

Statement of the Arab Secretariat of the League Against Imperialism.

In connection with the last Congress of the League at Frankfort and with its attitude during the last troubles in Palestine, many statements and remarks were published in the press which are not correct. We, therefore, have decided to publish the following statement:

1. The League Against Imperialism is not a "communist branch" or an "agency of the Communist International". The truth is that the League Against Imperialism comprises anti-imperialist elements aiming at the national and social liberation of the nations, without distinction of party, be they socialists, communists, pacifists, syndicalists, national-revolutionaries or belong to no party at all.

2. The attitude of the League towards the Arab countries in general, and Palestine as part of them in particular, was clearly defined during the Frankfort-Congress of the League. This attitude rejects any national or religious chauvinism and insists upon safeguarding the rights of every national or religious community, and is, in consequence, strictly opposed to the excitation of national and religious hatred, condemning every kind of national or religious collision. The masses of workers, peasants and intellectuals of many nations represented in the League think, however, that the right to national independence being an elementary right of the inhabitants of Palestine and Transjordanian cannot be denied to them. — as it cannot be refused to India, Egypt, Syria or China. Thus, the principal demand of the League is: **establishment of an independent union of Arab republics composed of all countries where the majority of the population are Arabs, — abolishment of all imperialist mandates or protectorates over those countries.**

3. It is an error to assume that the League — or the extremist Arab national-revolutionaries participating in it — are apposed to Zionism because it has introduced (as the Zionists argue) culture into the country, has built colonies, schools etc. The aims of the League are as far from any reactionary attitude, from any opposition to progress, as they are from any justification of feudal oppression or exploitation of the working class by a rich minority.

The cause of the League's struggle against Zionism is the fact that Zionism is the instrument by which the justified demand of the Arab masses for independence is rejected, the Balfour Declaration being the base of the British Mandate which is contrary to the principle of "self-determination" of the country's inhabitants. A further cause is, that Zionism, while adding to the wealth of a small section of the native population, i. e. the big landlords who are selling their plots to the Zionists for millions of pounds, destroys completely the economic position of the great majority of the native population, especially of the Fellahs who are driven from the soil which they owned for generations. Another cause is that Zionism created an abyss between the Jewish and the Arab workers, founding a national Jewish labour association (where no Arab worker is admitted as member with equal rights) which asks for "Jewish labour to 100%"; the cause is, finally, that through the activities of Zionism, which is closely connected with the British mandate, the economic, social and cultural progress of the country is hindered, while the national antagonism created by a declaration which promised the establishment of a national home for one nation in a country already occupied by another without consulting its inhabitants, but by application of an outside force, is fatal to the peace of the country and shakes the stability of its development.

The League therefore considers the struggle against imperialism as inseparable from the struggle against Zionism, and sees a possibility of an alliance between the Jewish and the Arab masses only on the base of this common struggle.

4. At the same time the League rejects the point of view according to which an abolishment of the Balfour Declaration is possible while the mandate and British imperialism remain. Only the full independence of the country within an independent union of Arab countries is the aim of the League. "Palestine

for the Palestinians", "The Arab countries for the Arabs" are the slogans.

5. **Hamdi effendi Husseini**, the League's Secretary for the Arab countries, was arrested by the authorities on August 27, because of his courageous opposition to national and religious strife, when the national and religious excitation reached their culmination; he proclaimed the necessity to employ all power for the struggle for full independence of the country. This was emphasized also in the mass meetings of the League abroad and in its publications. Thus it was proved clearly that the League has nothing in common with any reactionary movement.

6. The League believes that every honest inhabitant of Palestine — Arab or Jew — who is truly against imperialism and imperialist methods, and who wants peace and fraternity between the toiling masses of the two nations, who supports development and progress in this country — must agree with the programme of the League and join its ranks.

Jaffa, October 15th 1929.
