

# Palestine Partition Incites Arabs Against the Jews

By Irving Dale

Widespread violence and rioting spread through the Arab countries and a three-day Arab general strike was called in Palestine in response to the UN Assembly decision to partition Palestine. Moslem religious leaders have issued a call for a "holy war" to prevent the partition. The main target of the Arab demonstrators was the Jews. At the same time their wrath against American imperialism was expressed by attacks on U. S. embassies and burning of U. S. flags.

On the other hand, the UN decision to carve a Jewish state out of Palestine was met with jubilation by virtually the entire Jewish population throughout the world. After being hounded from one country to another, after the ferocious orgies of Nazi Germany, after two years of hopelessness and despair in post-war Europe, the establishment of a state has great appeal for the Jews. To them it looks like the solution of their problems—a country of their own where they can at last be free from anti-Semitism and in which they will be masters of their own destiny.

The UN resolution calls for the partition of Palestine, a territory approximately the size of the state of Vermont, into three zones—a

Jewish state, an Arab state and an international zone. The proposed Jewish state would occupy 55% of the territory; it would contain 538,000 Jews and 397,000 Arabs. The Arab state would have 804,000 Arabs and 10,000 Jews. Approximately 100,000 Arabs and a like number of Jews will live in the UN-controlled international area of Jerusalem.

## INTERIM COMMISSION

An interim commission of the UN has been set up to take over the reins of government from the British, whose mandate expires on Aug. 1, 1948. This commission will govern the Jewish and Arab states "until such time" as it declares them competent to govern themselves. It will also govern the international zone.

In adopting this decision, the UN ran roughshod over the clearly ex-

pressed desire of the Arab majority in Palestine and over the unremitting protests and even threats of war by the entire Arab Middle East. This violation of the democratic rights of self-determination was committed in the name of securing peace in the Middle East. But the members of the UN themselves know that their partition plan only provides the basis for continued strife between Jews and Arabs.

Setting up of artificial boundaries between peoples has never solved national problems, but served only to intensify national enmities. This was true in the Balkans after the First World War. We see a living example of it in the Indian partition today. The Palestine partition will be no less bloody. The imperialists are past masters in the art of fomenting and exploiting national hatreds to serve their own ends.

American imperialism pushed through the partition in order to utilize the Jews as a wedge in the Middle East (just as they were used in the past by the British). Britain, which abstained on every vote on the question, has been forced to cede her leading role in the Middle East to American imperialism. France is in the same position as Britain; her delegation would have preferred not to further antagonize the Arab world, but had

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## Toronto Trotskyists Run Candidates

TORONTO, Canada — Ross Dowson, National Secretary of the Revolutionary Workers Party (Trotskyists), and Harry Clairmont, recording secretary of ILGWU Local 14, are the RWP candidates for Mayor and Controller respectively, in the municipal election to be held New Year's Day.

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to bow at the last moment to U. S. pressure.

The role of the Kremlin is equally cynical and sinister. Stalin is playing with the destinies of Arab and Jewish peoples as with so many pawns, hoping to maneuver himself thereby into a more advantageous bargaining position with respect to the United States.

The reaction of the Arab masses to the UN partition scheme is an expression of their desire to conduct a struggle for genuine inde-

pendence. But the tragedy is that the reactionary Arab leadership is successfully sidetracking the wrath of the masses into attacks against the Jewish minority rather than against their real enemies—the imperialists. Here the Arab leaders play the game of Washington, London and Paris. So long as Arabs and Jews are at each other's throats, the imperialist stranglehold on the Middle East is assured.

## TRAP FOR BOTH

The partition plan is no less a trap for the Jews than for the Arabs. Their gains are purely illusory. The Jews will not have gained a free and independent state such as emerged in Europe after the national revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries. This caricature of a "Jewish state" comes into being in a world of declining capitalism when no small people—even those already with a "state of their own"—has any independence to speak of. Even if maintained against the assaults of the Arabs, this "Jewish state" will remain completely at the mercy of the UN, that is, of the imperialists who dominate the UN.

Moreover, this "Jewish state" is being established in a country where the Jews are a minority. So long as the Arab majority remains opposed to this minority Jewish state, the Jews in Palestine must live dangerously indeed. As loyal supporters of this reactionary partition plan, they will only retain and increase the hostility of the Arabs, without whose collaboration the Jews can never gain any permanent security or peace in the Middle East.

Nor is this all. The Middle East is one of the key areas for imperialism, both because of its oil reserves and its strategic position. In the light of imperialist calculations and the threat of another world war, it should be obvious that the "Jewish state" can easily become another bloody trap for the Jewish people.

Instead of solving the problems of either the Jews or Arabs in Palestine, the partition scheme will only aggravate them. The precondition for the liberation of Palestine is unity between the Arabs and Jews. This unity can be welded only in a joint struggle against the imperialist oppressors on the basis of a revolutionary socialist program. Partition, on the contrary, erects another barrier between Arabs and Jews.

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