

# The Shame of Deir Yassin

On Friday, April 9, units of the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern gang massacred the bulk of the inhabitants of the Arab village of Deir Yassin. The bodies of some one hundred and fifty men, women and children had been thrown down a cistern while some ninety other bodies were scattered about according to Jacques De Reynier, International Red Cross representative, who visited the scene of the outrage. Those women and children whose lives had been spared were marched through the streets of neighboring Jewish villages by the Zionist terrorists and displayed as "trophies of war."

The brutal carnage at Deir Yassin is the first instance of mass extermination in the Palestinian war. Its occurrence, however, was no accident. It took place in accordance with the philosophy and avowed aims of its perpetrators, the Jewish Revisionists. The Revisionist movement, which praised Mussolini and glorified as patriots the murderers of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, was bound to beget such abominations as the wanton slaughter at Deir Yassin. Those who took offense at our reference to the Revisionist terrorists as having fascist inclinations at the time the latter were directing their blows against the British should now understand that a fascist—or semi-fascist, if you will—who struggles for national liberation does not thereby cease being a fascist . . . or semi-fascist. Even their struggle against the British was carried out with tactics based upon their repulsive theories as seen in the assassination of British private and the needless killing of civilians in bombings.

The daily press in New York, which has played up the spectacular exploits of the Zionist terrorists in catering to Jewish circulation, has buried the handwork of these "heroes" at Deir Yassin at the bottom of the dispatches from Palestine. With the cynicism that becomes an integral part of the thinking of men who coin profits out of human misery, the editors calculated that headlines on the Deir Yassin butchery would prove very unpopular with many of their readers. Their attitude is an insult to the vast majority of the Jewish population, above all the Jewish workers who have in recent years joined the struggle for a Jewish homeland in Palestine as a struggle on behalf of the homeless Jews of Europe. The overwhelming majority of Jews in America have viewed their support of the struggle in Palestine as an extension of their struggles on behalf of democratic rights and of freedom for the oppressed, and most certainly not as support to a policy of oppression and extermination of the Arabs.

The Jewish workers of New York, traditionally in the front ranks of organized labor, cannot but view the Jewish Revisionists with their anti-labor program, as implacable enemies, once they are informed of their true nature. That is why the true fighters on behalf of the rights of the Jews, above all those who fight for the right of unrestricted immigration to Palestine must be the first to raise their voices in protest against the foul deed committed at Deir Yassin and use it as an occasion to enlighten the Jewish masses in this country as to the real character of the Revisionists and their military offspring, the Irgun and the Stern gangs.

The press reports that Haganah, the official military force of the Jewish Agency, "dissociated" itself from the outrage and took over Deir Yassin from the Irgun and Stern gangs, liberating the remaining women and children captives. The Jewish Agency itself followed this with a statement that characterized the conduct of the Irgun and Stern gangs as "utterly repugnant to the spirit of the Yishuv (the Jewish homeland)." The Haganah

and the Jewish Agency could do little less. One has a right to expect much more.

To "dissociate" and to mark as "utterly repugnant" is a feeble gesture when compared with the enormity of the crime. It is necessary to indict the practitioners of genocide as enemies, not only of the Jewish struggle for freedom, but of mankind itself. The depraved fanatics who turned Deir Yassin into an abattoir must not be shielded from the justified hatred and contempt which civilized men everywhere expressed for the hangmen of Lidice. If the evil stain which Deir Yassin represents upon the banner of the Jewish struggle for freedom is to be expunged, the murderers must be rounded up and brought before a Jewish court of justice.

Those persons who, either wittingly or unwittingly, have acted as the American representatives of Jewish fascism owe a terrible responsibility for the role they have played. The so-called "Ben Hecht" committee mulcted millions of dollars from American Jews (and Gentiles) by carefully concealing the true character of the Irgun organization which they represented. Political playboys like Hecht, despite their blood-thirsty jubilation over the death of British soldiers, were themselves both unaware of, and unconcerned with, the philosophy and program of the movement they supported. They made themselves willing, even eager, tools of the small group of Revisionist Zionists who pulled the strings and planned the program of hoaxing millions of American Jews. Yet anyone who took the trouble to gain even a superficial acquaintance with Revisionist literature could not fail to know that the Revisionists regarded the Arabs as a form of sub-human race who could not be permitted to stand in the way of the higher civilization and culture of the Jews in Palestine, a view in keeping with that of a Bilbo or a Rankin on the Negroes. Monuments to Jewish civilization and culture, which will be erected in Palestine by the Revisionists, who represent Jewish civilization and culture as little as the Nazis represented that of Germany, can only take the form of Deir Yassin.

The secretary of the Arab Higher Committee, Dr. Khalidi, has stated that the Arabs do not intend to take reprisal actions for Deir Yassin. Without probing the sincerity of the announcement, it is obvious that the story of Deir Yassin will inflame Arab fighters and cannot but bring closer a war of extermination. Deir Yassin was an isolated Arab village surrounded by Jewish settlements. According to Arab sources, it lived peacefully during the current disorders on the basis of an agreement with its Jewish neighbors. Hundreds of isolated Jewish and Arab villages exist today on the basis of such local understandings. Deir Yassin can give rise to such an envenomed atmosphere that no Jewish or Arab household would be safe without the protection of its own armed forces. The result would be wholesale pogroms and lynchings of non-combatants. Immediate and vigorous action against the murderers of Deir Yassin may yet serve to confine the struggle to military actions, as regrettable and futile as this form of bloodshed may be in Palestine today. Yet if such limitation could avert covering Palestine with Oswiecims and Majdaneks, operated by both sides, it could save both peoples from being dragged down to the animal level on which everyone is either murderer or victim.

The glorious chapter written into Jewish and world history by the Jewish resistance movement under the Nazis, above all the imperishable pages written by the heroic Ghetto fighters of Warsaw, must not be dimmed by the kind of chapter which the craven murderers of Deir Yassin would contribute.