

United States, the cultural and industrial center of the world, that would be a loss from which civilization possibly could never recover.

The protection of Europe need not mean that Japan and the great island defense ring around the Pacific will be left wholly undefended or abandoned, but Japan lies too far from the center of Russia and too close to the Russian air-bases in Siberia to be converted into a primary staging area for a possible attack on the Kremlin world-destroyers.

The natural direction for an American attack is not from Japan nor from or over Alaska, but across the North Atlantic, Greenland, and Iceland. As for the Siberian bases, with our present long-range bombers, no near-by base, such as Japan, is necessary to render them vulnerable. Attacks on Russia in Asia from Japan, other parts of the Far East (especially Guam and Okinawa), and from Alaska, would be secondary in importance, but that is, of course, not to say that such points should be or would be entirely neglected.

Our belief is that the Moscow plotters of democracy's downfall will not at all have like the reports which came out of Tokyo nor the implications to which, even though the reports were denied, they have given rise. They serve as another and very stern warning of deadly intent: We would attack the center along the shortest, most direct route.

AFTER the foregoing editorial was written, the official denials referred to resulted in the disclosure by Tokyo correspondents that the reports were based on statements made by Secretary Royall in a press interview given just before he left Japan.

Certain of the Secretary's statements were now directly quoted, and one of them was:

"I am not certain that we could hold Japan, nor am I certain that it would be worth while as long as we have Okinawa and the Philippines which are relatively safer and from which we would be able to mount strategic air-attacks without [the necessity of] undertaking the task of feeding 80,000,000 civilians."

This led the *Manila Times* to ask:

"We don't know much about Okinawa. But as far as the Philippines is concerned, if it is Mr. Royall's design to use the Philippines as an attack-base, what are his plans for the defense of this attack-base?"

"Does he contemplate using a tiny portion of the Philippines, the Clark Field-Stotsenburg area, as the launching site of an air-offensive against a possible foe on the Asian land mass?"

"Does he realize that this alone will expose the whole Philippines to counter-attack?"

The *Times* pointed out in conclusion:

"Large as the question of the defensibility of Japan may loom in the overall picture, the question of the defense of the Philippines looms larger here."

There can be no question that as long as the United States maintains military bases in the Philippines as it has a treaty-right to do, it is committed to the defense of the Philippines.

In this connection we ask for enlightenment on something that has long puzzled us.

Why are the Philippine Scouts being disbanded?

Certainly this would seem to be most untimely in view of world conditions; also most unwise, both from the political and military viewpoints, so long as the United States maintains military bases here.

One of the most remarkable events in all history is the re-establishment after two millennia of the Jewish nation, signalized in Jerusalem last month by the swearing in of Dr. Chaim Weizmann as the first President of Israel.

Meaning of the Re-born Israel.

This inauguration was followed a week later by the signing of an armistice with Egypt, negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations, to date one of its most notable achievements. With six other Arab nations joining the movement for peace, armed Arab opposition, which should never have developed,* to the Israel resurgence, has been brought to a virtual end.

This is the realization not only of the Zionist movement, which had its inception around a hundred years ago though it hardly got under way until the years just preceding the first World War, but of the dream to which the Jewish people have clung with unshakeable loyalty and faith during the whole of the eighteen centuries of dispersion which followed the destruction of their Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans.

It is a fine thing that two Christian nations have led in the advocacy of the re-establishment of the Jewish Homeland, — England and America. Among the great proponents of the policy were Lloyd George, Woodrow Wilson, Arthur James Balfour, Jan Smuts, Lord Milner, Henry Cabot Lodge, Lord Robert Cecil, Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, and Harry Truman.

The persecution of the Jews in Poland gave Zionism its first impetus, but the hideous mass murders of the Jews in Germany under Hitler served in large part to give the movement its final strength after the second World War.

The Jewish determination was not to be broken even by the dualism which developed in the British attitude, beginning with the Chamberlain appeasement policy toward Hitler and Mussolini, who were stirring up the Arabs, and carried on even after the war by certain British civil servants.

The return to Palestine has been a largely spiritual, idealistic, and democratic enterprise. It was the Jews who gave modern civilization the basic concepts of its religion. It may well be that the Jews will now set the world a new example of an ethical modern national and social life. At any rate, their form of colonization on a collectivist basis, constituting a virtual revolution through cooperation and construction under the ideal of highly dedicated labor, will serve as a valuable foil to the capitalistic democracy of the United States and the socialism of England, — not to mention the "communism" of Russia.

Though the storm of charges and counter-charges in the Philippines Senate broke so tardily that it appears to have been precipitated chiefly by clashing presidential ambitions, the exposure of the rank corruption in the high government circles is all to the good.

The present conflict may not be one in which (as yet) all the forces of righteousness are on the one side and all the forces of evil on the other, and still it is all to the good.

If they could not be otherwise exposed, it is well that the crooks fell out among themselves and now in some instances expose each other.

The corruption has long been a more or less open secret, and it is healthy to have it opened to the full view, just as it is salutary that a suppurating abscess breaks even without the use of a knife.

The rest is up to the people, and to the Government in so far as it remains honest.

* See editorial in the November, 1947, Journal.