

News Item

NEWS ITEM: "The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, in which the British government is the majority shareholder, announced today that last year's net earnings nearly doubled 1946 profits—from \$38,499,752 to \$74,259,428." (AP)

Last January an article appeared in *Commentary* magazine by Jon Kimche, a British Laborite (and so-called "left-winger" to boot), which explained why the British Labor Party had reversed its policy on Palestine, from pro-Jewish to pro-Arab. According to this apologist it was all a "misunderstanding"—and the fault of certain Jews. It seems that the reason why conference after conference of the Laborites had come out for a Jewish homeland in Palestine (prior to their taking power) was because they had been assured by the Zionists that it was simply a question of justice to the Jews and no Arab question was involved.

But behold, the Laborites are voted into power, Bevin and Cripps take over the foreign office, and what do they find? Reports, reports and reports—from the Colonial Office, from Intelligence, from the Foreign Office, from the War Office—and all reports agree on one essential point which bursts like a flash on their understanding of the Palestine question, something they hadn't known before. This amazing new fact, discovered in the reports, is the fact that *British interests in the Near East were vitally tied up with Arab goodwill.*

And, Kimche actually tells his readers, Bevin and Cripps were so sore at the Zionists for keeping them ignorant of this important fact that they have been working off their peeve on the Jews ever since!

We presume that one of the said reports dealt with the facts of life about companies like the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

Few people can equal some Zionist speakers today in their unmeasured denunciation of the British and "perfidious Albion." This is the rage of rejected suitors. We do not profess to be so shocked. Perfidious, yes—to any ideals of freedom and national liberty; but no one can accuse the British imperialists, Laborite or Conservative, of not being loyal and faithful servitors of the real rulers of England, the London City. If the Zionist "Socialist" leaders (just as "socialist" as their British brethren in office) had been half so loyal to the interests of the Palestinian working class, Jewish and Arab, the decade-long policy of crawling before British imperialism which has characterized the Zionist movement up through the Second World War would not have led to the present nightmare in Palestine.