

*The Jewish
Labor*

Bund



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COMMUNISM ON THE MARCH

It appeared for a while that the Communist defeat in Korea taught the bosses of the Kremlin good manners. At least, that was the impression the world gained from the recent behavior of Messrs. Vishinsky and Malik, the Soviet representatives in the United Nations, from quasi conciliatory gestures and speeches.

The essence of Communism, however, remains unchanged whether Vishinsky behaves himself or vilifies the representatives of the democratic world from the rostrum of the United Nations.

Dancing to the tune of Moscow, the Communist government of China sent its armed divisions into North Korea to wage war against the victorious forces of the United Nations, and thus to prevent the war there from coming to an end. Was not this a brazen act of enmity sufficient for a country that attempts to obtain recognition from the United Nations in order to become its valid member? Apparently not. China simultaneously ordered its soldiers to "liberate" Tibet from the oppression of the monks and its religious head the Dalai Lama. According to reports, the Chinese Communist army, which has already penetrated Tibet, carries with it not only the Hammer and Sickle to adorn the Himalayan Mountains. The

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Chinese Communists took along with them on their crusade to Tibet a Dalai Lama of their own design, a competitor of the genuine Dalai Lama, who resides in Lasa. If he succeeds in dethroning his rival, it remains to be seen whether the red Dalai Lama will live up to the tenets of Marxism, Leninism, and Stalinism . . .

Despite the musical-comedy aspects of the story, the world deals here with events laden with the

most tragic consequences. Due to the flagrant provocations of the Kremlin and its satellites, wdy 1 peace is endangered and the specter of a third world war looms on the horizon. Democratic forces the world over must remain on the alert and do their utmost to prevent such a catastrophe. Courageous self-restraint, imagination, and wisdom are required. Means must be found to penetrate the curtain of lies, slander, and intrigue erected by the Communist bosses in China and in the Soviet Union. A truly penetrating

and effective propaganda of the truth is the best way to prevent a third world war. But most important, the leading democracies must do their utmost to rid themselves of even the remotest ties with the reactionary oppressors of the Asiatic peoples, the Chiang-kai-Sheks and the Rhees.

Not only in Asia, but all over the world democracy should display its banner of justice, liberty, and freedom.

EVALUATION OF ISRAEL — By Prof. L. Hersch

Professor L. Hersch of Geneva, Switzerland, member of the BUND World Coordinating Committee Executive Council, published in the November issue of the Yiddish monthly "Tsukunft" an article examining the value of independent Jewish statehood and its part in the cultural advancement of the Jews and their preservation of a national identity. Following are excerpts from this interesting article:

"As far as I am concerned, an independent Jewish state is valuable only insofar as it secures the existence and the advancement of the Jews under conditions of liberty and justice. *A Jewish state for the sake of statehood alone, an army for the sake of an army, a police force for the sake of police, cabinet ministers and diplomats for their own sake, are of no value whatever, in my opinion. The most important problem thus becomes: Does the existence of the State of Israel all in itself guarantee the future of our people to such a degree that we ought to rally all our national resources for the task of its further development?****

"My answer is:

"Doubtless an independent state by name only plays an important part in a people's endeavors to live and develop without restraint. But even under conditions of independence, the internal striv-

ing of a people—particularly a numerically small people—toward an autonomous life, notably in the field of national culture, is by far more important than the forms of international independence which, in our present historical era, and especially regarding small states, are not much more than a fiction.

"As long as the State of Israel aspires to absorb the Jews from all countries of their present domicile ("*Kibbutz Goloyes*"), it is forced to follow a policy designed toward *territorial expansion*. It matters little whether a similar course is proclaimed openly, as is done by the *Hiruth*, or whether it is being passed over in silence, as is done by the "responsible" Israeli leaders. But territorial expansion leads inevitably to a military clash with the country's Arab neighbors, and probably not with them alone. The State of Israel, once it orients itself toward the "*Kibbutz Goloyes*", must therefore follow the path of rising militarism, increased armaments—both military and spiritual—and thus cripple the economy of the State and the spiritual creative abilities of our people. As I have mentioned in my address at the Congress of Jewish Culture, in place of the danger of *individual assimilation*, which indeed exists in the countries of the Diaspora, we are faced with the *collective assimilation* of our entire people, which, discarding our national traditions of a thousand years which constitute its essence and its claim to greatness, may turn

to the idols of the modern Moloch. Even if its language would be Ivrit with the Sephardic flair now in vogue, the meaning would certainly be all but Jewish.

"Only a world governed by social justice and by the ideal of international brotherhood can defend us successfully against extermination, whether we dwell in Israel or in any other spot. As long as brutal force rules the world, the concentration of large parts of a small people within an independent state with narrow national boundaries does not constitute any assurance whatever against its annihilation or against the most grave national catastrophes. The very opposite is true. Should such a state resolve to lead an active political existence and thus become involved in various international intrigues, even including expansionist designs, the very concentration of the nation within narrow geographic boundaries may endanger its physical and national existence. The annals of our own history, notably the events of our First and Second Exodus, prove sufficiently that the concentration of our people in an independent state on the territory of Palestine did not guard us against appalling national catastrophes.***"

Prof. Hersch goes on to develop his thesis that

as long as the world is governed by force, only the dispersion of the Jews tends to safeguard them against physical annihilation, since the forces inimical to the Jews are not likely to rise simultaneously in all countries inhabited by them. He then points out that not only its physical well-being, but the spiritual development of the Jewish people as well depended in the past, during the many centuries of Jewish history, upon the dispersion of the Jews. He then expresses his conviction that this peculiarity of Jewish history will similarly manifest itself in the future.

"After all the wonderful, truly grandiose achievements by the Jewish communities scattered all over the world, achievements in all fields of Jewish endeavor as well as in the fields of universal cultural advancement, even in the last century alone,—how can one speak disdainfully of the Jewish communities outside Israel and disclaim their national creative capabilities? Let us remember that even the wonderful Jewish community in Palestine was established by the Jews of the Diaspora, that it has been built with the hands, the hearts, and the brains of their children born and bred in the Diaspora, with the material and spiritual aid of the men and women active, now and years ago, in the lands of the Diaspora***"

CONFERENCE OF BUND IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

The BUND World Coordinating Committee and the BUND Organization in New York initiated the First Conference of BUND Organizations and Groups in the U. S. and Canada. The opening session, in Riverside Plaza Hotel, New York, on September 29, 1950 was attended by some five hundred delegates and representatives from fraternal organizations. Among them were leading personalities of the Socialist Party, U. S. A., the Workmen's Circle, the Jewish Labor Committee, the Jewish Socialist Ferband, the Forward Association, and locals of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union.

The delegates to the conference were elected by BUND Organizations already in existence in the following cities: New York, N. Y.; Chicago, Ill.; Boston, Mass.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Miami Beach, Fla.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Detroit, Mich.; Albany, N. Y.; Paterson, N. J.; Reading, Pa.; and from Canada—Montreal and Toronto.

Emanuel Nowogrudsky, General Secretary of the BUND World Coordinating Committee, delivered the key-note address at the opening session.

The renowned Jewish journalist Dr. B. Hoffman (Zivien), who recently visited various European countries and the State of Israel, was chairman of the open-

ing session. In his speech of acceptance of the chair he brought to the Conference greetings and wishes from the BUND Organization in Israel.

At the same session the 80th birthday of John Mill, the last remaining founder of the BUND, was celebrated. B. Tabachinsky spoke on behalf of the BUND Organization about the achievements of John Mill and his unshakable devotion to the ideals of Socialism and democracy. H. Himelfarb closed the session with an appeal for unity—and Socialist integrity.

The Conference of the BUND Organizations and John Mill were greeted by Norman Thomas on behalf of the Socialist Party, U. S. A.; N. Chanin—Jewish Labor Committee; B. Kaplan—Vice-president of the I. L. G. W. U.; Louis Nelson—Manager of the Knitgoods Workers Union; Levin-Shatzkes—Jewish Socialist Farband; M. Weinstein—Forward Association; Louis Dinerstein—Workmen's Circle; J. Weinberg—former President of the Workmen's Circle, Chil Najman—representative of the BUND in France, who came for a short visit to New York on behalf of the BUND's daily "Unser Shtime", published in Paris.

The Conference received scores of cables and written greetings from BUND Organizations and old comrades of the BUND scattered all over the world. Impressive missives were received from Professor L. Hersch, Geneva, Switzerland, and from Joseph Baskin—General Secretary of the Workmen's Circle, New York.

The Conference lasted from September 29 to October 1st inclusive, and its agenda included the following items:

1. Reports from the participating organizations supplemented by a report from the BUND Coordinating Committee.

2. The Socialist Movement and its tasks in the United States—speaker: Dr. E. Scherer.

3. Jewish life in the U. S. A.—speakers: Ch. S. Kazdan and Dr. E. Patt.

4. Organizational problems.

After passing resolutions pertaining to the points on the agenda, the Conference accepted statements supporting the United Nations action against Communist aggression in Korea, against the so-called Anti-Subversive Act, against financial aid to the Franco regime, and others. Special resolutions were adopted concerning the plight of the Jews in the countries behind the Iron Curtain, on the activities of the Jewish Labor Committee, the Workmen's Circle, and the World Congress for Jewish Culture, about the persecution of Yiddish in the State of Israel, and others.

All statements and the resolutions passed by the Conference are published elsewhere in this issue of our BULLETIN.

After adopting a solemn statement calling for unity of the Socialist movement in the U. S., the Conference elected a Center Bureau of 17 members to promote and to direct the BUND movement in the U. S. and Canada. The following were elected to the Center Bureau: M. L. Polin—Chicago, M. S. Oshry—Los Angeles, I. Hertzman and P. Wolkower—Montreal, N. Neslin—Toronto, Dr. H. Bail—Philadelphia, I. Finkelstein—Detroit and from New York—M. Aleksandrowicz, I. Celemensky, J. Gutgold, H. Himelfarb, Ch. S. Kazdan, M. Mendelson, E. Nowogrodsky, E. Pat, E. Scherer, A. Stolar, and Sarah Szeber. John Mill was elected Honorary Chairman of the BUND Center Bureau in America.

STATEMENTS ADOPTED AT THE BUND CONFERENCE

Socialist activities in the U. S.

The BUND groups in the U. S. and in Canada are determined to fight, side by side with the libertarian Socialists in the United States and elsewhere in the world, for the realization of the ideals of democratic Socialism, for a new way of life which will combine liberty with equality, democracy with a Socialist planned economy.

We are Jewish Socialists. We belong to the Jewish nation which is worldwide rather than one of a single country. The establishment of the State of Israel did not remove and will not be able to remove this fundamental factor of Jewish life. The vast majority of the Jews now live and will continue to live scattered all over the world. The fate of world Jewry—and that of the State of Israel—is closely tied to the fate of the nations among whom Jews dwell, and specifically to the advancement of the United States, where one-half of the total Jewish population in the world makes its home.

Neither capitalism nor Communism are capable of safeguarding our future. Capitalism bears the appalling threats of anti-Semitism, reaction, and fascism—all arch-enemies of the Jews; Communism, wherever it gains power, erases all traces of organized Jewish life. Only the strengthening of democratic freedom coupled with a deep concern for the well-being and social justice for all—a way of life embodied in the ideals of democratic Socialism—is capable of creating a world order which may once and for all alleviate the plight of the Jews and enable them to develop their national values undisturbed and according to their own free will.

The Conference of BUND Organizations in the U. S. and Canada accepts as its own the declaration of Socialist principles and fundamentals passed by the Second World Conference of the BUND in 1948, in which were proclaimed the general outlines governing the BUND's participation in the world-wide

struggle for the establishment of democratic Socialism.

The Conference of BUND Organizations in the U. S. and Canada, in accordance with the above-mentioned declaration, and faithful to the basic BUND principles, establishes the following platform for the Socialist activities of the BUND in the U. S. and Canada:

The peoples of the world are longing for peace. The existing divergences and conflicts between the Sovietized East and the democratic West must not lead to a new war. Even though the imperialist tendencies of the capitalist reaction are detrimental to the struggle for freedom and peace among nations, they are no longer in a position to unleash a new war because, under the conditions of political freedom prevailing in the democratic countries, those tendencies are combatted successfully by their working population. In addition, capitalist imperialism received a devastating blow with the rise to power of the British Labor Party.

On the other hand, the peoples behind the Iron Curtain are incapable of restraining their dictatorial governments, which lately turned to undisguised aggressive tactics (Korea). The imperialism of the Soviet Union is presently the most immediate danger to the peace of the world.

This critical world situation rendered wrong the policies of pacifism and appeasement. The preparations necessary to defend our freedoms and our democratic way of life against attacks by the Soviet imperialists are thus justified.

Nevertheless, the outcome of the present historic conflict between the camp of democracy and Socialism and that of Communism hinges upon the ability of the democratic countries to adopt a proper, truly progressive policy. No deals with elements representing fascism and reaction, no ties with Franco or Peron, no assistance and cooperation with the corrupt,

despotic feudal bosses of Asia, no support of neo-Nazism will help to defeat Communism. Only a policy designed to rally round it the common people of the world, and a determined drive to liberate the oppressed colonial nations and introduce them to a system of social justice and national independence will successfully counteract Communist propaganda and lead toward the lofty goals of peace, freedom, and universal happiness. Not propaganda favoring a preventive war, but an unwavering struggle to prevent a new world war by general disarmament, implemented and supervised by the United Nations, is the platform which will inspire the vast majority of peoples of the world.

World capitalism is disintegrating and is doomed to vanish. In some countries of Western Europe, notably Great Britain, the capitalist way of life is already being re-built on foundations of democratic Socialism. Other countries not yet ruled by Socialists are compelled to introduce innovations of a Socialist nature. Only in America is capitalism still potent and maintains its powerful grip. Small wonder then that capitalist circles in the U. S. A. are using their power directly as well by influencing the state machinery to strengthen capitalism and its political counter-parts everywhere abroad.

The pressure of American capitalism must be rebuffed. The fate of democracy, our successful liquidation of the remnants of fascism and of reactionary tendencies in general, as well as the result of the struggle between the camp of freedom and the totalitarian forces, depend to a great extent on the power of the workers and the Socialist movement which, especially in Europe, provides the most important foundation for the democratic way of life.

The state of affairs in the U. S. A. and the trend of our country's economic development reached a point where it is actually possible to provide well-being and economic security for everyone—to build a democratic Socialist planned economy.

The American big business monopolies, which directly or indirectly regulate the most impor-

tant segments of the country's economy, should become the property of the people. Public ownership of the economic key-industries in the U. S. A. would widen the extent and improve the scope of democracy in America and provide the necessary conditions for a successful planned economy to serve the needs of the populace.

However, the construction of American life on new foundations cannot be achieved without the free accord of its workers—already a vast majority of the American population. The people of America and the country's labor movement have already won important social and economic improvements of their life, improvements which do not undermine the foundations of American capitalism. Further development along these lines as well as the impact of world Socialism will induce the working population of America to follow the path of political independence by establishing a third party of their own. The establishment of a party of the American working population, determined to fight capitalism, to fight Communism, and pledged to the support of genuine democratic institutions—this is the real goal of democratic Socialism.

The Conference is of the opinion that a Socialist organization based on proper socialist policies and propaganda, provided that it continues to strive toward an independent political party of the American working population, could play an important part in the further development of the labor movement. Of vital importance is a consolidation of Socialist elements in the U. S. A., a united Socialist movement in our country, a re-union of the S. P. and the S. D. F. Such a re-united movement will be in a position to re-establish a vital contact with American labor.

Despite all the peculiarities of American life, Socialism is our future also in this country. The Conference pledges the determination of the members of all the BUND Organizations in this country to participate as libertarian socialists—as Bundists—in the struggle for a Socialist future.

Bund's Part in the American Jewish Community

In accordance with the resolutions and statements on the post-war problems of Jewish life adopted by the World Conferences of the BUND and the Executive Sessions of its World Coordinating Committee, the First Conference of BUND Organizations in the U. S. and Canada proclaims:

We are a segment of American Jewry, a part of the Jewish labor movement in the United States, cognizant that our own future is closely tied to the advancement of this sector of American life. BUND organizations and their membership must vigorously promote the perennial fundamentals of the BUND ideology: the ideals of Socialism, democracy, and international brotherhood, the striving toward Jewish self-determination (autonomy), the principle of democratically elected Jewish community bodies and of the desirability of promoting the secular character of Jewish life.

Jewish life after the Second World War is still dominated by the tremendous national catastrophe—the annihilation by the Nazis of one-third of the Jewish nation and the destruction of its national and cultural citadel: Jewish life in Eastern Europe.

One-half the present total number of Jews lives in the United States. Considering that the 2½ million Jews still remaining in the countries behind the Iron Curtain are being relentlessly forced toward national disintegration, the influence of American Jewry on Jewish life throughout the world is even more important and even more decisive. Here, in the United States, lies the future of the Jewish people scattered all over the world.

Recently, the self-awareness of the Jewish community in the United States and its recognition of its importance in Jewish life increased. It did not yet, however, overcome the ominous danger of national disintegration. The process of assimilation plucks away systematically large segments of our people and causes its spiritual life to deteriorate. The Jewish community in the United States lacks inner democracy

as well as national responsibility. As a general rule, it is being influenced by a group of people of wealth, and ruled by a bureaucratic staff.

Of late, segments of the non-Zionist Jewish camp in America have shown an enhanced concern for Jewish life and Jewish achievements in the United States. Even part of the American Zionists no longer wish to abandon their hopes of a national and cultural advancement of the Jewish community in the United States. All these groups, however, lack a large-scale, definite program for work among the American Jews. Moreover, these segments had long ago severed all their ties with the Yiddish language and with the Yiddish culture.

The Conference thus states that the labor sector of the American Jewish organizations—the Workmen's Circle, the Jewish Labor Committee, et al.—shows a more mature approach to American Jewish problems, a more developed national consciousness, and a more intimate attachment to the Yiddish language and culture. However, while expressing its appreciation of the activities and aims of these organizations ideologically close to the BUND, the Conference is bound to point out that even this, the nationally most advanced segment of American Jewish life and the one most genuinely concerned about cultural achievements in Yiddish, lacks clarity, determination, and unity of purpose.

The Jewish population in the United States, and first of all the Jewish workers, convinced as they are that the fate of the Jewish people is closely tied to the victory of democratic Socialism and the ideals of international brotherhood, must be rallied around the following slogans:

Against assimilation and all its forms;

Against clericalism, national chauvinism, and Zionism;

Against militant Hebreistic groups;

For a modern Jewish life—a continuation of our secular cultural progress in Eastern Europe before the outbreak of the Second World War.

For the promotion of the significance and the

dignity of Yiddish, the language of our pre-war cultural advancement, the language uniting the world-wide Jewish nation;

For a secular Jewish education of the young generation, for a secular Yiddish day-school in the U. S. For strengthening our cultural achievements (literature, science, drama, etc.)

For an active participation of the Jews in enlarging and improving democracy, progress, well-being, and social justice in America. For a close contact with, and for help to, Jewish communities the world over—parts of one world-wide Jewish nation.

The Conference calls upon all BUND organizations to respond actively to all important events of Jewish life in America, to raise the intrepid and courageous Bundist voice in the Jewish people's and labor organizations.

Unity of the Jewish Socialist Movement

The Conference of the BUND Organizations in the United States and Canada declares:

Close ties and comradeship have for many years been established between the BUND and the Jewish Labor Movement in the U. S. A., in particular between the BUND and the Jewish Socialist Farband, the Workmen's Circle, and the Jewish Labor Committee. In spite of the existing differences of opinion, this comradely relationship is still preserved.

The first Conference of BUND Organizations in the U. S. and in Canada sends a message of greetings to all Jewish labor organizations in the United States that have remained close to the BUND.

The Conference is of the opinion that after the annihilation by Nazi Germany of the most creative part of our people, and after the sovietization by

Moscow of Eastern Europe, which put an end to the last vestiges of a BUND existence in a Poland enslaved by the Communists, it is the sacred duty of Bundists in America to carry on the fighting traditions of the BUND in the world's largest Jewish Community, to preserve the great heritage of generations of perished Bundists, including the martyrs of the fighting in the Ghettos and the victims of Communist executions.

The first Conference of BUND Organizations in the U. S. A. and in Canada states solemnly:

1. The strenuous task of carrying on the struggle of the BUND on American soil requires the most efficient consolidation of all the BUND sympathizers, and first of all, the unifications of the organizations of the BUND and the Jewish Socialist Farband.
2. The BUND organizations strive whole-heartedly toward such unity and are prepared to effect it.
3. The traditions of the BUND prevailing in the Jewish Socialist Farband render it possible to unite both organizations in such a manner so as to assure the continuation of the name and of the spirit of the BUND in the world's largest Jewish community.
4. Unity accomplished in this way shall provide a bridge connecting our famous past with a new dawn of the BUND-inspired Socialist Movement in America and all other Jewish Communities throughout the world.

Persecution of Yiddish in Israel

The Conference of BUND Organizations in the U. S. and Canada notes with indignation the belittling and deriding approach toward the Yiddish language and toward cultural achievements in Yiddish prevail-

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ent among the ruling elements of Israel. Yiddish is being treated worse than even a foreign language.

The Conference objects the decision passed by the First Hebrew Congress held in Jerusalem and sponsored by the Israeli Government which with ill-born complacency and vanity crowned Hebrew as the only language uniting the Jews from all over the world.

The Conference of BUND Organizations calls the attention to the fact that the State of Israel deliberately cultivates among its children and its teenagers a scornful attitude toward Jewish life outside Israel, toward all the spiritual values cherished for centuries by Jews in the Diaspora. Such an attitude cannot but lead to a complete estrangement and sever the ties still existing between the Jews of Israel and those outside it.

Simple dignity and respect for the memory of the millions of annihilated Jews, those who until their last breath spoke the Yiddish language, as well as respect for the living millions of our people who express themselves and create lasting cultural values in Yiddish, demand that the Government of Israel put an end to the shameful attitude toward Yiddish—the language that enriched Jewish life and sustained it throughout the world. The Yiddish language and literature must be taught in all classes and on all educational levels. Jews should be free to use Yiddish in all civic offices and institutions. All discriminatory practices toward the Yiddish press, literature, the theatre, the movies and radio in Yiddish, should be eliminated.

Franco Regime in Spain

The Conference of BUND Organizations in the U. S. and Canada voices its vigorous protest against the decision of the Congress majority in Washington

to offer financial aid to the Franco regime in Spain, a regime which continues to coerce and terrorize the people of Spain.

A loan to Franco is a challenge and a demonstration of enmity against the working population of Spain, who for three years fought heroically against the united armies of Franco, Hitler, and Mussolini; it is an offence against the entire democratic world, and particularly against all liberals and Socialists, who have shed their blood and paid with their lives on the battlefields of the Second World War as well as in the concentration camps and prisons of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, the former bosses of the Franco regime.

What is more, the decision to lend money to Franco is an insult to the Jews in the United States and throughout the world, to those whose brethren were slaughtered by the same beastly fascist camp to which Franco, the usurper of power in Spain, belongs.

The working population of Spain, which continues to resist stubbornly the Franco rule, as well as democrats the world over, suffered a bad setback by the Congress decision.

The Socialist-minded Jews grouped in the BUND unite with the Socialist Party members and the workers of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations in their vigorous demand to recall the decision of Congress.

Anti-Communist Bill

Upholding and confirming the ideological and fundamental enmity toward Communism, a view ceaselessly voiced by the BUND, the Conference of BUND Organizations in the U. S. and Canada is of the opinion that the so-called Anti-Subversive Act re-

cently passed by Congress is a blunder which is liable to create in the democratic world a wrong impression of the real value, strength, and stability of American Democracy.

The American democratic system does not require discriminatory laws to defend itself against overt acts on the part of the Communist Party. The spirit of democracy and the democratic sentiments deeply rooted in the souls of the American people, along with the Constitution and the American legal system, provide the necessary safeguards against Communist propaganda and against possible dangerous steps which may be inspired by Moscow.

The general resentment created as a result of the Communist military provocation in Korea has been exploited by reactionary forces in this country, so that under the guise of a fight against Communism, the Constitutional guarantees of the entire American people have become endangered.

The Conference is deeply convinced that organized pressure by the entire liberal and progressive camp, and particularly by the labor movement, will cause the Act to be stricken from the books as quickly as possible.

War in Korea

The Conference of BUND Organizations in the U. S. and Canada condemns North Korea's armed assault as a new act of aggression in the series marking the post-war imperialist policies of the Soviet Union. The Korean war is an attempt on the part of the Soviet Union to change the "Cold War" into an open struggle.

The Conference hails the swift and effective action taken by the United Nations to counteract the aggression in Korea; the Conference is of the opinion

that the United Nations action is an effective means of preventing the outbreak of a third world war.

The Conference voices its conviction that it is the duty of the world-wide democratic camp, and particularly of its Socialist vanguard, to support the Asiatic peoples' struggle for liberation and to help them achieve freedom, independence, and prosperity.

The Conference declares as a blunder the official U. S. policy of supporting various reactionary leaders, such as Chiang-Kai-Chek, and their corrupt circles. The course taken by the British Socialist Government, which has already liberated India and several other Asiatic nations, is an example which ought to be followed by other democratic governments.

The Conference is convinced that in order to discourage acts of brutal aggression in the future, acts which may lead to the greatest catastrophe in the history of mankind—a third world war—it is not only necessary to reinforce the democratic camp in general and to strengthen the authority of the United Nations, but, above all, it is imperative to convince the many millions of working people throughout the world that Communism is harmful and destructive and to win them for the ideals of democratic libertarian Socialism, which will provide for all peoples, regardless of their race, faith, or nationality, equal opportunities in their cultural and material advancement.

Greetings to the Bund in Israel

The First Conference of BUND Organizations in the U. S. and Canada conveys a message of greetings to the recently established BUND Organization in the State of Israel.

The Conference is convinced that the Bundists from Poland and from the D.P. Camps who have recently arrived in Israel will continue in Israel the

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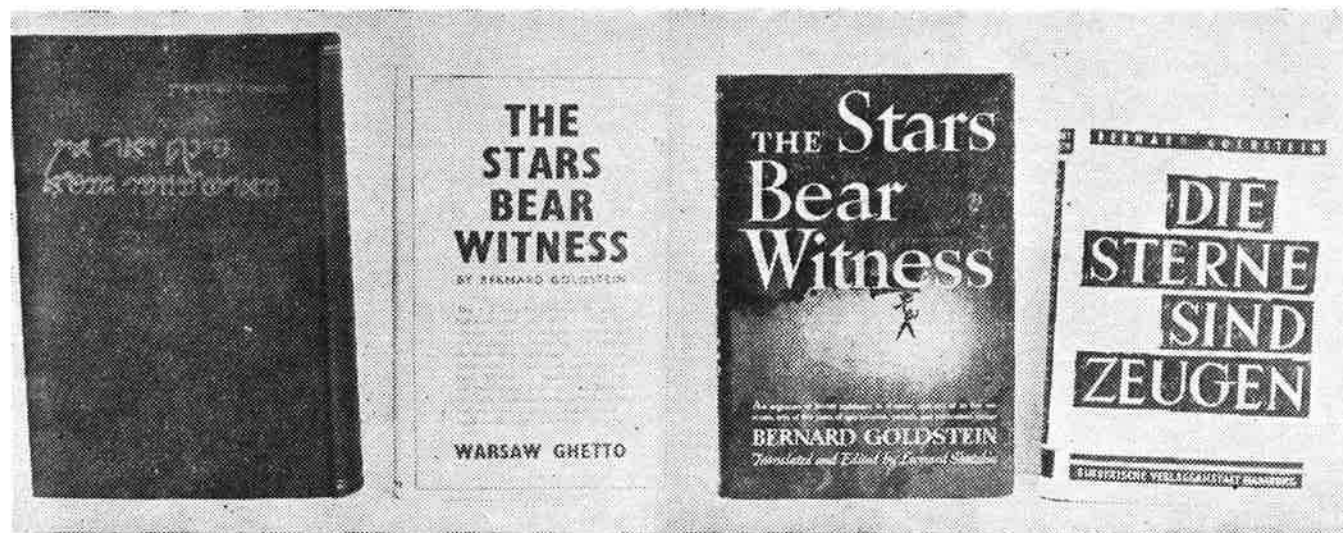
same Jewish Socialist activities which had inspired them in the countries of their origin.

The courageous and determined voice of the BUND calling for a struggle against nationalistic chauvinism, for a genuine and peaceful cooperation with the Arabs in Israel and with the Arab population in the neighboring countries, against the appeasement of the reactionary and clerical forces by Mapai, against the pro-Soviet tendencies of Mapam, against underestimation of the Jewish communities

outside Israel, for granting the Yiddish language equal rights, for genuine democratic non-nationalistic Socialism—should resound among the Jews of Israel, and above all among the Jewish workers there.

The Conference is well aware that the newly established BUND Organization in the State of Israel will encounter tremendous obstacles, and resolves to support the struggle of the Bundists in Israel for the realization there of the ideals of the Jewish Labor BUND.

MORE ABOUT "THE STARS BEAR WITNESS"



We have just received a copy of the German translation of *The Stars Bear Witness* by Bernard Goldstein, recently published in Hamburg, Germany, under the title *Die Sterne sind Zeugen*.

The book, based on the personal experiences of the author during his five years spent in the Warsaw ghetto, was originally published in Yiddish by the BUND Publishing House UNSER TSAIT, prepared in book form by Victor Shulman. The Viking Press

in New York has since published an English version of the book, edited by Leonard Shatzkin, under the title *The Stars Bear Witness*, while a British edition was released by Victor Gollancz, Ltd., in London. French, Spanish, and Swedish editions of this remarkable book are already in preparation.

Thus Bernard Goldstein, a distinguished member of the Jewish Labor BUND in Poland, member of its Central Committee during the years of underground

activities and armed resistance, fulfilled his obligation toward the annihilated Jews of Warsaw: He told the world the true and unadorned story of Jewish suffering and resistance under the Nazis in a manner that made public opinion take notice.

It may be fitting to close this account of Bernard Goldstein's book with a quotation from the introduction to the German edition signed by its publisher:

Many a German reader, following the develop-

ment of the story, will become ashamed and embittered. Would it not be preferable therefore to restrain ourselves from publishing such a book? We believe that such a temptation should be rejected for the sake of a loftier task, which this book is called upon to perform. Indeed, it could help us better to understand our own destiny, which is frequently so very trying. May these pages serve to strengthen our longing for the humane and the good.

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