

FACTS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT PALESTINE

(From the Communist Party of Palestine's appeal to the UN)

1—There's one British soldier or policeman to every 18 civilians in Palestine. Despite all the "security measures," insecurity has increased.

2—More than 30 percent of the British government's budget of 6.4 million pounds goes for the police and for prisons. Only 8 percent of the budget goes for health and education.

3—Civil liberties — the Anglo-Saxon boast—are a myth in Palestine today. "Any person may be placed under police supervision, banished to a certain residence, detained or deported from the country." Youths may be whipped and habeus corpus doesn't exist. The district commissioners powers under British regulations "are absolute and he is not obliged to give any reasons when he acts under the Regulations."

4—Democracy—another Anglo-Saxon boast — doesn't exist in Palestine. Citizens of the Holy Land are barred from all higher administrative posts. In a majority of the municipal and local council areas, there are property qualifications for voters.

In the last Jerusalem election of 1935 only 7000 out of 70,000

adults had balloting rights. In Haifa, Jaffa and Jerusalem as well as most of the villages, women are disfranchised. In the Arab rural communities council elections are abolished.

5—Monopoly for the benefit of foreigners is the rule in Palestine's economy. The mineral wealth of the Dead Sea is extracted by the Palestine Potash Co., whose British stock-holders get the dough. No taxes are levied on this company, no customs duties.

The oil refinery at Haifa, owned by the Consolidated Refineries Ltd., is also exempt from customs. Concessions have been granted to the Iraq Petroleum Co. and the Trans-Arabian Oil Company with advantages like: freedom from all taxes, rights to lay pipelines anywhere, right to expropriate land and all raw materials, rights to maintain their own police and their own aerodromes.

In 1943 two companies, the Palestine Electric Co. and the Palestine Potash Co., owned 40 percent of the total industrial capital. The two electric power concerns are foreign-owned. They pay no taxes or royalties, can fix whatever rates they wish and are exempt from customs until they make enough money to pay a royalty-free 8 percent dividend annually.