



*The Jewish  
Labor*

# Bund

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# Bulletin

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## Truce in Palestine

After a bloody war, which began on the very day when the Jewish State of Israel was proclaimed in Tel-Aviv, a war with many thousands of Jewish as well as Arab casualties, a war fought both in the air and on land, a war which deepened in both camps the nationalistic feelings of hatred against each other, Count Bernadotte finally succeeded in bringing about a short-termed truce. Both the Jews and the Arabs reluctantly accepted the conditions proposed by the United Nations and their special envoy and conciliator, Count Bernadotte. Thus a momentary breathing spell was gained, and it is now four weeks since the guns have been silenced.

The task ahead of the United Nations, of world public opinion, and, of course, of Count Bernadotte is to convert the precarious four-week truce into a stable peace duly accepted by both nationalities destined to live together in Palestine—the Jews and the Arabs. Any attempt to force on the Arab countries a solution which they will find contrary to their national wellbeing and to their enhanced sense of national pride and self-assertion, even if such a solution could be found, will only further arouse the enflamed feelings of the hundreds of millions of Arabs and Moslems throughout the world. Such a state of affairs will only drive deeper the sensation of hatred against the Jews and will nullify all hope of future peaceful

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cooperation between the inhabitants of Palestine. The same is true of the other camp: To force upon the Jews a solution which will be contrary to their long-ing for undisturbed economic and cultural-national advancement will never succeed in bridling the right-ful aspirations of the Jewish community in Palestine. Between the narrow walls of the clashing nationalistic interests of the Arabs and the Jews there is insufficient space left for Count Bernadotte and democratic public opinion behind him to find the real solution and establish a real peace in Palestine. Unless world pub-lic opinion will impell both the Zionists and the Arabs, to come to their senses, the difficulties in establishing a real peace will continually increase.

Unfortunately there is little hope of such a devel-opement in the near future. Though the number of

the Palestine Jews, even including all potential new settlers, cannot but remain a small fraction of the Jewish population throughout the world, there is no sign yet that the 90% of the Jews outside Palestine are prepared to perform so useful a service as far as the Zionists are concerned. Thus far, only a small minority of the Jews, prominently the Jewish Socialists under the *Bund* banner, demand as powerfully as only possible to immediately stop the war, to put an end to the Palestine bloodshed and to the destruction of material achievements brought about by work and contributions of many Jewish generations. The Jewish Socialist faction alone among the Jews refuses to regard independent statesmanship as a panacea for Jewish suffering. Neither a separate Jewish State in Palestine, nor these or other boundaries of such a state, nor, for that matter, territorial aggrandizement, are worth the sacrifice of Jewish youth and Jewish life.

No matter what outcome a prolonged war might bring—the losers, in the long run, can only be the Palestine Jews. Time and numbers are working for the Arabs. Hatred toward the Jews, deeply rooted in their communities, will grow poisoned fruits, which will cut off the State of Israel, impoverished and devastated by war, from peaceful cooperation with the neighboring states, and thus render any advancement in the future impossible.

The only things the Jews in Palestine really need are internal and international guarantees for their future national and cultural advancement. This can and should be obtained in a common, democratic, independent Palestine state, in which neither the Arabs nor the Jews will be in a position to force their will upon one another or to deny to each other the fulfillment of their rightful aspirations. Only on this basis can a truly lasting peace between the Jews and the Arabs be established, a peace beneficial to both nations which will further their mutual understanding and their common work for the well-being of all citizens of Palestine. Any other solution, we are convinced, will turn out to be but an armed truce terminated by more or less prolonged bloody clashes.

We Jewish Socialists demand strongly that the war be stopped and that a peaceful solution of the Arab-Jewish difficulties be earnestly worked out. Invisible walls of nationalistic and chauvinistic hatreds bar our voice from permeating the Jewish communities today. Nevertheless, peace between the Arabs and the Jews must be obtained.—Ours is the voice of the future.

To disregard our voice demanding the immediate stoppage of the war means to disregard the future of the Jewish community in Palestine. We hope against hope that this final calamity will be avoided.

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## The Cause of Democratic Socialism

The International Socialist Conference, convened in Vienna during the first days of June, 1948, issued a declaration of principles regarding the cause of Democratic Socialism. With reference to this declaration, we deem it wise to explain anew our own stand in this vital matter.

There can be no doubt about our belonging to the camp of liberitarian or democratic Socialism. We abhor the totalitarian kind of socialism made in Moscow. We are deeply convinced that disregard for human dignity and human liberty does not lead toward the promised land of socialism, regardless of

what the real intentions of the promoters of this totalitarian brand may be. Any attempt to establish a socialist way of life on the basis of only the economics of a society, without real political democracy, cannot lead but to the establishment of a totalitarian monstrosity, such as appeared in the Soviet Union after three decades of totalitarian development. However, we do not believe that true democracy can thrive and develop in a capitalistic society based on free enterprise and individual ownership of the basic means of production. Mankind has reached a stage in its political advancement in which a new socialist

way of life, economic equality, and a planned economy must be established in order to secure human dignity and human liberty—the fundamental elements of democracy. Just as socialism without democracy is a contradiction, so is democracy without socialism today a dangerous half-measure. Without economic security and equality—which, in turn, are not possible without a planned economy—democracy is strongly endangered by attempts against it on the part of representatives of the capitalistic vested interests. And this is the reason of our resisting capitalism no less that we abhor Communism.

We do not, however, believe in an automatic transformation of a capitalist society into a socialist community. The change can be achieved only through a Socialist struggle for power led and organized by a labor movement and headed by a Labor Party. Yet we do not support a labor government established against the will of the majority of the population. Such a course is contrary to our democratic convictions. Such a government will be forced to institute compulsory measures against its own citizens. In our present days, when the trend of history is toward socialism, a minority government is not only harmful, but also unnecessary. The gain in time is not equal to the harm done by such a minority government to the democratic socialist cause. There can be only one way leading to the fulfillment of our aims—the path chosen by the British Labor Movement. Despite all setbacks which may occur, despite a certain amount of criticism which, we feel, can rightfully be applied to the policies of the British Labor Government, the British people are today conducting a truly

historical experiment of creating without terror or disregard to the will of the population a new socialist way of life. Neither the capitalism of Washington nor Moscow Communism is our aim, but democratic Socialism of the London variety.

But it is not sufficient to proclaim one's adherence to the cause of democratic Socialism and, at the same time, relapse into inaction, patiently waiting for an inevitable change in the economic and political atmosphere. The boat of mankind is driven by various currents, even though its general direction is toward socialism. Without our active and strenuous efforts to direct that boat, our cause may become warped. All socialist-minded people must unite both within every nation and on the international forum in order to promote the cause of democratic Socialism, in order to avoid diversions from our path. Mere anti-Communism is by far insufficient to establish our goal,—to convince the majority of the population that their salvation and the answer to their troubles lies in democratic Socialism. Not Socialism against Communism, but Socialism against both capitalism and communism is our battle-slogan, which will enable us to exploit the trends of the future and to command developments to come instead of merely being carried along by them.

We Jewish Socialists have an additional reason for devoting our efforts to promote the cause of democratic Socialism. We are convinced that the subtle flower of Jewish national and cultural advancement cannot grow in the severe climate of Siberia; it can develop and blossom only under the beneficial rays of humanitarian and democratic Socialism.

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## Nationalism on the Warpath

*(A New Wave of Zionist Terror)*

It lies apparently in the very nature of nationalism and chauvinism that whenever a people's nationalist sentiments are overplayed, the freedom of expressing a different opinion, the freedom of worship at a dif-

ferent shrine, the most basic freedoms of human beings become endangered. Something in the atmosphere created by an overwhelming wave of nationalistic feelings makes decency, tolerance, and regard

for elementary human rights as rare as justice in a jungle. We have witnessed such a deterioration in human relations during the bleak years of Nazi domination in Germany, we saw it in Italy when Mussolini's blackshirts came to power. Unfortunately, it was a mistake to think that the Jews, who suffered more than any other community from the totalitarian reign of Nazism and Fascism, were immune to this totalitarian sickness. The events leading to the establishment of an independent Jewish state in Palestine and the proclamation, on May 15, 1948, of the State of Israel, have already succeeded in arousing among the Jews such an atmosphere of nationalism and chauvinism, they have already created such a totalitarian mood, that everybody who dares to put forward an independent opinion is being victimized by an incredible amount of bullying and terror. Nationalism does not brook different views, its daily bread is the *gleichschaltung* of opinion. Nationalism thrives on destroying all those opposing these evil forces.

The malady of nationalism in the Jewish communities throughout the world, nourished by Zionism, has already reached a point where various acts of cruelty are committed. Naturally enough, these brutal acts are most likely to occur when people are most helpless and defenseless against such crimes and cruelties. The Jewish D.P.'s in the former concentration camps of Germany, Austria, and Italy are therefore those who suffer most viciously from nationalism. Here are excerpts from reports which we received recently from our representatives among the D.P.'s:

"A rumor was started in our camp to the effect that a Canadian team was to visit the various camps in order to recruit qualified specialists for work in that country. In the camp Binderwichel, Linz, a course for fur-workers was organized. People hoped to be able finally to escape the hated camp-life by qualifying as specialists. Representatives of the American Joint Distribution Committee even helped purchase the necessary equipment. The course was very popular, but soon letters threatening the instructors with 'loss of life' began arriving from Zionist organizations. Soon afterwards a group of terrorists broke into the trade school, destroyed machinery, and piled the

pieces on a heap of garbage topping them with the inscription, 'Thus perish those who are in our way!'" We are in the possession of a picture showing the broken machinery and the vile inscription.

Another case of brutality, even more striking, occurred in camp Bad Reichenheil. Here a Jewish refugee who refused to heed the draft orders was caught by the Zionist strong-arm men and publicly flogged for his daring. The evil-doers even took pictures of the flogging, which were to scare possible opponents in other camps.

These are but a few instances of Zionist terror. Cases of forcibly inducting Jewish D.P.'s into the Palestine Jewish Army are common. The "draft order" concerns men 18 to 35 years old, and among this age-group Zionist sentiments are weakest at the present time. Most brutal practices are used by the Zionists in their drive to recruit soldiers for the Israel armies. D.P. camp are surrounded by Jewish police at night, sleeping people are forcibly taken to the recruiting offices. Dismissal from work of those refusing to heed the call to arms, refusal to allot the rightful food rations to anti-Zionists, and common brawls are the order of the day.

Conditions in Austria are slightly better than those prevailing in the German camps. The *Bund* members in Austria at least succeeded in establishing the rule excluding them from the jurisdiction of the "draft offices"—since the Bundist had been avowed anti-Zionists even before the establishment of the State of Israel. The Austrian Socialist Party, with which the *Bund* groups retain friendly contacts, was instrumental in this Bundist "success". But even though they are not immediately threatened by the Zionist "draft", the Bundists are still the object of most vicious Zionist practices:

"We are writing this letter," our comrades state, "at a time when all Jewish D.P. camps are being blockaded by Zionist groups trying to enforce the draft order. Bloody battles between D.P.'s and Zionists are a daily occurrence. No camp inhabitants are permitted outside the camps. There is tension in the air. Camp inhabitants who were surprised by the

blockade outside the camps remain outside for fear that they may be drafted into the Israel fighting groups. At the very beginning of these Zionist activities, on May 22, we asked the Socialist Party offices to intervene with the camp authorities on behalf of the *Bund* members. So far the Austrian Socialists' action was successful, and Bundists are not considered bound by the draft orders."

But these acts of Zionist terror are not confined to the D.P. camps. We received word from the Jewish community of one of the Latin American countries that far-reaching sanctions are being applied to all those daring to oppose the Zionist drive for contributions. We quote verbatim:

1) He who is declared guilty by the Jury of Eleven of the "Peoples Court", elected at a meeting called by the Committee of the United Campaign for the Army of Israel, shall be excluded from all social institutions of which he is a member.

2) All institutions of which he is not a member shall be ordered not to admit him to membership.

3) It shall be demanded of all his friends to break all relations with him.

4) All local institutions and campaigns shall be ordered not to accept from him any contributions whatever and not to allow him to contribute to any enterprise.

5) He shall not be permitted any voice or opinion in any Jewish institution.

6) The names of those declared guilty shall be sent to the Government of Israel in order that they be inscribed on a list kept for that purpose.

7) No local Jewish publications shall be allowed to publish any defense of the person or persons judged guilty and condemned by the Jury of Eleven of the "Peoples Court".

It is truly amazing how closely these Jewish nationalist practices follow those employed by the Nazis and Fascists. We shall continue to expose all those incredible acts committed by Jewish nationalists drunk with power. What price glory? . . .

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## The Case of Jakob Friedman

The events which are itemized in the following letter sent by the Executive Committee of the *Bund* to the Jewish Labor Committee and pertaining to the case of Jakob Friedman are an illustration of the difficulties and hardships experienced by a Jewish Socialist in the D.P. camps while trying to do his best for the well-being of his fellow men.

June 30, 1948

Jewish Labor Committee  
175 E. Broadway  
New York 2, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

A Jewish D.P. in the camp Kruglaskatarino, Italy, a former member of the Jewish Labor Movement in Poland, and at present a member of the *Bund* Committee in Italy, is being severely persecuted because of his Socialist and anti-Zionist convictions. His life

and his daily existence in Italy are endangered. It is our opinion that the Jewish Labor Committee should investigate this case of political persecution. We will be very grateful to you for any help you could render to put an end to the sufferings of this D.P. His name is Jakob Friedman.

Here is a short outline of his story:

In January, 1947, Jakob Friedman, together with some other Jewish D.P.'s in Camp Kruglaskatarino organized a special group of Jewish D.P.'s who were anti-Zionist-minded and who did not want to go to Palestine. The activities of this group, its anti-Zionist and pro-Socialist propaganda, immediately caused clashes between Jakob Friedman, as the head of the group, with the Zionist authorities.

However, the influence of this anti-Zionist group grew steadily, and on May 5, 1947, Jakob Friedman

was elected Chairman of the Camp Committee in Krulaskatarino. The new Camp Committee under Jakob Friedman's leadership markedly succeeded in the difficult task of improving the living conditions of the Jewish D.P's in Kruglaskatarino. In addition, this Committee promoted cultural activities, opened a radio studio, a library, etc. These activities were conducted in the Yiddish language; they only enhanced the hatred of the Zionist authorities toward Jakob Friedman.

Disregarding the Zionist prohibition to read newspapers and literature in Yiddish, the Camp Kruglaskatarino library subscribed to the Paris Jewish Daily "Unser Shtime".

At the end of July 1947, two representatives of the American Congress, Messrs. Fulton and Pfeiffer, visited Camp Kruglaskatarino. Before this visit the Zionist authorities invited Jakob Friedman to Rome for a talk, during which they tried to instruct him according to their ideas about what the Jewish D.P's should ask for. Jakob Friedman refused to comply. During the visit of the two Americans, the vast majority of the inhabitants of Kruglaskatarino expressed their wish to emigrate not to Palestine, but to the United States, Canada, etc.

At the end of 1947 the Camp Committee of Kruglaskatarino decided to participate in the World Congress for the Advancement of Jewish Culture, initiated by the Jewish Labor Committee in New York. The Zionist authorities tried in vain to persuade Jakob Friedman not to participate.

On December 3, 1947, during a severe winter Jakob Friedman, on behalf of the Camp Kruglaskata-

rino inhabitants and in his capacity as Committee Chairman, asked the IRO representatives, Messrs Sam and Kraud Gutzish, to provide the barracks with stoves, window panes, etc. On this basis there came to an exchange of harsh words between the Camp Committee and the IRO representatives. On December 5, 1947, a general meeting of all camp inhabitants resolved to ask for other IRO representatives. The Zionist authorities, who already nursed a grudge toward Jakob Friedman, made use of this incident and described the whole proceeding as a revolt against the IRO administration instigated by the rebel, Jakob Friedman.

These events led to the following reprisals against Jakob Friedman: He was evicted from Camp Kruglaskatarino and excluded from receiving food rations from the IRO and the Joint Distribution Committee, a privilege enjoyed by all D.P's; the IRO and Zionist authorities informed the Italian police that Jakob Friedman was an undesirable person not enjoying the right to aid and legal protection; and these same authorities asked the administration of other D.P. camps not to admit Jakob Friedman to any camp under their jurisdiction. As a result of the letter sent to the Italian police, the latter classified Jakob Friedman as a common criminal. Unable to apprehend him, they arrested his brother Feivl and sent him to the concentration camp "Fraschetto de Latre".

We hope that the Jewish Labor Committee will do its utmost to rehabilitate Jakob Friedman and restore his status to that of other D.P's in Italy, for which we thank you in advance.

With Socialist greetings,  
Emanuel Nowogrudsky, *Secretary*

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## Resolution of Protest

### by the New York Bund Committee

The establishment of the State of Israel on May 15, 1948, in Tel-Aviv caused a sharp rise in Zionist terrorist practices among the Jewish refugees in DP camps in Germany, Austria, and Italy—

practices which had been used even before that date by the numerous agents of Jewish Zionist organizations and by their various helpers.

This terror now reached its basest forms in con-

nection with the compulsory draft into the Jewish Army carried out by the Jewish State among the Jewish DP's. All Jewish DP's are automatically regarded as citizens of Israel, without the knowledge or acquiescence on the part of the people concerned. All those refusing to join the Israel ranks are subject to grave maltreatment and vile terror. These people are deprived of any opportunities to work, they are prevented from utilizing their legal entry visas into various countries, they are forcibly taken from their quarters and inducted into military training formations, they are beaten and victimized. We know of instances where food rations issued by the American Joint Distribution Committee and other organizations were taken from these unfortunate victims, where their workshops and tools were broken to prevent them from working at their trades. Lately we received news of a case, in Bad Reichenhal, of publicly flogging a Jewish DP who refused to join the Israel Army. So shameless were the initiators of this vile act that they themselves took pictures of the barbarian spectacle of a Jewish refugee being publicly flogged—pictures which were to help terrorize even further the Jewish inhabitants of the DP camps.

These horribk crimes are even more contemptible because they are being committed against the remnants of the Jewish people, who miraculously escaped death from the hands of the Nazi and Fascist hangmen, against people who are shelterless and helpless because the democratic world has not yet paid its debt to them and, three years after the end of the war, has not yet caused the camps to be liquidated.

We raise our voices in the strongest protest against these inhuman practices by the Zionists.

Who gave the State of Israel the legal and moral right to consider all Jewish DP's as its citizens?

In the name of what principles are these people, who have already suffered so much, deprived of their right to work and live, of their very chance of existence—simply because they refuse to become soldiers of the Jewish Army?

On what grounds and by what authority are people who suffered in the camps for three long years deprived of the right to emigrate to the countries of their choice—not to the country to which they are forcibly taken?

What difference is there between these Jewish strong-hand men and flogging-masters and the Nazis and other sadists who tortured their helpless victims throughout the dark war-years?

The guilt for all these contemptible inhuman acts falls upon not only the Zionists alone, but also upon all Jewish-American relief organizations which do not utilize all the means at their disposal to counteract this flagrant and striking employment of terrorist practices.

All government officials in the camps who condone this beastly chauvinism on the part of Zionist representatives and who allow the latter to trample undisturbed the most elementary rights of the DP's will not be able to atone for these ugly acts.

We condemn all those who are directly or indirectly guilty of the reign of terror instituted over the Jewish DP's. We call upon all individuals and organizations alarmed about these crimes committed upon tens of thousands of Jewish DP's to break their silence, to uncover the shameful truth, to raise their voice in protest, and to stop these criminal activities.

New York, June 1948.

New York Committee of the Bund.



## May Day Greetings of the New York Bund Organization to the British Labor Party

*The following cable was sent to the British Labor Party by the Bund Organization of New York:*

April 29, 1948

British Labor Party  
Transport House  
Smith Square  
London SW 1  
England

Jewish Socialists organized in Jewish Labor *Bund* of New York convey to you May Day Greetings. Your already great internal achievements along with examples of anti-imperialistic policy shown in India and Burma are essential for mankind. Contrary to many American Jews misled by Zionism we consider the British Labor Government as harbinger of new world order combining true Socialism with full democracy. In accordance with the traditional attitude of the *Bund*, we still hold that Palestine cannot solve the Jewish problem. The liquidation of anti-Semitism and the future of Jews in various countries depend

upon cooperation with Socialist and democratic forces among non-Jews. Only way to avoid catastrophe in Palestine is friendly relations between Jews and Arabs within one common truly democratic state based on far-reaching autonomy for both communities and safeguards for security, liberty, and equal national development for both peoples. Confident in ideals you and your government represent, we appeal for effective steps to immediately end bloodshed and restore peace and order in war-stricken Palestine. Aware of your former efforts to mitigate the plight of D.P's, we ask you support the only real way to solve this problem—by admitting D.P's to all democratic countries according to their wishes. Our best wishes for further success from organization with record of martyrdom and socialist devotion hardly surpassed.

Jewish Labor Bund of New York  
*Emanuel Scherer*

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COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
OF THE "BUND"  
AND KINDRED JEWISH  
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In Various Countries

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