

PALESTINE :

ARAB - JEWISH UNITY

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The B.B.C. and the capitalist press all over the world was relieved when Arab-Jewish riots broke out in Palestine. British imperialism intended to prove to world public opinion that it was necessary to keep a big army in Palestine 'in order to prevent civil war between Jews and Arabs.' It tried to make the British working class believe that it is not for the suppression of the Arab working class in the Middle East and for preparation for a new war that this army is kept there, but for the sake of "peace in the Holy Land." It is, therefore, only natural that it did not publish or broadcast the following facts known by everybody in Palestine.

Immediately after the first outbreaks of communal riots between Jews and Arabs, a meeting of all Arab and Jewish workers in the Army-camp of North Tel-Aviv was organised. The speaker of the Arab workers who are organised in the Left "Arab Workers' Congress" said:

"We will not gain our freedom by war with the Jews. We shall not allow anybody to sow discord between the workers of the two peoples."

Then he read a declaration issued by the Jaffa municipality and other Arab bodies against the provocations which led to bloodshed.

The spokesman of the Jewish workers declared:

"A criminal hand has been trying for years to incite one people against the other . . . our way is the way of unity for the sake of both peoples."

About 40 Arab trade-unionists and members of youth organisations visited the mukhtar (head of the local body) of the Jewish quarters of Jaffa and discussed with him the measures to be taken in order

to prevent outrages in the future. It was decided to keep a permanent guard in the affected areas in order to get the provocateurs.

Similar signs of common action against provocations have been shown in other parts of Jaffa-Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem. The workers of the country have begun to understand that war between Jews and Arabs will only delay the real fight for freedom from the imperialist yoke.

The responsibility of imperialism for this development in Palestine is only too clear. On the one hand, it was British imperialism which, in 1936-39, armed the Zionist military forces in order to carry out the policy of retaliation against whole Arab villages and created, by these means, hatred and tension between Jews and Arabs. These Zionist military forces have recently killed Arab women and children by their acts of retaliation against Arab robbers hired by bodies who are interested in Arab-Jewish clashes. On the other hand, it is imperialism, the same imperialism which suppresses the working class all over the Middle East, who brought back into Palestine Arab chauvinist leaders, and gave them full freedom to incite to war against the Jewish population, while

leftists condemned during the period of 1936-39 were kept in prison (e.g., Kakhri Haraq).

These chauvinist leaders have been given a free hand to organise the military "Arab Youth Organisation"—which refused to under-sign the call for putting an end to communal riots issued by the Jaffa municipality.

While leftist papers are censored severely, the chauvinist "al-Wahda" of the Higher Arab Committee has been allowed to publish in these days an article saying: "How can we Arabs assimilate 600,000 Jews, if industrially developed Germany could not digest this number of Jews before the second world war?"

British Imperialism, however, is not only politically responsible for the growth of influence of the chauvinist Zionist leadership and its criminal anti-Arab military organisations, and for the growth of influence of the anti-Jewish Higher Arab Committee which incites to communal riots. British Imperialism is also directly responsible for deliberately allowing communal riots to continue! When the instigators of communal riots succeeded in arousing clashes between Arabs and Jews on the borders of Jaffa and Tel-Aviv, British military forces, ostensibly in Palestine "to keep order and peace," arrived two hours late! In other affected areas they did not appear at all. They appeared immediately, however, when intervention in the common strike of Arab and Jewish workers in the Haifa Oil Refinery was concerned, early this year!!

We call upon the British workers to: Fight for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Palestine! Put an end to the imperialist regime in the Middle East. Do not let your comrades in the army be exploited for the suppression of the working class in the Middle East and for carrying out the imperialist policy of sowing discord between Arabs and Jews in Palestine!