

Against Creating Artificial Differences

In your discussion on Palestine in the February 9 issue, Henry Judd says that the SWP is against partition but "dare not take the next step of supporting the Arabs, who are engaged in fighting partition." I don't see how that follows as "the next step" at all. For you too "oppose unconditionally a UN partition." If that is the next step for them, why not for you?

I have looked up the SWP position in *The Militant*. They are against partition because (1) "the imperialists will have the real power in the carved-up country"; (2) partition aggravates British-provoked tensions between the Arabs and Jews; (3) partition is "anti-democratic to the core," denying the people of Palestine the right to determine their own fate. Their editorial (October 20) concludes: "The solution to the Palestine problem depends on the collaboration of the Jewish and Arab masses, and on their freedom to jointly work out their own problems. Independence for Palestine is the first step. And that means: Get the imperialists out of Palestine, ALL the imperialists, and keep them out!"

Now there may be some nuances between you and the SWP on this question, although what they are is not clear to me. But it does not seem to me that you should use the SWP, when on the whole you agree with them, as a whipping boy for your attacks on those who favor partition. Artificially whipped up differences cannot serve the cause of revolutionary socialist unity.

A Newark Friend.



We will on another occasion examine *The Militant's* line of Palestine. We are, as a matter of fact, not certain where *The Militant* stands now. (The position cited above is from an editorial that appeared before the partition scheme was "approved" in the UN.) The differences between us and the SWP on the Jewish (and Palestine) issue are more than nuances. We start with advocacy of the right of Jews to emigrate to Palestine. We demand an Open Door policy in the U. S., but we recognize the desire of Jews to escape Europe and rebuild their lives in Palestine. And we support their struggle to get there. *The Militant* and the SWP, so far as we know, oppose Jewish immigration into Palestine. Artificial differences are, of course, pointless, but that hardly seems like an artificial difference.—Ed.