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## Zionism and the Partition of Palestine

ALL Jewish workers who have been supporters, or have been influenced by, Zionism, and who have been hostile to the Communist Party because our Party opposed its political program, should really be prepared to do some hard and fundamental thinking about the latest British proposal for partition of Palestine, and to draw some serious lessons from the crisis in Zionism that it produced.

Is it not clear that the partition of Palestine puts an end to all the illusions so long propagated about a "strong Jewish State" in the future?

Is it not clear that the British imperialists deliberately prepared for this debacle of Zionism by setting the Jews against the Arabs, and by creating conditions that made friendly co-operation between the two people more and more difficult?

Is it not clear that the Zionist leadership failed to take a single step to offset or block this strategy of the imperialists, but on the contrary became their tools and echoes?

Is it not clear that any program of a dispersed people, which looks to support of the British imperialists for realization, inevitably becomes simply a tool in the hands of the imperialists?

All four of these questions are clear to all thinking people now, no matter how much we might still disagree about more basic problems. The crisis in Zionism is now so deep, and its immediate causes stand out so clearly, that all honest people must soon be of one opinion on these simple questions.

These words are addressed especially to those who in the past were antagonistic to the Communist Party because of our attacks against Zionism. I ask you, in view of the crisis in

Zionism today, is it not necessary for you to review again all the fundamental problems involved in this question—to talk them over among yourselves, and also with us? We have been proved correct by events in many of the points we raised with you before. Is it not possible that our criticism merits your renewed examination in the light of these latest events?

I know well how difficult it is for men and women to come together again for sober discussion, after having been divided for years by acrimonious disputes. But is it not necessary now, from your point of view as well as from ours, to rise above all old quarrels which were based upon a world situation now fundamentally changed, and see if we cannot agree on how to face this changed world which threatens our interests with equal ferocity?

That the British imperialists now openly throw overboard their promises to Zionism (promises which we always said they would never keep), may be a disaster to those who built up a whole program and a life upon such a shifty foundation. But, the old saying that "it's an ill wind that blows no good," also applies to this problem. Out of the wreckage of hopes and illusions, this much good at least can be gained and must be gained by the efforts of all honest men and women on both sides of the old disputes—the good of wiping out the false barriers that divided us, of making a fresh approach to establish brotherly and comradesly relations between Jewish workers of common interests who had been separated about differences now shown to be false ones.

Maybe we Communists have also been at fault in the past with regard to the fierceness with which this false conflict was allowed to rage. We are ready to examine this question also, and are always self-critical in such matters. We have no desire now to cry "I told you so"; we don't want to make other workers' disasters a victory for us. Even if we made mistakes, it was only because we saw that disaster inherent in the program of Zionism, and wanted to avert it. Now we all have a chance to review the whole situation again, in the light of new facts which are changing the face not only of Palestine but

of the whole world, and see if we cannot work out a common platform upon which American workers of all national origins can get together with American workers of Jewish origin, without being longer divided by that old and unfortunate feud about Zionism.

New days and new problems require new thoughts, new programs, and new friends. We offer our hand of fellowship to all disillusioned Zionist workers for a new common approach to all our problems.

*From Jewish Life, 1937.*