

# 'Life' Plays 'Luce' with Palestine

By Joseph Starobin

**L**IFE magazine is notorious for the double-talk of its editorials, but this week's issue takes some kind of prize for a combination of the subtle and the sinister. The theme is one of the most urgent issues in the world today—the fate of the Jewish people.

The fate of the Jews is tragic, the editorial admits. The long-range solution is not Palestine, but a better world. Unrestricted immigration wouldn't solve relations with the Arabs. As for American policy, we ought to support Britain's attempt to hold on to her Near Eastern bases at any price in other peoples' blood.

That is, until the United States is prepared to kick Britain out, and take over the Near East for itself. Presumably that happy day will come some time in Henry Luce's American Century. For the present, support Britain's repression, while steering clear of the Jewish problem on the grounds that a better world will someday solve it. That's Henry Luce's argument!

When you analyze it, the cynicism of the thing becomes plainer. Of course, it's true that the long-range solution of the Jewish problem demands a better world, the end of anti-Semitism, a long era of peace.



LUCE

But does Luce draw any real

conclusions from this truth?, even of a long-range character? Does he argue for American Soviet friendship, for example, as the key to a better world?

Does he support the job which the new democratic states of Europe are doing to abolish anti-Semitism? Does he even throw out the thought of Socialism, which in the Soviet Union has solved the Jewish problem—? No, nothing of this sort.

The Luce editorialist contents himself with a sonorous generality to avoid the real problems of the present. Generalities do not house any Jews, generalities do not stop pogroms and deportations.

Likewise, on the immigration issue. We agree that immigration into Palestine is not the whole solution, immediately or in the future. We favor support to the new democracies of Europe to help eradicate anti-Semitism and rehabilitate the eastern European Jews.

We agree that our own country—as LaGuardia recently proposed—should admit at least as many Jews as Palestine. So should the other great powers.

Incidentally, President Truman has merely tipped his hat to the idea of our own country admitting a share of the Jews of Europe. By tying a good proposal in with the admission of "displaced persons" (most of whom might very turn out to be Polish or Yugoslav fascists) Truman has

bollixed the thing up. He probably knew that Congressional reaction would be very negative. The net result is that he is playing with the issue of immigration simply as bargaining with the British. This is a facet of the current American policy endorsed by Henry Luce—of seeking to preserve the position of foreign imperialists in the Near East.

As we see it, the immigration problem is part of a fundamental settlement in Palestine itself—and that is a bi-national state of Jews and Arabs, fully independent, and freed of imperialist manipulations, from British or any other group.

Palestine can be one of the many Jewish homelands, provided that both Jews and Arabs fight for their mutual independence from imperialism.

That—plus the constant battle against anti-Semitism through the eradication of fascism—begins to be a solution.

And as a first step, the whole issue ought to come before the United Nations. For Britain has no legal right under its non-existent mandate to its present repressive, unilateral behavior.

That's the policy for Americans. It's neither the demagogic use of the immigration issue — as the President does — or the subtle double-talk of Life's editorial, which is a counsel of inaction and a promise of pie-in-the-faraway sky.

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