

THE ZIONIST RECORD

THE ORGAN OF SOUTH AFRICAN JEWRY

PERMANENT BUILDINGS, CORNER COMMISSIONER AND SIMMONDS STREETS, JOHANNESBURG.

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Banging The Door ?

UNLESS there is, at a later stage, some twisting and turning of the words uttered this week by the American and Soviet delegates at UNO, or some technical deadlock which often serves to obstruct important issues, it is now certain that a majority of the United Nations will vote in favour of the basic principles of the partition plan. It is gratifying to note that, basically at least, there seems to be little difference between the attitudes of America and Russia. The sentiments expressed by many commentators that in Palestine these two great Powers might find common ground leading to fruitful results in other spheres will find an echo in the heart of every Jew. To-day the word Palestine is often associated with strife. To us it has always symbolised peace and the Jew will be proud to think that his land could contribute towards the attainment of international tranquility.

As yet there have not been any clear indications regarding the implementation of partition and the transition period. Mr. Herschel Johnson has spoken vaguely about the responsibility which rests with the Mandatory Power and has indicated that the General Assembly would not fully discharge its obligation if it did not take carefully into account the problem of implementation. As for himself, it must be regretted that his contribution to the solution of the problem of implementation was somewhat niggardly. The suggestion about the establishment of a special constabulary or police force consisting of volunteers from the United Nations, is certainly an equitable one but it is fraught with many difficulties and complications. The primary difficulty is that there is no precedent for such a force and it might take years before it could come into being. Yet there is plenty of precedent for territories being administered during the transition period by the joint military efforts of the Big Four. A force of this kind could be brought into being without delay.

A further difficulty is the attitude that seems to have been adopted by England. As the events develop, starting from the recommendations of the Anglo-American and the UNO Commissions and following with the definitions of policy by various governments, it becomes clear that whatever the game Britain was playing in Palestine, the results are total defeat. Those in charge of Palestine policy are, however, very bad losers. Despite all the assurances about abiding by the decisions of UNO, a last-minute effort seems to have been made to frustrate the results of the session and to blackmail other governments into submission to the views of Whitehall. With the bad temper typical of bad losers attempts are being made to throw the public into a panic by threats of an immediate and even abrupt withdrawal of the British forces from Palestine, and by warnings that this would lead to bloodshed. The unholy haste with which these announcements are made are an indication of plans to bang the door loudly and rudely on leaving Palestine.

Let it be said plainly that if there is an honest intention of withdrawing it can be achieved without difficulty and with honour to all. If, however, there are sinister motives behind the withdrawal, it will lead to trouble and complications. The Yishuv is ready to face up to the threats and to the blackmail. It knows that all the pious phrases urging the parties to adopt a solution "suitable to both sides" are merely a last-minute effort to frighten the Yishuv into accepting Arab rule in Palestine. It would, for example, be interesting to know who was behind the huge canard about the massing of Arab troops on the borders of Palestine. As a war of nerves it was so badly done that it bears the full imprint of some of the Nazi exploits in the days of Hitler's glory. Yet it should not be dismissed as mere bluff. The Mufti was there in person, and at this point it becomes a matter of international concern. How is it possible for a notorious quisling and a lackey of Hitler to engage in the politics of member States of UNO? The British protests to Egypt against his political activities would have had a more genuine sound had they been raised on the platform of UNO so that for once and for all the Arab League and its chief instigator were shown up for what they are!

In the meantime, as part of the policy of banging the door, there have been repeated reports that the military authorities in Palestine intend to withdraw from the Arab areas of Palestine only. It is obvious that such a step will reveal an unmistakable intention to create a blood-bath in portions of the country. The stratagem is a simple one: if the troops remain in Jewish populated areas, Haganah will be kept down, its activity will be paralysed, the road will be blocked for its transport, so that isolated Jewish settlements in Arab areas could become an easy target for Arab brigands. We hope that this will never happen. The Mandate of Palestine is drawing to a close. It must be terminated in a manner that may wipe off some of the ugly spots from the history of Palestine. By creating mischief even on the day of parting the Administration will bring further shame to the name of the Mandatory. As for the Yishuv, we have no doubt that it is ready for all eventualities. The Yishuv will be able to defend its structure with the same courage with which it has built it.

Revisionists And Discipline

THESE are times when the Yishuv and the movement require and are entitled to expect the utmost discipline and the subordination of internal differences to the will of the majority and to the needs of the hour. Under the circumstances some of the statements made by Revisionist speakers at a meeting in Johannesburg must not be passed over in silence. It should, however, be emphasised that under all circumstances—even if this were not a period of emergency—the Revisionists cannot ignore the decisions of the Zionist Actions Committee to which they belong and have no right to defy clearly laid down rules by continuing to glorify those who are guilty of insubordination to the discipline of the movement.

At the Revisionist meeting on Sunday night Dr. Lifshitz had the audacity to castigate the Yishuv by saying (from a platform in Johannesburg, mind you!) that the refugees of the "Exodus" were let down by those of their brethren in Palestine who stood looking on while they (the

Sir Leon Simon Arrives In Johannesburg



Sir Leon Simon, C.B., chairman of the Executive Council of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Lady Simon arrived over the week-end by air and were met at the aerodrome by Mr. Louis Marks, chairman of the 1947 Hebrew University drive, Mr. Harry Lourie and Mrs. Lourie, Mr. S. Kessel, Mr. and Mrs. B. Grolman, Miss Marcia Gitlin, Mr. A. Amois, Mr. L. Feldberg, Mr. J. Rich and Dr. Theo. Ronsheim, secretary of the S.A. Friends of the Hebrew University.

Cantor Kusevitsky To Appear At M.D.A. Concert

At this concert, which takes place at the 20th Century Theatre on Sunday, October 19, at 8.45 p.m., Cantor Simcha Kusevitsky, the possessor of a very rich, colourful tenor voice of flexible velocity and a sound knowledge of Jewish traditional liturgical music, will sing an interesting selection.

Hedy Haas, the celebrated Continental character artist, will appear in a selection of songs and impersonations.

Faivel Zygielbaum, the well-known dramatist and artist, will appear in his monologue, "A World," a composition specially written for this occasion.

Jerry Idelson has written special music for "A World" as well as some special arrangements of Jewish folk music.

"Hazamir" Vocal Quartet will give its debut and Idelson's Trio will play instrumental music.

FINE PRODUCTION BY "REPS"

"The Hasty Heart", by John Patrick, which is now running at the Library Theatre, is the 130th production of the Johannesburg Repertory Players. Minna Schneier, who has worked with Repts on previous occasions, was responsible for this interesting production.

A well-chosen cast, including well-known actors like Theo Sachs, who was excellent in his role as Tommy; Jane Rowntree as Sister Margaret; Peter Merrill as the Yank with Scottish lineage; and Joe Goodman, an actor, who tackled artistically the role of Lachlen MacLachlen, the young Scotsman with a good sense of values, gave polished performances of parts to which they were remarkably well suited. The rest of the cast included Geoffrey Bond, Derrick Forman, Dudley Davies, Harry Muggeridge and Gordon Gilbert.

The "Reps" are still continuing with their drive for funds for their own theatre and it is hoped that the public will continue giving assistance for this great cultural undertaking.

DR. H. SHOSKES TO SPEAK ON WORLD JEWRY

"Jews in the World To-day—Personal Impressions of the Jewish Communities in Forty Countries"—will be the title of an address delivered on Sunday, October 26, in Johannesburg by Dr. Henry Shoskes, the well-known Jewish author and communal worker, who is on a short visit to South Africa. The address, which will be in Yiddish, will be delivered under the auspices of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and will be open to the public.

RABBI KOSSOWSKY HONOURED

Over 400 people, representative of all sections of the community, gathered at the H.O.D. Hall last Monday night, at a function organised by the Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal in celebration of the Rabbi's birthday. Warm tributes to the services rendered to the community by Rabbi Kossowsky were paid by various speakers, and a number of presentations were also made.

A detailed report will appear next week.

refugees) were fighting. We do not think it is necessary for us at this end to defend the honour of the Yishuv by entering into the question of the "Exodus" deportation, excepting to make one point that ought to be known to every Zionist to whatever party he belongs: There is such a thing as national discipline which must be maintained by all and which, we are glad to note, is observed by the vast majority of the Yishuv. Those who do not obey the will of the elected representatives of the community in Palestine and of the Zionist movement elsewhere, have been clearly and unequivocally outlawed by the organisation and have, indeed, broken away from the Revisionist movement itself.

The Revisionists may have their own views on matters of policy. These they could only put into force if given a mandate by the Zionist electorate. Such a mandate they have not at present. As for the Irgun Zvai, it did not wait to obtain a mandate either from the people or from its leaders but became a law unto itself. It is essential, in order to avoid confusion, that the decision of the Actions Committee to conduct an enlightenment campaign against the Irgun Zvai should be carried out by all sections of the movement. This duty devolves on all parties, including the Revisionists, and we expect that on their platforms, as well as elsewhere, the matter should be fully clarified.