

# Terrorism In Palestine

## TWO SEPARATE STATES

Terror is ruling Palestine, the terror imposed by British imperialism in its desperate struggle to keep Palestine under its domination. The recent developments in the Near and Middle East, the slow squeeze that pushes Great Britain into a secondary position in a part of the world where she once ruled supreme, make Palestine a more important stronghold than ever before. Oil is still the great factor, and in addition Palestine has become essential as a military base of operations.

Britain is trying to keep the support of the Arab states against the infiltration of American capitalism, which is using the Zionist movement as a wedge. Therefore, at this stage of the game the Jews in Palestine are more directly hit by British oppression than the Arabs.

The Zionist underground movements, especially the terrorist Irgun Zvai Leumi, respond to British terror with terrorist acts of their own. The main objective fought for by the Irgun, as well as the now almost inactive Haganah, is Jewish immigration. Hundreds of illegal immigrants reach Palestine each week. British soldiers and sailors, often with use of arms, board the ships that bring these people looking for asylum, and send them to Cyprus for internment. On February 17 Jews staged a one hour protest strike against deportation of 800 illegal immigrant to Cyprus. Enforcing a larger immigration is essential for the Jewish capitalists in order to expand their industrial and agricultural enterprises. And for that very reason, Britain is attempting to stop or at least seriously curtail Jewish immigration.

## FIGHT POLICE AND ARMY

The acts of individual terrorism of the Irgun are aimed directly against the British rulers, their army, their police. Dov Gruner, a member of the Irgun was sentenced to be hanged for taking part in an attack of a police station near Tel-Aviv. The Irgun threatened bloody revenge if the execution took place; it has been postponed supposedly because of legal difficulties involved in an appeal. Three other members of the Irgun were sentenced to death by a military court for owning and carrying arms. Their execution also was postponed by the new military commander of Palestine, Mac Millan.

On February 13 two government ships were damaged in the port of Haifa by underwater explosions. Haganah took responsibility for this act. On February 20 the Iraq Petroleum Company's pipeline was severed by explosions in several places.

But the Jewish underground organizations are not fighting the British rulers exclusively. On February 11 fighting broke out between followers of the terrorist Irgun and those of the essentially anti-terrorist Haganah. This was the first important outbreak of its kind. Although opposed to terrorism, the more moderate Jewish organizations refuse to side with Britain. The Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Jewish National Council both formally refused to accept the ultimatum given them by the British, to cooperate with them against the terrorists, on the grounds that Britain's anti-immigration acts are the cause for the terrorist activities.

All of Palestine is under virtual martial law. British women have been evacuated, British police are checking Jews in all public places and daily arresting dozens of them. Jerusalem's best residential district has been evacuated of its Jewish residents and taken over by the British army, part of the offices of the Jewish Agency for Palestine has been requisitioned for headquarters for the military police. Jerusalem is divided into four parts by barbed wire enclosures, with communication forbidden between them.

In this atmosphere of violence, all Bevin had to offer the conference of Arabs and Jews in London was a split-up Palestine under continued British rule, with some local authority for Arab and Jewish communities. Both the Arab and Jewish representatives rejected his plan. In another attempt to stall, Bevin has announced he will bring the Palestine issue before the U. N. Security Council which will not meet for the next six months or more.

The struggles in Palestine obviously make it impossible for anyone to remain neutral, the terrorism of the British government hits everyone. What then should be the position of revolutionists toward the Zionist terrorists? We must defend them against British imperialism not because we agree with their aims — we do not think that any kind of nationalism offers a solution to the working masses; only proletarian revolution can solve their problems as national minorities. Nor do we agree with their methods, individual terrorism is directly opposed to organized mass action on a class struggle basis. We must defend them, because they are fighting British imperialism. But we do not defend them by adopting their methods, by our defense we must expose the falsity of their methods. A revolutionary organization would ask them to enter into a united front to further the fight against British imperialism by mass strikes and mass demonstrations—a fight uniting Arab and Jewish workers against their common oppressor.

The Jewish problem can only be solved as part of the problem of the world socialist revolution.

American workers must expose the crocodile tears of Truman and Wall Street, who are using Zionism today as Britain formerly did — to consolidate its foothold in the great oil fields of the middle-west.

## SLOWDOWN STRIKE WINS RESULTS

A variation on the ordinary strike tactic was used with telling effect by militant workers of Local 329 AFL, Chicago, in an effort to gain better wages for 115 candy factory workers.

Variations of ordinary walk-out strikes are seldom used in the United States nowadays. In the thirties American workers perfected the sit-down strike, where employees seized factories but did not produce anything. In the last few years other variations have become popular in Japan, Italy and elsewhere. They include:

Slowdown strikes — concerted action to cut production by so many percent.

Production strikes — where the employer is ejected from the plant, along with the supervisors, but production continues under the control of a workers committee. None of the funds or profits, however, are turned over to the company until it settles the strike.

No-charge strikes — operating public transportation without slowdown, but refusing to collect fares from passengers.

The candy factory workers of Local 329, employed by the Hillman Company, had a Labor Board election in January. Since then their committee met with the Company on three or four occasions but was never able to boost the employer's wage offer to higher than 11c per hour. When the company made the 11c offer it put it down as a "final" proposal — "take it or leave it".

## SLOWDOWN STRIKE

The workers, however, had another idea. The next two days all of them in unison cut pro-