

JEWISH REALIGNMENT

THE resignation of Dr. Moshe Sneh from the executive of the Jewish Agency on December 29 has caused a deep stir in the world press.¹ The *New York Times*, for instance, saw profound political implications in the resignation and featured the story on the front page. Moshe Sneh, as is well known, is one of the younger leaders of the Agency who became prominent during the war as a top Haganah leader. In the Zionist movement and in the *Yishuv* he is regarded as a leader of first importance. According to reports, Sneh resigned for two reasons. First, he disagreed with the Agency majority on immigration, maintaining that the Agency was allowing it to proceed too slowly in this period. Second, Sneh disagreed with the Agency majority on the world forces upon which the *Yishuv* should orient itself.

Events like the Sneh resignation were not unexpected. Immediately after the historic UN decision the Morning Freiheit Association pointed out that realignments would follow within the Jewish community as a whole and in the Zionist movement, and the Sneh incident is one sign of this realignment. It is becoming increasingly clear to Jews that both British and American imperialism are maneuvering to nullify the UN decision and to prevent the Jewish state from achieving independence. On the other hand, the decisive, inspiring actions of the Soviet Union and the new democracies, their steady fight both before and after the decision, indicate clearly who are the true friends of the Jewish people and the Jewish state and who are their enemies. Thousands of rank and file Zionists, as well as some leaders, have begun to draw conclusions from these facts and to act upon them. The facts show that orientation upon the "West" means in practice dependence upon those who are preventing the establishment of a truly independent, democratic state in Palestine.

The Sneh resignation focuses attention on the menace of relying and orienting upon British and American imperialism. It stimulates the Jewish masses into an awareness that such a dangerous orientation should be defeated.

The Yiddish press has editorialized on the resignation. The *Jewish Morning Journal*, for instance, stated editorially that the resignation was unfortunate. But its arguments are hard to understand and certainly do not point a proper line of action at this grave hour. While the editorial insisted that the Jewish people and the *Yishuv* should orient neither on the East or the West but on both, this view was contradicted by its argument that the Jews should not get involved in the complicated big power conflict. But surely, at this late date it should not be necessary to point out that the Jewish people have no choice in the matter, that Jewish politics cannot be carried on in a vacuum. The fate of the Jewish people in the last decade should leave no doubt on this point. Nor could Jewish national aspirations be fulfilled without

the aid of the United Nations. These facts should show unequivocally that Jewish problems are willy-nilly a part of world politics. Nor can we forget that both within and outside the Jewish state, the question of peace is a life and death matter. It is therefore supremely important for the Jewish people to orient themselves upon the world forces leading the fight for peace.

Millions of Jews, Zionists and non-Zionists alike, are realizing with increasing force that their political orientation lies at the crux of their struggle for Jewish statehood. The Sneh resignation brings this issue into sharp focus and thereby renders service to Jewish statehood. The breach in the Agency should be quickly healed in view of the desperate need for united effort. But the breach will be healed only if the leadership of the *Yishuv* awakens to the danger of relying on British and American imperialism. And the leadership will recognize this to the extent that a mass demand arises from the Jewish people for orientation upon the democratic forces of the world as the only guarantee for the establishment and development of an independent, democratic Jewish state.

Meanwhile we can not for one moment relax our vigilance in the critical situation now confronting the *Yishuv*. We are aware that British imperialism, eager to maintain its hold over Palestine and to sabotage the development of a Jewish state, is scheming to incite the Arab reactionaries against the *Yishuv*. The *Yishuv* must receive the full right to defend itself without paralyzing interference. We cannot agree with the position of the Zionist Organization of America calling upon the United States unilaterally to send arms to Palestine. The Jewish masses should fight for implementation of the UN decision by the Security Council as outlined in the program of the Morning Freiheit Association, in effect as follows:

1. The Security Council should immediately recognize the present situation in Palestine as a threat to peace and security and take prompt steps to supervise the implementation of the UN decision.
2. The Security Council should warn Great Britain to cease interfering with the defense activities of the *Yishuv*.
3. The Security Council should call upon all member nations to cease sending arms to any countries or groups which intend to use such arms to attack the *Yishuv* and to sabotage the UN decision.
4. The Security Council should arm the *Yishuv*, which shall carry on its defense activities under the auspices of the Security Council.

DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

RECENTLY Thomas Mann remarked that present-day America reminded him of Germany immediately before fascism came to power. One is reminded of this remark by a decision handed down in a Chicago "libel" trial early in December that passed almost without any publicity despite the most explicit pro-fascist declamations by the de-

¹ See text of Dr. Sneh's statement on page 27 of this issue.