

A Socialist Program For Palestine

By ED FINDLEY

For more than a year since V-E Day there has been a lot of talk about what to do with displaced persons, and especially with the Jewish refugees and gas chamber escapees. But there has been little or no action.

One million five hundred thousand Jews face another hard winter of unemployment, want and lack of housing, without any prospect of establishing themselves in the countries in which they live. Two hundred thousand of them are in former concentration camps (now called replacement camps). No Jewish property stolen by the Nazis has been returned. The feeble attempt of the so-called local governments have been hampered by the Allied Control Commissions. This is especially true in Russian-controlled countries, where the Stalinists are claiming the Jewish property as their own under the Potsdam agreement that gives them "German assets."

The ranks of the Jewish DP's are continuously being augmented from the 150,000 Polish Jews being sent out of Russia, who pause in their native land only long enough to make connections with the underground railroad leading to Palestine. Czechoslovakia refuses to grant Jews minority status and proposes the expulsion of all Jews who registered as German-speaking in the last pre-war census.

Thus, the Marxist prediction that decaying capitalism leaves no hope for the Jews has more than been ver-

ified. Nowhere can capitalism organize society in a sensible manner and provide for the needs of the population, especially for the minority population. The exodus from Europe by the most persecuted peoples of the world grows stronger daily. In their need and despair they cry out aloud to the hypocritical rulers of the world for a place of refuge. But there is no response from anywhere.

GROWTH OF RESISTANCE

The Jewish resistance movement, having weathered the two repressive moves of the British armed forces, faces with confidence the third phase of the British actions. A new mass arrest and search of all Tel-Aviv is expected in the near future. This time the Hagana urges complete non-cooperation with the British searchers. The past attempts of the resistance to institute complete and long-term civil disobedience have been vetoed by the reactionary leadership of the Jewish Agency, especially its president, Chaim Weitzman, an avowed Anglophile.

During the entire past six months of military actions by the Jewish resistance movements not a single clash occurred between Jews and Arabs. This fact has had a great effect on the average Arab worker and peasant. He had been told by the British and reactionary Arab leaders of the fabulous quantity of arms the Jews have ready to use against the Arabs. The arms, however, have been used exclusively against the British, with the result that there is noticeable a feeling of greater unity among the

masses which might possibly result in the anti-British unity of both peoples. In an attempt to stir up Arab against Jew, the British have transferred the Arab Legion from the puppet state of Trans-Jordania to patrol Palestine.

The British Foreign Office has announced that it will seek sole U. N. trusteeship over Palestine in the near future. British or any other imperialist control over Palestine will be no better, whether by League mandate or U. N. trusteeship. It is expected that this time, however, the British will attempt to exclude a commitment for a Jewish national homeland from the trusteeship.

PARTITIONS FOR ALL

As was to be expected, both the Arabs and Jews have rejected the "cantonization" scheme of the Anglo-American experts. This scheme would have set up small Arab and Jewish provinces, with self-rule limited, for all practical purposes, to the regulation of the divorce laws and even that to be subject to veto by the British High Commissioner. Complete control of the country would have remained in the hands of the British.

This plan, however, is still very much alive. It is reported that unofficially the Arab governments of Egypt, Iraq, etc., have accepted the plan in a modified form. The Jewish Agency has proposed secretly a real partition and division of the country into two independent states. Having no program for Arab-Jewish unity, and despairing of any real Anglo-American

support, the leaders of the Jewish Agency are left with one solution: to divide the country artificially. The plan proposes that the Jewish portion be enlarged by the addition of Gallilee, Jerusalem and, most important, the entire Negev. Sufficient bases are supposedly guaranteed to the British to maintain Britain's imperial position.

The aims of this plan are, first, to establish a Jewish state—no matter how small—which, while it may not satisfy the immigration needs of the Jews, will satisfy the "statehood urge" of certain Jewish politicians. Secondly, many Jewish leaders believe that agricultural settlement in Palestine is impossible and only the irrigation of the Negev offers any possibility of large-scale settlement. The Negev is the southern portion of Palestine, comprising approximately 5,000 square miles of uninhabited, semi-desert country. The Lowdermilk plan proposes to irrigate the Negev by creating a Jordan Valley Authority to divert the waters of the Jordan for irrigation.

What the Zionist leaders forget, and what seems to be the basis for the opposition of the Jewish masses to this plan, is that it can succeed only by giving up Jewish rights in the rest of Palestine and by the cooperation of the British in establishing the JVA. The Jewish masses know well enough what to expect from British "cooperation."

At best, partition begs the question of how to get joint Jewish-Arab action for the economic development of the country. It is sure to leave large minorities in both sections of such a "Balkanized" Palestine, which can only result in strong nationalist, irridentist movements, leading to conflict.

A SOCIALIST PROGRAM

A more direct and simpler solution would be a unified, independent, binational Palestine, giving recognition to the national rights of both the Arab and the Jew through universal suffrage. As long as the British maintain control, whether by mandate, trusteeship or bases in a "Balkanized" country, they will continue to subordinate the economy of Palestine for their own imperialist aims.

The first step in the direction of improving the economic position of the Arabs and Jews, and to increase the absorptive capacity of Palestine, is to get the British overlords out entirely. For this is needed a mobilization of the entire population, led by a party of the only revolutionary class in Palestine—the working class. This party must elaborate a political program that will reconcile the national interests of both the Jews and Arabs. Palestine, being an economically backward country, with remnants of feudalism, particularly lends itself to an application of Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution. The revolutionary party must elaborate an economic program that will be capable of mobilizing the peasantry behind the working class.

The elements of such a program are contained in the following:

1. Out with the British.
2. Immediate convocation of a Constituent Assembly, based on majority rule.
3. Free and unlimited immigration into Palestine.
4. Free land and free credit to the Jewish and Arab peasantry.

Against Franco Goes On!

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symptoms of a terrible inflation in a short time with the disastrous consequences which it brings. As for the anti-fascist forces, they are redoubling their activity. The sympathy of the immense majority of the people is with them.

Economically, the situation is disastrous. Food prices are rising unchecked. The certainty of a magnificent harvest cannot calm the discontent, because the people know that the greater part of it is destined for export. The results of this policy are a reduction in the bread ration. The great majority of workers who until now received 150 grams a day now receive only 100 grams.

ECONOMIC DISASTER

At the same time, new falangist immoralities are disclosed daily; the latest has to do with oil. These last weeks—and not all of them at that—the population has received a ration of 100 grams of oil. Meager distribution is justified with the argument of a bad crop. The falsity of this argument has burst into public view. The workers at the port of Barcelona discovered that an important part of the milk ships, destined for export, contained in reality... oil. How many thousands of tons were shipped in this manner? The indignation was so great that the port workers declared a protest strike immediately. The government has now promised to punish those responsible for this deception, but everyone knows that the main responsibility is its own.

The infamous economic exploitation is doubled with an insufferable political oppression. Today they do not yet talk of a public referendum, but in order to demonstrate that Franco can count on the sympathy of the people, they adopt typically fascist procedures. What else can this régime do?

Commissions of falangists or district watch-

men distribute among all the houses lists of adherence to the Caudillo [leader], asking the tenants to sign them. They take away the ration cards from those who repudiate them. There are still people—like those of Igualada—who refuse en masse to sign such a document in spite of the dangers it brings.

RISE OF RESISTANCE

Naturally, the falangist press is silent about all these acts of resistance to the régime. But the terrified reactionaries take brutal police measures in order to crush the morale of the workers. Repression has grown as in the black years of the most brutal dictatorship. Imprisonments are numerous. In Barcelona alone, during the last days, a thousand have taken place and many of them are accompanied by atrocious beatings. According to our information, some of the imprisoned have died in the jails of the commissary because of bad treatment.

Nevertheless, in spite of the brutal repressive measures, the franquistas are lost. The internal crisis is corroding them and has its repercussion in public life. For example, this July 18—tenth anniversary of the military-falangist uprising—has not been accompanied by public demonstrations, street parades or speeches. For us who live here and know the great importance and acclaim which is traditionally given to this anniversary the silence observed is the best symptom of demoralization.

But with what fervor and enthusiasm, however secret, we have celebrated our 19th of July! Moved by the conviction that the days of Franco's dictatorship are numbered, we anti-fascists intensify as much as possible our fight against the régime!—Mary Bell, translator.

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