

# World Front

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• Palestine sliced up by British imperialism would become a veritable powder magazine, declared the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Great Britain in a statement on the Peel Commission's proposals for the partitioning of this Near Eastern country.

Because of its key role in struggle against British imperialists, the policy of the Communist Party of Britain and its line of action is of the greatest importance. We quote below the most essential parts of its declaration on Palestine:



"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 17 years' trial, British rule has failed to bring good government and peace to Palestine.

"The proposed partition is a crime against both Arabs and Jews. British imperialism is concerned not with the interests of the Arabs or Jews, but with rendering secure the vital strategic military and naval centers in Palestine.

"By the recommendation that a permanent British mandate should 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 Arabia, Britain will have a firm footing in Palestine and control of access to the Red Sea. It is significant that the offer of partition is made with 18,000 men standing-by in Palestine, reinforcements ready to move, the battle-cruiser 'Repulse' at Haifa, and Communists imprisoned or deported.

"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 are now concerned to liquidate by partition was created by the policy of British imperialism in its operation of the mandate. . . .

"The most fantastic and mischievous proposition is the forcible expropriation of almost a quarter of a million Arabs, though the Royal Commission admits that it is not known whether there is suitable land available to settle these Arabs. . . . The creation of a corridor dividing the Jewish State into two will undoubtedly provide a basis for friction. . . . Palestine thus divided would become a virtual powder magazine. There is no justification for the denial of self-determination for the Arabs. At the same time it is incumbent on the Arabs to guarantee equal, democratic, civil and cultural rights to the 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.

"We therefore demand the termination of the mandate and 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 co-operation of the people of Palestine irrespective of religion in the face of the common danger. Co-operation 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."