

America, Palestine and the White Paper

ALL friends of the Jews in Palestine, Zionists and non-Zionists alike, were disappointed by the news that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee decided to defer action on the Palestine resolution which had already been approved by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. This means that the likelihood of action by the present session of Congress on the Palestine resolution has been ruled out.

The resolution, it will be recalled, supported a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine and its main practical significance was its opposition to the unjust and unfair White Paper policy which still prevails in Palestine.

Immediately after the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted to defer action on the Palestine resolution, the State Department issued a statement in which it said: "The department has the utmost sympathy for the persecuted Jewish people of Europe and has been assisting them through active support of the work of the War Refugee Board in every possible way.

"The department considers, however, that the passage of the resolution at the present time would be unwise from the standpoint of the general international situation and has so informed the Committee on Foreign Relations."

Some may tend to interpret the State Department's statement and the action of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a manner which will weaken the fight against the White Paper. This would be incorrect.

By Abraham Chapman

THE policy of the United States government with regard to the Chamberlain White Paper in Palestine has been expressed very clearly by President Roosevelt on a number of occasions. President Roosevelt has declared unequivocally that the United States government never gave its approval to the 1939 White Paper. There is no defense whatsoever of the White Paper in the State Department's statement and there is no shift away from the United States government's stated policy of non-approval of the White Paper.

The State Department's statement does not oppose the Palestine resolution but states that "the passage of the resolution at the present time would be unwise from the standpoint of the general international situation."

The "general international situation" referred to by the State Department is quite clear. Serious differences of opinion have arisen between America and Great Britain on Greece, Italy and Belgium. These differences of opinion are to be resolved in the interests of the anti-Hitler coalition. The State Department points out that at this time it would be unwise for the United States government to act on the Palestine resolution.

This should in no way weaken the popular movement against the White Paper. The people, labor, the Jewish organizations will continue to express America's disapproval of the White Paper and will press for its immediate abrogation.

A few days ago, the Jewish Agency for Pal-

estine submitted a memorandum to the British government which deserves not only careful attention but popular support by the widest possible circles in the United States.

AS THE leading spokesman of the Zionist aspirations, the Jewish Agency for Palestine reiterates the demand of the majority in the Zionist movement for a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. The practical significance of the Jewish Agency's memorandum are the following three immediate perspectives which call for popular support:

1. The demand for the immediate abrogation of the White Paper.
2. The perspective of agreement between America, Britain and the Soviet Union for a joint policy on the future status of Palestine.
3. The insistence on Jewish-Arab unity and cooperation.

These three central and crucial perspectives for a just solution of Palestine's problems call for the support of all Jews and all anti-fascists, including those Jews and anti-fascists who are not supporters of the political Zionist program.

Support for the proposals of the Jewish Agency memorandum and further development of the fight against the White Paper are urgent tasks facing the American Jews. The American Jewish Conference, the most representative center of Jewish unity in the United States, is the logical body to mobilize American public opinion for the realization of these tasks.