

Stalin's Russia Again Betrays The Interests of Europe's Jews

By ALBERT FINDLEY

Mr. Molotov's statement, reportedly made in secret talks with Secretary Byrnes, to the effect that Russia is particularly interested in Palestine, has aroused consternation in Jewish circles.

The effect of this statement on all those who are interested in finding a haven for the remnants of a people slaughtered by fascist terror, is easily understood when one remembers Russia's actions on the refugee problem.

During the war and in the immediate post-war period, the Stalinists shouted themselves hoarse as "friends" of Zionism, in an attempt to gain pro-Russian support amongst the Jewish masses. However, in the last year the inescapable conclusion is obvious—that Russia is making a strong bid to gain influence in the Near East, and in its game of power politics has aligned itself with reactionary politicians of the Arab world. As to the Jewish refugees Russia is not concerned.

THE RUSSIAN ATTITUDE

On September 30, the Russian representative on the Austrian Control Commission demanded that the Allies place strong guards on the Austrian borders to prevent refugees from entering Austria. This general, the commanding officer of Russian occupied Austria, declared that the main route taken by the refugees from Eastern Europe was through Austria, into the American zone of Germany and thence by underground to Palestine. He demanded that a stop be put to this movement, and further went on to accuse the United States of being an accomplice in a "plot" to make Jews emigrate.

This Russian general did not see refugees fleeing for their lives, he did not see refugees desperately seeking a spot to call their own. No, this "Soviet" general could see only a "plot."

This accusation recalls the infamous statement of the British General Morgan, who openly said that the refugees were well-fed and well-financed in a "plot" to get them out of Europe. The entire civilized world protested and General Morgan was eventually forced to resign. Nothing, however, has happened to the Russian General—with the possible exception that he might have been decorated by his political bosses in Russia.

In the beginning of November, 1946, Pravda published an open attack on the admission of Jews to Palestine. Its editorial correctly denounced President Truman's reasons for demanding the admission of 100,000 Jews to Palestine as the desire of American capitalism to expand its influence in the Near East, and for the purposes of domestic electioneering and vote-getting. But what Pravda forgot to mention was the elementary democratic and socialist demand for free immigration to all nations. It went even further and declared that "Jewish immigration is an infringement on Arab rights"—a statement calculated to stop Jews from entering Palestine.

On December 12, 1946, at a meeting of the Economic and Social Committee of the U. N., Mattes, delegate from Russian controlled Yugoslavia,

introduced an amendment to the constitution of the International Relief Organization that no refugees be permitted to enter any country without the consent of the governments of the surrounding states. Mr. Mattes clearly admitted that this proposal was specifically aimed at Jewish immigration to Palestine. The motion was defeated by the Anglo-American combination, and was voted for by the Arab states and Russia.

As was reported in LABOR ACTION previously an Allied proposal, requiring the approval of the native population of surrounding states for any immigration to any country, had been made in a sub-committee by the Lebanese delegate. The Russian representatives voted for it. The Stalinist press then declared that the Russians were not opposed to Jewish immigration into Palestine, but had been "deceived" by the democratic phrases of the Lebanese proposal. This time, however, there is no apology, but rather a justification. For once again the line has changed.

In a statement on the Jewish question recently published in the *Morning Freiheit*, the Communist Party has gotten into step with Russian maneuvers in the Near East. The *Freiheit* statement declared

Jews not to be a nation, and to have no interest in Palestine. Where else they are to go is left unanswered. Jewish immigration into Palestine is again denounced as a tool of British imperialism. The Stalinists, who had begun to sound like veteran Zionists, now proclaim the error of their ways, and denounce their previous lip-service opposition to the imperialist White Paper of 1935, as Brodner opportunism.

Morris Schappes, prominent Communist Party member, denounces the CIO resolution for the entry of the Jews into Palestine. As is customary with the Stalinists, they attempt to pull so-called Marxist arguments out of a hat to justify their position. But twist and turn as they may, the fact is that their policy is nothing but an adaptation to the needs of Stalin's foreign policy in the Near East.

For a true Marxist position on Jewish problems, Jews can turn only to the Workers Party, which recognizes the growth of a Jewish nationalism and the existing desire for a territory, as "the legitimate, democratic yearnings of a people long subjected to oppression and discrimination," which recognizes and supports the right of immigration everywhere, including Palestine, and which gives support to the resistance movement in Palestine.

French Socialists Caught In Parliamentary Muddle

By JACK ARTHURSON

PARIS, Dec. 7—Only if the Communist Party is in the government will Socialists enter any new French régime, decided the French Socialist Party at its December 5 Paris meeting, by a vote of 2,242 to 2,145, with 55 abstaining.

While the see-saw bargaining, characteristic of French governmental struggles is continuing, to determine who is to be president, both Georges Bidault of the right wing bourgeois MRP Catholics and Maurice Thorez of the CP, despite almost unanimous SP support, were rejected by the National Assembly for lack of a majority. Paris wits have suggested electing Harry S. Truman as President of France.

However, the real struggle over the presidency is not taking place in the National Assembly where neither of the evenly matched big parties—CP and MRP—can get a majority; nor is it taking place in Montmartre joke mills. It is in the ranks of the National Council of the SP that the president is being selected. For the SP holds the balance of power in the National Assembly.

In a bitter, all-night session of the SP's National Council on Dec. 4, impassioned arguments for unity of action or opposition to the CP were made.

Felix Gouin, SP leader and former premier, said: "The masses would never forgive the Socialists for not doing for Thorez what they had thought it their duty to do for Bidault." He was referring to SP voting for Bidault when he was first selected premier after the June 2 elections brought the MRP to the

fore as the then leading party. Gouin added that the CP today is both "national and democratic."

SP LOSES MASS BASE

In the Resistance movement and in the re-emergence of the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) the CP had skilfully pushed out both the Socialists and Jouhaux syndicalist leaders from control. Without a close link with the CP, the SP of France has no mass base among workers, and is adrift among a mass of petty bourgeois supporters, as the loss of 1,000,000 votes in a year of elections demonstrates.

Against joint action with the CP were former Minister of the Treasury Andre Philip, followed by M. Depreux, Socialist Minister of the Interior, who said the SP should wrest leadership of the mass movements from CP control. Daniel Mayer, former Secretary General of the party agreed, as did Leon Blum.

Nevertheless, following the proposal of the Secretary General, Guy Mollet, the SP voted 3,121 to 845 to support CP leader Maurice Thorez's bid for the presidency. Thorez lost. The Socialists voted to enter the new government only if the CP was in it. Part of the Paris press claimed that since combined SP and CP votes could not elect Thorez in any event, the SP was only making a friendly gesture in supporting a certain loser.

However, as the dispute in the SP's National Council indicates, this is no more a vote-counting problem. The SP is before the most severe crisis it has faced since Paris was seized from the Germans in August, 1944.

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