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ZIONISM

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ZIONISM

The Jewish workers and Jewish toilers throughout the capitalist world know from tragic experience the horrors of pogroms and racial persecution. There are some of you here tonight whose fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, were killed by the Czar's butchers in the gangs of the Black Hundreds. There are others of you whose relatives live in constant fear of pogroms and murders in fascist-ridden Poland. All of us know the inhuman barbarity with which the brown pestilence of Hitler fascism is slowly annihilating the Jewish people in Germany.

The Roots of Pogroms

And just as the Jewish workers know about this persecution, so do many of them know that the roots of race hatred, the causes of bloody pogroms, lie not in the evil characters of a few individuals. Pogroms and the pogrom spirit are deliberately whipped up by the ruling classes in the countries where the Jews are persecuted in order to make the Jew the scapegoat for the evils of capitalism. Here in this country we have seen the Ku Klux Klan, and now the infamous Black Legion, grow out of the red baiting and anti-working class policies of the Hearsts and other big capitalists. Jews and Negroes are villified and

persecuted at the direct instigation of the ruling class in its efforts to split the ranks of the toilers and to turn the resentment of the masses away from the capitalists.

This is what we find in capitalist countries where pogroms take place. But Palestine—the subject of our talk tonight—is not Poland. In other words, the situation there is not similar to the situation in Germany or even this country, where Jew-baiting is on the increase.

At first glance this distinction does not seem to hold true. The press plays up the fact that Jews are being attacked and killed. Several score have been killed since the beginning of the disturbances on April 17. Millions in property have been destroyed. The Jews live in a state of panic. Many of them have run away from their homes. The Jews throughout the world have been profoundly stirred by these events and lament the suffering of their fellow Jews in a land to which they turned as a haven from persecution in Europe.

Palestine, a Colony of British Imperialism

And yet the situation in Palestine differs profoundly from the situation that we all know exists in Poland and Germany. In Germany the pogroms against the Jews are an integral part of the suppression of the German people by the fascists, of the exploitation of the toilers and their sacrifice to the interests of the profits of the German capitalists. In Palestine, on the other hand, the killing of a Jew is a phenomenon ac-

companying the struggle of an oppressed people to liberate themselves from the iron heel of British imperialism.

For those Jewish individuals who suffer from assaults, who are killed by infuriated groups of Arabs, whose property is destroyed, it is immaterial from what motives the attacks spring. Yet for us who want to find a way out of the situation and who want to indicate to the masses a correct line of action, the motives and the origins of anti-Jewish attacks, must be clear. We must emphasize that at the bottom of every fascist and semi-fascist attack on the Jews there is nothing but blackest reaction. At the bottom of the present attacks on the Jews in Palestine—no matter how deplorable they are and how painfully they are felt by the Jews of the world—there is a rising revolutionary movement of the oppressed people fighting for its national independence.

Palestine is a colony of British imperialism. In the League of Nations parlance, it is called a "mandate", but the difference between a mandate and a colony is a difference in words, not in substance. In fact, Britain owns Palestine and uses it to serve its own imperialist purposes. Palestine is important for Great Britain, not so much as a source of raw material and cheap labor, but as a strategic military and aerial position, as a gateway to the East. Next to the Suez Canal and Singapore, Palestine is of the greatest importance to Great Britain and Asia. Great Britain secured its "mandate" over Palestine partly because of the Balfour declaration. That

declaration was issued in November, 1917—one year before the termination of the war—promised to the Jews, in case of an Allied victory, “the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people.” At the same time it promised the Arabs “that nothing shall be done which will prejudice the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.” It was an ambiguous proposal, obviously incapable of fulfillment, but it won to the side of the Allies a number of Jews throughout the world and it gave to Great Britain that claim to Palestine which made it possible for her to secure it as a colony of British imperialism.

Will Britain Ever Allow a "Jewish National Home"?

Has Britain any intention of ever carrying out its promise? Let us be clear about that. “A National Home for the Jewish People” means either a Jewish state in Palestine or it means nothing. But in Palestine the majority of the population is Arab, there is little likelihood of the Jew ever forming a majority, and, even if such a majority were achieved against the most stubborn resistance of the native Arab population, the Jews would still form an insignificant minority compared with the 12,000,000 Arabs in the adjoining countries (Greater Arabia—stretching from the Mediterranean to the Gulf of Persia). A state of this kind is obviously an impossibility. More-

