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SOVIET PENETRATION IN PALESTINE

I. Activities of Jewish communists:

1. The PCP (Palestine Communist Party) adopted a negative attitude toward terroristic action in Palestine, starting from the principle that the communist action, for all it's being directed against Great Britain, is carried out under the auspices of Zionist leaders, who combat Great Britain with the same passion as they do Soviet Russia.
2. The Central Committee of the PCP decided to take advantage of the situation existing in Palestine, in consequence of the action taken by British authorities, in order to:
 - (a) Increase pro-Soviet propaganda among the Jewish population by showing the "imperialistic barbarism" of Great Britain;
 - (b) Send messages to all communist parties all over the world and to the Anti-Fascist Jewish Committee in Moscow, pointing to the danger menacing the lives of the Palestinian Jews under the British yoke and demanding the evacuation of British troops from Palestine "in order to guarantee the peace;"
 - (c) Issue leaflets planned to convince the Jews that American imperialism goes hand in hand with English imperialism and that no American help is to be counted upon.

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Date: 2008

The PCP is against solution of the Palestinian problem by Great Britain and America. Only the UN should be called upon to inquire into and decide this problem. Two messages to that effect were drawn up and sent by the Central Committee of the PCP to the Jewish National Council and to Histadrut. Both these messages were couched in very sharp tones and condemned, among other things, "the killing of innocent people and arresting of whole masses of people; they demanded a "thorough and unbiased inquiry into the murders and devastations caused by military operations," as well as

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"compensation for losses to public and private property."

4. A plan for taking the party underground was set up by Shmuel Mikunis in anticipation of reprisals on the part of the authorities. The plan is as follows:
 - (a) In case of reprisals started by the authorities, PCP members shall not go into hiding but will allow themselves to be arrested. Thus would be shown beyond doubt the imperialistic policy of the Labor government, which, for no reason, liquidates the only Jewish democratic party, which collaborates with democratic Arabic organizations in Palestine;
 - (b) An underground committee was set up, composed of four members unknown to the police, with Mikunis as secretary and head. In case of the arrest of the official members, the underground committee would continue the work of the PCP in secret. The members of the underground committee under-went special training and were given instructions. They are to act under assumed names, their true names being known to Mikunis only;
 - (c) The underground committee is to be in contact with the Anti-Fascist Jewish Committee in Moscow, which has been informed accordingly.
5. At a meeting of the Central Committee held on 18 July 1946, the above plan was approved by all the members present. Creation of the uniform Jewish-Arabic front continued to be one of the aims of the PCP. Propaganda on a large scale is being carried out in order to demonstrate that the solution of the Palestinian problem might be found by the way of the equation of rights for Jews and Arabs in the framework of an independent state, free from British interference. Lack of reaction on the part of the Arab Communist Party to the activities of the Mufti was explained as follows by Meir Wilner, a member of the PCP: the A.L.N.L. is obliged to reckon with the great popularity of the Mufti among the Arab population; the A.L.N.L. viewed the Mufti as an enemy of the Arab people and did not counteract his action only for fear of being boycotted by the Arab masses. The PCP recognized this attitude of the A.L.N.L. as right, and decided not to attack the newspaper al-Ittihad for its article favorable to the Mufti.
6. As for the suspension of the Communist newspaper, Qol Ha 'Am, for four weeks for publishing a cartoon showing a British tank crushing the inhabitants of a "Kibutz," the Committee of the PCP decided to send a protest to the Journalists Union, to the English Communist Party, and to publish a weekly, each issue to appear under a different name. The first number of the weekly under the name of Qol Hayadim (Voice of Progress) has already appeared.

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II. Activities of the Arab Communists:

1. The A.L.N.L. attitude toward the terroristic action of the Palestinian Jews was similar to that of the PCP. Arab communists also maintain that the terroristic action is directed by the Zionist leaders who are enemies of the Arabs and of Soviet Russia. True, those leaders are now fighting Great Britain, but they will unite with Great Britain, if need be, in order to fight Soviet Russia.
2. The A.L.N.L. Committee defined the last British military action in Palestine not as a desire to liquidate Zionists, but as a striving to tie it more closely to British imperialism. For British policy counteracts an understanding between Arab and Jewish democratic elements. The only British aim is to create in Palestine a strong military base against Soviet Russia without regard to the welfare and rights of the nationalities inhabiting Palestine.
3. The initiative of uniting the whole of the Arab people was taken by the A.L.N.L. It was decided to send messages to all Arab parties, explaining the present political situation in Palestine and proposing that the case be submitted to the UN.
4. For fear of reprisals, the A.L.N.L. decided to set up a plan to take the party underground. Khal Habibi was entrusted with the elaboration of such a plan.
5. A society for the development of culture was set up at Haifa. The society was founded on a commercial basis, and its aim is to print and translate communist literature as well as to organize lectures and theatricals.
6. An association called the Union of Progressive Demobilized Arab Soldiers was formed in Jerusalem. Ninety members entered the Union, and its committee decided to enter the A.L.N.L.

III. Soviet penetration among Armenians

1. The union of Armenian communities in Palestine received a letter from the Soviet Legation at Damascus informing them that the legation, as well as all the Soviet posts abroad, were empowered to grant Soviet citizenship to all Armenians living outside the USSR. Any Armenian applying for Soviet citizenship is to submit a written recommendation from an Armenian Committee specially set up for that purpose in the country of his residence. Sixty Armenian committees are in operation all over the world, among them are branches in Rio de Janeiro, Melbourne, Paris, etc.
2. Six hundred Orthodox Armenians have registered for return to Armenia. As a reason for this mass registration, these Armenians give fear of the increasing Arab-Moslem nationalism, but they do not keep secret that they are continuously exposed to Soviet propaganda persuading them to go back to their country and their culture.

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3. Armenian interest in returning to Armenia was increased by a letter which the Armenian Patriarch in Jerusalem has received from Erivan informing him that the Armenian government had appropriated 25 million roubles for the construction of houses to accommodate persons returning from abroad.

IV. Counter-action to Soviet penetration

1. A congress of Moslem Brothers held at Jaffa decided:
 - (a) To create special tribunals to deal with traitors to the Arab nation;
 - (b) To strive to secure a total annihilation of the A.L.N.L.
 - (c) To send local youth to the camps of Moslem Brothers (Ikhwan al-Muslimin) in Egypt for military training.

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