

THE ZIONIST RECORD

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The Approach of The Climax

THE long and protracted arguments and committee wrangles at Lake Success are now coming to an end as the United Nations' deliberations on the future of Palestine moves to its climax.

It is not easy to sift a clear picture of what has been happening behind the scenes, and it is pretty obvious that the real work at Lake Success has been done behind the scenes.

The highlight of the many weeks of prolonged argument has been the sensational declaration of agreement between the United States and the U.S.S.R. on the two plans submitted by their respective delegations. There is little doubt that the measure of agreement has been magnified out of its true proportions—nor is this surprising in an atmosphere conditioned by the regularity with which these two powerful States have adopted intransigent attitudes resolutely opposed to each other. Irrespective of the issue, accord between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. immediately becomes of major significance. It is necessary, therefore, to guard against placing too optimistic an assessment on the measure of agreement, important as it has been. The major point of disagreement between the two countries still exists—the relationship between the Security Council and the two States which will come into being with the termination of the Mandate on May 1. Here is a problem which offers no possibility of compromise.

It is not surprising that the Jewish Agency has been warmer in its support for the American than for the Russian proposal on this issue, in view of the sad record of the Security Council with its endless arguments and vetoes—and the use of a veto may be extremely serious in the event of serious trouble developing in the Middle East. Nor is it unlikely that Britain may find herself in the position where she can maintain her traditional Middle Eastern policy only by the dexterous use of the veto, much as she has set her face against its use up to the present.

The proposal for the immediate establishment of a three-man or five-man Commission to proceed to Palestine, to take over responsibility for the termination of the Mandate and the interim period between the ending of the Mandate and the emergence of the Jewish and Arab States, has two definite advantages: firstly, it is proposed that the representatives shall be drawn from the smaller powers, thus eliminating the possibility of the friction between the three Big Powers being transported to Palestine, and, secondly, that these delegates shall be drawn from only those small Powers who supported partition. Both these safeguards are happily conceived.

The big question-mark is still Britain. At the time of going to press no official statement has yet come to hand indicating what Britain's attitude is likely to be. There is not the slightest doubt that an unhelpful and coldly sterile British policy may still freeze the warmth of American and Russian accord. No solution is possible without Britain's active support and co-operation—although no one suggests that she should be asked to make herself solely or even largely responsible for the manner in which the Mandate is terminated, or for the maintenance of peace and security during the interim period.

We do not believe that even Mr. Bevin in his most intransigent mood will be prepared to place on Britain's shoulders the responsibility for creating a fresh deadlock over the solution of the Palestine problem. The slightly injured and won't-play attitude adopted by Britain's delegates and by other official statesmen is a little petty, to say the least of it, in view of the graveness of the situation. Ever since the majority report of the United Nations' Commission recommended in favour of the termination of the Mandate, her official policy has been one of unhelpfulness. It is to be hoped, as much in the interest of Britain as of Palestine, that this attitude will not be reflected in the mandate which Mr. Creech Jones has received from the Cabinet. It is significant that most members of the British Commonwealth have refrained from making any comment on the U.S.A.-U.S.S.R. compromise agreement. There is the strong likelihood of Britain trying to ensure British bloc support for whatever policy she is to outline.

The arguments before the Boundaries Commission have gone better than we, perhaps, had the right to expect. Although the case of the Jewish Agency rested on well-founded facts and was reasonably argued, it was clear that the members of the Palestine Commission, including the chairman, were rigid in their opposition to any tampering with the boundaries proposed in the majority report. While emphasising the absolute necessity for all eleven proposed amendments being accepted by the General Assembly, it is perhaps too much to expect that the United Nations can be rallied to see the problems involved in precisely the same light as the Jewish Agency does. Up to the present six and a half of the eleven proposals have been tentatively acceded to by the Commission, while the others are still the subject of argument.

The main point at issue is the future of Western Galilee. This is the present Achilles heel in the majority plan. It has not yet been possible to convince the relevant committee to appreciate the true extent of the weakness in the proposal to sever Western Galilee from the Jewish State. It is one of the main bones of contention and it is still being chewed furiously by the contenders on both sides.

Slowly but surely the pattern of the future Jewish State is beginning to take shape. Painstakingly the Jewish Agency representatives have been able to persuade the relevant committee to lop off a ragged corner here and add a rounded contour there. Under the clumsy fingers of the diplomats it is not likely that a perfect model will evolve, but nevertheless the main outlines are beginning to emerge, and the drama of the age-old struggle for the establishment of a Jewish State moves to its sensational climax. The next few weeks will be grave and anxious times

Anti-Communist Front Planned by Arabs

JERUSALEM, Wednesday. — The "Palestine Post" correspondent in Cairo has cabled that discussions are believed to have been held in Beirut recently between the Premier of Iraq and Arab representatives for the creation of an anti-Communist front among the Arab countries.

This move follows the attitude of the Soviets towards the partition of Palestine. The Arabs consider that they were misled by Russia, whose policy is apparently in contradiction to the assurances given to several Arab States by the Soviet diplomatic representatives in the Middle Eastern capitals.

The same sources of information state that the delegates agreed to the suppression of the Palestine Arab Communist Party, which advocates collaboration with the Jews. They also considered a joint campaign for the suppression of the Communist Party and the outlawing of Communist propaganda would win British and American sympathy for the Arabs.

Arab League circles admit that the hope of Soviet support for the Arabs caused them to delay consideration of the anti-Communist campaign until now, but even so it has been agreed that the time has not yet arrived for carrying out the proposal since they might yet obtain some concessions from Britain and the U.S.

Tschaikowsky Festival Concert

At the Tschaikowsky Festival Concert, which takes place at the City Hall on Monday, November 17, at 8.15 p.m., Themeli, world-famous blind pianist, will play with the Johannesburg City Orchestra, under the baton of Warwick Braithwaite.

The Tschaikowsky Piano Concerto No. 1 and Tschaikowsky's 5th Symphony are among the major works to be performed at the Festival Concert.

LATE NEWS

LAKE SUCCESS, Thurs. — A late message states that after a good deal of discussion, the sub-committee agreed that the suburbs of Rishon Lezion, the Sarafand camp and the Lydda airport should be included in the Jewish State.

The committee at first wanted to give Lydda to the Arabs as the Jews were getting Haifa, but Mr. Shertok insisted that Lydda was primarily Jewish. M. Tsarapkin (Russia) said it would not be logical to keep the airport out of the Jewish State, and M. Pruszyński (Poland) said that for some years to come the Jews and not the Arabs would use the airport. The American delegate proposed as a compromise that the airport be placed in the Jewish State but that the Arab borders should begin at the south and north.

Mr. Shertok thanked the American delegate and said he was happy that America and Russia were unanimous concerning this important traffic juncture.

in the history of Zionism. On the whole the signs are promising, but we have been caught out in premature thanksgiving before to-day, so that the wise man will give himself neither the joy of over-optimism nor the bleak despair of super-pessimism. By striking the right balance between the two extremes we will fairly be reflecting the situation as it appears to us at the moment of writing.

Towards National Unity In Jewish Education

IF the preliminary conference of the S.A. Jewish Board of Education, held last week-end, is a fair reflection of the National Conference to be held shortly, then we feel that at last it is possible to see the emergence of full national unity in the vital field of Jewish education in South Africa.

With the likely affiliation of the United Hebrew Schools of Johannesburg it now remains only for the Cape Board of Jewish Education to follow this example, and so ensure that all the major educational institutions throughout the country are bound together into one central organisation following a uniform policy for all Jewish education. It is difficult to conceive what good reasons can be advanced to prevent the achievement of national unity, and thus ensuring its becoming a *fait accompli* by the time the National Conference convenes.

But if national unity is a desired objective—and everybody must agree that it is—then it is equally true to say that decentralised administration is of equal importance. It is for this reason that the decision to establish Regional Committees for Johannesburg and Transvaal, as a prelude to the establishment of Regional Committees for the remainder of the country, will be welcomed. This decision will ensure local control while retaining uniform and centralised planning. It is only along this road that a full programme of Jewish education can effectively be developed for the whole of South Africa.

The Zionist movement is vitally concerned with the education of Jewish youth, as the general secretary of the S.A. Zionist Federation explained in his message to the conference. It is essential that Zionism should be founded on a true basis of Jewish education.

While there is much to congratulate ourselves on in regard to the progress that has been made since the problem of Jewish education was seriously tackled, there are still so many obvious shortcomings and defects that we cannot afford the luxury of complacency. The achievement of an effective national organisation is only a forerunner to the real work of creating the necessary institutions and personnel for the implementation of a constructive programme of education.

As in the past, so, too, in the future, Jewish education will continue to draw inspiration from the men and women who have devoted so much time and effort towards the achievement of what we have to-day.