

Arab Here Calls for Unity With Jews

Youth. Delegate in Surprise Nitgedaiget Speech Blames Troubles on Influence of Tory Policy on Palestine Extremists

By Leon Harris

"Long Live Arab and Jewish Unity" rang across the Hudson Valley as Ra'if Khuri, Palestine delegate to the World Youth Congress, concluded the first speech by a progressive Arab to an assemblage of Jewish workers at Camp Nitgedaiget last weekend. Mr. Khuri was a surprise speaker.

He made his statement at the conclusion of the scheduled address on Palestine by Paul Novick, Associate Editor of the Morning Freiheit.

The 26-year-old Arab, a teacher and writer by profession, made an impassioned plea for peace in his native land. He drew a great hand when he said:

"It is our hearty desire to live peacefully with the immigrant Jews in Palestine. We are not anti-Semites, for we are Semite ourselves."

He blamed no one for the present troubles in Palestine, but demanded the extremists on both sides, both Arab terrorists who commit shameful acts of murder and Jewish Revisionists who throw bombs in Arab vegetable markets killing women and children were included in his fiery remarks.

Mr. Khuri denied the charge made by Zionist propagandists, including the Zionist delegation to the Youth Congress, that the Holyland strife "arises from the desire of reactionary Arab landlordism to preserve itself" and brought proof to show that the Arab national movement is based in the masses of progressive middle classes, workers and peasants. Zionism, moreover, has strengthened rather than weakened the feudal landlords, he asserted.

At a time when the Arab tenant-farmer was beginning to revolt against the high rents and tithes exacted by agents of absentee landlords, the Zionist lead-

ers appeared on the scene and gave the landlord a chance to sell his land at a high price, leaving the Zionist settlers with the unpleasant task of evicting the Arab tillers with the help of the British police.

CITES UNEMPLOYMENT

As a first point in presenting the program of the Democratic Arab youth for peace in Palestine, Mr. Khuri asked for the temporary stoppage of immigration "on the basis that there is serious unemployment among Arabs and Jews. I have myself seen Jewish workers in Jerusalem trying to occupy the municipality house shouting for bread." He told of a sit-in strike of Jewish workers demanding relief in the Tel Aviv Municipality and of a similar demonstration in Hedera. All these demonstrations took place within the last few months.

In making this demand, Mr. Khuri said, the progressive Arabs "realize the difficult situation of our brother Jews in the lands of Fascism." And here he took occasion to vehemently deny the frequent allegation that the Arabs are tools of Italian Fascism:

"Leaving aside certain traitors, we hate Fascism," he said. "We hate it as human beings who cannot bear the brutal persecutions and atrocities such as Fascism commits. We hate it as a colonial, anti-imperialist people realizing that Fascism is a most ferocious imperialism. We hate it as a world factor playing into the hands of the Zionists by driving Jews from their countries which they have a right to, thus increasing pressure upon Palestine. We hate it as the oppressor of brother peoples, the Tripolitans and Ethiopians."

Mr. Khuri demanded the cessation of all racial and chauvinist propaganda from both sides, the cessation of "all shameful, damnable terrorist activities" from whichever side it comes and the cessation of the provocation of British imperialism.

"Then let democratic liberties, of which now there is not the least trace, under this rule of ghastly imperialist dictatorship, be widely granted. Let the democratic forces of all the population, now terribly molested, come forward. Let them mobilize mixed mass meetings, let the toilers come together, let the youth discuss their problems."

"Alongside with this, let us have a constituent assembly, freely elected, with every section of the population duly represented."

The constitution drawn up by this assembly, Mr. Khuri explained, would safeguard the rights of all sections of the population. A council would be elected under its provisions which would settle all the country's knotty problems, such as further immigration and

tunity for workers; and a "fair balance" between the two by government.

He listed all important legislative achievements of the past few years including unemployment insurance, minimum wages for women, a State Labor Relations Act, and Workmen's Compensation. "Organized labor has been largely responsible for the progressive and sound labor legislation adopted in this State," he declared.

Bennett referred to Samuel Gompers, first national head of the American Federation of Labor, in an attack on independent labor political action. His sniping at the American Labor Party included threats to progressive Democrats.

"I have a right to expect," he said, "that my party will reject outside dictation."

"I am just as much entitled to labor's support as any man in this state," he claimed. He pleaded for support as he lay his case "before labor's own forum," despite the plea, Bennett's reception was decidedly cool.

George Meany, president of the State Federation commented dryly. "I can assure you," Meany said, "that Gompers philosophy of reward your friends and defeat your enemies is the philosophy of this organization, and it means just that." The AFL state organization had previously announced that it would endorse no candidates prior to the primaries.

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia of New York is expected to address the convention tomorrow.

Among those who greeted the convention today was the regional CIO director, Hugh Thompson. The Erie County Industrial Union Council voted on July 10 to send a telegram welcoming the delegates. Thompson announced that his organization desires "to promote friendly relations among labor as a whole by eliminating all inter-labor unrest."

The convention session opened at 10 A. M. this morning after 30,000 workers joined in an AFL demonstration last night, the largest labor parade ever witnessed in Buffalo, and adjourned early after appointment of committees.

Clarence F. Conroy of Buffalo acted as temporary chairman and the Most Rev. John A. Duffy, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, gave the invocation.

Mayor Thomas L. Holling, of Buffalo, who was elected with ALP support, greeted the delegates. City Councilman William P. Fisher and Norbert Berger, president of the Central Trades Council, also greeted the delegates.

John Coefield, president of the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters, and Congressman Alfred E. Beiter of Buffalo addressed the delegates briefly.

Thomas J. Lyons, president of New York City's Central Trades Council, reported that there were 641 delegates representing almost 1,000,000 organized workers.

sale of land, and would also negotiate a treaty with Britain.

Peace in Palestine, like peace throughout the world depends to a great extent upon the British Tory Government.

"There is no doubt," concluded Mr. Khuri, "that all which I have asked for would be much easier under an English Government of a popular front, or really democratic, not like Chamberlain's."

As he finished, the enthralled Jewish audience gave him a standing ovation and sang "Solidarity Forever." After a spirited question period, which further cleared up many of the Jewish workers' doubts, they gave a long shout for Arab-Jewish unity.

NOTEBOOK: FORMOSA

gars and dumps began to be peppered with Chinese bombs. We did not drop a single bomb over the town. Chinese pilots do not touch peaceful citizens!

The hangars were surrounded by aeroplanes. These were immediately veiled in smoke, a hangar was enveloped in flames, petrol tanks exploded, fragments of aeroplanes flew in all directions. Many of the machines were still encased. We aimed specially at them. Others were inside the hangars.

PILOTS FEARLESS

The next day we read in all the papers how the Chinese pilots had, by their audacious, incredibly bold operations, completely destroyed forty aeroplanes and an accumulation of petrol designed to last for three years. The Chinese pilots had brilliantly fulfilled the task set by its command. The crews were inspired by their victory.

(Translated from Chinese)
(To be continued.)