

# Israel and Middle-East Unity:

## A Left-Wing Israeli View on the Need for Federation

*Not in the  
Headlines*

### East and West

Why is Joe Stalin like Mae West?

Answer: Books by both of these noted literary lights have been banned by the Canadian government. Mae West's *Diamond Lil* and *The Constant Sinner* may not be imported into that bastion of democracy, and the same is true for Stalin's *Questions on Leninism*. So notes a United Press dispatch from Ottawa for May 13.

### Mr. Dooley On Corruption

Congressman E. J. McCarthy (D., Minn.) has reminded the House that Mr. Dooley already said it:

"I never knew a pollytician to go wrong until he's been contaminated by contact with a business-man."

### Master Race

The London *Sunday Observer* (Feb. 24) records the following two facts about the life of British colonial ladies and gentlemen in Malaya, where the Stalinists do not have the same civilized attitude toward horse racing:

"A race meeting arranged for the Saturday after the late king's death was not canceled, as were most functions; it was 'held in mourning.' 'Jockeys,' said the official announcement, 'will wear black armbands.'"

"In Singapore last year it was discovered that race day and election day coincided; the government postponed the elections."

## Israel — —

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They will be like rats in a trap. Those among them who will not lose their lives as a result of the "help" of the West will be shipped out of here by the "liberating" East.

**Must we not do something to prevent this gruesome fate? Will our representatives be like the Polish ministers who, on the eve of the destruction of their country by the Nazi conquerors, engaged in "border conflicts" with their neighbors? Will we be like the people of Poland who, on the eve of their doom, applauded the acts of their ministers?**

Brothers and sisters, let us do something together for the peace of this country and for world peace!

For the "Third Camp List"—

Joseph GOLOMB  
Shalom ZAMIR  
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(Translated by Al Findley)

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The following article is a translation from the Israeli left-wing periodical Ha-Iton Ha-Democrati, edited by M. Stein. (The position of this group on the war question was published in LA in our issue of Dec. 10, 1951.) The present article is its election manifesto, drawn up at a time when it planned to run a "Third Camp list" of candidates. Because of government restrictions on access to Arab villages, it decided to boycott the elections instead, however. Regardless of the wisdom of the latter decision, the document itself is of great interest, we believe.—Translator.

### TO THE PEOPLE—

#### BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

No one asks any more whether or not there will be a war. The question that is asked is when the Third World War will break out. When we open our morning papers we look to see if the war has already started.

Is this an imaginary fear? No.

The world has become too small to hold both the capitalist system and the "Soviet" system. Not because of the differences between the two systems, but rather because of their elements of similarity. In both societies the people are exploited and oppressed by a small privileged minority. Both are oppressive social orders which seek to entrench themselves and to expand. It is therefore very "natural" that each will block the other and that they will end up quarreling.

There is no basis for the hope that the Middle East will be able to stay out of the coming war. Quite the contrary. One of the belligerents lives on the doorsteps of the region; the gates are wide open and there is no one to stop him. The rulers will flee and the population will welcome the invaders with trumpeting and cheers. There is good reason why this neighboring belligerent will march. Our region is rich in goods needed for war, and it is the crossroads of the world. Is it at all possible that a belligerent power will fail to take advantage of the situation?

#### We Are "Expendable"

Of course, the opposing side will not "neglect its obligations." There will be no simple abandonment of this important strip of territory. The opponent will destroy all that can be destroyed, to prevent the enemy from enjoying the riches of the region. The valuable assets of the area will be consumed in the conflagration, and the opponent of the invader will not shrink from the most extreme scorched-earth policy; it will use all the methods of destruction. After all, this is not the U.S.A., nor is it Europe! Here the work of destruction can be done thoroughly. However, it will not be able to prevent the entry of the invaders, and it is doubtful whether a serious attempt will be made to prevent the conquest. The forces necessary will be heavily engaged elsewhere, in regions more important to them.

There is no doubt that, if the present relations in the political situation of the Middle East remain as they are today, the Middle East will be one of the worst sufferers in the coming war.

The situation can be entirely different if the countries of the Middle East unite and if their great neighbor India joins them.

#### Unification Needed

Such a unification can be achieved by the desires of its inhabitants if they realize: (1) that great dangers face them as a result of their geographic position and their weak political structures; that the Middle East will serve as an open road between the belligerents and a convenient battleground for the contenders; (2) that the differences that divide them are insignificant in comparison with the terrible slaughter and destruction that looms before them all.

If, as a result of these considerations, the peoples got together to defend themselves against both sides, a new and entirely different situation would prevail in this area. The doors would be closed to the invaders and the people would do

their best to prevent the entry of a foreign power. Each of the opposing blocs would then have to weigh seriously every act of theirs that affects this region. Our area would no longer be considered a virtual vacuum and its inhabitants would no longer be considered dirt to be trampled upon.

**Unification of the Middle East will not only serve to lessen the sufferings of the area in the coming war but can give impetus—a great and powerful impetus—to the unification of the entire East, and help in keeping the world at peace.**

#### Third Force in the East

A great social upheaval is now engulfing the East. Nations that for hundreds of years were exploited by the "lords of capital" and by the capitalist powers have risen and are fighting for their freedom. In their fight they are accepting the aid of the enemy of the capitalists—the new totalitarian ruling class. These people, who have been oppressed and exploited for centuries, do not want to exchange their present oppression for totalitarian slavery. The nations of the East are thirsty for freedom, they want to walk upright, they want to live as human beings. But they need help in their difficult struggle against their present overlords and they take it from whoever gives it. They find no other power outside of the two blocs that can give them substantial aid.

But—the East itself can and must become a force, a force separate from and independent of the existing two camps. In the East live a majority of the human race. Both sides draw much of their own war potential from the East. Even more than others, its people need a humane social order, a social order different from the two which are dominant. In addition, by rallying all those who desire freedom and progress for mankind, wherever they may be, the East will become a powerful third force in the world.

#### Israel Can Help

**The emergence of the East as an independent force with its own policies will completely alter the relationship of forces in the world and may prevent a new world war. What the East needs to accomplish this task is, first, a recognition of its power, and, second, taking hold of and consolidating this power. Unification of the Middle East would serve as a basis for this consolidation.**

**Israel can contribute a great deal to the steps necessary to the process of unification of the Middle East and India.**

The masses of Arabs do not want a "second round" [of war against Israel]. They are tired of the inefficiency and downright criminal deeds of their rulers as well as with their false promises. They want peace with Israel. The best proof of this is that the Arab rulers have given up most of their demands and are only insisting on one issue as a condition for peace with Israel, i.e., the return of the Arab refugees. They make this demand not because they are concerned about the fate of the refugees; the Arab rulers did nothing in all this time to ease the refugees' suffering. For them this suffering became a source of income with which to line their pockets, just as a section of the old Jewish population lives prosperously on the suffering of the new immigrants, by benefiting from the funds that are being raised to aid the latter. The Arab rulers too are lining their pockets with the money that comes from foreign lords to aid the Arab refugees. The only reason the Arab rulers demand the return of the refugees as a condition for peace with Israel is the pressure of the refugees themselves and of the peoples of the various Arab countries.

But can Israel accept this condition for peace? Can the state admit hundreds of thousands of

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"fifth columnists"? Can it turn out thousands of immigrants from their homes and occupations and return these to their previous owners—the Arabs? Can Israel afford to undertake the cost of resettling hundreds of thousands of Arabs at a time when it is working hard and hardly has enough for the settlement of the masses of Jewish immigrants that are streaming into Israel?

Many will ask these questions. They appear logical. But their superficial logic is quite deceptive.

**If real peace were established between Israel and its neighbors this country would enjoy the greatest economic prosperity in its history.**

#### We Need Each Other

The Arab countries need the manufactured goods and technical ability of Israel. The products of Israel need Arab markets. For an Israel which is at peace with its neighbors and has a solid economic base there will be available loans and funds that would dwarf the moneys now collected for the purpose. Then and only then will a real settlement program for new immigrants be possible. The return of the Arab refugees to their fields—a majority of which are not worked at present—will not hinder such settlement. On the contrary it will help. The new immigrants need not only housing; they also need a source of livelihood. They will be able to get this. Not the destroyed Arab "houses" or tents or quonset huts, but houses fit for human habitation; because they will then have the building materials and the immigrants will be able to afford them.

From the camps of the new immigrants there arises today a terrible cry of anguish, to which the ears of the old settlements are deaf. Their plight is horrible. Children die for lack of sufficient food and medical aid. The strength of the parents dwindles from day to day. These needs will not be satisfied by the \$40 million promised now, nor by a half billion, if that much were collected. As long as Israel is surrounded by enemies, all moneys will go down the drain.

There is no basis for the fear that the Arab refugees will become a "fifth column." These refugees are broken from the terrible load of difficulties which they carried and which they are still carrying. The main targets of their hatred are their own rulers who betrayed them. If they are given the right to return to their lands—if Israel were to give them this right not as a tactical move or as a result of foreign pressure but in recognition of their right to continue to live in the country where they and their children were born—if they were to return to being citizens with equal rights who could look forward to a pleasant future for themselves and their children, then there is no doubt that they will be surpassed by very few in their loyalty to the state of Israel.

#### Jews in a Trap

**Giving the Arab refugees the chance to return is an act of justice that requires no special compensation. But the fact is that under the present circumstances such an act will bring Israel peace with the countries around it, real security and economic prosperity. In addition it will make possible the unification of the Middle East and will be an important factor in the preservation of world peace.**

Furthermore, justice and democracy are not divisible. A country that conducts itself unjustly and with a lack of democracy toward outsiders is not the soil for the growth of justice and democracy internally.

And you, dear reader: do not say "The people will not accept this." For you are the "people." Do not say "The people will not understand this," for you are the people.

Brothers and sisters, the Western powers will not defend the Middle East. They will only help in its destruction. The Soviet Union will not liberate the Middle East but will enslave it in a totalitarian slavery. The greatest dangers of all are reserved for the Jews in the state of Israel.

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