Anti-Semitism

Mass protest meetings are being held in a number of cities against the British government's refusal to admit more than a trickle of refugee Jews into Palestine.

Why do they want to go to Palestine? Some

of our readers may wonder.

The answer is that the refugees haven't said they prefer Palestine. They want a safe haven. But there is none for them.

In Germany large numbers of Jews are still kept in the very same concentration camps where the Nazis placed them. It's for their own good, say American and British authorities. And it is a fact that anti-Semitism is still rife in Germany, thanks to the Allied policy of not letting the German anti-fascists purge the country of the Nazis.

Yet this same Germany looks like a haven to Polish Jews fleeing from a new wave of pogroms. The September 21 New York Post reports "a transport of 650 Jews who escaped from Poland" and arrived in the American zone. They tried to pass themselves off as German Jews returning to Munich. "But their faulty German gave them away. Whereupon an American general ordered them all returned to Poland. The next morning the camp was surrounded by American troops armed with machine guns. The soldiers drove the resisting Jews from the huts, using the butts of their rifles indiscriminately against women and children." And so on.

Most of the refugees don't want to return to the places where their brothers and sisters have been murdered by the Nazis and their satellites, and where anti-Semitism has not been burned out by the transformation of the old social order which breeds it.

They are not asking to go to Palestine. That is being asked for them by the Zionist and other "respectable" Jewish leaders. But in Palestine the Arab masses, whipped up by the Arab landlords, don't want more Jews to come in.

We can be sure the refugees would be glad to come to the western Hemisphere, where the Statue of Liberty was put up in the days when this country was populated and built by such immigrants and refugees. But those days are gone now, and the door is barred to them, and the respectable leaders who claim to speak for them don't even demand that the doors be opened. And meanwhile the signs multiply of the growth of anti-Semitism here, as the Gerald K. Smiths build their fascist gangs.

There is no haven on earth for the Jews. That is the simple, terrible truth. Nor will there be one, so long as capitalism which breeds anti-Semitism continues to exist.