

**PALESTINE :**

# THE TWICE PROMISED LAND

by VINCENT CHARLES

**WITH THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER PALESTINE OFFICIALLY TERMINATED, THIS KEY TERRITORY IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS BEEN SPEEDILY TRANSFORMED INTO A BLOODY FIELD OF BATTLE. FROM IRAQ, TRANS-JORDANIA AND EGYPT, ARAB TROOPS ARE CONVERGING ON THE TINY, NEWLY DECLARED JEWISH STATE OF ISRAEL.**

Many a British mother is rejoicing today because her son has been withdrawn from Palestine or is soon leaving its shores. The long night of anguish is over when a knock on the door might bring the dreaded news that a loved one had fallen victim to a Jewish or Arab bullet.

As the carnage grows fiercer and the list of casualties mounts, the politically conscious workers will begin anew to examine the causes, and will realise that though British soldiers are no longer on Palestine soil, the present bloodshed is the direct consequence of British imperialist policy over the past 30 years.

## "Palestine For The Arabs"

The seeds of the current conflict were sown in the years 1915-1918,

when British Imperialism was engaged in its first life-and-death struggle with German Imperialism. In October, 1915, Britain, seeking the support of the Arabs for her war effort, entered into negotiations with Emir Hussein, Shereef of Mecca. As a result of these negotiations, the British plenipotentiary, Sir Henry MacMahon, wrote a letter in which he stated that Great Britain was prepared "to recognise and uphold the independence in all the regions lying within the frontiers proposed by the Shereef of Mecca." These frontiers, which were to encompass a single, united Arab State or a Federation, definitely included Palestine.

At the end of the war, the victorious British ruling class flagrantly betrayed the Arab cause. Instead of fostering a united, in-

dependent Arabia, as promised in the MacMahon correspondence, they played off one feudal chieftain against another. They carved up the Arab territories into a number of separate entities, all of them dependent on British Imperialism or its French ally. Iraq, Palestine and Trans-Jordania became British mandates, Syria went to the French.

## "Palestine For The Jews"

To create still greater confusion, on November 2, 1917, Arthur Balfour, Foreign Secretary in the War Cabinet, had written a letter to Lord Rothschild, Chairman of the British Zionist Federation, in which the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine was definitely promised. Known as the "Balfour Declaration," the letter explicitly stated:

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establish-

ment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

ment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

The trap was set. Spurred on by this promise, which was subsequently incorporated into the League of Nations Mandate, thousands of Jews from the Pogrom lands of Eastern Europe poured into Palestine. Especially after the coming to power of Hitler, Jewish immigration jumped from 9,553 in 1933 to 42,359 in 1934, and 61,854 in 1935. These Jews went to Palestine, discriminatory racial laws barred them from most of the

undercurrent of uneasiness exists in the Party. The Crippsian course on wages, profits and prices is viewed with grave suspicion. The bureaucratic character of the con-

the Labour Party, and revolutionaries outside the Party, will gain a growing support in the struggle for a fighting socialist policy against capitalism.

This increased Jewish immigration naturally aroused the fears of the Arab masses. Land-hungry, viciously exploited by the feudal Effendis, they saw a very real threat to their already precarious economy in the large-scale buying of land by the Zionists. The Jewish immigrants did not merge themselves into the general economy of the country but set up a "Chinese Wall" between themselves and the Arabs: they created a closed Jewish economy. Arab labour was barred from employment in the Jewish industrial and agricultural enterprises. Contrary to Zionist claims, the Arab masses gained no benefits from Jewish settlement in Palestine. Households were rendered landless as the land they tilled was sold over their heads by the absentee Arab landlords to the Jewish National Fund.

## OF THE FUTURE

This is the background to the present conflict in Palestine. Jews and Arabs are paying the price for 30 years of sordid imperialist intrigues and plots. Even now,

# PALESTINE :

(Continued from Page 1.)

though Britain has ostentatiously given up her mandate over Palestine, the Imperialists are not so easily giving up their booty. Trans-Jordania, Iraq and Egypt, three of the States whose troops are now fighting on Palestine soil, are British puppet states, whose rulers try to hold the balance between the demands of their imperialist masters and the insurgent Arab nationalist movement. The famed Arab Legion, spearhead of the attack on Israel, is officered, equipped and paid by the British Imperialists. Without tacit approval from Whitehall, it would not be participating in the present operations.

British imperialism has vital interests in the Middle East, interests which it has no intention of peacefully surrendering. According to the usually well-informed "New York Times" of May 10, the British Government has informed the United Nations Palestine Commission that it wants assurances concerning the protection of her economic interests in Palestine after the termination of the mandate, with special reference to the Iraq-Haifa pipeline and the installations at the latter port; the monopoly of the Iraq Petroleum Co., for oil prospecting in Southern Palestine; civil aviation rights; and the extraction of potash from the waters of the Dead Sea.

While appealing to the United Nations, British Imperialism hopes that its faithful stooge, Abdullah of Trans-Jordania, and his allies, will be able to keep the Arab masses in check and so safeguard some of her investments in the "much-promised land."

## America's Role

American Imperialism, of course, is hoping to gain from the weakened position of her British rival in the Middle East, and in fishing

for the large Jewish vote in the elections in America, we saw hasty recognition of Israel. The Zionist leaders for their part, having for so long stooged for British Imperialism, are quite ready to swop masters and to play the lackey to Wall Street instead of the City.

Stalinist Russia has a vital strategic interest in the Middle East and this is the main reason why the "Communist" Parties have made their "volte face" on the Palestine issue and now support the claims of Zionism, flying in the face of the Arab Stalinist Parties. The Middle East is becoming a testing field where the Great Powers try out their strength in preparation for the Third World War.

Meanwhile, for the Jewish and Arab masses the present conflict can bring only increased misery. The only way forward for Palestine is as an integral part of a genuinely free Arab Federation, with full guarantees for the rights of racial and religious minorities. This requires, in the first instance, the opening up of the closed Zionist economy and the integration of Jewish and Arab economies. It requires a complete break of the Jewish labour organisations from Zionism and of the Arab national movement from the feudal *effendis* who will inevitably betray it to imperialism. The Jewish workers must merge themselves into the national-democratic movement of the Arab masses and join with them in a united struggle against the common enemy—Imperialism.

---

Published by E. Grant,  
256, Harrow Road, London, W.2.  
Printed in Gt. Britain by C. A.  
Brock & Co. Ltd., (T.U.), W.10.