

PALESTINE'S NEW MOOD

THE arrival of UNSCOP in Palestine was greeted with joy and a sense of satisfaction. The masses of the people put their trust in the Committee in the hope that a just and rapid solution of the problems of the country would be promoted by its work and that an international decision would remove Palestine from the sphere of British imperialist domination.

A new anti-imperialist mood is abroad in many quarters and amongst the masses of the people. Even *Davar*, organ of Histadruth, which is dominated by the right-wing labor party (Mapai), for the first time played up to this mood of the masses when it printed an article stating that "a pre-condition for the achievement of independence . . . is the removal of the country from the field of action of British imperialism."

Unfortunately the Arab reactionary leadership, kept in power by the imperialist rule which it directly and indirectly supports, had succeeded in enforcing an Arab boycott of the Committee which served the interests of those who endeavor to sabotage any constructive solution.

But even among the representatives of the sector of the population whose testimony was heard—the Jews—there were many who did the same service to the imperialist rulers as the Arab Higher Committee had done. They gave a distorted picture of the country's problems, evaded the real issue—independence and freedom for the two peoples equal in rights — and propounded plans and schemes whose carrying out would serve the interests of the foreign rulers, per-

petuate imperialist domination and increase national antagonisms. These Jewish circles, headed by the Jewish Agency, deny the possibility of Jewish-Arab cooperation and disregard Arab rights to self-government just as the Arab Higher Committee denies Jewish rights and wants to turn Palestine into an exclusive Arab State. The conflicting demands create an apparent deadlock enabling imperialism to apply its policy of "divide and rule" and undermine the common Arab-Jewish struggle for independence and emancipation.

That the various reactionary plans submitted to the Committee do not have the support of the masses was strikingly proved by the reactions to the testimony of the Communist Party of Palestine which spoke in the interests of these masses and emphatically denounced the bloody imperialist rule of oppression.

The mood of the population was expressed by the many enthusiastic comments which could be heard in the towns and villages, in the streets, workshops and offices. The masses had the feeling that finally the truth had been loudly proclaimed, the grim truth which had so long been suppressed and distorted and that the bitterness which they had borne in their hearts had finally found expression. Even the official Zionist press—from the extreme right to the left—had to acknowledge and endorse what everybody felt and knew: a new atmosphere had been created.

The right-wing *Yedioth Aharanoth* of July 13 writes: "The communists' testimony was good. In many respects it was among the best heard until today and it

made a deep impression on the Committee. . . . This was the strongest indictment of British rule heard as yet." Even the revisionist *Hamashkif* headlined its story: "After the Jewish Agency's failure to face the issue, the communists have denounced British rule. UNSCOP demands that the government furnish facts on the Emergency Regulations." And it declared, "There was no Jew in the world, not even amongst the enemies of communism, who did not have a feeling of satisfaction when hearing the speeches and who did not think at the same time: 'It is good that these things have finally been said. The British will now know what people think of them.' . . . One cannot deny the fact that it was the privilege of the communists to put before the Committee the issue of military oppression in Palestine." *Haretz*, the bourgeois organ, writes: "The communists have strongly indicted British rule in the country which has been going on for the last 30 years." *Davar* writes: "The strength of the communists' testimony lay in the realistic and concise description of the police-state in Palestine . . . the fact that the Jews and Arabs alike demand the evacuation of the British army cannot be denied."

As was to be expected, the Zionist press could not acquiesce in the "disturbing" fact that the Palestine Communist Party was the only party that "had been fighting the fight of the *Yishuv*" (*Hamashkif*), and immediately started a campaign, alongside of grudging recognition, to "weaken" their own statements. The *Yedioth Ahavonoth* states in the same article already quoted above, that for the communists this was an easy task as "the spokesmen of the Jewish Agency were afraid to tell the whole truth. . . . Our leadership is fettered, not only by psychological dependence on the British rule, but also by a sense of responsibility for the future of the *Yishuv*. . . . Our leaders do not want to burn all bridges with England." This implies that the communists are not concerned with the future of the *Yishuv*, an accusation too ridiculous to need comment. Also the clear and progressive stand of the Communist Party on the immigration question was used as a basis for attacks in which the leftist *Mishmar*, organ of the Hashomer Hatzair, excelled, over-reaching itself in obscurantism.

Immediately after the Communist Party's indictment before UNSCOP of the British methods of oppression, the Committee met in secret session and decided to ask the government to furnish facts and explanations as to these methods and the Emergency Regulations which deprive the citizens of Palestine of their most elementary rights. The government, how-

ever, published a Supplementary Memorandum which, instead of complying with UNSCOP's request, gives a chronological list of acts of terrorism committed during recent years. Terrorism is the government's defense and best means of obscuring the real facts of the situation.

Terrorism and the immigration question were used this time again in an attempt to side-track the main issue. The signal was given when the British Navy fell upon a shipload of 4,500 hapless refugees

with unprecedented fury and brutality, killing three and seriously wounding 28. This was followed by the inevitable cycle of violence and counter-violence, the imposition of curfews, the wailing of sirens and indiscriminate machine-gun barrages lasting hours. This "normal" state of confusion and disorder, of terror and counter-terror, has again become the lot of the population of Palestine after UNSCOP left the country.

Tel Aviv

P. C. P.

JEWES HELP TO REBUILD YUGOSLAVIA

THE extermination of 6,000,000 Jews by the nazis has not only brought down the number of European Jews by that figure but also changed the geographical and social structure of the surviving Jews.

No longer is Central Europe, or the European east (outside the Soviet Union), the main center of Jewish life and activity as it was before the war; the southeastern countries, Bulgaria and Rumania in particular, have become the new centers. They, together with the 3,500,000 Jews of the Soviet Union and the 120,000 Jews of Poland, are the focal points of Jewish survival and Jewish revival.

Between them and the Jews of the western European countries are only the reduced communities of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Austria.

Among the surviving Jewish communities the Jews of Yugoslavia occupy a special place. In no other of the above-mentioned countries (except the Soviet Union) has the integration of the Jews in the social and economic life been more complete or accomplished more smoothly than here.

The new Yugoslavia, which has solved the problem of her various nationalities, has also removed an existing obstacle in the path of advance of her Jewish citizens.

Yugoslavia is indeed the country without "Jewish news"—that is, the kind of news spread by the various Jewish news agencies and newspapers which seeks to "prove" that there is still anti-Semitism, that Jews want to leave the country, and so on. If there ever was truth in the saying that "no news is good news," it is true of the Jews of Yugoslavia.

Only 15,000 survived out of the pre-war Jewish population of 80,000. The sufferings and losses of Yugoslavia's Jews are comparable only with those of neighboring Greece, where out of a Jewish population of 75,000 only 10,000 survived.

Hundreds of Yugoslav Jews were saved by the efforts of Albanian patriots hiding them; others joined the Yugoslav guerrilla army which, in turn, liberated Jews

from nazi concentration camps. Many more would have been saved if members of families had not refused to be parted when not all of them could be brought to safety.

Today, the vast majority of the Yugoslav Jews are taking an active part in the reconstruction of the country in all fields of its economic and cultural life. Many are prominent in the State Administration.

Outstanding is the personality of Moshe Pijade, who is head of the biggest of the Yugoslav Federated Republics, Serbia, and a close friend and associate of Marshal Tito. During the war he was one of the chief strategists of Tito's army of liberation.

Though it is true that a small number of Jews desire to emigrate, mainly in order to join relatives abroad or because they made arrangements for emigration previously and find it difficult to adjust themselves to the new conditions, it is also true that a great many Yugoslav Jews are returning from Switzerland, Italy and even from America in order to avail themselves of the opportunities which the new Yugoslavia is providing. There is plenty of scope for initiative and energy for everyone.

Asked by a Jewish journalist recently about the chief task confronting the Jewish community in Yugoslavia, the president of the Belgrade Jewish Community, David A. Alkalay, replied: "I conceive our chief undertaking to be to maintain our Jewish community in a spirit of solidarity and to preserve the old Jewish culture and traditions."

Mr. Alkalay fought with Tito's Army and is the outstanding leader of Yugoslavia's Jews.

Belgrade.

J. S.

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