

# Blood in Palestine

**P**ROFOUNDLY tragic is the news this week from Palestine. Sanguinary conflict between Arabs and Jews has taken a heavy toll of victims on both sides. First, Arabs killed a Jew; then two Arabian workers were killed near Pesakh Tikvah. Violent clashes followed in which, according to official figures, 6 Jews were killed, 11 seriously wounded and 28 received lighter injuries; while 2 Arabs were killed, 1 seriously wounded and 14 received lighter injuries. These figures, issued by the British High Commissioner, show that the number of Jewish victims was the greater and that the Jewish population of Palestine is in the gravest danger. Those who fled from pogroms in Poland and Germany to seek refuge in Palestine now find themselves once more victims of a bloody terror.

Who is to blame for Palestine's tragedy? Clearly, the guilt lies with British imperialist policy based on the maxim "divide and conquer." Imperial Britain provokes national and religious clashes in its colonies. This enables it to step in as the guardian of law and order; it punishes both sides of the conflict and keeps them both under its imperial heel.

In Palestine, Britain's policy of sanguinary provocation is aided on the

one hand by Arab reactionaries, and on the other hand by certain Zionist-revisionist lackeys of British imperialism who poison the political atmosphere by a provocative "race-politics" against the poorer sections of the Arab population. The rivalry between Arab and Jewish Tories leads to street-battles in which innocent people are slaughtered.

The most urgent task of the moment in Palestine is to halt the shedding of blood. All who provoke and propagate race hatred must be sharply condemned, whether they be Jews or Arabs. The next urgent task is to alter those conditions which create conflict and bloodshed. The situation in Palestine must be drastically changed. This can be done only if Jewish and Arab workers and farmers organize unions of their own in which there is no racial discrimination of any kind. There must be a strict prohibition of the purchase of land without the farmer's consent. Race politics, which plays directly into the hands of Nazis, fascists and British imperialists, as well as into the hands of Arab reactionaries and Zionist-revisionist elements, must be halted. Palestine's tragedy can be assuaged only when the Jewish and Arabian masses form a united People's Front against British imperialism.