

THE PEOPLES OF PALESTINE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. S. Mikunis

After UNO announced its decision to set up two independent states in Palestine—Jewish and Arab—the British imperialists got busy fomenting disorders in Palestine and inciting the Arabs against Jews, thus trying to demonstrate the need for a colonial regime.

The British authorities, civil as well as military, keep towns, villages and highways under fire. The British imperialists are recruiting bands from among the Arab followers of the war criminal, the Mufti of Jerusalem. among General Anders' bullies, and fascists who have fled from other countries. Gangs of adventurers, recruited with the aid of ruling reactionary circles, are given training in the Kataneh camp, are supplied with arms and then sent to Palestine.

The British police and military are no less active than the gangs formed by them. Entrenched in their fortified centres in Jerusalem, Haifa and many other places known as Bevinvilles by the population they have proclaimed martial law throughout the country. Dead and wounded, arson and the destruction of property — all this is now a daily occurrence in Palestine.

Economically Palestine is in dire straits. Due to military operations thousands of Jewish and Arab families have lost their homes and means of livelihood and are reduced to utter poverty. The Arab peasant has practically no access to the Jewish market, and cannot dispose of his produce. The same holds true for the goods produced by the Jewish manufacturer for the Arab market. The working people go hungry while merchants and speculators grow rich by raising prices. The “departing” British authorities are sabotaging the delivery of

raw materials and food stocks from abroad, are holding up supplies of fuel for the factories. This policy is resulting in growing unemployment, decreased output and wage cuts.

The imperialists are undermining the administrative apparatus of the country. Thousands of office employees cannot report for work since the Government is unable to guarantee their safety. The post, telegraph and telephone systems operate sporadically.

Such, in general outline, is the situation in Palestine under the domination of the Labour leaders, Attlee and Bevin.

The job facing the peoples of Palestine is that of achieving their national independence. That is why the masses welcomed the UN decision to create two independent states in Palestine, to end the mandate and to secure the withdrawal of British troops, police and administration. The stand taken by the Soviet Union and the new democracies in UN has inspired the peoples of Palestine in their struggle and strengthened their confidence in victory.

Recent years have seen British imperialism compelled to reach agreement and share her sphere of influence in the Near East with the most aggressive and dangerous imperialism—American imperialism, which aspires to world domination. The rate of American penetration can be gathered from the fact that the Americans now control over 40 per cent of the oil output in the Near East. They are encroaching on the British market, are actively interfering in all plans, be it the creation of a “great Syria” under the aegis of King Abdullah or the formation of a Turkish—Arab “Eastern bloc”, They are trying hard to acquire military bases in Syria and in the Levant, air bases in Homsa and strategic positions in Haifa and Akaba.

The imperialist and anti-democratic camp, headed by the USA, regard Palestine as an important base from whence they can realise their predatory plans for a new world war, their

plans to strangle democracy and suppress the peoples fighting for national independence, democracy and social progress.

Independent Jewish and Arab states in Palestine would be a serious obstacle in the way of British imperialism, and would reinforce the struggle of the peoples in the neighbouring countries for complete independence. Hence the furious British opposition to the UN decision, and American imperialism's veiled support of Bevin's policy.

In its policy Anglo-American imperialism relies on the most reactionary circles in the Arab countries, on the feudal chiefs and big bourgeoisie who are linked with foreign capital, and on the reactionary leaders of the right-wing trade unions.

Whereas the feudal-bourgeois circles of the Mufti of Jerusalem are the rabid allies of the Anglo-American imperialists in Palestine, the industrial bourgeoisie take a more "sober" view of the Palestine problem. They take the stand that the section of Palestine earmarked for the Arab state should be incorporated into Transjordan. This attitude runs counter to the interests of an independent Arab state in Palestine.

Among the Jewish population Anglo-American imperialism relies on the big bourgeoisie which is connected with Anglo-American monopoly capital. This big bourgeoisie is represented by leading business circles, export-import societies, orange plantation owners, etc.

The Jewish terrorist organisations, which form the **private army** of the Jewish bourgeoisie, are a great help to Anglo-American imperialism. During the past four months, when it has been necessary to help the Arab masses combat the agitation and terror of imperialism the Jewish terrorist organisations "Irgun" and "Stern" committed monstrous provocations against absolutely innocent Arabs. They threw bombs into cafes and restaurants, blew up buildings in the towns and villages and killed women and children.

Jewish agencies in Jerusalem and their branches in Washington and London, which represent the coalition of the bourgeois parties with the right-wing Labour Party "Manai" show neither readiness nor determination to fight for the realisation of the UNO decisions in the spirit of complete independence for Palestine.

Years of cooperation with British imperialism, the economic interests of the bourgeoisie and its links with foreign capital dictate to these organisations the policy of compromise and capitulation to the imperialists. The Jewish agencies have forwarded to the Security Council a memorandum in which they emphasise the role of the Arab governments in the Palestine events, and at the same time whitewash the crimes of imperialism. The agencies are tolerant with regard to the arbitrariness of the British police and troops and counsel "Haganah" not to offer any resistance to the British when the latter confiscate their arms and arrest their members.

The policy of the Jewish agency has caused widespread indignation among workers and in the ranks of the "Haganah".

The Communist Party consistently favoured friendship and cooperation between the Arabs and Jews and was the first to raise the question of placing the Palestine problem before UNO.

The Communist Party, the Arab National Liberation League and all progressive elements in Palestine are fighting for the faithful carrying out of the UN decision, the establishment of independent Jewish and Arab states along democratic lines and for economic unity and cooperation between these states.

The Arab and Jewish working people, who for years have been waging a joint struggle for their vital interests, will not allow the agents of imperialism to split their ranks. Despite wide spread chauvinist agitation, the unity of the Arabs and Jews is

growing stronger in the struggle for national independence.

Arab-Jewish relations have always played a paramount role in the successful solution of the main problems of Palestine. The Communist Party is fighting for the democratic development of the Arab and Jewish minorities in the future independent states and for equality before the law. The Communist Party demands that the Jewish trade unions and the Jewish Agency make a clear and unequivocal declaration to the effect that in the Jewish state where Arabs constitute 40 per cent of the population, there will be no race discrimination, that the working people be guaranteed the right to elect and be elected to Parliament, the right to work, leisure and education, and that the peasants get the land necessary for their existence.

The Communist Party is campaigning for the unity of the working class and of all progressive forces, and for a united front with the "Amalgamated Party" (Gatemor Gazair and Ahdut Avoda-Poale Zion), which represent the progressive wing in the Zionist movement in Palestine. The Communist Party aims at creating an all-embracing national democratic front which would unite those parties, organisations and groupings in the working class and among the people, generally fighting for national independence, for friendly cooperation and good neighbourly relations with the Arabs, for democracy.

A national democratic front would spur the militant enthusiasm of the popular masses. Its establishment is an urgent task which, if solved, would make it possible to isolate the fascist and pro-imperialist circles and would facilitate the winning of independence, democracy and peace among the peoples.

(page 5)