

Arab-Jewish Labor Unity

By all odds the most encouraging piece of news to come from Palestine in a long time is the report that Arab and Jewish workers are presenting a common strike front in the city of Haifa against the Iraq Petroleum Company, which is 23 per cent American-owned.

The great majority of the workers in this plant are Arabs, a mere one per cent being Jews. Since the strike began on March 6, Arabs and Jews have been fighting their common enemy, the largely foreign-owned petroleum company, as firm allies despite the current bitter struggle in Palestine between large sections of the two peoples.

Some 1,700 workers are on strike, of whom 21 are Jews and the rest Arabs. Yet the Jewish labor unionists, disregarding the edicts of certain of their leaders against Arab-Jewish labor unity, have been working with the trade union which is running the strike. A dispatch by Clifton Daniel in the March 16 New York Times reports solidarity between both groups of workers and numerous contributions pouring in from both Arab and Jewish labor groups.

The lesson is of profound importance: despite the nationalistic barriers which reactionary leaders of both Arab and Jewish camps try to create, workers of both

nations have united, as once before in the railroad strike, in defense of their rights as workers and in joint struggle for better conditions. Such small but significant actions provide the basis for a solution to the tortured Palestinian situation: Arab-Jewish worker and peasant unity against imperialist exploiters and for an independent Palestine.

NO COMMENT

An all-white jury, sitting at Shreveport, La., has acquitted all five white defendants who were accused of beating one Negro to death and severely injuring another last August at Minden, La. Two deputy sheriffs were among the five defendants who were charged with having violated federal civil rights in connection with the lynching.

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INDUSTRY

By James Dakota
