

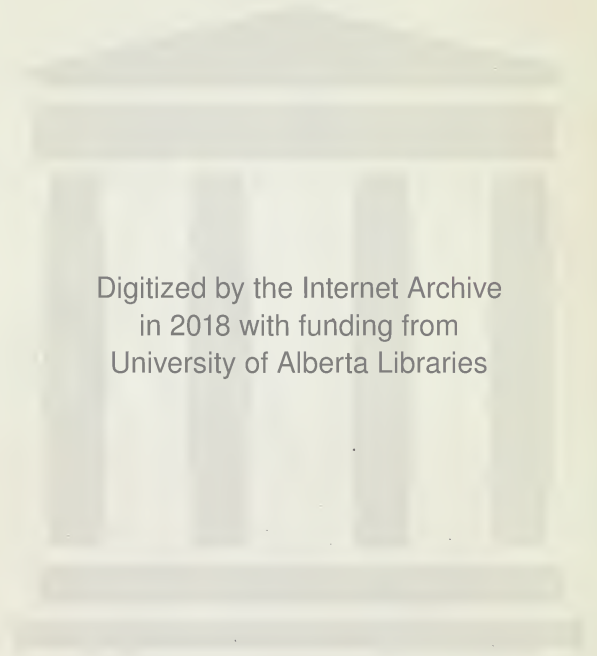
INFORMATION BULLETIN COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL



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5th January, 1970

Dear comrades,

This year, our Party marks its fiftieth anniversary,
1919 - 1969.

On the occasion of the anniversary, a festive conference will be held on Saturday, March 28, 1970. Pressing events in 1969 did not allow to celebrate the anniversary in 1969. We shall be very glad and regard it as an expression of international solidarity, if you will send a message of greetings to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of our Party.

We shall appreciate it, if the message reaches before March 14. (Enclosed herewith background material on 50th anniversary of the Communist Party of Israel.)

Yours fraternally,

Communist Party of Israel
Central Committee
(+) M. Vilner
General Secretary

50th ANNIVERSARY, 1919-1969,
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

BACKGROUND MATERIAL

(50th anniversary, 1919-1969, of the Communist Party of Israel)
The Communist Party in our country was founded in 1919 when Palestine was under British colonial rule.

Like in many other countries, thus also in Palestine, the Great Socialist October Revolution gave a mighty impetus to the development of Marxist thought and to the organization of the most class-conscious workers in the framework of the revolutionary party of the working class.

The first years of the Party were a period of maturing and consolidating its political and ideological line towards a Marxist-Leninist party. The Communist Party of Palestine was admitted to the Comintern in February 1924.

For more than 20 years, from 1921 to 1942-43, the Communist Party of Palestine had to work under difficult underground conditions. It united Arab and Jewish communists in the common struggle against imperialism and colonial oppression, for independence of the country, for the brotherhood and cooperation of Arab and Jewish toiling masses, against the British colonial rule and against Zionist and Arab local reaction; for the rights and interests of the workers and peasants, against war and fascism, for solidarity with the Soviet Union, for democracy and social progress. The Communist Party of Palestine propagated the ideas of socialism, of Marxism-Leninism.

After the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the Party changed its name to the Communist Party of Israel. The CP of Israel is the only revolutionary Jewish-Arab party in Israel. It fights against the pro-imperialist aggressive policy of the Israeli ruling circles, against the discrimination and oppression of the Arab population in Israel, for the recognizing of the rights of the Arab people of Palestine, for solving the Israeli-Arab conflict, based on mutual respect of the national interests of the Israeli people and the Palestinian Arab people; for independence from imperialism and friendship with the Soviet Union; for raising the living standard of working people, and ensuring the democratic rights of the people; for a socialist future.

Up till now the Party held 16 congresses, the latest was held in January-February 1969.

In its struggle during these years, the Party faced and overcame various difficulties and attacks by the imperialist and class enemies outside and by nationalist, opportunist, liquidatory and anti-Marxist-Leninist elements from within. The latest of these attacks on the Marxist-Leninist, anti-imperialist, internationalist line of the Party was the attack of Mikunis-Sneh pro-Zionist chauvinist group. The splitting activities of the Mikunis-Sneh group in August 1965 were rebuffed and the Party continues to carry its struggle guided by its internationalist Marxist-Leninist line, serving the cause of democracy, peace, and socialism as a faithful detachment of the international working class movement, as a true patriotic force struggling for the real interests of the people of Israel.

The Party marks its 50th anniversary under the particularly complex conditions of the aftermath of the June 1967 war of aggression, with the central issue being the solving of the present crisis and attaining a just and lasting peace settlement by the evacuation of the Israeli troops from the Arab occupied territories, for implementing in full the Security Council resolution of November 1967, which ensures the rights of all states and peoples concerned.

THIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY UNDERMINES PROSPECTS FOR PEACE

Speech of comrade Tawfiq Toubi, M.K. in the debate held in the Knesset concerning the question of confirming the new government.

Respected Chairman and Knesset!

The difficulties of establishing a government of "national unity" from Herut to Mapam, show up the grave crisis which has befallen the policy which this government wishes to carry out; the difficult situation in which the ruling circles are finding themselves in view of the failure of their policy.

This government is called one of "national unity", but never before in the history of establishing Israeli governments have there been expressions of such wide public opposition to such a wide government, and at the same time so weak and feeble.

The old-new government of "national unity" is a still worse edition of the "national unity" government established on the eve of the June war. It is still more militarist and anti-worker, since the number of hawks within it has increased, since Gahal is fortifying itself within it as the main partner, since the "complete-land-of Israel" men, the ultra-militarist generals, the anti-worker element of the Israeli society, and the "obligatory-arbitration" men are all joining forces and setting the fashion within this government.

"Alignment" leaders, beware of "Gahal"

The place of Gahal in the previous government has now been taken by Mapam in the present one. Mapam, as usual, has yielded to its hesitant, unprincipled and opportunistic position - and has been pushed into the corner. The experience of the theory of "influence from within" in the alignment and in such a government has always lead to opposite results, to the narrowing of Mapam's influence and to the increase of the force of the right. Don't you understand, members of Mapam, that in this government the little coup d'etat, about which the deceased (prime minister) Eshkol spoke, is being carried out in a "wonderfully democratic" manner?!

The question is not only that the written fundamental lines of the government, which under pressure of Gahal have become still more adventurist and opposed to the interests of the working

masses, but it's also the question of daily practice. This government has not yet been established and already its leaders speak about new taxes, about further sacrifices made by the workers, about a new anti-social legislation. The workers of Israel will pay a heavy price for this partnership with Gahal. This government, by its policy and composition heralds further violations of the democratic rights and of intensified national discrimination against the Arab population.

Leaders of workers' parties in Israel, who call themselves socialists, who for years have fought for what they used to call "a progressive workers' society", are now paving with their own hands the road to the rising-to-power of anti-worker forces.

The policy of war and occupation, which introduced Gahal as junior partner into the government, will make it tomorrow or the day after tomorrow into the senior partner; and you, leaders of the Alignment, will in due course become the junior partner - or an opposition to the government of Begin-Raphael Dayan.

This is the historical experience of the international workers movement. The working class will not be sorry that leaders like you will disappear from the political arena, but for the heavy price which they will have to pay for ensuring its rights and future.

Obstinate repulsion of prospects for peace

The decisive and fateful question for the masses of the people in Israel was and remains: How to ensure peace, a secure future for Israel and the people of Israel within the region. In the name of security, in the name of defense of Israel's rights, in the name of attaining peace, you have established the government of "national unity"; you have gone to the June 1967 war; you have associated yourselves, without any reservations, with American imperialism against the desire of national and social emancipation of the peoples of the region; you have occupied extensive areas, which you have called liberated areas designed to settlement and colonization; and you have arrived at what you call "security borders" - which have no equal. In the name of so-called peace, security and existence, you have refused till this day to accept the Security Council Resolution, which you know full well, that the neighbouring Arab countries are ready on the basis of this Resolution - to reach with Israel a settlement of stable and just peace, and to recognize an independent and sovereign Israel, if Israel from her side will implement her part of the Resolution, that is to say, will

retreat from the occupied territories and will respect the rights of the Arab refugees.

This realistic possibility of a just and honourable peace settlement you obdurately reject and you sharpen the policy of oppression and violence against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories, out of the wrong calculation that you will succeed in stamping out their rights and perpetuating the occupation. And where have you arrived? What have you attained?

Neither peace, nor security, but their opposite. The six-day war has already become a war of two years and a half and no end is to be seen. Day after day dear sons are falling in vain, on the altar of the lust after annexation and expansion, without any prospect for a life of peace and security. The Palestinian Arab people has not surrendered and has not been stamped out and fights more resolutely for its rights. What has the government to reply to the fateful questions of parents and sons alike - what will be the end? The captains of the state falsely reply: This has been imposed upon us, we have no other choice, this is the price of existence!

This is not true. There exists an alternative. The defense minister himself has more than once admitted to this. The last time this happened, was in the Mann Auditorium in Tel-Aviv, on the eve of the elections when he declared that there exists an alternative to the present situation; that indeed there exists an alternative of a peace settlement and even of amendments of the frontiers, if we will retreat from the occupied territories. But he chooses another alternative - that of new frontiers, of a new map, of a new Israel.

The government of "national unity", out of adventurist arrogance, kicks at the prospects for peace, and it raises further obstacles in the way of a peace settlement and brings about a development where the people of Israel is liable to lose peace as well as the map.

Our Communist Party has rejected and is rejecting any tendencies that call in question the right to existence of Israel, as are sounded by certain Arab chauvinist circles. The policy of the Israeli government sustains those circles. Our Party has fought and will continue fighting for a just and stable peace, which will respect the rights of Israel and the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The government of "national unity" is destined to experience further defeats of their already failing policy. This is the

trend of the development, which of necessity stems from a policy of force and of faits accomplis.

The repeated resolutions of condemnation adopted by the Security Council, especially in the matter of Jerusalem; the resolution of the UNO Assembly of a week ago, which stresses the right of the Palestinian Arab people and of the refugees; the resolution condemning the policy of collective punishments, demolition of houses and violations of human rights in the occupied territories; the transfer of the resolution concerning the refugees to the Security Council - all these decisions show into which blind alley this government is putting Israel in the international arena and in the region, as enmity is increasing and the prospects of peace are decreasing.

The USA - a shelter which is no shelter

Difficult days have afflicted Israeli policy, just because the American Foreign Secretary decided to reveal in public the views of the Nixon administration regarding the ways to peace in the region. The USA has not yet turned its coat. This is just the beginning, this is just an attempt to save its positions in the region. This is the beginning of a process of erosion, as pointed out by the Prime Minister, and already shouts of alarm are sounded by the government leaders in Israel. The shelter is beginning to cease being a shelter. More than once have we warned the members of Knesset: No service to the dark designs of the American imperialists in the region against the movement of the Arab peoples for national liberation and social progress, no support to the aggression of the American imperialists and to their crimes in Vietnam, will guarantee unlimitedly the support of Washington to the policy of occupation and annexation of the Israeli ruling circles.

Remember the unholy alliance you had with the French imperialists. The rising tide of national and social liberation in the Arab countries and the balance of forces tending in favour of socialism, constitute a development which cannot be arrested by any force, and this will force the USA to retreat from its present positions. Sudan and Lybia yesterday, Jordan and Lebanon tomorrow and Saudiya the day after tomorrow, and all this will finally defeat the policy of the "national unity" government. And if today this last shelter begins being unsafe, have you given a thought to what you are going to do on the rainy days? Then no boasts will help.

There are some who, facing this situation, say : Yet another initiative in the area, yet another war, yet another adventure!

These people have learned nothing from the June war, from its political failures and from the difficult situation Israel is afflicted with.

There exists another way!

Members of Knesset!

Again we say: There exists another way, different from the way of countless wars; there exists an alternative, the alternative of peace, of implementing the Security Council Resolution.

The latest declarations of the Soviet Union and the Statement of the six socialist countries and their appeal for a peace settlement that would respect the rights of all countries in the region, including Israel, by implementing the Security Council Resolution, point to the existence of the realistic alternative of peace. This alternative of peace is again brought to expression by the joint declaration of the Soviet Union and Egypt of last week.

Those who react to this voice of reason, to this appeal for a stable and just peace, with intensifying the incitement against it, are playing with the destinies of the people. Such positions are to the detriment of peace, to the detriment of the prospects existing for a peace settlement with our neighbours. The Soviet Union conducts a principled policy of solicitude for peace and for the interests of all the peoples of the region, and it is the true friend of the people of Israel and of the Arab peoples alike.

Member of the Knesset!

The aspirations of the masses of the people for peace, democracy, social progress and equality of rights, will stand in permanent contradiction to this government. In order to attain peace, security, prosperity and social progress, the people of Israel will have to rid themselves of this government.

Therefore, our Communist group will vote against the "national unity" government for the benefit of peace, for the benefit of the masses of the people.

M A D N E S S

(Editorial, "Zo Haderekh" - 7.1.1970.)

Immediately after the great hysteria about the "erosion" in the US policy in this region and about the cooling in Israel-US relations the slogan was raised : Overthrow Nasser. Military and military-political experts ranging from the "Ha'arezt" down to the "Ma'ariv", are trying to prove that the overthrow of Nasser is feasible and desirable, that this must be the fundamental objective of Israel's policy and of her military strategy. And the Foreign Minister, Abba Evan, confirms in his interview to "Ha'arezt" last Friday, though couched in his wellknown diplomatic style, that this is indeed the line of the Government's policy.

Is the overthrow feasible?

Ze'ev Schiff says in "Ha'arezt", 2.1.70. : "The Egyptian people is known for its indifference". Is that true? Is it already forgotten how the Egyptian people held the biggest demonstration in its history, when President Nasser renounced his position following the military defeat in June 1967? The people took its destiny in its own hands and compelled Nasser to take back his resignation, because it understood : Nasser's resignation meant surrender to American imperialism. The Egyptian people knows this today not less than in June 1967.

During these two years and a half the U.A.R. has strengthened its political, economic and social power as well as, in some measure, its military power, although many problems are still open - and not only in consequence of the June war.

Is the overthrow desirable?

Certainly not for the people of Israel which strives for peace. Precisely at the Rabat conference it was attested again that Nasser is that Arab statesman who prefers a political solution and stands against those forces in the Arab world which prefer a military solution, and also against those forces which are prepared to accept the American position and to perpetuate the conflict. The social changes in Sudan and Lybia and the siding of the revolutionary governments in these countries with the Egyptian position prove that this is not a question of a

subjective desire, but a question of the regime.

Therefore, not in the interest of peace is the slogan of Nasser's overthrow raised, and not in the national interest of Israel. It is not even the uppermost nationalist interest of the various brands of annexationists. Z. Schiff openly writes that the holding of the (Suez) Canal line is not the only objective...

There is only one interest, the interest of the global strategy of American imperialism. There is only the interest of the Zionist leaders to bring still stronger proofs that Israel serves the USA and that the USA is obliged to support her.

All this line for which propaganda is made and which is being put into practice, does not belong to the framework of Israeli-Arab relations, but to the framework of Israeli-American relations. Official Israel presents herself not first and foremost as an anti-Arab, but as an anti-Soviet factor, as a factor opposing the historical progress of humanity.

How short-sighted is this policy! It leads to the increase of victims, to an ever-growing hostility of the Arab world towards Israel; it leads to the absolute isolation of Israel in the world, and yet it cannot even prevent the USA government from entering upon new tactical paths...

There still exists the possibility to change the direction of Israeli policy. There still exists the possibility to change the policy that tries by means of military operations to intervene in the internal affairs of the neighbouring countries, into a policy which conforms to international law and to the UNO decisions. There still exists the possibility to see Israel not as a "Middle-East power" which is dependent on the USA, but as a sovereign and independent state. There still exists the possibility to find a peaceful solution and to pave the road to a stable peace.

Our people is in need not of a policy of madness and despair, but of an intelligent policy.

Education to despair - treason to education

Professor Simon also warns against the education to despair it in connexion with the prospects for peace. He proposes that together with physical and mental training towards the possibility of a further war, also preparedness and aspiration for peace be cultivated.

One that loses all prespective of change, said Prof. Simon, betrays the essence of education!

Not only the Book of Joshua

The speaker also criticized the exaggerated cramming youth with the chapters of occupation and destruction taken from the Book of Joshua, which is already started at the tender age of childhood. We have in our sources other chapters, too, filled with humanity,.. from which something may be learned too.

The speaker warned against education according to chauvinist formulae, such as : "The Arab only understands the language of force", and against the inculcation of a mystical-mythological relation to our rights, such as, for example, the Wailing Wall.

Professor Talmon : Not all justice is on our side!

Prof. I. Talmon, head of the Department of History of the Hebrew University, who more than once had called from public rostrums and on the pages of the press, to act for peace, spoke very sharply about nationalist-chauvinist phenomena in Israel society.

What makes the solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict so difficult, is in Professor Telmon's opinion, the collision of two complexes of just demands, and the fact that each side strives to realize its demands, aspirations and wishes in full: "The entire justice".

But in this complicated situation, such aspirations are not realistic, if one wishes to attain a peace settlement; and if such a wish does exist, it is possible at the most to attain "a minimum of injustice", but not the realization of the "absolute justice".

The speaker admits of course that the inculcation of values based upon "relative justice" is not very easy, especially as youth

aspire to absolute matters and not to relative ones. But the present attitude of the "The entire justice is on our side!" and therefore the necessity stemming from this - "Fight till full victory!" is destructive for youth, as it educates them to believe only in naked force, and from this to the complete loss of all values, the way is short.

Not the "whole world is against us!"

The speaker also warned against the fostering of the attitude that "all the world is against us" or "all the world is wolves and we - lambs". This attitude leads to seclusion, fanaticism and suspiciousness; it also develops the irrationalism of worshipping war and occupation.

When, in addition, this attitude goes hand in hand with the growing fostering of religious chauvinism in order to put the demands for the complete land (of Israel) on the basis of "divine commandments", it becomes most dangerous.

When one forgets the human factor

Professor Talmon also warned against the attitude that seeks solutions for the (occupied) territories, and forgets to take into account the human beings that live there.

He recalled the plan for "encouragement of emigration of the Jews", which preceded in the plans for the "final solution" in Nazi Germany, in order to show where such an attitude leads to.

The inhuman relation to Jews and considering them as a demographic object made possible their physical extermination, - thus Professor Talmon summed up his speech.

Dr. Schild : Against the domineering securitism

The head of the Psychology Department in the Hebrew University, Dr. A. Schild, spoke against the inculcation of "security considerations" into all fields of our life. In his opinion, this tendency stems from fatalism overpowering the public as well as the leaders in respect of the possibility of finding a solution for the Israeli-Arab conflict.

This domineering securitism leads to irrationalism and to a general obliteration of the perception of the world and to the separation between the various fields, especially so in the minds of young people.

Therefore it is incumbent on educators and teachers to initiate and to encourage their students to make clear distinctions and accurate definitions; and when they speak about Jewish-Arab relations, it is the duty of the educators to assist their students in knowing how to draw a line between military life and civilian life; between an Arab encountered on the battle field and an Arab met on the street of the city.

Of great importance is this alarm sounded by Dr. Schild against securitism domineering all our life and his appeal to the educators to fight against this. But as Dr. Schild speaks about fatalism as the source of securitism, doesn't he understand that this fatalism did not seize power by itself, but that it was inculcated and is being inculcated into hearts and brains, so as to pave the way for the domination of securitism, against which Dr. Schild himself warns?

Professor Eisenstadt : The June war intensified chauvinism

The sociologist Prof. S.N. Eisenstadt stressed, inter alia, that the June War intensified in a great measure the tendency of "popular chauvinism", as he defined it; a chauvinism which expresses itself in seclusion and selfsatisfaction.

But this "popular chauvinism" is, according to Professor Eisenstadt liable to turn into a most dangerous chauvinism: into a nationalist chauvinism.

The professors have sounded the alarm : danger ahead!
Have they been heard, and not by the educators only?

ATTEMPT ON LIFE OF JORDANIAN COMMUNIST LEADER
IN ISRAELI PRISON
HUNGER STRIKE OF ARAB PRISONERS

Naim el-Ashhab, communist leader from Arab Jerusalem, is detained in Shatta prison by administrative order. He is there the only prisoner who is not an Israeli citizen, but comes from the occupied territories. In this prison condemned prisoners are kept, among them dangerous criminals.

The communist group in the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, and Mr. N. el-Ashhab's lawyer had requested his return to Damoun prison, but these requests were not granted.

On 7.1.70., at supper time, suddenly a Jewish prisoner attacked N. el-Ashhab, hitting him over his head with a metal tray, in an attempt to kill him. Only the intervention of some prisoners saved his life, but he received deep wounds in his head. Immediately after the incident all Arab prisoners in the Shatta prison declared a hunger strike in solidarity with Naim el-Ashhab.

N. el-Ashhab demanded to call his lawyer, but this was refused. The lawyer, Mrs. F. Langer, came next day on a routine visit to this prisoner without knowing anything at all about the incident. She received information from the prison director about the attack. The attacker was defined by warders as a "madman". When the lawyer asked what a "madman" is doing among prisoners and why he is not kept in a mental hospital, she received no answer. The director admitted that the attack on el-Ashhab had not been preceded by any provocation on his part. He promised to punish the attacker.

N. el-Ashhab told his lawyer that this was a preconceived attack on his life and not a chance incident. The reason for the attack was that the authorities are not prepared to bear his presence even in prison and want to compel him to leave his homeland. "The man who hit me", said el-Ashhab, "had been incited to do this, and I consider as a serious danger to my life my remaining in this prison, in which the laws of the jungle prevail". Also the other Arab prisoners who are on hunger strike, are anxious as to their safety - and justly so. Naim el-Ashhab demands to

transfer him to Damoun or Ramleh prison, and to keep him together with other administrative detainees.

The lawyer protested to the prison director about this very grave attack and stated that the responsibility for it rests on the shoulders of those who refused to transfer Naim el-Ashhab as requested. She demanded his immediate transfer and till then, the taking of means to ensure his safety.

The 45 prisoners, including Naim el-Ashhab, who are on hunger strike. are firm in their stand to continue their strike until their safety is guaranteed. All of them, included el-Ashhab, are kept in isolated cells -as punishment- and are deprived of family visits.

Mr. Tawfiq Toubi, Member of Knesset, cabled the police and defense ministers, demanding investigation of the attack against Naim el-Asshab, his release, and, pending this- his transfer to another prison.

THE 11th CONGRESS OF THE HISTADRUT

("Zo Haderekh" 17.12.69.)

FROM THE CONGRESS HALL
.....

by Rina Nof

On the early morning hours of Wednesday, 9.12.1969 delegates and guests of the Histadrut Congress began arriving at the Cinerama hall in Tel-Aviv, which was decorated with the flags of the working class and the state.

The ample lobbies received the arrivals with exhibitions of books, publications of the Histadrut and various periodicals. Towards the opening of the Congress, the place became more and more crowded and the space more and more filled with noise.

The opening session began with the election of the congress institutions and then passed on to the confirmation of the agenda and further on to their execution.

Ben-Aharon: The struggle will sharpen

The Histadrut Secretary Designate, Y. Ben-Aharon, presented to the Congress the Histadrut's lines of action for the next four years, predicting a sharpening social struggle during this period.

His speech expressed a resolute stand against the extreme demands of the rightists for breaking up of the workers' struggle and for lowering the living standard. "We shall demand a new division of the national income in favour of the workers", Ben-Aharon promised, and he admitted: "We are stealing wages".

He sharply attacked Gahal and (Ben-Gurion's) Statehood List, and asserted that "the Histadrut will not reconcile itself to obligatory arbitration".

He added that the reservations voiced by Gahal and the Statehood List imply that they do not identify themselves with the essence of the Histadrut and the Workers' Society (Histadrut co-operatives-transl.).

Gahal: We will give the Histadrut Secretary a bad time

Gahal, on their part, gave as good as they got. Their arrogant appearance evoked the disgust of the majority of those present. The unrestrained behaviour and shouts of their delegates were at the beginning addressed to the group of the New Communist List. But gradually everyone, who dared protest against the proposals of Gahal directed towards breaking up the Histadrut from inside, was "honoured" by their outbursts.

Thus even some distinguished representatives of the Alignment by their own experience became acquainted with the results of their fostering those representatives of reaction within the Histadrut.

Somehow it was only the representatives of the Mikunis-Sneh group who were exempted from the rude attacks of Gahal.

Z.Sharoni: The love for one's homeland is no monopoly

When cde. Z. Sharoni, delegate of the New Communist List spoke about the necessity of educating the young generation to brotherhood, workers' solidarity and love for their homeland, this caused wild outbursts from the side of Gahal delegates, who shouted: "What have you to do with love for the homeland?" They got a fit reply: "I grew up and was bred here and I love my homeland not less than you, and care for its well-being more than you! The love for one's homeland is nobody's monopoly!"

Her convincing appearance won manifest sympathy even of Alignment delegates, and many of them congratulated her.

Communist delegate: With the worker and for peace

The agenda proposed by the Preparatory Committee was marked by their tendency to obscure the main problems by generalizing the debate.

The representative of the New Communist List, cde. Y. Irge, proposed to have a separate debate on the problems of trade union policy, wage raise, the struggle against rising prices and against anti-worker legislation. He also demanded support of the x-ray personnel who are on strike for nearly two months.

He further demanded that the Histadrut wage the struggle for peace by way of implementing the Security Council Resolution of Nov.22, 1967.

This demand infuriated the rightist delegates and they started an earsplitting clamour, which the chairman softly tried to assuage.

The audience gets a lesson in deficient democracy

A storm broke out in the congress hall when the chairman, A. Becker, stated that "Ha'olam Haze" would not be represented in the Histadrut Executive Council.

The head of that group, Shalom Cohen, rushed onto the rostrum and asked permission to speak, in order to appeal against this decision. A. Becker did not give him this permission, as another member of his group had already lodged the protest. Only after a vociferous altercation, S. Cohen agreed to leave the rostrum, while the members of his group shouted towards the platform: "You are afraid of us, therefore you committed this shameful act; you robbed the poor! You are burying democracy!"

The group of the New Communist List was the only one from among all groups represented in the Executive Committee, which opposed the denial of representation of any group, including that of the "Ha'olam Haze".

Y. Riftin: An absolute No! to the anti-worker legislation

The representative of the "Left Union", Ya'akov Riftin, stressed the urgent necessity to discuss the defense of the trade union struggle and the raising of the workers' standard of life. "Anyway, if the congress will not debate these questions," he said, "the workers themselves will take matters into their hand, at their places of work."

Y. Riftin demanded of the Congress to say an absolute No! to anti-worker laws which more and more are being put into action to break the trade unionist struggle.

The agenda of the Congress do not accord with the needs, said Y. Riftin, and they express the continuation of the traditional system, which caused the loss of contact between the Histadrut apparatus and the masses of the members.

Also other members of his group, E. Peri, and Sh. Mizrahi, expressed in their speeches similar demands.

N. Gileadi: Israel foiled peace initiatives

N. Gileadi, delegate of the "Ha'olam Haze", devoted his speech

to the refusal on part of Israel to comply with peace initiatives that had come from the Arabs, and he recalled "forgotten" matters, such as the case of the Arab refugees who in 1949 elected representatives to establish contact with Israel, but Israel rejected them.

Another attempt to hold a dialogue was made by Nasser, the president of Egypt, in 1954, by intervention of Lord Urbach who brought a letter from him to "my brother Sharett", proposing a peace plan in stages, but no reply forthcoming from Israel.

In 1956 Nasser reiterated these proposals before the outbreak of the Suez war and again he did not obtain attention on part of the Israeli government.

There were further attempts from the side of Palestinian leaders but they too were left unanswered.

A. Becker has forgotten his part

In his closing speech, the outgoing Secretary of the Histadrut, A. Becker, pointed out the shortcomings of the Histadrut leadership, while sharply arguing against Gahal.

"The issue of confinement orders against the postmen was one of the most tragic hours in the life of the Histadrut!" he exclaimed, adding: "Woe to the trade union that becomes a body without soul!"

Arguing against Gahal, he asked: "In which countries did any laws that deprived (the workers of) freedom of strike, stand the test of reality? " There exist laws prohibiting strikes in England and France - and what are the results? "

A. Becker only forgot to recall his own part in these shortcomings.

Petition of workers' committees to the Congress

A Petition signed by 32 committees, which was presented to the Histadrut Congress, calls on the participants of the Congress to prevent any encroachment upon the freedom of trade unionist struggle, to act for abolition of the anti-worker laws and to side with the x-ray technicians who are on strike.

Among the signatories: The workers' committees of the Ashdod port, Elco, the x-ray technicians, etc.

The doors were shut in the face of the x-ray striking technicians

A delegation of the x-ray technicians who are on strike came on Thursday afternoon to the congress hall and conveyed to the presidium a letter of greeting and a call for support to the struggle of the x-ray technicians. The delegation also asked permission for distributing among the delegates informative material about the strike of the x-ray technicians, but permission was not given. Arguments arose, crowds formed, and the police intervened - of course not in support of the strikers... Even one of the x-ray workers who was a congress delegate was not allowed to bring information material into the hall. The presidium did not find it necessary to read to the Congress the letter which it had received.

Had Ben-Aharon already forgotten his promises at the opening of the Congress?

THE HISTADRUT MUST DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE WORKERS

From the speech of cde. Avraham Levenbraun

Our Congress convenes at the time of the jubilee of the Histadrut, an important and significant event for the working class in Israel.

The last four years between the 10th and the 11th congresses were stormy years in the economic as well as in the political respect.

After the elections in 1965, the policy of "moderation" began, which the working class felt in their bones. As will be remembered, that policy did not solve a single economic problem out of those that confronted Israel. Conversely, unemployment increased and reached in 1967 the figure of 100 thousand unemployed. In that period a drastic drop of the wages and the living standard of the workers took place.

All signs show that now too, in 1970, the workers of Israel may expect hard times, even harder than in the period of the "moderation". "A period of austerity and rationing, which has long been forgotten, is to be expected" - thus said "Davar" on 6.12.69.

On the political level the situation is much more serious. Since the June war we are actually finding ourselves in a situation of perpetual war. The continuation of the occupation brings with it also criminal acts against a peaceful population, such as the blowing up of houses in Haifa, in the Central Bus Station in Tel-Aviv etc. We have condemned and are condemning these acts. The continuation of the occupation exacts the price of dear victims from both peoples, it multiplies the number

of widows and bereft parents. The continuation of the occupation imposes a heavy economic burden upon the shoulders of the workers, amounting to some 10 million Israeli liras per day.

The tasks of the Histadrut

The question is what conclusions are to be drawn from the analysis of this situation, what is the role of the Histadrut in this period, and what ought to be its policy. The Histadrut is an important factor in the state, organizing in its ranks one million and hundred thousand members. It constitutes a powerful force and is capable of influencing the economic and political policy of the government. But, unfortunately, the situation is converse - the Histadrut is an executive organ of the government's policy.

Among the working class there exists a feeling of anxiety that the leadership which will be elected in this congress may continue the same policy carried out in the last years, and may continue to broaden the social gap that exists in Israel. There must come a new policy, a policy of rising wages for the workers to compensate them for the wage freeze and for the non-payment of the cost-of-living allowance during the last three years, particularly in view of the fact that the prices of the most vital consumer goods have risen and continue rising by tens of percents.

The gravest of all is the laws which hit the freedom of working class struggle, to whose legislation the majority of the Histadrut leadership did not only lend a hand, but also put it into action: the law of wage freeze, the Histadrut internal legal proceedings against the committee of the Ashdod dockers, the labour court which was activated against the x-ray technicians, the confinement orders against the postmen, etc. All these laws hit first of all the Histadrut, the freedom of trade unionist struggle, and they weaken the adherence of the workers to the Histadrut. The putting into force of these laws proves to the workers that they cannot reconcile themselves to this policy of the majority in the Histadrut leadership, and as long as this policy will continue, the struggles too will continue. The claim that the security situation obliged this policy - is a false claim.

Favours to the capitalists

It is the working people upon whom the burden of the war rests, who are demanded to agree to the wage freeze. It is they who have to increase labour productivity, to pay higher taxes (a family of 4 has to pay 4000 liras per year), it is they who

have to go several times a year on active service in the army reserve; in short, it is they who have to tighten their belts while the employers, the capitalists, have not only not had their profits frozen, but have increased and are increasing them from year to year. For example, in 1969 the profits of the industrialists in Israel reached one thousand and three hundred million liras, compared with one thousand million in 1968; according to P. Sapir, in "Davar" of 26.10.69., the profits of the banks rose in 1968 by 32% and in 1969 approximately by 40%. The insurance companies have increased their profits by 40%. Favours were given to capitalists, for example the decrease in the excise per ton of cement from 45 Israeli liras to 42 I.L. in order to make possible profits of 3,8 million I.L. for the "Nesher" company. These are only some examples which prove what is the direction of the policies of the government and the Histadrut.

Outlines for a trade union policy

The workers who demand wages appropriate to support a family, are told that they violate state security, but the capitalists are allowed unlimited profits - and they are good patriots...

We appeal to the Congress to decide upon a wage raise of 20% in 1970 for workers in general, and of 25% for beginners, so that the minimum will be 17,50 I.L. per day.

The Congress must oblige the Executive Committee to work for giving to the day-labourers the status of monthly paid workers after working 5 years in an enterprise; for equalizing the social conditions of the day-labourers to those of the monthly workers; for enacting a law for minimum wages; for enacting a law of pension for all workers; for ceasing the fallacious habit of depriving workers of the status of steady employees by deliberate dismissals from work (on approaching the term, at which the workers ought to be given steady employment). The Histadrut must work for the implementation not only in theory, but in practice too, of the law of equal wages for equal work for women workers, and must care more for the interests of the working woman.

At the 10th Congress the Arab worker was enrolled in the Histadrut. The 11th Congress must decide to work for ensuring equal rights to the Arab worker in places of work; for abolishing the policy of national discrimination and oppression; for equality of rights of the Arab population in all fields of life in general, and in the framework of the Histadrut, in particular.

I have sketched a few lines for the trade unions policy whose

adaptation we propose to the Congress. We are convinced that this policy suits the interests of the entire working class.

We know that there exists a close connexion between general policy and trade union-policy. Therefore we demand that the Congress express its opposition to the strengthening of the extreme tendencies in the composition and in the policy of the new government. The existing situation is the outcome of a certain policy, a policy from positions of strength, of annexations. This policy, if it continues, is liable to bring about a new outbreak of war with all the dangers inherent in that.

We say that there exists an alternative, that there still exists a perspective of a political solution, a solution of peace which will guarantee the just national rights of all peoples of the region, including Israel. We consider the Security Council Resolution of November 22, 1967 as a way-out, which will lead to a settlement of stable peace.

The Histadrut must work for the acceptance of the Security Council Resolution by the Israeli government!

A policy of peace, a policy of satisfying the just demands of the working class, will strengthen the Histadrut, will raise its reputation in the eyes of the working class, will ensure a decent life to the workers and security for the state in general.

FOR THE EQUALITY OF THE ARAB WORKER

From the speech of cde. Jamal Mussa

We consider the Arab working masses an inseparable part of the working class in the country; every achievement of the Jewish workers influences favorably the Arab working masses, and every violation or lack of equality of rights of the Arab workers, causes a violation of the achievements of the Jewish workers.

We demand the application of all the achievements of the Histadrut to the Arab workers, in respect of work, wages, conditions of work and professional advancement, as well as in respect of internal Histadrut organization.

We demand the right for the Arab workers to work in the big enterprises, and in the government and Histadrut institutions. In reality, today this right is limited so far, that the percentage of Arab office workers employed in government offices

is only one, though the Arab population constitutes 12% of the general population in the country. More than 60% of the Arab workers are working in temporary, season, hard and unskilled jobs. The employers take on Arab workers for wages and conditions of work that are inferior to those stated in labour agreements and laws.

In the greater part of Arab villages there is no labour exchange, a circumstance which enables the employers to employ Arab labourers at any conditions they wish. Masses of Arab women and girl labourers are employed in agriculture by the system of the "rais" (boss) and middlemen, who steal part of their wages, in contradiction to the labour laws. Masses of additional Arab women and girl workers are employed in confection and textile factories, in Ma'alot, Carmiel, Upper Nazareth, Affulah, Akko etc., at low wages, starting from 5,50 I.L. per day.

We demand the professional advancement of the Arab youth, women workers and labourers, enabling them to receive vocational and higher instruction. We demand that the Histadrut, the Labour Ministry and the employers establish hostels with low rents for the Arab workers in centres of work.

Respected members of the Congress!

At the same time when three quarters of the Jewish workers are organized in the Histadrut, only about a half of the Arab workers are organized in it. This means that a good deal of activity is still needed in order to organize the majority of Arab workers in the Histadrut. We think that the Histadrut is able to do this by affording better protection to their interests and by implementing all the rights in the Histadrut, its medical and economical institutions and mutual benefit funds, abolishing any discrimination or limitation of the Arab workers. For example: Among the Arab population only 39,5% are insured by general insurance against sickness, as compared to 75% of the Jewish population. About one third of the Arab population is insured in the Workers' Sick Fund, compared with 72% of the Jewish population. In the 116 Arab villages there exist only 45 clinics of the Sick Fund. In 25 villages of the "Triangle" where about 70 thousand people live, there are only 4 clinics.

We demand the establishment of elected Workers' Councils in the Arab villages, a network of clinics appropriate to the existing demands and an improvement of the Sick Fund services; the expansion of the cultural and sport activities; publication of more information material in Arabic about the Histadrut and about the rights of the workers; and the use of the Arab language as an

official language in the Histadrut.

We demand that the Histadrut make felt its influence for abolishing the arbitrary restriction orders imposed on the Arab members of our group in the Histadrut General Council and Executive Committee, and on other comrades and citizens who fight for peace. We demand the cessation of the arbitrary police actions carried out against the Arab workers on the roads and in their domiciles, and the cessation of the racialist incitement carried on against them.

Respected members of the Congress!

The Arab workers and citizens, together with all the workers and citizens of Israel, feel anxiety about the present situation of war and incessant bloodshed. The Arab population strives for a just peace and for a political solution of the crisis in our region, by implementing the Security Council Resolution of November 1967.

Our Party has condemned and is condemning distinctly and clearly the criminal acts of violating human life and property of the Jewish citizens. We call the Arab and Jewish workers together, for more mutual understanding, co-operation and solidarity among them.

Long live solidarity and Jewish-Arab brotherhood!

Long live peace!

MAY THE HISTADRUT WORK FOR PEACE

Speech of cde. Uzi Burstein in the political debate about the paragraph devoted to international connexions

The power of the Histadrut is great. It represents the majority of the people in Israel and it is able to make its full weight felt in order to extract Israel from the impasse. It is the duty of the Histadrut Congress to consider the question of the establishment of the new government. Israel needs a government which will energetically act for peace. If Gahal will be incorporated in the governmental coalition, it will mean that in respect of the decisive, fateful problem of Israel - the problem of attaining peace and preventing a further war - the policy of such a government will be still more rigid and wrong than that of its predecessor.

The demands of Gahal for obligatory arbitration (of labour disputes) and their other economic demands are anti-worker. A coalition with Gahal heralds serious violations of the daily interests of the working class.

Our Congress convenes 30 months after the June war. Yesterday we heard from P. Sapir a most sombre forecast about the security situation of Israel. We heard that he is shaken to an unprecedented extent.

Among the working class there is a growing consciousness that occupation and annexation of territories do not bring us nearer to peace and security, but only deepen the hostility between us and our neighbours.

It has been proved that the Israeli government's reliance upon the U.S.A. is to our detriment. It is the interests of American imperialism which determine the policy of the US government in the region. The official press writes about an erosion in the Israeli-US relations.

We are sure that in the present situation there exists a realistic

opportunity for establishing a stable peace between Israel and the Arab countries, by implementing all paragraphs of the Security Council Resolution of November 22, 1967.

The implementation of the Security Council resolution will lead to the recognition on part of the Arab countries of the right to sovereign existence of the State of Israel within recognized and secure borders, will guarantee free navigation for Israel in the Suez Canal and in the Tiran Strait, will once for all eliminate war from the bounds of Israeli-Arab relations. All this can be achieved, if Israel will agree on her part to implement the paragraphs of the Resolution which oblige her to retreat from the occupied territories and to lend a hand to a just solution of the question of the Arab refugees.

The consent of the Israeli government to implement the Security Council Resolution will change Israel's image in the eyes of the world public and will extract Israel from its isolation. This step will also lead to a change in the relations between Israel and the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. We shall not forget and will not let anyone forget that it was the Red Army which saved during the Second World War the Jewish survivors and the Jewish population in Palestine from the claws of Hitlerism. The Soviet Union actively supported the establishment of the State of Israel. We resolutely reject the allegations that the Soviet Union is an enemy of the people of Israel. The Soviet Union is the first country in the world that outlawed antisemitism.

The anti-Soviet incitement hits first of all the interests of the people of Israel and assists the knights of cold war in the world.

Comrades,

Many tasks are laid upon the Histadrut. As a part of the trade unionist workers' movement in the world, it is the duty of the Histadrut to work for co-operation and unity with the trade unionist workers' movement in the world.

The Histadrut must work for preservation of peace in the world.

The Histadrut must add its voice to the voices of millions of people all over the world, demanding the cessation of the American aggression in Vietnam.

The national interest of Israel demands a change in Israeli policy, demands a policy of independence, neutrality, democracy and peace.

The Histadrut must work for a solution of the present crisis in the Middle East on the basis of implementing the Security Council Resolution, on the basis of reciprocal recognition of the just national rights of the people of Israel and the Palæstinian Arab people.

This is the path to a happy future and peace.

THE STRUGGLE OF THE X-RAY TECHNICIANS HAS BORN FRUIT

("Zo Haderekh" - 24.12.69.)

On 21.12 the prolonged and much-attacked strike of the x-ray technicians came to an end. For 7 weeks the technicians matched their forces with that of the employing institutions - the Ministry of Health, the Workers Sick Fund, Malben and Hadassa in order to gain recognition of their fundamental rights, part of which they had been deprived of in 1965, and part of which, such as augmented vacations, had been under threat of cancellation at the time of renewal of the collective agreement, in 1970.

The fact that the strike continued for so long, proves the extent of disparagement which the institutions entertain for public health. It is well-known that when there is a strike in a private enterprise, thus causing financial losses to the employer, they hasten to liquidate the conflict, in order to save the employer from suffering losses. But when the health of the public is at stake, they, with the assistance of the incitement campaign in the press, put the whole blame on the striking technicians.

If the technicians had been reckless and irresponsible, as the inciters said, they could have stopped their service by rotation (for urgent cases), and then the strike would have won out in 24 hours. But precisely because of their sense of responsibility and conscience, they kept up for 24 hours daily the service by rotation, thereby preventing disasters.

It is the employers whose conscience was not shaken when they refused to accept the technicians' appeal - before the lapse of more than two months of suffering caused to sick and healthy people alike.

The achievements of the strike

It is important to stress the fact that at the end of the strike the employers agreed to discuss 5 important controversial points, within 10 days. And it is hoped that the discussion will bear fruit. Reference is to payment for :

- 1) additional risk-pay for technicians of all grades, to be paid retroactively starting 1966.

- 2) additional x-ray-pay for technicians of all grades, to be paid retroactively starting 1966.
- 3) payment of premiums for technicians employed in places of work where that system is in use for roentgenologists.
- 4) additional pay for mechanization and innovations in the profession.
- 5) correction of injustice in seniority gradation.

Additional to this, the technicians were promised that towards the collective agreement for 1970 there will be a discussion of their demand for a separate wage-table, or a revision of their wages in the framework of unified gradation.

They were also promised that there would be a discussion regarding the payment of the additional risk-pay and x-ray-pay, in case of a wage freeze.

MATERIALS AND DOCUMENTS

On the Persecution of the Black Panthers

Comrade Gus Hall, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist party of the United States of America, has launched an appeal regarding the brutal persecution of the Black Panthers in the USA.

Following this appeal, extensive material has been published in the press of the Communist Party of Israel. Cables have been sent by the Communist group in the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) to the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations and to the Nixon administration protesting the persecution.

News in Brief

- On Saturday 3.1.1970 a militant mass demonstration was held in Tel-Aviv against collective punishment in the occupied territories. The demonstration, which was a challenge to the rising tide of chauvinism, was organized by public figures and students circles of diverse political convictions.

The number of youths in the demonstration was particularly great.



The demonstrators held posters which read :

- Don't say I didn't know ! The demolishing of houses is still being carried out !
- Collective punishments increase tension !
- Collective punishments increase hatred !
- Collective punishments hit innocent people !

The demonstration aroused keen interest among the public and many of the passers-by joined the demonstration.

A group of organized and incited provocators attacked the demonstrators. The police present did not intervene, and the demonstrators had to repulse the attackers.

The organizing committee met after the demonstration and issued a press-release condemning collective punishments and decided to continue its activities and organize other mass actions in Israel against collective punishments in the occupied territories.

- On Saturday 20.12.1969 a national conference of the YCL of Israel was held.

Comrade Yoram Gozansky, secretary of the YCL of Israel, lectured about the political situation and summed up the activities of the YCL, specially during the last election campaign. He pointed out the important achievements of the YCL and called for their consolidation.

On behalf of the Central Committee of the YCL comrade Gozansky outlined the tasks of the YCL in the coming period. These tasks include :

- The strengthening of the political and organizational work of the YCL in order to intensify still further its fight for peace and for the interests of the working youth.
- Organizing lectures in all branches of the YCL in honour of the 100th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birthday.
- Developing of the work in the children's organization.

The lively discussion which followed the lectured was summed up by comrade Sasha Henin, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Israel.

Comrade Nimer Murcus member of the Secretariat of the YCL informed the conference that at the request of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, the Central Committee of the YCL had decided to release comrade Benjamin Gonen, General Secretary of the YCL, from his work in the YCL in order to enable him to carry out his responsibilities in the Party. Comrade Murcus informed the conference that the Central Committee of the YCL had elected comrade Yoram Gozansky secretary of the secretariat of the YCL.

The conference adopted resolutions and was concluded in an optimistic atmosphere.

- Towards the end of the year 1969, military authorities renewed to additional six months the restriction orders against hundreds of communists and democrats all over the country. According to these orders all these persons are not allowed to leave their towns or villages without a special police permit which is usually refused.

Among those who received such restriction orders are members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel comrades Emil Touma, Salim El-Kassem, Zahi Karkabi, Othman Abu Rass, Jamal Mousa, Munam Jarjura, Ali Ashur, Tawfiq Zayad, George Toubi, and Samira Khoury.

Such orders were also issued against members of the Central Control Commission of the C.P. of Israel, comrades Hanna Naqara, Ramzi Khoury and Souheil Nassar.

All members of the editorial board of Al-Ittihad, many writers, poets, advocates, members of municipal councils and other public figures have received restriction orders.

In mid-December, 1969 the 3rd number of ARACHIM (VALUES) - organ of the C.P. of Israel on questions of Theory and practice - was issued.

ARACHIM Number 3 includes the following subjects :

- CURRENT QUESTIONS

From the Election Success - Towards Strengthening the Struggle for Peace, Democracy and the Cause of the Toilers - Meir Vilner.

- THE SOCIALIST WORLD

Summing up 20 Years of Building Socialism - Hans Lebrecht.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

Unity of the People and Policy Making in Czechoslovakia - Gustav Husak.

- PARTY LIFE

The Decisive Link - Shmuel Shaked.

- DOCUMENTS

The 6th, 7th and 8th Plenary Sessions of the C.C., Communist Party of Israel.

- Special Session of the Central Committee and the Central Control Commission of the Communist Party of Israel.

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JANUARY 1970