

The Line-up In Palestine

British preparation for a major military offensive in Palestine poses the question: Will the Jewish and Arab peoples unite to resist?

The British have 100,000 troops in Palestine. They have 200,000 more concentrated at the Suez Canal. British and American business interests are tightening their hold on the economic resources—especially oil—of Palestine and of the whole Middle East.

The British Labor Government—like the Tory Government earlier—bases its claim to Palestine on the 1923 League of Nations mandate. It has shown no interest in surrendering this mandate to the United Nations.

Instead, an Anglo-American commission was set up outside the UN to work out a "solution." It proposed partition of Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states with a British Commissioner to run the works.

Here's how the Jewish and Arab community has lined up in the past.

The 650,000 Jews:

THE JEWISH AGENCY (ZIONIST) has official British recognition as spokesman for the Jewish community. It consents to the partition plan, and offers military bases to the British.

One of its spokesmen, David Ben Gurion, came out against United Nations trusteeship. Another, Goldie Meerson, indicated that brotherhood of Jews and Arabs depends on prior formation of a Jewish state. The Agency represents Jewish big business which is linked to British capital.

THE HISTADRUTH—Jewish labor federation—contains groups which sometimes oppose the official Zionist leadership and press for anti-imperialist policies, trade union democracy, Arab-Jewish cooperation. These are the Hashomer Hatzair, Tnuva Leahduth Haaveda and Poale Zion.

THE UNDERGROUND GROUPS (Irgun, with about 10,000 members and Stern Gang with about 400 members) utilize the exasperation of the Jewish masses against colonial rule and commit individual acts of terror. However, they have broken strikes, formed connections with Mussolini and world fascism and conducted anti-Arab provocations. They want to turn Palestine into an exclusive Jewish state.

The 1,110,000 Arabs:

THE ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE was founded in 1945 by the traditional reactionary parties of the Arab feudal landlords. They oppose equal rights for both Jews and Arabs, support the anti-Soviet plans of British and American imperialists and of Arab League leaders, concentrate their fire on Arab progressives and approve British rule over Palestine (if it is used against the Jews). In return, the British regard them as the only spokesmen for the Arab community.

ARAB PROGRESSIVES, still weak, are organized in the Arab Trade Union Congress, League for National Liberation, League of Intellectuals and Congress of the Fellaheen (peasantry). They fight against colonial oppression, for independence, for a democratic regime, for cooperation between Arab and Jewish workers. They demand that the Palestine question be placed before the UN.

Communists:

The Communist Party of Palestine seeks Jewish-Arab agreement for:

1. An end to the British mandate; evacuation of British military forces; assistance of the UN in establishing Palestine's independence.
2. A democratic Arab-Jewish state which assures full equality of national and civil rights for both peoples.
3. Jewish-Arab agreement on the immigration question as part of an anti-imperialist agreement to fight together for liberation of the country.

The Communist party opposes partition which is "liable to strangle the economic development of both peoples, to increase national antagonism and to enslave the Jews and Arabs ever more to imperialism."