

# 3,500 Hear Browder On Palestine Revolt

## Communist Position for Unity of Jewish-Arab Masses Against British Imperialism, Leader Tells Audience—M. J. Olgin Speaks

The speech of Earl Browder will be published in pamphlet form by the Jewish Bureau of the Communist Party in Yiddish and English.

More than 3,500 persons, packing the Hippodrome on Monday night, applauded and cheered, as they heard Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party, and M. J. Olgin, editor of the Morning Freiheit, explain the Communist position on Palestine, at a mass meeting under the auspices of the Jewish Bureau of the Communist Party.

The firm discipline of the large audience, and the tactful chairmanship of H. I. Costrell, secretary of the New York District Jewish Bureau of the Communist Party, balked the attempts of a small group of members of Brith Trumpeldor, fascist Jewish organization, to break up the meeting.

Speaking with the incisive clarity and the mid-western twang which have endeared him to thousands of Communists and Communist sympathizers, Browder presented a comprehensive and thorough picture of the situation in Palestine and the attitude of the Communists, unruffled by a number of interruptions.

### Military Base

Emphasizing that the attacks on Jews in Palestine differed fundamentally from pogroms in Germany, Poland and even the United States, Browder stated:

"At the bottom of the present attacks on the Jews in Palestine—no matter how deplorable they are and how painfully they are felt by the Jews of the world, there is a rising revolutionary movement of an oppressed people fighting for its independence.

"Palestine is important for Great Britain, not so much as a source of raw material and cheap labor," Browder said, "but as a strategic military and aerial position, as a gateway to the East.

"British imperialism is using the Balfour declaration and its pro-Arab declarations in order to set the Jews against the Arabs and the Arabs against the Jews. This is an old policy of the British conquerors everywhere: 'Divide and Rule.'

### "Racially Pure Labor"

"Wherever the Jewish settlers under the direct leadership of the Zionist organizers have engaged in business activity, it is an established rule that no Jew must engage an Arab. 'Racially pure labor' is the slogan of Zionism in the very same way that it is the slogan of Hitler and the Ku Kluxers and the Black Legion here."

Browder drew a sharp dividing line between the Zionist leaders who play the game of British imperialism and the "shoemaker of Poland, the small merchant of Germany, the Hebrew teacher from Roumania who emigrate to Palestine in the hope of bulding there a new Jewish life."

As a matter of fact, he said, there are a great many Jews who feel oppressed by the iron heel of Zionist domination of Palestine. Imagine, he continued, "how much more dissatisfied are the Arab masses."

The present disturbances, Browder stressed, are clearly a revolt against British imperialism, citing in this connection the refusal of Arab policemen to shoot down Arab demonstrators. The Arab nationalist movement is spreading throughout the Near East. He declared:

### Action in Syria

"This movement is not peculiar to Palestine alone. Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia stirred Arab nationalist feelings, which found their first expression in mass action against French imperialism in Syria. The Arabs in Egypt have conducted strong mass struggles against British imperialism. In Transjordan, there were violent



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demonstrations against British imperialism. The whole Arabian sub-continent is in a state of great ferment.

"What, then, should be the program of both the Jews and Arab masses in Palestine?" Browder asked.

It cannot be, he stated categorically, the policy of Zionism. "The policy of Zionism is harmful. It can serve only to arouse the backward members among the Arab masses against the Jews generally. It serves to make Jews the scapegoats for British imperialism and for the criminal policy of the Zionist leaders."

The only way in which the problems of the Jews everywhere can be solved, Browder said, is "by the revolutionary struggle of the Jewish masses shoulder to shoulder with the workers and toilers of each country for the overthrow of fascism, for the defeat of reaction, for the establishment of the fundamental rights of the masses."

"This is what the Communist Party strives for in every country in the world. And only this is the real answer to the needs of the Jews in Germany, Poland, Roumania, and wherever they are oppressed and persecuted."

### Olgin Is Cheered

The audience gave M. J. Olgin, veteran leader of the Jewish masses in the United States, a rising ovation which lasted for several minutes.

Olgin began by ridiculing the statements in the pro-Zionist Jewish newspapers that the Communists are fomenting pogroms in Palestine, stating with withering sarcasm:

"Strange people, these Communists! In the Soviet Union, the Communists destroyed pogroms, root and branch.

"And a very strange Comintern! To it are affiliated the Russian Communists, the French, the Spanish Communists, and the Palestinian Communists, who are supposed to incite pogroms." A young member of the Brith Trumpeldor jumped to the platform and attempted to take the microphone away from Olgin. The young man was escorted out of the hall.

Olgin continued his address pointing out that the only road to the salvation of the Jews in Palestine lay through joint struggle with the Arabs against British imperialism.