

Lays Revived Palestine Bloodshed at UN Door

UN "Plans" Reflect Relations Between Contending Imperialist Powers, Not the Needs of Jewish or Arab People

By AL FINDLEY

Large-scale fighting broke out in the Negev (Southern Palestine) on the very day the UN Assembly's Political Committee met to discuss the Palestine problem once again.

On the morning of Friday, October 15, an Israeli convoy travelling along the UN-designated route was fired upon by the Egyptian invaders of the South. The Jews answered this provocation with a large-scale offensive. The result has been a decisive and impressive military victory for Israel that has secured a lifeline to the Negev and isolated the Egyptians in a small coastal strip around the city of Gaza.

The new fighting was desired by both Egypt and Israel. The Egyptians for their part hope that fighting in the Negev will ignite all of Palestine and thereby nip in the bud any moves by Abdullah to accept the deals which Britain might swing for its puppet, Transjordan.

The Jews wanted the fighting for

a variety of reasons. Many of them believe that they could now win the war in a short time and are for renewed warfare in all of Palestine. The pressure of these over-optimists on the government has been considerable. In addition, Egypt is of particular concern to the government of Israel. Egypt has been the most intransigent member of the Arab League and most adamant against any compromise with Israel. Egypt is the power behind the recently proclaimed Mufti government of Palestine. Many Israeli officials believe (and with some justification) that there can be no peace in Palestine until the Egyptians receive at least one strong blow.

U. S. RESPONSIBILITY

The guilt for the blood now being shed in Palestine rests primarily on the diplomats in the UN and on the United States, who have not given full de jure recognition to Israel and whose "plans" reflect power relations of the Big Three and not the rela-

tions or the need of the Jews and Arabs. This kind of diplomacy can only lead to encouraging Arab feudal rulers to hope that they may win out in their struggle to stifle the self-determination of the Jews or to so limit Israel as to make it meaningless.

[BULLETIN: The Security Council has ordered a cease fire in the Negev. Return to original positions is not made a condition but is suggested for negotiations. Reports are that both Israel and Egypt will accept cease fire.]

Three weeks ago, the supporters of the second Bernadotte plan, Bevin and Marshall, wanted to place Palestine first on the UN agenda, in order to use the hysteria generated by Bernadotte's assassination to push through the plan "in toto." The vote of the UN delaying the Palestine

question to October 15 actually killed the present form of the Bernadotte plan. As predicted in LABOR ACTION, the U. S. has shifted and is now for the Bernadotte plan only as a "basis for negotiation."

The maneuvering has thus returned to a fluid state. There are repeated reports of a compromise having the support of the United States and Israel, giving Israel Western Galilee and partitioning the Negev along the 31st parallel. This would give the Jews the more easily irrigated portion of the Negev and that portion around which oil speculations revolve. While it would cut Israel off from the port of Aquaba on the Red Sea, it would give it possession of the Dead Sea and its rich mineral store. All of Arab Palestine would go to Transjordan.

As to Jerusalem, there are conflicting rumors. One report says the U. S. and Russia have agreed on terms of a trusteeship for Jerusalem. Another (and probably more correct)

report says that the U. S. is considering partition of Jerusalem between Jews and Arabs, under some international supervision.

ABDULLAH AND RUSSIA

There is a possibility that the above compromise may be accepted. Britain, of course, will still attempt to force the second Bernadotte plan in toto, giving Abdullah all of the Negev, but will probably accept the substitute. The fact that Abdullah did not attack while the Israelis were occupied in the South shows that he and his British masters are seriously considering accepting the proposal.

Abdullah, for his own dynastic reasons, has in reality broken with the Arab League. The League has proclaimed the establishment of a government of Palestine. This government is headed by the Mufti. Abdullah, who controls almost all of Arab Palestine, has refused to allow this government to function in his territory. While other Arab governments, including Iraq (also ruled by Abdullah's family, the Hashemites) have recognized the Mufti government, Abdullah is actively combatting this pretender. In this connection it must be reported that one of the secondary aims of the current Israeli offensive is to reduce the importance of the so-called Mufti government.

Russian imperialists are expressing deep concern over the possibility of this settlement of a Palestine question. The Stalinists had supported the Mufti and his fascist policies until April, 1947, and shifted to the support of partition solely for the purpose of getting British troops out of Palestine. The proposed compromise would again place Britain in the Negev, via its puppet, Abdullah. The prevention of such an eventuality has now become the main issue of the Kremlin's diplomacy in the Near East.

Everybody, Jews and Arabs alike, is pressing for a revision of the original partition decision. Each wants it modified in its direction. Jews want

SYL Open Letter Challenges YPSL to Debate

Youth Bureau Asks YPSL Leader to Defend Scurrilous, Anti-Socialist Position

The Socialist Youth League this week challenged the Young People's Socialist League to a debate in an Open Letter addressed to John McCartney, national field representative of the YPSL. The Open Letter, which appears below, was occasioned by a series of events related to the formation of the National Youth Council for Independent Political Action. (Last week's LABOR ACTION carried an article in its Student and Youth column on the formation of that group and some of the problems raised at its first meeting.)

On Saturday, October 16, the NYCIPA called a meeting of its national Executive Committee which was to take up, aside from other

things, the matter of Socialist Youth League participation in that organization. Since a motion was presented by the representative of the YPSL denouncing the SYL as a totalitarian organization and proposing that it not be allowed to hold any office in the Council, a representative of the SYL was invited to present the views of his organization before the national Executive Committee. Julius Falk, national secretary of the SYL, attended the NEC meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

Present at the NEC meeting were three members, including John McCartney. Finally, convinced by Falk that they were not a quorum of a committee with 20 members and did

not therefore have the democratic right to make any decisions, they agreed to hold a discussion and make recommendations to a referendum of members of the national Executive Committee.

This statement of policy by the Young People's Socialist League has wide and ugly implications. It is comparable, on its own level, to the vicious Stalinist policy of non-association with political opponents of the left.

The Socialist Youth League plans to answer the YPSL document and circulate it as widely as possible. The SYL Open Letter follows:

AN OPEN LETTER TO JOHN MCCARTNEY, NATIONAL FIELD REP-

RESENTATIVE, YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST LEAGUE

Dear Comrade McCartney:

At a meeting of members of the National Executive Committee of the National Youth Council for Independent Political Action held in Columbus, Ohio, on Saturday, October 16, 1948, you presented a document published by the Young People's Socialist League (YPSL) for consideration. This document was written by you. It deals with what your organization considers the totalitarian nature of Trotskyism. It was presented to the NEC members of the Council to influence them in regard to the forthcoming referendum of the NEC on

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Galilee and Jerusalem; the Arabs want all of Palestine. Russia, however, has temporarily become the champion of unmodified implementation of the November 29 resolution of the UN.

A Russian spokesman, departing from the usual "unofficial" comments, warned that were Israel to accept the compromise or agree to Abdullah's control of Arab Palestine, Russia would have to reconsider its position toward Israel.

STALINIST POLITICS

In line with this main concern of stopping Abdullah, the Russians are supporting the new Mufti government. While the U. S. has announced it will not recognize the Mufti government, Russia has kept official silence. There are many reliable indications that the governments of all the Soviet bloc countries, starting with Yugoslavia, will soon recognize the so-called government headed by the pogromist, the Mufti.

Stalinist apologists (and some Jews who are whistling in the dark) say that this will not mean a return to an anti-Jewish position, rather that it signifies Russia's intent of following the original partition resolution to the letter.

How naive! Any look at the Stalinist Palestinian case-history, or at Stalinist politics in general, will show that there are no half-way measures. When they are against you, THEY USE EVERYTHING, including justification of pogroms, as "national revolutions" (1929, 1936). Imperialist power politics alone decide the Stalinist line.

Peace in Palestine is not around the corner. The labor movement and the plain people are the only ones who can force a JUST PEACE in Palestine that will guarantee the national rights and independence of both Jews and Arabs; a peace that will insist that territorial shifts be approved by both peoples concerned; a peace that will contain guarantees of democratic rights to the Arab portion of Palestine; above all, a peace that will lay the basis for the growing together of the two peoples by starting from an economic union with the ultimate aim of a voluntary federation of the independent Jewish and Arab Palestine.