

# Big 3 Jockey for Palestine Stakes

By AL FINDLEY

The sixth UN Security Council resolution has been voted. Initiated by Britain and amended by the U.S., it orders both sides to cease fire in 72 hours, calls for a truce of 4 weeks, embargoing shipment of arms and men to Palestine and the States of the Arab League during the four week period. UN mediator Count Bernadotte is to use this period for

## Liberties ate All of Labor

in common with the Communist Party. This union, labeled "Communist," would then be forced to turn over a complete list of its membership and its financial records. Black-listing, which the labor movement has fought since its birth, would be given invaluable assistance.

It is easy to understand in the light of this fact why the U.S. Chamber of Commerce so ardently supports this reactionary measure.

### WEAPON OF INTIMIDATION

Liberal organizations—those fighting against Jim Crow, anti-Semitism, the poll tax, religious education in public schools, UMT, the draft, the vicious anti-labor Taft-Hartley Law, those fighting for civil liberties, better housing, rent and price control,

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mediation. Immigrants are to be allowed to enter, but cannot be enlisted in the army until after the four weeks. If this move fails, the UN is to act under Article 7, calling for economic sanctions and eventual military action.

The main aim of this latest British move is to delay, and if possible prevent the lifting of the U.S. embargo.

Meanwhile, guns continue to blaze away in Palestine. The end of the first 3 weeks of fighting finds both groups entrenching themselves in the areas respectively assigned to the Jews and Arabs, and preparing for the real battle to come. Arab armies have taken weeks to advance across a small strip of friendly territory. The invading Arab armies have only nibbled at the perimeter of the Jewish areas, while the Jews have advanced only in Western Galilee assigned to the Arabs. A large part of the Arabs in Jewish territory have left. It is estimated that only 200,000 of the 400,000 Arabs remain. The Egyptian army has occupied all of the Arab coastal plain in the south and are moving to isolate the Negev.

It is hard to see how the Jews can defend the Negev. It can however be

As we go to press, news comes of the acceptance of the latest UN cease-fire proposal by both the Jews and Arabs, with five stipulations by the former. Next week's LABOR ACTION will comment on the new developments.

easily retaken since there are few fortified points. The British led Transjordanian army (together with Iraqi troops) have occupied all of central Palestine and are making a determined bid for Jerusalem. Intense hand to hand fighting has taken place in the Old City resulting in victory for the Arab Legion. Capture of the old walled city is of little military importance but of great political and prestige value. The bitter fight for the Old City is proof that the Arabs will not have a quick victory in the new city.

Should the Jews and Arabs be left to fight it out, the war will be a long

## Figures Show Prices Are Still Rising — And Due To Go Higher!

By MIKE STEVENS

Publications issued by governmental agencies always try to prove that the cost of living has either gone down or is standing still. This has been one of the arguments most frequently used by the unions against government figures on the cost of living.

But the cost of living has continued to rise so rapidly that the government's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Federal Reserve Board have both been forced to admit that everything went up in price during April and will continue to go up for many months to come.

and bloody one. Both sides are approximately evenly matched. The Arab League has about 200,000 men under arms, the majority being of the armed constabulary type, not equipped for war. Most of these are required at home, to control the semi-independent and rebellious tribes such as the Kurds in Iraq, and to control domestic affairs, such as in Egypt, where the police struck only a few weeks ago. Present Arab League plans call for putting 30,000 men in the field. In case of emergency this number can be doubled without spreading military equipment too

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According to the government figures, the cost of living in April jumped over the previous month and finished eight and one-half percent above April, 1947. This also means that the cost of living in April, 1948, was twenty-seven percent above what it was in April, 1946, and close to seventy-two percent above 1939. Government breakdown on just the grocery bill alone shows that the housewife in April paid \$2.18 for the same amount of groceries that she bought for \$1.00 in 1939.

Government figures, as indicated above, never give a complete picture

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thin. At present the Arabs have superiority in heavy equipment, airplanes, tanks and heavy (for the Near East) artillery. However they are expending their equipment at a wasteful rate; and since they must import all of their equipment it is doubtful whether they can long maintain their superiority. The limited supplies now received from Britain and Czechoslovakia are not sufficient to maintain superiority over a long period.

The Jews manufacture a portion of their arms and are better equipped per man, in small arms and light artillery. As a result of British prohibitions the Jews have not been able to import or smuggle in heavy equipment and it will take them some time to catch up with the Arabs. The Arabs hope to strike decisive blows before the Jews can achieve equality. The lifting of the U.S. embargo would greatly accelerate the process. The time to lift the embargo is NOW. Arms for Israel, not words and protestations of sympathy, are required. The Jews have approximately 20,000 first line Hagannah soldiers plus 50,000 militia cadres. In addition there are 5,000 Ir-gun and 2,000 Stern group soldiers.

Both sides are receiving oil from the limited supply in the refineries in Haifa. Since oil is essential to war, the Jews are permitting the Arabs to obtain their portion of oil from Haifa, with the understanding that the Arabs do not cut the pipeline from Iraq. In addition the Jews have contracted for oil from Rumania.

## BRITISH STRATEGY

The U.S. can not allow a long drawn out fight in Palestine. For one, the administration needs Jewish votes. But the main reason is U.S. fear that Russia would intervene on one side or both. This fear was also expressed by the Turkish foreign minister, who said that continued Palestinian war could conceivably lead to the sandwiching of Turkey between Russian forces in Palestine and Russian forces in the Balkans. For that reason, the U.S. is now exerting its pressure and trying to use the UN to bring about a cessation of warfare.

England on the other hand, while sharing American concern about Russia, is willing to gamble with Anglo-American interests and take the opportunity to advance her own special interests in order to recoup some of her losses in the Near East. The U.S. has been easing Britain out of control of the oil fields of the Near East. Britain therefore wants the Negev, which is a potential source of oil and is only 10 miles from the Suez, which once was a British monopoly. The British want to retain control of the Eastern Mediterranean. According to Sulzberger of the N. Y. Times, British officers are now convinced that Kenya is not a sufficient base from which to exercise this control, due to transportation and other difficulties. Since England can only keep 10,000 troops in Egypt, she must get control of the Negev by supporting Abdullah. The British hope that Abdullah can beat the Egyptians to the control of the Negev. The capture of Jerusalem will give Abdullah prestige and the addition of the Negev will make him one of the most powerful of the Arab rulers.

The British hope that the two sides

will fight themselves to a stalemate and then England will step in and make peace by giving the Jews Western Galilee in exchange for giving Transjordan the major portion of the Negev, with Britain, of course, receiving "special status." This has led the British to allow the Arab Legion garrison to remain in Palestine, despite solemn pledges that they would be withdrawn. The British are continuing their subsidies and arms shipments to the Legion and other Arab States. While British diplomats cry for the holy places of Jerusalem, British officers lead the attacks and direct the artillery fire. 21 officers officially assigned to the Legion have been ordered out of Palestine. But they continue to direct the fighting from wherever they are. In addition there are other officers who are "volunteers" and are still engaged in fighting. This cynical attitude of the British Government, whose governing party claims the title of "labor" and "socialist," is the result not of evil intent by individuals like Bevin, but an inevitable result of the policy of placing national and imperial interests above class interests and democratic rights. The shameful spectacle of the British Labor Party should serve as a warning to all who urge that "national" be the main point of departure for policy.

While Russia is permitting her satellites and the Stalinist parties to supply the Arabs, her main line now is support of the State of Israel. Like the U.S., Russia is pressing for UN action against the Arabs. Russia has the maximum goal of being able to send troops to Palestine under article 7 of the UN, and the minimum goal of weakening the English position in the Near East. The Stalinists feel that they can afford to win the Jews today because they feel secure that tomorrow they can regain Arab sympathy in future struggles of the Arabs for limiting British control of their countries.

## ARAB-JEWISH INTERESTS

The war in Palestine should not divert our attention from the Displaced Persons. For over three years they have rotted in converted concentration camps. Two years ago President Truman promised to use U.S. Army ships, and to pay for the cost of transporting 100,000 Displaced Jews to Palestine. NOW is the time to act on that promise. It is even cheaper financially than continued support of the DP's in idleness. It will begin the "liquidation" of that shameful blot on mankind—the D.P. With

a sizeable amount going to Palestine, the problem can be solved in short order were all countries, and especially the U.S., to open their doors. In addition it will help stabilize the new Jewish State militarily and economically.

The "absorption" by Palestine of large scale immigration will require greater resources than the small state of Israel has. REGIONAL economic cooperation and REGIONAL projects as the Jordan Valley Authority are necessary. This can be accomplished only by Arab-Jewish cooperation.

Arab progressives, and nationalists too, must fight for Arab-Jewish cooperation. Economically, the Arabs will gain as much from such regional economic unity as will the Jews. In addition, Arab labor must realize that the road to the unification of Palestine leads through recognition of Jewish national rights and an independent Jewish State. It is only on such a basis that progressive elements in both nations can begin to work for the re-unification of Palestine into a Federal Union guaranteeing the national rights of both peoples.

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