

SUPPLEMENT

to

INFORMATION BULLETIN


JANUARY 1969

SPECIAL NUMBER

THESES FOR THE 16th CONGRESS
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

HX
632
A1
W9
no.1637

MAIN



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
University of Alberta Libraries

S U P P L E M E N T

TO INFORMATION BULLETIN JANUARY 1969

S P E C I A L N U M B E R

THESES FOR THE 16th CONGRESS

OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

By a technical mistake the last part of the IV Chapter: "THE PARTY'S WORK UNDER DIFFICULT TESTS", was omitted after page 103. We apologize to our readers.

This supplement gives the omitted part as pages 103a etc. Please add to your copy of I.B. 1969 Special Number.

Editor of Information Bulletin

= - - - =

...of the Party to act for the advance of progressive general-democratic objectives. Experience teaches that also under difficult conditions in which our Party is acting, there exist possibilities to extend the activities of the democratic organizations. The activities of the democratic organizations have to be strengthened and expanded and it is necessary to renew the activities of such organizations as the Jewish-Arab Committee,

The struggle for changing the Israeli policy is connected with the constant and systematic activity of the Party for the rallying of all democratic and peace-loving forces in Israel, for ensuring the regular activity of the democratic organizations.

Party Membership

In the whole country there exist 59 Party branches.

The results of the first membership census after the split, which was summed up by the 11th Plenary Session of the Central Committee in July 1966, showed an increase in the Party ranks by 15.5%, in comparison with the state of membership immediately after the split (August 1965). The summing up of the state of membership after the June war shows a decrease by 2.5% in comparison with the 1966 census. A comparison of the number

of Party members in the middle of 1968 with the number immediately after the split and the 15th Congress, shows an increase by 12.5% in the Party ranks. In the last months there has been a continuous and steady increase in the number of Party members, which will be summed up shortly before the 16th Congress.

It is an honourable task for every party cell, every branch and every district to continue extending the ranks towards the 16th Congress.

The small above-mentioned decrease in the number of members after the June war, in comparison with 1966, is mainly a result of the atmosphere of terror and anti-communist incitement, which was particularly intensified after the 1967 war. The fact that, now again, a process of additional expansion of ranks is being noticed, proves that together with realizing the difficult objective conditions, one ought not ignore the weaknesses in party work. After the June war the individual care of sympathizers has been weakened and the circles of sympathizers were not assembled as systematically as previously.

Not all possibilities for the expansion of party ranks were exhausted. This can be realized in face of the considerable expansion of the ranks of the Young Communist League of Israel. For the realization of these possibilities it is necessary to pay more attention to the daily activity and political explanation in the party branches and to see to it that systematic and regular contact has to be established with the sympathizers. The branch and district institutions have to discuss attentively the forms of activity among young workers, students and young intelligentsia. It is necessary to assist the YCL of Israel in extending its activity among the youth and young generation.

The circulation of the Communist Press

The weekly summing up of the circulation of the communist press in Hebrew, Arabic, Yiddish, Bulgarian and Romanian, indicates a decrease by 16% in 1967 in comparison with 1966 and an increase by 23% in 1968 in comparison with 1967. Hence: the weekly circulation of party press has increased by 3% since 1966.

The decrease in the circulation in 1967 stemmed from the great obstacles that faced those who upheld the policy of the Party in conditions of war, chauvinist, anti-communist incitement and a campaign of threats and terror.

The considerable improvement of the situation in 1968 as compared with 1967 indicates the constancy and persistence of the party members who acquired again readers who had stopped receipt of the party press, and enrolled new working people into the circle of readers.

At the same time, it is necessary to point out weaknesses that exist in some districts, concerning the circulation of the communist press. The weakening of contacts with sympathizers, the scantiness of door-to-door visits and lack of selling the press in public, all these have unavoidably influenced the range of press circulation. For the increase of the circulation of the communist press, party organizations must organize door-to-door vending according to addresses, and bring the press to places of work - the party organizations must concern themselves with mass distribution.

Mobilization of Means for Financing the Activities

The financial difficulties encountered by the Party constitute a serious obstacle on the way to develop the party work - to increase the publications, to open new clubs, to increase public activities of the Party.

We have to point out that in spite of the difficult economic situation of most of the members and sympathizers, the Party has succeeded in achieving the goals in the country-wide and district contribution campaigns, and also in obtaining considerable loans from members and sympathizers, for the acquisition of clubs in the districts and of offices for the Central Committee. Yet the material difficulties of the Party are still very great and make the development and expansion of party activities difficult.

It has to be pointed out that membership fees in all branches of the Party are in general regularly paid. But in some branches membership fees is not paid in accordance with grading. All party organizations must concern themselves with regular collection of fees in accordance with grading and to convey part of the fees to the Central Committee.

Every party cell must concern itself with extending the participation of the sympathizers in the financial efforts of the Party.

The serious battles lying ahead before the Party, demand further efforts in order to mobilize the means necessary for financing the Party activities for peace and for the interests of the working people.

The Work of the Central Committee

The Central Committee, together with the district and local institutions of the Party, had organized the work after the split, and strengthened the Party in ideological-political and organizational fields, and preserved the purity of its Marxist-Leninist way and thereby enabled the firm stand of the Party against the campaign of anti-communist incitement and terror during the days of the June war and after.

The Central Committee manifested ability in determining its positions regarding political events in Israel, the Middle East and the world. The patriotic and internationalist position followed by the Party on the eve of the war, when the conflagration broke out and after it, expressed the aspirations of the popular masses of Israel, of the "other Israel" which strives for peace and is disgusted at wars and conquests. This stand has brought to our Party the highest appreciation among tens of thousands of the working and peace-loving people of Israel, among the anti-imperialist forces in our region, among the international Communist movement, among democratic circles in the world.

In the period between congresses, the Central Committee and its institutions (the Political Bureau and the Secretariat) had worked collectively, and met regularly and ensured political guidance to the press, to the institutions and members of the Party, to its factions in the Knesset, the Histadrut, municipal councils and various public institutions. The contact between the Central Committee and the leading cadres in districts and branches was tightened and improved. One of the important means for improving this contact were the national conferences, where political and party information was delivered to the leading cadre. The holding of national and district conferences enabled the activists to take part in forming the policy of the Party. In order to improve further the contact between the Central Committee and the party members, more numerous visits have to be organized of the members of central institutions to the districts, branches and the party cells.

An important work has been done in the field of political-ideological education within the Party, but the demands made are much higher than what the Central Department for Political-Ideological Education was able to provide. The Department issued pamphlets for study, called "Study Pages", organized district conferences for lecturers and organized lectures in Party and YCL organizations.

Experience teaches that the success of the work in the field of political-ideological education depends on the quality of

the material issued and on the level of the lecturer. The district and local organizations of the Party, together with the Central Department, bear the responsibility for the educational work and its organization.

Experience teaches that the staff of the Central Department of Political-Ideological Education has to be reinforced by comrades who devote most of their time to this activity, and prepare educational material and carry out research work in ideological, political and economic questions. The problems of our country and of the workers' movement in Israel have to take first place in the work of the Central Department.

The publication of a monthly review devoted to ideological and political questions, which was decided upon by the Central Committee, will satisfy to a great extent the just demands put forward by members of the Party, the YCL and sympathizers for the intensification of political-ideological work.

Internal Party Organization

The experience of our Party has taught us how great is the importance of meticulously maintaining the Leninist organizational principles of a communist party organization - democratic centralism, internal party democracy, collective leadership, criticism and self-criticism, party discipline. The numerous tasks imposed on our Party demand from all the members and all the institutions to see to it that every party organization and every institution act according to these principles and improve the internal party organizational work.

Collective work of a party institution does not only demand regular meetings of the institution, but also proper preparation of the agenda and continuous control of the execution of its resolutions. Collective work means at the same time personal responsibility derived from division of work among the members of the institution.

The district and branch committees have demonstrated great political maturity and organization abilities. But weaknesses must not be ignored. In a number of local branches the regular activities of the cells' secretariats has to be strengthened. Thereby the work of the cell and the activity of their members will be strengthened. Party cells must discuss political questions as well as organizational questions of daily work. The political and organizational work of the cell has to be properly combined. The improvement of the work of the party cells will turn it into a living and fighting political body.

We have to encourage the comrade to put forward before the collective of the cell the questions which worry him. Therefore it is important that within the cell a comradely atmosphere must prevail, that at branch meetings and at district conference a broad democratic opportunity will be ensured for the clarification of the questions about which comrades are concerned. At the same time great importance must be attached to the maintenance of party discipline and the carrying out of the decisions of the party organizations by the member. Experience teaches that the higher the level of political and organizational work within the party organization, the higher the level of the activities of party members and of the Party as a whole.

In order to raise the level of party work, criticism and self-criticism must be developed. The cultivation of criticism and self-criticism constitutes an important means for tempering the Party, for exposure of weaknesses and errors and for their correction, for the raising of the level of the party organization, for prevention of "closed channels", for raising the level of work of the party members.

The raising of the ideological-political and organizational level of the party institutions and members, the tightening of the contact with the workers and popular masses, the extension of the struggle for defending the interests of the workers, the extension of cultural-social activity in the branches - all these are most important means in the struggle for expanding the ranks and the influence of the Party, for the prevention of assault upon the freedom of its activity and for the defence of democratic freedoms. It is the duty of all party institutions and of all party members to intensify party vigilance. The principle means for frustrating the designs of the class enemy to hit at our Party, is the raising of consciousness of the members and intensification of their activity, the meticulous maintenance of internal party democracy and discipline and control the execution of decisions and adherence to the Party statute.

In the period between congresses party members showed exemplary devotion and activity. In order to ensure more efficiency in the work, it is necessary to lay upon every member concrete duty, that suit him, taking into consideration his circumstances, abilities and personal conditions.

Every party organization has to determine its own action plan, which must take into account the concrete situation of fields of action and of the party organization itself. In planning the action, it is necessary to avoid laying down unrealistic objectives which are not capable of mobilizing the comrades for its realization. The possibilities of activity should not

be underestimated either. Every party organization can and must set itself concrete realizable objectives and at the same time it has to seek for ways to expand the activity of its members. Every member must be deeply convinced that in any situation, be it the hardest, there exist possibilities of work among the public. Thus, the task is to find forms of activity which suit the concrete condition under which the party organization works.

The Communist Party of Israel has the patriotic and internationalist mission of outlining for the people a way out of the road of wars to the road of peace, from the road of violating the rights of the working people to the road of ensuring the rights of the working people. In order to realize this noble task successfully and, in the best possible way, to serve the interests of the working class and the popular masses, we have to give suitable expression to the real aspirations of the workers, to their desire for peace and security, for democratic liberties and raising their living standard. The party members have to fight against sectarian attitudes on the one hand, and against opportunist attitudes on the other hand. We have to stand up against the chauvinist poison of the propaganda mouthpieces of reaction in Israel. The task we face is to bring the truth pronounced by our Party to the broadest masses of the working people, to strengthen the ranks of the Party, to intensify its activities and to mobilize new forces for the struggle.

The Young Communist League of Israel

The Young Communist League of Israel had actively participated in all battles of the Party.

The YCL had attained important achievements in reorganizing its work in those districts which were hit by the split, and has considerably expanded its ranks. The number of YCL members today (1968) is by 170% more than their number was in the middle of 1966.

The 9th Congress of the Young Communist League of Israel which was held in April 1968, outlined before the League the way for intensification the efforts to rally the youth in the struggle to put an end to the bloodshed, for implementing the Security Council Resolution of November 22, 1967, against the policy of oppression in the occupied territories, for the defence of the rights of the working youth and students and the tightening of ties with them, for full equal rights for the Arab people and youth. Congress laid down a programme for the extension of the ranks of the YCL of Israel and its children's movement, for the intensification of educational-political activity

within the League, for the extension of explanatory activities among the youth.

At the 9th Congress of the YCL expression was given to the close ties of the League with the World Federation of Democratic Youth, with numerous communist youth organizations in socialist and capitalist countries. A delegation of the Central Committee of the YCL of Israel took part in the events of the Jubilee Celebrations of the Leninist Komsomol.

An important achievement of the YCL of Israel was the setting-up of an Israeli Festival Committee which concerned itself with sending a broad delegation to Sofia and suitably representing the progressive Israeli youth at the Festival.

The YCL activists took a considerable part in organizing the Vietnam Committee, in demonstrations and rallies organized by that committee for solidarity with the Vietnamese people in its struggle against the American aggressors.

The organizations of the YCL of Israel in the towns and villages conducted a wide political activity among the Jewish and Arab youth, organized meetings and discussion evenings, distributed leaflets and circulated the press of the YCL of Israel and of the Party.

At the time of the June war and after it, the members of the YCL of Israel and its leadership stood honourably all the difficult tests. In spite of the persecution, the arrests, the confinement and restriction orders, which hit at members of the Central Committee and many activists of the YCL of Israel, the League has continued and even intensified its activity and its struggle.

The YCL of Israel faces the important task of deepening the political-ideological education and of expanding its activity among the working youth, among the students and young intelligentsia.

The institutions and organizations of the Party will have to assist the expansion of ranks of the YCL of Israel and the increasing of its influence among the Israeli youth. The Young Communist League of Israel is the young guard of the Communist Party of Israel and from it the Party draws young forces into its ranks. Realizing the important role to be played by the Israeli youth in the struggle for an Israel that is independent of imperialism, progressive and peace-loving Israel, the Party organizations have to give their fullest political and organizational assistance to the work of the Young Communist League of Israel.

For the Mobilization Towards the Electoral Campaign

The forthcoming campaigns for the elections to the Histadrut, to the Knesset and to the local councils obliges full mobilization from the side of all party institutions and organizations, from the side of the Young Communist League of Israel. As primary task membership in the Histadrut must be ensured for all members and sympathizers of the Party. In addition to this, the circulation of the party press and other publications must be extended, attention must be paid to the card file of the voters, circles of sympathizers must be organized and their meetings must be persevered, visits and meetings at places of work must be organized.

The control of execution of the preparatory plans for the electoral campaigns has to become a permanent and systematic duty of all party institutions and organizations.

Towards the 30th of January 1969, the day of opening the 16th Congress of the Communist Party of Israel, the districts, branches and all members of the Party and of the YCL of Israel will make further efforts, so that they may come to the Congress bringing with them new achievements in expansion of ranks, the circulation of the communist press, the deepening of contact with the working people. Such achievements will ensure that our Communist Party of Israel will emerge from the Congress still stronger, and tempered and prepared to go forth with elan into the great political struggles lying ahead.

