

The Palestine Report: Conclusion

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(Last of a series of four articles on the Anglo-American Committee Report.)

On May 2nd, most of the Hebrew papers received the report of the Inquiry Commission with enthusiasm. The hint of certificates alone revived among certain circles the love of Imperialism. But on the following morning one paper complained: "More than ever may it be said now, that never was the situation so complicated."

What has changed during one day?

Attlee made a statement in the House of Commons and these are his words according to Reuter (retranslated from Hebrew): "Mr. Attlee has stated in the House of Commons that the facts presented in the report referring to the illegal armies make it plain that the Government of Palestine is unable to admit 100,000 Jews until these organizations will be disbanded and their arms handed over."

The report must be regarded as a complete who in all its details. Its implementation demands great effort immediately and for a considerable time. The English government wants to be sure that it won't be compelled to implement a policy which would impose upon itself alone these actions, and it wants to know clearly, to what extent the Government of the USA will be ready to partake in further responsibilities, military and financially."

Mr. Attlee has no intention whatsoever to disband the military organizations. This is only a pretext to justify the second demand which is the setting up of American military bases in Palestine. And this is the revealing point. The refugee problem is for Attlee only a card in his imperialist game.

In our evidence before the Inquiry Commission we have warned against this danger: "Being weakened during the war, British imperialism has been forced to share the exploitation of part of its colonial wealth with American imperialism."

"Haarex" in its editorial on March 5, 1946, gives the following interpretation to Attlee's demand: "Provided America will agree to

supply military aid, in case this should be necessary, then England would have achieved a political and strategical advantage which she could not have achieved up to now. American troops in Palestine means an American guarantee not only to the British military base in Palestine, but also to the base in Transjordan and to all the other bases from the Nile up to the Tigris." (Underlined by M. V.)

The smell of oil sticks to all these imperialistic intrigues. Let us beware of being caught in the imperialist trap. There were naive people who thought on Wednesday (the day when the report was published) that imperialism was again "with us," that imperialism was "pro-Jewish." On the following day, on Thursday (the day of Attlee's statement) they thought that imperialism was again "with the Arabs." This way of thought is very dangerous. On Wednesday as on Thursday imperialism was neither pro-Jewish nor pro-Arab, but only pro-imperialistic — as usual.

THE LAND LAWS

The Inquiry Commission proposes to abrogate the racial land laws of 1939 together with the racial regulation in the rent laws of the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kajemeth). Further it suggests in an abstract form to protect the rights of the small farmer and tenant.

This decision and the abrogation of the principle of stopping any further Jewish immigration, cancel the two racial paragraphs of the White Paper.

But again it would be a superficial estimation to believe that the essence of the White Paper has been abolished. Its essence was anti-democratic, providing mandatory power with unrestricted authority, its essence is to "divide and rule," to make the problem of immigration entirely dependent on the deliberate intrigues of the Government.

These principles, as we have seen, are maintained in the Inquiry Commission's report as well: Everything is subjected to the decision of the British rule: the political regime, immigration policy, and also the problem of the country's economic development, the bringing up of living standards to an equal level, etc.

Let us consider the recommendations referring to the living standards of the population:

"One of the chief causes of friction is the great disparity between the Jewish and Arab standards of living. . . . Only by a carefully planned policy on the part of the Mandatory can the Arab standard of living be raised to that of the Jews . . . and so bring the two peoples to a full appreciation of their common interests. . . ."

Again the same contradiction. It is the Mandatory Government which shall help allegedly that Jews and Arabs should understand their common interests. Yet, any child knows that the Mandatory Government does everything in its power to maintain two different standards of living in Palestine, and that the Jews and the Arabs should not understand their common interests.

CONCLUSION

It should be clear to the Jewish Yishuv in Palestine who is fed up with disappointments by imperialism, that the colonial rule wants to catch us in a net which will bring suffering to us and only to us. We must not be enamored any more by "good intentions" bestowed upon us by monopolists and oil-bosses. If we want peace, economic prosperity and a peaceful free development of the Yishuv, we have to reach the agreement with the Arab workers and masses. Despite the present reactionary leadership of Jamal Hussein there exist Arab progressive groups who are conscious of the fact that there is no other choice but the Jewish-Arab agreement.

The report of the Inquiry Commission and Attlee's Statement have "disappointed" those Jews and Arabs who hoped to build their schemes of domination with the help of the Colonial power. To us it was clear that nothing can be expected from committees of oil-bases. The solution will not be brought about by them. The solution will be brought about only by a democratic Jewish-Arab agreement on all questions.

To the extent to which the Jewish and Arab masses will understand this great truth, peace will be safeguarded in Palestine and a free development of both her peoples will be secured.