

DEFEND THE JEWISH STATE AND THE UN

By Jacques Duclos

CITIZENS AND COMRADES:

I have been delegated by the French Communist Party to bring to you its fraternal greetings, and to express its solidarity with you in the struggle of the Jews to safeguard the decision of the United Nations.

I undertook this task with great pleasure, because it is important at this moment to unite in struggle against all tendencies to revive racism. We communists are consistent anti-racists. We combat racism, no matter what its form—anti-Semitism or the lynching of Negroes.

When the nazis occupied France, they showed the face of racism in its most detestable form, the theory of a *Herrenvolk* (master race), which seeks to oppress all other nations, and in its ugliest expression, anti-Semitism, which, as you know, led to raids like the one at Vel d'Hiver and the arrest of thousands of Jewish workers.

I am convinced that the anti-Semitic hatred of the nazis was on the same level as their anti-communism. May I recall to you a number of dear Jewish comrades and friends who fell in the heroic struggle to liberate our fatherland.

I greet the bright memory of the great philosopher,

JACQUES DUCLOS is secretary of the Communist Party of France.

Georges Politzer, a Jew and a communist, who fell in battle.

I greet the bright memory of Prof. Jacques Solomon, shot by the nazis.

I greet the bright memory of Feldman, shot by the nazis.

If I mention only these three, it is because they are comrades from our ranks, people whom I knew and with whom I fought in the underground movement. But together with these may I recall all the victims and bind them together, Jewish and non-Jewish sacrifices in the great struggle for freedom and progress.

I often thought about my fallen Jewish friends when we were preoccupied for days on end with the tragic odyssey of the "Exodus 1947."

We had to think this through. How was it possible, after the triumph over the nazis, that such a "phantom ship" should roam the seas, a ship carrying within it so much suffering and tragedy? This event proves the cruelty of those who are responsible for the "Exodus" tragedy.

This evening, when we are called upon to express our views on the Palestine problem, I shall tell you our position clearly and simply.

First of all, I shall not speak about the rights of the Jews (about which there is not the slightest doubt) in such

a way as to place myself in opposition to the Arabs, because I do not favor one people over another. For I am fully convinced that a tragic misunderstanding (from which certain individuals profit) exists between the Jewish people, who have a right to remain in Palestine, and the Arab people, who also have a right to a place in Palestine. As you see, I am speaking very simply. I feel that there are criminals abroad in the world, people in whose veins oil instead of blood flows. It is to their interest that Jews and Arabs fight each other, so that these criminals may secure their imperialist domination over the Near East. This is the truth!

Partition and Oil

I am convinced that the internecine struggle can be ended, if the decision of the UN which proposes to establish in Palestine Jewish and Arab states, is implemented. But you know as well as I do, that there is a determination not to carry out the decision. And perhaps there are people who do not want to permit the partition of Palestine in order to be able to remain in the country longer and prolong their mandate. Underlying all this is the struggle to establish the influence of the oil trusts and the governments behind them. This is quite clear. . . .

There is no doubt that the contradictions of the interests of the Americans and British in the Middle East resulted in intrigue to defeat the pro-partition position of America. For the Arab League declared that if partition was carried through, the Arab states would denounce every American oil concession. . . .

Mr. Forrestal, who is an important individual—he is Secretary of Defense, and a banker besides, who was director of a bank that carried through important deals making possible the penetration of American capital into Germany in the period between the two world wars—but here I am digressing from the theme, because we Frenchmen must handle the problem in the light of German-American relations and in the light of French policy with regard to Germany. But this is another problem, and I must return to our theme. . . . Mr. Forrestal threatened to resign from his post as Defense Secretary if Palestine was partitioned. And the newspaper *Le Droit* of Feb. 26 writes (as you see, I read “respectable” newspapers): “They (Forrestal and Kennedy) are against President Truman’s policy for military-strategic reasons, more clearly put, because of oil strategy.”

So you see, when I began my remarks with talk of oil, I was not wandering afield. The whole problem smells of oil. Ugly capitalist interests force people into struggle against one another, and *in the name of these ugly capitalist interests Jews are denied the right to their own fatherland.*

Britain’s opposition to the carrying out of the UN decision on partition leads it to take the following positions: a) it opposes the creation of a militia (of non-Palestinians); b) it organizes and trains the well-known irregular Trans-

Jordan Legion; c) it refuses to evacuate Tel Aviv; d) it refuses to place a Palestinian port at the disposition of Jewish immigrants; e) it refuses to admit the UN Commission for Palestine before the first of May.

While a UN Commission is not welcome in Palestine, a place is found for a UN Commission in Greece with the right to stay and support the hated Tsaldaris government.

I want to quote a commentator in the *Basle National Press*, who has this to say about the position of England: “The foreign office means to be neutral and make the pretense not to see that the Jews want to defend the position of the UN on the question of the partition plan at the same time that the Arabs, when they attack the decisions, commit a crime and fight against the highest international authority existing today.”

The Jews demand only the implementation of the UN decision that is openly resisted by England and broken by the United States. How does the situation look for the Jews in Palestine? The Jews in Palestine are being fought by England and forsaken by America at the moment when they expect the UN decision to be fulfilled.

But the UN decision is being trampled under foot, and this is a sign to the world that the policy of peace and international security has been replaced by a policy of imperialist and expansionist interests. The demands of oil take precedence over the rights of nations to decide their destiny.

And here I want to tell you, Jews of France, that you support with justice the Jews of Palestine, your brothers. I recognize the right of the Jewish community in Palestine to fight for the implementation of the UN decision, just as I recognized the right of the French workers to struggle for bread and trade union rights against the criminal decrees of Schumann and his Minister of the Interior.

French CP Support

I must assure you that you have the fullest support of the French Communist Party on your Palestine position. The Communist Party is convinced that the forces of democracy, progress and national independence everywhere in the world will win in the struggle against the insolent pretensions of the oil magnates and world speculators, in struggle against the exploiters of human pain and labor. We are deeply convinced that the struggle of all people of good will will be triumphant, and we assure you of our fullest support.

I have the feeling that all of you know that the right of the Jews to remain in Palestine and there to develop their own independent state—that this right will be more likely to result from *struggle by the Jewish people*, than from diplomatic negotiations. Therefore I greet *the struggle of those who want to secure their fatherland.*

I am certain that you have the support of the broadest masses, because the nations understand *more and more that they alone must make their history. Heroism is never useless. Struggle always bears fruit.*

Only cowards believe that cowardice triumphs over courage. Never, never did cowardice triumph!

We communists are armed with a theory that requires us at all times *to struggle for our liberation, for the liberation of all mankind.*

A Jew gave us this doctrine, a Jew of genius, one of the greatest men the world ever had. He is Karl Marx, the author of the *Communist Manifesto*, a small pamphlet of some thirty pages, which has aroused the whole world. This pamphlet was translated into all languages. It is studied by people of all colors. It arms, it calls to struggle and gives content to the life and struggles of the many peoples of the world.

We communists, who have become strong as a result of persecution (because the persecuted become stronger than their persecutors), are ready to meet eye to eye all persecutors with the deepest confidence in our ultimate goal, in our triumph, because we know that human courage is decisive.

The Jew who wrote the *Communist Manifesto* a hundred

years ago has given all of us, millions of people, content to life, confidence in struggle, hope in our ultimate triumph.

The Jewish people gave us Karl Marx, gave Marx to the entire world. We remain true to Marx's teachings, which include the idea that "A nation which oppresses another nation cannot be free!"—to which I can add, "A nation that looks on while other nations are oppressed, and does not take their part, has a 'peculiar' idea about oppression and slavery." I assure you that we communists are with you in the struggle you and your brothers in Palestine are conducting for safeguarding the UN decision.

You will triumph in your struggle, although you have to go through difficult times. All of us have difficult times ahead to overcome. But, as we sing in our old revolutionary song, "After the rain comes the sun."

Only by struggle, by the solidarity of all the fighters, do we prepare "a singing tomorrow."

I wanted to bring you this evening the fighting solidarity of the French Communist Party, and I have confidence in *the fighting spirit of the Jewish people.*