

Israel's Interest Is With Anti-Imperialist Peoples

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

MOST of the hostile Arab opposition which Israel is encountering in its efforts to establish itself as a going nation is due to the entrance of the new state into territory which the Arab states consider to be their own. But this opposition is greatly intensified by the less-remarked fact that Israel, although composed of the most oppressed people in history, has seen fit to align itself with imperialism, particularly American imperialism. This puts it athwart the independence aspirations of all the nations of Asia and Africa, and it does very much to attract their opposition unto itself.



All Asia and much of Africa is now surging with revolt against the imperialism which has held and oppressed their countries for so long. The Arab countries of the Middle East, despite their reactionary governments and the fact that they are maneuvering unscrupulously with the major imperialist powers—Britain, France, Spain, Belgium, Portugal and the U.S.—are also historically a part of the great Asian-African revolt against imperialism. Thus, beginning at the time of the Russian Revolution and largely under its influence, most of them—Turkey, Egypt, Syria, and others—have passed through anti-colonial revolutions and have won some measure of independence. The masses of their peoples are definitely anti-imperialist.

THE STRUGGLING state of Israel, however, instead of casting in its fate with anti-imperialist forces of the Arab states, of India, of China, and of the rest of rebellious Asia and Africa, has affiliated itself to the imperialist forces which these peoples are fighting against.

That this is the political line of Israel there can be no question. All through the Korean war crisis Israel voted solidly for the aggressive, warlike policies of Wall Street imperialism. Also, much as the imperialist powers

themselves did, Israel took up a position of sharp criticism against the historic conference of Bandung, which so tremendously mobilized the forces of peace and anti-imperialism of Asia and Africa.

By the same token, too, when during the past couple of weeks the anti-imperialist forces in the United Nations, including various Moslem states, in spite of fierce imperialist opposition, carried the majority of the General Assembly to put the questions of Algeria and Indonesia on the agenda for discussion, Israel was to be found voting with the imperialist camp upon both issues.

SUCH a pro-imperialist policy on the part of Israel is political folly of the first order. The peoples of Asia and Africa are on the high road to smashing the imperialist domination over their countries. Israel cannot possibly successfully buck this tremendous national liberation movement, without itself facing disaster. Obviously it must take a position internationally beside all the anti-imperialist nations in their great drive ahead. On a national scale, this would imply a cooperative understanding with the Arabs. All of Israel's true interests lie in this general direction.

Time will show that Israel will be able to depend less and less upon its imperialist "friends." The U.S., Britain and France, facing the growing colonial revolt, will be increasingly resolved to sacrifice the position of Israel for the sake of maneuvering to retain such controls as they can among the Arab and other Moslem peoples. Israel is already finding itself in a dilemma with, on the one side a rapidly growing anti-imperialist movement throughout the Middle East (and all Asia) and, on the other hand, a diminishing support for the imperialist powers. This puts Israel in an untenable position, with its present pro-imperialist policies.

PROGRESSIVES of the world, not the least the Communists, hailed and helped in the establishment of Israel after the terrible Hitlerite massacres of the Jews during the war. The progressives everywhere have also deplored them any difficulties that the young state has been having, particularly with its Arab neighbors. Late expressions of these difficulties are the disputes over arms, the border clashes, and the growing isolation of Israel from the awakening peoples of Asia and Africa.

One of the most elementary means for Israel to overcome these mounting national problems is precisely to abandon its pro-imperialist foreign policies and to identify itself with the anti-imperialist aspirations of the many Asian-African peoples. Failure to do this can only spell increasing trouble for Israel, now and in the future.

In tying itself in with the imperialist powers, Israel is taking the course of national bankruptcy. It should quit the sinking ship of imperialism and embark with the advancing anti-imperialist peoples of Asia and elsewhere. There is no other way to peace and progress for the Israeli people.

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A FURTHER outstanding feature of the strike was the role played by the international leadership of the UAW-CIO. It is quite apparent that they drew some serious conclusions from the unrest in the Ford and GM chains in spite of the economic gains that the workers received. The workers in these auto chains wanted greater guarantees against speed-up and improvement in working conditions as well.

It became apparent that the international leadership of the UAW-CIO, recognizing value of the new unity, agreed with the need for a strike against the Harvester company. The attempt by the company to trade off the "economic package" in return for the status quo on working conditions and speed-up was rejected by both the local unions and the international leadership of the UAW-CIO.