

Joint Mobilization of Jews, And Arabs Needed in Palestine

By John Arnold

(This is the second, and final, article by John Arnold on the Middle East. The first, dealing with the Arab world and the war, appeared yesterday.—Ed.)

How much remains to be done in assuring our Middle Eastern allies can be seen from a brief examination of the situation in Palestine. Palestine, which has often been called the bridgehead of Suez, is one of the keys to the defense of the Middle East. Admiral Yates Stirling, Jr., has pointed out:

"In this great fabric of many fighting fronts, the importance of Palestine must be recognized. What has Palestine to offer to the Allied cause? Speaking as a naval man, I can refer immediately to two great contributions which it can make: the first is the harbor at Haifa where a large part of the Mediterranean fleet can find a hospitable base; the second is the magnificent new oil refinery also at Haifa, where millions of tons of crude oil are converted into fuel and by-products for the war.

"The oil pipe line which ends at Haifa provides the only oil terminus in the British Empire. The value which Haifa Harbor has to the Allied cause is doubled by its link to other parts of the Middle East, through the Haifa-Cairo road and the Haifa-Bagdad road." (The New Palestine, January 23, 1942.)

WAR SPIRIT HIGH

The war spirit of the Jews of Palestine is at a high pitch. Jewish factories in Palestine have been converted to war production. Sixteen hundred plants are producing for the British Army. Since 1940, the output for war has increased eight-fold, according to Moshe Shertok, head of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency Executive.

More than 135,000 Jews in Palestine (out of a total Jewish population of half a million) have volunteered for the British Army, but only about 20,000 have been accepted. Last month, the Jewish Agency in Palestine announced the general mobilization of all Jews in Palestine for the British Army on a voluntary basis. An intensive recruiting campaign for the British Army is being conducted by the Jewish leaders in Palestine.

What underlies this failure to make use of the tremendous anti-fascist energies of the Jews of Palestine, is "an erroneous conception of Jewish-Arab relations. In the past, we have witnessed aggravated expressions of Arab-Jewish hostility. Today there are still extremists among the Arabs and among the Jews who refuse to bridge the gulf which has separated the Jews and Arabs in Palestine.

But the dominant trend during the last year in Palestine is the increasing tendency towards mutual cooperation. There is no natural

hostility between the Jews and the Arabs. Past conflicts were the product of the old imperialist policy of division. Today, only the Axis can be interested in the separation of Jews and the Arabs.

The Jewish Agency for Palestine has made it clear that it favors a policy of cooperation with the Arabs. An Axis advance into Palestine would mean the annihilation of all Jews, and would destroy a vital Jewish community. At the same time, an Axis advance would mean the enslavement of the Arabs. The Jews, the Arabs, Britain and the United States are jointly interested in unity for the defeat of the Axis.

Mobilization of the Jews in Palestine will not hold back the mobilization of the Arabs. On the contrary, forms have to be found for the joint mobilization of Jews and Arabs in their common defense. This will provide for the fullest

utilization of the fighting energies of both the Jews and the Arabs against the common foe.

At the same time, through actions and deeds, assurances have to be given the Arab people that their participation in the fight against the Axis leads to their unimpeded freedom and independence.

The seemingly contradictory claims of political Zionism and Arab nationalism are subordinate to the imperative needs of the Jews and Arabs to unite in the fight against the Axis. The interests of the Jewish masses and the interests of the Arab masses merge in the fight for the independence of Palestine, the Middle East, for the liberation of the world from fascism.

It is Britain's responsibility, and it is also ours, to assure the peoples in the Middle East through practical steps for joint defense that this is a war for their liberation as well.

Even Stones Shoot Say Nazis at Sevastopol

By Ilya Ehrenburg

(Soviet War Correspondent)

MOSCOW, June 30 (UP). — To the thousands of Germans who have been trying for 23 days to take Sevastopol, it has become a damned city.

Nazi prisoners taken by the Black Sea defenders say that the German armies who went with warlike mood into the fray now nervously wonder whether the city can be taken at all.

"Every stone seems to be shooting at you," war prisoner Kneidler said. "We didn't expect such resistance."

But if there is nervousness on the German side of that Sevastopol inferno, there is cold-blooded defiance and resistance on the Russian side — cold-blooded yet exclusively passionate resistance.

"There can be no thought of surrendering. If anybody says to you in my name that we must surrender, shoot him for a traitor. And if I should issue an order for surrender, shoot me too."

Those words were said 88 years ago during the Sevastopol siege of the Crimean war. They were said by Admiral Kornilov in his order of the day. Today they re-echo throughout the Crimea.

Whatever may be the outcome of this uneven, tragic battle for the stones that were so recently an elegant city, the defense of Sevastopol will infuse new strength in

to the Red Army.

Likewise it will encourage Russia's friends and it will remind Russia's enemy that the war in the Soviet is no football match.

The day before yesterday a special edition appeared dedicated to the heroes of the city's defense. It carried such stories as the following:

About Mikhail Gakhokidze, a civilian life a political instructor, who on the fourth assault of the fifth day of continuous attacks by the Nazis, found himself and his companions in a tight spot. The Germans had reached the Red trenches and the Soviet soldiers were beginning to yield.

Thereupon Gakhokidze, armed with a rifle and grenades, threw himself on the enemy and three men followed him. They hurled grenades and they bayoneted the unfortunate enemy. When they had finished their task, the Nazis had been beaten back and they left 70 dead. Thirty of them were accounted for personally by Gakhokidze.

There was another political instructor named Anatoly Trachenko, a Ukrainian. His company had repulsed three tank attacks when a fourth assault was made by the Nazis and the leading tank reached the Russian trenches.

Trachenko tied numerous grenades to his belt and flung himself beneath the tank. The tank was destroyed and Trachenko's feat so inspired his companions that they