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Resolutions of the 19th Plenary Session of  
the CC, CP of Israel

M. Vilner warns against dangers of military  
escalation

On Reactionary Propaganda about "Soviet  
filtration"


Labibi on the Budget of Foreign Office

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COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

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THE 19TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE,  
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL (8-9th February, 1968)

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The 19th Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel took place on the 8th and 9th of February, 1968. The members of the Central Control Commission participated at the session.

The session was presided by comrade Yehoshua IRGE, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee.

At the first part of the session comrade Tawfiq TOUBI, member of the Politbureau and Secretary of the Secretariat reported on the subject: "THE STRUGGLE FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION BY PEACEFUL MEANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS".

Comrade Meir VILNER, Secretary of the Politbureau, reported on the talks of representatives of the C.P. of Israel with the fraternal parties of the Soviet Union, Bulgarian, German Democratic Republic and Yugoslavia.

Comrade Emile HABIBI, member of the Politbureau, reported on: "THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE COMMUNIST AND WORKERS PARTIES IN BUDAPEST".

Discussions on these subjects were held and summed up by comrade T. TOUBI and resolutions were adopted.

At the second part of the session comrade Meir VILNER reported on the subject: "THE PREPARATIONS TO THE 16th CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL". Comrade Wolf EHRlich, member of the Politbureau, reported on "THE PLANS OF ACTIVITY OF THE CENTRAL DEPARTMENT FOR POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR THE YEAR 1968". Comrade David KHENIN, member of the Politbureau and Secretary of the C.C., reported on the activities of these bodies of the Party.

Discussions were held which were summed up by comrade M. VILNER and resolutions were adopted.

THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 19TH PLENARY SESSION  
OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, C.P. OF ISRAEL

I. ENDORSEMENT OF THE REPORTS

- 1) The C.C. endorses the political report given by comrade Tawfiq TOUBI on the struggle for a political solution by peaceful means of the Middle East crisis.
- 2) The C.C. endorses the report given by comrade Meir VILNER on the talks of delegations of the C.P. of Israel with the fraternal parties of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, G.D.R. and Yugoslavia. The C.C. expresses its satisfaction regarding the identity of views between the fraternal parties and the C.P. of Israel concerning the causes of the Middle East crisis and its solution for the sake of peace and independence of all peoples. The C.C. expresses its satisfaction on the renewal of ties and normalization of the relations with the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.
- 3) The C.C. endorses the report given by comrade Emile HABIBI on the preparations towards the Preparatory Meeting of the Communist and Workers Parties, which will convene in Budapest at February 26th, 1968.
- 4) The C.C. endorses the report given by comrade Meir VILNER on the preparations towards the 16th Congress of the C.P. of Israel which will convene during the last quarter of 1968.
- 5) The C.C. endorses the report given by comrade Wolf EHRLICH on the plan of activity of the Central Department of Political and Ideological Education during the year 1968.
- 6) The C.C. endorses the report given by comrade David KHENIN on the activities of the Politbureau and the Secretariat.

## II. FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION BY PEACEFUL MEANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

The C.C. of the C.P. of Israel states again, that the interests of the Israeli and the Arab peoples as well, demand a political solution of the present Middle East crisis by peaceful means. Under present conditions the way to a peaceful solution, to avoid a new war, is to fulfil the resolution of the Security Council of November 22nd, 1967, which calls for the withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces from the territories occupied during the June war, for the cessation of state of war between Israel and the Arab states, for recognizing the right of every state to exist and live in security. In this way suitable conditions will be created for the solution of the problems in dispute between Israel and the Arab states, for an over-all peace-settlement securing the national rights of all peoples concerned and foremost those of the Israeli and Palestinian Arab peoples.

The official policy of the Israeli Government, directed at establishing "faits-accomplis" in the occupied territories while leaning on the support given by the USA-imperialists, may well foil the efforts towards a peaceful solution by political means including the mission of the UN emissary Gunnar Jarring acting to fulfil the UN Security Council's resolution. The stubborn position of the government, e.g. "nothing but direct talks" under the conditions of occupation with the addition of official declarations that the armistice lines of June the 4th (prior to the June war) are null and void - this position prevents any progress towards a solution of the crisis by peaceful means. This is an unrealistic and short-sighted position, unaware of the relations of power in the world, of the largescale changes of the relations of power in our region, which is based wholly on the illusion that USA imperialism is almighty. The big failures of the USA aggressors in Vietnam inflicted on them by the heroic Vietnamese people, prove that the USA imperialism is not able to force its will upon the peoples.

The C.C. states that the war and the territorial conquest not only do not strengthen the security of Israel, but on the contrary, they undermine it to an extent not known so far. The "borders of security" turned out to be borders of insecurity. The lives of young people are cut short on an ever growing scale. There exists a danger of another military adventure. The military expenditures rise more and more to the detriment of social services and the standard of living of the toiling masses. Uneasy about the growing consciousness of more public circles in Israel, the ruling circles opened a stronger drive

of oppression against real partisans of peace in Israel, they increased the number of orders of restrictions of movement against peaceloving people. In the occupied territories oppression is strengthened. The danger to change the system of democratic elections to the Knesset is increasing.

The C.C. warns against these dangers to security and peace caused by the official policy which lacks any responsibility whatsoever.

The C.C. refutes declarations from the side of Arab extremist politicians in favour of a "solution" of the crisis by military means, declarations which pour oil into the flames and, as a matter of fact, serve the US imperialist's and their lackeys' game.

The C.C. appeals to all democratic and peaceloving circles to unite their forces in order to strengthen the struggle for stopping the bloodshed, for a political solution by peaceful means of the crisis, e.g. for the immediate withdrawal from the occupied territories, cessation of the state of war and recognition of the right of every state in our region to exist and live in security. By such steps conditions for progress towards permanent peace between Israel and her Arab neighbours will be created.

### III. IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE HEROIC PEOPLE OF VIETNAM

The C.C., in the name of all Jewish and Arab Communists in our country, of all those opposed to USA aggression in Vietnam, sends its heartiest greetings to the National Liberation Front of South-Vietnam, on the occasion of the great victories over the American invaders and the puppet military clique in Saigon. The victories of the heroic Vietnamese people fighting for liberty and independence awaken enthusiasm and admiration in the hearts of all peaceloving peoples, of all peoples the world over who are interested in avoiding a third world war and in securing independence and freedom for all peoples. The whole responsibility for the blood spilt in Vietnam falls upon the shoulders of the US imperialists who invaded a foreign country and through bloodshed and fire try to impose a reactionary regime on the people of Vietnam. But the Vietnamese war proves that in our days no power on earth is able to defeat a people fighting for its freedom against imperialist aggression. The unity and glorious heroism of the Vietnamese people, the enormous help extended to the people of Vietnam by the Soviet Union, the help of all socialist countries, the growing public opinion all over the world and in the USA itself against the dirty war the Johnson administration is waging in Vietnam - all these made possible the

the historic victories of the people of Vietnam and the heavy blows inflicted on US imperialism.

The C.C. calls for strengthening the actions of solidarity with the people of Vietnam. Stop the US aggression in Vietnam! USA Army, get out of Vietnam! Let the people of Vietnam choose its own fate and regime!

#### IV. TOWARDS THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE COMMUNIST AND WORKERS PARTIES

The C.C. emphasizes the great importance of the Budapest meeting for strengthening the unity of the World Communist Movement.

The strengthening of the unity of the World Communist Movement is a foremost necessity for the international workers' movement, for the anti-imperialist national movements, for the peaceloving peoples the world over, and for socialism. Our Communist Party of Israel will act for strengthening the unity of the World Communist Movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. The strengthening of the unity of the Communist Movement will widen and increase the possibilities of common actions by communists and socialists, by communists and the progressive national parties, for common actions between the socialist states and the new states of Asia, Africa and Latin-America, it will contribute to the unity of the revolutionary forces of our time: the socialist world system, the international workers' movement and the anti-imperialist national movement.

The C.C. expresses its support for the convening of a world-wide consultative meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties during the year 1968, after suitable collective preparations.

The C.C. decides that the delegation of the Communist Party of Israel to the Preparatory Meeting in Budapest will be comrades David KHENIN, member of the Politbureau and Secretary of the C.C. and Saliba KHAMIS, member of the Politbureau.

#### V. FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF ISRAEL

The C.C. appeals to all Party organs and branches to render assistance to organs and branches of the Y.C.L. of Israel in the preparations of the 9th Congress of the Y.C.L. of Israel which will convene on 18th April this year.



VI. PARTY FUND 1968

The C.C. decides to raise for the Party Fund of the year 1968 the sum of 75 thousand Israeli Liras under the slogan: For strengthening the Party and its struggle towards the 16th Congress.

The fund will be opened at the 1st of May and will continue for five months.

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* ISRAELI YOUTH DEMONSTRATE IN FRONT USA EMBASSY *
* IN TEL-AVIV AGAINST USA AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM *
* ***** *
*
* A fighting demonstration of young people took place in *
* front of the USA Embassy in Tel-Aviv on 19th February, 1968, *
* against USA imperialist aggression in Vietnam and against the *
* American generals demand to use nuclear weapons against the *
* Vietnamese fighters for freedom. The demonstration was called *
* for by the Young Communist League of Israel. *
*
* The demonstrators carried placards and streamlines in *
* Hebrew and English as well as enlarged pictures of USA atro- *
* cities in Vietnam. The demonstrators carried also Vietnamese *
* and Israeli flags. Amongst slogans carried were: "Dare not *
* use atomic weapons", "Hands off Vietnam", "Accept Hanoi peace *
* proposals", "Greetings from Israeli youth opposing imperial- *
* ism to the fighters against imperialism in Vietnam", "Stop *
* bombardment of Democratic Republic of Vietnam". *
*
* The demonstrators shouted slogans in unision. Large *
* numbers of passers-by expressed their solidarity with the *
* slogans of the demonstrators, who distributed leaflets. *
*
* A delegation of the demonstrators, headed by Y. GOZAN- *
* SKY, Secretary of the Young Communist League in Tel-Aviv, *
* called on the USA Embassy and handed over a message of pro- *
* test to President Johnson and calling for immediate evacuatio *
* of Vietnam. *
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* *****
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IN THE STRUGGLE FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BY  
PEACEFUL MEANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Excerpts from the report delivered by comrade  
TAWFIQ TOUBI at the 19th Plenary Session of  
the Central Committee, Communist Party of Israel  
(8-9th February, 1968)

I.

IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION WILL BE DEFEATED EVERYWHERE

The latest happenings on the shores of North-Korea, the sending of the American spy-vessel "Pueblo" to the shores of Socialist Korea, the new defeats of the U.S. imperialists and their partners in Vietnam are witnesses to the lines of development, typical to the international situation.

We are witnessing the continuation, and even escalation, of the dangerous and adventurous imperialist aggression against the socialist countries and the peoples fighting for their independent development and progress. The sending of the spy-vessel "Pueblo" to the shores of Socialist Korea was a provocative act which easily could have cost the world another war like the one in Vietnam. The American provocative act, which was accompanied by threatening with the "big stick", proved from the one side the still grave dangers arising from imperialist provocations and from the other side proved, the inability of the gangarm of world imperialism to frighten people with its threatening "big stick".

The developments in Vietnam and the heavy defeats the aggressive American imperialists and their partners are suffering, prove again, that the aggressive imperialists - may they act as beastly as ever - no longer decide the fate of the peoples. The peoples' struggle for independence, social progress and socialism, with the support of the socialist forces in the world, foremost the Soviet Union, is determining the historic development. The great successes of the Vietnamese people in their heroic struggle are of great encouragement to all peoples and especially to those who are victims of imperialist aggression.

From here we send our heartiest congratulations to the people of Vietnam and its fighters and we sincerely wish them a speedy and complete victory over the American invaders.

The stormy development in Vietnam is witness and proof of the failure of the "policy of local wars" the U.S. imperialism conducts as a so-called efficient way to reach its criminal

aims against the peoples and the socialist camp. The stormy developments in the Far East, the degradation of U.S. imperialist aggressors in Vietnam, their inability to reach their aims, will certainly make it harder for them on other fronts too. THERE ARE ALL POSSIBILITIES THAT THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS' DEFEATS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLES AND PEACELOVING FORCES TO FIGHT OFF IMPERIALIST PRESSURE AGAINST THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST, THIS PRESSURE BEING SUPPORTED BY THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION BY ISRAELI FORCES TO ARAB TERRITORY. THE IMPERIALISTS' SETBACKS WILL CONTRIBUTE TOO TO THE EFFORTS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLES.

It is frightfully shocking to see the sorrow expressed by the official circles in Israel at the setbacks of the U.S. invaders in Vietnam. They already feel that the developments in the Far East may influence badly the future of the policy of strength, conquest and aggression they lead leaning on the support of the U.S. imperialists.

Comrade T. Toubi went on and surveyed the economic crisis in the capitalist world, predominantly in the USA, as figured out in the Johnson plan of emergency, and also in the official British statement about British evacuation of military forces East of Suez. T. Toubi stated too, that the danger of a global war is grave still. Imperialism, like a wild wounded animal, may run amok. But the future does neither belong to the imperialists nor to the enemies of peace, not to capitalism, nor to the brutal oppressors of peoples and their lackeys, not to the dictators in Greece, nor to the militarists and expansionists in Israel, nor to the imperialists' agents in the Arab East, to the Imam of Yemen, or to King Feisal and his likes who want to turn back the wheels of history, but it belongs to the peoples who fight for freedom, independence and socialism.

The socialist forces do not develop forward without difficulties, but they move ahead, and this is the deciding historic factor. While the growth of industrial production in the Soviet Union summed up to 10% in 1967 (instead of 7.3% as planned) while the standard of life, the national income and the housing conditions rose steadily, the growth of industrial production in the capitalist world was 2% only (USA 0.5%, Great Britain less 1%, Western Germany less 3%). This alone may be a witness to the decisive direction of the present development of the human race.

## II.

### THE WAR DID GREAT HARM TO THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS AND THE PEOPLE

The popular masses and mainly the working class and peace and progress minded people in our country, have to summarise the outcome of the war and its influence AS SEEN FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE BASIC INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS AND THE TOILING MASSES OF ISRAEL. Seen from the class point of view the outcome of the war points to the great damage this war did to the interests of the working class, the democratic, anti-imperialist and peace-loving forces in the Middle East and in Israel.

While the reactionary forces in the Arab world, the pro-imperialist forces in the region, try to raise their heads, using the outcome of the war and the political and economical pressure caused by the Israeli occupation, in order to re-instate the regime of the Middle Ages, of the Imam in Yemen, or to entrench King Feisal of Saudi-Arabia, or to perpetuate the chains which bind Jordan to the USA, or to torpedo the anti-imperialist united Arab front, or to undermine the anti-imperialist regimes in the UAR and Syria, and in the sum-total to strengthen the influence of U.S. imperialism in the region - it must be seen, that all this trend stands diametrically in opposition to the real interests of the Israeli working class and to the interests of peace and progressive forces in Israel. The rulers of Israel built and continue to build their policy on the rule of reactionary forces in the region - Arab agents of imperialism of the brand of the Imam and King Feisal, on imperialist rule over the region. This trend of development in the region which the rulers of our country and American imperialists hoped to strengthen through the June war, is contrary to the real interests of the Israeli working class and peace between Israel and her neighbours.

As to the influence of the war on the development in Israel itself the following outstanding facts may be stated:

#### 1) The Rightwing Forces Increased Their Influence

THE WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES STRENGTHENED, FOR THE MOMENT, THE RIGHTWING FORCES, IN THE ISRAELI WORKERS' MOVEMENT, AS WELL AS IN ISRAELI SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WEAKENED AND SPLIT THE LEFT-WING AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES.

"HERUT", the extreme reactionary and chauvinist party fortifies itself in the "Government of National Unity". It is the first time in Israel's history that this extreme rightwing

reactionary party takes part in Government. The extreme militarist forces - represented by the leaders of RAFI of the kind of the Minister of Defence, M. DAYAN, the activist generals of ACHDUT HA'AVODA and the extreme forces inside MAPAI - supported by the dense chauvinist atmosphere put to high tension by war, became the deciding factor in charting the policy of annexations, territorial conquest and permanent warfare against the Arab peoples, and of an anti-democratic and anti-working class policy

The continuation of the "Government of National Unity", with the partnership of rightwing GAHAL (Herut and bourgeois liberals bloc) and the three now united social-democratic parties (MAPAI, RAFI, ACHDUT HA'AVODA) on the basis of the adventurist, militarist and outspoken pro-imperialist and anti-working class policy, with the increasing influence of the extreme right in this camp, is to the detriment of the real interests of the working class.

## 2) The Spread of Chauvinist Feelings.

THE WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH STRENGTHENED THE CHAUVINIST AND MILITARIST FEELINGS AND INCREASED THE ANNEXATIONIST AND EXPANSIONIST APPETITE NOT IN THE RULING CIRCLES ONLY, BUT INFESTED BROAD CIRCLES OF THE ISRAELI PUBLIC TOO. The lust of expansions and conquest, clothed in historic and religious mysticism, poisons the soul of the people and the youth and crushes the peace-yearning feelings. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aba EBAN, in an interview to the daily "HA'ARETZ" (2.2.1968) said: "There exists no peace-mysticism in this country, but a mysticism of territories which became more real, and there is a mysticism of security".

"The mysticism of territories" and the expanding chauvinist and militarist atmosphere take on different forms, beginning with the "Public Committee for an undivided Eretz-Yisrael" (Eretz Yisrael being the whole of Palestine under the British Mandate - the transl.) up to articles in papers like the one written by Alef Shem, the London correspondent of the daily "Ha'aretz" (24.1.1968) who describes openly the real inner aims of the activists in the Government of Israel. A. Shem demanded a "more active" Israeli foreign and defense policy expressing the following tasks: "full support for the strategic interests of the Western powers in the cold war against the East European states; a new initiative of war against the Arab countries; the conquest of the Eastern part of Jordan; the overthrow of the present regime in the UAR and all political frameworks supporting it; the conquest of the pipelines of the "Iraq Petroleum Company" and of "ARAMKO"; the occupation of the Saudi-Arabian coastline on the Gulf of Akaba" and so on.

This represents a very tragic and grave situation, which does never fit with the real interests of the working class, which can never be territorial expansion but peace, not territorial conquest but social rights, improvement of living conditions, progress, social and economic wellbeing. The "mysticism of territories" encouraged by ruling circles does not corrupt the yearnings for peace only but obscures the class instincts of the toiling masses, weakens the daily struggle for the basic interests of the working class and kindles the nationalist low instincts in favour of the big foreign and internal capitalists who profit from the present situation.

We state gladly, that even while the voices of those full of lust for new territories, those who proclaim the "undivided homeland" and slogan-bearers of "No liberated territory shall be returned" have still the upper hand, yet we hear other voices from sound and conscious persons who appeal against this adventurous path. We praise these voices, such as the position taken by the author Itzhar SMILANSKY, a voice coming even from the RAFL camp. The appeal of some public figures "Peace yes - annexations no!" with all its shortcomings, is worthy to be mentioned positively.

### 3) The Harm Done to the Working Class

The war and its consequences did great harm to the daily interests of the working class and popular masses. T. Toubi spoke about the enormous increase of military expenditures bringing in their wake drastic cuttings of the allocations on social services. The "special security tax" of 10% addition to the income tax introduced on the day of the outbreak of war in June last, will have to be paid next year too. The lengthening of the compulsory military service by half a year, to three years, is a further blow on the standard of living of the people. He warned against the grave economic consequences of the war and the adventurous policy which fall mainly on the shoulders of the toiling masses. (See Bulletin No.1 on New State Budget)

### 4) The Growing Danger to Democracy

THE WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES INCREASED THE DANGERS TO DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN ISRAEL. The demand published again and again in the reactionary press to prohibit the legal activity of the Communist Party of Israel because of its patriotic and internationalist stand against war and conquest and for just peace between Israel and the Arab countries presents a danger menacing not the freedom of action of our Communist Party only but all democratic rights in Israel. We raise our warning hand against such a dangerous step and appeal to all forces to whom

democracy is dear, to oppose the meance to the legality of our Communist Party of Israel.

The orders of restrictment of movement against persons opposing the war and occupation - Communists and others - are issued on an increased scale. To the already issued orders of restrictment, which prohibit persons from leaving their home towns and villages, thousands of orders of a new kind were issued. These prohibit those restricted persons from entrance into the occupied territories. We repell strongly the excuse given by the Minister of Defence for such restrictive orders, that these orders are issued against collaborators with "EL-FATAH" terrorists only. Such orders are an infringement upon the right of the freedom of movement of certain Israeli citizens and contradict the equality of right of Israeli citizens. The truth is, that these anti-democratic orders are issued against certain Israeli citizens because of their political positions, because of their being members or sympathizers of the Communist Party of Israel, or others who are opposed to the policy of war and occupation.

Inside the ruling circles the demand to change the existing election law and to raise the electoral barrier which is one per cent at present (lists not reaching the 1% barrier of t the votes have no seats in the Knesset) is gathering impetus. The aim of this proposed change is to eliminate the parliamentary representatives of the small factions in the Knesset and of course the one of our Communist Party, and eliminate the real parliamentary opposition. This is not an encroachment against the C.P. and its Knesset faction only, but against other factions as well. In the Knesset, six factions are now represented which each one of them drew at the last elections less than 5% and together they represent 17.3% of the electorate. The proposed change may eventually make it impossible for us to be represented in the Knesset. WE APPEAL NOT TO THOSE ONLY WHO ARE ENDANGERED IMMEDIATELY BY SUCH A CHANGE, BUT TO ALL THOSE WHO OPPOSE SUCH A SEVERE INFRINGEMENT AGAINST DEMOCRACY, TO UNITE AND BRING TO A FAILURE, BY UNITED ACTIONS, THIS ANTI-DEMOCRATIC PLAN AND WITH IT THE SEVERITY OF A MOST DANGEROUS PROCEDURE WHICH ENCROACHES STEADILY, INTO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE KNESSET AND THE PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES OF THE KNESSET MEMBERS.

The threat to the freedom of the press by introducing a further amendment to the law forbidding to publish statements by Ministers of the Government, is another link in the chain of infringements into the freedom of press and general democratic freedoms.

The realization of the plans to introduce anti-labour legislation against the freedom to strike and against trade-union struggle started with the tabling of the "Bill for Establishment of Labour-Courts".

The alleged interests of "security" of the state, with which infringements into democratic freedoms are excused, may obstruct the sight of large parts of the public only for some time but not forever. The self-experience will open eyes and the toiling masses will see for themselves and learn, that the infringements into the democratic freedoms are aimed to strengthen the reactionary rightwing and infringe on the ability of struggle of the Israeli working class.

#### 5) The Strengthening of the Dependence on Imperialism

THE WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES BROUGHT ABOUT THE TIGHTENING OF THE TIES OF THE RULING CIRCLES WITH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. The development of Israeli-USA relationship seen on the background of the June war only emphasized the entanglement of the Israeli Government with the plans of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East as well as in other parts of the world. It is now more obvious, that the support rendered by the USA to the Israeli Government has nothing whatsoever to do with concern for peace or for the security of Israel. The USA imperialists exploited, and continue to exploit, the expansionist ambitions of the Israeli ruling circles, their plotting against the just rights of the Arab people of Palestine, their policy of strength against the Arab peoples and their anti-Soviet policy, in order to serve the American imperialists' strategic and economic interests in the region. The war strengthened even more the Israeli Government's dependence on the USA, exposed without any make-up the all-sided service the Israeli ruling circles are willing to render to the Washington rulers, to the oil-magnates and their imperialist strategy.

The real meaning of Prime Minister Eshkol's visit to Johnson is the increased dependence of Israel on the USA imperialism, whose masters are the oil and arms magnates. Johnson showed willingness to examine Israel's "power of defence", e.g. to continue to support Israel's policy of force against her neighbours. Eshkol, on his side, expressed to Johnson his high esteem of "the glowing desire of the USA, as represented by the President himself, for strengthening peace, to avoid its shake-up by any aggression..." These unclear words cannot disguise the support for the USA aggression in Vietnam. The American weekly "NEWSWEEK" (22.1.1968) in an article on the Johnson-Eshkol talks revealed, that "after the meeting Eshkol told leaders of the American Jewish community - among them also such who



criticize Johnson's policy in Vietnam - that whatever Johnson is doing in Vietnam is nothing but right and just..."

Minister of Defence, M. Dayan, in an interview published at January 19th in the daily HA'ARETZ declared openly:

"I think that the policy wanted by us is the strengthening of the positions of the USA in the Middle East. It will be not at all in our favour if the Americans will loose their influence in Jordan. Instead of American planes and military missions there will come Russian planes and military missions. To the Americans this may not be all too important, but to ourselves it makes a very important difference if there are Americans or Russians in Jordan. And I am afraid there might be such a possibility.

"I think, as far as ties with an outside power are concerned, we shall do all in our might and we are interested in it, that the Soviet Union will not inherit any influence in the Middle East. To the contrary, we shall do everything, that America will do this". This is clear talk by Dayan.

We were not astonished at all when reading in the semi-official daily "DAVAR" (18.1.68), that the Prime Minister Eshkol, during his talks with Prime Minister Willson in Great Britain "expressed his deep concern over the withdrawal of British troops from the Persian Gulf, since every vacuum will be filled out again and it is clear by whom it may be done in this case". He talked about "the will to defend the independence of the states from where the troops are withdrawn..."

How should the anti-imperialist forces in our region and the world over interpret this identification of the Israeli Government with the imperialist interests in the Middle East and enthusiastic desire to prolong their stay in the region? The rulers of Israel are those who stain Israel's name in the eyes of the family of peoples who struggle against imperialism.

The growing dependence on USA imperialism stands in contrast to the best interests of the popular masses of Israel and is opposed to the interests of peace and common action with the Arab peoples.

M. Sneh, the "repentant" to the Zionist camp, told DAVAR in an interview (5.1.1968) not more and not less that: "The Soviet Union's policy increased Israel's attachment to the USA..." M. Sneh in this interview accused the Soviet Union of: "Giving the mark of anti-imperialism to the pan-Arab camp in order to justify her unrestricted support of the Arabs..." and of "swelling the Middle East conflict into global measures", and even to

the extent, that the Soviet Union "opened the doors for a stormy infiltration of the French imperialists into the Arab states"... and "caused the weakening of the struggle against the feudal Arab reaction by making peace between Nasser and Feisal and by exposing Sallal to the re-awakened royalists in Yemen. She, the Soviet Union, caused also the failure of the organization FLOSSY in the South Arabian peninsula..."

Such is M. Sneh's covering-up of American imperialism in the region and apology for the pro-imperialist policy of the Israeli rulers. For this purpose Dr. Moshe Sneh spreads his anti-Soviet poison.

Not the Soviet Union, which is conducting a policy of defending the independence of the peoples in the region - Israel included - can be blamed for tightening Israel's attachment to imperialism. The Israeli ruling circles themselves, with their policy of aggression and infringement on other peoples' just rights, are to be blamed. For the sake of peace and Israel's security and wellbeing, for the sake of the real interests of the popular masses and the workers of Israel, we shall continue to struggle for the change of the traditional Israeli policy which is dangerous to Israel herself as well as to her neighbours. We shall continue to explain to the Israeli people, that their real enemy is American imperialism, which is the Arab's enemy as well. We shall continue to struggle for a policy of independence, national sovereignty and peace, because by this way only Israel will find a common language with the Arab peoples.

#### 6) The Future of the Region Belongs to the Peoples

A fierce struggle goes on in our region between the anti-imperialist forces in the Arab countries and American imperialism and its partners. American imperialism is supported in the first place by the policy of strength of the Israeli ruling circles, whose most outstanding expression at the moment is the continuation of the occupation. But it is also assisted by the Arab reactionaries who try to raise their heads in the wake of the war, which caused difficulties to the anti-imperialist forces in the Arab countries. The confrontation at the moment is still at its climax and there exist all the possibilities that the developments will shatter the hopes of the imperialists.

In Jordan, whose government was once thought to be entirely in the hands of the Americans, a struggle, threatening American influence, is going on.

In the South-Arabian peninsula the independent state of Popular South-Yemen was established, which up till now was a

British colony. The monarchists in the Yemen did not win their victory and the republicans are fortifying their positions in the Republic of Yemen. The British imperialists are forced to withdraw their forces from their remaining positions in the Arab peninsula.

The Republic of Sudan is tightening her political, economic and military ties with the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

The anti-imperialist regime in the UAR is overcoming the difficulties caused by the military debacle and the internal difficulties caused by the reactionaries' intrigues and is strengthening its position. In the Arab countries the forces demanding a peaceful solution of the present crisis in the region and the Israeli-Arab conflict gather strength.

One of the signs for this is the removal of Ahmed Shukeiry from the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The agreement of the majority of the Arab states to the resolution of the Security Council of November the 22nd, 1967 and their consenting to act for its implementation is a very important step forward in this direction.

The leaders of the Baath Party ruling in Syria, who refuse up-till-now to accept this position and by not agreeing to accept the resolution of the Security Council and the peaceful solution of the present crisis, cause harm to the just struggle to end the occupation and foil imperialist designs. But above all this, the all-sided cooperation of most of the Arab states with the Soviet Union - especially UAR, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Yemen, Jordan - is widening and deepening. The Soviet Union, on the basis of her anti-colonial, anti-imperialist and international position does all in its power to foil the imperialist pressure put upon the Arab states and supports them to stand up in the face of imperialist pressure and blackmail, in favour of peace and peoples' independence.

Those are the main lines of development in our region. This development gains momentum in the face of not few difficulties in the face of internal reactionary trends, of appearances of lack of unity amongst anti-imperialist forces, of opposition of chauvinist and adventurist trends in the Arab movement for national liberation, of resistance to the line of peaceful settlement to Israeli-Arab conflict and also in the face of such negative manifestations, as the penetration of French imperialism which on the other hand increases inter-imperialist contradictions. In all this complex picture the decisive line of development in our region is to the detriment of American imperialism and its partners. This development is what will determine the fate of the region and it is inevitable. Not imperialism and

its aggressive policy will determine the future of the region. Therefore the future of Israel cannot be built on the withering foundations of imperialist presence and reactionary regimes in this region. The one who does not take up his positions taking into account this outlook makes a dangerous miscalculation. The June war and its consequences emphasized the dangerous path the Israeli Government is taking by gambling totally on the partnership with U.S. imperialism and on maintaining its interests in the Middle East. Such a gamble contradicts all real interests of the working class and popular masses in Israel.

All those who maintain that notwithstanding all the above mentioned negative results the June war had however saved the existence of Israel and safeguarded her security and well-being, and had been in her foremost national interest, commit a grave miserable error. Those who maintain such prepositions not only repeat the official justifications for the aggressive war waged in the imperialist interests which had nothing to do whatsoever with the existence of Israel, but they also defectively look upon the real truth of Israel's interests, her security and future in the region.

The "borders of security" (the present cease-fire lines, as named by the official circles - transl.), the militarists and annexationists are boasting with, have turned to be borders of insecurity. The "security" today has never been undermined as it is nowadays. Those "borders" and the resistance to the occupation cost daily the lives of many dear sons. Peace has been pushed into a dark lane; enmity and hatred between the two peoples become fiercer. The "security expenditures" rose to astronomic figures... The whole situation is anything but the opposite of "security" so much boasted by the knights of war and conquest.

### III.

#### THE MERGER OF THE THREE PARTIES TO FORM THE LABOUR PARTY OF ISRAEL

The unity of the working class is a historic desire of the Israeli working class for the strengthening of its daily struggle, for advance towards social liberation and as a base for the effecting social changes to the benefit of the broad popular masses. Any unity is worth its name and contributes to the interests of the working class in as far as it is based on the daily and historic interests of the working class. Our Communist Party aspired and still aspires for such a unity.

The merger of MAPAI, ACHDUT-HA'AVODAH and RAFI does not represent such a unity. It is not only based on the traditional policy of the leadership of Mapai, policy of peace between

classes (home unity) and on the paralyzing of the workers' struggle for their daily interests. This unity strengthens the anti-workers bases in the merged party by including the RAFI-people who left all workers' ideals a long time ago.

The merger of the three parties in the social-democratic camp is also based on the official pro-imperialist Israeli policy, the policy of common interests with the imperialists in the Middle East, on the policy of strength against the Arab peoples and the infringement on the rights of the Arab people of Palestine, a policy which diverted Israel from the road of peace and cooperation with other peoples of the region, a policy which is contradictory to the real interests of the working class.

Comrade T. Toubi said further that the policy of the newly merged Israeli Labour Party (MA'I) will cause in the future disappointment amongst progressive and openminded parts of the working people and this will have its mark on the future development of the working-class-movement in Israel. Self-experience of the working people together with the struggle waged by its most progressive part, the Communist Party of Israel, will influence the future development of the working-class-movement.

IN FACE OF THE UNIFICATION OF THE RIGHTWING IN THE WORKERS MOVEMENT WE CALL FOR A LEFTWING FRONT WHICH WILL ATTRACT THE HEALTHY PARTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE, THE DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE INTELLIGENTSIA, A FRONT THAT WILL AIM AT SERVING THE WORKING CLASS INTERESTS, AND ADVANCES THE STRUGGLE FOR ANOTHER ISRAELI POLICY WHICH WILL SERVE PEACE.

We, the Communists, shall continue to act and work for common actions and unity of actions in the ranks of all parts of the working class, in workshops, factories and outside them, on every just and progressive cause, on the economic front as well as the political, even on the basis of an agreed minimum programme. We shall act in common with every force - workers or democratic - in order to push forward any cause in the interest of the working class, democracy and peace.

#### IV.

#### THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OBSTRUCTS THE POSSIBILITIES OF PEACE

The popular masses of Israel want peace, security and fruitful partnership with the Arab peoples. In this lie their utmost interest. And does the Government acts according to these aims and interests of the people? The official Israeli policy is responsible for it that during the last 19 years (since the establishment of the state) Israel did not advance

towards the fulfilment of the aims of peace and securing the historic interests of the popular masses, though there cannot be aims more important than these.

1) A policy that does not aim to reach a settlement

The policy of the Israeli Governments, in all their compositions, is the same one basically. It stood always as an obstacle against real possibilities to reach a settlement. Let us not go too far back in history, when Ben-Gurion and his partners foiled the possibilities of peace with Egypt in 1952.

Let us mention the support of all Arab States to the resolution at the Bandung-Conference in 1955, which called for a peaceful solution of the Palestine Problem on the basis of the UNO resolutions. Let us also recall Mr Aba Eban's statement in the London weekly "JEWISH OBSERVER" in April 1965: "Israel cannot accept the proposal for negotiations on the basis of the UNO resolutions of 1947. Such a proposal is not new, since the Arabs proposed it several times in the past inside the United Nations and on other international bodies, while Israel rejected it."

The practical intentions of the ruling circles are to consolidate the present situation without closing the door. They wait for another opportunity in order to enlarge the "living space" and to come nearer to the "whole undivided homeland", thinking that such opportunities will come again from time to time in the frame of the historical struggle which is waged in the Middle East between imperialism of all shades and the Arab peoples in the area. This calculation is based on the partnership the ruling circles of Israel hold with imperialism - once with the British and French, now with the American - and on the weaknesses and mistakes of the Arab National Liberation Movement. The ruling circles of Israel always covered-up this line of action, with sweet talk about persuading peace. This line of action is obvious or camouflaged, according to the conditions in the region and the international arena. THE MISTAKES AND WEAKNESSES OF THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST ARAB NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT, LIKE THE ABSENCE OF A DEMOCRATIC PROGRAMME FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINE PROBLEM FOR INSTANCE, MADE IT EASIER FOR THE IMPERIALISTS AND THE ISRAELI RULERS TO KEEP OPEN THE CONFLAGRATION OF THE CONFLICT, TO EXPLOIT IT AGAINST THE PEOPLES' STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND TO PREVENT A DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION WHICH HONOURS EQUALLY THE RIGHTS OF BOTH PEOPLES.

And as it was in the past, it is at present, the Israeli policy keeps on rejecting the existing possibilities for a solution by sticking to its expansionist intentions and non-

consideration of other peoples' rights.

Official announcements, not from the UAR only but from other Arab quarters too, in support of full implementation of the Security Council's resolution, are heard from time to time.

Especially should be taken notice of the announcement of the UAR Government speaker on January 24th, 1968, who criticized statements concerning the annihilation of Israel and said among other things: "We are not for annihilation of anyone" and stressed that there cannot be any question of annihilating the State of Israel, with whom Egypt signed an armistice treaty in 1949. The UAR Government speaker, Hasan El-Zayyat, also said, that the UAR hopes the UN envoy Gunnar Jarring will proceed towards a political solution of the problems.

Many facts prove that there are real possibilities to reach a just solution, if the Israeli Government would have been interested in it. But immediately with the endorsement of the Security Council's resolution the Israeli Government did all in order to foil it. In the Knesset, on the 4th of December 1967, we accused the Government that its real viewpoint is to foil the resolution and the UN envoy's task.

## 2) The attitude towards the Security Council's resolution and the UN envoy

At present, when the Israeli press is full of accusation concerning the UAR policy of foiling the fulfilment of the Security Council's resolution, it may be worth while remembering the Israeli Government's position immediately after the resolution's adoption and the sending of the envoy. After the adoption of the resolution by the UN Security Council, the Israeli Government met in camera on 28.11.1967 in the form of "Ministerial Committee of Security". The Government allowed publishing only the following announcement: "The Government will continue to act according to its declared policy and according to the resolution of the Knesset on 13.11.1967."

In that resolution the Knesset decided (opposed by Communist votes), that "...Israel will continue to maintain in full the present situation, as laid down in the cease-fire agreement and will fortify its positions, taking in consideration its vital needs of security and development. The Israeli Government repeats and stresses that only through permanent peace reached at direct negotiations between the Arab States and Israel, lays the solution to the problems of the region."

As a matter of fact, this decision of the Government negates the Security Council's resolution and the handling of

the problem by the United Nations. The daily "MA'ARIV" commenting on the government's meeting pointed out on 29.11.67, that Israel's intentions are, to limit the contacts with Mr. Jarring, and not to negotiate with him on any concrete things and it will be stressed that the main conditions and proposals for settling the crisis, Israel will be prepared to make at the time of direct talks with Egypt and Jordan only. Minister of Labour, Yigal Allon, stated then, that G. Jarring will be met here as any other tourist, but not more. The Prime Minister, Levy Eshkol, told pressmen on 29.11.1967, that his government will extend its hand to Jarring only insofar, as he will bring the sides to the table of direct talks.

We are neither against direct talks nor against mediation, but we accuse the Israeli Government of leading a policy and holding positions, as was the case also before the war, which never will bring negotiations any nearer but on the contrary, push them farther away. Its positions of infringement on the just rights of the Arab people of Palestine push back every Arab factor prepared to come to negotiations and reach a settlement. At present the Israeli ruling circles beautify themselves with the feathers of negotiations in order to cover-up their basic positions they hold on, namely perpetuating the occupation and trampling on the rights of the other people.

Minister of Defence, Moshe Dayan, himself spoke about the possibility of reaching an agreement with Jordan and UAR, but he rejected such a possibility.

"Maybe that Abdel-Nasser will be prepared even without Hussein, to come to an agreement with us, under the condition that we withdraw to the lines of June 4, 1967, and then Abdel-Nasser possibly will be prepared to announce the end of hostilities, free navigation in the Gulf of Eilat and may be also to promise something about the Suez Canal. If we are prepared to withdraw to the former lines, we shall solve the problem with Egypt to a large extent." This is what Dayan told the daily Ha'aretz in an interview published on 19th January 1968. And when the interviewer asked: "And you, are you not for such a solution", Dayan answered: "Certainly not!"

Aba Eban told the Ha'aretz (2.2.68) that "Some high-ranking politicians in the world told me, that according to your press you stopped to be interested in peace. June last you talked about the territories as a lever for peace. Now this has changed. You fell in love with the territories themselves."...

The question is: What does the Israeli Government want? It aims at perpetuating the present situation until it becomes a new status-quo and new territorial facts are established.



In this way Eshkol and Peres want to make their dream of a "Greater Israel" come true.

### 3) An unrealistic and dangerous policy

Is such a dream realistic? May be that it looks so under the present conditions in the Arab world, but in reality it is an adventurous and unrealistic policy without any perspective, leaving aside that it also prevents the establishing of peace. The development in the region and the world will bring to complete failure such an adventurous and dangerous policy.

The short time that passed since the war proves:

- The aim to establish capitulative governments in the neighbouring Arab States has failed;
- The aim to split the Arab States among themselves and to impose a settlement of capitulation - failed;
- The experiment to find collaborators among the Arab people of Palestine, under the cloak of "the Palestine entity" - was a fiasco... The activity of Eshkol's representative Sasson, who was sent to Arab notables in the West Bank proved, that there was no Arab force of importance which agrees to collaborate on the basis of continued occupation. The daily "JERUSALEM POST" (25.1.1968) disclosed that almost every one with whom Sasson contacted and talked, demanded the withdrawal of Israel as a first step to any talks. The Israeli Government tries, by using decoy and threats, to reach its aims, but in reality the development goes towards the strengthening of resistance to the occupation.

The continuation of the occupation is the foremost reason for the resistance in all its different forms. The typical situation in the occupied territories is at present oppression, terror, arrests, curfew, demolishing of houses, collective punishments etc.

Journalists of many international papers publish articles and widespread informations about the policy of oppression practiced in the occupied territories and about the attitude towards the Arab population there, which represents a severe act of indictment against the government of Israel.

The continuation of the occupation strengthens the resistance, including armed resistance. Though this cannot solve the problem, it is indicative of the tragic situation which is in fact a misfortune to the relationship between both peoples, relationship of bloodshed and enmity intensified by the occupation.

Time brings about a development which works in contrast to the intentions of the Israeli ruling circles. The Israeli

position is isolated in the international public opinion, it even loses the support it had before amongst its friends.

The position of the Israeli Government during the crisis of the removal of ships stuck in the Suez Canal proved again the policy to foil any step towards a solution and the same time made the Israeli Government position even more isolated in the international arena. The opening of fire from the Israeli side on the Egyptian boats which started the survey of the Canal in preparation of the removal of the ships (and perhaps in preparation of further steps), was made under the pretext of guarding the status-quo and Israel's right to use the Canal. We are for free navigation, also for Israel, in the Suez Canal. But can free navigation be attained other than by solving all the outstanding problems between Israel and the Arab States? The question of free navigation is one of the overall problems of Israeli-Arab relations and the Palestinian problem and it cannot be solved on its own. Not free navigation in the Suez Canal is what actually bothers the rulers of Israel, but how to continue the closure of the Canal. This serves not as a tool of pressure against the UAR only, but, maybe, it answers also some requests of American oil-companies which are interested in the perpetuation of the Canal's closure in the face of British and other interests situated in the Middle East.

#### 4) For the implementation of the resolution of the Security Council

The path for a peaceful solution is by full implementation of the resolution of the Security Council. We supported the resolution and called on the Government to identify itself with it and to act according with its word and spirit. But the Israeli Government's position, standing brazenly on its decision to win territorial gains from the war, is, what foils the resolution and its full implementation.

In Israel we are a witness to many interpreters to the Security Council's resolution, starting from Aba Eban and ending with Dr. M. Sneh. They all have in common the shutting of their eyes before the preamble to the resolution, which clearly stresses the opposition to any territorial gains whatsoever through war and the need to act for a just and permanent peace.

The appetite for conquest and annexation is at present the main obstacle to a peaceful solution. The most worrying factor is at present, that the political forces in Israel, from the extreme rightwing GAHAL to the Mikunis-Sneh group are against the principle of the withdrawal as a basic factor in the settlement of the crisis.

The Government states as a complete fact, that the map of the 4th of June is dead and gone and there will be no return to the armistice lines of 1949. Dayan and other Ministers do not want to go back even an inch from the Suez Canal and the river Jordan. MAPAM by stressing its rejection of the withdrawal to the former armistice lines, states in its "peace plan": "Eastern Jerusalem is ours, the Gaza strip is ours, the Golan-heights (in Syria) are ours... and some parts of the Western Bank too for 'security reasons' should be ours..." Mikunis-Sneh group criticise MAPAM for publishing a detailed plan. But, Mikunis and Sneh are against the withdrawal from the occupied territories "prior to a settlement and final demarcation of secure and agreed borders". Sneh told too, that the armistice lines of June 4, are finished with and do not exist any more..." He tries to be innocent and states, that there is no difference between the armistice lines of June 4 (prior to the last war) and the cease-fire-lines of 11th June, 1967. For him this is all the same! He makes this mechanical equation while ignoring the aggressive character of the war, and the shameful breaking-off, and the trampling of the Israeli Government at the armistice agreements of 1949. M. Sneh copies the slogan, which was put up at the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Israel (1961), namely the replacing of the armistice lines of 1949 by agreed borders of peace on the basis of the right of self-determination of the peoples. M. Sneh shuts his eyes to the character of the latest war and to the fact that the Israeli Government broke and annulled agreements (the armistice agreement) between Israel and the neighbouring Arab States by using force. He also ignores the fact, that the above slogan of the C.P. of Israel was A CONTINUATION OF THE PARTY'S OPPOSITION TO TERRITORIAL ANNEXATIONS, IT WAS AN EXPRESSION of the Party's struggle against the policy of "Not one refugee, not one square-meter of soil" (slogan of the ruling circles), it was a slogan against the policy which was then, and is still today an obstacle on the path to peace.

In order to envelop his so-called "Marxist analysis", his chauvinist, anti-communist position of justifying the occupations and annexations, Sneh asks in his article (Kol Ha'am 12.1.68): "Since when do communists give concrete solutions to territorial problems?" And he continues: "The just communist approach to territorial problems does neither implement the drawing of detailed maps in advance, nor the partition of territories, not borderlines, but it states the principles according to which the map should be drawn, the territories parted, the borderlines drawn."

According to Sneh's logic, if the Israeli armed forces would have conquered Damascus, he would also have objected to the withdrawal from there and would have demanded "partition

of territories on new lines". What kind of principle of self-determination is it, to justify the presence of the Israeli armed forces on the Arab parts of Palestine, not to speak about the Syrian heights or the Sinai-peninsula. It is no wonder, therefore, that Sneh's positions are far from any communist and even democratic approach. The one who opposes the withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces from the occupied territories under the pretext of wanting a "permanent peace agreement", is, in fact, for the perpetuation of the occupation and supports the policy of negating the rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

#### 5) Withdrawal - the key to peace

There are people who ask, what are the guarantees, that with the withdrawal from the occupied territories a settlement may be reached? The withdrawal according to the Security Council's resolution of November 22, 1967 stipulates that together with the withdrawal, there should be also an end of the state of hostilities and the recognition of the rights of all the states in the region to sovereignty inside agreed and secure borders, and therefore promises a settlement. The recognition of the right to agreed and secure borders should not be mixed-up with the actual demarcation of agreed and secure borders itself, which has to be reached together with the solution of all outstanding problems, including the refugee problem, free navigation etc.

Important international factors declare now, that the withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces from the occupied territories, together with the end to the state of hostilities and the recognition of the rights of all nations in the region to sovereign life, will create the conditions for a peace-settlement between Israel and the Arab states.

The opposition of Israeli rulers to the withdrawal, their camouflaging their decision to hold on to the occupied territories, by misusing the slogan of direct negotiations, the creating of accomplished facts inside the occupied territories (like establishing new Jewish settlements) is made under the mistaken impression, that with time passing, the situation will become a fixed one. All these intentions bear within them severe new dangers, the danger of a new conflagration of war, for which the rulers of Israel will bear the responsibility.

Therefore, the Communist Party of Israel calls during these fateful days on all forces in Israel which are interested in a just peace-settlement between Israel and her neighbours, to act in order to influence the Government to withdraw from its intentions of annexations and to act in common with G. Jarving for the implementation of the Security Council's resolution,

whose first principle is the withdrawal from occupied territories. Preference to peace over the illusion of annexations - this is the order of the day for all who are interested in peace in the region and in a secure future of Israel; this is the order of day for all who are interested in stopping the slipping down into the abyss of a new war.

#### 6) What is the Perspective

In this situation, loaded with grave dangers to peace, the question is raised: What is the perspective? Taking into account the present historical epoch, the development in the region and the world, we may state quite surely, that the perspective lies not with the victory of the policy of strength and pressure against peoples' rights, which leans upon imperialist support, but with its defeat. It lays with the victory of the principle of honouring peoples' rights. The perspective is not for the perpetuation of the occupation but in putting an end to it; the perspective lies not in the perpetuation of enmity and hatred between the peoples of this region but in their elimination and in securing the just rights of the peoples.

The Communist Party of Israel shows the path towards the realisation of this perspectives, without further bloodshed, destruction and war.

The heads of the State of Israel take a great responsibility upon their shoulders. As long as they continue to tie the fate of Israel with the imperialist waggon against the Arab peoples' struggle for independent development, they play a very dangerous game with the future of Israel.

M. Dayan comforts the Israeli people by promising another victory in the coming fourth war, but the real interests of the people does not lay in another victory and another dreadful war, but in peace and friendship with the Arab peoples.

The nationalist extremist voices heard in the Arab world, which call also for military solutions as the only way to solve the crisis, only support the policy of strength and adventurism of the imperialists and their followers in the region.

We are sure that there is another way out. The possibility of a just and peaceful settlement of the crisis exists and the first step towards it is the withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces from the occupied territories.

Many forces in the region and the world act for a just and peaceful settlement. The Communist Party of Israel is acting for such a settlement. Neither the Israeli ruling circles

nor the American imperialists are free to enforce their will, these are very serious factors which will force a retreat.

In spite of all difficulties and of strong factors which sabotage such a peaceful settlement which in its content can only be a defeat of aggression and annexation, there are objective conditions and forces which will compel the American imperialists and their followers, who are interested in the continuation of the crisis as a means of pressure against the independence of the peoples of this region, The following factors can turn the possibility into a reality:

- a) The basic trend of development in the region is the gathering of strength of the anti-imperialist forces among the Arab countries in spite of imperialist pressure and intrigues.
- b) The all-sided support of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states, the economic, political and military help as well as the strengthening of friendly relations between the anti-imperialist states and the Soviet Union. All this helps to counter imperialist pressure which is an important element for advancing a just and peaceful settlement of the crisis.
- c) The position taken by the Soviet Union which opposes with all its might the renewal of the aggressive war against the Arab countries prevents a new conflagration and creates a spell of time for useful activity of all peace-factors in the world to find a peaceful solution.
- d) American imperialism will not strengthen its position in the continuation and development of the Middle East crisis.
- e) The evergrowing difficulties of American imperialism in the Far-East, the military defeat its armed forces are suffering in Vietnam and the failure of the provocation in Korea mark the basic development, and will withhold the USA from entanglements in other areas, the Middle East included.
- f) The contradictions availing among the imperialists act against the policy of the USA in the Middle East.
- g) The gathering of strength of those forces in the Arab countries which want a peaceful solution of the present Middle East crisis and the Palestine problem.
- h) The position of most of the African and Asian states and the anti-imperialist forces in the world, which are all together against the continuation of the occupation, and their demand for a just and peaceful settlement.
- i) The developing public opinion in the world, its support given for a just and peaceful settlement based on the true implementation of the Security Council's resolution and the isolation of the policy of perpetuating the Israeli occupation.

All these basic factors are gathering strength and their influence is growing for the benefit of a just and peaceful solution. By this they produce conditions which will turn the continuation of the occupation and the crisis into something which threatens the USA with much greater losses. They also turn the Israeli policy of strength and expansion into something which threatens its masters. They also turn the continuation of the present situation, which the USA is riding on it in order to blackmail and bully the Arab countries, into an adventure which may very well cause her even greater losses. So, conditions come into being, which make possible a just and peaceful solution. Steps of compromises may help to reach this, but its basic foundation has to be the honouring of the interests and rights of the peoples.

In view of this perspective, which is to the benefit of Israel, we, the Israeli communists, support the activities of the peace forces in the world in favour of a peaceful solution of the crisis in our region. We fully support the Soviet peace policy in the Middle East, whose whole aim is to guard the peace and to secure the just interests of all peoples, those of Israel included. In view of this perspective we, the Communists of Israel, condemn the fatalism, which does not see any other way for handling the crisis but by war.

The Communist Party of Israel calls upon all healthy parts of the people, the democratic and peace-loving forces, to unite and strengthen their struggle against the adventurous Israeli policy, which endangers the peace and sabotages the perspectives of a settlement.

The conditions for our activity to win the popular masses for our just policy are not easy ones, they are hard and complicated. But in spite of this there is a lot to win by our activities. Broad circles are prepared to listen to our opinion. It is necessary to act and win broader circles for action against oppression, against occupation, against infringements against the living standard of the popular masses, against infringements against democracy. We are convinced that together with our work and struggle the self-experience of the popular masses in Israel will help to build up the force which will lead Israel onto another political road, the road to peace.

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MEIR VILNER WARNS AGAINST THE DANGERS OF MILITARY  
ESCALATION  
.....

"Only very few people live under the illusion that the June war brought security to our people. The reality of our daily life is proof enough that the cease-fire-lines (of June last) are lines of insecurity and are much less secure than the demarcation lines prior to June 5th" - Meir VILNER MK, the Secretary of the Politbureau of the Communist Party of Israel told the Knesset during the debate on a statement of the Government about clashes on the Jordan-river, presented by Minister of Defence, Moshe DAYAN, on February 13th, two days prior to the Israeli "punitive-attack" by air and artillery against Jordan.

M. Dayan, in his statement, threatened with large-scale retaliation in order "to teach Hussein a lesson" and justified this with acts of sabotage on Israeli soil and the occupied territories. These acts, according to Dayan, were made from bases in Jordan with the consent of the Jordanian army and he termed them as "acts of war" which "take on a very grave meaning".

SPEECH OF MEIR VILNER, MEMBER OF KNESSET

Again the lives of young people are cut short. The number of widows, orphans and parents who cry their dear ones increases steadily. Only this morning I visited the family of one of the latest victims, Ami Ben-David. A young widow with two small children, a berieved father, brothers and sister who suffered the loss of their dear one. He was a good worker, member of the worker's committee of "Argaman" textile-plant. He was one of the 7 members of the delegation of workers' committees who were received by the Labour Committee of the Knesset after the large demonstration of workers' committees in front of the Knesset a year ago. He was against war and struggled to stop the bloodshed - this is also the demand of those who mourn now in his home. We may well imagine that this is the wish of all who mourn their dear ones on both sides of the border.

Without any doubt, there are very few who live under the illusion that the latest war brought security to our people. There had been such who named the cease-fire-lines "lines of security". For instance, the Minister of Defence said in his interview published on January 19th in the daily HA'ARETZ: "I look upon



the Jordan-river as a border of security of Israel".

On the eve of his visit in Washington, on December 28th, 1967, the Prime Minister Levy Eshkol told a public rally in Kiryat-Motzkin: "Who knows, if we will not have to remain another 20 years, maybe more, inside the border of the cease-fire-lines, which are much more natural, stronger and more bold and give us much more outlook into the future and much more hope".

The reality teaches us exactly the contrary, namely that these are borders of insecurity, anyway, there is much less security than on the demarcation-lines prior to June the 5th.

There are such ones who propose the traditional "medicine" e.g. to "solve" the present crisis in our region by more military actions and even by new "borders of security", still farther away. We warn before such intentions of escalation of military actions. By now, after each such escalation, the policy of escalation came to a dead end.

We, the Communists of Israel, propose a political solution to the crisis by peaceful means, which will prevent the kindling of a new war and will ensure security and sovereignty to all states in the region, the State of Israel included.

In our opinion the resolution of the Security Council of November the 22nd, 1967 may be used as a base for such a solution. This resolution calls for the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the territories occupied during the June war, an end to the state of war between Israel and the Arab countries and for recognition of the right of existence and to security of each country of the region.

Why not endorse, under the given circumstances, this political solution to the crisis? Such a political solution by peaceful means serves the highest national interests, security included, of the people of Israel. This could be a realistic solution, if the Government of Israel gives a helping hand to its realization. It is a fact, that the most deciding factors in the Arab world are willing to agree to a solution according to the resolution of the Security Council.

Of course, there exist also inside the Arab world extreme politicians. Their positions are to be rejected as chauvinist and as ones which pour oil into the flames. But the truth is, that not these extremists are the deciding factors in the Arab world.

In his interview with HA'ARETZ from January 19th, mentioned above, Moshe Dayan confirmed in fact our standpoint. He said:

"May be that Abdel Nasser will be prepared, with or without Hussein, to come to an agreement with us under the condition that we withdraw to the old borders. If we withdraw to the borders of the 4th of June, Abdel Nasser may agree to end the state of war, to free navigation in the Gulf of Eilat and may be even, to a certain extent, in the Suez Canal. If we withdraw to the former armistice-lines this would solve the problems with Egypt to a great extent". The Minister of Defence said this. But the interviewer of Ha'aretz did not leave it with this and asked: "And you, are you not for such a solution?" Dayan's answer was short: "I am absolutely against it".

Certainly, the one who undertakes as his main task neither reaching peace, nor security, but territorial expansion, and to force upon others "conditions of peace" by prolonged occupation, does never contribute, but hinders, the reaching of a political solution and he is taking upon his shoulders a heavy responsibility for future developments.

No doubt, there exist all possibilities, in the international arena as well as in the region, for a political solution of the present crisis, for the recognition by the main Arab countries of Israel's right of existence and her security. But this can be made possible only on a mutual and equal basis.

We also propose not to sharpen further the relations with the Soviet Union, as did the Prime Minister, only the previous day; not to burn the bridges into the future. Why should we not listen objectively to the positions of the Soviet Union? This position was expressed again in the interview the Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, Alexei KOSSYGIN, gave to the American journal "LIFE" and was published on February 2nd:

"In our opinion, every effort should be made to bring about the withdrawal of the armies to the positions held prior to the 5th of June 1967. By this we do not hold any aggressive intentions against Israel. We do not agree to the liquidation of Israel. In the past we were among the initiators of Israel's establishment and we are also today of the opinion that Israel should exist as a state".

This should be said about the principled position taken by the Soviet Union, which did not change, and could not have changed, since 1948, because this is a policy of Leninist principles concerning the national question and the foreign policy. This is a friendly policy towards the people of Israel as well as towards the Arab peoples.

Concerning the political solution under present conditions

Alexei Kossygin said in the same interview published in "LIFE":

"When we talked with President Johnson on the 23rd and 25th of June 1967, we were certain that the solution of such problems as the recognition of Israel as a state, freedom of navigation and other problems would be made possible by the withdrawal from the occupied territories. This opinion, so we thought, was also the opinion of the USA. But then, suddenly, all was overturned by the USA". And Kosygin continues: "If the USA would have joined the efforts of the Soviet Union, then, without any doubt, Israel would have withdraw from the occupied territories in the space of two days".

With its position the Government of the USA involves more and more the State of Israel and pushes our country towards dependence on the USA in a most dangerous way. Before the present great defeats of the American invaders in Vietnam there were some people who played with the illusion, that the USA is an almighty power. It may be imagined, that there are now many who think this over again, if it is worthwhile and in the national interests of Israel to tie the security of Israel head and all to the chariot of the USA.

We propose to turn to a more realistic policy which will ensure Israel's security, will bring about a peace settlement with the Arab states on the basis of securing the rights of all the peoples concerned, first of all the people of Israel and the Palestinian Arab people.

But, under the present concrete circumstances, in order to produce the conditions for a settlement of all outstanding basic problems and to reach peace treaties, it is absolutely necessary to accomplish the resolution of the Security Council.

Therefore, we propose to the Knesset to endorse the following resolution: "The State of Israel, on its part, is prepared to accomplish to the fullest extent the resolution of the Security Council of November 22nd, 1967." The accomplishment of the resolution of the Security Council would be an important step forward to a secure and peaceful existence in our region. It would be a step for the benefit of the people of Israel as well as of the Arab peoples.

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By a majority vote the Knesset rejected the draft proposal of the Communist faction. S. Mikunis MK voted together with the majority coalition benches against this above mentioned resolution presented by Comrade M. Vilner.

THE CHIEF-OF-STAFF REVEALS GOVERNMENT POLICY  
.....

(On the aftermath of the new outburst across  
the Jordan River)

If many people did not clearly see the real cause for the rise in tension last week, particularly in relation to Jordan, it was the Chief-of-Staff, BAR-LEV, who revealed it to military correspondents immediately after the cessation of fire directed against Jordan with all kinds of arms.

The military reporter of "Ma'ariv" Eli Landau, reports on 19th February, 1968: "At the end of the day of firing, the Chief-of-Staff Haim Bar-Lev told military correspondents that he does not regard the retaliation of the army as the last word to the problem. With other words, according to his appraisal the wild situation on the border will go on." The declared aim, according to the reporter, is "to impose immediate settlement on the Arab states... We shall be able to impose a settlement on Jordan, if we shall know to use our military power in such a way as to force Hussein to the table of negotiations. We succeeded in enforcing the cessation of fire by the strength of fire last week, and he did it because of lack of alternative. We shall be able to enforce a political solution on him, if we compel him to ask for it, because of lack of alternative. This will be possible only if we shall be on the other side of the border line." This is what was written in "Ma'ariv" after the interview with the Chief-of-Staff.

These are clear words leaving no possibility of doubt: no peaceful solution of the crisis, but its additional sharpening by military means, by attempting to force Jordan accept political conditions of diktat. It is, therefore, no accident that all government and pro-government groups in parliament voted at the end of the discussion on the declaration which the Minister of Defence gave in the name of government, against the motion of the Communist parliamentary group calling for support of the resolution of the UN Security Council.

This programme is not developed without coordination with the Johnson administration which in the same week turned to Jordan with the proposal to renew American military assistance. Temptation on the one hand, and military pressure on the other, should force Jordan on her knees, both in regard to USA and to Israel.

The US rulers regard the development in Jordan with much anxiety. The Jordan government draws nearer to the anti-imperialist states, gives more freedom to the people, weakens its

sole orientation on the imperialist powers, starts to establish normal relations with the Soviet Union. The fact that this process is carried out under conditions of a sharp internal struggle, evokes the hope of the captains of US global strategy, that there is a chance to reverse the process and to reestablish an extreme pro-imperialist government in Jordan.

These are the clear plans, that contradict the efforts for a peaceful solution, that may endanger Israel more and more and bring it to a blind alley. The defeats of the American invaders in Vietnam prove that American imperialism is not all-powerful. The balance of power in the world and in our region, and the internal situation in Jordan, may bring about the opposite results, in contradiction to the wishes of American circles and the Chief-of-Staff Bar-Lev.

Our people needs peace and security. The military path did not lead neither to peace nor to security. This is confirmed by the Chief-of-Staff himself. The trend to proceed farther on the path of military escalation, may reveal itself to be imbued with catastrophies for our country and our people.

We warn against the path of adventure. We demand a peaceful solution, based on the fulfilment of the resolution of the UN Security Council, which asserts: withdrawal from occupied territories, cessation of the state of war between Israel and the Arab states, and recognition of the right of all states in the region, including Israel, to existence and security.



ON REACTIONARY PROPAGANDA ABOUT "SOVIET INFILTRATION"  
.....

In the last weeks intensive campaign against the Soviet Union has been organized regarding its, so-called "infiltration to the Middle East".

In Israel the campaign has received the most high ranking authorization in the words of the Prime Minister L. Eshkol, who in answer to questions set to him by the delegation of research for the Jews of France (24.1.68) said that "the aspiration of the Soviets to infiltrate to the Middle East is twenty years of date and now they strive to fill the vacuum created, out of their wish to become a world empire."

The question itself is important, and it is worth while to remove the cover of instigation and analyse the question in the right light.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

It is true that the position of the Soviet Union in the Middle East is growing in strength. The Soviet Union is presenting all-sided aid to the Arab peoples who were the victims of the Israeli aggression of June last year. The general connections - commercial, economic, political, cultural and military - are becoming closer. Soviet delegations visit the Arab countries and Arab delegations visit the Soviet Union.

The most important aid is the economic one. On 19.1.68 "AL-YOM" published an article of Claire Hollingworth of Cairo, which stated "However, the fact that the Russians have supplied the necessary quantities of wheat flour to ensure the bread of the Egyptians up to the coming harvest in May and medical equipment, oil and machines for the construction of a new refinery has wrought a stronger impression on the populace than would tanks, lorries and migs have done."

The aid offered by the Soviet Union in the erection of Aswan Dam is the most important. It changes fundamentally the economy of Egypt and constitutes the most prominent evidence of the width, efficiency and depth of this aid.

The technical training of Egyptian workers and engineers for the construction of the dam exerts a strong impression on the consolidation of the Egyptian working class, on its class consciousness and its national consciousness. Besides the wide supply of military equipment the despatch of Soviet warships

to the United Arab Republic had its significance since June 1967. William Beacher had truly asserted in an article in the "NEW YORK TIMES": "In the meantime Soviet warship maintain an almost continuous presence in Alexandria and Port Said since the end of the six days war. BY MEANS OF THIS PRESENCE THEY CURB ISRAELI ACTIVITY AGAINST EGYPTIAN FORCES IN THE PORTS AND THE NEIGHBOURING PLACES"(emphasis is mine). It is obvious that such presence fulfill a decisive task in preventing new aggression, safeguarding peace in the region and thus serving the interests of all peoples of the area including the interest of our people.

The all-sided aid of the Soviet Union, including the political one had aroused a wide echo in the heart of the people. Correspondents of both the socialist and bourgeois newspapers mention the sympathy of the masses of peoples in the Arab countries to the Soviet Union.

The war of June 1967 and all the imperialist manoeuvres around this war not only did not result in crisis in the confidence of the Arab peoples towards the Soviet Union, but, on the contrary, they resulted in raising Arab-Soviet friendship to a higher stage. The Arabs understood who were the real enemy and the real friend - a foremost and basic principle for man, the class and the people in order to understand political reality, to exert their influence thereon and to alter it. Only a man who degenerates into vulgar degradation of throwing words whose purpose is to arouse nationalistic sentiments without any scientific analysis - only that man is capable of writing: "whereas the basis of this policy (the Soviet) is the distorted hypothesis that the Soviet support for the Pan-Arabic anti-Israeli chauvinism would credit the Soviet Union with a decisive influence on the Arab states, the Soviet policy is embroiled into one contradiction after another". (Moshe Sneh in the Seminar of the United Kibbutz, KOL HA'AM 26.1.68).

In fact the basic international contradiction of our time is explicitly reflected in our region. In as much as the influence of imperialism, especially of American imperialism is becoming stronger in our region, in as much as it succeeds to infiltrate therein, the threat of war is becoming stronger, the possibilities of a political solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict and other conflicts are weakened and the prospect of a just and stable peace in the region wanes. The consolidation of the Soviet position is, therefore, for the interest of the Israeli people as it is for the interest of the Arab peoples.

#### THE BASIC PROBLEM

Thus we are approaching the gist of the problem. The official interpretation which all the daily papers spread define

the basic contradiction in our region as a contradiction of the interests of Israel and those of the Arab states and point to the great powers as upholding one side either as pro-Arabic and anti-Israeli or pro-Israeli and anti-Arabic. In the frame of this wrong estimation, Sneh may, then, discuss with Dayan the degree of submission of the Middle Eastern countries to the great powers (KOL HA'AM 12.1.68).

But all this conception is wrong. There is no choice between provincial vulgarism and global one. The basic contradiction in the Middle East is that between the anti-imperialist movement of national liberation and of imperialism. It is a segment of the world front of all the anti-imperialist forces - the socialist countries, the proletariat in the countries where capital has its sway and of the movement for national liberation - a front of a new world of liberty and peace, of prosperity and security for all the peoples of the region. On the other side of the barricade stand forth the imperialists and their henchmen.

The Israeli-Arab conflict was doubly exploited against the anti-imperialist current, practically for the purpose of curbing the development of the national liberation movement and ideologically for the purpose of confusion and distortion of conceptions.

Comrade Leonid BREZHNEV, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has defined this policy in his speech in the festive-session for marking the jubilee of the October Revolution (3.11.1967) as follows:

"The unity of the revolutionary forces rests on a reliable foundation. Each of these forces accomplishes its own tasks, but they have a common enemy, imperialism, and they have common aims - the struggle for the interests of the working people, for peace, democracy and freedom. All this makes it imperative to unite the efforts of the world socialist system, the working class movement and the national liberation movement in a combined offensive against imperialism."

Thus, what is called the Soviet infiltration to the Middle East is practically the fulfillment of the international duty of the Soviet Union for the consolidation of the unity of the different detachment of the anti-imperialist forces and for supporting the Arab people to confront the aggressive colonialist and anti-revolutionary intrigues of the imperialist foe.

The consolidation of this unity and in our case, the consolidation of unity between the Soviet Union and the movement of national liberation of the Arab peoples is in conformity to the law of development of our age.



In this development the constant changes of the age are reflected in the balance of forces in the world for the detriment of imperialist forces and for the benefit of the cause of peace, freedom of peoples and socialism.

#### WHAT PURPOSES THE CAMPAIGN DOES SERVE

We said that the concentration of publicity round this problem is not casual. The writers of articles and those who direct their writing have obvious purposes, whether in the United States or in our country.

First and foremost, there is the interest of the great monopolist companies especially in the United States and their representative in the administration to increase the budget of defence, to increase the order of precious military equipment, to widen business and to increase their profits.

Reactionary governments in our region, among which Israel, follow the American lead. Not only do they copy the American instigation against the Soviet Union concerning "infiltration" to serve their internal aims but they also employ this campaign as a means of pressure on the American administration. Eli Eyal, "HA'RETZ" correspondent in USA wrote on 12.1.1968 that: "It is gleaned from the talks of Johnson-Eshkol that the United States will not abandon Israel (in the supply of war material) and that abandoning Israel will only contribute to deepen the Soviet infiltration".

Shmuel Segev formulates the matter (MA'ARIV 17.1.68) "now the American government are convinced that if they do not act like Moscow and do not supply arms to their allies, all the Middle East will fall under the realm of Soviet influence". It is no secret that the Israeli Prime Minister Eshkol made much use of such means of pressure in his talks with President Johnson in Texas. Such pressure does not contradict the wish of certain persons among the ruling circles in the United States to express parallel considerations such as Senator Scott who said (according to HA'ARETZ '25.1.68) "that the most useful defence against the domination of the Middle East by the Soviet Union is a strong Israel, living peacefully with its neighbours"(!)

The paradox in the situation, which is perhaps not so paradoxal is that the same stick which the government of Israel and other reactionary governments in the Middle East employ in relation to the administration of the United States is also used by the hands of the United States rulers against the countries of the region. The pretext of "Soviet infiltration" to the Middle East is exploited by the American imperialism for further infiltration to the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Another purpose for the propaganda regarding "the Soviet infiltration" exists. It is a part of the cold war, a part of the general ideological campaign aiming at driving a wedge between the peoples and the Soviet Union and this at weakening the struggle of peoples for national and social liberation. Such efforts came to naught as concerns the Arab peoples. The effort to separate the Arab peoples from the Soviet Union, which was also one of the principle aims of the war of June 1967, failed. The official Israeli standpoint regarding the orientation of the infiltration of the United States to the Middle East was openly expressed by Moshe Dayan - he is not diplomat as Aba Eban - in his interview in HA'ARETZ of 19.1.68, when he said: "I am apt to consider as a desirable policy to us, the consolidation of the position of the United States in the Middle East. I deem that in as much as there is attachment to foreign powers, we shall try, as much as we can and become interested too, that not the Soviet Union shall inherit all the influence in the Middle East - but that the United States should should do so, if possible."

The Soviet Union had not once stated that peace and security in the region of the Near and Middle East concern her, because the region is neighbouring her southern frontier. Thus the common cause of the Soviet Union for peace and security is integrated with the special cause of her own security.

The Soviet Union in this region as well as in the other parts of the world has no other interest save the interest of peace and support for the peoples struggle for their national and social freedom.

Thus it is for the supreme interest of all the peoples of the region, to tighten their relations with the Soviet Union. Moreover, all the peoples are interested that relations between the peoples of the region and the Soviet Union are tightened, and thus all peoples are interested to strengthen the influence of the Soviet Union in our region.

This is also the supreme national interest of our people.

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EMILE HABIBI -

SPEECH IN THE KNESSET ON THE BUDGET OF THE  
FOREIGN OFFICE - February 26, 1968

On the occasion of the debate on the budget of the Foreign Ministry I should like to dwell upon a question, which is in our opinion - and in the opinion of many others. - decisive to our country and all the countries of this region - the question of avoiding the renewal of the war, the question of solving the present crisis in the Middle East by peaceful means, the question of making the mission of Mr. Jarring, the UNO emissary, a successful one, so that the decision of the Security Council of November 22nd be implemented.

As well known we are divided on the appraisal of the June war, but presently I should like to stress that the stoppage of this war - and it is no secret that mighty peace forces headed by the Soviet Union have brought it about - that this additional victory of the peace forces over the forces of war in the Middle East has created new and better conditions for achieving just peace settlements and the solution of conflicts by peaceful means. In South-East Asia, in Vietnam too the world peace forces are active to stop the war, to stop the aggressive military actions of U.S. imperialism, in order to create there too conditions for achieving just peace settlements and in order to save world peace.

We maintain that the Israeli government, whose foreign minister is Mr. Eban, not only fails to found its policy upon these new conditions, not only fails to aim at just peace settlements, but also hides from the people the real readiness of the Arab countries - or at least of most of them, and foremost of U.A.R. - to reach concrete peace settlement and not to return, as far as they are concerned, to the political situation that prevailed prior to June 5th. All this is meant to be based upon the full and trueful implementation of the Security Council's decision of November 22nd.

All the talk about the withdrawal turning us back to the situation that prevailed prior to June 5th (there is even a "wise" man in this house, who warns Israel from returning to "conditions of ghetto and suffocation") is therefore purposely misleading; it is a talk aimed at evading the sincere wish of the Israeli people to achieve peace with the Arab peoples.

The question is not only whether the Arab countries are prepared not to return to the political situation that prevailed prior to June 5th, but also whether the Israeli government on

its part would be prepared not to return to this political situation. Is the Israeli government on its part prepared to give up policy of strength as unsuitable for solving the Israeli-Arab conflict and to approach the solution by peaceful means and on the basis of mutual recognition of the proper rights of both peoples? Is it prepared not to permit the imperialist powers to exploit this conflict for promoting their plans, aimed against the independence and the progress of the peoples of this region, including the people of Israel?

Is it really so hard for this government to draw the only correct conclusion from the history of policy of strength - beginning with the bombardment of Ghaza in 1955 and culminating in the latest military action against Jordan, the conclusion implying, that in spite of all the military victories and all the territorial expansion as a result of the June war, this policy of strength is not apt to solve conflicts between the peoples and to enforce settlements? We are opposed to the renewal of bloodshed. The power politics have failed in the past and continue to fail at present. It is an adventurist policy that did not enhance security and did not stop the bloodshed. On the contrary, it brought about additional dangers to peace and security.

All the evidence shows, that under the conditions created and according to the decision of the Security Council the retreat from the occupied territories will definitely bring about real peace settlements, will make both Israel and the Arab countries progress towards the peak of the much-desired Israeli-Arab peace and will also pave the way for direct peace and security negotiations.

The Foreign Minister, I assume, realizes that the government will not be able in the long run to persevere in its obstinate opposition to the retreat from the occupied territories and to the implementation of those paragraphs of the Security Council's decision, that concern the Israeli government itself. This attitude is becoming more and more isolated throughout the world. The decision of the African Unity Conference demanding the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied territories is a further prove to this isolation. We demand from the government to reveal to the people the facts about the activity of mighty peace forces throughout the world aimed at implementing the decision of the Security Council. We hope there is a shift, however slight, in the Israeli government's attitude towards the mission of Mr. Jarring. The Minister of Labour, Mr. Allon, said sometime ago that we would treat Mr. Jarring as a tourist, unless he brings the rival sides together in direct negotiations; but now there is a tendency to negotiate with the Arab countries through the good offices of Mr. Jarring. We hope

that this slight change spells a shift of positions. This shift is not enough, however, and we hope that the last word has not yet been said.

We call upon the government to draw the lessons from the past: Not only is the annexation of territories to the detriment of Israel and of peace, but the contemporary world cannot stand it either. Not the competition between the Defence Minister and the Foreign Minister as to which of them will hold a stronger influence in the occupied territories will bring about peace and understanding between the two fraternal peoples, the Jews and the Arabs, but the respect of the peoples' rights and the peoples' freedom.

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## WHITHER DRIFTS MOSHE SNEH?

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By UZI BURSTEIN

(Abridged from ZO HADEREKH - 21.2.1968)

A long route - far from communism and its principles - has traversed Moshe Sneh since he started his discussions in the Communist Party of Israel which culminated in the split.

A decisive station on this way was the enthusiastic attitude adopted by the Mikunis-Sneh group in support of the six days war and of the government waging it.

But since that war Sneh provides evidences in his articles and public speeches that not only did he abandon communism but also how he stood forth in the first lines of anti-communism, and of the anti-communist instigation in Israel. He returned to the nationalist camp - to his original melting pot. There is no difficulty in proving this. Some examples will suffice.

### IMPERIALISM - NONE OF THE SORT

In the first chapter of his article "Boundaries and Reservations" (KOL HA'AM 12.1.1968) Moshe Sneh demands from the Soviet Union and, as a matter of fact, from the communist movement as a whole, a decisive somersault "from contemplating the Israeli-Arab conflict as a conflict between imperialism and anti-imperialism to considering it as a national conflict between neighbouring states". With this conception "the creative development" of Sneh has come into full expression. Two years ago he still maintained that two basic contradictions characterised the Israel-Arab conflict - that of imperialism and anti-imperialism and that which is embodied in "the conflict of two nationalities".

Only the second contradiction is in force now, according to M. Sneh. Imperialism ceased to be a factor in the Israeli-Arab conflict, because only the national conflict between neighbouring countries does exist.

The events of the last years, especially those of the 5th of June and their outcome have proved the justice of our opinion that the principal and fundamental conflict in our region is that existing between imperialism and the anti-imperialists. Imperialism is responsible for the Israeli-Arab conflict. It fans this conflict into bloodshed and wars. It exploits to its own interests the reactionary governments in the region. It exploits more than ever the Israeli government - the "government of national unity". Imperialism, especially the American one, has armed the Israeli Army before the war, supported it during the war and became its reliable proof for

aggrandizement and annexation after the war.

M. Sneh strives to prove that the war of June was utterly devoid of any American inspiration. Thus he wrote in his aforesaid article: "The theory that Israel would not dare to exercise its right for self-defence without American consent was refuted". This was said eight months after the war. It was uttered after the meeting between Eshkol and Johnson, a meeting held - as was maintained by General H. Hertzog - after Israel had rendered a great service to the interests of the United States in the region by the war launched by it and by the victory achieved against the Arab countries.

It is worthwhile, too, to quote the words of Haim Ya'ari in DAVAR (3.2.68) reacting on the pre-congress theses of Meir Ya'ari of MAPAM. DAVAR reveals the difference between the war of 1956 and that of 1967: "It is true that a difference exists. In 1956 our interests were integrated with the British and French interests, whereas in 1967 the case was otherwise. Was it really otherwise? Only a political babe-in-arms would believe that the six days war was waged in an international political vacuum. Though we were alone in the field of battle, we were not alone in the general campaign against the Egyptian provocation. M. Ya'ari strives to obscure the international aspect of this campaign and the influence which the United States exerted on its course.

"M. Ya'ari would just like to discover a difference between the war of 1956 and that of 1967. He would detect that in the first we were linked with Britain and France who proved to be a shakey prop, whereas in the second we were linked with the United States. This link still stands for us."

Such is the right answer to M. Ya'ari. It holds good particularly in regard to M. Sneh. Ya'ari only obscures the connection whilst Moshe Sneh denies it altogether. We maintained in the very days of the war of June and still maintain today, that this war was the product of American imperialist machinations to overthrow the anti-imperialist regimes in Egypt and Syria and of a plot aiming at occupying new territories. In the frame of this appraisal we do not ignore the mistakes committed in Egypt and other Arab countries, including the closing of Tiran Straits, the incorrect and harmful declarations on the annihilation of Israel, irresponsible radio broadcasts in the Hebrew language, and horrible pictures and negative declarations in television. These mistakes wrought harm to the anti-imperialist forces in our country, in the Arab countries and in the rest of the world. They were exploited in the most efficient manner by the government of Israel to instil in the minds of people the fear of annihilation and to mobilize it

for war against the Arab countries. However, it is evident today, on the basis of facts and documents, that in spite of those mistakes, Nasser had no intention of launching war against Israel. Rabin held the same opinion in the interview he gave to HA'ARETZ (22.12.67) on the occasion of ending his service as Chief-of-Staff. To the question "Do you consider that Nasser did a wrong calculation when he thought that this matter would not necessarily culminate in war and did not foresee this war before he was embroiled in it?" He replied "Yes I consider it so."

This war was launched by Israel in coordination, and with the approval and abetment of American imperialism - without which she would never have been able to start this war.

#### ANTI-SOVIET INSTIGATION

We may ask not M. Sneh but those who are still members of his party, whether the policy of serving imperialism, of flaunting the just national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, of the slogan of "not one refugee, not one inch of land" did not lead to bloodshed and wars?

Is it not evident today that it would have been possible to prevent the last war - and the Soviet Union acted towards this end - had it not been for American imperialism which supported, abetted and directed Israel in this war? Is it not evident today that war did not solve any one of the problems confronting the State of Israel but made them more complicated? The aims set by American imperialism were not achieved, nor had the the professed aims of the government of Israel, been realized. Peace and security are ever receding. On the threat of an additional war spoke Messrs Sneh and Dayan in their recent brotherly appearance held in the Mann auditorium.

M. Sneh has an answer even when he is obliged to contradict himself and confess the growing dependence of Israel on American imperialism. In an interview which Sneh gave to DAVAR daily (5.1.68) he was not ashamed to state that Soviet policy has deepened the dependence of Israel on the United States. It is below our dignity to answer this unbridled instigation. Certainly it is known to M. Sneh that he is no original in the accusation that the Soviet Union is guilty of reactionary actions. Sneh also wrote about Soviet policy supporting anti-Israeli pan-Arabism - in other words his conclusion is that the Soviet Union upholds the tendency of annihilating Israel.

We ask the members of Sneh's party: Do you really believe these slanderous words of M. Sneh or do you believe what the Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, Kossygin, said in the United Nations assembly of July 1967 and reiterated in his



interview to "LIFE" magazine that the Soviet Union is not against Israel but against the policy of its government which jeopardizes peace. Kosygin reiterated time and again the support of the Soviet Union for the right to existence of the State of Israel.

#### COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR THE ESHKOL GOVERNMENT

M. Sneh and his colleagues in the leadership of the group do not propose fully to carry out the Security Council resolution of 22.11.67 because in the preamble of this resolution it was explicitly stated "No territorial advantage from war", and the first article demanded the withdrawal from occupied areas. The withdrawal from occupied areas is connected with the abolishing of belligerency and with the recognition of Israel. On this basis a possibility was created for settling all the other problems by peaceful methods - such as the refugee problem, the free navigation problem and the fixation of frontiers.

The attitude of Sneh is altogether not different from the the official government attitude "against unconditional withdrawal". He wholly identifies himself with the attitude of Eshkol who demands direct negotiations when he says:

The Government of Israel demands categorically from the Arab states to accept direct negotiations. M. Sneh reiterates in another way what Eshkol said in his press conference in London.

Nothing was said in the Security Council's resolution about direct negotiations. In fact, the sweet words of direct negotiations conceal the real tendencies viz: the demand for the submission of Arab countries to Israel.

The very "direct negotiations" constitute recognition of Israel by the Arab states without Israel recognizing the Palestinian Arab people and its rights and without Israel being ready for any concession towards direct negotiations. If this was right in the past, today the matter has assumed seriousness because direct negotiations mean recognition of that Israel which holds the occupied areas and thus giving advantage to the occupying force in contradiction to the Security Council's resolution.

Undoubtedly, the obstinate attitude of the Eshkol government is an outcome of the backing which they receive from American imperialism. M. Sneh does even connive on the growing enslavement of the government of Israel to American imperialism. On the joint declaration of Johnson-Eshkol he writes in a leading article of his paper (10.1.68): "It is a general declaration which does not tell much." Such appraisal came when all the newspapers in the United States and Israel considered that the meaning of the joint declaration was the tightening of Israeli connections with the United States. Israel acts today in coordination with American imperialism and in conformity with its behests more than ever. According to KOL HA'AM "nothing is new!" Nothing was changed by the meeting of Eshkol-Johnson.

## EVEN IMPERIALISM IS FAIR AND SQUARE

The space is too short for enumerating all the subjects on which M. Sneh wrote in his article "Boundaries and Reservations".

One more point: In the fourth part of his article (Kol Ha'am 19.1.68) M. Sneh needlessly strives to prove that the State of Israel has the right of existence as follows:

"Besides the natural historical right which the Jewish people have for a national, independent state of their own in Palestine, the State of Israel has to its credit an international verdict which stamped on it the seal of belonging to the nations of the world. After the first world war the League of Nations endorsed the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Israel."

Even in this item is an innovation as regards M. Sneh when he refers to the decision of the League Nations. It is known that the League of Nations was established after the first world imperialist war, after the victory of England, France and the United States on Germany, Turkey and their allies.

The League of Nations decided on 1922 to entrust the mandate on Palestine to England, which means that it endorsed the partition of the Ottoman heritage with an official seal in accordance with the Sykes-Picot agreement and with the British occupation of Palestine and Transjordan. In its plea for imposing the mandate, the League of Nations was demagogically assisted by the Balfour Declaration of 1917 concerning "the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine". England, out of its imperialist calculations, and on the basis of its policy of "Divide and rule", published 50 years ago the Balfour Declaration. Thus M. Sneh has discovered an imperialist evidence for the Jewish rights in Israel! But there is consistency in continuing to go from Zionist attitudes to pro-imperialist ones and to bless - though indirectly - the decision which sanctioned colonial occupation of our country. M. Sneh deems it just and right to ignore the struggle of the Arab people against the British rule and stresses "that the struggle against the colonial foreign British rule" was conducted solely by the Jewish population"...

Reaction naturally exults with satisfaction and does not find any real difference between the political attitudes of Sneh and the official government attitudes of the Zionist parties. It is even more convenient for the government and reaction that Sneh should appear as a "national communist" and as such to defend their policy and conduct an anti-Soviet instigation.

Whither are Sneh's followers drifting today? Will they not draw conclusions from the ideological deterioration to which M. Sneh has driven them? From the discussion regarding the "differences between the Eshkol government and those which preceded it" M. Sneh has risen to full support for the Eshkol government. From "a little bit of criticism on the policy of the Soviet Union" he has risen to an unbridled instigation against it. From a little bit of less internationalism and anti-imperialism he has risen to nationalism. What is left to M. Sneh and his followers but to conduct instigation against our Communist Party? Before the split and up till now they spread lies on the attitude of our party. Many members of the group do not even read the publications of our party in order to know from first source our opinions on the problems confronting the people of Israel and the solution we suggest. Do they really believe that, we, communists, whose activity have been devoted all these years to struggle for the security and future of Israel - that we are against the existence of our country? Have not the eight months since the war been evidence that we were right when we opposed the war? Is it not clear to them that the attitude of the Soviet Union is and remains a consistent attitude for the insurance of the security and independence of all the peoples of the area?

In spite of the crisis which shakes Israel today, in spite of the growth of reaction and chauvinism we believe that the day is not far when the people will be convinced of the justice of our path - the path of Israeli patriotism and proletarian internationalism. It is imperative, then, to contemplate and draw conclusion as to the impasse, to which Sneh is leading his comrades in the party. The sooner, the better.

ON THE PRE-CONGRESS THESES OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST  
LEAGUE OF ISRAEL  
.....

The preparations for the 9th National Congress of the Young Communist League of Israel to be held in Tel-Aviv from the 18th-20th of April 1968 are being carried out at full swing.

Fruitful discussion of the pre-Congress theses are now underway in all the district and local organizations of the YCL.

We hereby give a summary of the first part of the pre-Congress theses under the topic "THE Y.C.L. OF ISRAEL BETWEEN TWO CONGRESSES".

In our next issue we will give a short review of the second part of the pre-Congress theses with the following subjects:

- \* The working youth in Israel;
- \* Education in Israel;
- \* Youth organizations in Israel.

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THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF ISRAEL BETWEEN  
===== TWO CONGRESSES =====

The 8th National Congress of the Y.C.L. of Israel was held in December 1961.

According to the constitutions of the Y.C.L. the 9th National Congress was supposed to be held in the year 1965.

The reasons for postponing the National Congress as explained in the theses are:

- \* The split that befell the Communist Party and the Y.C.L. in the year 1965.
- \* The aggressive war which was launched by the Israeli government in co-ordination with the imperialists against the Arab countries in June 1967.

The theses explain in details the destructive of the nationalist faction that had split from the Y.C.L.

The activities of this nationalist faction aimed at enforcing a change in the political line of the Y.C.L., a change if accepted would have shaken the bases and foundations of the

internationalism, and will endanger the Jewish-Arab unity of the Y.C.L., a unity which was tempered through long and hard struggle against nationalist deviations.

The leaders of this faction tried to enforce nationalist and opportunist strange views to the political line of the YCL, views that go contrary to the Marxist-Leninist policy of the Communist Party of Israel.

Among other things, the leaders of this faction tried to penetrate to the ranks of the YCL a feeling of suspicion and mistrust towards the Soviet Union. They tried to injure the fraternal relations of the YCL with the W.F.D.Y. and other fraternal youth organizations under the false pretext that these organizations stand against the interest of Israel.

The leaders of this faction tried to enforce strange methods to the organizational work of the YCL. They openly violated the principle of democratic centralism, more than once they refused to submit to the decisions of the Central Committee.

The leaders of this faction tried to mobilise the YCL against the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel and back the Mikunis-Sneh group which was a minority in the C.C. of the Party.

Thanks to the firm stand of the CC of the YCL this nationalist faction was isolated and its destructive activities limited. 80% of the members of the YCL had denounced this nationalist-opportunist faction and remained faithful to the Marxist-Leninist policy of the Communist Party of Israel.

The theses call upon the members of the YCL to learn the lesson from the destructive activities of this faction and draw the following conclusions:

- \* To widen and deepen the political and ideological education in the YCL and arm its members with the tested principles of Marxism-Leninism.
- \* To carry out a restless struggle against strange ideas and theories that penetrate to our organization from the capitalist surrounding.
- \* To watch carefully the application of the statute of the YCL and specially the principles of democratic centralism.
- \* To strengthen and develop the Jewish-Arab unity in the YCL.
- \* To develop the feeling of respect in the YCL towards the Communist Party of Israel and its Central Committee.

\* To strengthen and develop in the YCL the feeling of solidarity and confidence towards the Soviet Union and the Komsomol.

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The theses sum up the all-round activities of the YCL since the 8th National Congress.

#### A. THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE YCL

In the field of the political struggle the theses analyse the wide and diverse political activities of the YCL during the last years. These activities aimed at mobilizing the Israeli youth, Jews and Arabs, in the fight for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

These activities include:

- \* A wide campaign for peace against the spreading of atomic weapons. Members of the YCL had collected more than 18,000 signatures on a petition against atomic weapons.
- \* Demonstrations, protest meetings against the close ties between the rulers of Israel and the neo-Nazis in Bonn.
- \* Diverse activities against the military fascist regime in Greece and for the release of all political prisoners there.
- \* The dominant political activities of the YCL in the period under discussion were the acts of solidarity with the heroic people of Vietnam, against the aggressive war of the U.S. imperialists in Vietnam and the war crimes being committed there.

Demonstrations, pickets, street-meetings in front of the USA Embassy in Tel-Aviv were organised, this beside public meetings all over the country in solidarity with the people of Vietnam. Members of the YCL had actively participated in the campaign for collecting medical aid for the people of Vietnam.

The theses stress the importance and necessity of intensifying this struggle, and the possibilities of involving new sections of the youth in it.

- \* On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution the YCL organised exhibitions, film shows, about the life of the youth in the USSR. Meetings and celebrations were organised, leaflets were distributed to disclose the slanders of the Israeli ruling circles against the USSR.
- \* The YCL was an important factor in the general struggle for democracy against the policy of discrimination towards Arabs in Israel, for the abolishment of the military rule in the Arab populated areas. Many activities were organised to develop the friendship between the Jewish and Arab youth

for equality and full rights for the Arab youth in Israel.

- \* Together with the Communist Party of Israel the YCL under difficult conditions, organised many activities against the aggressive war launched by the Israeli ruling circles in co-ordination with the imperialists in June 1967. The cardinal slogan of the activities in this field was: NOT WITH THE IMPERIALISTS AGAINST THE ARAB COUNTRIES, BUT WITH THE ARAB PEOPLES AGAINST IMPERIALISM.

Together with the C.P., the YCL in leading a hard struggle against the expansionist policy of the Israeli ruling circles, and against the atrocities being committed in the Arab occupied territories, for the implementation of the Security Council's decision concerning the Middle East crisis.

The YCL is doing its best to convince new sections of the Israeli youth that the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied territories will open the way for a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict based upon the just national rights of both sides.

In all these activities of the YCL efforts were always made to draw up new sections of the Israeli youth to these struggle which coincide completely with the vital interests of the people and youth of Israel.

#### B. DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH

Concerning the activities of the YCL for defending the rights of the youth, the theses review achievements and dwell upon shortcomings. It is necessary, the theses say, to establish closer ties with the youth in the factories at schools and universities. Members of the YCL should be more active in the "Working Youth Trade Union Organisation". One of the main duties of the YCL is to persist in uniting the masses of the youth and mobilize them in the struggle for work, higher wages, better social conditions, lower school and university fees.

#### C. WINNING NEW MEMBERS TO THE YCL

The theses review the efforts that had been done in order to win new members to the YCL. It is mentioned that during the year 1967 the ranks of the YCL had been increased by 14%. The target for the year 1968 is to increase the membership by 25%. This can be achieved through:

- \* Educating new instructors to the YCL.
- \* Strengthening the personal contacts of members of the YCL with youth.
- \* Improving the explanatory work, and popularizing the policy

of the Communist Party so that it may be better understood by the youth.

- \* Strengthening the "Children's Organization", which constitutes an important source for supplying new members to the YCL.

#### D. THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE YCL

The YCL published two monthly magazines in Hebrew "INYAN" and in Arabic "EL-GHAD".

The theses stress the importance of these publications for the work and activities of the YCL.

The standard of the two magazines had been raised greatly since the 8th Congress. This was an important factor in increasing their circulation among the young generation.

It is a matter of great importance to see to it that both magazines should be issued more regularly and brought closer to the problems facing the youth in Israel. More popular and more interesting editing of the magazines will no doubt give better results to the efforts made for increasing the circulation.

#### E. SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The theses stress the importance of the sport and cultural activities of the YCL. These activities are important means to bring the youth closer to the YCL. In the 8th Congress special attention was paid to activities in this field and it was decided to set up as many sports and cultural groups as possible. Many branches of the YCL had organized such groups which helped a lot to develop their work. More could have been done in this field, this is an urgent task of the YCL.

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In its 18th Plenary Session the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel had discussed in deep the situation of the youth in Israel and the tasks of the YCL. The CC of our Party had evaluated highly the achievements of the YCL.

"This" - the theses says - "is a source of pride and encouragement to the Young Communist League of Israel."

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

On February 23-24, the 4th National Conference of the Communist Party of Israel took place in Haifa. More than 200 comrades took part, including the members of the Central Committee, the Central Control Commission, members of the district and big local branch committees, members of the Central Committee of the YCL and activists. The Conference was opened by comrade Zahi Karkabi, secretary of the CC; chairmen on the second day were comrades Uzi Burstein and Tawfiq Toubi, members of the Political Bureau. The report to the Conference was given by comrade Meir Vilner, secretary of the Political Bureau. 33 comrades took part in the discussion - Jews and Arabs - who showed a high degree of unity and optimism.

The Conference issued a call to the Israeli working people, a message of greeting to the Budapest Consultative Meeting, and a message of congratulations to the Central Committee of the CPSU on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Soviet Army.

### ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOUNDED

In February 1968, the Israeli Association for Cultural Activities (according to the first letters of the Hebrew name shorted to "Eilat") has been founded here. Its aims are: the broadening and distribution of progressive culture among the Israeli working people; the organization of cultural and educational projects for furthering cultural and social advance of Israeli citizens; activities to deepen understanding between peoples; establishment of cultural clubs and libraries; connection with progressive cultural organizations in the country and abroad. The chairman is the Israeli writer and poet Mordechai AVI-SHAUL, secretary is Gabriel Kot. Address is P.O.B. 22087, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

### YIGAL ALLON: ISRAEL, A PARADISE FOR INVESTORS

Igal Allon, Minister of Labour in the Eshkol Government, said in a speech, addressed to the Jewish Journalists Conference:

"The Investment Law recently adopted by the Knesset, converts our country into a paradise for investors." ("Jerusalem Post", 25.2.1968)

## O B I T U A R Y

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel issued on 6.3.1968 a special announcement on the sudden death of Comrade FUAD K H O U R Y , member Secretariat of the Central Committee, Communist Party of Israel.

Comrade Fuad Khoury, died on 6.3.1968 in the Affula Hospital after a short illness.

Comrade Fuad Khoury, aged 48 years, joined the Communist movement in Palestine in 1945 during the British mandate. Started his public life as an activist of the teachers trade union. For this activity, he was banished by the British authorities from his home town, Nazareth, to Hebron. After the formation of the State of Israel, he was expelled by the Israeli authorities from the teaching profession in the Nazareth Secondary School, for his trade union activities in defense of Arab teachers rights.

In 1950 Comrade Fuad Khoury was elected at the 11th Congress of the Communist Party of Israel as a member of the Central Committee and continued to be elected as such in all other Party Congresses. A short time before his death Comrade Khoury was elected as member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee. For a number of years he served as the Secretary of the Nazareth District Party Organisation.

Since 1954, when the first elections to the Nazareth municipal council took place Comrade F. Khoury was elected leader of the large Communist bloc in the Nazareth municipal council.

Comrade Khoury was a respected and beloved leader of the people of Nazareth and the district, well known for his struggle in defense of their rights and in upholding the cause of friendship between Jewish and Arab peoples, the cause of just peace between Israel and the Arab countries, in defending the just rights of the Arab population of Israel and friendship and solidarity with the Soviet Union.

The death of Comrade Fuad Khoury is a great loss to our Party and to the working people of our country.

Thousands took part in the funeral of Comrade Fuad Khoury on 7.3.1968 in Nazareth including delegations from party branches and from neighbouring villages. Comrade Meir Vilner and Emile Habibi eulogized Comrade Fuad Khoury at the end of the funeral procession. Nazareth Municipal Council, Workers Local Council, and a number of municipal local councils in the district and many other public institutions sent their representatives.



FEBRUARY 1968

COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT  
P. O. B. 26205 TEL AVIV ISRAEL