

PALESTINE PROBLEM

Arabs Uncompromising In Stand, Says Writer

By PAUL TABORI

JERUSALEM, Oct. 9—(Reuters)—I watched recently as police swiftly and efficiently roped off a section of busy Ben Yehuda st., stopping and questioning passers by. One small Jew with a wife and five children three times tried to cross the street to reach the bus terminal opposite. Each time he was stopped.

In some way he symbolized the Palestine problem and the bewilderment of the Jews at their treatment by the British Labor government from which they expected improved conditions.

The British White Paper, limiting immigration to Palestine to 75,000 Jews from 1939, still is in effect. Originally it was intended to cover a five-year period but the time limit was extended so the quota could be filled.

For the last six days I have roamed through Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and talked to Arab and Jewish leaders and men in the street.

Canadian-born Dr. Joseph, deputy head of the political department of the Jewish agency, who in the absence of Jewish leaders in London is top spokesman for the Jews, said:

"We can absorb 100,000 immigrants in a month, not in a year," he said.

Dr. Joseph denied that Russia banned Jewish emigration out of her zone and said hundreds of Jews were on the way from Rumania and Bulgaria with legal exit and entry permits.

The Arab view was put to me by two distinguished leaders who, however, insisted on remaining anonymous if they were to speak frankly.

For three hours they expounded the Arab view. This was stern and uncompromising and rather more emotional than based on reason.

The younger Arab said: "It is regrettable that the Jews should

suffer in Europe after suffering persecution for more than a decade, but this is not our fault and the Arabs cannot accept disadvantages because the Nazis persecuted the Jews."

The other Arab leader said: "Arab unity was never stronger and prompt action will be taken if any unjust concession is made to the Jews. The only solution is a complete ban on immigration until a just settlement is worked out."

JERUSALEM, Oct. 9—(AP)—Palestine Jews walked out in a five-hour general strike Monday in protest against a British limitations on immigration into the country.

The strike was carried out without disorders. The workers merely left their jobs, attended mass meetings throughout Palestine and held prayer sessions for the dead and molested.

At Tel Aviv about 50,000 Jews attending a mass meeting adopted a resolution demanding abrogation of the British White Paper which limits Jewish immigration into Palestine to 75,000 since 1939. All shops were closed and traffic was halted in Tel Aviv.

