

ALL NEW STATE'S ENERGY IS DEDICATED TO DEFENSE

Immigration, Colonization, Finances Wait on the Outcome of Battles

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JERUSALEM, May 15—The embattled new independent Jewish state is a parliamentary democracy, with a thirteen-man Cabinet, a Provisional Council or Parliament of thirty-seven. Its center of government is Tel Aviv and its spiritual and cultural capital is Jerusalem.

The first point on its program is defense, for while it bases itself legally on the United Nations Assembly's partition decision of Nov. 29, 1947, it must prove its ability to live by the force of arms.

Second on its program and the *raison d'être* of the state is immigration. A quarter of a million Jewish DP's in Central Europe and hundreds of thousands of others will now be beating on the doors of the offices of the Jewish state instead of those of Great Britain. While a goal of 150,000 immigrants in the first year has been set, it is unlikely that in the midst of battle the state can take more than 80,000 or 100,000, and the new Jewish authorities will be put in the awkward position of having to keep would-be immigrants out.

Immigration Schedule

Immigrants will be brought first from Cyprus, second from DP camps and third from Jewish communities in the Arab states. The latter are under increasing pressure as a result of the Arab defeats in Palestine.

Third on the program is colonization and economic development, which alone can make room for an additional large population. New settlements will be established in Galilee and the Negeb Desert, but much depends on industrialization.

Fourth is the plan to raise the standard of living of the Arab inhabitants of the state. That is thought to be essential if they are eventually to live peacefully side by side with the Jews.

Alongside this program goes on the fight for full international recognition. Without recognition, the Jewish state cannot negotiate with other states; its mail will not be accepted by the International Postal Union; its telegrams, sent over its radio transmitters, will not be received by authorized receivers in other countries. It cannot obtain loans from other states and its chances of getting private loans would be diminished.

The New Chiefs

It is generally accepted that Dr. Chaim Weizmann will become the first President of state after the period of provisional organization is over. The average age of the Cabinet members is between 50 and 60. They were approved by the Zionist General Council, which met at Tel Aviv last month. They were originally selected by their respective parties in strength according to the proportions of the last elections to the Jewish National Council, in October, 1946.

Beneath the state administration there will be seven district commissioners. Local administration already being run by the Jews will remain unchanged.

It is planned to have elections within two months, but the overshadowing strife will probably cause a postponement. Meanwhile the Council will begin debating projects for a Constitution. Some have been prepared. The drift appears to be toward a strong executive and a unicameral legislature. At each stage of construction of the government's institutions provision will be made for the admission of Arab representatives when they are willing to participate.

Internal Organization

The easiest task of this state is internal administration. The Jewish Agency itself and independent health and educational institutions have long been in existence. Large numbers of Jews worked in the offices of the British Mandate Government.

In the past two or three months the Jews have been practically "running themselves." As the mandate disintegrated they began operating their own police force, got

the railways in their own areas going, started their own courts and opened their own postoffices.

Defense of the new state will be entrusted to Haganah, whose full membership is around 85,000. But the number of men trained and equipped for front-line fighting is small, probably not more than 20,000. So long as Haganah maintains the initiative, it can shift its shock troops, the Palmach, where they will count most. But should the Arabs launch an offensive at many points, Haganah's second stringers will be put to a severe test.

Munition Supplies

Mortars and Sten guns of excellent quality are already being manufactured in the Jewish State. It is not certain whether the special 6-inch mortar called the "David King of Israel" and used in the Katamon and Bab el-Wad battles was made here or obtained from Czechoslovakia. Artillery, parts of which were imported while other parts were manufactured locally, is now being brought into play. The next stage will be the introduction of light tanks and combat aircraft, which the Arabs also are obtaining from Syria, Iraq and Egypt.

One of the unsolved security problems facing Defense Minister David Ben-Gurion is what to do about the long-term defense of remote Jewish settlements. Since some of them are not in Israel, it will scarcely be possible permanently to maintain Haganah units there.

Mr. Ben-Gurion has said that the Jews would continue to defend settlements in the Arab areas if they are attacked. The Jews will not be content merely to defend the frontiers of their state. Indeed, the frontiers are more or less theoretical. They begin wherever Jewish defenses begin.

The internal budget, excluding military expenses, will be about \$60,000,000 a year. A \$20,000,000 internal loan has been floated. But foreign exchange to buy arms and food outside will have to come for some years from the contributions of world Jewry, primarily in the United States, followed by South Africa and Britain. Funds raised in the United States will be vital.

Money will be based on the dollars raised in the United States. Dependence on such funds will be heightened if Britain persists in blocking Palestinian assets.

Under the partition plan economic affairs were to run jointly with the Arab state. The non-existence of an Arab state in Palestine therefore poses a serious economic problem in addition to the political and military problems.

Authoritarian Movements

Many an observer has felt a tendency to authoritarianism in the nascent Jewish state. That is perhaps inevitable in a time of struggle. Such a tendency may be strengthened by an influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe and by an influx of Oriental Jews, who are the rank and file of the dissident organizations, Irgun Zvai Leumi on the extreme right and the Stern group on the extreme left. The Oriental Jews from Yemen, Iraq, Syria and elsewhere have a birth rate so much higher than that of the others that it is thought that eventually they will be a majority.

Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Revisionist party, which persist in claiming all Palestine and Trans-Jordan for the Jews, have won many new adherents in the last few months. The Stern group and the Communist party have few adherents. Communism in the Jewish state is an overrated bogey. Zionist nationalism is strong and unwilling to submit to Russian dictates. Moreover, the working population is overwhelming socialistic in outlook. It opposes communism as much as do Socialist parties in Europe.

The situation does not favor the growth of communism. There is no despair or extremes of wealth and poverty in the Jewish areas but hope and a fairly even, modest standard of living.