

assistance given by the Kupat Holim, and for the spirit in which it is given. Many times, a whole village has been won over to the Confederation because a child of a fellah has been helped by the Kupat Holim..." 94

Other devices used for winning Arabs to the Histadrut Confederation were the establishment of a Savings and Loan Society, Histadrut Socialization Clubs for joint sport activities, etc. The co-optation element implicit in the Histadrut's decision and actual effort to organize Arab labor becomes more exposed as one notices the coincidence of the Histadrut initiative with the development of incipient Communist political formations in Palestine.⁹⁵

By 1944, the total number of organized Arab workers was about 16,500.⁹⁶ The imperative of organizing Arab labor in order to eliminate the threat of the poorly-paid unorganized workers to the organized Jewish workers and to contain the emerging militant Arab labor movement, have, in turn, generated further contradictions: growing economic and political demands which are not likely to be met by the general Federation of Jewish Workers in Palestine, as they were incompatible with the Histadrut's reason for being, namely, the absolute commitment to form an exclusively Jewish proletariat, and a Jewish social formation in Palestine. Moreover, financial and productive capital at the disposal of the Histadrut comes from Jewish philanthropy and immigrants and, therefore, is already earmarked exclusively for Jewish settlement efforts; for Aliyah absorption.⁹⁷

The only faction in the Zionist movement which explicitly denounced the exclusionist policies of the Histadrut with regard to the boycott of Arab labor and the separatist organization of Arab and Jewish labor is Hashomer Hatzair (the Young Guard).

Hashomer Hatzair, like the Histadrut, belonged to Poalie-Tzion (Work-