

Israeli Gains Prompt New Bernadotte "Cease-Fire" Order

Jewish Rightist Government Takes Step Backward in Relations With Palestinian Arabs Within Own Borders

By AL FINDLEY

The end of the thirty-day truce in Palestine on July 9, has been followed by two important developments. One was the Jewish offensive that captured Ramalah, Lydda, Tirah and other strategic towns. Second—the passage by the UN, not of a new and extended truce, but of a permanent cease fire order, until a settlement is reached.

The military situation since the middle of April has steadily been shifting in favor of the Israeli forces. It was the change that caused the U. S. to return to its earlier position in support of partition and led to the recognition of Israel by Truman. The

accelerating rate of military superiority by Israel had also shifted British plans. The British had hoped for a stalemate that would give them the opportunity of making a settlement in favor of their puppet, King Abdullah of Transjordan. The shift in military strength has led Britain to change to diplomacy to achieve this end. The ill-fated Bernadotte plan had its inspiration in 10 Downing Street. British insistence now on peace, is of a kind with its sudden insistence on "order" in the last weeks of the mandate in an attempt to save Jaffa for the Arabs.

The Bernadotte plan would have given Abdullah all of Arab Palestine, Jerusalem, and part of the Negev in return for part of Western Galilee. In addition, it would have limited Jewish immigration after two years and provided for some sort of Common Council of the greater Transjordan and Israel to administer an economic union and other common interests—possibly defense, foreign policy, etc.

The only gainer in this diplomatic maneuver was obviously Abdullah and his sponsors, the British. The British and Abdullah were therefore in favor of continuing the truce. The

other Arab countries and Egypt in particular were to be left out in the cold. The extension of the truce broke down with the beginning of an Egyptian offensive.

The end of the truce and the contents of the Bernadotte plan were the direct causes for the proclamation by the Arab League of a new All-Palestine government, composed of members of the Mufti's family, but minus the Mufti. This new administration was to replace the local administrations set up by the various invading armies. How it would exert authority as against the armies was not made clear. Announced on Friday, the new government was annulled on Saturday, under Abdullah's pressure. A new statement was issued, reducing the government to a liaison committee between the local populations and the armies.

In the Security Council the British joined the U. S. in supporting the demand for a cease fire. They also applied pressure in the form of withholding subsidies, threatened resignation of Glub Pasha, etc. In return, the U. S. gave its full support to those terms of the original truce that limited Jewish immigration and kept the embargo on arms to the victims of

Arab aggression. This was done on President Truman's orders, at the same time that Harry S. Truman was hailing the Democratic platform which calls for lifting the embargo on Israel.

The U. S. resolution adopted by the UN, "orders" both sides, aggressor and attacked alike, to stop fighting within 24 hours in Jerusalem, and within three days in all of Palestine. Failure to obey will be punished under Chapter 7 of the UN charter, providing for diplomatic, economic and possibly military sanctions. It

continues the terms of the old truce and gives the mediator full power to make any settlement. The Russians abstained because they opposed the powers given the mediator whose plans favor Abdullah.

The proposal of a new UN cease-fire order met with divided council among the Arabs. The British and Abdullah urged its complete acceptance. Abdullah promptly accepted that portion that called for cessation of fire in Jerusalem.

At the last moment, the rest of the

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Partition Campaign man on Ballot

gers of Wall Street and the Wallace-Stalinists. That is the object of this election campaign.

This election period will be utilized by the Workers Party to educate the working people in the need made

Stalinform Crisis Still Ru Czech, Italian CPs Prepare for Purge; Yugoslavi

By RICKIE SAUNDERS

All available evidence to date points to the fact that Yugoslavia has not yielded one inch in its struggle against complete Russian domination.

Borba, the official newspaper of the Yugoslav Communist Party, in summing up the case against the Cominform defended the party leadership against all charges leveled against it

This might indicate that Russia is considering some sort of rapprochement with Yugoslavia. It is obvious that the present situation cannot remain at a standstill indefinitely. While Tito's assertion of independence from Moscow could not go unchallenged by Stalin, the latter faces many difficulties in countering it. Among these are: The entrenched power of Tito, his efficient secret po-

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Arab League accepted the cease-fire for all of Palestine with reluctance. The main reason given was, of course, the pressure of all the big powers and the "treachery" of Great Britain. Some face-saving conditions were attached; i.e., they called for a time limit, a restriction of immigration and return of Arab refugees to Israeli-held territory.

The overriding advantage of peace to Israel has led them to welcome the new cease-fire, despite some disadvantageous terms. A formal attempt, however, will be made to change, or at least to modify these terms. However, it is clear that the acceptance of the truce by the Government of Israel was not, as the Irgunists and Stalinists claimed, a "betrayal" but the correct and only thing to do. In this connection we would like to point out that the Workers Party raised the demand of "cease fire" in December, fully two months before it was raised by any other group, either in or out of the UN.

ISRAELI POLICY

The "Irgun question" in Israel has not been settled yet. A commission of seven was appointed to reach a new agreement. This commission, headed by Greenbaum, conservative member of the General Zionists, did reach an agreement with the Irgun, restoring all the military independence the Irgun had before the "Altelena incident." This agreement was turned down by the Cabinet, under the pressure of the labor groups. Negotiations are continuing and the right-wing forces are still endeavoring to save their military ally, the Irgun.

While the Government of Israel, led by the social democratic Mopa—Labor Party—has handled the military problems quite well, they have taken no steps to reduce the bloodshed by the political steps of attempting to win the support of the Arab peasant and worker. No attempt was made to introduce such elementary reforms as the abolition of usury, dividing or promising the division of Effendi lands, the introduction of private peasant ownership of the land, a legal minimum wage for labor, etc. These reforms would have a wide appeal to the masses in all Arab League states, and these could become an ob-

stacle in the path of their rulers anti-Israel plottings.

In its attitude toward the Arab masses, the Government of Israel has taken a step backward. Previously, its policy had been to invite Arab refugees back into the territory of Israel. Recently, they announced that as a war measure to prevent a fifth column, no one not accepting citizenship of Israel would be re-admitted. As an immediate war measure this may have some justification, although it works against the long term strategic interests of Israel, that is, dividing the Arab masses from their Royal and feudal misleaders and transforming the present war into a war of liberation of both the Jews and Arab masses. [See the New Internationalist, July, 1948, "How to Defend Israel."]

However, this was accompanied by a statement borrowed from the Revisionists, namely that the total Arab population in all of Palestine was never more than 700,000. This attempt to minimize the size and therefore the importance of the Arab masses can only be the basis for a disastrous policy of dealing with the rulers of the Arab League and ignoring the Arab workers and peasants. It was this policy that played into the hands of the Mufti elements and led to the present bloodshed.

There is a possibility that despite incidents—large or small—the present cease-fire may be a permanent one. Not as a result of UN "moral force" but of the relation of brute military force of the warring camps and of the big powers. The diplomats will now attempt to decide the fate of Palestine.

PATTERN FOR THE FUTURE

What about the future? It is quite obvious that the Anglo-American imperialists will attempt to get a form of the British-Bernadotte Plan put into effect, with some possible territorial concessions to Egypt in the Southern Coastal plain. Russia, however, will oppose such a solution, not because of any concern with the interests of the Jews and progressive Arabs of Palestine, as outlined in LABOR ACTION of June 30, but because three weak states in Palestine are more in Russia's interest than a strong Transjordanian state headed by a British puppet. The labor move-

ment must work for a free and democratic Arab Palestine.

The proposal for the internationalization of Jerusalem, advanced by many can only have disastrous results. It can only succeed in continuing Palestine as a football of international politics and permanentize the intervention of the UN. The situation in Palestine cries aloud for an end to ALL forms of foreign interference. A preferable solution would be partition of Jerusalem into Arab and Jewish sections, each joining its respective Palestinian state, and a co-dominion of those small sections connecting the two.

The intense nationalistic feeling of both sides makes it absolutely certain that no solution which does not guarantee the full sovereignty of both Jews and Arabs can be achieved or can last. A Federal Union of two sovereign states can, however, be brought about and will lay the basis for the growing together of the two peoples working in their common interest. Any attempts to establish a single state, even of a federated variety, can only mean the subjugation of one people to the other. That is undesirable and in the present relation of forces impossible.

In line with complete sovereignty, freedom of immigration must be insisted upon. This is not only a question of full sovereignty, but also a duty imposed on the entire world. The peoples of the world must obliterate the blight of the continued existence of 250,000 Jewish DP's. While fighting for the opening of the doors of the U. S., we must also demand their freedom to go to Palestine. It would be wise to demand as part of the settlement so urgently desired by the U. S. and British imperialists, large scale technical and financial assistance in transferring the DP's to Palestine.

U. S. Army officials have calculated that the job could be done in approximately six weeks. The results in human rehabilitation will be far repay the outlay. In this respect American workers must demand that President Truman redeem his pledge of 1946 to immediately transport 100,000 Jewish DP's to Palestine in army transports at the expense of the Army.