

Workers Weekly

Volume 37 Number 3 March 3 2007 50p

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Britain and Palestine: A Criminal History of Intervention

Part 4 – (Parts 1, 2 and 3 appeared in Workers' Weekly Vol.36, nos.15, 16 and 18)

The recent Middle East summit involving talks between the US Secretary of State and Israeli and Palestinian leaders has, as expected, not led to any positive

steps in regard to Palestine. Indeed the US, Britain and the other big powers have continued to threaten and bully the legitimate Palestinian government and have

maintained sanctions directed against it and the Palestinian government.

The Prime Minister publicly lectured the Palestinian president,

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TENS OF THOUSANDS ON THE MOVE AGAINST WAR AND AGGRESSION



Up to 100,000 marchers joined the London demonstration on February 24 marching from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square, calling for "Troops Out of Iraq" and "No Trident Replacement".

Thousands more marched in Glasgow. The march and rally was called by the Stop the War Coalition, CND and the British Muslim Initiative.

The demonstration was marked by the breadth of the anti-

war movement across all sections of society, showing the initiative, persistence, militancy and political consciousness of the working class and people in their stand against war, aggression and state

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Commentary

DPRK's Stand at Six-Party Talks A Contribution to Peace and Security in East Asia

THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTH ROUND OF SIX-PARTY TALKS BETWEEN CHINA, THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, JAPAN, RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES, concluded with an agreement in Beijing on February 13 after six days. Western media reports expressed relief that the US was engaging in diplomacy with the DPRK rather than threatening a pre-emptive (nuclear) strike. But these same media also

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Published by RCPB(ML)
170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA
Registered as a newspaper
Printed by Millennium Press

Neither Spectator nor Victim – Defend the Rights of All!

by Roger Nettleship, from *Silence is Shame!** Number 8, February 22, 2007

I think it is very important to reflect on the fact that the government is attempting to create and incite divisions in Britain. The aim is to attempt to shatter the coherence and resistance to the wars of occupation and attacks on rights and freedoms as well as to the attacks on social programmes, the environment and the all-round well being of the people and render the people as spectators, or victims.

The depiction of the people as spectator is to say that history is made by someone else other than the people, that people are denied decision-making power and that the executive in power are the ones in the know, that tough decisions have to be made which are unpopular. It is a dictate that people should not have the power and should not be allowed to influence the course of events. That the government wants to assign us the role of spectators was very clear when they ignored the just demand of the demonstration of two million against the invasion and occupation of Iraq on February 15, 2003. That the people defined these demonstrations in Britain and throughout the world as a defining moment in the unity of the world's people against the warmongers turned it into its opposite and placed the issue of the demand for an anti-war government centre stage.

The depiction of the people as victims is that against the victims are powerless, and are also

isolated, that this is just an issue to do with them and not the polity as a whole. The role of victims is to complain and in the polity at large just to list how bad things are. That the government wants to assign people and communities the role of victims is very clear in the feverish atmosphere of disinformation where they try to inculcate suspicion and prejudice, giving priority to prejudicial statements and reports. It is the case that the state is singling out those of the Muslim faith and outlook for attack under the guise of waging war against "Islamic extremism" and then criminally carrying out arbitrary arrest and detention with "anti-terror" laws. To call such measures "laws" is also travesty of justice itself when they are based on racial profiling which require little or no evidence, reducing legal process to one of the denunciation by secret police just as in the Middle Ages.

Decision-making force

The antidote to both roles that the ruling circles are trying to assign to the people as spectator and victim is that the whole polity in Britain has to put forward solutions and strive to become the decision-making force. So the issue for the anti-war movement and all movements of the people is to take a bold step together in defence of the rights of all.

In this context of the government attacks on the polity and its unity, the government tries to

brand the resistance to their wars in Britain and the world as "extremist" and calls on the "moderate" forces to defend its "civilised" values and defend the status quo which they claim are the values of the "host" community. This "way of life" of the "host" community is also used to attack the whole polity. The backward line, or backlash, to upholding the rights of Muslims, or other national minorities, is that no one upholds the rights and way of life of the "host" community, i.e. what is sometimes described as the "white working class".

Defending rights of all

Defending the rights of all smashes this. No culture is second to any other. This way of life of the people and values of these sections of the people united in the anti-war movement, the youth movement and the workers' movement – it is these values of the people which are in the ascendancy, which are a threat to the values of the executive power whose values are disintegrating in the modern world and which they try to impose by force. In this context, these old values of multi-party democracy ("representative democracy" as opposed to involving people in decision making), free-market economy (neo-liberal globalisation as opposed to an economy that meets the needs of the people) and rights based on private property (as opposed to being human) are fraudulently represented as universal values or those of the "host" community.

In conclusion, the resistance

movements of the people in Britain and throughout the world is the order of the day – this is why people will once again take to the streets of London on February 24 against the warmongering government of Tony Blair. Also, it is a reflection of the growing resistance in the United States that over half a million demanded that the troops be brought home in Washington two weeks ago. In these mass anti-war manifestations of the people, the decisive issue the anti-war movement has to take on board is not to stand aside as spectator or victim at the hands of the executive, whether that be Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, or someone else. The issue is that the whole polity in Britain must put forward solutions and strive to become the decision-making force and bring to power an anti-war government. A government that puts in place arrangements that are pro-people and put the interests of human beings at the centre of all policies. So the issue for the anti-war movement and all movements of people is to take a bold step together in defence of the rights of all.

Bring the troops home from foreign soil!

**End the attack on humanity!
Defend the rights of all!**

* *Silence is Shame!* is published by South Tyneside Stop the War Coalition. This issue, "Neither Spectator Nor Victim", was released on the eve of the No to Trident - Troops Out of Iraq national demonstration in London.

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Workers' Weekly

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Website: www.rcpbml.org.uk

March 3, 2007 Volume 37, Number 3

Subscription rates within Britain (including p&p): 4 issues - £2.95, 6 months - £18.95, Yearly - £33.95. For any subscription applications from abroad or for bulk subscriptions, please contact *Workers' Weekly* directly. Cheques should be made payable to 'RCPB(ML)' and sent to 170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA.

Additional Reports of the Demonstration against Troops in Iraq and Replacing Trident

Taken from Mathaba, February 26

Up to 100,000 people marched from London's Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square on February 24, protesting against updating the Trident nuclear weapons system with a new generation of weapons of mass destruction, which will cost £25 billion.

The speakers who addressed the demonstration in Trafalgar Square pointed out that the lifetime costs of Trident will total £76 billion. £25 billion pays for 120,000 newly qualified nurses every year for the next ten years, or 60,000 newly-qualified teachers every year for the next 20 years. Just one Trident wipes out a city of one million people and Britain has nearly 200 stockpiled. Trident ties Britain to US foreign and military policy and its replacement violates the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The speakers also referred to the war and occupation of Iraq which will cost Britain £6 billion by the end of 2007. This would pay the construction costs of more than 50 hospitals. With 650,000 Iraqi dead and thousands fleeing the country every day Iraq is in a state of collapse. Majority opinion in the Britain, the US and Iraq itself wants the troops out as do senior serving and retired military leaders in Britain. Now Bush wants to escalate the war.

Veteran Labour politician and President of Stop The War Coalition, Tony Benn, told the demonstrators that they represent all political parties in Britain. "We represent the majority of the

Americans who voted against the war. We are not protesting – we are demanding that all troops be withdrawn from Iraq, and Afghanistan and that Israel withdraws its soldiers from the Golan Heights. We are the voice of tomorrow, we are a voice that the government and parliament dare not ignore." Benn recalled his numerous speeches in Trafalgar Square which began more than fifty years ago when he opposed the Suez war.

Addicted to war

Annis Malik from the British Muslim Initiative emphasised that as the war goes on, the British government continues to create side streams and maintains that there is a battle at home – but there is no battle at home.

His views were echoed by Dr Dawood Abdullah the Assistant Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain who referred to George Bush's statement that the American people are addicted to oil. But Bush himself is addicted to war: nuclear war, the war of attrition and the so-called war on terror.

"There is no winner in this war as they cannot win a guerrilla war when the people are against them. If democracy is working why are Iraqis leaving their country in droves? Forty-six percent of the Palestinian people are malnourished as a punishment for practising democracy. Occupation is not liberation and the troops should be withdrawn from Iraq and Afghanistan."



Shaun Jones from the Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp called on the demonstrators to support the Block The Builders Campaign which is trying to stop the development of Britain's WMD facility at Aldermaston. She referred to a statement by Mohammed ElBaradei of the International Atomic Energy Agency in which he said that Britain cannot continue its development of Trident while telling other countries not to develop WMDs.

Break with the US

Euro MP Gill Evans said that over the past six months calls to scrap Trident have grown louder and louder and today they are deafening. There are already 27,000 nuclear weapons in the world and the British government wants more. The world is already on the brink of a nuclear arms race. "Technology and weapons will never replace international diplomacy and respect for human rights. We call on the government to start a race for peace and nuclear disarmament."

John Trippet MP, who led the initiative to force a recall of parliament over the latest Lebanese war, condemned the private and secretive relationship between Bush and Blair to launch a war in the Middle East. As a result of the warmongering policies, the British people are now targets. "We have to break the alliance with the US and build a government that reflects the aspirations of the British people."

TENS OF THOUSANDS ON THE MOVE AGAINST WAR AND AGGRESSION

Continued from page 1

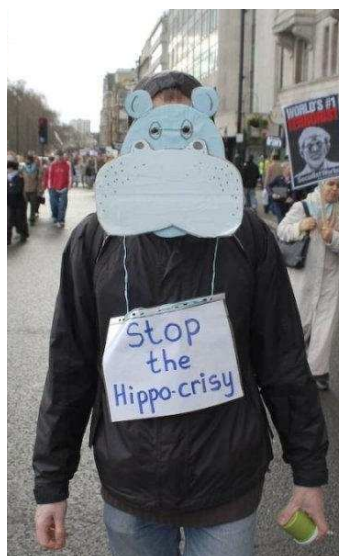
terror.

Speakers at the rally included Lindsey German, the convenor of the Stop the War Coalition and John McDonnell MP, who emphasised, "We want all British occupying troops out of Iraq immediately and we don't want any threats to Iran. We want a peace prime minister, not a warmonger in 10 Downing Street." Other speakers included Ken Livingstone, the mayor of London, Respect MP George Galloway, Judith LeBlanc, the co-chair of the US United for Peace and Justice and Venezuelan MP Augusto Montiel; Labour MPs Jeremy Corbyn, Bob Wareing and John Trickett; Green MEP Caroline Lucas and Plaid Cymru MEP Jill Evans; Paul Mackney, the UCU lecturers' union joint general secretary, Billy Hayes, the CWU communication workers' union general secretary, and Keith Sonnet, the assistant general secretary of Unison; Rose Gentle of the Military Families Against the War, playwright David Edgar, Dr Daoud Abdullah of the Muslim Council, Ismail Patel of the British Muslim Initiative, and Noreen Fatima of Stop the War's Muslim Network. Speakers were introduced by Andrew Murray, chair of the Stop the War Coalition. He called on people to attend the Stop the War Coalition's People's Assembly in London on Tuesday, March 20.

Tens of thousands march against Iraq war



Tens of thousands march against Iraq war



DPRK and the Six Party Talks

Consistent Stand of DPRK Contributing to Peace and Security

In the second week of November, Choe Thae Bok, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, led the delegation of the DPRK to the 7th Assembly of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace held in Iran. In a speech to its plenary meeting on November 13 he called on the parliamentarians representing the voices of the Asian people "to thoroughly reject the moves of the hegemonic forces to stamp out the history, culture and tradition of Asia, place the common denominators above their differences and demonstrate the united strength of the region in one voice in the international arena under the slogan of solidarity, peace and justice of Asia".

He added that the struggle of the Korean people to achieve the reunification and denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula is now facing a grave challenge. The Bush administration, in particular, openly listed the DPRK as part of an "axis of evil" and a target of pre-emptive nuclear attack and has since escalated the threat and pressure upon the DPRK such as staging nuclear war exercises and imposing financial sanctions against it, bringing to light an attempt to bring down its social system, Choe said.

Addressing the DPRK's nuclear test, Choe explained: "Under the extremely tense situation where the supreme interests and security of the DPRK were seriously threatened the DPRK successfully conducted on October 9 an underground nuclear

test under secure conditions as an exercise of its sovereign right to self-defence to cope with the US nuclear threat, sanctions and pressure.

"The DPRK will surely force the Bush administration to shoulder its historic responsibility for having torpedoed the process of denuclearising the Korean Peninsula.

"The DPRK remains unchanged in its stand to peacefully realise the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula through dialogue and negotiation though it was compelled to conduct the nuclear test by the US.

"As the DPRK has already clarified, its nuclear weapons are a war deterrent for self-defence to cope with the US nuclear threat and sanctions which have reached an extreme phase and it will feel no need to keep even a single nuke if the US ceases its nuclear threat and sanctions against the DPRK in a verifiable and trustworthy manner. Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we express thanks to the Asian people who sent support and solidarity to our people in their struggle for the peace, reunification and denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and believe that the invariable will of the DPRK for the denuclearisation and the independent option of its people to protect the supreme interests of the state will receive well-deserved respect.

"We will as always unite closely with the Asian people and make a positive contribution to peace, security, independent development and prosperity of Asia."

DPRK's Stand at Six-Party Talks A Contribution to Peace and Security in East Asia

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suggested that the DPRK had been engaging the world community in nuclear blackmail to get concessions. Both suggestions are misleading and aimed at continuing to isolate the DPRK while exonerating the US from blame as the cause of instability in Asia and as the country which actually poses the nuclear threat.

The fact is that it is the principled stand of the DPRK which forced the US to the negotiating table in the first place. At their conclusion, the talks resulted in a joint document. This is a positive development for the people of Korea, the peoples of East Asia and of the entire world. All peace and justice loving people must demand that this time the US is not allowed to do anything to sabotage the provisions of the joint document.

Safeguarding gains

The DPRK must be applauded for participating in the Six Party talks despite every effort by the US and its main ally in East Asia, Japan, to sabotage them by spreading disinformation about the DPRK. It has been seeking every pretext to justify a war on the Korean peninsula so as to keep it under US imperialist control at all costs as part of controlling East Asia and bringing the whole world under its dictate. In Japan, the government has increased racist attacks against the Korean people living in Japan and has sought to criminalise the Chongryon – the General Association of Korean

Residents in Japan, the main defence organisation of the million Korean people living in Japan. It is despite these provocations that the DPRK has participated in the talks with the aim of finding a peaceful solution to the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula.

The Labour government of Tony Blair has been extremely hostile to the DPRK in these circumstances, denigrating the stand of the DPRK, and joining in the provocations of the US administration against it. For their part, the British working class and people have the responsibility to contribute to ensuring that neither Britain nor the US, Japan or any other force negate the gains that have been made.

Working class and people

The working class and people are the natural allies of the Korean people in their determined struggle against the hostile actions and intent of Anglo-American imperialism and in their aspirations to achieve the peaceful, independent reunification of their nation. *Workers' Weekly* calls on the working class and people to demand an end to the US military occupation of south Korea, and an end to the threats of war and nuclear blackmail against the DPRK which have the potential to ignite a catastrophic nuclear world war in East Asia. We demand that our own government end its hostile attitude to the DPRK and stop its unfounded slanders which it has insisted on persisting with despite every act of goodwill on behalf of the DPRK government and people.

Chairman's Statement of the Third Session of the Fifth Round of Six-Party Talks

February 13, 2007

The Third Session of the Fifth Round of the Six-Party Talks was held in Beijing with the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), the Russian Federation and the United States of America from February 8 to 13, 2007.

Mr Wu Dawei, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the PRC, Mr Kim Gye Gwan, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK; Mr Kenichiro Sasae, Director-General for Asian and Oceanian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; Mr Chun Yung-woo, Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs of the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Mr Alexander Losyukov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; and Mr Christopher Hill, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Department of State of the United States attended the talks as heads of their respective delegations.

Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei chaired the talks.

I. The Parties held serious and productive discussions on the actions each party will take in the initial phase for the implementation of the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005. The Parties reaffirmed their common goal and will to achieve early denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and reiterated that they would earnestly fulfill their commitments in the Joint Statement. The Parties agreed to

take coordinated steps to implement the Joint Statement in a phased manner in line with the principle of 'action for action'.

II. The Parties agreed to take the following actions in parallel in the initial phase:

1. The DPRK [Democratic People's Republic of Korea; North Korea] will shut down and seal for the purpose of eventual abandonment the Yongbyon nuclear facility, including the reprocessing facility and invite back IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] personnel to conduct all necessary monitoring and verifications as agreed between IAEA and the DPRK.

2. The DPRK will discuss with other parties a list of all its nuclear programs as described in the Joint Statement, including plutonium extracted from used fuel rods, that would be abandoned pursuant to the Joint Statement.

3. The DPRK and the US will start bilateral talks aimed at resolving pending bilateral issues and moving toward full diplomatic relations. The US will begin the process of removing the designation of the DPRK as a state-sponsor of terrorism and advance the process of terminating the application of the Trading with the Enemy Act with respect to the DPRK.

4. The DPRK and Japan will start bilateral talks aimed at taking steps to normalize their relations in accordance with the Pyongyang Declaration, on the basis of the settlement of unfortunate past and the outstanding issues of concern.

5. Recalling Section 1 and 3 of



"Friends of Korea" meeting held at Marx House on December 5 2006, explaining the background to the DPRK's stand in regards to their nuclear policy and for their right to determine their own affairs.

the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005, the Parties agreed to cooperate in economic, energy and humanitarian assistance to the DPRK. In this regard, the Parties agreed to the provision of emergency energy assistance to the DPRK in the initial phase. The initial shipment of emergency energy assistance equivalent to 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil (HFO) will commence within next 60 days.

The Parties agreed that the above-mentioned initial actions will be implemented within next 60 days and that they will take coordinated steps toward this goal.

III. The Parties agreed on the establishment of the following Working Groups (WG) in order to carry out the initial actions and for the purpose of full implementation of the Joint Statement:

1. Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula
2. Normalization of DPRK-US relations
3. Normalization of DPRK-Japan relations
4. Economy and Energy Cooperation
5. Northeast Asia Peace and Security Mechanism

The WGs will discuss and formulate specific plans for the implementation of the Joint Statement in their respective areas. The WGs shall report to the Six-Party Heads of Delegation Meeting on the progress of their work. In principle, progress in one WG shall not affect progress in other WGs. Plans made by the five WGs will be implemented as a whole in a coordinated manner.

The Parties agreed that all WGs will meet within next 30 days.

IV. During the period of the Initial Actions phase and the next phase — which includes provision by the DPRK of a complete declaration of all nuclear programs and disablement of all existing nuclear facilities, including graphite-moderated reactors and reprocessing plant — economic, energy and humanitarian assistance up to the equivalent of 1 million tons of heavy fuel oil (HFO), including the initial shipment equivalent to 50,000 tons of HFO, will be provided to the DPRK.

The detailed modalities of the said assistance will be determined through consultations and appropriate assessments in the Working Group on Economic and Energy Cooperation.

V. Once the initial actions are implemented, the Six Parties will promptly hold a ministerial meeting to confirm implementation of the Joint Statement and explore ways and means for promoting security cooperation in Northeast Asia.

VI. The Parties reaffirmed that they will take positive steps to increase mutual trust, and will make joint efforts for lasting peace and stability in Northeast Asia. The directly related parties will negotiate a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula at an appropriate separate forum.

VII. The Parties agreed to hold the Sixth Round of the Six-Party Talks on 19 March 2007 to hear reports of WGs and discuss on actions for the next phase.

Britain and Palestine: A Criminal History of Intervention

Part 4 – (Parts 1, 2 and 3 appeared in Workers' Weekly Vol.36, nos.15, 16 and 18)

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Mahmoud Abbas, when they met this week, telling him not only what kind of political solution should be established in Palestine but also what kind of government the Palestinians should have to represent them. Blair's approach shows that the British government has exactly the same approach as in the time of the League of Nations mandate, when Britain was de facto the colonial power in Palestine. History shows that it is Britain and the other big powers that have created the problem in Palestine and that they can never be thought of as the honest brokers or peacemakers in the region. Then as now the British government still demands partition and refuses to recognise the rights of the Palestinians.

The decision of the British government to partition Palestine in the late 1930s was recognition of the failure of the previous approach, which had sought to establish a "Jewish national home" while trampling over the rights of the Palestinian people. The new approach therefore was to continue the Zionist policy in one part of Palestine and therefore deny the national rights of the Palestinian people, while accepting that this people might have some rights to part of their territory. It should be borne in mind that the British government only moved to this approach because of the mass uprising of the Palestinian people during the 1930s.

It is interesting that the Royal Commission appointed in 1936 to investigate the causes of the Palestinian uprising declared that it was an uprising against a colonial government which denied national independence and attempted to establish a "Jewish national home". It stated: "The Balfour Declaration and the

Mandate under which it was to be implemented involved the denial of national independence at the outset. The subsequent growth of the national home created a practical obstacle, and the only serious one, to the concession later of national independence." The Royal Commission also added that by encouraging Jewish immigration without the consent of the Palestinian people, Britain, the US and the League of Nations had created an "antagonism" between Jews and Arabs that had not previously existed and which "might become dangerously aggressive".

The Royal Commission, reporting in 1937, concluded that the Palestinian people could no longer be suppressed by force and that the Mandate must be brought to an end. However, it also took the view that the "establishment of a single self-governing Palestine will remain just as impracticable as it is now. It is not easy to pursue the dark path of repression without seeing daylight at the end of it." It upheld that manifestly a problem had been created that meant that neither Jewish settlers nor the Palestinians could rule in Palestine – that the only solution the Commission could see was partition.

The proposal of the British government to partition Palestine was immediately rejected by the Palestinian people, who continued their struggle for national liberation during the latter years of the 1930s. The Zionists also rejected plans for partition, demanding instead that the Mandate should be extended so as to encourage more Jewish immigration in order to ultimately establish a Jewish state. Even the government's own further investigations suggested that partition was unworkable. Therefore in 1939 the British government adopted a new strategy which envisaged a power-

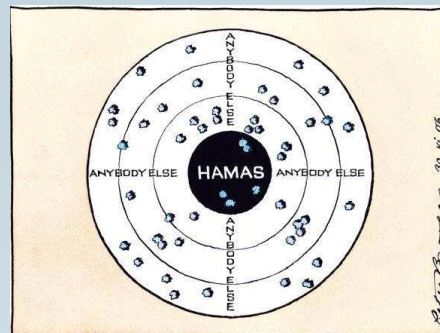
Cartoon by Peter
Brookes, June 2006

sharing agreement involving all those inhabiting Palestine.

In 1939, the government declared that Palestine should not become a Jewish state against the will of the Palestinian people, despite the fact that the Balfour Declaration and subsequent government policy had been committed to establishing a "Jewish national home" in Palestine. The government also declared that it planned to establish within 10 years "an independent Palestine State", and that it "should be one in which Arabs and Jews share in government in such a way as to ensure that the essential interests of each community are safeguarded". It even declared that Jewish immigration might be halted and that the transfer of land to settlers should be regulated.

Both the Second World War and reservations expressed in the League of Nations prevented any immediate resolution to the problem of Palestine. Zionist opposition to the new direction of British policy led to the formation of organisations such as the Stern gang and Haganah which carried out terrorist acts and assassinations against both Palestinians and the colonial power. The Zionists, despite continued support from Churchill and the British government, began to look more towards the US for assistance and demanded unlimited Jewish immigration into Palestine.

Following the war, in 1946, an Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry reported that a "virtual Jewish non-territorial State" existed in Palestine with its own armed forces. The Committee of Inquiry rejected the idea of early



independence for Palestine on the grounds that the situation that had been created in Palestine under British rule "would result in civil strife as might threaten the peace of the world". However, neither the US nor British governments could agree on the future of Palestine, although the US advocated increased Jewish migration and an end of measures to prevent land being transferred to these settlers. The newly created Arab League strongly supported the rights of the Palestinians and proposed a unitary state with full rights for Jewish settlers but demanded that future immigration and land transfers must be decided by the majority of Palestinians.

The Labour government then washed its hands of the problem successive British governments had created by deciding in 1947 to relinquish its mandatory role and hand over the problem to the newly created United Nations. In the 25 years of British rule, Palestine had been transformed. The Jewish population had increased 725% from 56,000 to 608,000, from less than a tenth to over a third of the population of Palestine. Within a short time, the UN would also propose that the Palestine problem largely created by British governments could only be resolved by partition.

(to be continued)

Workers' Daily Internet Edition

Daily On Line Newspaper of the Revolutionary
Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

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