

formations, whose activities are described in another book from the same publishers, "The White Terror". The German, as the Swiss democratic governments helped this "Red Cross". In Finland, Poland, and Bulgaria the Tsarists were actively supported; hospital flags covered the political activities of the reactionaries. The contact of the Vorovski-murderers with the old organization (Polonnin, the organizer of the murder, was its secretary) led to an energetic interference of the Russian representative J. Bagotzki with the Geneva International. Nevertheless, the monarchist Emigrant Committee, with the help of the bourgeois governments, tries to further misuse the flag of the Geneva Cross. The workers must take care that the reorganization of the Societies of the Red Cross makes the establishment of murder centres under their protective shield impossible.

## THE WHITE TERROR

### Communist Persecutions in Egypt and Palestine.

By J. B. (Jerusalem).

Soon after the entrance of the government into power, Zaghlul Pasha began to persecute the communist movement in Egypt. Occasion for it was given by a strike wave in Alexandria, which otherwise was of a purely economic character. The striking factory workers demanded the recognition of the Trade Unions, the fixing of working hours, rise in wages etc. That did not prevent the factory owners, of course, from representing the strikes as "the fruits of Bolshevik propaganda", and calling in the aid of the government against the communist intrigues. The government hurried up with their aid, and had all the leaders of the Communist Party, who were known to them, arrested, and ordered the closing of the Party clubs, and the confiscation of the property of the Party. A number of the workers were soon put on their trial, and the verdicts ran to several months arrest. The leaders were kept in prison, and all protests and appeals for the hastening on of the trial, or at least for provisional release on bail, were unavailing. The Egyptian government found it more convenient to let the Communists languish in prison without trial, and purposely delayed the inquiry longer and longer.

At the same time the police began a regular hunt for "individuals suspected of Communism". The newspapers were able every day to report new arrests which had practically no foundation, and were only the results of malicious denunciations. In the police campaign against our Egyptian comrades, those police spy elements took a pre-eminent part, which formerly, under the Tsarist regime, performed the same work in Russia, and now, being fled to Egypt as members of the White Guard Wrangel army, wished to take their revenge on the revolutionary movement. The Egyptian police, on the model of the Okhrana (Tsarist Secret Police), set themselves, without further ado, above such details as the inviolability of letters, domestic authority, and other democratic rights guaranteed in Zaghlul Pasha's constitution, as soon as it was a question of tracking down communist conspirators.

There was a particularly sharp hunt after foreigners. The government could simply, without a trial, make use of their authority to turn troublesome foreigners out of the country. Besides the Communist Party, the "Confédération des Syndicats", which stands on the principle of the R. I. L. U., was declared illegal, and so gave the police possibilities of new arrests and persecutions.

Within the last few weeks, the Communist persecutions have come to a temporary stop, probably because the police are directing particular attention to the so-called "nationalist conspiracy", to which, nominally, the attack on Zaghlul Pasha is attributed. The foreign Communists were deported, after the visas of the governments concerned had been obtained for their passports — those who are Egyptian subjects, set free for the time being, the trials being arranged for November at first and then, on the protest of the Public Prosecutor, for September.

A special law concerning the control of the immigrants from Russia, Bulgaria, Turkey and Armenia, together with stricter police control of those set free, is to prevent a new development of the Communist movement in Egypt.

The official press of Zaghlul Pasha, but in particular the organs of the English and French governments, which praised the draconic suppression by Zaghlul Pasha of the labour movement, as a clever and useful measure, and encouraged further persecutions, sum up with satisfaction the "liquidation of the Communist movement", and base the moral justification of the Communist hunt as follows: "It may be in other lands that the time is ripe for Communism; here in Egypt, where industry is only in a stage of development, every trace of class war is detrimental to the progress of production. If production does not develop, the working class will never be powerful. Thus the Communists and class-war supporters altogether, are not only the enemies of the country, of society and of progress, but above all, of their own class, of the working class..." When we keep it in mind that Egyptian comrades have no press at their disposal, with which to come out against these demagogic arguments, and that these "theoretical" bases are woven out of a mass of calumnies and "flesh-creepers" on Communism and Communists, — we can imagine to some extent the social atmosphere in which the C. P. of Egypt must carry on its fight.

In Palestine the persecutions of our comrades began after the entrance of MacDonald's government. Here the instigation on the part of the Jewish-chauvinist (Zionist and Poale-Zionist) parties has contributed a great deal to the handing over of the communists to the hands of the police. About six weeks ago in Haifa, the club of the "Workers' Faction" which had existed legally for more than a year, was closed by the police. (Only a few weeks earlier the Workers' Faction (Section of the R. I. L. U.) had been excluded from the General Labour Organization). On the occasion of a protest meeting against the closing of the club, seven workers were arrested. A few days later the proceedings against these workers took place. Although the Arab judge did not even know what "Bolshevism" meant, they were sentenced by him "as belonging to a Bolshevik organization", to one month's imprisonment and deportation. The verdict had in fact been sent down to the judge cut and dried, and therefore it is quite comprehensible why he did not allow the defendants a word of defence, and did not even verify their names. In prison also those arrested were dealt with according to "special orders", that is, as political prisoners, worse than criminals. They were ruthlessly beaten till they were bloody, and had to perform the very heaviest work under unhygienic conditions, while any complaint led to an aggravation of their condition.

Although appeals were lodged against the unheard-of verdict, the police refused to set free the workers even after the completion of their time. Telegrammes and letters, which informed the Labour Minister Thomas, Colonial Secretary, of the shameful deeds of his officials, remained unanswered, just as in the first days the appeal to the intellectuals of Palestine. Only the news of the mishandling to which the arrested men were subjected, set public opinion in the country moving a little. The doctors, professors and engineers were of the opinion that one could perhaps protest against Poland and Roumania, and at the very worst against German reaction, but not against the pioneer of civilization, the most progressive of governments, the government of MacDonald. The terrible treatment of the prisoners reported by witnesses unfortunately reminded one very much of the descriptions of conditions in Poland or Finland. An appeal which only set out the facts, was promptly confiscated.

The persecutions are being continued intensively. A few days ago the club of the Workers' Faction in Jerusalem was closed. Printed matter, particularly in Arabic, even harmless appeals for Trade Union organization, was seized. Almost daily, single members of the Workers' Faction are arrested, and house searches undertaken. The orders of the police amount to the stifling of the Communist movement in Palestine. In such a state of affairs the Communist Party of Palestine must call for the active help of the Communist Party of Great Britain, since only the working people of England can put a stop to the persecutions of the workers in the colonies which are carried on under the auspices of the Labour Government.