

PARTITION IS A CRIME AGAINST ARABS AND JEWS

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Statement of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Great Britain on the proposals of the Palestine Royal Commission.

THE recommendations of the Peel Commission on Palestine constitute clearly a fresh endeavor of British imperialism to strengthen its position in Palestine. The Commission's Report shows that after seventeen years' trial British rule has failed to bring good government and peace to Palestine. It has admitted that under the mandate the problem of Jewish and Arab grievances cannot be resolved; it therefore recommends the termination of the mandate on the basis of partition. The proposed partition is a crime against both Arabs and Jews.

British imperialism is concerned not with the interests of Arabs or Jews, but with rendering secure

the vital strategic military and naval centers in Palestine. For this reason the Commission recommends that Haifa, an important naval base and head of the oil pipe-line from Kirkuk, should be retained under mandatory control for an indefinite period. By the recommendation that a permanent British mandate be established over an enclave running inland from Jaffa to a point east of Jerusalem, and a mandate over a second enclave on the northwest coast of the Gulf of Aquaba, Britain will have a firm footing in Palestine and control of access to the Red Sea.

"Offer" or Threat

It is significant that the "offer" of partition is made with 18,000 armed forces standing by in Palestine, reinforcements ready to move, the battle cruiser *Repulse* at Haifa, and Communists imprisoned or deported as a precautionary measure. The Government's Statement of Policy announces that the Palestine Government will not hesitate to impose martial law should it be considered necessary.

The Arab and Jewish problem, which the British Government is concerned now to liquidate by partition, was created by the policy of British imperialism in its operation of the mandate. For centuries Arabs and Jews have lived together in harmony. Prior to the advent of British rule in Palestine, 60,000 Jews lived in friendly relationship with the Arab population. It is proposed now that the mandate be terminated. The problem is now to

be solved by partition in complete disregard of the views and wishes of the inhabitants of Palestine.

The proposal for partitioning Palestine does not provide a solution to the problem, neither is it workable. It denies the inhabitants of Palestine the right of national self-determination and puts obstacles in the way of Jewish development in common citizenship with Moslems and Christians. Partition is against the economic and commercial interests of both Arabs and Jews, and would aggravate and not diminish the tension. The creation of two separate states would produce friction over frontiers, tariffs, limited access to the sea.

The most fantastic and mischievous proposition, however, is the offer to forcible expropriation of almost a quarter of a million Arabs, although the Royal Commission admits that it is not known whether there is suitable land available to settle these Arabs. Furthermore, the wishes of the Arabs are not considered; just because they happen to be living within the territory assigned by the Commissioners to the Jewish state they are to be evicted.

The creation of a corridor dividing the Jewish state into two will undoubtedly provide a basis for friction. It is clear from the above few examples that, should partition be affected, Palestine, thus divided, would become a virtual powder magazine.

There is no justification for the denial of self-determination to the Arab people. At the same time it is incumbent on the Arabs to guarantee equal democratic, civil and cultural rights for Jews within

an independent Palestine or wider Arab state.

The Communist Party fully sympathizes with the position of the Jews. For centuries the Jewish people have been the object of vicious persecution in many so-called civilized countries. The whole situation has been aggravated since Hitler came to power. Anti-Semitism, the weapon of fascism, must be fought. Along with the working class of all countries, the Jewish people have played an heroic part in this fight.

The illusion of a national home for the Jews in Palestine is now exploded. Only the smallest minority of Jews could hope to escape from the terror of the fascist countries to Palestine. Immigration, therefore, is no solution.

The question of immigration can be dealt with only by a democratically elected government representative of the whole population of Palestine and cannot be forced upon the people against their will.

We therefore demand the termination of the mandate, the withdrawal of troops and garrisons from Palestine.

The proposal to partition Palestine against the wishes of both Arabs and Jews calls for the immediate cooperation of the people of Palestine, irrespective of religion, in the face of common danger.

Cooperation on the basis of the demand for the termination of the mandate; the recognition of an independent Arab state with full rights of citizenship for the Jews; and the institution of a democratically-elected legislative assembly.