

The Way Out for Palestine

Partial text of an address by William Z. Foster, chairman of the Communist Party, to an East Side meeting of 1,200 persons Wednesday in protest at British rule in Palestine and the Bevin slur against the Jews:

The tragic continuation of Jewish persecution a year after the military defeat of Hitlerism cannot be understood apart from the drive of imperialism toward another bloody conflict.

The prime requisite for the security and well being of the Jewish people, as for all peoples, is the complete liquidation of fascism and Nazism. It is because American and British imperialism are determined

to prevent this that we are confronted with the spectacle of concentration camps in Germany, where thousands and thousands of Jewish people continue to receive treatment similar to what they were faced with under Hitlerism.

It is for this reason that American imperialism is quite content to put Nazis in charge of displaced persons and is quite happy to allow American soldiers to be infected with Nazi ideology. It is because of this that our government is so ready to make America a haven for fascists and murderers like General Bor and Denikin, but refuses to ease the immigration laws for victims of Nazi persecution.

The basic task which confronts the peoples of the world is the struggle against those who would perpetuate Nazism and fascism, against the war makers who would plunge the world into another World War, against those who would prevent the consolidation of the new democracies in Europe, which together with the Soviet Union are a bulwark against fascism and anti-Semitism.

The American people, within the framework of this struggle, must demand that the Displaced Persons camps be immediately dissolved. The responsibility for the maintenance and the well being of the Jewish refugees must be turned over to the United Nations, which must see to it that the doors of all countries are opened to them for immediate immigration and settlement. The American people must demand that the gates of America be opened immediately to large numbers of these victims of Nazi terror.

Palestine is a colonial country in which the most elementary rights are denied to the people. There is no democracy in the land. The High Commissioner is the supreme ruler. He is the legislature, the judiciary, and the executive all rolled into one.

This government, which makes such pious declarations of concern for the welfare of the people, spends one third of its budget for police and prisons and but one fifth for health, education and social service.

PALESTINE A PRISON

Ruth Gruber, writing in the New York Post, stated recently: "I've just come back from Palestine. The people here don't think the British know what justice is. To them Palestine is a concentration camp. The British rule not by justice, but by tanks and guns, some of which are said to be American lend lease. . . . Jews are tortured in concentration camps in Palestine, and political prisoners are deported to Eritrea, where they live under incredible conditions. . . ."

At the beginning of this year, a set of Emergency Regulations were proclaimed which virtually place Palestine under martial law. Police and soldiers patrol all towns. Curfews are imposed regularly. Meetings are consistently broken up by the military and when the crowds do not disband quickly enough the soldiers are ordered to fire into the crowd. The courts are overcrowded and military as well as civil courts are imposing, severe sentences up to the death penalty each day of the week.

Even the Zionist leaders branded these regulations as part of a "regime of terror" which "has placed Palestine out of the bounds of fundamental human rights." The Zionist Emergency Council protested that "In the last few months the British authorities in Palestine have introduced unmitigated terror in their dealings with the Jewish population."

JUST TEMPORARY

Despite these facts, many Zionist leaders still proclaim that this is but a temporary conflict. Dr. Weizmann, head of the World Zionist movement, in his testimony before the Anglo-American Commission stated:

"... the rock of Gibraltar on which I build my Zionist policy



FOSTER

is absolute cooperation with Great Britain. . . . All we hope and wish is that this period of tension should pass very quickly and will be forgotten as a bad dream and we shall once more find ourselves cooperating in the great task of the regeneration of the Jewish people."

It is very significant that many of the Zionist leaders, who so insistently demand that all Jews should leave Europe, have had very little to say about the oppression, that brutality, the murder which imperialism is perpetrating in Palestine. It is significant that not even one spokesman for the Jewish Agency who appeared before the Anglo-American Commission said a word against British imperialism.

There are other leading Zionists, particularly in America, who are turning more and more to American imperialism for support, in the hope that the participation of American imperialists will aid the Jewish people.

ILLUSION

They, too, look upon the conflict as a temporary one and believe that imperialism, even though it be only of the American variety, will come to its senses. Their demand for a Jewish Commonwealth relies upon this approach and consequently considers its main task to be the winning over of imperialism to its side. This illusion, which is so consistently propagated, springs from the notion that the major conflict is between Jews and Arabs, not of both peoples against imperialism.

These leaders either fail or do not care to see that imperialism is neither for Jew nor for Arab, but for its own imperialistic designs and that it will continue to play off one against the other so long as it remains master.

The central issue which faces both Jews and Arabs is the removal of colonial oppression. In its

struggle form, it is the struggle for the abrogation of the mandate and for the transfer of Palestine into a trusteeship under the auspices of the Big Three, within the framework of the United Nations, whose task it shall be to establish an independent and democratic Palestine in which the equal national rights of both Jews and Arabs will be guaranteed.

Neither Jew nor Arab can achieve freedom under imperialism. Only in a free, democratic Palestine, rid of imperialist oppression and freed from the yoke of the imperialist trickery which has these many years played off one people against the other, can Jews as well as Arabs look forward to a free, equal and peaceful existence.

DEMAND GROWS

This demand receives wide support from all freedom-loving people. This demand is winning more and more adherents, even within the Zionist movement and particularly in Palestine. There, many people, especially amongst the working class, are beginning to realize that the basis for peace and security is the friendship of peoples and the joint struggle of these peoples against imperialism.

The recent strikes in Palestine, where thousands upon thousands of Jews and Arabs fought for their rights side by side, are the best example of the healthy orientation which is arising.

MAKE OUR VOICE HEARD

We in America must make our voice heard and must demand an end to the imperialist oppression of peoples. We must demand that the turning of Palestine into a trusteeship under the auspices of the Big Three be immediately brought before the Security Council. We must demand that unilateral action, as exemplified by the establishment of the Anglo-American Commission, cease at once. We must demand that the Soviet Union shall have an equal voice in the solution of these questions.

Similarly with the question of immigration. For 28 years, imperialism has used the question of immigration as one of its mainstays and as one of its major weapons for strengthening its domination and for creating antagonisms. We must take this weapon away from imperialism. We can do this only if we face the issue of immigration as an integral part of the fight against imperialism and for the freedom of Palestine.

The problem of immigration has two aspects, both of which are bound up together. There is the question of insuring that those who wish to go to Palestine should be able to do so. There is the question of insuring that those who come to Palestine shall be free of terror and persecution. These two questions are inseparable. Both depend upon the struggle to rid Palestine of colonial oppression, of the Mandate. Both, therefore, depend upon joint Arab-Jewish struggle against imperialism and within the framework of which agreement can and will be reached on the question of Jewish immigration.

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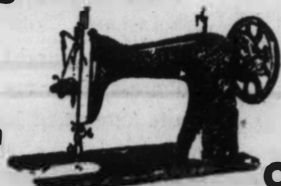
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