

Palestine Communists Call For Arab-Jewish Front Against British

By THEODORE REPARD

Article II.

The Zionist leadership has placed thousands of oppressed Jews between the anvil of British imperialism and the hammer of Arabian revolt.

The Zionist press now brands the Arabs as bandits, marauders, pogromists. But do bandits call and carry through general strikes? Do bandits raise political issues, such as national independence, stoppage of further Jewish immigration, prohibition of sales of lands to Jews? To dismiss the present situation as simply that of restoring "peace and order" against "bandits" — as the Zionist press does — is simply to prepare the ground for worse clashes.

In an editorial on Sunday, the Jewish Day takes the Palestinian Communists to task for forming a united front with the Arabs.

Let us see what kind of united front the editors of the Jewish Day have formed and wish to strengthen.

Margoshes' Column

On April 23, Dr. S. Margoshes, editor of the Jewish Day, wrote as follows in his column:

"In this dark hour in the life of the Jews in Palestine, every pronouncement of a prominent friend comes to us like solace to sore wounds. It is in the nature of such solace that we regard the statement made by Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor General of Canada:

"Palestine," he said, "holds the key to the strategic position on the great route between the East and West [i.e., the British Empire's "life-line" to India—T. R.]. The war in Abyssinia has caused most of us to reflect upon the safeguarding of that highroad. To have a strong, contented Palestine will be, in the future, of incalculable value to the British Empire. FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW, ZIONISM HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT TO GREAT BRITAIN. Nor must we forget that at a time when most countries are restricting immigration, Palestine is the one city of refuge left to the persecuted." [Our emphasis—T.R.]

Nobody need take British imperialism's "sympathy" for the "persecuted" seriously. But what must be taken seriously is the kind of "solace" Dr. Margoshes would like to apply to the "sore wounds" of the Jewish people. Here it is: "Zionism

has never been more important than at this moment to Great Britain."

Arabs Outnumber Jews

We have seen that the Arabs outnumber the Jews in Palestine even today by at least three to one, that Palestine itself is but about one-sixtieth of the whole Arabian world, that it has been Arabian for 1300 years and finally, that the Arabian nationalist movement preceded the Balfour Declaration which signals its betrayal by British imperialism.

Obviously, the Palestinian Jews—six: out of seven have lived less than twenty years in Palestine, two out of seven less than two years!—cannot cope with this movement alone. A Zionist state in Palestine can be erected only over the corpse of the Arabian nationalist movement. Just as the British encouraged Jewish immigration as a buffer against the Arabs, so the Zionist leaders need and welcome British support against the Arabs.

The recognized leaders of Zionism have endorsed this arrangement. David Ben-Gurion, outstanding international leader, declared at the Zionist Congress in Geneva last year that any opinion not to cooperate with the British Government "is an act of treachery against the aspirations and redemption of the Jewish people." Another Zionist leader, Professor Selig Brodetsky of London, stated at the same Congress: "The basis of our activity is and will also be in the future—the attachment towards Great Britain."

Divide and Rule

It will be seen that Dr. Margoshes was but carrying out an international line when he found "solace" in Lord Tweedsmuir's "generosity."

The question must be put bluntly: In an Arabian revolt against British rule, do the Zionists side with the Arabs or with the British?

The Zionist leaders have already fully answered this question. They prefer to side with British imperialism against the Arabian nationalist-revolutionary movement. This does not exclude the practice of the British rulers temporarily siding with the Arabs in order to crack down on Zionist pretensions. The British always play the game of "divide and rule" to keep both sides down. But the British know that the real threat to their rule comes from the Arabian movement.

Many Zionists prefer this role. Professor Brodetsky, for example, looks forward to the day "when Palestine shall finally become a part of the British Empire." The professor is dissatisfied with the present mandate rule.

Revisionists Welcomed Back

When the Jewish Day accuses the Communists of making a united front with the Arabs, it should not forget that this united front is against British imperialism. It should also not forget to tell its readers that the Zionists unite with British imperialism against the Arabs.

Zionists like the editor of the Jewish Day are prepared to make another kind of united front worth mentioning.

The extreme right-wing of the Zionist movement is the Revisionist Party, led by Vladimir Jabotinsky. No less a Zionist than Dr. Stephen S. Wise has described the Revisionists as "a species of Fascism in Yiddish or Hebrew."

The Revisionists stormed out of the Zionist organization before the last Congress but now they are going to be welcomed back. Dr. Margoshes described the latest Zionist united front in his column on April 21 as follows:

"There can be no doubt that despite the profound differences still separating the Revisionists from the rest of the Zionists, the World Zionist organization would be very glad to have the breach healed and the Revisionist Party return to the fold."

Trappings of Fascism

Who are these Revisionists that are coming back into the fold? We call again upon Rabbi Wise as reported in Jewish Frontier, April, 1935:

"Rabbi Wise backs the charge that Revisionism is a form of fascism by showing that the former holds to the concept of a totalitarian state, believes in revising the wage-scale downwards, and in evicting and exploiting the Arabs by force."

If this is so, why is the Zionist press so self-righteous about the possibilities of Zionist attacks against the Arabs? The Zionist press knows that the Revisionists are well-armed, that their press is just as inflammatory

against the Arabs as Hitler's against the Jews, that they have borrowed the trappings of fascism for their Zionism. Provocations against the Arabs would not violate the principles of Revisionism in the least.

The Palestine organ of the Labor Zionists, Davar, on April 19 warned that "the wild actions of a small group of politically-bankrupt Revisionists which disastrously exploits the national feelings for the sake of hooliganism" must be prevented.

The trouble is that the Revisionists are not such a small group. Readers of Vincent Sheean's well-known book, "Personal History," know how Jewish extremists provoked the 1929 clashes.

But the whole policy of the Zionist leadership leads to a wider and wider gap between the Arabian and Jewish masses, socially and economically as well as politically.

Mainly Tenant Farmers

In buying up the land, the Zionists have driven about 25,000 fellahen or Arabian peasants from the land since 1932. Palestine is a semi-feudal country with most of the land belonging to the great landed proprietors or effendi with the peasants mainly tenant-farmers. The Zionists buy the land from the landlords who then mercilessly evict the tenants. It is estimated that 90 per cent of the land obtained by the Jews has been gotten in this way.

The Jews live mainly in the cities, the Arabs mainly on the land. The overwhelming majority of the Jews even among those Jews on the land, there is a steady stream back to the cities. Land speculation is rife so that land for the poor Arab peasant has practically become out of the question. These objective differences naturally make the Jewish newcomers alien to the Arabian masses. Add to this the Zionist policy which aggravates every antagonism.

The Zionist-controlled Histadruth or Jewish Labor Federation is rigorously "Jim-Crow"; it excludes all Arabs from membership. As a result, the Arab labor union is very weak. The effect of "Jim-Crow" policy on Arab labor is similar to that of "Jim-Crow" policies on the Negro worker in America. Zionist leaders have for years flaunted "Buy Jewish" and "Hire Jewish" campaigns before the Arabs. In-

evitably, the "Buy Jewish" campaign means "Don't Buy Arab" and the "Hire Jewish" campaign means "Don't Hire Arab."

Living Standards

On top of this, the Zionist leadership bitterly opposes all democratic government in Palestine inasmuch as the Jews are still in the minority. They are on principle opposed to any kind of legislature in Palestine at present. They prefer the rule of the British imperialists to a democratic Legislature.

Zionists talk of immigration into Palestine as though the country were a wilderness. The fact is that it is as densely settled as Lithuania in Europe or the state of Illinois in the United States. Much of it could only be made habitable by the expenditure of vast sums of money. Living conditions in the city for the workers are very poor. The cost of living in Palestine is notoriously high, about that in the United States, while in 1932 — a "prosperity" year—82 per cent of the workers earned less than \$2 per day.

It is no solution to send the oppressed Jews of Poland and Germany to Palestine. It is a sad "historical destiny" which forces a people which for centuries has been savagely persecuted by others into the role of supporters of British imperialism against the Arabian nationalist-revolutionary movement. It is an unfortunate movement which turns the mind of the oppressed Jew away from militant struggle against his immediate oppressors to flight into a pie-in-the-sky promised land. The fact is that less than half of the Jews who have emigrated from Germany in the last three years have gone to Palestine. Practically none of the emigrants were Jewish workers.

Joint Struggle Necessary

The Communist program is clear on all these points. The Jewish people must unite with the Arabian masses against British imperialism for the liberation of the Arabian people from imperialist rule. The liberation of the Arabs will simultaneously mean the unity of both people—but the condition is that the Jews show in action that they are the friends of the Arabian people, not their foes. It is a fact that about 60,000 Jews in Palestine before 1917 never had difficulties with

the Arabs. Zionism created the conditions and causes of Arab-Jewish clashes.

The hopeless phantom of a Jewish state must be abandoned. The Jews cannot free themselves by contributing to the enslavement of another people. The Jews can free themselves only by contributing to the liberation of all oppressed peoples.

That is why the Palestine Communists—there are both Jews and Arabs among them—call for the joint struggle of the Jewish and Arabian workers against British rule and that bulwark of British rule—Zionism. The Palestine Communists fight against Arabian chauvinism just as militantly as they fight against Jewish chauvinism.

Immigrants Not Workers

Due to Zionist manipulation of immigration into Palestine, relatively few Jewish immigrants are workers. These Jewish workers in Palestine are ruthlessly exploited by Jewish employers, and this is aggravated by the class-collaborationist policies of the Histadruth or Jewish Labor Union. The chief support of British imperialism and the most reactionary circles in the Zionist movement are recruited from the Jewish bourgeoisie, not the Jewish workers.

At the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International, the Arabian (Palestine) delegate, Hadyar, stated as follows:

"While forming an Arab People's National Front against imperialism and Zionism, the Party must work actively among the Jewish toiling masses in order to liberate them from the influence of the counter-revolutionary party of the Jewish Zionist capitalists, to draw the toiling Jews into the national emancipation struggle of the Arab masses."

"The Jewish national minority in Palestine is faced with great perspectives after the victory of the national emancipation movement under the hegemony of the proletariat. Our task is to show and convince the Jewish toilers that their class and national interests are linked up with the victory of the national liberation movement of the Arab masses and the democratic transformation of the social system in Palestine. We must work particularly to form the united front between the Arab and Jewish working class."