NO DOUBTS FOR MRS. SILVERMAN

Interview With A Zionist

By a Staff Reporter

OU may or may not surrender to Mrs. Silverman, Zionist delegate now in New Zealand, but you will certainly sit up and take notice of her. It is doubtful if she is 60 inches high, and in addition she is 61 years old, she says—though she looks 10 years younger—and a grandmother; but let a doubt creep into a question about Palestine and you will yourself be asked so many questions in the next three minutes that you will hesitate before you speak again.

She is dramatic, eloquent, sarcastic, fiery, one after the other and all together, and just when you have thought out an answer to a rhetorical flood she drops her hands and her eyes and her voice and you have the choice between brutality and silence. It was the Mufti a moment ago; Ibn Saud, or the scoundrel Nahas Pasha. But suddenly it is her people, Hitler's victims in Europe, Britain's vacillations and delays in Palestine, and there is blood where she is

looking on the floor—blood and tears—and your questions die on your lips.

Where We Began

I was certainly unfortunate in my day. The papers the night before had reported a statement by the Colonial Secretary that Jewish terrorists were interfering with the war effort, and this report had been repeated in the morning papers and amplified by an appeal from the Officer Commanding our troops in the Middle East.

Conversation began there.

Had I seen that report—that bundle of lies and malice written to injure her people?

"I saw a statement by Mr. Stanley."

"Mr. Stanley did not write it. It came from that scoundrel Nahas Pasha—now, thank God, driven out of office. I deplore the acts of irresponsible Jews, but tell me this, sir! Why should the Jews be holier than everyone else? If we are a nation we are entitled to so many gangsters, so many thieves, so many prostitutes, so many murderers. Why should the Jews only be saints?"

It did not seem reasonable, and I said so, but I spoke too soon.

"They were not Jewish terrorists, anyhow. Jews do not murder or rob anyone. Those outrages were caused by hired assassins—Arab gangsters brought in from Trans-Jordania, Iraq and Syria."

Arabs and Jews

It was necessary to be more careful. So I asked if the Arabs and Jews already in Palestine—not the politicians but the ordinary people of both nations—were living harmoniously. Did friendships exist between them, and was there free coming and going in their homes and businesses?

"That question answers itself, sir. Listen. When I first went to Palestine 95 per cent of the new-born Arab babies had trachom — an eye-infection that when neglected leads to blindness. It was heart-breaking to see flies clinging in masses to their lids and the child-dren too listless to brush them away.

(continued on next page)



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