

THREAT OF A REVIVED WEHRMACHT

If we allow the renazified Adenauer regime to raise a new army, the nazi forces of "revenge" will try to bring war on the world

By Esther Vilenska

On December 9 the Communist and Left-Socialist Parties of Israel jointly introduced in the Knesset a proposal to protest the revival of a nazi army in Germany. However, debate on the question was not permitted by the ruling Mapai and General Zionist Parties. When the proposal was put before the Knesset, the following speech was delivered by Esther Vilenska, one of the leaders of the Communist Party of Israel.—Eds.

ESTABLISHMENT of the nazi Wehrmacht is a grave danger to world peace and to the peace of our people. It is well known that the Adenauer government, with the encouragement of Washington, is building an army for a new world war. German militarism and fascism are being re-established in order to create an army of shock-troops for aggression in Europe and throughout the world. Many Hitlerite Wehrmacht generals, war criminals who had been condemned to death or life imprisonment, have been freed. Even the *New York Times* has admitted that energetic preparations are being made in West Germany for the production of arms and weapons of mass destruction. The giant chemical and arms plants of I. G. Farben Industries have re-opened and in their administration are the same men who prepared the gas and other chemical materials for the nazi death camps.

In December 1952 the West German premier declared that the borders of his Republic, *on the East and on the West*, are not satisfactory. The day after the elections in September 1953 he stated that it was necessary to assure German youth that their "*Lebensraum*" (living space) would be extended beyond the present boundaries of Germany. According to the latest official statements of Adenauer's minister of war, Blank, the newly re-established German army will consist of at least a half-million soldiers.

The "European Army" is for the "Revanchists" (inciters of a war of revenge) a camouflage for the rearmament of Germany. The German militarists are now proclaiming that the SS troops of Hitler were the first "European Army" to "defend the West." It is intended that the nazi army will be a participating force in the European Army. It is also intended that the plan for this army will set up a Revanchist army in West Germany, will pit one part of Europe against the other and will ignite the flames of a European war which will endanger peace throughout the world.

The agreements of Bonn and Paris make it clear that the governments and parliaments of those states which are

participants in the European Army will not be allowed to adopt any independent stand on the question of war. The right to make decisions on this question has been delegated to a "European Command," at whose head are nazi generals and American overseers.

Clearly the conspiracy to establish the so-called European Army means the establishment of a dangerous base for aggression. The European nations which experienced at first-hand the horrors of the Hitler occupation are strengthening their fight against the revival of the nazi beast, against the establishment of the European Army, against the ratification of the Bonn and Paris agreements.

In France, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Poland and many other countries, a movement of the peoples is growing against this renewal of German militarism. The struggle is broadening in such proportions that in many countries it has reached the governing groups themselves.

Revival of the nazi army is a terrible danger for Israel and for the Jewish people throughout the world. It is heavy with the threat of terrible pogroms which, as is well known, paved the way for the Hitler extermination-camps in Auschwitz. It is manifestly clear to our people that if the warmongers succeed with the help of the nazi army in starting a third world war, then all the peoples, *with the Jewish people as the first victim*, will be in danger of mass destruction and annihilation.

Upon all the peoples, among them the Jewish people, lies a great responsibility—to defeat the re-establishment of the nazi army.

Underestimation of the extent of the danger, lack of political activity against the danger and indifference to the revival of the nazi Wehrmacht are against the most fundamental interests of our people.

The destruction of six million Jews and the horrors of the second World War are burned deeply into the memory of our people. It is in the interests of our people to prevent extinction, and it is therefore our duty to fight against the setting up of this nazi force which will be the shock-troops of the next world war.

The basic national interests of our people and our country demand that the Knesset raise its voice against the revival of German militarism. This struggle can and should unite the entire people.

We demand that a debate be allowed on this question, so that the Knesset can decide to instruct the Israel delegation in the UN to fight energetically in the world forum against German militarism.