U.S. Position in Europe Hurt By Soviet 'Offers,' Palestine
By C. L. SULZBERGERSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
New York Times (1857-Current file); May 25, 1948; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - pg. 6

U. S. Position in Europe Hurt By Soviet 'Offers,' Palestine

Anglo-American Relations Are at New Low While Russia Pushes 'Peace' Propaganda

By C. L. SULZBERGER
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, May 24—That Anglo-American relations have suddenly dropped to a new and astonishing low level as a result of the Palestine war is an open secret throughout the capitals of Western Europe. This in itself is sufficient cause for alarm.

At the same time London is more than worried about American conceptions of the future of the sterling bloc. Paris and London are nervous about Washington's ineptitude in dealing with the hard-hitting Soviet propaganda offensive labeled "peace." They are anxious about what is thought to be an important section of American military opinion counseling strategic planning on the assumption of an occupied Europe — if war ever comes.

At the same time international communism is doing its best to paint the United States Government as a warmonger, which is refusing even to consider accepting the olive branch extended by the Kremlin. There is reason to believe that the same former Comintern agents who sponsored Henry A. Wallace's visit to France supported the idea of the Iowan's letter to Premier Stalin.

Sends Open Letter to Wallace

Pierre Cot, French pro-Communist Deputy from Haute Savoie, was one of the group, which has representatives also in New York. Two days ago M. Cot sent Mr. Wallace an open letter of his own. Moscow is driving hard to split the Western coalition.

American diplomats themselves are not happy about Washington's policy on Palestine. Some of them feel not only that it is too abruptly based on political conceptions at home but also that itis damaging long-range American interests in the Middle East. Typical of this feeling is the resignation of S. Pinkney Tuck, former Ambassador to Egypt.

The State Department's envoys both in the Middle East and in Europe were exceedingly embarrassed by what they considered the precipitate speed of the de facto recognition of Israel.

This applies to Lewis W. Douglas in London, Jefferson Caffery in Paris, Mr. Tuck in Cairo, George Wadsworth in Baghdad as well as others. They had no official word of the recognition step until hours after it had appeared on the news agency tickers.

This confused situation has played hob with the careful erection of a Western structure of friendship and alliance. It has not broken the structure, but it has strained it seriously. Britain and the United States have been working hand in hand in the Mediterranean since the North African invasion. They have had differences, but none as serious or as public as this one.

Their strategic interests have remained parallel. British and American fleets have carefully coordinated their base facilities and "courtesy" visits in the inland sea for two years.

2 Nations Strengthen Cyprus

Quietly the two nations have been working out plans jointly to strengthen Cyprus as a naval and air base. Cyprus now has facilities to care for 30,000 men, and for the first time is really beginning to live up to its traditional reputation —an arrow pointed toward Asia. An American Consulate General has been established there.

But this project as well as other is now on uneasy foundations because of the irritations aroused over Palestine. If the situation continues to deteriorate and the United States lifts the arms embargo on shipments to Israel, London and Washington will be, de facto, aiding different sides in a complicated new "Spanish" situation. The only big power that would benefit is the Soviet Union.

United States diplomacy is now quietly trying to relieve some of these stresses. Britain is not so strong as she would like to be in the Middle East—which is one reason why she doesn't feel free to maneuver with ease on the Palestine issue.

The British position in Iraq is shakier than is generally known. There is fierce complaint in Baghdad and Basrah that Iraq is not benefiting enough from the profits of the Iraq Petroleum Company, a British Government-controlled concern. The company artificially limits its profits to a minimum on each barrel, and the Iraqi Government can share only in those profits. The rest, through devious bookkeeping, goes to holding companies.

Would Give More to Iraq

American diplomacy has recommended that Britain ease that tension by granting Iraq a greater share in the profits or by giving one of the refineries outright to the Iraqis.

There has been feverish activity by American diplomats during the last week to reassure European capitals concerning the over-all Anglo-American harmony, to erase suspicions created by new Soviet efforts to split the Allies under the guise of "peace," and to seek some formula for solving the Palestine impasse.

If the war goes on, both British and Americans believe it will be a long-drawn-out battle once the Arabs hit the real lines of the Israeli defenses. The British had conjectured that when that happened, many bored Arabs would drift home again, facilitating a stalemate and negotiations. They feel that Washington's recognition of Israel has hampered the chances of such development.

Both British and Americans are working hard to prevent any possibility of pogroms in Middle Eastern lands if and when the Arab invaders suffer their first real defeat. It is thought that there is small risk of such riots in Egypt.

There is keen anxiety in Western Europe to bring the earliest possible halt to the Middle Eastern chaos. Otherwise, it is reasoned, a dangerous vacuum will be created that might suck the Soviet Union into that tense area.

Furthermore, it is felt that if the Palestine struggle continues many weeks it would find the Allies split, with Britain perforce taking up a position against a United States somewhat embarrassed by the enthusiastic support of Moscow.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.