

## Palestine Tragedy

The situation in Palestine is a tragedy. Nothing else could have followed the decision of the UN to divide that country into three parts. A land like Palestine cannot be cut up without drawing fratricidal blood.

Only two roads were open for dealing with the Palestine problem. One was, and remains, the democratic solution urged by socialists. It required simply the liberation of Palestine and its people from all imperialist domination and control, an end to the subversion of Palestine to the position of a pawn in imperialist power politics, a crossroads of permanent conflict. To liberate Palestine, to make it an independent democratic republic, nothing more was needed than the exercise by the Jewish and Arab peoples who inhabit it of the elementary right of self-determination. It was and still is primarily the task of the most cultured of these two peoples to take the leadership in the fight to proclaim the independence of Palestine and to defend this independence against all imperialist encroachment. And it is only by acting in this manner, by demonstrating in deeds as well as words that all the inhabitants of Palestine will enjoy fully and equally all the basic democratic rights, that an unshatterable unity of the two peoples could be established with the utmost consideration and protection of the rights and special interests of the minority.

The other was the road of imperialist solution imposed upon the peoples from without. This was the road adopted by the United Nations—the only road anyone had a right to expect this association of imperialist corporations to take. This solution we condemn as reactionary in its implications, disastrous in its consequences, enforceable only by violence against the peoples themselves. The tragedy is that the Zionist leaders promptly accepted it. They have no reason to be astonished at its inevitable consequences.

The Zionist political leaders simply cannot get it through their impervious chauvinistic skulls that the Arab people—not the mufti and the effendim, but the Arab people—are not one whit less passionately attached to their land and the land of their progenitors than are the Jews who want to make it their homeland. They seem to be unceasingly astonished and outraged at the thought that the Arabs of Palestine and even of other Arab countries are ready to fight and fall in the defense of their aspirations against all

In view of the complexity of the Palestine situation, and the general interest in the problem, **LABOR ACTION** hereby invites discussion articles on the subject. A maximum of two columns will be devoted to these discussion articles. Because our space is limited, contributions may not exceed 1,000 words; the shorter, the better—with more guarantee of publication. Contributions will be published in the order of arrival. General discussions of the Jewish question will not be accepted for publication here; contributions must be confined to the Palestine problem.

those whom they regard as traducers of their rights. Out of one corner of their mouths, the Zionists insist that they have brought nothing but benefits and progress to the Arabs of Palestine and that this is known and properly appreciated by the Arabs themselves. But they never seem prepared to put this popularity to the test of a democratic decision in which every inhabitant of Palestine would have one vote—not more but certainly not less. Out of the other corner of their mouths, the Zionists recommend for their salvation reliance upon the patronage of an alien imperialism, now Britain, now the United States, and, on timid occasions, Russia. No wonder they are unable to cement a real solidarity with the Arab people. No wonder all they accomplish in that field is to help drive the Arabs, despairingly, into the arms of the reactionary Arab feudalists.

When the Jewish people in Palestine broke with British imperialism and began their resistance to it with arms in hand, we unhesitatingly sided with them and hailed their struggle. War to the death against imperialist oppression brings its casualties, but it is a sacred war blessed by the ideal of freedom. When their arms were directed against the foreign oppressor, the Jewish people encountered anything but hostility from their Arab countrymen. The sharp difference in the attitude and reaction of the Arabs now, is significant and should serve as an instructive caution to all, the Jewish people particularly.

Unfortunately, all the indications are that the bloody conflict in Palestine that has started between Jews and Arabs is only at its inception. The assurances by the Zionist leaders that the Arabs are militarily impotent are, to say the least, exaggerated. The tragedy is that blood will continue to flow, not the blood of tyrants which waters the tree of liberty, but the blood of brothers. The tragedy is that this flow of blood will divide the brother-peoples still more and make more difficult the reconciliation and mutual respect that are indispensable to the freedom and well-being of both. The flouting of democracy yields dreadful and bitter fruit for the people. We socialists understand this well. Woe to those who do not.

What must be done in the long run is still clear. Even assuming that partition becomes an accomplished fact, the only basic solution for the Palestine problem would be the re-unification of Palestine, not by force of arms, either by Zionists or Arab effendies, but by the victory of Arab-Jewish unity from below, by the workers and peasants fighting against both Jewish capitalists and Arab landlords and by the constitution of a united state under a democratic Constituent Assembly.

What must be done immediately is to find the right road and the shortest one to bring to an

end the fratricidal bloodshed from which neither people can profit and which serves only the interests of the imperialists who can make excellent use of it to justify their continued "protecto-rates" over the land. The continuation of the tragic battles runs counter to the most urgent and basic requirement in Palestine, the fraternal union of the two peoples. The continuation of the battles can only poison the land, intensify chauvinistic passions and postpone indefinitely the progressive, fruitful, harmonious solution of the Palestine problem.

In the present situation, fraught with the most gristly consequences, we militant socialists do not hesitate to call for "Cease fire!" for immediate reconciliation and appeasement between the two camps.

Precisely because it is the Jews who are, or seem to be, the immediate beneficiaries of the UN partition decision, it is upon them that the initiative devolves. It is incumbent upon them primarily to proclaim the most elaborate and scrupulous assurances to the Arab people and to make the greatest number of reasonable concessions. Short of joining immediately in the struggle against partition—a step which the Jews cannot, unfortunately, be expected to take right now—the status quo of partition can be conceived of as a possible transition to a solution only if the Jewish people and their responsible organizations do everything possible to convince the Arab masses—not by words alone—that no iniquity or injustice is contemplated against them, but only a desire to live in democratic and respectful comradeship with the other Palestine people.

It is a difficult problem, the problem of Palestine. It has been brutally complicated by the sinister designs of the imperialists. It has been criminally muddled by the Zionist political bosses and of course exploited cunningly by the Arab feudalists. The immediate and absolutely unpostponable task is, however, clear. A continuation of the tragic and fruitless battle of the brother-peoples must be brought to an instantaneous end. The main responsibility for discharging the task has been indicated. An honest observance of the elementary principles of democracy would suffice in this case to resolve the problem with distinction, honor and the assurance that sooner rather than later a durable solution would be found.

## The Subversives - -

(Continued from page 1)

The Workers Party and other socialist groups resolutely opposed Stalinist totalitarianism at a time when the very forces that now attempt to engineer a monstrous amalgam between socialism and Stalinism were allied with and apologizing for Stalinist totalitarianism!

We say that the very indiscriminate lumping together of such incompatible organizations on one list shows how sinister are the purposes behind its compilation.

4) Finally, what is subversive and who are the real subversives?

No one knows what "subversive" is supposed to mean. It is one of those words the stirs emotional reactions precisely because it has no exact or discoverable meaning. It is intended to inflame prejudices rather than actually to describe anything or anyone.

The Workers Party believes in socialism; in a strengthening of the power and betterment of the conditions of the working class; in opposition to imperialist war and in putting an end to the recurrent world wars that threaten the destruction of humanity; and in the human brotherhood of all men in an attempt to build a new, free, peaceful society.

What is "subversive" about that?

Perhaps the shoe fits on another foot. Perhaps the real "subversives"—those who are subversive to the best interests of the people—are those who perpetuate a society which leads only to war and misery.

Perhaps the real "subversives" are those, like Attorney-General Clark's political companions, who perpetuate Jim Crow and anti-Negro prejudice; who humiliate and impoverish millions of Americans because their skin is dark; who nourish the vulgar and putrescent notions of racial superiority which they maintained even before the name of Hitler was known.

Perhaps the real "subversives" are those among Attorney-General Clark's political companions who juggle the atomic bomb that may destroy all humanity.

Perhaps the real "subversives" are those of Attorney-General Clark's political companions who attempt to hinder and shackle labor by such legislation as the Taft-Hartley bill.

For it is they and the capitalist class in whose behalf they labor so energetically that threaten the very existence of humanity! It is they who "subvert" the needs of America's people.

On the other hand, the Workers Party and LABOR ACTION preach, work for, fight for and live for a society in which the crimes which capitalism perpetrates against humanity will no longer be possible. And because the Workers Party despises all oppression and all tyranny it has only the most unyielding enmity to all totalitarian and tyrannical regimes of no matter what variety.

What is "subversive" about that?

Is it in any way criminal or immoral or indecent to believe in and try to convince others to believe in socialism?

The Workers Party has never hidden any of its beliefs or activities. It proudly offers them for public inspection, secure in the belief that its ideas will one day be the property of millions of Americans. It has nothing to hide, nothing to dissimulate. The Workers Party has never engaged in "secret diplomacy," never entered into pacts with totalitarian regimes—pacts which deprived millions of innocent people of their liberties.

Can its accusers say as much for themselves?