

The prevalent sentiments and the new strategy were expressed in an article which appeared in *al-Jami'a al-'Arabiyya* on 17 October;

Kick this Zionism with your feet and stand face to face with Great Britain. . . Zionism is nothing but a criminal enterprise encouraged by Britain and protected by its bayonets, aimed at oppressing the Arabs and bringing them under its control.

#### The Cause of the Poor

Although the bulk of the *Istiqlalists*, the advocates of the new strategy, did not have pronounced leftist tendencies, their agitation against the 'lethargic leadership' swayed some of them towards the adoption of a leftist interpretation of patriotism. In a remarkable article published by *al-'Arab* on 21 June 1933, Darwaza launched a vehement attack against the Palestinian vested interests. The national cause, he argued, was in fact the cause of the poor, the majority of the people who had to bear the brunt of imperialist and Zionist oppression. The 'propertied and notable classes were in touch with, and subservient to, the imperialists and the Zionists. He reported that rich people were ready to leave Palestine to live in Egypt or Switzerland if the going got rough, while the poor had to stick it out and die in their battle against oppression.

As the *Istiqlalists'* radical drive gathered strength, the position of the traditional leadership became more precarious. Two days before the Jaffa demonstration, the notables explained their 'predicament' to Wauchope in the following terms:

We have never in the past resorted even to peaceful demonstrations; now we have been pushed to it by the people themselves. Being so pushed, we hoped that Government would help us and not force us to lead people to more serious trouble.<sup>62</sup>

Three days later the Arab leaders informed Wauchope that 'In the past, the leaders were able to appease the people, but now, they have lost their influence'.<sup>63</sup>

#### The 1933 Revolt

Anti-Government agitation tended to point out that an outburst of feeling was imminent. The arduous preparations undertaken by Palestinian youth organisations for the Jaffa demonstration indicated the time and place of the expected clash with the Authorities. Political activists from Palestinian towns, a delegation of women from

Jerusalem<sup>64</sup> and special delegations from Syria and Trans-Jordan converged on the Arab port.

On the appointed day, over seven thousand angry demonstrators armed with sticks, took to the Jaffa streets. During the ensuing clashes with the Police one policeman was killed and twenty-five wounded. Twelve demonstrators were shot dead and seventy-eight wounded. Scores of arrests including the more prominent militant leaders were made.

On hearing the news of what the Arabs subsequently referred to as the Jaffa massacre, Palestinian public opinion was inflamed, and a general strike in the country was declared. Spontaneous riots and demonstrations came into conflict with the Police at Haifa and Nablus in the evening of the same day. On the following day, the streets of Haifa were barricaded and the Railway Station attacked. Scores of casualties were inflicted by police fire. A curfew was imposed, and the Harbour in Haifa was closed for three days. The District Commissioner of the Northern District was satisfied that the notables of Haifa 'did do their utmost to assist in preventing the thing getting wider'.<sup>65</sup>

Safad, Nazareth and Tulkarem were occupied by British troops in the early hours of 28 October, but this did not prevent the demonstrators from throwing stones at the troops. At Acre, Sheikh As'ad Shuqairi used his influence to prevent a proposed demonstration. At Nablus tension prevailed, but no clashes took place owing to the good offices of the Mayor who received the personal thanks of the District Commissioner. At Wadi Hawareth trouble was prevented by 'the timely arrival of the Royal Airforce planes'.<sup>66</sup>

Jerusalem awaited the news of the Jaffa riot with considerable concern and nervousness. Parties of excited youths arrived from Nablus by car and visited the leaders who had returned from Jaffa. On the following morning shops began to close and crowds of demonstrators attacked the Police with stones and during the night sniping took place in the neighbourhood of Mount Scopus 'directed either at the British Police camp or at the Mayor's house'.<sup>67</sup>

On 29 October, Arab crowds hurled missiles, including home-made bombs, at the police and at one place the Police opened fire and inflicted considerable casualties. Tension increased as successive victims died, and sniping at the troops and Government Offices was resumed during the night. Arab shops remained closed, and it was common belief that the strike was maintained by Husseini influence strongly supported from the 'Supreme Moslem Council, in protest at the continued detention of Jamal Effendi Husseini. Press censorship was