

# Solution for Palestine

**A** SPECIAL SESSION of the United Nations General Assembly is opening out in Flushing Meadow today—to deal with the issue of Palestine. It's a subject close to the hearts of New Yorkers, and for that matter all Americans have been deeply moved by the spectacle of an immense betrayal of the Jewish people during and since the war. What's been happening in Palestine is only one aspect of this betrayal.

And in every American city where May Day meetings are held this Thursday and this weekend, the Palestine problem will be written across the banners and placards, along with the other urgent issues presented by the Truman Doctrine.

Today's session of the UN is a special one. It has the opportunity of reaching a special solution, and not just the selection of another commission to study the question. We can understand that a commission will prepare for the main UN Assembly meeting next September. But we think that the best preparation is to take some basic steps on the Palestine question now.

## Oust British Troops

The key step is to abrogate the British mandate for Palestine and declare for the removal of all foreign troops from the Holy Land.

Britain has long since proved her inability and unworthiness to hold that mandate. The continued presence of her troops is a plain violation of the UN charter.

The UN should take over the mandate, and then declare for an independent Palestine, a nation among nations. That some of the Arab states, and Egypt also, favor an independent Palestine is a poor reason for opposing it; our country and especially our working people should favor the right of self-determination of all nations.

What has been happening in Palestine both as regards the Arab and the Jewish people is fundamentally a phase of the uprising of colonial peoples against imperialism.

This resistance to imperialism will not stop until it is victorious, and it will take terroristic and sterile forms (no matter how individually heroic) unless all leaders of the Arab and Jewish community come together on the basic demand—an independent Palestine.

## A Bi-National State

The form of the Palestinian state is a matter for the peoples who live there to decide. But it obviously must be a bi-national state in which the democratic, national rights of both peoples are recognized. And on such a basis all outstanding problems can be negotiated.

We are not Zionists, but if we were it would seem to us that the hope of safeguarding and developing a Jewish home depends on coming to terms with the Arab peoples.

For a generation the Zionists tried to come to terms with Britain, which betrayed them and played them off against the worst elements among the Arabs.

Today a section of the Zionists still has not learned the lesson and is trying to come to terms with American imperialism. But the United States, under its present administration, is playing the same unholy, old game—lip service to the rights of the Jews, and oil deals with the feudal landlords of Palestine and the other Arab countries.

There is a third way for the Jews, for the sake of their own future. That is to come to an agreement with the democratic Arab forces, and even with the Arab states as such. This way is no harder than the others which have failed and will fail; but it can be a way toward national salvation.

If the Jewish Agency (which obviously should be heard at the Assembly) wants to give real leadership to its own followers, the path of a mass struggle for independence and a bi-national state is the one path that has not been tried—it's the obvious and sensible one that could change the whole situation.

The time has come for American workers to express themselves along such lines. The time has come for the United States—not to repeat the British tactic or to bail the British out—but to strike a new note.

Let the United States favor withdrawal of all foreign troops, the end of the mandate, an independent state of Jews and Arabs in the Holy Land!