

UN PLAN SLOWS SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINE WAR

By AL FINDLEY

Workers Show Confident Mood in Chrysler Tie-Up

By WALTER JASON

DETROIT—The walkout at Chrysler involving nearly 14,000 workers last week was especially significant because it marks a beginning of a return to a mood of confident aggressiveness on the part of the ranks, due, of course, to their interpretation of

the results of the national elections.

Many speed-up issues have been pressing workers at Chrysler and other plants, but the confusion, demoralization and feeling of isolation that oppressed the union movement prevented any direct action. Gripping and bitterness have been very marked, but there was no evidence of any serious self-confidence and militancy.

However, an explosion was inevitable after the election, for the results were taken as a shift back to the "good old days." No matter what explanations or rationalizations are offered by the daily press, the men in the shops feel strongly that they, and they alone, were responsible for Truman's victory. The despair and confusion among editorial writers and radio commentators simply added to the workers' feeling of confidence.

Last spring, when it was necessary to call a strike at Chrysler for wage demands, the ranks had to be dragged into the struggle. It took a lot of hard work to convince the workers they should strike.

Last week, when the chief stewards went around informing the men that a special union meeting was going to be held at 9:00 a.m. and everybody should walk out to attend, the response was excellent. Spirit at the union meetings was high. Determination to win was expressed by everyone. The Local 7 Union leadership took a firm position in support of the walkout, in spite of the inevitable pressure for an immediate return to work. Everyone was convinced a demonstration against speed-up was necessary, no matter what the immediate result. For the Chrysler Corporation would think twice before it tried something again, if it saw how quickly the ranks would respond to a call for direct action.

Only among some Negro workers was there a hesitancy to walk out and that was based understandably on their reaction to a rumor that the walkout in the Kercheval plant of Chrysler was in protest of a Negro being broken in on the assembly line, since one of the men whom the assemblers would not break in was a Negro. But the fact is that the union always insisted that utility and relief men, who are paid higher rates to break in new men, should do the job. On the day shift no Negroes were involved. What happened, of course, was that the usual set of petty politicians figured they might get a few Negro votes by spreading a whispering campaign against the walkout, even though it meant play-

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While the fate of Palestine is being decided by the realities of military struggle, the UN deals in plans, resolutions and orders that have neither the virtue of justice nor the justification of practicability.

The victory of the Israeli armies in the Negev fighting was much more decisive than was apparent at first sight. Israel, although not occupying, now dominates militarily the entire Negev and can expel the Egyptians from Palestine at will. This changed military set-up has had profound political consequences. For one, it has destroyed the Egyptian-backed Mufti government at Gaza.

As a result, the Russians have dropped entirely their plans to recognize this government. As is well known, the Russians supported the Mufti in his pogroms of 1929, 1936 and 1939. They shifted to support of Britain out of Palestine. The prospect of a settlement in Palestine (under U. S. inspiration), giving Britain's puppet Abdullah the southern portion of the Negev, alarmed the Russians. They let it be known that they were actively considering recognizing the Mufti government. The change in military position has destroyed these plans.

The second major consequence is that it has caused the first PUBLIC statement by Israeli officials that Israel is no longer satisfied with the original partition plan. All Israeli parties, with the possible exception of the Mapam, now demand a revision of the previous borders to include almost all of Israeli occupied territory. The Mapam, which originally called for annexation of Jerusalem and Galilee, seems to have reversed its position. Dr. Sneh, one of the leaders of the Mapam, at a mass meeting in New York, denounced ALL attempts at revision of the boundaries and declared for implementing the LETTER of the original boundaries, without Jerusalem, a corridor, and without Western Galilee. It is probable, however, that as a result of the unpopularity of such a position the Mapam will shift again. A shift in Russian attitude would also speed a reversal by Dr. Sneh.

BUNCHE PLAN

Above all, the Negev victory has almost destroyed the hopes of Anglo-American military leaders for bases in the Negev. As reported in LABOR ACTION, United States officials favored a modified Bernadotte Plan

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If a political spectrum were suspended over a meeting of the Independent Progressive Caucus, it would reveal a rainbow of many colors and shades. Yet we are not only members of AVC but adhere to a rather restricted institution — a CAUCUS within AVC. Our membership in AVC as individuals can easily be explained by our mutual conviction that AVC is the best organization for veterans. But how explain our participation in a single caucus? Surely no one thinks that it is a common political declaration of principles uniting us in the IP Caucus. It is not even a common POLITICAL opposition to the Stalinists which binds us together in the Independent Political Caucus. We venture that our respective oppositions to Stalinism are as varied as our individual political views.

PROPOSITIONS EXCEED THE LIMITS OF AVC

We have been drawn together into a single caucus by a determination to SECURE THE DEMOCRATIC FOUNDATIONS of our organization against the encroachments of the ANTI-DEMOCRATIC STALINISTS who, if in power in AVC, would seek to distort the CHARACTER of AVC from that of a broad veterans' organization to a regimented creature of their own political creed. We refuse to believe that our caucus proposes to combat the Stalinist danger by acts which, however lofty in intent, by their very essence succumb to the evil. The garb is no less odious because it is worn by us.

The Stalinists must be defeated by DEMOCRATIC means, else they will gain in the end; else they and our own bureaucratic acts will rise to plague us in a thousand different ways. The Stalinists must be defeated without distorting the character of AVC, without invoking false criteria,

Palestine War —

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partitioning the Negev at the 31st parallel, while Britain was trying for all of the Negev but was willing (under duress) to settle for part. The Foreign Office, which had shifted its anti-Jewish struggle from the military level to the diplomatic one, really became alarmed. The UN Security Council lived up to its INTENDED function—an instrument of “big power” domination. With the support of the U. S., Britain pushed through resolutions, orders and threats of sanctions to force Israel to return the Negev to Egypt. The presidential elections in the U. S. and Truman's need for Jewish votes delayed the sanctions. Having no immediate effect of frightening the Jews, and having no UN means of enforcing its decision the plan failed.

It is this kind of action that characterizes the liberals' proclaimed “hope for peace.” The UN orders Israel out of territory which it, the UN, has assigned to Israel, but at the same time has neither the power nor the will to enforce its ukase.

The British are not completely defeated. They still have the Bunche armistice plan. The general principles of the plan are for a negotiated armistice between Israel and the Arab states, providing for fixed lines and demilitarized areas between the lines. In practice, this will force Israel to leave the Negev, and while not permitting the Egyptians to move in, will leave a vacuum in the Negev, thus giving England a POSSIBILITY of disposing of it to the best interests of British imperialism.

This latest armistice plan can be and will be no more effective than

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trialist cannot, however sympathetic with unionism he may be, CANNOT belong to a union. Why does his eligibility for one compulsory organization not make him eligible for any compulsory organization? Obviously, because the aspect of compulsory nature which the union and the army share in common does not and cannot determine the composition of these respective organizations.

Obviously, too, what DOES determine the selection, the composition, the eligibility and ineligibility for membership in each of these compulsory organizations is the CHARACTER and PURPOSE of these respective organizations. A union will not exclude a woman worker, because the character of the union seeks to embrace and give job security to workers—all workers, notwithstanding race, color, creed, nationality or sex. The woman's sex has nothing whatever to do with her “eligibility” as a worker, and hence as a union member.

The example of the woman when applied to a conscript army works in reverse—again, obviously because the character and purpose of the army is different from that of a union. Again and again it is the character and

the previous six or eight cease-fire orders of the Council. At best it can only achieve a few weeks of a “finger-on-the-trigger” peace.

BULLETIN: Latest reports are that both Israel and the Arabs will reject the armistice.

The last stages of the war in Palestine are nearing. The multitude of peace rumors are one indication. There are only two armies left in Palestine—Israel's and Transjordan's. The defeat of Egypt and the annihilation of the Lebanese and Syrian units in Palestine have left the road wide open to Abdullah, King of Transjordan by grace of His Majesty's government. His troops have moved into Hebron and other areas evacuated by the Egyptians. A Jewish Telegraph Agency report says that Abdullah had himself crowned as “King of Palestine” on Friday, November 12, in the Coptic Church of the Old City of Jerusalem. The British are especially interested in having Abdullah obtain the Negev. The Arab Legion, while a powerful force, is not superior at present to the Israeli army. Only drastic measures can give it the strength to conquer the Negev.

FINAL PHASE NEARS

Having failed to get the Negev by diplomatic means the British will use drastic means unless stopped. The author of this article believes the reports that the British WILL give the Arab Legion heavy arms in substantial amounts to get the Negev for Abdullah and to prove to the Arab states that they can get nowhere except as the vassals of Britain. The UN resolutions and calls for sanction will serve as the “moral” cover for such perfidy.

The Workers Party, in keeping with its revolutionary socialist principles of supporting the struggle of all peoples for national determination, supports the war of Israel for independence. The recent victories of Israel are not a cause for sitting back. The final phases of the war are nearing and the American labor movement will play the decisive role in determining whether there is a just peace in Palestine or a British imperialist solution imposed on that country's two peoples.

The American labor movement and the American people must put up an IMMEDIATE struggle for:

- Lifting the embargo on Israel to give Israel arms to meet the British-armed Abdullah.
- Remove all State Department restrictions on emigration from U. S. displaced persons camps. Six years of concentration camps and three years of displaced persons camps is enough suffering for any human being.
- No shift in boundaries without consent of Jews and Arabs.
- Guarantees of democratic rights for the Arabs in Arabian Palestine.
- For an economic union of Jewish and Arab Palestine that will enable the two peoples to work together toward a union of the Near Eastern peoples.