

JEWES UNDER THE ISLAM

There are many Jewish communities in the countries of the Middle East and in other Islamic nations. The most populous among them are the Jewish communities in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Trans-Jordan, and others. It is believed that the Jewish communities scattered throughout the Islamic countries count about a million people. This number is by no means a negligible part of the world's Jews, after 6½ million of their brethren perished during the bleak years of the Second World War due to the bestiality of Nazi Germany.

The establishment of a Jewish state in part of Palestine and the bloody events which accompanied the proclamation of the State of Israel placed the Jews in the Islamic countries in a very precarious position. The inflamed nationalist sentiments on the part of both the Arabs and the Jews, an atmosphere of war with the usual mutual complaints and accusations, increased feelings of hatred against one another, and the feverish search for alleged foreign agents and traitors, all created a situation long wished-for by the numerous Jew-baiters within the Islamic nations. Under such circumstances it was indeed an easy job for them to arouse the Islamic mob against their Jewish neighbors, a state of affairs which already led not only to hostile acts against individuals of Jewish extraction, but to veritable pogroms such as those in Cairo, with scores of casualties, demolished Jewish dwellings, plunder of Jewish stores, and all other infamous anti-Jewish practices.

And thus it came about that the legal representatives of the Egyptian Jews issued a strongly-worded anti-Zionist proclamation full of patriotic assurances

and promises of help for the Egyptian war against the State of Israel. The Egyptian Jews went even so far as raising special funds to provide the Egyptian Army with means to combat the Jewish soldiers of the State of Israel. A pathetic spectacle. All these carefully calculated steps did not extinguish the flames of hatred against the Jewish communities in the Islamic countries. The plain truth is that the lives and the property of the million Jews in these countries are most seriously endangered.

It is small wonder that the Zionist leaders, striving to achieve their goal, did not take under consideration the repercussions of their actions upon the million Jews in the Islamic countries. The idea of independent statehood had always made Zionism blind to the lot of the living Jews. The most that can be expected from the Zionists with regard to the recent Jewish pogroms in Egypt is a reaffirmation of their belief that there is no peaceful haven for the Jews other than the State of Israel. Zionism always maintained that it was necessary that all Jews, wherever they were, settle in Palestine.

It is not sufficient to condemn, however strongly, the bloody outbreaks against the Jews in the Islamic countries; the meaningless utterances of government spokesmen in the countries concerned decrying the anti-Jewish events are of little value indeed. We call the attention of the entire democratic world to the plight of the Jews in the Islamic countries and demand that the utmost be done to prevent new bloodshed and a new tragedy reminiscent of the horrible deeds committed by Hitlerite Germany under the very eyes of world public opinion.
