

Palestine Peace in Sight, But Jewish Problem Remains

By **AL FINDLEY**

Palestine is leaving the front pages. The probability is that there will be no more fighting, but peace (even formal peace) is still in the future. The armistice talks at Rhodes between Israel and Egypt are stalemated although discussions continue. It is reported that the U. S. has urged a quick settlement on both countries, offering a Marshall Plan for the Near East as a bonus.

All other Arab countries have been invited to these talks. King Abdullah announced his acceptance and urged all Arab states to do the same. Syria and Lebanon have agreed in principle. It is still not decided when these states will start talks. Britain has informed Transjordan that she will no longer insist on the return of the Palestinian Arab refugees and will aid their resettlement in Transjordan, expecting that country (with Arab Palestine) to match Israel soon in population and strength.

The consensus is that without mass pressure in Arab countries there will be no peace in Palestine despite the fact that fighting will not be resumed. The ironic aspect of the situation is that while the Arab governments are reluctantly and hesitantly moving toward a grudging and sulky peace with Israel, it is their fear of popular reaction that slows the process.

This is partially due to the mistaken policy of the Jewish labor movement and of the Israeli government which took no steps to appeal directly to the Arab peoples instead of to their governments. A policy of winning over the Arab masses could have created popular Arab pressure FOR peace instead of against it.

Israel is an armed camp and will remain so until real peace is made. There is, however, little interest in the talks at Rhodes. Temporarily, interest has shifted to plans for the new immigrants and to the composition of the new government following the recent elections. No decision will be taken until after the February 15 elections of the trade unions (Histadruth) in which 180,000 people are expected to cast ballots. The relative strength of the Mapai and Mapam within the Histadruth—Israel's most powerful organization—will determine the composition of the government and MAY be decisive for the future of the Mapam.

JEWISH PROBLEM

The approach of peace for Israel and the projected plans for large-scale immigration have once again brought to the fore the question: Does the establishment of a Jewish state solve the Jewish problem? LABOR ACTION and the Workers' Party have

taken a positive attitude toward Israel, have ALWAYS championed the right of Jewish immigration to Palestine, supported the right of the Jews to independence and self-determination and called for the defense of Israel in the present war with the Arab governments. However, that does not mean that we accept the Jewish state as THE solution to the Jewish problem. On the contrary, the Jewish state of Israel cannot exist and prosper without a socialist solution of the Jewish problem.

The Jews are a world people numbering about 11,000,000. Optimistic plans of the state of Israel call for immigration of two to four millions in 20 to 30 years. There can therefore be no doubt that they will REMAIN a world people. As such, defense of Jewish rights, the struggle against fascism, the fight against war, remain prime necessities for the Jews.

Israel will not become a major power and will therefore have as much power to protect the Jews of the world as Mexico has to protect Mexicans in the U. S., as India has to protect the Indians in South Africa, etc. Not only will Israeli efforts to protect Jews in larger countries be of little avail, but Israel itself is dependent on Jewish aid from large and prosperous Jewish communities. Without world Jewish financial support, it is impossible to conceive of large-scale Jewish immigration into Israel. Present plans call for the raising of two and a half billion dollars in five years. Israel IS dependent on world Jewry. World Jewry is NOT dependent on Israel.

To pose the Jewish state as THE SOLUTION to the Jewish problem, and one that takes precedence over the struggle for Jewish rights and the fight against the system that breeds modern totalitarian capitalist anti-Semitism, plays into the hands of the enemies of the Jews and makes the job of the exterminators easier.

DUAL DANGER

Jews face a dual danger. They face the danger of atomic destruction and of national oppression, as do all the peoples and minorities of the world. However, they are confronted by a special and most urgent danger—of total physical extermination. The threat of complete and total annihilation of the Jews is THE distinguishing feature of modern capitalist anti-Semitism. The arena of annihilation.

Peace Opens Forum Series

Forum Hears Ruth Fischer on Tito Split

deserves a fuller report and, this particular listener feels, some critical remarks as well.

ANALYZES TITO SPLIT

The subject of the talk was an analysis of the origin and evolution of that portentous fissure in the Stalinist empire, the Tito-Stalin split. The speaker divided her subject into two parts: 1) tracing of the history of Tito's opposition, which goes further back than is generally supposed; 2) an analysis of Tito's relation to the present tensions within the Politburo of the Russian party.

On the first point, the speaker constructed what to this listener was a very striking theory. Tito's personal history is such as to already separate him from the old wheelhorses of the Comintern and Cominform, the Gott-

walds, the Rakoczys, the Dimitrovs and the rest. Joining the party later in his life than the others, Tito was never a completely disciplined and indoctrinated automaton in the Comintern mechanism. He had devoted little time and interested to the study of the classic texts of Marxism, his major interests centering in military matters. This indifference to scientific politics and his relative independence from the party made him comparable, in Comrade Fischer's opinion, to Max Hoelz, the heroic leader of the German working class after the First World War.

The speaker then proceeded to trace a history of Tito's real and suspected oppositionism.

(1) **Tito's wife, a Russian intellectual, was purged in the revolt of the**

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is not limited to one country. It is continental and world-wide

Most national oppression tries to suppress and exploit the people it engulfs, that is, colonies, the Negroes in the U. S. These people are offered the alternative of death or slavery. Anti-Semitism is centuries old; its roots go back to theology, etc., creating a latent anti-Semitism that breaks out into overt anti-Semitism in times of social crisis. In the past, however, anti-Semitism attempted to destroy the Jews as a national community and incorporate the Jewish individuals into its society, religion, etc. Modern anti-Semitism—flourishing in a highly technological and scientific age organized into its highest form by the decay of the capitalist social system which requires a scapegoat and is anxious to get rid of competitors—has marked the Jews as totally expendable.

In a fundamental and in only too real and immediate a sense, the survival of the Jews as a people, or even as individuals, is dependent on the overthrow of capitalism. For Jews the overthrow of capitalism is not only an idea, something for the general welfare, but a real and immediate need for survival. To paraphrase an old quotation: "The Jews are in need of socialism more than any other people."