

IN THE COLONIES

Further Communist Arrests in Egypt.

By J. B. (Jerusalem).

In September 1924, Egypt was the scene of a Communist trial. Zaglul Pasha, who was at that time at the head of the government and at the pinnacle of his power, wished to show to the English how well he was able to maintain order. All the accused were condemned to imprisonment with hard labour. The Egyptian reaction rejoiced: Communism in Egypt is now dead and buried; "all" the leaders are arrested, "all" organisations dissolved and "all" communist nests cleared out.

Zaglul Pasha had scarcely carried out this task for British imperialism when there came the end of Zaglul's glory. Driven from the government, threatened and humiliated, the Party of Zaglul has today become the victim of that Bankers' clique which is devoted to England and to whom Zaglul Pasha, thanks to his weak and ambiguous policy, gave the possibility of taking over power. This clique — the Zivar Pasha Ministry — is preparing to deliver a decisive blow to the Egyptian nationalists. No means of incitement and calumny appears too vile for this Ministry, which is supported by English bayonets, in order to exterminate all revolutionary and freedom-loving elements still remaining in Egypt. It is therefore a matter of course that the rage of these betrayers of the Egyptian people is directed first of all against

that organisation which appears to them to be the most dangerous: The Communist Party of Egypt.

In spite of the heavy blows which the Communist Party had already suffered in the previous year, in spite of espionage and attacks, the Egyptian Communist Party had recovered with surprising rapidity. New forces were streaming to it, the revolutionary mood among the workers and the advanced intelligentsia, which was visibly strengthened by the British acts of violence, caused the slogans of the communists to meet with an enthusiastic response. The trade unions, under communist influence, revived again and, along with the brother Party of Palestine and Syria, the basis was created for a wide field of activity in the Near East.

The Egyptian police were obliged to intervene before the "danger" became too great. By means of an expensive system of provocateurs and spies, they concocted a monstrous communist "conspiracy". On the 31st of May and the days following numerous arrests of communists took place. In all, 17 persons have been imprisoned up till now, the majority of them being natives, among them being journalists, officials and workers. As the police were at a loss to bring forward concrete charges, the various government organs resorted all the more eagerly to insinuations of the vilest sort. From the most minute descriptions of "Moscow Emissaries", up to piquant details concerning the complicity of the English communists and the Soviet government, there was not lacking one of the features which distinguish reactionary incitement throughout the world.

In fact, it even seems as if the entire grandiose action aimed just as much at **creating an impression abroad as appeasing the native bourgeoisie**. Feverish search has been made for proofs as to the subversive activity of Russian agents in British spheres of influence. Zivar Pasha is now in a position to bring forward everything Chamberlain's heart desires: Communist "conspiracies", mysterious "Eyes of Moscow", English delegates, and even a whole trunk full of documents! The thing is so artfully contrived that it is the easiest thing in the world to use it as a means against the hated Soviet government.

And not only this. The fact that two of the arrested journalists are members of the staffs of prominent Zaglulist newspapers, suffices in order to involve the **Zaglul party** in the affair. It is pointed out at the same time that the communists, like the Zaglulists, were connected with that **group of terrorists**, the members of which carried out the **assassination of the governor of the Sudan, Sir Lee Stack**, in November last year and who were condemned to death for the same in a trial which has just been concluded. The aim which is being pursued in seeking to prove these connections is only too obvious.

By such means, and with the help of the Egyptian bourgeoisie and brutal police terror, the English hope to throttle the revolutionary movement in Egypt.