

U. S. PALESTINE AIM HELD ECONOMIC TIE

Shift Will Stress Autonomy
of 2 States—Powers Hopeful
Arabs Will Attend Talks

By MALLORY BROWNE

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LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., March 13—The United States still has some real hopes that the Arabs will accept the invitation of the United States, France and China to consult with them on Palestine next Monday.

But if these hopes are disappointed, the United States delegation is determined to keep on trying to find a peaceful solution to the Palestine problem within the framework of the General Assembly's plan. The basis of these continued American efforts, it was learned from an authoritative source today, will be a shift in emphasis from partition to "economic union."

As Warren R. Austin phrased it today in a speech in New York, the Assembly's plan provides for Jews and Arabs "to live together in economic union, with autonomy for two states and a special regime for Jerusalem."

The United States delegation believes that it has already made some progress in getting this new point accepted by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. The statements made yesterday by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Moshe Shertok, Jewish Agency leaders, while repeating that the partition plan constituted an "irreducible minimum" from the Agency's point of view, also envisaged the possibility of eventual agreement with the Arabs of Palestine after the plan had been accepted and implemented.

The Jewish Agency's spokesmen also emphasized the practical importance of economic union to the proposed Jewish state in the future, while declaring at the same time that failure to achieve economic union at present would not in the Jewish Agency's opinion constitute an obstacle to implementing partition.

Partition Called Misnomer

The attitude of the United States delegation is that the provisions for economic union in the General Assembly plan contain in fact a sufficiently broad basis upon which agreement in practice between Jews and Arabs should be possible. From the first, the United States has emphasized its conviction that the General Assembly's plan was wrongly termed the partition plan. The provisions for economic union in this plan are regarded by the United States as broad enough to justify the plan being called federation if one chose to call it by that name.

The United States delegation believes further that the Arabs in Palestine would be willing to work in practice on the basis of such a broad economic union. The idea would be that both the Jewish and the Arab states would have their own representatives at the United Nations and in this respect would be completely sovereign states. But at the same time, the union between them—and also between them and the proposed special regime for Jerusalem—would necessarily be so close that in fact, if not in name, it would amount virtually to federation.

Acceptance Is Doubted

Whether these views are actually acceptable to the Jewish Agency and the Arab Higher Committee is doubtful. But the United States delegation remains convinced that this kind of approach to the Palestine problem holds the only possibilities of a peaceful solution.

The delegation leaders are, of course, aware that by adhering to a compromise policy they are laying themselves open to charges, on the one hand, of abandoning partition, and on the other, of refusing to face the unpleasant realities, as Arab opposition to the partition plan.

In spite of this criticism, the United States, it was learned authoritatively, intends to keep on hammering away in the Security Council in the hope that sufficient backing can be obtained for this view to rally both Jews and Arabs ultimately to its support.

The United States delegation, it was stated, does not favor a special session of the General Assembly to reconsider the plan as a whole. It believes that prospects of getting an agreed solution in the long run would be greater by trying to work within the framework of the existing plan.

If the Arabs reject the invitation to join in the consultation of the powers on Monday morning, then it now looks as if there will be no agreed recommendation made to the Security Council at its afternoon session. It is now regarded as virtually certain that each of the Big Four will make a separate report to the Council as to what "guidance and instructions" should be given by the Security Council to the Palestine commission.