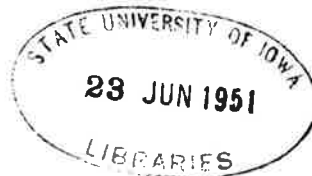


The Jewish Labor Bund



Published by the

**World - Coordinating Committee of
Bundist and Affiliated
Jewish Socialist Organizations.**

175 East Broadway New York 2, N. Y.
ORchard 4-1587

Bulletin

Vol. IV, No. 3-5 (36-38)



March-May, 1951

MAY-DAY STATEMENT OF THE BUND

CENTRAL BUND BUREAU FOR THE U. S. AND CANADA

Workers of the World, Unite!

Comrades and Friends:

With the extermination of six million brethren of our people by the Nazi henchmen were also murdered the great masses of Bundist workers and followers in Poland and all throughout Eastern Europe. Yet the Nazi bandits did not destroy our ideals — they failed to erase our Socialist creed.

We, Bundists who managed to save ourselves from the appalling disaster, consider it our duty — with our comrades and friends who had come to the U. S. and Canada prior to the outbreak of World War II — to raise once again the Bund banner. Here, as well as in a number of other countries, we continue our struggle for the tenets of the Bund movement.

A few months ago, the first conference of Bundist organizations and group in the U. S. and Canada established a Central Bureau for the purpose of directing the Bundist activities in both countries.

Owing to technical difficulties beyond our control, the publication date of the present issue of the BULLETIN has been delayed.

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Today, on May Day 1951, the Central Bureau decided to re-establish the old continental Bundist tradition and address to you our May Day greetings. May Day is, above all, our Socialist jubilee, and we do not wish to let the Communists or others who disgrace Socialism monopolize this festive day.

Only six years have passed since the end of World War II, and the world is now once again in imminent danger of war. Lasting peace, the passionate aim of humanity, is still far from attained.

Everywhere, throughout the entire world, the common people want to prevent a new world conflagration. They know that a third world war, with the disastrous forces of atomic weapons let loose, would cause still greater destruction, still more bloodshed, still more dead and wounded than the previous hostilities.

Everywhere, throughout the entire world, the peoples yearn for a true and lasting peace. Yet as long as a significant portion of our globe is subjugated under the military rule of the Soviet Union, as long as the masses in the Stalinist countries suffer the hardships of Communist dictatorship, humanity cannot possibly free itself of the danger of repeated wars. And as long as a large portion of the world still remains under the influence of world capitalism, as long as entire continents are still a field of the capitalist race for profits — the true brotherhood of nations must remain but an unattainable dream.

Only a world order based on liberty and justice, on a democratic planned economy for the common welfare, on a free federation of nations — a world order of democratic socialism — will be able to call to life the long-desired dream of suffering humanity—

THE ORDER OF EVERLASTING, UNDISTURBED PEACE ON EARTH.

Owing to its ages-long experiences, the Jewish people knows better than others the hardships of wars. In a world of the rich and the poor, of the strong and the weak, the Jewish population is the most defenseless of all. The Jews suffer most not only as a result of direct war-wrought destruction, but also due to the wild bestiality, the bloodthirsty inclinations, and the cult of physical force caused by wars. We Jewish Socialists realize that, as a result of the failure to remove in time the declining capitalist system in Europe after World War I and to replace it with the order of free, libertarian, democratic socialism, there developed there the venomous growths of Fascism and Nazism which brought about the Second World War. In the course of that war we Jews suffered our greatest national disaster: Six million Jewish men, women, and children perished by the bloody deeds of the Nazi bandits — were put to death in the most excruciating manner by Nazi Germany.

At the present day when, owing to the danger of Soviet aggression, our country is increasing her defensive forces, it suffices not that American labor oppose the policy of shifting the burden of armament onto the shoulders of the lower-income groups of the American population, that it merely oppose a policy which uses patriotic slogans to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. The U. S. and Canada, which, together, now produce more than one-half of the world total of the most important industrial goods, are in a position to change the appearance of the entire globe if they be reconstructed — in accordance with the will

and the mandate of their population — along the lines of democratic socialism.

Yet America will be able to fulfill this great, historic mission only after her workers will decide not only to struggle against all forms of capitalist reaction on the home front, but to oppose capitalism itself as well. For this purpose, American labor must build its own independent political party — a labor party — which would be possessed of ambitions similar to those of British labor: — to win the confidence of this great nation for a radical, socialist transformation of all forms of public life.

JEWISH WORKERS:

You, Jewish laborers of the U. S. and Canada were chosen by fate to continue the struggle of our slain brethren in our old homelands — to gather the Jewish masses under the banners of Socialism — for your fruitful activities in the field of Jewish national culture, for national renaissance, the Yiddish language, and secular cultural achievements in Yiddish.

On May Day, let our call be heard for strengthened Socialist activities, for national-cultural creativeness in the countries where we dwell. The way to deliver the Jewish people — a nation of the world — and to free it of suffering and of the dangers to which it is exposed, is not by building a state of our own, not by subscribing to the ideals of Zionism, but by waging the fight, together with all libertarian forces of the world, for the world's transformation along the principles of liberty, justice, and socialism.

Jewish toilers of the U. S. and Canada! Together with the entire Socialist movement, together with the labor movement and the libertarian movement, let us intensify the struggle for the socialist reconstruction of our country and of the world. On May Day we sound the call to demonstrate:

Against capitalism! Against war! Against Fascism! Against anti-Semitism and racial discrimination! Against colonial exploitation! Against national self-denial! Against Communist totalitarianism!

For a true peace! For freedom and democracy! For the brotherhood of peoples! For the Yiddish language and secular culture in Yiddish! For Socialism!

Long live the Socialist International! Long live an independent labor party in the U. S.! Long live May Day! Long live the Bund!

*Central Bureau of Bund Organizations
in the U. S. and Canada*

WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING - EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY

Just as it is impossible to delete from the distinguished history of France's working population the remarkable event of its uprising in 1871, the famous uprising of the Paris Commune; and just as it is impossible to erase from Jewish history its famous chapter of Prophets; so it is now impossible to separate the Jewish labor movement under the banner of the Bund from the famous uprising of the Warsaw ghetto which began on April 19, 1943.

It will forever remain noted in the modern history of mankind, in the annals of man's struggle for dignity, liberty, and freedom, that in the oppressive darkness of the Nazi subjugation of Europe, at a time when the power of the motorized divisions of Nazi Germany reached its acme, the uprising of the Jews in the ghetto of Warsaw was the *first* act of armed resistance of a people persecuted and oppressed by the Nazi bandits.

Almost all the nations of Europe subjugated by

Germany enjoyed for centuries independent statehood, and many possessed their own generals and admirals, their own diplomats and statesmen who despised Jews as a national minority which had long lost all the tangible attributes of a nation within territorial boundaries. Nevertheless, it was the Jews of Warsaw who first took up arms against the Nazi oppressors and showed all other people, even those who considered the Jews an inferior race, a shining example of an intrepid fight for justice and liberty, for national dignity and final deliverance.

On the eighth anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, we bow our heads in memory of the fallen heroes, in memory of soldiers and defenders of humanity, men like Michal Klepfisz, Abrasha Blum, Adam (Berek) Sznajdmil, and many others. With their lives and with the blood of their bodies they verified again the old maxim, that ideas are stronger than swords, that spiritual power overcomes physical force.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL

May 10th has been chosen as the date of the official celebration of the third anniversary of the State of Israel.

Three years is a very short span of time. It was not a sufficiently long period to cool off the heated heads and the exaggerated expectations of the Zionist troubadours of independent Jewish statehood. The three years of Israel's existence certainly did not shatter the deep belief of the Jewish Socialists under the banner of the Bund that the Jewish brand of nationalistic aspirations—Zionism—does not represent the solution of the Jewish problem, that only the universal victory of liberitarian Socialism will once and for all solve our problems and provide conditions for a peaceful co-existence and cultural advancement of the Jews as a national entity among other nations.

But three years of existence could not help but enhance the State of Israel as a new reality that weighs upon Jewish life everywhere and is particularly important for the upward of one million Jews gathered within the boundaries of the new state. According to the statistical data issued by the Israeli Government,

almost one-half of them are new settlers, who flocked into Israel during the three years of independent Jewish nationhood. No doubt a remarkable achievement. However, not only their well-being, their cultural and spiritual advancement, but the very existence of the whole Jewish community there (not to mention the tightness of the ties binding them with the majority of the Jews that will always remain outside the State of Israel) depends upon the policies of the new state.

This interdependence that binds together the Jewish community the world over, including the Jews of Israel, urges us on the occasion of the third anniversary to call attention to some sore spots in the development of Israel.

The Jewish-Arab relations did not improve during this period, though every responsible leader of the new state realizes that without a peaceful solution of the Arab-Jewish feud no durable peace is possible, and the community's chances to develop an efficient economy are nil. The recent fracas, the constant shooting and brawls on the Israeli-Syrian boundary is a case in point. Obviously, the drainage work of the swamps near the Sea of Gallilee which evoked the bloodshed on

both sides could take on such exaggerated significance only in an atmosphere of chauvinistic nationalism, where both sides are brandishing their swords and inveighing against each other. The still unsolved problem of the many hundreds of thousands of Arab refugees, who are prevented from returning to their homesteads and villages and whose property is as good as confiscated by the conqueror, incites the hatred of the whole Arab world against the Jewish state, and adds oil to the already brightly-burning fire.

In spite of the three years that elapsed since the State of Israel was established, Yiddish, the Jewish language, is still being forcibly silenced and boycotted by the official representatives of the Jewish state. We still remember the utterance of the Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, that "the sound of Yiddish offends his sense of hearing". How could it be otherwise under circumstances where the youth of the country loses not only its contact with, but also its respect for all the moral and ethical values that preserved Jewish existence during all these past centuries. It is sufficient to quote the following lines from the "Hadoar", a Zionist periodical, of May, 1950 ("הדואר, ג' סיון, תש"י) on the

state of mind of the Jews in Israel: "*The majority of the youth have for the first time faced blood-shed. They tasted war and all it stands for. They made peace with the idea that Jews must behave just as Gentiles, that there is no other way out, that the exaggerated moral values of the Jews resulted from abnormal conditions of life in the Diaspora . . . Therein lies the source of the Israelis' exaggerated negation of all that is Jewish outside the State of Israel. More than ever before, the Israeli recruits seem to feel that Jewish life outside of Israel is of no value, that the rupture between them is steadily growing. It is a growing tendency to stake the future on military power exclusively and to consider all other means to establish peace with scorn and contempt*".

These are some of the reasons, but by no means all of them, why the Jewish Labor Bund as well as the entire anti-Zionist camp in the U. S. did not share the expectation of The New York Times editorial of May 4, 1951, which proclaimed on the occasion of the arrival of Ben-Gurion: "*We are sure that Premier Ben-Gurion will find a receptive and sympathetic audience wherever he goes throughout the United States*".

REPARATIONS FROM GERMANY

In the debate of the Bonn parliament, Professor Carlo Schmid, Deputy Chairman of the Socialist Party of Germany, and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, denounced not only the Nazis for their crimes against the Jews, but all Germans for tolerating those crimes. In closing, he declared that the State of Israel, which had the moral and legal right to speak for all Jews, had the right to demand compensation for the moral and material wrongs inflicted on them.

The above lines are an excerpt from "The Nation's" correspondent in Bonn. In regard to this statement of the German socialist, we deem it wise to declare:

The Israeli Government requested that the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union demand from Germany one and one-half billion dollars as compensation to be paid to the State of Israel. The Government of Israel made it sufficiently clear that no compensation for the annihilation of six million Jews is being contemplated by it. The required amount is to be used exclusively for the purpose of rehabilitating the five hundred thousand new Jewish settlers in Israel. However, this

provision made by the Government of Israel is likely to be buried in the archives of the diplomats. World public opinion is apt to consider the amount paid by Germany to Israel as the compensation for the wholesale murder of the Jews.

We are ready to admit that such a false opinion of the man in the street is not sufficient to deny the right of the Jews to receive compensation from Germany for the material losses suffered by the Jews at the hands of the Nazis, and from which Germany profited. We do, however, wish to note that some Jewish columnists, who recently fought indignantly against the demand for reparation by the poverty-stricken former inmates of the concentration camps of Germany, find nothing wrong with the present demand by the Israeli Government.

The inconsistency of some Jewish men of letters is, however, a minor problem. The essential question is whether the State of Israel is altogether entitled to demand compensation from Germany, as if it were the sole heir of the six million slaughtered Jews or the sole representative of the Jews all over the world.

The State of Israel represents only a segment of the Jewish world-wide nation, it is but a small part of it. As such, it is entitled only to its share in the distribution of Germany's material compensation in question. The demand has a symbolic significance, and it

is therefore important to emphasize that Israel's request for the entire compensation is anti-democratic. It is unjust and contrary to democratic principles for not more than ten percent of the population to usurp the right of the remaining ninety percent.

CENTRAL BUREAU OF BUND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA PLENARY SESSION

The first national convention of Bund organizations in the U. S. and Canada, which took place in October, 1950, appointed a Central Bureau to supervise the activities of this movement.

The first plenary session of the Central Bureau of Bund organizations in the U. S. and Canada was held on April 28, 1951, in New York City, under the Chairmanship of M. L. Polin of Chicago.

In addition to the New York delegates, the session was also attended by representatives from Philadelphia, Boston and Toronto. The session lasted a whole day, from 10 in the morning until 8 in the evening. In addition to the usual reports on the local and regional activities, the delegates were presented with a review of the Bund activities all over the world, delivered by the secretary of the Bund World Coordinating Committee, Emanuel Nowogrudsky.

Ch. Sz. Kazdan and I. Celemensky, members of the Central Bureau in New York, initiated a debate on the Bund's activities among the members of the Workmen's Circle, the new Jewish immigrants, and in the existing Jewish cultural institutions. The Resolution Committee, appointed during the session, consisted of Dr.

Emanuel Scherer, Dr. Emanuel Pat and Sarah Szweber.

The session accepted, among other statements, a resolution pertaining to the situation in Spain and a manifesto calling for a united Jewish Socialist movement.

The members of the session as well as the invited guests attended the May Day banquet sponsored by branches of the Workmen's Circle sympathetic to the Bund ideology. The festivities took place in the Capitol Hotel, New York, the same evening, April 28th. M. L. Polin and his wife received an ovation from the assembled four hundred members and guests, after Dr. Emanuel Scherer revealed to them the 60th birthday of Mr. Polin.

The full list of the members of the Central Bureau who attended the plenary session on April 28th, 1951, comprises: M. L. Polin, Chicago; P. Simon, Philadelphia; Alexander Erlich, Boston; N. Neslen, Toronto; Max Alexandrowicz, I. Celemensky, I. Gutgold, Ch. Sz. Kazdan, Meyer Mendelsohn, Emanuel Nowogrudsky, Dr. Emanuel Pat, Dr. Emanuel Scherer, L. Stolar, and Sarah Szweber, all of New York.

SALUTE TO THE WORKING POPULATION OF SPAIN

The plenary session of the Central Bureau of Bund Organizations in the U. S. and Canada adopted a resolution pertaining to the recent events in Spain, which reads as follows:

Socialists all over the world, as well as all liberty-loving people, received with profound pride and deep satisfaction the news from Franco Spain about the uprising of the working population there, about the imposing strikes of protest that first took place in March,

1951, and that were since repeated in various towns and counties.

This wave of protest strikes in Spain, the multiplying signs of revolt against Franco, are particularly significant and of great import. It is the first time that an anti-fascist mass movement gained impetus in spite of the terror and suppression, in spite of the murderous efficiency and the monopoly of all the modern means of influencing the people, which are characteristic not only of Franco Spain, but of every totalitarian regime.

The recent events in Spain inspire the whole democratic world and verify its belief that the longing for liberty and justice cannot be strangled even by the most blood-thirsty totalitarian regimes. Such a craving lives among the millions of working people and is destined to dethrone the dictators of today, even as it once put an end to the tyrannical kings and emperors in the past.

The plenary session of the Bund Central Bureau in the U. S. and Canada takes the opportunity to convey its whole-hearted greetings to the workers of Spain, whose fortitude and fighting spirit remained unmolested

in spite of the appalling years of the fascist yoke under Franco. We protest solemnly against the renewed diplomatic recognition of Franco Spain and against giving financial aid to its foul regime, events which are a betrayal of all the ideals of democracy. Jewish Socialists, whose brethren were annihilated by the millions by the beastly Nazi regime, the senior partner of the Franco regime, send their salute to the courageous workers of Spain and appeal to the true liberals all over the world to help the Spanish warriors against the Franco clique, the warriors for liberty, democracy and socialism.

DAVID DUBINSKY ABOUT THE BUND

We obtained the consent of the President of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, David Dubinsky, to publish verbatim his letter to Mr. Harry Rosenfeld of the Displaced Persons Commission in Washington, concerning the misgivings in some official quarters as to the ideology of the Jewish labor movement. The writing speaks for itself and requires no commentaries.

Doubtless, the responsiveness of David Dubinsky and his sensitivity to false accusations and misjudgments of the Jewish labor movement is a sign of human integrity and nobility, two ingredients which are prerequisites for greatness of character.

The letter reads as follows:

March 26, 1951

Mr. Harry Rosenfeld,
Displaced Persons Commission,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rosenfeld:

I was greatly disturbed when I learned that on the list of subversive organizations there is one which has been among the leading democratic parties of Eastern Europe. I myself was a member of this organization before coming to the United States and it was this organization that gave me my trade union background. As a matter of fact, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has been giving it moral and financial support for many years.

I am referring to the "Yiddische Arbeiter-Bund," the Jewish Workmen's Bund, a social-democratic party. For over fifty years, the Bund, as it is called, has stood in the forefront of the fight for equal national and social rights for the Jewish and non-Jewish working population of Eastern Europe. They have maintained an anti-Communist position and they were always the target of the Communists wherever the Communists took over.

The Bund had educated the Jewish working population in a spirit of democratic idealism. It

steadfastly opposed the encroachment of international Communism on the European labor movement. This organization was suppressed by the Soviet-dominated regime in Poland and, as is well known, two of its outstanding leaders, Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter were murdered by Stalin's executioners.

It has come to my attention that the Mapai Party of Israel is also being classified as subversive. If this is so, it is wholly unwarranted by the facts and is clearly an affront to the leading political party of the State of Israel and to its leaders who now head the government. Moreover, its program and tradition follow the pattern of the British Labor Party, so that to brand Mapai as subversive is tantamount to making the same charge against the British Labor Party which, of course, would be ridiculous. Mapai represents the majority of the workers in Israel, who broke away from the World Federation of Trade Unions when it became obvious that it was serving as an instrument of Soviet foreign policy.

I hope I have helped to place both the Bund and the Mapai in their correct and proper perspective.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID DUBINSKY

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ERNEST BEVIN IN MEMORIAM

Ernest Bevin died suddenly of a heart attack — a few weeks after he tendered his resignation as Britain's Foreign Secretary. His was a life which demonstrated with particular clarity the rise of labor for the past half century.

Prior to his appointment as Foreign Secretary in the Labor Government, Bevin was, for five years, Labor Secretary in Churchill's select War Cabinet — a group of a very few individuals who directed the British war effort against Nazi Germany. It was Bevin who mobilized and watched over Britain's entire manpower policy.

As Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin became the first man of the common people to take over the helm of the traditionally aristocratic British Foreign Office. This fact in itself marked a revolutionary development in British political life.

He did make mistakes. His mistakes concerning Jewish developments, however, stemmed mainly from his failure to understand the problems of Jewish life, not from purported "anti-Semitism", of which he was accused by a number of Zionist and also Communist

writers, even after his death. Just as a Jew may very well be an anti-Zionist without becoming an anti-Semite, so may a non-Jew be anti-Zionist and not anti-Semitic. Bevin merely failed to find the proper way to give vent to and apply his anti-Zionist stand.

Under his reign as Foreign Secretary, Britain gave up her rule over India and other possessions (including Palestine), and transformed the Empire into a free commonwealth of independent nations. Under his influence the Marshall Plan was fashioned into a powerful tool of European recovery. He also helped — like a true man of labor — to expose the sham laborite and sham socialist qualities of the Soviet regime.

Ernest Bevin had dedicated himself, heart and soul, to the great world struggle for liberty, democracy, peace, justice, and socialism.

The Bund World Coordinating Committee cabled on April 16, 1951, to Morgan Phillips, General Secretary of the British Labor Party: "We deeply regret the death of Ernest Bevin. Salute to the memory of an intrepid warrior for the cause of the workers, for the cause of democracy, peace and socialism".

FROM OUR MOVEMENT

WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

ANNIVERSARY

New York:

The Association of Former Concentration-Camp Inmates, Ghetto Fighters, and Partisans called a mass celebration of the Warsaw ghetto uprising anniversary on April 8, in New York. More than 800 people attended the gathering.

On April 19, the exact date of the anniversary, the New York Bund Organization arranged a meeting in Freedom House, New York. The meeting included, in addition to short addresses, a program of recitations of appropriate selections by Yiddish writers and poets.

On April 22, an anniversary meeting was organized by the World Congress of Yiddish Culture, the Concentration-Camp Association, and the Association of New Immigrants.

Boston:

An anniversary meeting was organized in Boston on April 29, 1951. N. Gerowicz was the principal speaker.

Patterson:

An anniversary celebration was organized in Patterson, N. J., in which Mrs. Dinah Michalewicz took part.

Paris, France:

A well-attended public anniversary celebration took place in Paris on April 18.

The Lodz Association at the Paris Workmen's Circle arranged, in addition, a gathering at which the memory of the martyrs slain in the Lodz ghetto was honored.

A special section of the Paris daily UNSER SHTIME was likewise dedicated to the martyrs of the Lodz ghetto.

UNSER TSAIT ANNIVERSARY

The annual banquet for UNSER TSAIT, the Bund monthly, was this year dedicated to a celebration of the magazine's tenth anniversary. More than 500 guests attended the banquet, which was particularly interesting this year. The fund-raising committee announced contributions and pledges amounting to a total of almost \$6,000.

Miami Beach, Fla.

The first successful public meeting of the newly-formed Bund Group in Miami took place in the home of John Mill, Bund founder and pioneer, where Dr. B. Hoffman, of New York, reported on his trip to

Israel to a group of interested guests. \$100 for the Bund monthly, UNSER TSAIT, was collected at the gathering.

Los Angeles, Cal.

H. Himelfarb, the emissary of the Bund World Coordinating Committee, spent a considerable period of time in Los Angeles, addressing local Jewish labor groups and organizations and raising funds for the Coordinating Committee. A special Committee of Welcome was set up by the Los Angeles Jewish labor groups to arrange the stay of the emissary.

Montreal, Canada

On April 6, 1951, a memorial meeting honoring the memory of H. Erlich and V. Alter, Bund leaders put to death by the Soviet Secret Police, took place in Montreal.

The Bund Organization in Montreal called a public meeting to protest the amnesty granted to the Nazi war criminals. The meeting, at which William Dodge, leader of the T.C.F. (Canadian Socialists), was guest speaker, attracted widespread attention in the city.

Argentina

The Bund Group in Buenos Aires has been particularly active for the last few months. A new association, the Artur Zygielbojm Aid and Culture Association was recently formed. The YID-BUCH Publishing House is preparing a B. Michalewicz memorial book. J. J. Trunk's *Khelm Stories*, with illustrations by J. Shloss, also published by YID-BUCH, is now ready for distribution.

The first issue of a new Bund organ, UNSER GEDANK, is scheduled to be published shortly in Argentina. Maxim Stern of Rio de Janeiro is taking an active part in the preparation of this periodical, which is meant to place emphasis on problems of the Bund movement in Latin America.

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