

## THE REVISIONIST MENACE

By I. Rennap (London)

Since the issuance of the White Paper on May 18, and the British Government's intention to enforce it on Palestine, a progressive worsening of the situation has taken place in the country, particularly within the *Yishuv* (Palestine Jewish Community). To them the White Paper came like a thunderbolt. By repudiating the *Balfour Declaration* it has destroyed the long-cherished hope, held by many of them, of a future sovereign Jewish State in Palestine. The White Paper fixes the *Yishuv* as a permanent minority in Palestine. Thus, co-operation by the Zionist leaders with the Mandatory power for 20 years and relying on its promise of a Jewish National Home has been

rewarded with minority rights in Palestine, with the gates now being completely shut to further Jewish immigration (*Malcolm MacDonald*, the Colonial Secretary, has suspended the immigration quota for the next six months because of increased illegal Jewish immigration. This suspension may well be indefinitely suspended).

The economic situation is deteriorating, while the international situation is having its effect on the population. It is taken for granted that in the event of war by the aggressor powers, Palestine will be immediately attacked from the air by Italian planes. The increase in Jewish suffering in Europe and the exodus of swarms of Jewish refugees from Germany and what is called to-day Greater Germany, numbers of whom have come to Palestine in refugee ships only to be turned away, is having its effect on the Yishuv, so that there exists a feeling of anger, disillusionment and desperation. Never was there such bitter anti-Chamberlain feeling within the Yishuv. Even the pro-British Zionist leaders have been forced to come out sharply against the British Government.

But these leaders have no real policy in the present situation. Neither has there dawned upon them the necessity of genuinely attempting to seek an understanding with the Arabs. This, also, is responsible for the slowly creeping paralysis of despair and hopelessness within the Yishuv. All this, together with the present intensified feeling between Arabs and Jews, fostered by fascist agents, is creating within the Yishuv the feeling that its very existence is now in acute danger.

Thus the ground is being prepared for a new menace, *the menace of Jewish fascism in Palestine from the fascist Revisionists whose bloody provocation against Jews and Arabs may lead to a new and greater blood-bath in Palestine.*

Now that *Weizman's* policy of co-operation and trust in Britain's promises stands exposed as bankrupt, the *Revisionists* are reaping a rich harvest. The present Zionist leadership is being subjected to the most demagogic attacks. The White Paper, they say, has proven *Weizman* wrong; their policy of armed force against the Arabs and the British has proven to be correct. Their support is from the most politically backward elements within the Yishuv, who are inflamed by such slogans as smiting the Arabs hip and thigh, and an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, in reply to Arab attacks on Jews.

Acts of terror against Arabs by Revisionists grow daily; and feeling between Arabs and Jews becomes more and more inflamed. Recently a bomb thrown into an Arab market place in Haifa, which killed Arab women and children, evoked a spontaneous demonstration of Arab women outside the German Consulate, demanding Hitler's Protection. *In addition, Revisionist acts of terror against Histadrut (Jewish Trade Union Federation) workers and supporters have taken place on typical fascist lines.*

The dangerous hooliganism of these fascist Revisionists is being tacitly encouraged by the attitude of a section of the Histadrut leadership. This is the dominant section, led by *Ben Gurion*, which is seeking a "united front" with the Revisionists. To achieve this "unity," it is anxious to placate them in every way. These Histadrut leaders, in order to get Revisionist support for the protest demonstration against the White Paper of May 18, acceded to the Revisionist

demand that Red Banners and Left Zionist slogans should be forbidden at the demonstration, in spite of opposition to this demand by rank and file workers.

This encouraged the Revisionists to stage provocative marches behind slogans of "Down with Weizman—to the devil with the workers. Save us, Jabotinsky." On the eve of the demonstration they attempted to smash the *Beth Brenner* (a Histadrut Club). The protest demonstration itself ended in provocation and bloodshed (see *W.N.V.*, June 2), for which groups of young oriental Jews, under Revisionist influence, were responsible; while Jewish workers, carrying out the instructions of their leaders to avoid coming into conflict with the Revisionists, stood by helplessly, while these young hooligans beat up Jewish workers. Two workers on the *Davar* (organ of Histadrut) and *Errem*, a Leader of the Left *Poale Zion*, were taken to hospital. Even reactionary bourgeois Zionists were not spared. The Mayor of Tel Aviv, *I. Rokiach*, was also beaten up. In fact, the Revisionists tried to turn the demonstration of May 18 into a Revisionist "putsch" to control the Yishuv.

These atrocities are increasing. The authorities are not taking any firm steps to suppress them; and for good reasons. Anything which helps to split and divide the Yishuv is winked at by them, so that it becomes easier for the administration to enforce the White Paper.

In this dangerous situation the *C.P. of Palestine* is carrying on, through its illegal Press and in the people's organisations, an intensive activity. It has always exposed the role of British imperialism in Palestine, calling upon the Yishuv not to depend on treacherous imperialist promises and to reach a brotherly understanding with their Arab neighbours. The White Paper has vindicated the correctness of this attitude.

To-day it sharply emphasises the main dangers, the fascist menace from without and within, and the threat of war which would immediately embroil the Near East. To the Arabs, the *C. P. of Palestine* points out that the White Paper has given them certain limited concessions. True, they fall very far short of the maximum Arab demands. But the actual granting of these concessions means that the Arab revolt has achieved a certain measure of success. To-day the international situation is acute. Fascist influence is penetrating among the Colonial peoples, including the Arabs. This is a menace to the Arab movement for national freedom, as well as all other liberation movements. The Arabs, therefore, should concentrate in forcing the British Government to immediately fulfil the promises in respect of a constituent assembly and democratic government, made in the White Paper, and to demand further concessions which, if won, can be a step forward to progressive self-government and ultimate independence, and which can also benefit both peoples.

Within the Yishuv the *C. P.* is combining the dangerous slogans of the Revisionists for armed insurrection, exposing them as a positive menace to the Yishuv. While the *C. P. of Palestine* has its general programme of progressive democratic government, agrarian reforms, social legislation, etc., in the present world situation with the menace of fascism from without and within, it puts forward the *immediate* demand for a united front of Zionists and non-Zionists who are in favour of reaching an immediate understanding with the Arabs on a

programme of progressive democratic administration with equal rights for both Arabs and Jews, with the Yishuv being allowed to reach 40 per cent of the total population. It demands that those Zionist groups within the Yishuv who favour this programme (the *Brith Shalom*, led by *Dr. Magnes*, and progressive and Left groups in the Histadrut, *S. Kaplanski's* group in the Palestine Labour Party, *Hashomair Hazair* and *Left Poale Zion*) should form this united front and immediately work for a rapprochement with the Arabs.

Recognising the Revisionist menace to the Yishuv, and the Histadrut in particular, the Palestine Communists have warned the Yishuv against a new leadership to replace the old, in which Jabotinsky, the Revisionist "Fuehrer," would participate. For already in the American Jewish Press there have been hints that there is a move afoot to throw out Weizman and set up some triumvirate of *Ben Gurion*, *Jabotinsky*, and *Pinchas Rutenberg*, head of the Palestine Electric Corporation. Therefore, the C. P. of Palestine, in view of the grave danger of Revisionist terror increasing if Jabotinsky should participate in the Yishuv leadership, and the menace this would constitute to the Histadrut and any attempt for an Arab-Jewish rapprochement, has called upon every responsible individual in the Yishuv to *defend unitedly the Histadrut and fight against any attempt to establish a leadership which would include Jabotinsky*.

Thus the Palestine Communists, with the lead they give to both Arabs and Jews, and their striving for an Arab-Jewish understanding, have proven themselves to be the best friends of the Yishuv. Their increasing influence is reflected in the demand made by hitherto anti-Communist, Zionist circles for the legalisation of the C. P. of Palestine.

It is the duty of the world progressive movement, as well as all progressive Zionists, to help the Palestine C. P. in its work together with the progressive forces among Arabs and Jews, for achieving peace and brotherly relations between Jews and Arabs in Palestine.

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