

# Letters from Abroad

## ISRAEL AND A MIDDLE EASTERN BLOC

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**Two parallel roads** have opened up for Israel and the whole Middle East. Both roads lead to the formation of a Middle Eastern Anglo-American bloc and the start of a third world war. One road leads to open militarization and rearmament of the whole Middle East, the other to economic mobilization that would pave the way for drawing Israel completely into the bloc of the aggressor nations. Economic mobilization is designed to convince people that only by permitting the establishment of strategic bases throughout Israel can economic crisis be averted.

Constant maneuvering is going on in Israel to steer public opinion in the direction of an anti-Soviet orientation. The demand of the left groups in the Knesset, the Communists and Mapam, that the Israeli government protest the decision of the Brussels conference to rearm Germany, was rejected on the ground that "East Germany is also rearming." With such arguments it is hoped to justify the rebuilding of nazism by the United States and Britain, as well as to convince the Israelis that the Soviet Union—which is cleansing East Germany of fascism—is a partner in the rebirth of nazism.

See, then, this tragic paradox: the government of a Jewish state tolerates the rebuilding of German fascism, which murdered six million Jews,

**This reluctance** to protest the rebirth of fascism, which destroyed one-third of the Jewish people, is part of the plan to indoctrinate the people of Israel with the orientation of the Mapai-middle class anti-Soviet coalition. Ben Gurion's disgusting statement that the question of the rebuilding of German fascism is "out of our hands" is a would-be whitewash of the criminal Brussels agreement. This is treason, deliberate betrayal disguised as helplessness.

Up to now, American, British and Middle Eastern diplomats were only preparing the stage. But in recent weeks they have gone ahead full blast. Three important facts bear this out. First, a division of labor is carefully being planned and coordinated so that the United States and Britain are assigned respective spheres of

activity. While the United States carries the burden in Korea and West Germany, Britain takes care of anti-Soviet activity in the Middle East. In the second place, intensive official negotiations are going on toward formation of a Middle Eastern anti-Soviet military alliance. And in the third place, the British are making official and unofficial efforts to draw the Middle Eastern countries (including Israel) into an anti-Soviet bloc.

Negotiations for a Middle Eastern military alliance are proceeding among Israel, the Arab countries, Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia and Italy. In the last few weeks the foreign ministers of Lebanon and Syria have visited Turkey for talks on so-called "Middle Eastern defense problems." Turkey and Greece have conducted discussions. On orders from Washington a close rapprochement is being developed between Tito and the Greek fascist regime. The Italian foreign minister has publicly proposed a Middle Eastern bloc to include Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey and Italy, and this was followed by a visit of Greek Prime Minister Venizelos to Egypt. An Israeli representative carried on discussions in Turkey at the same time that Ben Gurion was negotiating in Greece.

**Although Israel** has not yet signed peace treaties with the Arab countries, the United States and Britain are trying to smooth over differences between them so as to facilitate inclusion of all these countries into one bloc. These talks are not in contradiction with Anglo-Transjordanian provocations against Israel. The latter are maneuvers to afford the Arab and Israeli leaders an excuse to rearm on the ground that they must be prepared to defend themselves against one another,

while Britain controls the situation at both ends.

The Middle Eastern bloc is to be allied with the North Atlantic Pact nations. The shores and islands of the Mediterranean, the ports of that sea and the Suez Canal are all strategic outposts for an attack on the people's democracies and the Soviet Union. The military negotiations in the Middle East and the Anglo-Egyptian talks concerning withdrawal of British troops from the Suez Canal are intended to give weight to official declarations of peaceful and friendly intentions by Ben Gurion and Bevin. The series of visits to Britain of Israeli parliamentary delegations, journalists and Histadrut delegations are not accidental. They are an organic part of a plan to prepare Israel for a military tie-up with British imperialism.

**The economic policy** of the Israeli government has from the very beginning aimed to subject the economy to the needs of the Anglo-American imperialist war drive. The Ben Gurion government has tried to convince the people of Israel that the only hope for Israel's economy is subservience to the United States. The Ben Gurion government is systematically starving the population by spreading phony slogans of *Tzena* ("the austerity plan"), by flooding the country with unessential imports, by a deliberate restriction on native industries and by encouraging inflation. Ben Gurion has been deliberately creating an atmosphere of crisis, in order to make it appear that reliance on the Anglo-American military bloc is the only solution.

The imperialists are making plans to build military bases all over the Middle East. At the same time, the American and Israeli press are joining in the ever louder chorus demanding that Israel immediately identify itself with the Western powers.

The anti-Soviet aims of Anglo-American military preparations can be clearly understood in the light of their intensive anti-Soviet propaganda and their absolute control over all military bases in the capitalist world. The anti-Soviet, anti-Israel



and anti-Semitic goal of the Middle Eastern-Atlantic bloc is obvious. For experience has shown that *attacks on the Soviet Union are always accompanied by attacks on the freedom of peoples whose countries lie on the road to the Soviet Union. Experience has proved that the nazi attack against the Soviet Union transformed itself into an all out attack against all the European peoples.*

**The reactionary press** is deliberately and systematically creating an atmosphere of hysteria by raising up a specter of so-called "Soviet imperialism." This is the excuse for the imperialist powers to be allowed to spread their sheltering wings over helpless Israel. But if Israel enters a Middle Eastern military bloc, certain inevitable results must follow. The Israeli army will be at the beck and call of the Anglo-American high command, which

is collaborating with nazis. Israel will lose every shred of military and political independence. If the warmakers succeed, our cities will be destroyed.

The fact that British military forces stand at our borders does not make it necessary to capitulate to the ultimata of foreign imperialist circles. On the contrary, the presence of foreign imperialist forces at our gates demands that the Israeli nation take a patriotic stand and oppose attempts to drag it into an anti-Soviet bloc which is inherently also an anti-Israel bloc.

The people of Israel desire a policy of independence and resistance to every imperialist pressure. The people of Israel will never join a common front with the warmakers. They will have no part of any anti-Soviet aggression. They want no partnership with nazism, no partnership with the murderers of the Jewish people.

*(Trans. from the Yiddish by Nat Green)*

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