

# Proposed Solution for Palestine

Partition is a bad solution. It splits up a small country which is a single economic unit. It creates long and artificial boundaries which appear impossible to maintain for any length of time. It neither suspends nor solves the Arab-Jewish problem. Even the realization of partition again puts the Jews face to face with the bi-national reality of its part of the country. In addition, there is the necessity of cooperation with the inhabitants of the neighboring Arab country in order to assure the development of the entire land and make possible a substantial immigration.

Nevertheless, one fact cannot be denied. As of today, the partition solution has concentrated great international support for Zionism and as a result is the only present hope for breaking the status quo which Bevin has imposed on Palestine.

How did this come about?

A) Through a mistaken policy, the Zionist movement wasted the opportunities for developing Jewish-Arab agreement and thus prepared the ground for partition from the objective viewpoint. The Biltmore program made partition the sole Zionist program presented to the world. This fact exerted a decided influence. The official Zionist line is not blameless in the partitioning of Palestine.

B) However, the most decisive factor which makes partition the immediate practical solution, is the international situation, particularly the relations between the great powers. The program of an undivided, bi-national Palestine involves a more or less lengthy transition period under actual international supervision. Only this can assure the development of the country for all of its inhabitants, the absorption of a large immigration, and the political and social preparation for an independent bi-national state.

The sharpening conflicts between the great powers and the impossibility of Soviet-American cooperation under present conditions makes real international supervision for any length of time an impossibility. This fact has led the Soviet Union to support the partition solution, despite its announced position that its "first choice" is a bi-national state including Jewish immigration and continued Zionist development.

The British statement concerning its abandonment of Palestine, militarily and administratively, by August 1, 1948, has increased the urgency of a political solution for the Palestine problem. Despite the normal hesitancy to believe any British statement on Palestine, the present announcement may be accepted. There are four reasons for the new British policy:

A) Defeat of British policy in Palestine and Jewish opposition to the "White Paper."

B) The lack of manpower in the

British Isles and the need for easing Britain's military obligations throughout the world.

(C) The British assumption that despite leaving Palestine, it will maintain a military hold in this area through its treaty with Transjordan which permits the maintenance of military bases in that country and the strengthening of the Transjordan Arab Legion.

D) The growing attitude in British military circles that the strategic importance of the Near East has greatly decreased in the face of overwhelming Soviet power situated so close to this area and the great distance from British and American bases.

To complete our understanding of the British policy, it should be mentioned that there is always the possibility that in the event of an actual partition, the Transjordan Arab Legion will conquer the Arab sector of Palestine and add it to Transjordan. In this fashion, Britain will maintain its right to military bases in Palestine itself (through its treaty with Abdullah).

One of the amazing manifestations of the present UN session is the Soviet position on Palestine. Undoubtedly there are strategic considerations involved in its stand: to support any solution which will remove British military forces from the country. But there is also implied the recognition of the strength and ability of the Jewish Yishuv as well as the right of the Jewish people to receive recompense for its sufferings and sacrifices during the last war. Yet this is not all. Apparently there is more to this Soviet stand than appears on the surface. Let us not ignore the influence which the Soviet stand must have on the masses of Soviet Jewry. Time will tell.

Even if partition will be achieved in the near future, we cannot entirely give up the hope for an undivided Palestine and Jewish-Arab cooperation. Such cooperation will be essential within the proposed Jewish state as well as between the Jewish and the Arab states. The economic union proposed by the UNSCOP as a prerequisite for the existence of both countries can become the basis for an increased program of mutual aid between the two parts of the population and the two states. The necessity for economic cooperation and the development of political relations can be the source of a decisive change with the passage of time.

This will be one of the vital tasks of progressive Zionism—to take advantage of all possibilities for immigration, for settlement, for development in whatever new political conditions are established and to penetrate deeply into the Jewish Yishuv and the Arab community in order to lay a strong foundation for Jewish-Arab peace.

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