

For a Free Palestine of Jews and Arabs

By ALEXANDER BITTELMAN

Excerpts from the concluding section of a report at the recent meeting of the board of directors of the Freiheit Association.

In the effort for relief and rehabilitation of the Jewish community in Palestine, all forces must now be concentrated in the struggle against the imperialist and reactionary White Paper. The doors of Palestine must be opened for Jewish immigration and settlement to save tens of thousands of Jewish lives from the former concentration camps in Germany, and to continue building up the Jewish homeland in Palestine.

It is at the same time necessary to win support in America for a proposal to facilitate the settlement of Jews in this country. This applies particularly to relatives and friends of American Jews.

The struggle against the White Paper can be won only on the following fundamental conditions:

There must be no reliance on the good will of British imperialism, American imperialism or a combination of both. The emphasis must be first of all upon cooperation between the Jews and Arabs of Palestine itself for a free and democratic Palestine.

Secondly, the struggle must base itself upon the collaboration of the democratic forces of the Jewish people everywhere, particularly in England and America, with the working class and democratic forces of other nations, for the national interests and demands of the Jewish settlement in Palestine. In this connection all entanglements with reactionary forces anywhere must be avoided.

BIG 3 UNITY

Third, the struggle must base itself upon the collaboration and unanimity between America, Britain and the Soviet Union in the Near East and the world over.

Fourth, the struggle against the White Paper must be broadened into a movement of all Jews and all progressive forces the world over. That means that the demand for a Jewish state in Palestine, the Zionist program, cannot possibly serve as the demand of a broad world-wide movement against the White Paper.

And, fifth, it is urgent that the Jewish settlement in Palestine conduct the struggle against the White Paper as a united and disciplined people, led by its responsible and recognized institutions, and in accord with the democratic aspirations

of the world anti-fascist forces.

It is necessary to reiterate that throwing cold water upon the task of building up the Jewish communities in eastern and central Europe does great harm to the Jewish community in Palestine. The Palestine community must have a Jewish life in Europe and America, just as these Jewish communities need the Jews of Palestine.

The immediate task is to win the struggle against the White Paper.

TWO DEVIATIONS

To accomplish the above tasks we must defeat two deviations on the question of Palestine that tend to pull us off our correct course. One of these is the reformist, opportunist pressure that we should accept the programmatic Zionist position on the question of a Jewish state in Palestine. And the pressure from the other, the leftist-sectarian direction, that we should completely relinquish our position for the building up of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

Only in sustained struggle against both deviations will we win the masses for our correct position, a position that supports the just demands of our people and of all progressive forces that the imperialist White Paper be abolished; a position of active political and material help to the building up of a Jew-

ish home in a free and democratic Palestine in friendly collaboration with the Arab neighbors, and on the basis of the principle of unanimity of the Big Three in solving the problems of the Near East.

Our position emphasizes that a Jewish homeland will be secured only in a free and democratic Palestine, for which both the Jews and Arabs must jointly struggle. A secure Jewish homeland also requires a democratic economic development in Palestine, both industrial and agricultural. And for that too the Palestine Jews and Arabs must fight together.

Our position also demands that the Jewish community in Palestine receive all opportunities to develop our own organs of self-government—economic, political and cultural—with means to build the elements and institutions of Jewish statehood.

Finally our position emphasizes that the Zionist programmatic objective of a Jewish state in Palestine cannot now become the practical demand for immediate unity of action in behalf of the Jewish community in Palestine.

BIRO-BIDJAN AND PALESTINE

With regards to Biro-Bidjan, it is necessary to point out that there a Jewish homeland is being developed within the system of Soviet Socialist Republics, and on the basis of Socialism. To Marxists the solution of the Jewish question in the Soviet Union generally and in Biro-Bidjan in particular is a principal guide of Leninist-Stalinist teachings on the national question.

But the complete and final solution of the Jewish question in the Soviet Union is of importance not only to Marxists but to the entire Jewish people, to all oppressed nations, to the democratic forces the world over.

The situation presents itself as follows. Jews in the Soviet Union enjoy complete equality with all other nations not only legally and formally but in reality. And that is why anti-Semitism there is regarded as a state crime. Jews in the USSR are fully integrated, together with all Soviet citizens, in the general economic, political and social

life in the Socialist state. Besides, Jews in the USSR have received the historic possibility of building their own homeland, with their own Soviet state system. The Jews in the Soviet Union are developing a great, rich Jewish culture in Yiddish—national in form, socialist in content.

Marxists everywhere strive for this kind of solution of the Jewish question as the best solution for the Jewish people as a whole. This does not mean, of course, that there exists any kind of hostile competition between the Jewish homeland in Biro-Bidjan and the Jewish homeland in Palestine. The Jewish people need both and will develop both.

The specific characteristic of the Jewish people, a people that is not a single nation, consists precisely in the fact that there are growing

out of the Jewish people two nations, one in Biro-Bidjan and the other in Palestine. These two developing Jewish nationalities are, so to speak, surrounded by Jewish communities and settlements in all parts of the world. That is the way it has developed historically, and this must constitute the basis of our further struggles for the welfare and culture of the Jewish people.

It is certain that the American Jews will work for relief and rehabilitation in the Soviet Union generally—in the Ukraine, in White Russia, Lithuania, Bessarabia, etc., and they will work energetically for Biro-Bidjan as the Jewish Soviet homeland. It is symptomatic that we now see a growing desire on the part of large strata of Jews to build here a broad people's movement for Biro-Bidjan.

U. S. Reaction Apes Hitler, Says Robeson

Americans must speak out against the policy of imperialist reaction which seeks to take over the role of Hitler, Paul Robeson, Negro singer, told a meeting of the Jewish Institute of Religion on Sunday night.

Speaking at a panel discussion on "Removing Race Frictions in the Modern World," Robeson declared that Americans must speak out against the policy of counter-revolution and "strangely enough, they must speak out against their own President and State Department."

Another world war would be a major class struggle, he stated as he hit out against racial oppression and economic exploitation. In this country, he said, the new dignity of oppressed peoples expresses itself in the fact that Negro youth is no longer prepared to suffer; they are prepared to fight and to die if need be for their freedom.

News Guild to Honor His Honor

Mayor LaGuardia, who is generally on the issuing end when it comes to proclamations, was on the receiving end Saturday.

Catherine McIntosh, 19, of the Bronx, "Miss Page One" of the New York Newspaper Guild's 10th Annual Page One Ball, read a proclamation to LaGuardia in City Hall announcing he was selected as a Page One winner.

The Guild will honor the Mayor and 26 other outstanding personalities when it presents awards at the ball at Madison Square Garden Thursday, Dec. 6.

Miss McIntosh was chosen by Harry Conover and Tommy Dorsey as the most beautiful copygirl on a New York newspaper.

Needle Workers to Hear Connolly Today

Councilman-elect Eugene P. Connolly will be a speaker at noon today (Tuesday) at an open air rally in the garment center demanding the immediate return of American soldiers from overseas and protesting American intervention in China.