

Strife Increases in Palestine Area

Jewish and Arab Extremist Terrorism Prevents Democratic Solution of Problem

By AL FINDLEY

Palestine experienced its worst week of fighting during the past week. The fighting is now completely organized and directed on both sides. The casualties that had been slowly piling up as a result of Arab attacks and Jewish reprisals took a sharp upward spurt as a result of the wanton and provocative actions of the Irgun. The Irgun picked an area in Haifa that was known for friendly Jewish-Arab relations and threw a bomb at the entrance of a factory employing 1,800 Arabs and 400 Jews, killing six Arabs and three British workers. Their provocative act resulted in the massacre of 42 Jews. The Irgun, in imitating the Mufti bands in their attacks on unarmed and ordinary people, is acting on the assumption that they will thus deter the Arabs from following the Mufti extremists. Actually, all they have accomplished thus far is to provoke the Arabs and to drive them into the arms of the Mufti.

Sniping and small-scale guerrilla fighting is expected to continue until the British leave the country. Both the Jews and the Arabs are arming and preparing for that eventuality when they expect large-scale guerrilla fighting. The Arab League has ruled against an open invasion because it is afraid that once King Abdullah's crack troops enter they will never leave the Arab portion of Palestine. The organization of Arab volunteers and foreign mercenaries is proceeding in Palestine and all Arab countries.

The Greek Orthodox Church has joined in the call for a holy war. This explains why the American puppet regime in Athens did not follow Washington in voting for partition. It is significant that the leaders of the largest Arab Christian group, the Maronite Church, that has a majority of the population in Lebanon, has not yet joined in the clamor against partition. One report states that these church officials visited Abdullah with an offer of support for his plans for a "Greater Syria," in exchange for a Christian homeland in Lebanon and possibly including a Jewish state in Palestine.

The Jews too are mobilizing. The Haganah has declared universal mo-

bilization for the Jews of Palestine. The Irgun and Stern groups are conducting competitive recruiting drives. The Jewish Agency is loudly demanding U. S. arms to equip the Haganah.

While the Haganah, unlike the Mufti bands and the Stern Group and Irgun, does not attack defenseless and unarmed ordinary people, it has officially abandoned its "defensive" role and has adopted a policy of an "offensive defensive" by striking at organizing centers of Arab militia and in reprisal for any acts of Mufti bands. This new policy of "offensive

defensive" tends to help fan the flames of war. Whereas the previous defensive policy of the Haganah tended to play down the concept that this was a war between Jews and Arabs and attempted to isolate the Mufti bands within the Arab population, the present policy plays up the war aspect. The Arabs are not cowards, as some Zionists claim, and will fight unless there is clear political differentiation between the Arab people and the criminal Mufti bands.

The fighting in Palestine has already led to a strengthening of the conservative forces in Jewish life. An

agreement has been reached between the Haganah and the Irgun which calls for joint action, for the incorporation of the Irgun into the militia of the Jewish state but allowing the Irgun to maintain its identity and its well knit organization within the militia. The Sternites, too, while not having a formal agreement with the Jewish Agency, are entering the Haganah as individuals (with the consent of Haganah leaders) and are maintaining their independent organization outside of the Haganah. Thus the liberals and the reformists are strengthening the very fascist forces which they know are planning a civil war against Jewish labor once the Jewish state is established.

The leaders of America and Russia are watching the situation with an eye to advancing their own imperialist aims. The Czech satellites of Russia are offering unlimited arms to the Arab League. In my opinion this is done to play both sides against the middle and not lose entirely the friendship of the Arabs. Others claim that the Stalinists are deliberately encouraging the fighting in order to be able to intervene. This idea is supported by reports that Russia will raise the Palestine question in the UN Security Council and by the fact that the Arab Stalinists continue to oppose partition. It is offset by Gromyko's statements that the job of maintaining order belongs to England. The U. S. State Department is unofficially sounding out the smaller countries about the possibilities of forming a small power army to maintain order in Palestine. Secretary Marshall is undecided. One report says that he has changed his mind and is now entirely opposed to partition as a result of violence in Palestine.

What about Jewish immigration into Palestine in the meantime? As reported in **LABOR ACTION**, the Jewish Agency decided to discontinue illegal immigration and attempt to get Great Britain to turn over a port area for immigration by February 1.

The Jewish immigrants have not the same faith in the UN and British imperialism that the Jewish leaders have, so 12,000 sailed for Palestine against the orders of their leaders and have ended up in Cypress.

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Chicago Printers Strike Gains Wide Labor Support

Increasing support from all elements of labor has heartened the members of Chicago Typographical Union No. 16 (AFL), now in their sixth week of strike against the six major Chicago dailies, the Chicago Defender and the Hammond (Ind.) Times. Labor's reaction is indicative to the printers of an awareness that the strike is only the first gun in a concerted campaign to destroy all labor unions, using the Taft-Hartley Act as a weapon.

After three sessions between the union and the publishers, Mayor Kennelly of Chicago, who has acted as an intermediary, said: "I sensed a little progress. Nothing definite has been agreed upon."

A branch of the House Labor and Education Committee heard John J. Pilch, president of No. 16; Woodruff Randolph, president of the ITU, and John F. O'Keefe, secretary for the publishers. Pilch pointed out that under the Taft-Hartley Act non-union people could infiltrate into union shops, making it impossible for the union to protect its organization. He emphasized that the publishers had refused to discuss wages during the five months of negotiations that preceded the strike.

Randolph, urging the abolition of the Taft-Hartley Act, declared: "We should remove the law completely from the books and depend on good

conscience and collective bargaining as we've done for 95 years in the ITU. If both sides approached the bargaining table fairly and honestly, we could get along as American citizens. I conceive we have basic rights without either the Wagner Act or the T-H law. Neither is any Magna Charta whatever." The T-H law, Randolph said, is a "slave labor law." Asked whether the ITU shouldn't make the most of the Taft-Hartley Act until it is repealed, Randolph answered: "We are complying with the law. We intend to continue complying with it. And we intend to stay alive so that we can help repeal it."

Led by William Green, president of the AFL, who pledged a "full measure of support" by his organization, labor groups, without regard to affiliation, were rallying behind the striking printers. R. G. Soderstrom, Illinois Federation of Labor president, announced that he subscribes fully to President Green's statement. Contributions and resolutions of support have been received from hundreds of locals—AFL, CIO, etc.

Meanwhile the printers emphasized again: "We have asked no union to break its contract or to violate the Taft-Hartley Act." They pointed out that unionists still in the struck plants are bound by contract commitments and by the Taft-Hartley law to continue work,

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This dispute in the Jewish Agency on the question of continuing illegal immigration was the main question that led to the resignation of Dr. Sneh. In addition, there is difference over the pro-Russian orientation of Dr. Sneh and the pro-British orientation of the majority of the Jewish leaders. Dr. Sneh developed a pro-Russian and anti-British orientation. He had the support of the left wing Achduth Avodah Party, but the opposition of Hashomer Hatzair, which, though pro-Russian, was opposed to military struggle against Britain. Dr. Sneh's present position is similar to the pro-Russian orientation of the fascist Stern group. He has threatened to form a "new popular opposition party." Undoubtedly he once hoped to create a national front embracing all the "activist" elements from the Stern group on the right to the Achduth Avodah on the left. In this connection it is interesting to note the flirtations of such leading Stalinist fellow travelers as B. Z. Goldberg and Sholem Asch with the anti-labor forces of Palestine. In the U. S. both of these gentlemen have been active in raising money for the "Federation of National Labor," the yellow anti-Marxist unions of the Revisionists and their sub-groups, the Irgunists and Sternites.

The time for such a dream is gone. More important political reorganizations are taking place. The reformist leaders are trying to form a broad national coalition and are willing to capitulate and assign representation to the Revisionists. In order to prevent too much labor opposition to this betrayal, they are attempting to force the Hashomer Hatzair and the Achduth to rejoin the Mapai (General Labor Party).

These two left wing groups are resisting this pressure and are going ahead with their own unity, to be consummated at a conference on January 10. No finished program will come out of the conference but a vague manifesto will be issued. The immediate reason for unity of these two groups is for strength to dicker for governmental posts and to prevent the Mapai from capitulating to the reactionaries. While the real program will have to be worked out in practice, some indications already exist. The Hashomer Hatzair will drop its slogan of bi-nationalism and the Achduth Avodah will drop its demand for a Jewish socialist state in all of Palestine. Both are pro-Russian and will declare in favor of the Stalinist "new democracies." In prac-

tice, however, the Hashomer Hatzair follows the lead of pro-British Dr. Weitzman and will probably carry greater weight in the combined party. The united party will call for Arab-Jewish unity but probably will not favor a united single trade union of Jews and Arabs but a federated, parallel system of Arab and Jewish unions. It is doubtful whether steps will be taken to form mixed Arab-Jewish political parties but plans for political work among the Arabs will be formulated. The conference will come out in favor of strengthening UN supervision instead of demanding immediate independence.

Holiday Pay Pro Boomerang Aga

By M. WARREN

CHICAGO—When the United Electrical Workers Union leadership knifed the GM workers in the back for the second time in two years to set the pattern for the "second round" of wage increases, many did not realize the ramifications of the six paid holidays provision.

The nation's press ballyhooed the raise as a fifteen-cent raise. Union leaders, in their anxiety to impress the rank and file, fell for this and continued this game. But what happened?

The supposed three and one half cents raise that was absorbed by the six paid holidays is only now being experienced and the workers in the shops are plenty burned up. Because the rider in this clause is to the effect that you have to work the day before and after the holiday, and the one who benefits by such an arrangement is the boss. Around this time of the year the holiday pay clause becomes crystal clear. It is especially clear for those working the night shifts in the mass production shops.

For many years, the bosses have wondered how they could maintain their production schedules in face of the "absenteeism" around the holidays. Knowing that they had to make concessions anyway in the "second round," they worked out a clause that would pay them many times over. The high cost of living makes a worker think twice before he takes a long week-end off around the holiday. The boss gains the production, and the worker is tied to his machine.