

ISRAELI YOUTH CALLS TO WORLD YOUTH

Following is a communication sent by the Young Communist League of Israel to the Secretary, World Federation of Democratic Youth, Paris.

ONLY now, after postal facilities between the State of Israel and the outside world have been reestablished, have I the opportunity to give you some detailed information about the recent events in Palestine.

Six months of war in Palestine, provoked and sustained openly by Britain and indirectly by the United States government, have made visible some aspects of the proposed solution of the Palestine problem by partition which were not so obvious four months ago, when I wrote you my last letter. At that time not all progressive people understood quite clearly the position of the U.S.S.R. and other democratic forces in the world, and the progressive youth in Palestine.

The stand taken by us was based on the assumption that the antagonism between large parts of the Jewish and Arab peoples in Palestine, artificially created by 30 years of imperialist rule, makes temporarily impossible the most favorable solution: the establishment of an independent democratic and united bi-national Palestine. We saw the main question in achieving independence, in the freeing of our country and its subjugated peoples from foreign troops. Today it has become evident to everybody that the realization of the decisions of the UN Assembly on independence and partition of Palestine is the only way out. The alternative is British or Anglo-American colonial rule. We supported—and still support—the partition plan because the UN decision on partition was based on the abolition of the British Mandate, evacuation of foreign troops and establishment of two *independent* states, connected by economic unity.

The hatred with which this decision was received by British imperialism and by Arab feudal reaction were striking signs of the anti-imperialist and progressive nature of that decision. The change of position by the American government strengthens this assumption. Anglo-American imperialists have now taken a more or less united stand against the realization of the UN decisions of Nov. 29, 1947, because it endangers their colonial rule over Palestine and their strategic control over the Middle East, an important part of their general plan for a Third World War.

During the last six months we could see the development of the well-planned British policy, favored by the ruling imperialist circles of the U.S., to create "anarchy" in Palestine in order to sabotage the UN decision and to remain in Palestine.

First of all, British officers and administrators encouraged the creation of Arab bands with such fascist elements and the Mufti of Jerusalem, Hitler's agent, at the head. Then "volunteers" from the neighboring countries under Fausi Kaukaji, also a former agent of Hitler who had spent the war years in Germany, infiltrated into Palestine as the Arab League's Bevin-made "Liberation" Army. International fascist reaction was organized in and for this "Arab army." With British help, German SS officers, former prisoners of war, "escaped" from British camps in Egypt to Palestine to join Kaukaji's army. Poles of Gen. Anders, Yugoslav Ustashis, Spanish fascists, etc., came via Italy. And last but not least, many hundreds of British police and military personnel "deserted" with their arms, "stole" armored cars, etc., and joined the Arab reaction.

I want to illustrate the British intervention by a few striking, characteristic facts:

1. On different occasions, fascist Poles were caught in Jewish Jerusalem and Tel Aviv spying in favor of Kaukaji. They were executed by Jewish people's guards.

2. After the attack on Jewish Kfar Etzion, German officers were found among the killed attackers. At Seith Dejan, in the middle of March, a German officer approached Jewish defense posts and presented an "ultimatum" that they should surrender. At the same time a German officer was killed at Brer village near Gass while leading the attack on a Jewish convoy.

3. United Press reports on May 25 the words of U.S. Ambassador Lewis Douglas after his visit at the Foreign Office as follows: "Even the permanent supporters of the British government began to doubt whether there is any logic in continuing to support the Arab Legion of Transjordan by sending money and British officers, in view of public opinion in Britain and abroad. But the British Foreign Office does not change its stand and does not want to consider even to return the 40 British officers home, or to stop the payment of 8 million dollars—the annual grant to Abdullah."

4. On May 30, the spokesman of the government of Israel informed foreign jour-

nalists at a press conference that at least two high-ranking Britons are at the top of command at important sectors of the Jerusalem forces of the Arab Legion. Their names are Major Newman and Major Hawkin.

5. As late as May 31, Reuters reported from Aman (Transjordan) that "all British officers who had been lent to the Arab Legion, left this night from Palestine." The importance of this message lies in the fact of admission that British officers are active in Palestine. As to their evacuation—don't forget that it is Reuters (a British agency) which publishes it!

6. On June 20, today, after more than a week of "cease-fire," the spokesman of the government of Israel declared that 32 British officers have these days reached the Old City of Jerusalem. They are in possession of Transjordan passports and are wearing Arab clothes.

7. Since the beginning of the disturbances, many Arab policemen were able to "flee" with quantities of arms, British soldiers were "assaulted" and "robbed" of arms and ammunition. Whole trains carrying supplies, arms and ammunition, allegedly for the British army, were halted by Arab gangs, always at the same stations, and "robbed" completely . . . no British resistance being reported.

In view of all these facts of imperialist intrigue, it is of utmost importance to stress that the main portion of the Arab working and trading masses of Palestine remained *outside* the attacking camp, and that this is the main reason for the great propaganda for Arab "volunteers," and finally the invasion from Transjordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, etc. We had many examples of local truces between Arab and Jewish villages, there were whole districts where Arab villages and workers maintained their contacts with their Jewish neighbors for long months, where they worked and traded together and in some cases even resisted the infiltration of reactionary Arab gangs. This was the case in the district of Emek Ofer (Vadi Havarit), some suburbs of Haifa, some parts of the plain of South Judea (Gedera, etc.). For instance, the Arab village, Hooode, resisted with rifles the infiltration of Arab bandits, and so did many other villages.

On the other hand we have actions by Jewish circles, the reactionary military organizations of Irgun Zvai Leumi and Stern, which objectively help British imperialism and Arab feudal reaction to widen the gap between the broad masses of Arabs and Jews. So they perpetrated, for instance, the provocative bombing of Arab workers at the Haifa Oil Refineries, which brought in consequence a pogrom of Arab local workers on the Jews and the brutal attack on the Arab peasants of

Deir Yasseen village in which many women and children were butchered. Further serious excesses have been committed, mainly by Irgun Zvai Leumi and Stern, against life and property of Arab inhabitants at other places.

The stand to be taken by progressive Jewish youth in the actual fighting is clear. All Jewish youth have to take part in the self-defense and in the fight for the realization of the independence decisions of UN on Nov. 29, 1947, and against the combined Anglo-Arab reactionary assault supported by the U.S. While fighting, it is our duty to be on the alert against chauvinistic tendencies on the one hand and against pro-imperialist "compromising" on the other.

The whole Palestine Young Communist League is mobilized, and our comrades are in all parts of Palestine in the forefront of the battle. Some of our comrades have already given their lives. Comrade Sasha Chanin of the YCL secretariat (who participated in the World Youth Festival and in the sessions of the Council at Prague) was wounded quite seriously in a battle against a joint Arab-English gang, during which he distinguished himself. Now he will have to be confined to bed for a rather long time (he will be glad to receive letters). Rabino (David Rabino-vici), also a member of the YCL central committee, who was present at the Prague Youth Festival, distinguished himself in many battles and was twice wounded. I myself have also some responsible, quite dangerous duties during which I tour all southern Palestine to the Egyptian border and contact all positions and settlements. (This letter is being prepared at a desert stronghold and I hope when returning to Tel Aviv in about a week to type and forward it.) Many others, especially among those comrades who visited the Festival and worked at the Yugoslavian Youth Railway last year, have responsible positions and are good anti-imperialist fighters. (It is interesting to note that two participants of the progressive Palestinian delegation to the Festival who were expelled by us for chauvinist deviations are now deserters and left Palestine . . . it is always the same story!)

Our Arab comrades and friends have no less dangerous and responsible jobs. They have to explain that the actual Arab armed fight is contrary to the interests of their people, that it only strengthens the positions of Anglo-American foreign rule and the local landowners, and that the real liberation struggle of the Arab masses is in turning the rifles and fighting side by side with the Jews against reaction and for independence of both peoples.

Our Arab comrades have taken this path and they are doing good work, partly open, partly underground. It should be

noted with protest and anger everywhere that the progressive Arab weekly *Il Istihad* had been banned by the British government because it took the above-mentioned path.

Since the above was written, the situation here has changed considerably. On the one hand there were quite big successes of the Jewish defense forces in the fight against the almost completely foreign Arab gangs; on the other hand, the Jewish state is becoming more and more a reality. The army is formed during the battles, all services suspended by the British with the intention to increase the *tohu wawohu* (anarchy) are taken over and continued by the Jewish institutions, a State Council of Israel has been formed representing all parties.

Therefore, as the efforts to build Jewish independence are bearing fruit militarily and politically, Bevin has decided to play his not-old card: he rushed to Palestine thousands of new British soldiers, tanks, planes, etc., 12 days before the supposed end of British rule, in order to safeguard his Arab gangs (now as these reactionaries are defeated again and again, Bevin suddenly remembers that he is responsible for "law and order"). On the other hand he organizes the open military intervention of his feudal serfs, the Arab rulers of the neighboring states with King Abdullah at their head.

This third, last phase was reached at the eve of May 15, 1948, the day of the proclamation of the State of Israel, when the seven Arab countries officially declared war on Israel and crossed the Palestinian borders from north, south and east. As a matter of fact, the invasion was organized by the British government.

This letter is completed in the first days of the "cease-fire" agreement organized by Count Bernadotte, officially an officer of the Red Cross, but politically without doubt an officer of Anglo-American imperialism. His real aim is to cancel the UN decision on independence and to bring the leadership of both peoples to compromise with Anglo-American imperialist rule.

During the coming weeks the situation may become more and more confused, new difficulties may arise and tendencies to appease imperialism may become evident in the Jewish camp too. But we feel sure that the Jewish masses will be on the alert and will continue to fight the anti-imperialist struggle for independence. The Jewish attitude towards the Arab people will be of crucial importance and we know that a lot has still to be done and great responsibility rests upon us. Progressive Arab opposition will grow and the fight against imperialism will finally be won only by a united Jewish-Arab struggle.

However, the way is still long, the fight very hard and without pity, and the losses will be heavy. But we gain strength when we remember that the same war as ours is being fought in Greece, Spain, Indonesia and elsewhere.

Last year we went to Prague and worked on the Yugoslavian Youth Railway. In that way we took part in the world-wide anti-imperialist struggle. Now we are on the battlefield in our own country and we feel that all our Prague Youth Festival comrades from 1947 are with us.

This year we cannot send anyone to take part in reconstruction schemes in Europe; we are very busy here. Our struggle is for life and death; *all* the Jewish youth is mobilized and fighting.

In the midst of this hard struggle we are confident that the World Federation of Democratic Youth and all national youth movements affiliated to it will do everything in their power to mobilize public opinion in their countries and all the world over in active political support to our just cause — independence — and against our murderous enemy—imperialism!

We leave it to you to find the practical form for this action, but we appeal to you now: *speed action!*

Palestine youth is anxious to hear your call of solidarity.

YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF ISRAEL

E. Shomornik, Secretary

Tel Aviv, June 20, 1948

CALL TO ALL ARAB SOLDIERS

We are glad to fill in a little the almost complete vacuum of news of progressive Arab activities in the present crisis with the following manifesto issued by the Arab League of National Liberation in Palestine.—Eds.

SOLDIERS of Egypt and other neighboring countries! Return to your countries and aim your weapons against the imperialists and their flunkies!

Brother soldiers! On whose behalf have your governments sent you to be killed on the battlefields of Palestine? Has it really been for the liberation of Palestine—as these reactionary governments claim? Are we really to believe the deceitful claims of these treacherous, reactionary governments which have sold their countries and their peoples to the Anglo-American imperialists? Why don't these reac-