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PALESTINE: BRITAIN'S POLICY "DIVIDE AND RULE"

BRING THE TROOPS HOME!

Open the Gates of All Countries to the Jews

THE OUTBREAKS OF TERRORISM AND SABOTAGE IN PALESTINE ARE A MEASURE OF THE DESPAIR OF THE SURVIVING JEWISH DISPLACED PERSONS AFTER "LIBERATION." THE JEWS HAD HOPED FOR SOME ESCAPE IN THE PROMISES WHICH WERE MADE BY BRITISH IMPERIALISM, AND IN PARTICULAR BY THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE ELECTION, PROMISES WHICH THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF FULFILLING.

When the Labour leaders failed to carry out their promises and did not put into operation immediately the recommendation of the Anglo-American Commission to admit 100,000 refugees, the Zionists in Palestine began their struggle.

The senseless acts of terrorism, in particular the blowing up of the King David Hotel, the military GHQ of the army, have played into the hands of British Imperialism. The acts of terrorism have antagonised the rank and file soldiers and allowed free rein to the officer caste to commence a vicious and unbridled anti-Semitic campaign.

Martial law was proclaimed in Tel-Aviv. A curfew was imposed, with only two hours in 24 allowed in order to get food, with "shoot at sight" orders for any violations. The "News Chronicle" correspondent in Palestine reports that beatings of Jews have taken place, and in some collectives, destruction and looting of furniture and other property. Thus British Imperialism uses the same methods against the Jews as they have used against the Arabs and other colonial peoples in the past.

The Labour leaders, who must take responsibility for this situation, wish to picture the situation as though it were one, where sorely tried and disinterested British Imperialism benevolently and im-

partially administers the region, and holds the balance between Jews and Arabs. This is a fiction. Britain holds Palestine because of its strategic importance for the Middle East and the British Empire. Thus Britain gave verbal support to the Zionist utopia in order to allow only sufficient Jews into Palestine to serve the traditional policy of imperialism: Divide and rule. The British need a force in that area on whom they can lean in their struggle to keep the Arab masses subdued. For them the Jews are a convenient tool to be played against Arabs as the need arises. The British deliberately imported the Jews into Palestine for this reason alone: as a brake on the struggles of the Arab masses for independence.

This policy has received a new emphasis with the suggestions of the division of Palestine into three zones, one part as a Jewish "state", one Arabic "state" and the balance controlled by Britain. But the most important functions of government would still be unified and controlled by British Imperialism at the centre: finance, police, trade, etc. The division of the country into such regions would not solve but would exacerbate the problems with which the country is faced. By such a division British Imperialism would gain a tight hold on the country.

A Jumping Off Ground

The real reasons for the present position in Palestine and the underlying motives of British imperialism, were guardedly revealed by

Churchill in the debate in Parliament on 1st August:

"However, His Majesty's Government by their precipitate abandonment of their treaty rights in Egypt, and, in particular, the Suez Canal zone, are now forced to look for a strong place of arms, for a jumping-off ground in Palestine in order to protect the Canal from outside Egypt. By this unwisdom they have vitiated disinterestedness and we can now be accused of having a national strategic motive for retaining our hold on Palestine. I must regard this as a very grave disaster and an immense weakening of our position. What the Government have done in Egypt—though no doubt from very good motives—has greatly weakened our moral position in Palestine by stripping us of our disinterestedness in that country. I pointed out in the debate on Egyptian policy a few weeks ago, that the moment we are dependent upon Palestine for a base from which to defend the Suez Canal, we should greatly hamper all possibility of obtaining American co-operation. Well, look at the position to which we have now been brought."

Clearly British imperialism desires to use Palestine as her most important military base for the Middle East. Thus Palestine would become, even more than in the past, indispensable for the defence of British imperialist interests. Churchill, of course, points this out only because he believes that the "strong arm" (Continued on Back Page.)

Shipping Figures Reveal Change

THE LATEST STATISTICS REVEAL A REMARKABLE CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE MERCHANT SHIPPING OF BRITAIN AND AMERICA SINCE THE END OF THE WAR.

Britain entered the second world war with 17,380,000 tons, and emerged with 12,814,000 tons. The latest figure, up to the end of June 1946, is 13,710,000 tons. America's merchant fleet, which was less than Britain's before the war stood at 56,000,000 tons at the end of the war, in spite of losses of 9,000,000 tons, a figure achieved by mass production technique.

However the United States Maritime Commission reveals that America's post-war merchant marine would total only 10,500,000 tons, one-fifth its wartime peak and smaller than pre-war. Thus Britain again has the lead in merchant shipping.

Libertys Unable To Compete

The American periodical "Newsweek" of June 3, comments:

"However indispensable such a merchant fleet might have been in war-time, for peace-time operations it had the earmarks of a white elephant. . . . The inefficiency of now cumbersome Liberty ships left the 2,700 war-built 'Ugly Ducklings' unable to compete with the other American and foreign types."

in the United States plus relatively higher wages (American seamen get almost three times as much as British seamen) are given as further reasons. Paradoxical though it may appear, British capitalism, in spite of a generally outmoded industrial technique, is able to compete with America, at least in certain industries, on the basis of a higher quality product. At the present, for instance, 53% of world shipbuilding is done in Britain. This may give more substance to the relative boom in Britain in the immediate period, although it cannot stop the decline and collapse of British Imperialism in the long run. Nor does it alter the basic picture of American economic and military preponderance over the other capitalist powers in the coming epoch.

A remark in the "Newsweek" article, on the disposal of the unwanted American merchant ships, is characteristic of the cynicism that permeates capitalist society today:

"The unsold 3,500 tons are to be added to the reserve fleets—just to be prepared for the third world war."

The main excuse that American imperialism offered for not sending adequate quantities of available food to the starving peoples of Asia and Europe, was among other things, lack of shipping! For the purpose of exterminating peoples, all obstacles can be overcome, no matter at what cost. But to save lives the means cannot be found.

Aid Comrade GATCHEV

A few weeks ago, we announced the arrest of Dr. Gatchev, of Plodief, well-known Bulgarian Trotskyist militant, President of the Bulgarian "League for Defence of Human Rights," together with other militants.

Ever since, we received no further news and our protests remained without response.

We have now received news saying that Dr. Gatchev had been removed from prison and was transferred to a camp where he is subjected to an extremely severe regime. The news received is very alarming. His life is in danger.

Once again we appeal to all militants to mobilise all workers' organisations, to send protests to the Bulgarian legation, in order to put a stop to the repression of the G.P.U. which is spreading over the working class and the revolutionary vanguard of Bulgaria, and for the purpose of saving the life of Dr. Gatchev and the other working class militants who are threatened with death.

PEACE CARVE-UP

The Paris Peace Conference, to carve up Europe, meets in an atmosphere of apprehension, of fear, disillusionment and open cynicism.

Rulers and ruled, oppressors and oppressed, victors and vanquished, none see in its sessions a harbinger of a happy and peaceful future for Europe and the world.

In the "defeated nations" the workers and peasants look to the Paris sessions, not with an eagerness born of liberation from Nazi terror, but with fear and hatred which is the child of hunger and national oppression.

What a betrayal!

"Communist" Russia and "Socialist" Britain could transform the whole future of Europe within a few short days. The United Socialist States of Europe, which would break down national economic and political barriers and unite the people of Europe, would end the capitalist causes of national antagonisms and thus wipe out national hatreds, is within our grasp. This is the aim that Socialist and Communists of fought for and dreamed of for generations.

But Stalin has long deserted communism, and Attlee has never been a socialist.

Stalin personifies the Russian bureaucracy, who fear a communist Europe on the basis of high technique and culture which would end the privileges of the bureaucracy and bring it crashing down.

Attlee, is a tool of British imperialism. His principal concern is not to free the European people, but to protect the imperialist interests of the British ruling class.

From the American imperialists the workers do not expect more than an imperialist power can give.

The principal aim of Britain and America is to retrieve what was lost or conceded at Potsdam and Moscow. It is in the interest of these countries made panic capitulations to Stalin at these Conferences. Believing that all Europe—especially Germany—would soon be aflame with revolution, they prepared to concede Stalin the maximum, provided only that he act as hangman to the revolution.

Neither Britain nor America are at present, politically or psychologically in a position to launch war against Russia. It is in the economic field that they hope to undermine the hold of Russia over the countries of Eastern Europe. Once cheap American goods can penetrate these countries, the intervention and even domination of the economic life of the people becomes possible, a new strategic realignment can be brought about. It is on these clauses in the treaties, which open the Eastern parts of Europe to Anglo-American trade, that the fiercest battles will be fought.

Whatever the outcome of the conference, the Bandits at Paris will not lead Europe to a stable peace in which the workers and peasants can live a life of prosperity.

Socialists and communist workers will fight against the peace of revenge; will fight against the carve-up, and against national oppression and the plundering that goes on under the name of reparations.

U.S. "Graveyard" — Ships for World War III — But Not for Food



BEVIN'S POLICY OF "NON INTERFERENCE"

The role of the Labour leaders as agents of British Imperialism was further confirmed in Parliament by the revealing statements of Ernest Bevin on July 17 in reply to questions on the strike of the 50,000 Persian workers of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

BY R. RALPH

The reactionary Persian Government recently passed a law prohibiting strikes "until certain procedures have been observed." (Mr. Bevin). Negotiations were taking place between the Company, the Government and the Labour leaders, but he workers began a general strike on July 14. On the same day martial law was declared and clashes occurred in Abadan which resulted in at least 17 being killed and 150 wounded.

Mr. Bevin did not reveal the causes of the strike, merely saying that "considerable political difficulty" and "a number of industrial factors have contributed to the present situation," and mentioning the workers demand for pay for the day of rest, Friday, as "the ostensible cause of the strike."

When asked whether he would take steps to get this anti-strike law repealed, Mr. Bevin replied: "I have not interfered with the Persian Government at all, and it is not my intention to do so. I think it is better for all other governments to allow them to exercise their own powers."

Mr. Bevin indulges in such cynical platitudes as long as he is sure that the Persian Government is able to suppress the Persian workers with its own resources. The workers and peasants of Greece and Indonesia have experienced such "non-intervention", not as hypocritical Parliamentary phrase-mongering but in the form of bullets, shells and bombs. And the British Labour movement has seen Bevin in action justifying this intervention.

But Mr. Bevin had the effrontery to add—still in reference to the Persian anti-strike laws—"when labour laws have been carried by the Government at the request of the workers in that country, I ought not to interfere." (!!!)

The blindest reactionary of the most stunted intellect would never have affirmed—neither in ignorance nor delirium—that the workers would request their own government to pass anti-labour laws!

In Greece the Labour Government refuses to even recognise the Confederation of Labour (the Greek T.U.C.) which has been

declared illegal by the Greek Government. This was contained in the written reply of Mr. Noel-Baker on July 25. He also stated—in terms similar to those of Mr. Bevin:

"It is not for His Majesty's Government either to accept or reject the validity of the Greek Confederation of Labour, which is an internal matter for the Greek people to work out for themselves."

In Cyprus the 18 members of the Pan-Cyprian Trade Union Committee are still imprisoned. In reply to a question on July 3, asking for their release, Mr. George Hall (Colonial Secretary) declined to take action, saying:

"There is considerable difficulty in interfering with sentences which are passed in the Colonies in view of the fact that the prerogative is that of the Governor."

These activities of Bevin are typical of the Labour Government and not as the Stalinists' claim peculiar to his reactionary personality.

INDIAN STRIKE WAVE

Workers Organising into Powerful Force

Mass strikes are sweeping throughout India, on a scale and to an extent unprecedented even in the militant traditions of the Indian masses. This mighty movement now developing is the prelude to a new stage of revolutionary struggle by the Indian working class and peasantry. Beginning on the industrial arena, this movement will inevitably take the road of political action. This time on an even higher level than the past abortive nationalist movements have been.

In the first three months of this year over 3,000,000 working days were lost in disputes, more than six times the figure for the same period the previous year.

The determined and militant mood now prevailing among the Indian workers was exemplified in the April strike of the Calcutta Fire Brigade. In this action 2,000 workers were involved. The strike was conducted under the most adverse conditions possible to the workers, who, in the beginning, were completely unorganised. As a result of their militant leadership they gained the support and confidence of large sections of the Calcutta working class. After the demands of the firemen had been accepted the strike was called off and a march through the streets of Calcutta proclaimed the successful conclusion of the strike.

In June, 60,000 of the lowest paid postal workers began their strike, demanding better wages and

conditions. The response of the working-class all over India was magnificent in its solidarity. One million workers in Calcutta, and half a million in Bombay demonstrated their sympathy and support for the postal strikers and staged a 24-hour General Strike. Similarly in Madras. Demonstrations of support for the strikers were also reported from Patna and Bihar Province. For the first time the strike movement in India is extending to clerical and office workers, including Government and municipal employees and even bank staffs.

The strongly organised Indian railway workers were prepared to conduct a General Strike on the railways in June. The Government, fearful of the wide support for this action of the railwayworkers, and in the face of their organised militancy, beat a retreat and were compelled to grant certain concessions to the railway men. These concessions were only a temporary measure and there is no doubt that the railway workers will take up

the struggle in support of their demands again very shortly.

The widespread illusions which accompanied the early period of the Cabinet Mission's declarations on their policy for India, has given place among the Indian workers and peasants to disillusion, anger and increased moods of frustration. This in turn, is now developing into a mood of militant direct action. In the coming struggles the masses of India, exploited, starved and doubly oppressed, can solve their problems only if they take the road of revolutionary action against, not only British Imperialism, but also against the Indian capitalist class.

The militant Indian working class can and must play the decisive role in the new and revolutionary phase beginning in India. The workers must be organised and armed with a revolutionary programme and a revolutionary party. The Indian Bolshevik-Leninist (Trotskyist) Party and its revolutionary programme of struggle fulfils these needs of the Indian working class.



CALCUTTA FIRE BRIGADE WORKERS MARCH IN ORDERED RANKS