

Palestine Partition

Will Lead to Bloodshed

BY S. MUNIR

The Chiefs of Staff are putting the finishing touches to plans for alternative bases when the withdrawal from Palestine goes through. Vast construction schemes are preparing new bases in Kenya, Somaliland and the Sudan, with forward bases in Cyprus for the Navy, and Transjordan and Iraq for the land forces.

"The malicious plan, for which Imperialism and Zionism are making propaganda"—those were the words in which the Palestine Arab Stalinist Paper "**Al-Ittihad**" characterised the Partition plan for many years. The Jewish Stalinist Paper, "**Kol-Ha'am**", was not shy in denouncing Partition in similar words. The opposition to Partition was, perhaps, the only thing on which the two Stalinist parties in Palestine, the Jewish and the Arab one, were united.

However, both will have to change their attitude. The partition of Palestine, which has always been regarded not only by us Marxists, but even by the Stalinists, and by the Arab National Movement, as an imperial-

ist plan designed to lead Palestine towards communal troubles and mutual bloodshed between Arabs and Jews—this malicious imperialist plan has been approved

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and supported in the U.N.O. by Russia!

The argument of the Russian delegate to U.N.O. that the tension between Jews and Arabs made the creation of an independent unified State impracticable, was taken directly from the lexicon of Imperialism. Instead of demanding the unification of the countries of the Arab East, which have been split up by imperialism for more than 30 years, the Stalinist bureaucracy has given support to a new partition.

Far from being a "solution" of the Palestine problem partition will only aggravate the tension between Arabs and Jews and divert the struggle of the oppressed workers and fellaheen of the Arab East from a true struggle for national and social freedom into anti-Jewish, chauvinist channels. Partition of Palestine means not only a danger to the existence of the Jewish minority in that country and to the Jewish communities all over the Arab East: it is also a blow to the class struggle of the Arab Labour Movement which emerged out of the development of the war years, a blow to the agrarian revolution. It is a wedge in the heart of the Arab countries whose progress can only be guaranteed by their unification.

All these considerations have become irrelevant to the Stalinist bureaucracy, when it comes to making a diplomatic deal with Imperialism.

Divide— And Let Others Rule For You!

How to explain the recent policy of the British Government for Palestine? It was sheer imperialist hypocrisy when Mr. Creech Jones told the U.N. Committee on Palestine that "the British Government were ready to assume responsibility for giving effect to any plan agreed to by the Jews and Arabs." He wished to make the world believe that Britain had played in Palestine the role of the disinterested conciliator. But what are the facts?

A few weeks ago, on Friday, October the 24th, a Jew was arrested in Tiberias and summoned to appear in the Court on the charge of "disturbing public security"—because he had distributed leaflets of the "League for Jewish Arab Co-operation" calling for peace between Arabs and Jews!

At the same time, British officers are training the armies of the Arab States and preparing them for their "task" in Palestine. And the Zionist military force "Hagana," whose main purpose for

existence is to combat the Arab National movement, is today permitted semi-legality by the British authorities—an army which at less propitious times for the British, has been illegalised.

This does not prevent Sir Alan Cunningham, the British High Commissioner, from hypocritically "warning" Jews and Arabs that chaos and bloodshed might follow British evacuation!

British imperialism has been weakened to such a degree that it cannot afford any longer to rule every country in the Arab East directly by its military forces. Strategical readjustment has become necessary and local rulers must be found who will be ready to direct the class struggle into as much communal trouble as possible. After an education of almost 30 years under the British mandate, both the Zionist leaders and the Arab feudal lords and capitalists seem to be regarded as adequately trained for the task.

The Middle Eastern and the British working class must frustrate these malicious plans. No diplomatic deal between American Imperialism and the Stalinist bureaucracy will keep the workers of the Arab East from fighting for full unification of the Arab countries, with equal rights and autonomy for the Jews in a united Palestine. The Trotskyist groups in Egypt and Palestine will continue to expose the hidden policy of British High Commissioners and military envoys, to plunge the Arab East into communal bloodshed. British workers! Demand the withdrawal of all troops and communal warmongering military missions from the Middle East!

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cracy or fascism, these are the two aspects of this one problem."

The French Stalinists long for a coalition with the capitalists, which would orientate its foreign policy on the Eastern bloc instead of the West. In return for this they would abandon their present agitation. They are not placing the problem squarely of a struggle for workers' power and the destruction of the capitalist system as the only way out. The formation of Vigilance Committees in the factories and streets to defend the organisations and rights of the workers is a step forward. But unless it is linked to a struggle for power, can only leave the working class suspended in mid-air and lead to a terrible defeat.

A complete break with the capitalist parties and the formation of a C.P. and S.P. Government linked to the Committees of struggle, is the next step forward for the working class.