

Jews Defend New State as Palestine War Flares

But Rightists Hold Upper Hand in Israel Government; Irgun for Jewish Expansion

By AL FINDLEY

On May 15, 1947, immediately after the British mandate over Palestine was terminated, the independent Jewish state of Israel was proclaimed. No sooner was it born than it was bombed by the attacking armies of the Arab League. The provisional government is claiming jurisdiction over those portions of Palestine allocated to the Jews in the UN partition plan.

The government is composed of a council with representatives from all parties and a cabinet of thirteen. It is a coalition cabinet, under the leadership of the Jewish social-democratic party, the Mapai or Palestinian Labor Party. Both the premier Ben-Gurion and the foreign minister are from the Labor Party. Dr. Chaim Weitzman, liberal pro-British leader, has been elected first president of the new republic with only the Revisionists voting against him. The Achduth Avodah Party and the lone Stalinist in the council abstained. The division of the council is roughly about 16 for labor and left-wing parties and 18-20 for liberal and conservative bourgeois parties.

The on-again off-again unity of the Irgun and Haganah has finally been consummated. It provides for the military coordination of the two groups leaving the Irgun free to act as a unit and use its military force to influence political alignment in favor of the rightists. The Irgun also has wide latitude even in military affairs. This unity was opposed first by the Hashomer Hatzair and the Achduth Avoda parties, who were later joined by the Labor Party. But despite the opposition of the entire labor movement the Irgun unity was carried through by the bourgeois elements, proving who controls the Haganah.

The Stern group, on the other hand, has been incorporated within the Haganah, and its commander given the rating of major. Both the Irgun and the Stern group have announced that they will fight to incorporate all of Palestine into the Jewish state.

ARAB PLANS

The Arabs have not proclaimed any government, neither for part nor for all of Palestine. The armies of all the Arab states are invading Palestine, and are also using their air force to bombard Tel Aviv. These armies have already occupied most of the Arab portions of Palestine and are setting up "administrations." It is unclear whether they are acting in a coordinated plan and have only temporarily sidetracked the Mufti's Arab Higher Committee, or whether they are continuing their rivalries and are vying with one another as to who can do the most in defeating the Jewish state and, at the same time, incorporate those sections of Palestine they conquer into their own realms.

This writer was wrong in predicting that the Arab states would limit themselves to sending "volunteers." The pressure of the nationalist ele-

ments, plus dynastic ambitions, have forced the feudal rulers to risk a military adventure that can bring only destruction and delay the unification so essential to the economic development of the Near East. It is clear that the opposing forces are about evenly matched and the struggle, unless stopped, will be a prolonged one and a bloody one. The rules of war are being disregarded. Using the Irgun communique on Deir Yassin, the Arabs are justifying their slaughter of all the prisoners of Kfar Etzion.

But LABOR ACTION was right in its analysis of the American position. As soon as Truman announced his support of trusteeship LABOR ACTION predicted that "intransigent Harry" would shift again. In addition to vote-catching considerations, American policy is primarily concerned with preventing a war which would give Russia the opportunity to intervene on one or both sides. After the military power of the Jews had been demonstrated, the U. S. gave up its hope of preventing war by abandoning partition, and is now trying to limit the war and prevent all-out warfare.

UN HOPELESS

The U. S. recognition of Israel was a move to get the jump on Russia and also to head off the Arab league. It failed in its second purpose. The speed—only a few minutes after the proclamation—was a surprise to everyone, including the U. S. delegation in the UN.

The United States is now taking the lead in trying to get UN action to stop the fighting. Russia is sup-

(Continued on page 4)

Why We Need a Labor Party!



Sees Crushing Defeat for Stalinists in NMU

CP Union Wreckers Resort to Foulest Lies in Slander Campaign Against Rank and File Caucus

NEW YORK, May 5—Elections for all officers in the National Maritime Union-CIO—began on April 1, 1948—have now reached the half-way mark. Every post in the union is on the ballot, 130 positions in all, including everything from president down to dispatcher. Some time in July the results will be announced. It is a foregone conclusion that the Rank and File Caucus slate, headed by President Curran, will win hands down. The so-called "Progressive" or "Save the Union" or "Fight the Ship-owners," etc. etc. slate (read Stalinist slate), until now the machine of the union, will go down to defeat, electing very few of their number.

This turn in the tide of the largest sea union in America did not take place overnight. Opposition to the Communist Party has existed and smoldered ever since the inception of the NMU. Some of it was healthy, some of it reactionary. By and large it resulted from the constant change

of line by the leadership with each fluctuation in Kremlin foreign policy. This resulted in serious organizational and contractual losses. The flip-flops alienated thousands of NMU members who left in disgust to join other maritime unions, since they found it almost impossible to fight for a change in leadership. It made possible the growth of an opposition union, the Sailors International Union-AFL on the east coast. It guaranteed the separate existence of the Sailors Union of the Pacific (SUP), Marine Firemen (MFOV) and Maritime Cooks and Stewards on the west coast.

So today, almost fourteen years since the revolt of seamen took place in the Sailors Union on the west coast against its corrupt leadership, we have the phenomenon of seven different sea unions, all primarily because the CP would tolerate no opposition where it ruled and would only permit unity with the other unions if

they would allow Stalinist policy to dominate.

TIGHT CONTROL

Added to this we find, in examining the various Maritime Agreements with the shipping companies, that the NMU, by far the largest union and with the most militant membership, also has the WORST agreements. This shows up mostly in working conditions. This fact alone has in recent years driven many sailors who were being organized for the first time into the AFL unions.

The war and the Roosevelt-Stalin pact brought with it the most reactionary line the CP had ever followed in maritime. The leadership just couldn't sacrifice enough of the seaman's conditions. The mere mention of any job action by a crew would bring down on its head the vilest insults and threats of calling the FBI. Any seaman overstaying the government request of only 30 days as after

three months at sea was turned over to the draft board. This task of informing on workers—performed by a trade union! Thinking back to that time, it seems almost unbelievable after hearing the Stalinists rage and rant against "police state" and "thought control" NOW.

But all the corrupt policies and practices of the CP have now caught up with them. The membership is giving them the boot, and in a union that has always been the prize of the American Stalinist Party. Just one indication of how powerful the control of the CP Waterfront Section is at present, is the fact that more than 75 per cent of all posts are held by Stalinists.

EMPLOY SLANDER

In the last two months the "hacks" (as the Stalinists are known on board the ships and on the waterfront) have unleashed a campaign against their opponents and former cohorts in the NMU that has put to shame any pre-

Nationwide Union Support For UAW Strikers Can Break Government-Boss Offensive

By WALTER JASON

Wall Street might well be said to be operating under a new slogan, "Two down and one to go," for its government in Washington broke the coal strike and the threatened railroad strike by means of governmental injunctions.

The "one to go" is the UAW-CIO, America's most aggressive and democratic union, with an excellent tradition of spearheading the labor movement ever since its great sit-down strikes built the CIO in 1936 and 1937.

Wall Street made a fool out of Philip Murray, CIO president. The steelworkers got nothing in their negotiations and Murray capitulated, fearful of taking on the vast struggle indicated by

the events. John L. Lewis bowed before a governmental injunction. So did the railroad unions, cursed with craft unionism and a hide-bound leadership. And the Stalinist-dominated UE-CIO silently retreats in its previous demands for wage increases to meet the inflationary cost of living. One CIO union, the Packinghouse workers', finds itself in a life and death struggle.

These events raise important questions for the entire union movement. Does the American labor movement continue to retreat under the blows of Wall Street and its Washington administration? Does the American working class continue to bear the brunt of inflation and the high taxes for government expenditures in war preparation? When does the retreat turn into a counter-offensive?

Within the framework of this increasing triumph of reaction, in which the labor movement retreats and retreats, one major CIO union has just begun to fight. It is the UAW-CIO.

GM IS NEXT

The UAW-CIO leadership and ranks could not, by their whole history, just go along with the wage freeze policy that has been imposed on the Steelworkers. The UAW-CIO could not be intimidated by the retreats and defeats elsewhere. When Chrysler Corporation tried to follow the steel pattern and said "No" to all UAW-CIO demands, the workers responded readily to the union's call for strike action.

But this is just the beginning of the struggle. Chrysler Corporation provoked the walkout. It turned down all union demands, because its Wall Street owners want to test the UAW-CIO to see if it can be weakened or destroyed during the course of the strike struggle.

General Motors is next. GM has taken the same adamant attitude toward the union as Chrysler. Among the rank and file GM workers the

Union Announces Plans to Strike General Motors

DETROIT, May 17—The UAW-CIO today announced it would summon 225,000 General Motors workers to join the strike battle against the auto industry which began with the Chrysler walk-out.

"Our members will not trespass on GM property after May 28," said T. A. Johnstone, acting director of the GM department of the UAW-CIO, in the absence of Walter P. Reuther, UAW-CIO president.

This public announcement came after a meeting of the top policy committee of the union in Detroit today. It was in line with the report Emil Mazey, acting president of the UAW-CIO, gave to Chrysler delegates last week.

The significance of this move is two-fold. It is part of the over-all strategy of the UAW-CIO leadership to bring the full economic power of the 900,000 members behind the wage drive, and it is a fitting answer to those critics within the union who have been claiming that the Reuther leadership intended to make "guinea pigs" of the Chrysler workers. The Stalinists and their allies had little to say on this score today.

The inevitable skirmishes between cops and pickets began this week, when pickets tried to block a police attempt to help some hourly-rated employes enter the Highland park plant of Chrysler. After a slight scuffle, police officials called for state intervention, and Governor Sigler responded eagerly, so that state police already are on the scene. Since Highland Park is a separate city, with its own police department, Police Commissioner Toy of Detroit was unable to bring his "riot squads" into action.

The mood of the UAW-CIO ranks

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued on page 2)

Murray's "No Strike" Deal Backfires on Steelworkers

Jewish State

(Continued from page 1)

porting these moves. It is highly probable that the U. S. embargo on arms to the Near East will be lifted in the near future.

England, contrary to expectations, has not recognized the Jewish state and is permitting its officers to direct the Transjordanian invasion of Palestine. Its senior partner, the U. S., will probably close its eyes to this glaring "complicity" by Britain.

Russia, too, after a few days of suspense has recognized the Jewish state. The Russian satellites who had been expected to be the first to recognize Israel held up action, awaiting word from Moscow, after the French Stalinist press attacked the government of Ben-Gurion as subservient to the Western powers. With Moscow's recognition, they are sure to fall in line.

One thing the events in Palestine have underscored is the complete impotence of the UN. The UN, far from being the hope of peace, has proved itself again to be nothing but the tool of the big imperialist powers, especially the U. S., who use it when they see fit. After talking for weeks, the UN adjourned without accomplishing anything.

It proves again what Marxists have always said—that despite the illusions of statesmen that they decide events, the actual power to decide things lies in the hands of the people, in this case the Jews and Arabs of Palestine.