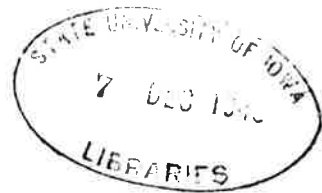


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November 1948

ELECTION AND ZIONISM

The electioneering in the United States is over. Nobody could tell where the competing candidates in their efforts to catch the votes of the Jewish population, would stop in their unbridled support of the most extreme aspirations of the Zionist movement. In this respect there was almost no difference between Mr. Truman, Mr. Dewey, and Mr. Wallace. None of them has had any inhibitions as to the scope of his support of Zionism or as to his promised help for the State of Israel, in case he occupied the White House. The Progressive Party, captured and operated by the Communists, excelled in unscrupulously pouring oil on the inflamed tempers of the Zionist-minded Jewish voters. Wallace knew perfectly well that he did not have the slightest chance ever to be reminded of his promises as President of the United States. As to the Communists, well, they are known for their unscrupulous political methods and their disregard for the truth.

Even under conditions of normalcy such a deluge of flattery and lipservice to the Zionist cause probably would have aroused some unhealthy reactions. But the Jewish community of the United States is at present a far cry from normalcy. The inflamed state of mind of the Jews poisoned even before the election campaign by nationalistic and chauvinistic germs, received the election promises of the candidates even as a dry sponge absorbs water. The Jews swallowed

Contents

1. Election and Zionism.
2. The BUND Conference.
3. The Statements on the State of Israel.
4. Resolutions Adopted by the Conference.
5. BUND in Sweden on the Assassination of Count Bernadotte.
6. Heartbreaking Appeal.

the bait and asked for more. The harm done by this way of vote-catching is incalculable. It seems that many a Jew believed in the integrity of the speakers and took their promises seriously. If so, they will not be able to live for long in such a fool's paradise.

The elections in the United States, which have now come to an end, also affected this country's official policy in regard to the State of Israel ever since its establishment on May 15, 1948. All utterances and official declarations made by the responsible statesmen of the United States, whether in the United Nations, abroad, or at home, reflected the need of their respective electoral chiefs. These fleeting requirements were too often responsible for the steps taken by the United States, with respect to the new State of Israel. The danger of similar practices

is apparent. Now that the election is over, we may assume that the long-neglected realities will again reassert themselves in the official policy of the United States. But the harm is already done. At a time when the new State of Israel needs more than anything else

a realistic approach and self-restraint in order to establish durable peaceful relations with the many millions of its Arab neighbors, the Zionists are influenced by the vacillating attitude of the United States.

Second World Conference of the "BUND"

(New York, October 1-8, 1948)

The Second World Conference of BUND organizations convened in New York during the first week of October, 1948. More than 60 delegates representing 18 countries attended the sessions. The attention of the Conference was concentrated mostly on two main issues, the world situation of the Jews and the declaration of Socialist principles. Other issues on the agenda included organizational problems, press and publishing activities, et al. Special attention was paid by the Conference to the report on the situation of the Jewish D. P.'s in the former concentration camps of Germany, Austria, and Italy, delivered by Comrade Bafal Ryba, who recently visited these countries on behalf of the BUND World Coordinating Committee. Serious deliberations followed this report. They held the attention of both the delegates and the numerous guests attending the meetings.

The Conference was altogether an imposing gathering. It began on October 1 with a public meeting attended by about 1000 BUND members and friends of its movement from among the Jewish Socialist ranks in New York. Norman Thomas addressed the meeting on behalf of the American Socialist Party and received a warm ovation. Scores of cables and greetings from abroad as well as from various organizations in the United States were received. Among the greetings were those from COMISCO (Socialist International), from the British Labor Party, from the Socialist Parties of France, Belgium, Norway, and Sweden, from Leon Blum, from the Workmens' Circle, the Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish Socialist Farband, and from some Trade Union organizations in the United States. A remarkable letter of greetings was received from the Jewish Socialist Organization in London.

The success of this first public gathering, held in

the Pennsylvania Hotel, set the mood for the succeeding sessions of the Conference which were held in the Rand School. After a week of deliberations, the Conference adopted a resolution on the Jewish post-war problems (including the State of Israel) proposed by Professor L. Hersch of Geneva, Switzerland; a declaration of Socialist principles proposed by Dr. Emanuel Scherer, New York; and a new organizational status for the world coordinating body of the BUND, proposed by Emanuel Nowogrudsky, New York. In addition, the Conference adopted unanimously a resolution regarding the Jewish D.P.'s in the former concentration camps and a resolution accepting the report on the activities of the BUND World Coordinating Committee during the 17 months of its existence. On October 8, 1948, the Conference was closed with a farewell banquet attended by all delegates and several hundred guests. The banquet was held at the Capitol Hotel.

The BUND Conference had to contend with the marked animosity of Jewish public opinion as mirrored in the Jewish press. While the Conference was in session and weeks after its closing, the Jewish newspapers and periodicals went to great lengths in attempting to assail the Conference and its results. This attitude displayed by Zionist-minded Jewish literary circles was in keeping with the tendency of every extreme nationalist movement—Jewish or non-Jewish—to stifle any expression of differing opinions. Hatred of the BUND ideology affected individuals to the point where they found themselves unable to quote accurately the statements adopted by the Conference.

The political differences of opinion among the nearly 60 delegates to the Conference came to the surface during the discussions on the Jewish problems

and the declaration of Socialist principles. A minority resolution on the Jewish problems introduced by a group of delegates received 10 ballots in the final voting. The resolution on the Jewish problems based on that previously adopted at the Coordinating Committee Executive Session received the votes of 39 delegates, with three abstentions. Both the adopted statement of the Jewish problems and the minority proposal can be found elsewhere in this issue.

The declaration of Socialist principles as proposed by Dr. Emanuel Scherer aroused some misgivings on the part of two or three delegates among the 60, a small minority. The Conference adopted almost unanimously a statement of Socialist principles based on democracy, liberty, and the respect for individual rights and privileges. The text of this declaration of Socialist principles will be published in our next issue.

As a result of the discussions held regarding the problems of organization, the Conference decided upon a new organizational form tying the various BUND group and organizations throughout the world more closely together and designed to implement more effectively the decisions of the World Coordinating Committee. Among other changes, the new setup provides for the establishment in the near future of a Latin-American Secretariat, to further the BUND's

activities in the Jewish communities of Latin America.

The Second World Conference of the BUND, successfully held in the face of opposition and hatred on the part of the nationalist-minded elements among the Jews, is doubtless an important starting point for the further development and advancement of Jewish Socialist activities. The first World Conference of BUND organizations held in May, 1947 in Brussels, took place a comparatively short time after the conclusion of the Second World War and was naturally preoccupied with the new conditions created in Jewish life by the Nazi annihilation of the Eastern-European Jews. Under these circumstances the First World Conference of the BUND could only lay the foundation for the world cooperation of Jewish Socialist groups. The Second World Conference of the BUND held in October, 1948, took a step farther along the same path, that had led the BUND to glorious achievements.

The following is a list of countries, delegats from which participated in the Conference: UNITED STATES, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, URUGUAY, MEXICO, CUBA, FRANCE, BELGIUM, ENGLAND, SWEDEN, ITALY, GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, S. AFRICA, PALESTINE.

The Jews in the World and the Tasks Ahead

(Statement Adopted by the Second World Conference of the "BUND")

The Second World Conference of the BUND reaffirms its approval of the previous statements on Jewish problems, viz., the statement adopted by the First World Conference in May, 1947, and that on the State of Israel adopted by the Executive Session of the World Coordinating Committee in June, 1948.

The Conference considers, as before, the following as the basic principles of Bundist activities:

(a) The Jewish people is and will remain a people of the world, with nine-tenths of it dwelling outside Palestine;

(b) The State of Israel, being a result of an artificial partition of Palestine and being established

by a bloody struggle among Jews and Arabs, is not only far from solving the Jewish problem all over the world; but also carries grave dangers for the great and important accomplishments of the Jewish community in Palestine, even for its very physical existence.

The Conference therefore re-states the belief that now, as before, the most important task and the most pressing duty of the Bundist organizations is to carry on the struggle for the national and social deliverance of the Jewish popular masses in the countries where they dwell; this struggle should be waged together with the Socialist and democratic forces of the particu-

lar countries and by concentrating around the Bundist organizations all Jewish vitalizing forces truthfully striving to defend the existence and the free development of our people all over the world.

As formulated at the First World Conference of the BUND, the fight against fascism, reactionary and totalitarian forces, the danger of a new war, and for democracy, Socialism, and international peace; the fight against anti-Semitism; the fight for the abolishment of the Displaced Person camps and for free immigration laws devoid of national and similar discriminatory clauses; the struggle for economic reconstruction and a decent standard of living for Jewish workers; the fight against assimilation and for the free development, strengthening, and popularization of Yiddish culture; the fight for the rights of the Yiddish language and for its use in public and private life; the struggle for the establishment of normal basic schools with Yiddish as the language of instruction; the fight for democratic Jewish community councils and other Jewish autonomous bodies; the fight for secularity in Jewish life, for social aid for the victims of totalitarian regimes of all forms, and similar issues—remain, as before, of vital importance to the masses of the Jewish people and their vanguard, the BUND. On these issues must be concentrated the efforts of our comrades and of our organizations all over the world.

The very same course of action applies to Palestine. Jewish Socialists and democrats, wherever they may be, must not limit themselves to a negative attitude toward the State of Israel. They should strive to remove the dangers created by the Jewish state and work for peace with the surrounding Arab states and for collaboration with the Palestinian Arab population on the basis of free national development of both nationalities, insured by real United Nations guarantees and by the establishment of a common Jewish-Arab state constructed on the principles of democratic federalism.

At the same time it is important for the physical and spiritual existence of our people, both in Palestine and outside its boundaries, that the Palestinian community do not detach itself from the remainder of the Jewish people and do not become a tribe or a

people of its own. The relationship of the various parts of our people all over the world should be kept up and strengthened as much as only possible. The Yiddish language should be taught in the State of Israel; that language should enjoy full rights and privileges in the Israel schools and in public life.

Thus concentrating all its energies upon the constructive struggle for satisfying the real needs of the Jewish working masses, the BUND shall continue to play the vital and leading part in Jewish life which it had played during its glorious past.

Minority Proposal

As a result of a thorough debate regarding the state of Jews in the world, the Second World Conference of the BUND maintains:

1. The Jews were and shall remain a people of the world; the Jewish problem always was, is now, and will remain a world problem, and as such it can be solved only in a world scale: it is possible to remove radically all injustices practiced against the Jews when and only when the world shall be reconstructed on a Socialist basis;

2. Owing to the war destruction and continual emigration, the Palestinian Jewish community grew both in numbers and in its relative importance in Jewish life; the 700,000 Jews, whose national consciousness and whose organization are strong, now represent a most important part of the Jewish people;

3. The British administrative authorities did not, unfortunately, remain neutral throughout the last period of their rule in Palestine and, in flagrant reversal of promises given, supported the Arab faction against the Jews with funds, weapons, and military leaders; after the liquidation of British rule under the mandate, the Palestinian Jewish community had no choice—Jewish-Arab relations being in a state of considerable tension—but to organize itself into an independent state unit; under the circumstances, only such action enabled the Jewish community in Palestine to fight off the attack of foreign Arab armies which are led by and serve the interests of pro-Nazi feudal groups politically dominating the lives of the Arabs.

4. The Jewish masses all over the world should incessantly be warned not to fall prey to illusions that the establishment of the State of Israel solves the Jewish problem in a world scale;

5. The establishment of the State of Israel is but a palliative solution even as far as the Jewish population in Palestine is concerned. The peace, the security, the economic existence, and the political future of the Jewish population in Palestine can be permanently assured only as a result of a Jewish-Arab understanding in the country and of a Socialist victory in the world; the Jewish population in Palestine should strive to arrive at a direct understanding with the Arab as soon as only possible—and understanding which should lead to a future voluntary federation or to the establishment of a bi-national state; the Jewish community in the State of Israel cannot build its future upon the uncertain foundation of narrow-minded nationalism and chauvinism not only because such a course would be antidemocratic, but also because it would be in direct contradiction to the practical interests of the Jewish community, which is now and will at best remain a small island closely surrounded by Arab areas;

6. Regardless of the political status of the Jews in the State of Israel, the closest relations must be established between the Israel Jews and the Jews outside Palestine. Yet this *rapprochement* must never occur on the basis of the greatly harmful and wholly illusory view of the political Zionists who consider the so-

called Diaspora merely as a reservoir of manpower and material aid for a future expansion of the State of Israel both at the expense of the surrounding Arab countries and in the sense of the eventual liquidation of the Jewish settlements outside Palestine;

7. A cultural *rapprochement* between the Jews the world over and the Jewish community in the State of Israel will be effectively achieved only after the Zionists will destroy the mental barriers which they have built up over a number of years between the Palestinian Jews and those outside Palestine. The Yiddish language, spoken by great masses of Jews at the present time, should be granted full rights in the public life of the Palestinian community;

8. We deem it our duty to oppose the Zionist monopolistic tendency to mobilize all and everything for the State of Israel; this course must be opposed by us as harmful to the existence of the Jews in the countries where they dwell. Even the Jewish community in the State of Israel will feel secure only when world Socialism will emerge victorious over the forces of capitalism.

9. The great majority of the Jews dwell and will continue to dwell in the countries of their present domicile. Thus the BUND should dedicate its forces to the struggle of the Jewish masses for their national and social rights, for the existence of the Jews as a people, based upon modern Jewish culture and Jewish autonomous life. This was and remains the historic mission of our party.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE OF BUND GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

On the Jewish Socialist Movement in the United States

The Second World Conference considers abnormal the existence in the United States of two separate Jewish Socialist organizations, based upon the Bundist principles of democratic Socialism and of the belief in the future of the Jewish people in the so-called Diaspora, of which one is affiliated with the BUND

World Coordinating Committee while the other is not. Such a split in the Bundist forces in the United States hampers the BUND in becoming the leading and binding factor in the American Jewish labor movement which it should and could be. The Conference gives vent to the wish that the Executive Bureau of the BUND World Coordinating Committee and the American Bundist organizations bring about

as speedily as possible the merger of the BUND Organization and the Jewish Socialist Verband according to the basic principles of the BUND ideology and under its glorious banner.

Appeal to the Membership

On Conditions Prevailing in Our Organization

In the present difficult and crucial moment of our history, when upon our shoulders has fallen the heavy burden of opposing, all alone and faithful to the principles of international Socialism and the BUND ideology, the nationalist and chauvinist domination of Jewish public opinion, the Second World Conference appeals to all affiliated organizations and to all BUND members and sympathizers not to allow the existing differences regarding the State of Israel to hinder the local struggles for our aims, as formulated by the Conference. There always existed differences of opinion within our ranks. Now, as always, these differences should be worked out in an atmosphere of comradeship and mutual respect, according to the principles of inner party democracy. The Second World Conference gives vent to its conviction that the affiliated organizations will mobilize all forces at their command to conduct, all together, the difficult struggle for the important tasks ahead.

The Conference also states its fervent hope that the differences of opinion which have recently sprung up between our organization and some circles of the Jewish Socialist and labor movement in the United States would not weaken the traditional and long-lasting friendship existing between that movement and the BUND.

Concerning Our Youth Organizations

The Second World conference of the BUND, after having been acquainted with the report of the Executive Bureau of TSUKUNFT ("Future") Organizations, resolves to convey greetings to the newly established (in 1948) TSUKUNFT groups in Mexico City, Montevideo, and Buenos Aires and the Socialist Youth Club in New York. The Conference also commends the TSUKUNFT organizations in Belgium, France, and England for their ramified educational

work in general and, in particular, for successfully organizing an international summer camp in 1948.

The Conference records its belief that at present it is of particular importance to strengthen Bundist propaganda work among young people, so that the chauvinist, Zionist, terrorist, and pro-fascist ideologies used to poison the minds of Jewish youth may be effectively combatted. Faced with this grave danger, the BUND must now more than ever pay close attention to and expand great efforts in the struggle to win Jewish youth for the ideals of democratic Socialism, for building a modern Yiddish culture, for the principles of brotherhood among nations—the only foundations capable of insuring the existence of the Jewish people among the peoples of the world.

The Conference hails the decision of the TSUKUNFT organizations to undertake anew the publishing of their organ, the YUGNT VEKER. It appeals to the BUND Coordinating Committee to aid the activities of the Bundist children's and youth organizations in all countries where such organizations exist.

On Bundist Press and Publishing Activities

The Second World Conference of the BUND feels that the monthly *Unser Tsait*, which has become the central organ of the Bundist movement, is the property of every BUND member and should thus receive every single member's support. Every Bundist organization should see to it that *Unser Tsait* be subscribed to by every member and that it be read by the widest possible group of readers.

At the same time, however, Bundist organization should, wherever possible, publish their own local periodicals; they should strengthen the Bundist publications wherever such exist.

The Conference accepts with satisfaction the report on the activities of the *Unser Tsait* Publishing House. During the short time of its existence, the *Farlag Unser Tsait* managed to publish a series of important volumes. The Conference feels, however, that the Publishing House will be capable of continued successful operation only when afforded the active help of the BUND members. It is the duty of

every member not only to buy the books published by *Unser Tsait*, but also to aid in distributing these books among the general Jewish readers. The Conference calls upon all Bundists and friends of Yiddish books throughout the world to support the *Farlag Unser Tsait* so as to enable it to carry out its plan of anticipated increased publishing activities.

The Conference appeals to all BUND organizations to assign special annual subsidies for *Unser Tsait* and for the Bundist daily *Unser Shtime* appearing in Paris, France.

Concerning the Coordinating Committee Report

The Second World Conference of the BUND accepts the reports on the activities of the World Coordinating Committee and its European Secretariat, and states:

(1) that the process of re-molding of the former BUND relief groups into BUND organizations in the various countries should continue to be one of the main organizational tasks of the Coordinating Committee;

(2) that more attention should be paid in the future to the activities of our groups in the Latin-American countries;

(3) that the newly-elected Coordinating Committee should make accessible to the various organizations propaganda material in excess of the amounts hitherto furnished.

Statement of BUND in Sweden on the Assassination of Count Bernadotte

The following statement was adopted by our comrades in Sweden:

The Jewish Social Democratic Union in Sweden BUND expresses its indignation because of the shameful assassination of the well-known humanist Count Bernadotte, United Nations Mediator in Palestine. This crime placed the Stern Gang terrorists responsible for it as well as all their sympathizers and supporters outside civilized society all over the world. The Jewish Social Democratic Union in Sweden BUND specifically condemns the aggressive nationalist and chauvinist trends within the Zionist move-

On the World Congress for Yiddish Culture

The Second World Conference of the BUND regards the recently concluded World Congress for Yiddish Culture as an important turning point in the struggle for widening and strengthening Jewish cultural creativeness. In spite of ideological misgivings as to some of the resolutions adopted at the Congress, the Second World Conference of the BUND appeals to all Bundist organizations to continue their lively participation in the World Congress activities, at the same time defending the BUND point of view regarding the aims and methods of Jewish cultural activities.

Appreciation of the Jewish Labor Committee Activities

The Second World Conference of the BUND considers it its duty to express its appreciation to the American Jewish Labor Committee for the invaluable aid the latter afforded in the reconstruction of the Jewish communities in post-war Europe. The deep understanding shown by the Jewish Labor Committee for the needs of the Jewish labor sector in these communities evoked the most sincere gratitude of all those who, after our terrifying national catastrophe, occupied the foremost positions in the struggle to build anew and to develop Jewish cultural values; and all those who subscribe to the great ideals of liberty, equality, and socialism.

ment which greatly contributed toward the permeating of this movement with intolerance and terrorist practices.

The Jewish Social Democratic Union BUND in Sweden approves the initiative of the Swedish humanitarian organization "Europe Relief" to establish a special fund in memory of Count Bernadotte dedicated to the promotion of humanitarian and peaceful relations between peoples.

Central Committee, Jewish Social
Democratic Union BUND in Sweden

A Heartbreaking Appeal

The BUND World Coordinating Committee Executive Bureau in New York received the following appeal from Jewish cripples still held in the former German death camps:

"Dear Friends:

I write this letter in behalf of ten Jewish invalids living in a former concentration camp in the American Zone of Germany. We are all most terribly crippled—one of us lost both legs, another both his arms; a special attendant must feed the armless one. All of us suffer greatly. Dear comrades in America, we implore you to help us. Any possible aid is of importance, and we shall be very grateful for it. The crippled men in whose behalf I am making this appeal are from Poland.

We do believe that you will respond to our call, and we are grateful to you for it in advance. Please send us the address of the American Veterans Association of Crippled and Disabled. We asked the Amer-

ican Military Government in Germany to help us, but they said they were unable to do so and suggested we write directly to an invalids' organization in America. We sincerely hope you will forward their address to us.

All the invalids send their best regards. Please reply at the following address:

Invaliden Verband
Lager Herzog
PC IRO Area Team 1025
Hess Lichtenau bei Kassel
GERMANY, U. S. ZONE

(signed) A. Rojt *Chairman*
Jewish Invalids Association

Anyone wishing to contribute to the aid for these invalids should mail his donation to the BUND World Coordinating Committee, Rom 305, 175 East Broadway, New York 2, New York. Please label your contributions "For the Invalids".

WORLD COORDINATING COMMITTEE of
BUNDIST and AFFILIATED JEWISH
SOCIALIST ORGANIZATIONS

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