

British Doubletalk in Palestine

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July 29 was the day on which British military forces raided our cities and villages. It awakened in the hearts of thousands the feelings of a colonial people, tied to the millions of other enslaved and oppressed colonial peoples.

In the few days the British showed their armed might the Jews realized what the absence of democracy and the most elementary rights can mean to a people.

The major reason for the present crisis is the efforts of certain circles to heighten antagonisms between Arabs and Jews. The imperialists seek to create friction between the two people in order to prepare the political basis for their partition scheme. Nor are the latest military actions the only method they use.

Bringing the "great leader" (the Mufti) close to the borders of Palestine and the encouragement thereby of mutual boycotts are important elements in this policy.

The British trade mission which recently visited Lebanon openly called on the Arabs to boycott Jewish products. Simultaneously, other British agents call upon the Jews to boycott Arab products in the Carmel Market in Tel Aviv and in Machaneh Yehuda in Jerusalem.

These plans are consistent with British policy in the entire Middle East; a policy which grants fictitious independence so that these areas might serve as military bases for the British. Whatever the plan for partition might be, the future of the people remains one of oppression and subjugation.

If there were, in the not too distant past, those in the Yishuv who were filled with the hope that the concentration of divisions in Palestine would be for anti-Soviet purposes, but that "us they will do no harm," the bitter reality of violent excesses against the Jewish community has now proved it is impossible to divide

imperialistic, - anti - Soviet aims from anti-Jewish aims.

These violent attacks have called forth tremendous indignation in the Yishuv. But this justified sentiment did not find its necessary expression in social and political action against the criminal actions of the colonial oppressors.

What was the attitude of official circles?

At the conference of the Yishuv, the representatives of the Histadruth (Jewish Trade Union Federation), as well as of the middle-class elements, identified themselves with the Jewish big bourgeoisie who want to continue the traditional political ties with the British finance magnates.

Rekeach, Mayor of Tel Aviv, declared without shame that the tactics of the government is in our favor, and that to break with the British would be worse than the present situation. Landauer, of the Aliya Hadasha (the new immigration from western Europe), spoke in the same spirit, stressing that the British government remains our ally in the future.

The terror against our people has not yet come to an end, but these leaders are not ashamed to cover up these crimes and promise everlasting fidelity to the masters.

Tragically, such pro-imperialist sentiments exist not only among the majority of these leaders, but among other sections of the Yishuv. The extraordinary conference of the Zionist Executive and the Vaad Leumi, the leaders of the municipalities and representatives of the Agudath Israel issued a statement asserting normal relations with the colonial power will continue after the arrested ones are released.

It is quite clear that those who participated in the conference do not protest against the presence of a foreign ruler whose representatives ran amuck among the Jews last week. And if the statement of these circles is not sufficiently clear, we were blessed with an official statement by a representative of the Jewish Agency

with regard to relations with the government. Dr. Altman Eton, of the Information Bureau of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, declared to foreign correspondents in the Hotel Eden:

"The Jews in Palestine are ready to defend themselves. This does not mean that they are against continued presence of British military forces in Palestine to defend and guard the legitimate interests of the British Empire."

A few days after the attack, which was carried through with British tanks, there appeared on the walls signs which appealed "to the mighty and free American republic" to defend the Yishuv.

It was not only these circles that adopted this new political line. The Revisionists, who call themselves "anti-imperialist fighters," also adopted this new line.

The Saudi - American oil interests which seek to extend their pipelines to Suez, El-Arish, Haifa, Aquaba and Aza and the elections which will soon take place in America—these are undoubtedly the strongest motives for the deep interest of Truman in the problems of the Yishuv. It is quite clear that every attempt to make an alliance with the American government is a continuation of the traditional politics which ties the fate of the Yishuv to imperialism, which is in essence the enemy of the freedom of peoples.

Recent events show that the colonial power is not concerned with a solution which will bring peace and freedom to our country. The only concrete solution is the immediate transfer of the problem of Palestine to the Security Council of the UN and concentration of all freedom-loving forces for a democratic solution.

The realization of such a program will make it possible for our country to free itself from the grip of Anglo-American imperialism. It will give the Soviet Union a concrete possibility to use its influence for a democratic solution.