

DILEMMA IN PALESTINE

By James S. Allen

HOW CAN THE Truman Doctrine be applied to Palestine and at the same time befriend both Zionism and the Arab potentates? That is the weighty and insoluble problem now faced by American diplomacy. Essentially it is the problem with which Britain coped unsuccessfully since the first world war. Turned even more complex by the second war, this problem is now inherited by the United States as it seeks to establish itself as a dominant power in the Middle East.

American policy assumes the same pattern of duplicity which has characterized British policy in Palestine for the simple reason that its main objective is to build up an imperialist position. All else is subordinated to this central aim.

The grave plight of the Jewish DPs in Europe, the urgent need for a Jewish-Arab settlement in Palestine, the basic needs of the Arab peoples of the Middle East and North Africa are considered not on their merits, or with a view to doing anything fundamental about them, but only in relation to the central aim.

IN ITS IMMEDIATE application, the Truman Doctrine signifies the designation of the Middle East as still another sphere in which our expansionists seek exclusive control. The Greco-Turkish Bill may be considered the first step and the placing of the Palestine question before UN the second step in the unfolding of this policy in the Middle East.

In the case of Greece and Turkey, Britain relinquished some of its exclusive positions to the United States by a direct act of transfer, outside the United Nations, although the United States seems to be taking more than was originally offered.

In Palestine, Britain offers more than the United States is willing to take.

It seems to be agreed in Washington and London that if the United States is to be allowed a lion's share of the resources and trade of the Middle East, she must also share the military and strategic positions in this area and in the Mediterranean.

These so-called responsibilities should include, the British insist, the military as well as financial burden of imposing an imperialist solution upon Palestine.

THUS, THE BRITISH have declared that they would not bind themselves in advance to an UN solution which they may not be able to carry out by themselves. On their part, the American policy-makers are very reluctant to consider a course that would involve the use of American armed forces, preferring the Greek arrangement by which Britain does the policing while the United

States supplies the financial and political assistance.

In view of the extreme unpopularity of the Greco-Turkish policy in this country, which now involves only small token forces, it can well be imagined how the dispatch of American troops to Palestine would be received.

Britain has brought the Palestine question before the UN, largely as a means of forcing the hand of the United States, hoping to keep the participation of other powers to a minimum, and to limit action largely to procedural questions.

Now that the United States has been put on the spot, it is equally interested in restricting UN action, in delaying the necessity for a decision as long as possible, while it seeks to work out a mutually satisfactory settlement with Britain, not only of the Palestine question but of many others connected with it.

THE PROBLEM is to extricate Palestine from this endless web of imperialist intrigue, to end once and for all the hopeless dependence by Zionism upon one or the other imperialist power, and to make possible a joint Arab-Jewish solution within an independent Palestine.

Such a solution would act as a powerful leaven in the entire Middle East, for it would remove from the hands of the Arab potentates—as from Anglo-American imperialism—the weapon of the "Jewish problem" which helps them divert Arab nationalism into reactionary channels, and retain the feudal structure of the Middle East.

American Jewry, which has become the main international support of Zionism, cannot view the present course of American policy without recognizing the same duplicity which in British hands has brought the present crisis in Palestine. This growing disillusion must hasten a new approach by the Jewish people, an alliance with those democratic elements seeking expression in the Arab world.

WORTH REPEATING

"The whole history of the liberty shows that all concessions have been born of earnest struggle there is no progress. Those who depreciate agitation, are men who walk the ground. They want rain without the cloud. They want the ocean without the sea."
Frederick Douglass, great Negro
Smith, March 30, 1849.