

WHERE IS JEWISH AGENCY GOING?

IN AN appearance before the UN Inquiry Commission, Moshe Shertok, political spokesman for the Jewish Agency, was asked if the instances of Arab-Jewish cooperation in civic and economic affairs and in joint strikes did not show that an independent Palestine of Arabs and Jews was possible. "While practical cooperation exists in day-to-day life," he replied, "this does not mean that the two sides are ready to pull together politically within one unitary state."

Shertok has stated that if the UN were to recommend a bi-national state, the Jewish Agency would reject the plan.

The position of the Jewish Agency remains unchanged. It still remains faithful to the Biltmore program of a Jewish state over all of Palestine, but at the same time indicates its readiness to compromise on a "viable state in an adequate part of Palestine."

Any hope that the leadership of the Zionist movement would take into account the new and basic developments that have created new possibilities for the fulfilment of Jewish aspirations and for a solution of the Palestine problem, has now gone by the board. The Jewish Agency rejects out of hand any solution which corresponds to the realities of the situation and which is predicated upon Arab-Jewish unity, the basic foundation of peace in Palestine.

Reliance upon America and Great Britain remains the cornerstone of official Zionist policy despite the events at the UN session, where it became obvious that a unilateral American policy will frustrate Jewish aims and aspirations. The Agency tenaciously clings to this orientation despite the new prospects for a solution opened up by the historic position of the Soviet Union. It is true that the Gromyko speech is hailed by all, including the Zionist leadership, but

the incontrovertible points made by Gromyko that the British mandate was unworkable and must be abrogated and that Palestine, which is the land of two peoples, can be "defended in a proper manner only by the creation of one dual, democratic Arab-Jewish state" are entirely passed over.

Jews the world over instinctively felt that a new and brighter stage had been reached in relation to the Palestine question, in relation to the achievement of statehood in Palestine. These hopes were raised because new factors had entered the scene, namely, the presence of the Soviet Union and the new democracies of Europe, who fought on behalf of Jewish rights and who proposed a solution which would be democratic and at the same time would fulfil Jewish aspirations.

By clinging to its old orientation, the Jewish Agency overlooks these new factors. It refuses to recognize the elementary fact that unless Jewish policy is based upon the cooperation of all the great powers and upon a solution to which all the great powers agree, there is little hope for a change of status in Palestine and there is every danger that the Jews will continue to be a pawn in the power game of one or another imperialist country.

These are days of decision and the acceptance of, and the struggle for, a proper orientation is of extreme urgency. There is need for a concerted effort by Jews everywhere to bring pressure to bear upon the American government to join with the Soviet Union in a democratic solution. There is also need for Jews to bring pressure to bear upon the Jewish Agency to forsake a policy which leads into a blind alley and to become the spokesman for and the leader of a united movement of Arabs and Jews in struggle for the achievement of statehood and national rights for both peoples.