

# British Offer Does NOT Mean Free Palestine

Statement to UN Is Full of "Ifs" and "Buts"—Believed Aimed at Pressuring U. S. Acceptance of Morrison-Grady Plan

By AL FINDLEY

The statement by the British Colonial Secretary, Sir Arthur Creech-Jones, that Britain will withdraw from Palestine has the appearance of ending English imperialist rule in Palestine, but actually does no such thing.

The statement is so full of "ifs" and "buts" that it leaves the way open for the British to take any action they desire.

The Colonial Minister said that Britain agrees with the unanimous recommendation of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. He chose three points for special commendation: that the mandate be terminated, that Palestine become independent and that the displaced persons problem is an international one.

## INCITE ARAB VS. JEW

England's agreement with the first point is nothing new. The Colonial Office has long been claiming that the mandate is unworkable and has long been frustrating the demands of both Jews and Arabs with the argument that the mandate is contradictory and does not allow for the satisfaction of either group because of its obligations to the other. While assuming this pious role in public pronouncements, the history of Palestine for the past twenty-five years amply proves that Britain actively engaged in inciting Arab against Jew and Jew against Arab.

It is no surprise that Britain is for the independence of Palestine. There is no imperialist ruler of any colony that does not claim that its real rea-

son for holding the colony in subjection and exploiting its inhabitants is to prepare them for independence.

With the Colonial Minister's endorsement of the principle that the DP problem is an international responsibility, there can be no disagreement, but this cannot serve as a pretext for preventing a particular group of people—the Jews—from going where they want to go, and not where His Majesty's government wants to send them.

## IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS

The most sensational part of Creech-Jones' speech was the announcement that Britain would withdraw her forces from Palestine, with the implied threat that anarchy would result.

Britain's seeming readiness to withdraw is not exactly clear-cut and leaves the field open for her to take any action and still not be accused of inconsistency.

Neither the Jewish nor Arab masses of Palestine believe that the British will actually leave. Even the bourgeois leaders of both nationalities show little confidence in Britain's "threat."

Sir Arthur makes as a condition for a settlement of the Palestine problem, agreement between the present bourgeois leaders of Zionism and the semi-feudal leaders of the Arab Higher Committee. Anyone familiar with the problem knows that this is impossible. The only possibility for Arab-Jewish agreement lies with the peoples, against the wishes of their leaders.

One of the conditions set by Brit-

ain is that she is to be the judge of the "inherent justice" of the proposals. What Britain considers an "inherently just" solution of the Palestine problem is well known—the Morrison-Grady plan of last year, under which the British remain in complete control of the central administration of Palestine.

## U. S. DILEMMA

The main object of the present British statement, according to one report in the Jewish Morning Journal, is to force the United States to accept the Morrison-Grady plan and "sell" it to the Jews. It is a well-known fact that the U. S. does not want Britain to evacuate Palestine, because of the State Department's estimate of the strategic needs of the Anglo-American bloc.

United States imperialism is not quite ready to step in and take over, and at the same time is committed to help establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Taft, Dewey and Martin, leaders of the Republican Party, already have expressed their support of the UNSCOP plan. Truman and the Democrats have been placed on the horns of a dilemma by their British allies: either support us and lose the Jewish vote or we will throw the whole thing in your laps.

A week before the Creech-Jones statement, the Jewish press reported that the State Department was divided on the acceptance of the UNSCOP report and that a group of career diplomats had approached the permanent diplomatic staff of the Jewish Agency with proposals for a compromise along the lines of the Anglo-American Committee report and the Morrison-Grady plan. This of course explains Marshall's neutrality—Washington has not yet made up its mind.

## RUSSIA'S REACTION

Russia's Vishinsky reacted in a peculiar manner to the projected British evacuation from Palestine.

Although Russia has long demanded such evacuation, Vishinsky did not welcome it but denounced it by saying that it meant "the evacuation of the Jews." That is obviously untrue. The removal of British troops can only aid both the Jews and Arabs.

What Vishinsky inadvertently exposed was that Russia is not interested in getting the British out in order to make the country independent. Russia is only interested in substituting some arrangement whereby Stalinist imperialism can move in. Since this plan of British evacuation does not include such an arrangement, it does not serve Russia's purpose.

The liberals, the so-called "internationalists" of the UN variety, who pretend to be anti-imperialists, are all demanding that some form of imperialist army, whether British or UN, be used to impose a settlement in Palestine during a transition period.

These "anti-imperialists" ignore the fact that no transition period is necessary, that the country and the peoples are ready for immediate independence. Only the most unrealistic optimist can expect justice from the UN. Independence for both Jews and Arabs in Palestine can only be achieved by pressure of the colonial peoples and the workers of the world.

# Detroit Tenants Move

## Greater Detroit Tenants Council Gets Sample

By TOM WINTERS

DETROIT, Sept. 28—The past week was a busy one for the Greater Detroit Tenants' Council which was formed August 28 at the request of various Detroit tenants' councils with the aid of the Wayne County Council, CIO.

Although many Detroit tenants had long been agitating for a city-wide organization to co-ordinate the activities of all councils of Detroit, the Wayne County Council was slow in acting. Ben Probe, head of housing activities of the Wayne County CIO, appeared to be deeply concerned with the problems facing tenants but was unwilling to take those organizational steps on which real tenants' work rested. Finally, when the tenant pressure became great enough (and one must not forget that election time is getting pretty close), the Greater Detroit Tenants' Council was organized.

On August 28 the organizational

basis was laid. William G. Nicholas, director, international housing department, UAW-CIO, was elected chairman. Ben Probe, co-ordinator, 13th Congressional District, Wayne County CIO Council, was elected secretary-treasurer. It is interesting to note that the Greater Detroit Tenants' Council is still in the process of being formed and no doubt the members of the Executive Board will not be chosen by virtue of ability and amount of work done. This has already been too clearly demonstrated by Nicholas' choice for vice-president of the council, a Mr. Rosen, who is a tax consultant. Rosen's whole policy has been one of toning down any militant program suggested.

## CALL LANSING MARCH

On September 22, Nicholas called an emergency meeting of the most active people in the Greater Detroit Tenants' Council. The purpose of this meeting was to make plans for

## In Next Week's Labor Action:

"HENRY WALLACE—THE BIG WIND FROM IOWA,"

a full-page article by Jack Ranger.