

ANTI-FASCIST UNITY IN PALESTINE

New moves have recently been made in Palestine for an Arab-Jewish rapprochement, as well as closer cooperation in Palestine's war effort. A new organisation, Ichud, has been formed by Dr. Mogres, Rector of the Hebrew University, with the object of bringing about this co-operation.

Dr. Mogres has a long record of working for an Arab-Jewish understanding. With him in this new body are outstanding veterans of the Zionist movement. Recently he approached Arab leaders and is now urging the need for an Arab-Jewish organisation in which members of both communities could co-operate for the benefit of both peoples.

In the present situation in the Middle East such a movement, backed by the Zionist leaders, would be a great help in winning over

the Palestine Arabs for the war effort, and in particular for enlistment in the British forces. For Arab enlistment is still relatively weak. The influence of the Mufti (under whose leadership the Arab Higher Committee degenerated into a tool of the Axis) is still strong among sections of the Palestine Arabs; the relative backwardness of the Arab movement in Palestine means that there is not amongst them the fullest understanding of the Anglo-Soviet alliance and its meaning for the Arab people. It is in this light that the new organisation must be appreciated and welcomed.

According to the *Jewish Chronicle*, September 18, Axis broadcasts to the Middle East have attacked Ichud, "warning" the Arabs against such moves and stressing that only the Mufti was the real "leader" of the Arab world.

These recent developments raise the important question of the legalisation of the Palestine Communist Party, which, under the most repressive conditions, has always supported the progressive elements within Palestine Jewry for an Arab-Jewish rapprochement. It is also campaigning among the Arabs, explaining to them the great historic significance of the Anglo-Soviet Alliance and the need for Arab unity against fascism in alliance with all peoples fighting fascism.

By doing this it is combating the evil influence of the Mufti. Just as the legalisation of the Indian Communist Party was a great step towards the building of anti-fascist unity in India, so today the raising of the ban on the Communist Party of Palestine would be of enormous importance towards establishing anti-fascist unity of Jews and Arabs in Palestine.
