

TEXT I - VII

I

Ever since AD 70, when the Romans destroyed the last independent Jewish state, the Jews have always hoped to return to their promised land of Israel. In 1897 the Zionist movement was created. Its basic aim was to set up the state of Israel in Palestine. In 1917 the British government sympathised with the Zionists and its Foreign Secretary, A.J. Balfour, made the Balfour Declaration. The government viewed 'with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people'.

After the First World War Palestine, a colony of defeated Turkey, was handed over to Britain by the San Remo Conference of 1920 as a **mandate** (see the map on page 35). This meant that Britain was to run the country until Palestine was in a position to run itself. The Arabs of Palestine felt cheated. They, along with all of Turkey's Arab subjects, had been promised in 1915 by Sir Henry MacMahon independence if they helped the British against Turkey. They did assist the British war effort and yet only Saudi Arabia became properly independent. What angered the Palestinians even more was the fact that now Jews were to be allowed into the country without any consultation with them.

IV

In November 1943 at the Teheran Conference Roosevelt promised Stalin that Anglo-US forces would open up a second front provided the Soviet Union agreed to declare war on Japan after Germany's defeat. But Churchill's objections to the plan delayed the invasion from 1943 to 1944. He insisted that a successful invasion of Italy would help draw German troops from France into Italy and so the invasion would meet less resistance when it took place.

VI

To the astonishment of the world, on 24 August 1939, the Russian Foreign Minister, Molotov, and his Nazi opposite number, Ribbentrop, announced the signing of the Nazi-Soviet Non-Agression Pact in which both countries promised not to fight each other for 10 years.

II

The two super powers seemed on the brink of a nuclear war. Then Khrushchev ordered the ships to turn around and agreed to remove the missiles. It was a massive defeat for the Soviets. Two years later Khrushchev was removed from office in disgrace.

There were, though, some benefits from the crisis. A direct telephone link was installed between the White House and the Kremlin. The following year the two leaders signed the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by which they and Great Britain agreed not to test nuclear weapons in the atmosphere.

III

In February 1945 Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill met at Yalta in the Crimea in Russia to discuss what was to be done in Europe once Germany had surrendered. There was agreement on most issues. Germany was to be divided temporarily into three zones of Allied occupation, and a fourth, that of France was added later. Berlin was to be divided in the same way, as was Austria and Vienna.

V

The presidential election of 1932 proved an easy victory for the Democratic candidate, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, over the Republican, Hoover. Hoover's slogans of 'a chicken in every pot', 'a car in every garage' rang hollow to most Americans who believed that Hoover's ideas of self-reliance or 'rugged individualism' would do nothing to improve the economy. Roosevelt, on the other hand, promised vast government expenditure to stimulate demand and create jobs.

VII

Gorbachev, like other Soviet leaders before him, is committed to a major reform of the Soviet system of government. He wants to see more effective decision-making at a local level.