yet committed itself.

WHAT CAN UN DO?

Politically, the solution of the Palestinian problem was helped not an inch by the fact that it will be submitted to the UN. Those Zionist groups like the left Paole Zion and especially Hashomer Hatzair who demanded UN intervention, are now wondering what they have gained. Beigin, leader of the Irgun, also had expressed his support of UN intervention because he was sure of the help of the U. S., France and Russia.

One thing is certain: however long the UN will require to reach a decision, whatever their decision will be, it will not be based on any consideration of the needs or desires of either the Jewish or Arab people. The UN decision will be arrived at by foul play in the dirty game of power politics.

Rumors regarding the possible UN decision fly far and fast. Gen. Marshall is reported in favor of supporting Bevin's policy as an offset to Russia's wooing of the Arabs. The Polish government is rumored to have adopted a position favoring binationalism, while Moscow continues to denounce immigration to Palestine.

SECRECY IN UN

The unofficial decision for a UN commission to make a preliminary investigation and report to the General Assembly in September, has been vetoed by the United States, which wants Britain to make the official decisions, leaving the U. S. government free of the onus of decision.

In placing the entire question before the United Nations, the British government committed itself to accept a decision, but only on condition that it is acceptable to both sides. As Truman has demanded the admission of 100,000 Jews to Palestine, it is believed that the U. S. government will tend to support a general solution acceptable to the liberal Zionists.

However, the six Arab States have a tight UN bloc with the Latin American countries (with the exception of Argentina, where Peron has announced his support of the Zionist position). This bloc is not a majority, but it can effectively stop any deci-

sion, since a two-thirds vote will be required.

Russia and its satellites represent a somewhat doubtful case, although their past actions point in the direction of an alliance with the Arab League as a means of penetrating the Near East for oil, etc.

In his speech to Parliament, in which he announced the decision to submit the Palestine question to the UN, Bevin depicted the poor British Empire as an advocate of peaceful cooperation and bi-nationalism, caught between the unreasonable attitudes of both the Jews and the Arabs. This is a familiar "pose" for the self-righteous imperialists (in-*ana*, for example) who close their eyes to the historical facts in Palestine, where for 25 years the British have been making every attempt to pit Jew and Arab against each other.

The hypocritical preachings of Bevin should not obliterate the fact that the starting point for consideration of Palestine is the fact of the existence of two nations within the same country. In his speech, Bevin labeled the Jews as a religious group, overlooking the new, broader and *secular* Jewish national movement which rotting capitalism has created amongst the Jews the world over. Bevin attempts to befuddle the issue by making the fact that the lives of several million Jews are at stake, appear like a matter of religious taste.

ZIONISTS IN QUANDARY

The official Zionist leaders are desperately seeking a way out of the impasse. Only yesterday they refused to consider the question of immigration as distinct from the political solution—a Jewish state, if only in a section of Palestine.

Now that the policy of relying on another of the contenders for world power, or on the UN has shown its bankruptcy, they are reduced to pleading for immediate admission of Jews into Palestine on purely humanitarian grounds.

Most Zionist leaders place their hope in America, others still hope for a solution which will satisfy the British, still others pray for a favorable shift on the part of the Stalinist rulers of Russia. The more astute are talking of finding allies in other Near Eastern countries, among the various minorities in the Arab countries. They feel that even if they

could revive their semi-alliance with England, the empire is now so weak that they cannot be depended upon. These attempts at "super-realistic" power politics will bring as much disappointment as the previous alliance with the British Empire.

The only course which can succeed is a forthright attempt to integrate the struggle of the Jews in Palestine against British imperialism, with the struggle against feudalism which faces the masses of the Near East.

N. Y. Union To Fight Stalin

By JACK PORTER

NEW YORK — Representatives of a cross section of the non-Stalinist CIO locals in New York at a meeting held March 6, at the Hotel Capitol, decided to enter the Stalinist-controlled New York City CIO Industrial Council provided the Council was "reorganized."

Among the 200 persons present were delegations from auto, textile, steel, utility workers, shipbuilding, retail and wholesale, and unofficial delegations from Stalinist-controlled unions.

The meeting marks the first occasion since 1940 that the non-Stalinist CIO locals of New York have met for the purpose of conducting joint activity against the Stalinist domination of the CIO in New York.

Previous efforts to organize a city-wide fight against the Stalinist stranglehold on the New York CIO were constantly rebuffed by many of the same right wing opportunists who are at the head of the present movement, formerly known as the CIO Committee for Democratic Action and now called the Trade Union Committee for Democracy.

During the imperialist war, it was politically convenient for right wing leaders to enter into a bloc with the Stalinists. For nearly four years many of the right wing leaders found it possible to run on the same slate with the Stalinists, vote for the same resolutions and fight jointly against the militancy of the rank and file.

QUESTION LEADERS

Falling in line with the current anti-Stalinist mood in the CIO, the committee was organized under the leadership of Jack Altman, an official in the United Retail, Wholesale & Dept. Store Employees Union, and Charles Kerrigan, director of Region 9A of the United Auto Workers Union, who were elected chairman and secretary-treasurer respectively at the meeting.

Although no opposition to the candidacies of Altman and Kerrigan was expressed at the meeting, it is known that delegates questioned the right of Altman and Kerrigan to lead the struggle against the Stalinists.

Both Altman and Kerrigan as well as a number of other people associated with them in the leadership of the CIO Committee for Democratic Unionism have collaborated with the Stalinists—particularly during the war. Altman practically alone among the non-Stalinist CIO leaders, en-

Labor Action Suspends Its Own Relief Service To Work With ACEWR

The Labor Action European Relief Service wishes to announce that, effective at once, it is abandoning its separate efforts for European relief and is urging upon its readers for support to:

The American Committee for European Workers Relief, 193 Second Avenue, New York 3, N. Y.

The ACEWR has added to the lists of those whom it is helping the names of all those families whom the now-dissolving Labor Action European Relief Service has been aiding. Henceforth LABOR ACTION will carry on its appeals and publicity in behalf of the ACEWR.

LABOR ACTION urges all those who have been assisting us in this vital European relief work to continue their efforts and to give their support to the ACEWR—a relief organization deserving the fullest confidence and support of all those interested in helping. We shall campaign actively in its behalf and we have decided to throw our support to it because of our knowledge of the fine work it has been conducting. Henceforth any inquiries about relief work, or matters relating to it, should be addressed to:

ACEWR, 197 Second Avenue, New York 3, N. Y.

We are publishing below a letter received from Germany, a letter of appreciation for one of the many packages shipped to Europe through the relief service that LABOR ACTION has been running.

Germany, Feb. 2, 1947.

Dear Friend:
I was very delighted to receive your package, in which there were two shirts, a blouse and a coat. You can easily imagine how I greeted the arrival of the coat, since my own is light and badly worn. My wife will find very good use of the shirts for

the children. Believe me, such help is worth a lot to us, for we can buy almost nothing. It is worst of all for the children, since they grow out of everything very quickly.

This second post-war winter is much more bitter and harder on us than was the first. The public as well as the paltry private reserves have been used up. The cold, transportation difficulties, etc., make the import of food very difficult. For weeks the women have waited many hours for bread at the stores. Already, a few cases have happened where people froze to death on these lines.

At school, whose director I am, up to 25 per cent of the children stay away daily because they have no shoes and only insufficient winter clothing. Many children are sick because their weakened bodies cannot offer resistance to the effects of the weather.

I report everywhere the wonderful solidarity among us. Out of the spirit of the present mutual help there should grow the spirit of a new humanitarianism, which will regard as its highest duty preventing at all costs the repetition of the fascist madness. We shall fight with goodness, we shall take the tedious assignment of patient enlightenment and we shall treat with the greatest harshness all attempts at a repetition of injustice and violence.

I hope that you are of similar intentions. Help us further; you help us in the fight for humanitarianism, truth and justice.

To make sure that we don't misunderstand each other, let me add that justice, humanitarianism and truth can be realized only under socialism.

In this spirit, friends, I thank you and greet you.

W. L.

Aid European Hungry Workers

ELECTION RALLY IN LOS ANGELES!

H. E. A. R.:

HAROLD DRAPER

WP CANDIDATE FOR COUNCILMAN

Speak on

The Socialist Program to Smash Jim Crow

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 8 P. M.

Elks Temple, 40th and Central

NOW OFF