

His Majesty's Gov't Is Responsible For Jewish Refugee 'Death Ship'

By John Arnold

His Majesty's Government murders Jews.

That is the only conclusion that can be drawn from the tragedy of the 1,771 Jewish refugees in Haifa, Palestine.

Close to two thousand Jewish refugees, victims of Nazi persecution and the horrors of the imperialist war, reached Haifa on the two steamships Pacific and Milos early in November. After months of wandering and travel through the war-torn Mediterranean they finally reached a port in the country promised by the British government as the Jewish National Homeland for the Jews during the last war. But the British Government wouldn't let them land.

The Jewish population in Palestine was indignant. Committees were sent to officials of the Palestine government, which gets its or-

ders in London. But to no avail. The workers stopped their work in the factories. Jewish stores were closed. The Jewish population protested and demanded that the refugees should be allowed to land. But the British authorities were adamant. They decreed that the refugees would have to be shipped off to some penal colony "somewhere in the Indian Ocean" for the duration of the war.

22 DEAD, HUNDREDS MISSING

Like cattle the refugees were transferred to the steamship Patria, which was supposed to be "safer." Before the Patria had a chance to enter the war-infested waters of the Mediterranean there was an explosion and the ship capsized. Latest reports indicate that 22 refugees are dead and 254 are missing. In the shadow of the land promised by the British Government as a Jewish National Homeland.

The tragedy of the 1,771 refugees symbolizes the true attitude of the present British government to the Jewish people. And the refugees who were aboard the Patria are only a fraction of the thousands of Jewish refugees who are tasting the full measure of British imperialist brutality.

Languishing in British concentration camps today are close to 30,000 anti-Nazis. Their only crime is that they originally came from Germany or Austria. The fact that they are anti-fascists, victims of fascist persecution, doesn't impress the British government. They are "enemy aliens" for the duration of the war.

These thousands of Jewish refugees know from their own bitter experiences that Germany Nazism and British imperialism are equally

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cruel. They escaped Germany to get away from Hitler's concentration camps only to be thrown into Churchill's concentration camps. Churchill tries to camouflage the fascist character of his regime by speaking about "democracy" while Hitler openly condemns democracy. A concentration camp is a concentration camp and both Hitler and Churchill resort to concentration camps and the persecution of refugees.

Even the British press reports the most heart rending stories about the treatment of the refugees in England. In the London Jewish Chronicle of Sept. 27, for example, we read:

"Eminent rabbis from Germany and Austria, on whose behalf the Chief Rabbi has personally intervened, are still interned after four months. These men are known for a lifetime of selfless service in Judaism, and there would appear to be not the remotest justification for their continued imprisonment."

But in Churchill's England they sit in concentration camps.

And in a recent issue of the "Manchester Guardian" we find a letter from an anti-Nazi German journalist now in a Canadian concentration camp, which says, in part:

"Year after year we have been spending behind barbed wires, first in our own country, then in England, and now in Canada, the devil knows for how long. . . . Our internment was the result of imminent invasion. This danger does not exist in Canada, and that is why internment is felt particularly hard here."

the Zionist leaders have attained for the Jewish people after 23 years of loyal service to the British Empire.

The British government broke promise after promise, but the

Zionist leaders continued to support and serve British imperialism. When the war broke out the Jewish Agency, the leading Zionist body, called upon the Jewish people in Palestine to give every support to the war efforts of the British Empire. Zionist agencies recruited 5,000 Palestinian Jews to serve under the British flag.

Jewish factories in Palestine are being transformed into arms of the British war machine. Two of the new factories in Palestine, for example, produce airplane parts and gas masks. Agricultural production has been stepped up the better to feed the British troops stationed in Palestine for the battle over the Suez. Haifa port has been transformed into a passable naval base for the Mediterranean fleet. A pipe line from Mosul brings oil directly into the port and a refinery has already been completed. The Jewish Agency is supporting three schools for the training of aviators. In a hundred different ways the Zionist leaders are exerting all their effort to aid British imperialism.

And what did the Jewish masses in Palestine receive?

WORST CRISIS IN HISTORY

Palestine is in the throes of the most profound crisis in its modern history. One-fourth of the Jewish population of Palestine is affected by unemployment and loss of income since the outbreak of the war. With the expansion of the theatre of war to the Near East and the bombings of Tel-Aviv and Haifa every Jew is confronted with the danger of aerial bombardment — without air raid shelters.

The British imperialists do not hesitate to utilize the Jews in the interests of the Empire. But British imperialism refuses to grant the Jews in Palestine or the refugees in England any democratic rights.

Shortly after the war broke out ghetto laws were decreed and tsarist restrictions were imposed upon the Jews of Palestine. Those who protested and demonstrated against

the anti-Semitic decrees were beaten, shot at and jailed by British storm troopers. And a short while ago concentration camps were built in Palestine for refugees who managed to enter the country illegally.

The "Patria" tragedy is the climax of the anti-refugee, anti-Semitic policy pursued by the British government. The drowned bodies and the missing are painful evidence that the Jewish people cannot rely upon Great Britain, that British imperialism is an enemy of the Jewish people.

TRAITORS JUSTIFY CRIME

The Social Democrats in America are trying to whitewash the crime of His Majesty's Government. On Saturday, before the refugee ship capsized, the New York Post justified the refusal to admit the refugees into Palestine by fabricating a story to the effect that there were 200 Gestapo agents concealed among the refugees. And on Tuesday the Jewish Daily Forward claimed that there were NO casualties.

The supporters of American involvement in the war on the side of Britain are trying to silence the protest of the Jewish people and all liberty-loving Americans with their whitewash of the "Patria" incident. But the Jewish people do not want to see any more victims of Churchill's policies. They do not want to see any more "Patria" incidents.

The Jewish Peoples Committee has already initiated a protest movement giving expression to the indignation of the Jewish masses. This protest movement reflects the sentiments of the Jewish masses who are learning that "all aid to Britain" will not solve any of their problems.

The bitter experiences of the 1,771 Jewish refugees teach the Jewish people that it is suicidal to support British imperialism. Only in the struggle against imperialism can the problems of the Jewish people be solved.