**To Our Readers**

We believe readers of The People are concerned about the Socialist Labor Party and The People seek to promote. That is why we ask you to give this urgent appeal your careful consideration.

The SLP—and therefore The People—is facing a serious financial problem. In fact, it is as serious a financial threat to our existence as we have ever faced.

The situation must be corrected. To accomplish that, we need the help of every person conscious of the critical times in which we are living and of the vital importance of maintaining the existence of the SLP and the publication of The People. Indeed, The People is indispensable in our collective struggle to save humanity and the world from the ruinous consequences of the capitalist system.

As you well know from your own daily experiences, the costs of publishing a paper continue to rise. For us the costs of operating continue to mount steadily. As a result, there has been a steady drain on our financial reserves, until those reserves are down to what can only be described as a very dangerous level.

In the past, many of you have contributed frequently and generously to our appeals for financial support. Now our need is greater than ever. To help meet that need we have set a $25,000 goal for The People’s 2000 Thanksgiving Fund. We earnestly appeal to you to contribute to this fund as generously and promptly as you possibly can.

We have no doubt that you get many appeals for funds. We get them, too. Hardly a day passes without one arriving in the mail. And all—or most—are for worthy causes.

But it is to the elimination of the capitalist source of the problems of our people that the "worthy causes" address that The People and the SLP are devoted. They are devoting their energies and resources. And we will continue to do so as long as our supporters will help provide the material wherewithal that makes our efforts possible.

In the days ahead, our responsibilities as the sole voice of the immediate socialist reconstruction of society and articulating a viable program for accomplishing that goal will become greater than ever. Please use the coupon on page 6 to send your donation.

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**Echoes of Middle East Conflict Threatens U.S. Interests**

By Ken Roethcher

Last month's violent Palestinian protests against Israeli occupation, and the ruthless Israeli efforts to suppress them, focused attention on the Middle East's volatile and strategically important areas.

The intensified conflict between Palestinians and Israelis raises the specter of discord in the Middle East and its continuing potential to ignite a much larger conflagration.

For the United States and other capitalist powers, particularly Western Europe and Japan, the issue is a serious security consideration. The United States continues to pump oil for international capitalism. A Brookings Institution fellow, writing for The Perspective section in the San Jose Mercury News, underscored this point.

"The aim of U.S. diplomacy," he wrote, "should be to avert a disaster for Arabs and Israelis—and for Americans. And don't kid yourself. The consequence of escalation will be disastrous for all sides. This is no longer only about peacemaking, or about making possible civil war in Israel, or even about saving Arabs and Israelis from themselves. It is also about protecting bitter, resolute and far more people.

While attempting to manipulate Israeli-Palestinian tensions to its own imperialist interests in the Middle East, the United States is giving Israel a virtual blanket check for its military machine, with little re- reach for its conducting. In exchange, Israel generally serves U.S. capitalist interests in the region.

With these and other ruling-class machinations, developments are once again affirming what the Socialist Labor Party has contended before about the Middle East conflicts: more than anywhere else in the world, they demonstrate that stable peace is impossible until the world class struggle is resolved.

If there is one thing that is clear about the Middle East it is this: unilateral international working-class solidarity becomes a dominant factor and the working classes in the imperialist nations take power into their own hands to end the imperialist drive itself, the conflicts consuming the Middle East will be resolved.

But such conditions are not possible in the imperialist nations—a revolution that would put a speedy end to economic rivalries and nationalist conflicts—workers in the Middle East cannot be expected to solve, on their own, the conflicts that imperialism and their own ruling classes have embodied them in.
Canadian Auto Workers Union, Labor Federation May Split

By Ken Boettcher

The Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) union and the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC) are embroiled in a struggle that may result in a split in what passes for the labor movement in Canada. According to The New York Times, Canadian capitalists see the burgeoning struggle “as a barometer of labor militancy in Canada,” and they “are watching closely.”

In July, the 2.4 million-member CLC imposed sanctions on the 220,000-member CAW. The sanctions left the CAW with neither voice nor vote at the CLC’s congress this year. The CLC imposed its sanctions in response to CLC findings that the CAW had sanctioned local chieftains, whom they accused of raiding unions organized in other industries and from real organizing.

The CAW, To date, 6,000 have changed unions, among them members of one local the SEIU set up. The SEIU fired its staff and closed the local, where they accused of turning over to the CAW’s local members lists, destroying records and illegally transferring $1.5 million of SEIU funds to CAW accounts. A court ordered the return of the funds, and the CAW compiled.

Back in 1985, when the CAW first split from the U.S. based United Auto Workers—ostensibly because the UAW wasn’t “militant” enough—some auto capitalists expressed concerns. Robert White, then chairman of the Canadian division of the UAW, reassured the auto capitalists. The split, said White, “shouldn’t upset in any way our [the proposed CAW’s] relationship with the auto companies.”

In short, White wanted capitalists to know that regardless of the words he spoke, his work would mean business as usual. The union would continue to act as a broker for the labor power of its workers, capitalizing capitalists to give a better return on foreign and labor training workers never to ask for more.

The intervening years buttressed White’s point. The CAW increased its membership by 80 percent—but more growth has been from raiding unions organized in other industries than from real organizing. The CAW accounts. A court ordered the return of $1 million of SEIU funds to the CAW.

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Field Reports

Another City Adopts ‘Living Wage’ Rule

Santa Cruz, Calif., is the latest city to adopt a “living wage” ordinance. Similar ordinances have been adopted by about 60 other cities.

The Santa Cruz ordinance applies to all full-time city workers. It also requires all companies doing business with the city’s government to pay their workers at least $11 an hour when they provide health benefits.

This is the highest “living wage” adopted to date by any city having a similar ordinance. Change, for example, European companies doing business with the city to pay a minimum of $7.60 an hour, while Cambridge, Mass., set the minimum at $10 an hour.

According to The Times, “The living wage issue has been addressed on particular political urgency in California, where the cost of living has jumped sharply with the state’s economic resurgence.”

That, “resurgence” is the result of the labor of the state’s working class. The “living wage” ordinance attests to the fact that many workers have gained very little in exchange for their surging productivity. All “living wage” ordinances such as the one adopted by Santa Cruz a good thing? Yes—and no!

When the price of labor tends to fall below what is required to buy the necessities of life workers are compelled to struggle for higher wages, i.e., for a “living wage,” where nothing “wrong” except that such demands are too modest, and the workers who make them are often too divided with the economic superstitions implanted by capitalism.

The demand for a “living wage” is wrong when it is held up to workers as the end-all and be-all of their aspirations. Where capitalists and their “labor unions” succeed in convincing the workers that a “living wage” should be their goal, then obviously, this degradation is comprised in the fact that, instead of receiving for its labor the full produce of this labor, the working class has to be satisfied with a portion of its own produce called wages. The capitalist pockets the surplus which constitutes the economical degradation of the workers. As Frederick Engels pointed out, “It is not the高低ness or lowness of wages which constitutes the economical degradation of the working class; this degradation is comprised in the fact that, instead of receiving for its labor the full produce of this labor, the working class has to be satisfied with a portion of its own produce called wages. The capitalist pockets the surplus which constitutes the economical degradation of the workers.”

The “living wage” means precisely that—a wage sufficient to keep workers in condition to be useful. To that extent it is a necessity for capitalists and their political state, for without workers nothing could be done. It is also an insult to workers those days when an abundance can be produced for everyone.
Biotech Rush to Profit Threatens Public Health

By Bruce Cozzini

Biotechnology, spurred on by the mapping of the human genome that has occurred in the last five years, has experienced tremendous growth. The U.S. Patent Office, according to the Boston Globe, says that the number of biotech applications nationally increased by 15 percent last year to more than 29,000, and "the number is expected to jump by another 25 percent this year." The Globe reported that over "1,300 companies are now competing to identify genes and proteins, treat cancer and other diseases, and develop ways to speed that research." A single company, Millennium Pharmaceuticals of Cambridge, Mass., "has a staggering 1,500 patent applications pending at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office," the Boston newspaper added.

While whatever promise biotechnology may hold for producing cures for a myriad of diseases—and scientists are far from unanimous in their opinions—that potential is being thwarted by the drug industry's increasing need for profit. Ironically, the very rush to patent genes may impede the research that might lead to new drugs or treatments that would prove, or disprove, that rush to trademark. This is only subverts scientific inquiry and reporting, it fragments that research by establishing petty monopolies over isolated areas of inquiry and discovery. While patents may lead "venture capitalists to fund research, patents also block research by others on patented genes or processes." Patent requirements state that inventions must be new and have "specific, substantial and credible" uses. However, some researchers fear that patents could lead to a change in the culture of science to lay claim to future uses of which they are not aware when the patents were granted. The Globe comments that Dr. Aubrey Milunsky, director of the Center for Human Genetics at the Boston University School of Medicine, is concerned that the INS deport the men—even if they are undocumented workers—if they can be shown to be not "material witnesses." Last February, participants expressed concern at a conference in Pacific Grove, Calif., that the INS action was "defensive" and that the INS had been "oversold" by some quarters as a panacea for illegal immigration. "It would be nice to be brothers, but we have...a crime wave in Farmingville," said a young boy at Pennsylvania State University because "Morality has been soiled. Entrepreneurs without drug company connections may manipulate its publication for proprietary—and keep it secret." The event that optimized this concern was the September 1999 death of an 18-year-old boy at Pennsylvania State University. The boy died after an experimental viral gene therapy trial at the university. The trial was sponsored by the Penn State program because researchers there failed to report two earlier serious reactions to the treatment. After the Penn State incident medical centers reported 681 instances of serious adverse effects from gene therapy experiments. Of these, 652 were reported late. Some were not even death-related. But re- mained unexplained, suggesting the possi- bility that the Pennsylvania boy was not the first victim of gene therapy experi- ments. Scientists there have expressed concern that the biotechnology industry is seeking regulatory changes that could decrease disclosure of "proprietary" adverse events. The Penn State case is one example of financial influences encouraging the conduct of research. After the boy's death the As- sociation forgene Therapy followed up, was founded by the principal scientist in the case. Dr. James Wilson, had funded part of the Penn State study. The company, Genovo Inc., was sold to a larger company, netting Wilson a reported $13.5 million in stock. The legislation was not an isolated instance. The AP article also reported on a NIH conference where speakers said that researchers who have a financial interest in drug trials may bias medical findings and put patients at risk. The magnitude of the problem was stated by Dr. Thomas Bodenheimer, a professor at the Univer- sity of California, San Francisco. He said that financial conflict of interest in re- search could be "impairing the interests of thousands of physicians" who will use the suspect research in treating millions of patients.

Bodenheimer noted that most drug tri- als are paid for by drug companies, creat- ing a risk of bias and inaccurate results. As an example, Bodenheimer cited an analysis of 70 studies on the safety of a heart drug in which 96 percent of authors with drug company ties found the drug to be safe. But 53 percent of experts without drug company connections said the drug was safe. Also, an analysis of company-funded studies published in peer-reviewed journals found that results favored the company's product 98 percent of the time. Bodenheimer also noted other ways in which conflict of interest could affect re- search. Private doctors who are paid $1,000 to $5,000 per patient recruited for a drug trial could benefit from patients who don't belong in the trial or who don't even have the disease being studied. In other cases, cancer drug trials exclude older people to make the results seem more effective than it actually is. "Up to 75 percent of people recruited for cancer studies are younger than 65 because older people spend more poorly to chemotherapy; though 63 percent of cancer patients in the United States are over 65," the AP article said. Lastly, the research basis does not exist. The data, may manipulate its publication for their own benefit.

Clearly, as long as research is in the hands of companies whose purpose is making profits rather than healing the sick, the potential benefits of research will be outweighed by the negative effects. In the past, the public has ignored legislation that specifies that immigrants who are responsible for a "spate" of crimes in Farmingville. The immigrant, who generally come without families, often rent a single family house into which 20 or 30 will move. This year, the town of Brookhaven passed a law limiting the number of unre- lated people who may live in a rental house. At least one landlord found a way to beat the fines. He raised the rental $50 for each of his 30 tenants in one house to cover the expected expense.

At the end of August, the Suffolk County legislature debated a bill to sue the INS to force it to prescribe illegal immigrant workers and put them into irrational victims of unfounded prejudices. Many citizens reportedly believe the immigrant workers are responsible for a crime wave in the town of Brookhaven, in which the population has increased from 436 people in 1995 to 430 by 2000. As an example, Bodenheimer cited an analysis of 70 studies on the safety of a heart drug in which 96 percent of authors without drug company connections favored the company's product 98 percent of the time. Bodenheimer noted that most drug tri- als are paid for by drug companies, creat- ing a risk of bias and inaccurate results. As an example, Bodenheimer cited an analysis of 70 studies on the safety of a heart drug in which 96 percent of authors with drug company ties found the drug to be safe. But 53 percent of experts without drug company connections said the drug was safe. Also, an analysis of company-funded studies published in peer-reviewed journals found that results favored the company's product 98 percent of the time. Bodenheimer also noted other ways in which conflict of interest could affect re- search. Private doctors who are paid $1,000 to $5,000 per patient recruited for a drug trial could benefit from patients who don't belong in the trial or who don't even have the disease being studied. In other cases, cancer drug trials exclude older people to make the results seem more effective than it actually is. "Up to 75 percent of people recruited for cancer studies are younger than 65 because older people spend more poorly to chemotherapy; though 63 percent of cancer patients in the United States are over 65," the AP article said. Lastly, the research basis does not exist. The data, may manipulate its publication for their own benefit.

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Socialism is the collective ownership by all the people of the factories, railroads, land and all other instruments of production. Socialism means production to satisfy human needs, not, as under capitalism, for sale and profit. Socialism means direct control and management of the industries and social services by the workers through a democratic government based on their nationwide economic organization. Under socialism, all authority will originate from the workers, integrally united in Socialistic Industrial Unions. In each workplace, the rank and file will elect whatever committees or representatives are needed to facilitate production. Within each shop or office division of a plant, the rank and file will participate directly in formulating and implementing all plans necessary for efficient operations. Besides electing all necessary shop officers, the workers will also elect representatives to a local and national council of their industry or service—and to a central congress representing all industries and services. This all-determining progress will plan and coordinate production in all areas of the economy. All persons elected to any post in the socialist government, from the lowest to the highest level, will be directly accountable to the rank and file. They will be removed at any time that a majority of those elected decide it is necessary. Such a system would make possible the fullest democracy and freedom. It would be a society based on, and not primarily supported by, economic freedom.

For individuals, socialism means an end to economic insecurity and exploitation. It means workers cease to be commodities bought and sold on the labor market and forced to work for wages only, as under capitalism. This also means the end of economic insecurity and exploitation for themselves. The laws and customs that under capitalism force workers to work at the will of employers will be abolished in favor of their own private ownership of the means of production. Socialism means to satisfy human needs, not, as under capitalism, for sale and profit. Socialism is the collective ownership by all the people of the factories, mills, mines, railroads, land and all other instruments of production. Socialism means production to satisfy human needs, not, as under capitalism, for sale and profit. Socialism means direct control and management of the industries and social services by the workers through a democratic government based on their nationwide economic organization. Under socialism, all authority will originate from the workers, integrally united in Socialistic Industrial Unions. In each workplace, the rank and file will elect whatever committees or representatives are needed to facilitate production. Within each shop or office division of a plant, the rank and file will participate directly in formulating and implementing all plans necessary for efficient operations. Besides electing all necessary shop officers, the workers will also elect representatives to a local and national council of their industry or service—and to a central congress representing all industries and services. This all-determining progress will plan and coordinate production in all areas of the economy. All persons elected to any post in the socialist government, from the lowest to the highest level, will be directly accountable to the rank and file. They will be removed at any time that a majority of those elected decide it is necessary. Such a system would make possible the fullest democracy and freedom. It would be a society based on, and not primarily supported by, economic freedom.

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De Leon at his desk.

The De Leon-Harriman Debate

One of the significant debates in American labor history took place on November 25, 1900, in the Grand Opera House in New Haven, Conn., 100 years ago Nov. 25. The protagonists were the editor of the Daily People, Daniel De Leon, and a spokesman for the newly formed Socialist Labor Party (later the Socialist Party), John Harriman. The question of the debate as it was formally phrased was:

“Resolved, that the tactics of the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance against the pure and simple trade union is for the benefit of the working class and for the promotion of socialism in America.”

De Leon-Harriman debate was stenographically recorded and printed in the Daily People immediately after the event. Within a month the SLP issued the text as a pamphlet. The pamphlet has been out of print for decades. Recently, De Leon’s original text was added to the SLP’s Web site (www.slp.org).

Tactics of the ST&LA

The ST&LA was a militant socialist union that openly proclaimed its ultimate goal to be socialism. Its tactics against the “pure and simple” union were directed against the American Federation of Labor and kindred unions who were “exposing themselves to the resentment and hatred of their employers.” It was opposed to any union that “exposed” the employers as it was opposed to any union that did not “expose” the employers as its enemies.

De Leon explained that “that policy was not arrived at from the fund of historic facts, certain undeniable facts, and established upon conclusions that are.

Opposed to the trade union policy of the ST&LA, and of the SLP, were the labor leaders and their political allies among the reformists and opportunists in the Social Democratic Party. Their spokesman, John Harriman, upheld the view of the Stalinists in opposition to the growth of socialism and that the correct tactics were to get into the “pure and simple” unions and “bore from within.”

Step to Industrial Union Concept

This brief review will deal mainly with De Leon’s first presentation, in which he laid out the rationale and strategy for “boring from within.”

De Leon’s first presentation, De Leon summed up the theory of the Alliance: “...Boring from within, with the labor faker in possession, is a waste of time, and the only way to strike back is by organizing the workmen always; to organize them, enlighten them, and whenever a conflict breaks out in which the brothers are being fooled and used as food for cannon, to have the ST&LA throw itself in the midst of the fray, and sound the note of sense.”

How Militant Socialists ‘Bored’

Among the shallow but spurious arguments advanced before the De Leon-Harriman debate was the claim that the SLP had started to “educate” in the unions where it had organized, it was “educating” the labor leaders and their political allies, and was working “in the Socialist Labor Party,” De Leon explained. “That policy was not arrived at from the fund of historic facts, certain undeniable facts, and established upon conclusions that are.”

Penalty for Nonclassconsciousness

Only a trade union that recognizes the class struggle can keep free of the “entanglements that the conflicting interests” of its competing employers might bring into them... A workingman’s organization that is not classconscious, a workingman’s organization that imagines that the interests of the capitalist class and the interests of the working class are one and the same—such an organization and such workingmen are simply appendages of the men in power. That is why a workingman’s organization must always be classconscious, as well as classstruggling. That is why it is necessary to organize the workers into a stronghold of the working class....

De Leon then related the actual experience of the SLP after it had been reorganized in 1890, 19 years before Harriman’s presentation. There were economic organizations of workingmen in 1890, but “instead of being classconscious, they built upon the principle of the brotherhood of the workingman and the capitalist...these trade unions, guided by a natural instinct, and yet an untutored instinct, moved in a peculiar direction. The want was blind. He struck in the air, and sometimes his blows fell upon individual capitalists. The capitalist class then persuaded to endeavor to counteract these trade unions (through its labor lieutenants, the labor fakers), and a struggle took place within the unions.”

The ST&LA was classconscious and its tactics were to organize the “pure and simple” unions and to expose them relentlessly as fakes and frauds that committed the labor lieutenants of the capitalist class. Its tactics were also to organize the labor leaders and their political allies and to make them the friends of labor and we will do labor’s work in Washington and have practically for gotten the people who put us in office. All the progressive (?) laws that were enacted over a period of 14 years have been set aside. We have injunctions against us of every kind....”

Friend of ‘Labor’s Friends’

Daniel F. Tobin, president of the Teamsters’ union, writing coyly overtop the plight of the erstwhile secretary of defense, Louis Johnson, in an editorial in the International Traimer, also sheds a few tears for the workers who have been betrayed by their “friends” in Congress. “...We find they have gotten somewhat of the same kicking around as Louis John- son”, Tobin writes. “The only difference is that ours is a thousand times worse because millions of men and women, who are working for a living...have been crucified by many of the men in Washington whom they helped to elect and who were elected on the platform, ‘We are the friends of labor and we will do labor justice.’”

Those friends who helped us in their hour of need are making the laws in Washington and have practically forgotten the people who put us in office. All the progressive (?) laws that were enacted over a period of 14 years have been set aside. We have injunctions against us of every kind....”

NATIONALISM:

Walking-Class Nemesia

De Leon at his desk.

The People

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS

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NOVEMBER 2000 THE PEOPLE 5
Bush and Gore both claim that their tax reduction proposals will benefit workers. Does the SLP agree with either, or does it still hold to its position that taxation and “tax reform” are capitalistic measures of no concern to workers?

The SLP agrees with neither. It still holds to its position, and that position is as sound today as it ever was. We are aware, of course, that workers nominally pay income and other forms of taxes. Ultimately, however, these payments are not themselves a loss to workers or to their living standards. They are primarily from the economic facts. The most important of these factsthat labor power—"wages"—is sold on a competitive market, and that the wages of workers in the long run correspond to the value of their labor power. In short, workers get a living wage simply because they are worth it. Moreover, the value is realized by wages, which they may or may not keep, depending on the state of the labor market. Meanwhile the real robbery not only continues unabated, but is actually strengthened through such reforms.

The position of the SLP on taxes is the correct one, hence it is the one that best serves the interests of the working class. It is the position that is most directly related to the fact that they are robbed as producers, not as taxpayers.” Furthermore, it is the position that is most directly related to the task at hand, which is to reframe outmoded capitalism with the economic democracy of socialism.

Fall Colors
You may soon find yourself tramping through the woods collecting leaves to help your copy of The People. Wouldn’t it be easier to enter a subscription? And one for a friend? Use the coupon on page 2.

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Fall Colors
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From the editorial page of the SLP’s newspaper The People, which was published in November 2000.

The SLP agrees with neither. It still holds to its position, and that position is as sound today as it ever was. We are aware, of course, that workers nominally pay income and other forms of taxes. Ultimately, however, these payments are not themselves a loss to workers or to their living standards. They are primarily from the economic facts. The most important of these factsthat labor power—"wages"—is sold on a competitive market, and that the wages of workers in the long run correspond to the value of their labor power. In short, workers get a living wage simply because they are worth it. Moreover, the value is realized by wages, which they may or may not keep, depending on the state of the labor market. Meanwhile the real robbery not only continues unabated, but is actually strengthened through such reforms.

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assert real control over them. The significant fact of the matter is not this class’s role in the growth of bourgeois legality, but the mass eviction of Arabs from the land by a people who could be considered nothing but the vanguard of its interlopers. And all of this occurred under the watchful eye of a British imperialist domination.

What followed over the next three decades was the natural product of this phenomenon called Zionism that would be an ever-present and unrelenting warfare.

Two facts that can be added here will conclude this survey. The first of these is that the Zionist organization pursued a totally ruthless course in its march toward the creation of a Jewish state which very often exposed the Jewish people to more suffering and tragedy than any example of this was the pressure exerted upon the Truman administration. The U.S. government, bypassing the immigration restrictions that prevented millions of Jews in displaced in the 1940’s and 1950’s from entering Europe from the United Kingdom, so that these unfortunate people were expelled from this Palestine as a place of refuge. The second of these facts is that at the time of the establishment of a Jewish state in May 1948, the Jewish population of Palestine did not exceed 35 percent of the total.

The Nature of Zionism

The Zionist movement cannot be viewed as an inevitable movement in any sense of that term. It was from its inception an inveterate dance to the dominant, if not the genuine, of any true nationalist opinion. It is that Zionism is the sin of the Middle East and the Middle Eastern peoples are tied to the interests of the Arab masses. Thus, as an Arab journalist, the Zionism movement has in common its work with the Arab working class.

While the Zionist movement has been held out to the Jewish people as the embodiment of a solution to the of the world. The development of political organizations in Israel that are opposed Zionism and that are made up of both Jews and Arabs, the development of a socialist working-class resistance to capitalism in the form of strikes and protests, and the development of a peace movement within Israel in recent years, as well as the existence of a significant movement in the Arab world which to tantamount to taking up a position against an element of the working class.

Basis for Working-Class Unity

The development of political organizations in Israel that are opposed to Zionism and that are made up of both Jews and Arabs, the development of a socialist working-class resistance to the interests of the Arab masses. Thus, as an Arab journalist, the Zionism movement has in common its work with the Arab working class.

The movement that transcends ethnic lines and the creation of a socialist working-class state, the Zionist movement and its imperialist context in which it has evolved. The second of these facts is that at the time of the establishment of a Jewish state in May 1948, the Jewish population of Palestine did not exceed 35 percent of the total.

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