

symptom of the rise of political terrorism in the world today. They will say that somehow this disease must be controlled, and their only answer will be through international police measures.

But this has nothing to do with what really should be learned from the events in Holland. The real lesson is how whole nations, and whole generations of innocent people, become victims of imperialism.

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The South Moluccan people used to be called "Spice Islanders." That was during the days when Indonesia was ruled by Holland and known as the "Dutch East Indies."

In its day, Dutch imperialism was as savage as any other. Like every other colonial power it fought ruthlessly to hang onto its rich rubber, sugar, coffee and tea plantations in the East Indies.

The Dutch enslaved the Indonesian people and created a profitable plantation economy.

And, like most colonial powers, the Dutch colonialists recruited some of their colonial slaves into an army to fight against the rest.

In the 40's the East Indies fought for independence. It was a vicious, bloody war. Thousands of South Moluccans were recruited to become the foot soldiers for Dutch imperialism, just as some Vietnamese fought for French and U.S. imperialism. Just as some Indians fought for British imperialism.

The South Moluccans fought as hard, or harder, than Holland's own troops. And when Holland lost, and Indonesia became independent in 1949, many of them fled the new nation to live in Holland. They had little choice.

REWARDED

The Moluccans were rewarded in Holland the same way imperialism usually rewards the ordinary people who are recruited to fight for it. Since they were no longer needed, they were crowded into slums, filthy refugee camps, and later barracks.

There are few or no jobs. Many cannot speak the language. There's no future but despair for the South Moluccan community in Holland.

Their conditions are at least as bad as those of the worst Black ghettos in America.

Meanwhile, Indonesia itself has been ruled since 1967 by a military dictatorship, heavily backed by the U.S. and Holland. In Indonesia ethnic and national minorities of all kinds, South Moluccans included, are brutally suppressed.

So the South Moluccans in

DETROIT ARAB WORKERS MARCH ON PALESTINE DAY



The Arab community in the Detroit area recently held a major demonstration and rally to mark Palestine Week.

Palestine Week is observed each year in many American cities to help publicize and build support for the Palestinian struggle.

The Palestinians' lands were occupied by Israel in the 1948 and 1967 Middle East wars. They want the right to return to their homes and to run their own country.

In Detroit, thousands of Arabs work in a number of the biggest auto plants. Many are members of UAW locals like 600 (Ford Rouge), 3 (Dodge Main) and 51 (Lynch and Mound Road Chrysler).

Because of the size of the Arab working class and the strength of community organization, the Palestine Week action probably mobilizes more workers than any other single political demonstration in Detroit.

Workers' Power interviewed Abdeen Jabara [photo above], a lawyer who was one of the organizers for the demonstration.

Some of the posters called for unity between Arab and American working classes. We had statements of support from workers in the UAW. In fact, the president of UAW Local 600 issued a very strong solidarity statement, and someone from Local 3 Executive Board was there although they did not issue a formal statement.

It is very significant that many of the resolutions of support (from unions and local government bodies) not only support the human rights of Palestinian refugees, but also the political rights of the Palestinian people.

The Arab-speaking community in the Detroit metropolitan area is the largest in North America, and has been growing by leaps and bounds.

There has been a very sizeable recent immigration from Lebanon, along with continuing immigration from Iraq, Yemen and the territories occupied by Israel in June 1967.

The process of organizing this community actually began ten years ago, after the June 1967 war. That war had a very traumatic effect on the morale and psychology of many individuals in this community.

Perhaps the single most important event during this time, in demonstrating to the community the power of united activity with workers, was the November, 1973 demonstration at Cobo Hall.

[This demonstration was held to protest an award to Leonard Woodcock, then-UAW President,

[Above] Palestine Day march in Detroit, demanding political rights for the Palestinian people. [Left] Abdeen Jabara, one of the organizers of the demonstration.

for the union's support of Israeli war bonds.]

Between two and three thousand workers, shopkeepers, students, unemployed, elderly and women participated from the community.

The participation of Arabic-speaking workers shut down a whole shift at Dodge Main. We didn't actually realize this at the time.

That demonstration had a profound effect on the union hierarchy. Woodcock was visibly shaken by the massiveness of the demonstration.

Here was a mass demonstration of Black, white and third world workers protesting the complicity of the UAW in supporting a racist regime in the Middle East—that is, Israel.

Emil Mazey charged the whole demonstration was Communist-inspired, which of course revealed where much of the union leadership was at. That is, out-and-out McCarthyism and red-baiting.

Among other things, we built that demonstration by putting ads in the Black press and circulating leaflets explaining how we, as Arab workers and UAW members, feel about dues money deducted from our paychecks being spent on Israeli war bonds.

We regard this just as Black auto workers would feel if money were taken from their dues to support the government of South Africa.

The argument is always used with us by leaders of the union movement, that Israel is a

democracy and has a viable union movement called Histadrut.

But there are also unions in South Africa for white workers. That doesn't make it a country with a viable labor-based union movement.

ISRAEL'S UNIONS

In Israel, there is a labor structure with European (Ashkenazi) Jews at the top, Oriental (Sephardic) Jewish workers below them, Israeli Arabs further down, and Palestinian workers from the occupied territories, with no real protection from the unions, at the very bottom.

Today Israel, in fact, is strengthening its ties with South Africa.

Just last week it was announced that Israel is cooperating to build a military security fence around South Africa.

For a long time they have cooperated in the area of intelligence and military information. Israel is an importer of over half a billion dollars worth of South African goods.

The union movement in this country has also used the Histadrut to come into third world countries to establish pro-U.S.-government unions there.

We have made it clear we intend to make these facts known, either by massive demonstrations or by exposing them, and to show that these activities are against the wishes of rank and file workers.