

DOCUMENT

PLATFORM OF UNITED LEFT ZIONIST PARTIES

The following program of the new United Workers Party of Palestine was published in the party organ *Hamishmar* on January 25, 1948. We regard this as an important and interesting document which reveals significant trends in the Yishuv. A critique of the new left-wing party program will appear in a future issue of *Jewish Life*.—Editors.

THE Achduth Avodah-Poale Zion Party and the Hashomer Hatzair Worker's Party in Palestine announce their unification and the organization of the *United Workers Party of Eretz Yisroel*. By decision of the Unification Conference, the following platform constitutes the basis of the united party.

Basic Principles

The party is united upon the principles of the theory and practice flowing from a recognition of the historic function of the working class nationally and internationally.

1. The party is united upon the recognition of Zionism as a solution of the Jewish problem by means of the assembly of the Jewish Diaspora and its territorial centralization; by means of its national revival, social renewal, and political, social and cultural independence in *Eretz Yisroel*.

The central goal in the life of the Jewish people is an immediate realization of the goals of Zionism by means of mass immigration which will be broad and inclusive enough to meet the demands of the present period. This calls for the creation of varied sources of recruitment and settlement; the development of a program lead-

ing to the creation of a Jewish nation of workers, active in all branches of economic life, reviving its language and creating its culture, its own master, forging its socialist future through its unity with the working Arab masses in the country.

The Jewish working class—the forger of socialist Zionism and the prime mover in the construction of the country—will create the emerging polity in the image of social progress. It identifies itself with the aims of all those engaged in the struggle for national and international social freedom and sees itself as their comrade-in-arms. It sees itself as an aid and helper of all indications of revival among the neighboring countries.

2. The party is agreed upon the historic function of the revolutionary class struggle; the establishment of a workers-state for the eradication of capitalism and of all forms of national and social oppression and upon the creation of a classless socialist society and a world of international brotherhood.

The party sees itself as an inseparable part of the revolutionary workers' movement in the war against capitalist-imperialist reaction which endangers world peace and for the uprooting of fascism, racism and anti-Semitism. It is committed to the insuring of the political and social hegemony of the working masses; to the capture of key positions in the economy and government for the working class; to the defense of the new popular democratic states; and to the forging of a treaty of amity among all freedom and peace-loving peoples.

The party will seek to develop relations with the revolutionary working class of the world and will join it in its militant working-class internationalism which defends the national independence of the workers. It supports the bonds of friendship between the workers of the world and the Soviet Union, the first workers' state, which is achieving the great task of socialist construction in our generation and is fulfilling the historic promise of the October Revolution—the promise of the international working class.

The party combines the values of Jewish culture and those of humanity and draws upon the revolutionary teachings and the heroic traditions of socialism. It will base its educational activity on the theory, the world-view and strategy of Marxism. The party will devote itself to the development of a Jewish workers' culture and the construction of a socialist pioneer life.

3. The party is united in its acceptance of its proletarian and pioneer roots; and in its recognition of the role of the class struggle and socialist creativity in city and country in the fulfillment of the task of collective and working class settlement and in the development of an emigration movement among the Jewish youth and working class throughout the Diaspora and as an organizing and educational force in education, preparation and emigration.

The party is unified in its recognition of the mission of the Jewish working class in the country, of the national liberating function of the class struggle, and of the leadership of labor in Zionism and the *Yishuv*. The party fights for the independent class action of the workers' movement in all areas of life and in the strengthening of the unity within the *Histadruth*. It will strive for a fighting economic and political unity of all the workers of *Eretz Yisroel*.

On the Political Front

On the political front, the following principles will guide the party in the achievement of Zionism and in the solution of the problems of *Eretz Yisroel*.

1. Open doors for a large Jewish immigration; extensive and intensive popular settlement and the exploitation of all the country's economic potentialities.

2. The political independence of the Jewish nation; guarantees as to its control of immigration, settlement and construction.

3. The achievement of the country's political self-sufficiency; its freedom from imperialist control and actual independence.

4. An ongoing effort to win the support of the forces of social progress, democracy, and the international workers' movement for Zionism; international responsibility, with the participation of the Soviet Union, for the fulfillment of the world's responsibilities with respect to the Jewish people and in the organization of the Jewish state.

5. Popular mobilization on the political front; unshakable courage and readiness for defense and struggle—with violence, if necessary—of immigration and settlement as well as against all attacks upon human freedom.

6. Striving for Jewish-Arab agreement and the development of a united front of Jewish and Arab workers for the keeping of the peace and the achievement of socialism within the framework of the joint fatherland.

7. The establishment of a political structure which will provide for:

a) the freedom of immigration and settlement; the development of the country for the benefit of Zionist construction and all citizens; Jewish political independence.

b) cooperative activity, mutual aid and equality of national political rights—with-

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out any implications of superiority or inferiority—between the returning Jewish people and the already settled masses of the Arab people.

c) international action and support on behalf of the uninterrupted progress of Zionist activity and the actualization of the rights of both peoples.

The Resolution of the United Nations

In the new political situation created by the resolution of the UN, the party will give full support—despite its opposition in principle to partition—to the construction and defense of the Jewish state.

1. The party will demand the fulfillment of the pioneer character of the state in the achievement of Zionism and in the fulfillment of its obligations to the Jewish people; an immediate and free Jewish immigration and its absorption into the country and the constant development of settlement activity; the strengthening of the defensive resources and the involvement of world Jewry in the cause of Zionism.

2. The party will fight for the popular-democratic and secular character of the state; for the leadership of the workers movement in government; for the development of the land and agrarian reforms; for the raising of the living standards of all citizens; for progressive social legislation; for safeguarding the independence and freedom of organization of the working class and its political, economic, social, cultural and educational activities and organizations. The party will fight against the forces of reaction and militant clericalism, for the eradication of fascism in all its manifestations—for the realization of socialism.

3. The party will fight for equality of rights for all citizens—Jew and Arab alike—and for the development of cooperative and fraternal relations between the two peoples in the state. It will encourage all manifestations of social emancipation in the Arab people and the creation of a united socialist front between the working masses, the peasantry and the progressive intelligentsia in its midst.

4. The party will fight for the real independence of the state and its freedom from any political, military or economic dependence on the forces of imperialism. It will fight against attempts to use the state as a seat of interventionist intrigues. It will fight for a statehood of peace and democracy and for a firm alliance with the progressive elements within the UN and for relations of mutual understanding and cooperation with the Arab nations.

5. The party will strive for the intensification of economic cooperation and unity between the Jewish and Arab states. It will fight all manifestations of chauvinistic superiority, domination and aggres-

sion and will strive for the unification of Palestine on the basis of agreement between the two nations and international decision.

The Yishuv

1. The party sees in the Jewish Community (*Knesset Israel*) a framework for the independent organization of the total Jewish population.

2. The party will devote itself to the maintenance of democracy in the *Yishuv*. It will fight for true representation of all sections of the Jewish *Yishuv* in the Representative Assembly (*Asefat Ha-Nivharim*), in the *Vaad Leumi* and all its agencies, and in local and municipal government. It will fight any attempts to undermine popular elections or to limit the rights of electoral franchise.

3. The party will fight for the true participation of all sections of the community in cultural and educational activity and will oppose any special privileges for any segment or section of the population whatsoever.

4. The party will fight to maintain the secular nature of the Jewish community and its freedom from any religious supervision. It will fight for the building of the Jewish community on the foundations of freedom of thought and liberty as integral elements of the way of life.

5. The party will fight for an equitable distribution of public debt, mobilization, public service and taxes. It will oppose the laying of heavy burdens on the masses of toilers and underprivileged.

The Histadruth

The party sees the *Histadruth* as a general class organ organizing the working class in all aspects of life and settlement: in city and country, in cooperative workers' enterprise and in private enterprise.

1. The party regards the independent class-position of the *Histadruth* as a basic principle in its activities and struggles. The principle of class independence will guide the work of the party with respect to class-relations; industrial activities and in the defense of labor's rights, in the organization of the *Yishuv* and labor settlement, in the independent socialist and pioneer activity of the workers' community and in the field of education and culture. The party will fight for the freedom of thought and the independent way of life of the worker. It will protect the independence and right of self-administration of all economic, settlement, social and political organs of the workers.

2. The party will strive for the renewal of the *Histadruth* as a living and developing movement supported by the working masses which provides for organizational democracy in its operation. It will strive for the responsible involvement of the

community of labor in matters of class concern through their participation in all decisions and through the fair representation of all sections of the working population in the administration of the *Histadruth* in all its organs and agencies.

3. The party will protect the rights of labor (freedom to strike and opposition to compulsory arbitration) in the activities of the *Histadruth* directed toward the improvement of working conditions.

4. The party will guard the social character of the *Histadruth* through the strengthening of cooperative and welfare activities and of solidarity in all the activities of the working population.

5. The party will strive to involve the various levels, groups and streams of the immigration in the *Histadruth*. It will strive for the complete participation of women in public life and for the development of fresh and young forces from amongst the pioneer immigration, the youth movement and the native younger generation.

6. The party will strive for economic democracy and for the development of a cooperative movement and the maintenance of class control in the economic and welfare activities of the *Histadruth*. It will demand accountability to the membership for the economic organs of the workers; for the setting up of personnel practices and for the participation of the workers in their administration.

7. The party sees the *Histadruth* as directed by the community of labor to lead in the independent, economic, social and creative activities of the working population. It is the duty of the community of labor to guard the social class foundations of the *Histadruth* and to direct them toward the tasks of settlement and absorption and to see that they coincide with the interests of the workers and the needs of their struggle.

8. The party sees in the Palestinian institutions devoted to settlement and in their economic, social and educational activities, a prime-mover in the development of labor and a workers' economy; a force which deepens the cooperation and solidarity between settlements, and organizes and prepares pioneer immigration. It sees these institutions as the organized expression of the settlement movement which is under the leadership, control and authority of the *Histadruth*.

9. The party will fight for the renewal and establishment of the activity of the *Histadruth* in the organization of Arab workers; for the activation and extension of joint organizational forms between the General *Histadruth* of Jewish workers and the industrial-class organizations of the Arab workers—within the framework of an international organization of workers in Palestine.