

**INFORMATION BULLETIN
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL**



FEBRUARY - MARCH 2-3/1989



1914 - 1915 - 1916

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE !

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**22ND PLENARY SESSION OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL**

The 22nd Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel took place on the 10th of March, 1989, with the participation of members of the Central Control Commission .

Presiding the Session was Nimer Murkus, Central Committee member.

Tawfiq Toubi ,Deputy General Secretary, lectured on the results of the elections to the municipalities.

A discussion took place that was summed up by the lecturer.

The Central Committee approved the lecture and the summing up and adopted resolutions .

Meir Vilner, the General Secretary, delivered political information .

ZO-HADEREKH 15.3.1989

The Message of the State Budget 1989:

THE ALIGNMENT DOES THE
WORK FOR THE LIKUD

By : Meir Vilner
Speech in the Knesset

WE COULD HAVE A PROSPEROUS AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES, EXCELLENT HEALTH SERVICES AND A BETTER LIFE FOR THE WORKERS . THE CHOICE: CONTINUATION OF THE ENORMOUS MILITARY EXPENSES OR PEACE, THAT IS ALSO THE WAY TO SECURITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

The state budget for 1989 will severely harm the workers, the people with a low income, the pensioners and middle classes; it will cause general price raises and especially of the basic commodities and public transport services, of the health and education services; it will increase the profits of the big capitalists and of the banks. This is also a budget for the continuation of the occupation and preparation toward a new war. In short: This budget is against the workers, an anti-social, militaristic budget, applauded by the big capitalists of the Likud.

The Likud is rejoicing ,because the growing bitterness of the workers and the unemployed, of those in the suburbs and development towns, in the cities and moshavim, who suffer from the cancellation of the subsidies and from the higher payments for education and health - is directed in the first place against the Finance Minister and Chairman of the Labour Party ,Shimon Peres, who is doing the dirty job.

A VIRGIN WHO MUST NOT BE TOUCHED?

Like previous budgets, the greater part of this 1989 budget is reserved for military expenses and the payment of debts (funds and interest) for previous military purchases and expenses.

Two third of the budget, allocated for military expenditure and payment of debts, do not include additional military allocations included in the various governemnt ministries (expenses for settlements etc), amounting to at least another half milliard Shekel .

Though some were speaking at first about a cut in the military budget, the cut dropped at the end from 350 million Shekel to 40 million Shekels . Considering the size of the military budget, this is no significant cut. Even the "Davar" daily asked : Does the Defense Minister think that security is like a virgin that must not be touched? And is it possible to solve the economic questions without touching this budget ?

THE SUBSIDIES ARE FINANCED FROM OUR TAXES

The draft budget submitted by the government contains hardships for the workers , in the first place the price rises of vital commodities and services . According to this draft, the subsidies for public transportation, frozen chicken and cooking gas will be cancelled entirely, after they were cancelled for rice, flour and oil. This cancellation and the charp cut in the subsidies for bread and milk, that raises the prices by 30-50% , will especially hit the families with many children, pensioners, unemployed and earners of minimum wages.

In this context it is important to emphasizes again , that the governemnt misleads the public when it claims that it subsidizes bread and milk. The subsidies are our taxes , paid by the workers. Should taxes finance only the army and the police ?

Some say we are lucky that we get aid from the USA. But even the official figures show , that for every dollar the USA gives , we have to add one dollar . All this aid is mostly spent on arms purchases. We don't need so much weapons and no

atomic weapons . We need peace and a basic change in the budget .

MILITARY EXPENSES AND REPAYMENT OF DEPTS IN THE STATE BUDGET 1989

	<u>In The Million of Shekelim</u>	<u>In % of the budget</u>
Defence Ministry	10,595	
Police Ministry	835	
Atomic Energy	50	
General Reserve	<u>1,776</u>	
<u>Total overt military expenses</u>	13,257	25.3%
Repayment of debts	11,983	
Interest payments	8,181	
repayments of debts to the Israel bank	<u>1,500</u>	
<u>Total repayments of debts</u>	21,619	41.3%
<u>Total military expenses and return of debts</u>	34,876	66.6%

OPEN PROVOCATION AGAINST THE TOLLERS

the Finance Minister argued, that there is no reason for the great outcry . He says ,the cuts of subsidies and further payments collected for health and education will add only 3 Shekalim per person to the spendings of the poor sections . Then he corrected himself and said 4 Shekalim. But the truth is that the additional cost amounts to dozens of Shekalim per person every month.

The Finance Minister and the employers argue: The choice is either to cut wages by sterilizing the cost of the living allowance or unemployment.

But this is not the true choice . The choice is : Either keeping the real value of the wages or its erosion and increasing profits for the capitalists. The confrontation is between the wages and the profits and not between the wages and the unemployment .

The booklet "Main Points of the Budget" says: "No cost of living allowance will be paid if the inflation is low" . What does this mean? If the inflation will reach 18% as expected, is this sufficient low inflation to deprive the wage-earners of any compensation ? Shall we wait for a 300% and 400% inflation ?

Further, the same booklet says: "Real wage increases depend on a parallel reduction of manpower". This is an open provocation against the workers . It means: If you want to get better wages, agree that your colleagues are fired from their job . This is a wicked approach without any social sensitivity , that will fire back at the Labour Party, as the experience of the fifties has proved . The Labour Party with its present policy, aggravates the feelings of discrimination and all the bitterness is directed against it . You, the Labour Party leaders, work actually for the Likud.

Taking 4 Shekel for a visit to the doctor , registration fees for admission to secondary school and higher study fees in the universities - all these are called in the budget cynically "cuts" . The government reduces its support to the Sick Fund by an additional 40 million Shekel and forces the health institution to collect a fee for a doctor's visit to get those 40 million Shekel .

The government claims that the fees will not be collected from the poor , but only from the rich . True, one should take from the rich ,but for this purpose one has simply to cancel the tax reductions granted to them last year and raise the income tax rates they pay to their previous level.

The new budget continues its old discrimination of the Arab population in every respect : in education, health, local authorities, children's allowance, let me bring one example : The percentage of those who leave the intermediate school classes and don't reach the 10th grade are 5,6% among the Jewish students, but 14.7% among the Arab students, i.e. almost three times.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPERATE

Finance Minister Peres asks: From where to take the money?

The answer to this question is simple: First, take from the military expenses dedicated for the continuation of the occupation and oppression , for the colonial settlements. Second, cancel the gifts granted to the capitalists when the marginal income tax rate was lowered. Collect from them the hundreds of millions of dollars they made by speculations in dollars before the devaluation and after it , and also collect from the banks the excessive profits from the murderous interest rates.

Finance Minister Peres blames the "Intifada" for the severe economic situation. No, it is not the fault of the "Intifada" . It is the fault of the oppression and the occupation as such . It is natural that a people revolts against the occupation and fight for their independence .

You cannot separate the economy from policy. Peace is the way toward security and also toward economic growth and development. We could have a prosperous agriculture and industry , excellent health services , jobs for the unemployed and good living conditions for the workers, the young, the middle classes.

But the implementation of this depends first of all on the change of policy .

ZO-HADEREKH 8.2.1989

**LESSONS AND CONCLUSIONS FROM
THE ELECTIONS TO THE MUNICIPALITIES**

By: Tawfiq Toubi

*** THE SUPPORT FOR THE LIKUD IS GROWING AND THE SUPPORT FOR THE ALIGNMENT IS DECLINING. THE FACTORS FEEDING THE ISLAHIC MOVEMENT * SUCCESSES OF THE DFPE IN PLACES WHERE A BROAD DEMOCRATIC COOPERATION WAS ESTABLISHED .**

(From a lecture delivered in the national secretariat of the DFPE).

The election campaign to the municipalities was marked by the indifference of the Jewish voters on one hand, and the high involvement of the Arab voters on the other. The indifference, expressing basically the lack of confidence in the government parties, the Alignment and the Likud, caused special damage to the Alignment.

The election results among the Jewish voters show, that the move to the Right continues. In the first round, the Likud won 44 out of 99 municipalities, compared with 26 dominated by the Likud after the '83 elections; and on the 14th of March the Likud candidate run in the second contest in 17 additional municipalities. The Alignment lost in favor of the Likud in important cities like Holon, Ramat Gan, Beersheva, Betah Tikva and Ashdod. The result is, that while in '83 the Alignment dominated municipalities with a total of 1,150,000 inhabitants, as against 600,000 inhabitants living in Likud-led municipalities, today the contrary has happened.

The Likud emphasized the political character of the municipal elections. Prime Minister Shamir declared during the election campaign, that support for the Likud means opposing the PLO; the Alignment, however, did not present any political alternative and claimed that the elections are on municipal issues only. Now the Likud is trying to make political capital and uses its success in the

local level to strengthen its position in the central administration . The claim of the Likud, that all who vote for its lists support an "Undivided Land of Israel" and oppose talks with the PLO is quite misleading . This is proved by the little support the Likud got in Jerusalem and by the re-election of Lahat as Mayor of Tel viv, even though his dovish views are well known. At the same time, the decline in the status of the Alignment is clear .

The disappointment from the Alignment, that as MK Eliav says , "deprived the country of the alternative ", had a two-fold effect: First, The support for the Likud was growing; Second, The increased representation of lists like Ratz and Shinui (in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv-Yafo and Haifa). But these lists, too, are not consistent . It is a fact, that in Tel Aviv-Yafo, the Ratz-Shinui faction has already joined the municipal coalition headed by Lahat, a Likud representative .

Our proposal to Mapam and Ratz, to work for the establishment of joint democratic lists, met no favorable response. The result of the disagreement is a loss of seats in the councils. In Tel Aviv-Yafo, for instance, if the Mapam leadership had agreed to the principled accord reached with the DFPE, its representation in the city council would have grown from one to two members.

The policy decided by the DFPE at the beginning of the election campaign proved to be right: We said that in the localities where a danger exists that the Likud candidate for mayor will defeat the Alignment candidate , the DFPE will act for a joint stand against the Likud and will support the Alignment candidate . According to this policy , the DFPE supported the election of Guriel in Haifa and the De Castro in Acco, on the basis of an advance agreement for the promotion of local issues , including equal rights for the Arab population . The position of the DFPE proved itself as realistic, while Ratz, Shinui and a few left groups who, from just criticism against Gureil

arrived at the slogan "Never Gureil, showed political immaturity. It is a fact, that in Haifa Gureil was elected with a margin of 3000 votes only .

POSITIVE SUMMARY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES

The municipal elections presented to the DFPE an important and difficult challenge. In the election propoganda ,the DFPE emphasized the close link between the struggle for a democratic local authority, concerned with the advancement of the municipal services,and the struggle against the Shamir-Peres government. The governemntal policy, sabotaging the peace efforts,is also for the deterioration of the social and municipal services. . The DFPE also raised the special demands of the Arab population, who suffer from national discrimination in the mixed cities and localities.

In the municipalities where a council existed headed by the DFPE, a positive summary of the development of services and the solution of painful problems: In Nazareth,the democratic municipality has built new schools and paved roads; in Um-Alfahem the municipilaity has completed the installation of the sewage system and solved a severe problem from which the inhabitants suffered many years .

Increasing the number of its representatives in the local councils and the number of councils led by Haddash, and stronger representation of the Democratic Front in the Israeli committee of heads of Arab local councils, would have been an important contribution to the activity for equal rights and for Jewish-Arab coexistence . The results show,that it was necessary to make more propoganda efforts,especially in mixed cities like Haifa, Tel Aviv-Yafo , Ramla and Lod. In Haifa we needed only 45 more votes to have a second city counsellor, in Tel Aviv 600 more votes needed for a representative of the "Equality" list ,supported

by the DFPE ,in the city council. In Jerusalem we conducted a propaganda campaign for our programme calling for two capitals in this city - The capital of Israel and the capital of the Palestinian state - and we criticized all other lists who have not opposed the annexation of East Jerusalem and did not adopt this solution. But in order to strengthen the democratic forces in the municipality,we called to support the Ratz-Shinui list,even when it does not dissociate itself from the annexation of Arab Jerusalem.

A final summary of the results of the local elections shows,that the DFPE in most cases kept its strength . While we lost leading positions in a number of localities like the city of Um-Alfahm and the village of Taibeh,Araba, Turan and Eilaboon, the candidates supported by the DFPE were elected as heads of the councils of Sakhneen, Ba'ane,Kukab, Menda and Beit Jann . Ibrahim Nimer Hussein was elected this time in Shafr'am with the support of the DFPE .

THE REASONS FOR THE GROWTH OF THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT

Though there were signs of a growth of the Islamic Movement, its ability to operate as a well-organized country-wide body, with big financial means, was underestimated . The city of Um-Alfahm shows the extent of the problem .

The support for the DFPE candidate as Mayor,Hashem Mahamied,declined only moderately (in the first round from 28% in '83 to 22% in '89. Unlike in '83, there was no second round in the elections this time , because the representative of the Islamic movement was elected already in the first round .

The separatist,sectarian decision of "Sons of the Village" to present a candidate for the post of Mayor, to compete with the candidate of the DFPE helped the Islamic Movement, even though that candidate got only 2% of the votes .

In the Um-Alfahm municipal council (15 members) the Islamic Movement got 11 seats, while the Democratic Front kept its strength- 3 representatives . All other lists , who were allies of the Front in the past, are not represented, because of the high percentage of voters (over 90%) .

In Nazareth where the Islamic movement was not represented in the past, it got this time 6 seats. The Democratic Front of Nazareth that had previously 11 (out of 17) members in the council, got this time 10 (out of 19) . The support for the Mayor on behalf of the DFPE Tawfiq Zayad, declined from 68% in '83 to 58% of the votes in '89. The support for the Islamic Movement came chiefly at the expense of the progressive list (that dropped from 4 to 2 seats); the Alignment and the Likud (whose joint list didn't succeed even to get one seat), and the "sons of the Village".

The Islamic Movement took advantage in these two cities and in other localities of the hardships of the Arab population and of the economic and social difficulties from the policy of national discrimination, and led for years a demagogical propaganda campaign that tried to blame the DFPE Mayors for those difficulties . It attacked personally MK Tawfiq Zayad and Hashem Mahameed, raising false accusations. But it relied mainly on religious feelings and diverted the Arab population from the way of united public struggle against the policy of discrimination toward the way of communal separation . The rich funds supplied to the Islamic Movement were used to build mosques, kindergartens and public institutions . People in distress got aid from the leaders of the Movement . The Movement enjoyed the silent approval of former leaders of the Alignment and of the National Religious Party and also of the "Progressive List", while the Islamic Movement played its part by declaring that it is no political movement...

We have to understand that we are facing a phenomenon that is fed by changes in the Arab countries where the religious trends are growing. It is known, that the Islamic Movement is supported strongly by reactionary factors in the Arab world and by imperialist circles, and enjoys a tolerant attitude and even support from ruling circles in Israel . All these help it with a clear aim : To try to weaken the leading role of the DFPE among the Arab public in ISrael . The parties of the regime became aware ,that they cannot maintain any more their dominate positions ,but that even the Progressive List ,that presented itself as an alternative ,failed. From their point of view, even the party of Daraushe proved to be unreliable . And therefore .many forces, also abroad, hope for the success of the Islamic Movement .

IT IS VITAL TO STRENGTHEN
THE POLITICAL AWARENESS

The opponents of the DFPE, first of all the Islamic Movement benefited also from difficulties in the work of some local Fronts. Consequently, one of the important conclusions from the election campaign is , that we have to examine our methods of work among the public and our activity for the social and economic interests of the masses. We have to tighten our links with the workers and poors, underprivileged population in the villages and neighborhoods on the cities .

A second conclusion from the elections is, that the contest with the Islamic Movement requires to explain better the damage caused by the communal seperation in the Arab population. Our answer is to explain that the united struggle of the Arab population ,together with the Jewish democratic forces , is vital for thwe just peace, for the establishment of a Palestinian atate alongside Israel and for equal rights .

A third conclusion is , that the chief enemy was and remains the governmental policy of

occupation and national discrimination .Therefore we have to continue our efforts for a joint struggle of the whole Arab public ,including those who voted for the Islamic Movement , and we must isolate anti-Communism and sectarian religious fanaticism. It is vital to strengthen the progressive and patriotic political and ideological awareness, especially among the younger generation, and at the same time to be the first to defend, as we did in the past, the rights of the Moslems . We shall call the supporters of the Islamic Movement to cooperate for the joint interest of the whole Arab population , to release the property of the Moslem Waqf and to respect the right of the Moslem population to conduct by itself its religious affairs through its elected institutions, and we shall fight against the threats of the regime to take anti-democratic measures against it, that violate civil freedoms.

A fourth conclusion is that we have to continue promoting the cooperation for the Welfare of the population, so that we shall reach everywhere the broadest possible cooperation . Our successes in Shafr'am , Ramla, Rahat, Beit Jann and other places show ,that overcoming sectarian tendencies and egotistic approaches yields important positive results . Consequently , we have to emphasize the priority for the general policy of the DFPE, the policy of the broadest front, that conforms finally also with the interests of the local Democratic front.

he application of the above conclusions and systematical work for the benefit of workers and the popular masses and for the broadest possible cooperation- will prepare us better for contests in the campaigns that we are facing now , and first of all in the elctions to the Histadrut Congress to be held in November this year .

ZO-HADEREKH 15.3.1989

WOLF EHRLICH 80 YEARS OLD:LESS
ROMANTIC BUT NOT LESS CONVINCED

Interviewed by:Tamar Gozanski

MY TALK WITH WOLF EHRLICH, WHO CELEBRATED THESE DAYS HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY CONTINUED FIVE FASCINATING HOURS , SITTING AT HIS BIG DESK , SURROUNDED BY HIS RICH LIBRARY,HOLDING HIS PIPE-WOLF WAS IN HIS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. EVEN THOUGH HE LIVES IN THIS COUNTRY ALREADY 55 YEARS HE DOES NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF ITS LANDSCAPE AND IN ITS MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURE."MAY BE,IF I HAD COME HERE AT A YOUNGER AGE,WITH LESS PREJUDICES,AND IF MY DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT SO SLOW,I COULD BE MORE ATTACHED"- WOLF TESTIFIES SPEAKING ABOUT HIMSELF: "MY ATTACHMENT TO THIS COUNTRY IS FIRST OF ALL THE OUTCOME OF 47-YEARS OF STRUGGLE IN THE RANKS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY ".

From the long conversation ,that encompassed personal , political and ideological issues, I chose to tell the story of his way to Communism and several personal references to bothering questions. It should be seen only as the beginning of the acquaintance with a charming man, who is looking behind with a smile and sincere satisfaction .

* When did you start to get interested in politics ?

- What pushed me towards politics is the desire to know . Still in my youth I wanted to know what moves the wheels of history . This was an intellectual search for a scientific approach to the questions of society . Because of this urge,when I was a student of law and of political

economics, I approached socialist circles. On the 1st of April 1934, that was declared by the Nazis as an anti-Jewish day, "Day of the Stuermer", I should have graduated as a lawyer, but two Nazis prevented me from entering the court. As a protest, the same day I entered the biggest bookshop in town and bought the "Manifest of the Communist Party".

* And then you became a communist ?

-No . The way was still long . After I arrived to Palestine, I worked as secretary in the office of the architect Mendelson, and in the evening I had plenty of time. And so we decided, a friend and I, to study together philosophy and political economy as well as Marxism . We used to meet once a week, wind up what we read in the past week and chose what to read next week .

We read the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Hegell, Adam Smith, Ricardo, Saint Simon, Fourier and others. In the course of the reading I was "caught" by the dialectical materialism, that gave me a key to understand the contexts and the place of the individual in society and I was fascinated by the humanism of Marx . These studies solved my personal intellectual plight. In 1942 we reached the conclusion , that we have completed the study programme and that we have now to put into practice what we have learned. My friend decided to work in a bank, but I decided that I have to look for the Communist Party. I learned in the books , that I have to combine theory with practice, and I thought that I should contact people who think like me .

* Till that moment you had no connection with the Party ?

- No. Till then I knew no Communists , nor did I know what the Party programme for proplems in the country was. In 1942 I found the contact with the Party, that started to operate legally after 20 years of underground work . I must say I was very inexperienced and in the cell meetings I tried to

understand what it actually means to be a Party member . In my cell was a worker by the name fishl and from him I learned about the Party more than in five years of systematic reading .

* How did they treat you ?

- I suppose that they considered me as a strange person, but still they thought that something may come out of me . I remember lengthy discussions on the national question . I was a nihilist as a reaction to the German nationalism that I hated so much. But in the Party I was told that I should learn Hebrew and understand the proplems of the people. And because I was willing to do so, I learned rather quickly . When I joined the Party, I was still stuck with one foot in Leftism. But gradually I became a supporter of the October Revolution and of the developments in the Soviet Union .

* Within two years you were elected secretary of the Party branch in Jerusalem .

- Shortly after I joined the Party, there were splits inside it, and most branch members left the Party. We remained only three members in the Jerusalem branch: Fishl the worker, Daliya and me . We were looking for a field of action and in September '43 we organized the "Jerusalem Book Club", with the help of the rich experience of the writer Louis Fuerenberg who was a member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party . Intellectuals and professors of the Hebrew University, many of whom I knew personally, lectured in the Club. Following the activities in this club, more members joined the Party and in '44 I was elected as the Party branch secretary , a post I held till 1949 . One day I got a slip of paper signed by Samuel Mikunis, then Party General Secretary ; Within 10 days you have to move to Tel Aviv to work in the Central Committee offices . That is how they used to work in those times: to give orders without investigating first . But I, of course, followed the instruction and since then I am in Tel Aviv .

* With your permission ,I will pass over 40 years and would like to ask you ,how do you see yourself as a communist and how do you see the party which you are one of its leaders ?

- In 1942 when I was looking for the party , I thought that the duty of a Marxist is to be a Communist ,today I see things quite the opposite: for a communist there is an intellectual task, because in addition to the daily activity he has to understand basic things and its difficult for him to find the time and the tools for this . Therefore when I look back I see the danger of schematism of leftism and of intellectualism is nearly un-avoidable for a communist as an individual and for the party as a collective. Our Party can sum up this issue very positively . It is loyal to its principles and exerts lot of energy in analyzing the concrete situation and is gaining growing respect or part of other political circles. This is a big achievement and cannot be taken for granted in the prevailing conditions of the national conflict which has been going on for years but still we preserve our ideological political and organizational Jewish-Arab unity . Also when we had splits we were able to overcome the results . But it does not mean that we do not have some shortcoming .

* From a veteran Communist like you it is expected that you are more sober and less romantic .

- True . I am less romantic, but it does not mean that I am less convinced . Those who are far from Communism might have the impression that Communism has disapointed . I think that this is a wrong conclusion . We must understand that not only society is developing, but also the understanding of society is developing too and the development of understanding has its laws. Once we thought that Communism is just behind the door , this was a mistake. This is not a question that someone made a mistake . One has to experience the development of the society in order to examine his understanding of what is happening . That is why I

am convinced, also today, that to be a communist is my historical task and it is the most beautiful thing in life : a combination of knowledge, struggle, self confidence and noble humane aims. The Communist Theory is not a warrant for correct political and economic decisions . One should draw conclusions from the accumulated experience as for example, there is no absolute perfect Society and there is no absolute perfect understanding. In the general development there are ups and downs.

* You have written hundreds of articles and a collection of these articles were published in a book . Which one you consider to be the most important ?

- (After a short hesitation) It is the series of articles which I wrote (after the book was published) about the concept of the humanism in the works of Marx and Marxism . The question of humanism is a central question and its importance is growing. During the thirties and forties a mistake was committed and humanism was presented as a component of bourgeois ideology. I do not say that every Marxist is necessarily humane. But, if he is not so, this is a deficiency in his world outlook . My relation to Marxism and to the party has always concentrated ,more than any thing else in the humane side of the theory and practice .

LAND MARKS

Wolf Ehrlich was born in March 1909 in the city of Tilsen (then East Prussia, today Sovietsk in the Russian Federation), to a family of a wealthy lawyer who inherited from his father, a liberal Rabbi, a big library containing books in Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, Latin and other languages.

Wolf : "I had a happy childhood .We lived on a high material standard in an environment that created a cultural incentives. I had long talks with my mother about art, classical music . I was a good, but not excellent student. Already in secondary school I was interested in philosophical questions. I thought I must know everything ,go into the core of all things ."

He studied at six universities : Heidelberg , Berlin, Koenigsberg, Paris, London and Zagreb . "Then there was a fasion to study in several universities". "My father sent me to France and to England to learn languages". He graduated with a doctor's degree in law .

As a student he established contacts with a socialist students group. In 1931, at the age of 22 he joined the Social Democratic Party. "This was contrary to the conservative tradition of the family". "On the 30th ,January,1933, when Hitler was appointed Chanceloor,I went to the SD secretariat in Koenigsberg and asked: "What are the instructions? What shall we do against the NAZIS ? The secretary gave me a threatening look and said : "Go home! with such talks you endanger all of us" I went home and this was the end of my Social-Democratic career ."

He left Germany the same year ,because of the Antisemitic persecutions, and went to Zagreb. At the end of 1935 he decided to leave Europe and the only place where he could get an entry permit was Palestine . Here, without a proffesion from which he could make a living,without a language and any

means-he was sent to Kibbutz Mishmar Haemek. After a short while he left and went to Jerusalem .

In 1942 he was present at the first legal public meeting organized by the Communist PARTY of Palestine in Jerusalem. Mordechai Biletzky was the speaker. In May 1944 he was elected as secretary of the Jerusalem Party branch and as a delegate to the 8th Party Congress. At the 9th Congress (1945) he was elected to the central Control Commission of the Party and at the 10th Congress(1946) to the Central Committee that had 12 members at that time. Afetr the 15th CPI Congress (1965) he was elected to the Political Bureau and since the 18th Congress (1976) he is chairman of the Central Control Commission .

Wolf on his present job , that he fulfils already 13 years:"I am too soft for this post . Even if I think that a comrade should be punished, I hesitate to pronounce the punishment".

CONGRATULATIONS TO WOLF EHRLICH

We congratulate you from the depth of our hearts on the occasion of your 80th birthday. We appreciate you as a fighter,who is deeply devoted to the noble ideas of our Communist Party ,to its democratic,humanist,patriotic and internationalist values. Your great contribution to the ideological and political work of the Party recieved the universal appreciation of all its Jewish and Arab members . Many years you have worked as chief editor of "Aracheem",the party organ for questions of Marxist-Leninist theory and practice. Your public activity in the Israeli and world peace movement and in other spheres brought respect to our party . As a veteran , as a member of the Political Bureau since 1965 and a chairman of the Central Control Commission since 1972, you have contributed a lot to the collective leadership .

We wish you ,dear Comrade Wolf and your life-long spouse, dear Lika, good health and

further fruitful activities in the service of
peace, people's friendship and socialism.

The central Committee of the
Communist Party of Israel
Meir Vilner

ZO-HADEREKH 3.3.1989

PLO LEADERSHIP EMPHASIZES THE PEACEFUL
CHARACTER OF THE "INTIFADA"

THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AFTER THE
WITHDRAWAL AND UNDER THE UNO AUSPICES

SULEIMAN A-NAJAB, MEMBER OF THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, REFERRED IN A RECENT INTERVIEW TO THE KUWEITI NEWS- PAPER "AL-ANBA" TO ACTUAL QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE .THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW .

* How do you estimate the present situation in the Palestinian arena in particular, and in the Arab and international arena in general ?

- In the Palestinian national level, the unity of our Palestinian people has been strengthened around the PLO and the resolutions of the Palestinian National Council, including the resolution on the independence declaration . And if the voting in the PNC on these historical decisions was done by a raise of hands ,the voting of our people was done by going out into the streets of our occupied land and expressing joy and support of the resolutions adopted .

We appreciate very much the attitude of the Arab states that hurried to recognize the independent Palestinian state, and expressed their support for the programme of the political solution , adopted by the PNC. Recently, it was agreed to intensify the Arab activities in support of the "Intifada" and of the Palestinian political programme .

In the international arena, wide circles regard the positions at which the PLO has arrived as a great achievement for the Palestinian national cause and of the solidarity with the heroic "Intifada" and by putting all these problems in

the center of interest in the world . New horizons were opened for promoting the relations of the PLO with many Western states , including the EEC countries (Britain, for instance) .

* Some point to a contradiction in the declarations of various organizations in the Palestinian resistance . Don't you think that this contradiction can have a negative influence on the positive steps reached and on the diplomatic activity of the PLO ?

- There is some exaggeration in these things. It is known, that the resolutions of the last PNC were adopted first by a majority and not unanimously ,and nevertheless these resolutions were adopted by the PLO Executive Committee and they are the basis for the political move made recently by the Palestinian leadership. Maybe there are some contradictions between the declarations. But we reached an accord on it, that the disagreement shall be worked out inside our institutions . The hostile elements are trying again and again to take advantage of every controversy, knowing that our basic weapon was and remains our national unity .

The Palestinian leadership sticks in its policy to the PNC resolutions and therefore one needs not to exaggerate the contradictions in the declarations . All Palestinian resistance organizations support the majority view and work for the implementation of the resolutions . They are aware of their responsibility for the unity of the Palestinian people and for the unity of the PLO, and block the way for every hostile force that is trying to take advantage of these contradictions .

* Following the American-Palestinian talks, do you expect changes in the policy of the new US Administration regarding the Palestinian problem and regarding the PLO ?

- We believe, that the first change in the American position lies in the transition of the US Administration from a position of boycott and refusal to meet with the PLO to a position of readiness to start talks. We hold, that our talks with the US Administration have clear and definite aims: The recognition by the USA of the right to self-determination of our people and the right to establish a state, and the application of this position in the international conference, as defined in the UNO resolutions and specially in the last resolutions .

We also demand from the US Administration a serious stand and action to stop the crimes of the Israeli rulers against our people in the occupied territories, we expect from it to remove its political auspices from these crimes and to participate in the international efforts to defend our people and force Israel to stick to the international conventions and especially the Fourth Geneva Convention. This administration must also take part in the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution No. 605, regarding the Israeli practice against our people in the occupied territories .

*Will there be any concessions on part of the PLO, or response to any new initiative by the USA or anybody else ?

- We reject every unnecessary new initiative. The international consensus applies to the following basic principles: Israeli withdrawal from all Arab and Palestinian territories conquered in 1967, guaranteeing the right to return and establishing the Palestinian state in these territories, i.e. in the Palestinian territories conquered in '67 , and guaranteeing the peace of all states in the region.

Every new attempt by the US administration to return to the Camp David Plan or to some of the programmes that were published ,starting from Camp David to the Shultz plan- will be understood

by us as a proof that there is nothing new in the American position .

As a Palestinian leadership, we shall not participate in any talks that might influence our current political offensive or be used for wasting time and reviving plans that the Intifada buried forever .

* If the existing US policy of unreserved support to Israel against the Palestinian cause continues and the Israeli obstinacy persists, will the PLO return to the PNC and revoke the peace resolutions adopted recently?

- The Palestinian leadership will not renounce the rights of the Palestinian people, meaning the right to return, to self determination and to the establishment of the Palestinian state . One cannot force us to renounce these aims ...

* I mean a withdrawal from the resolutions concerning the recognition of resolutions 242 and 338 and of the borders of the Palestinian state ...

- There will be no withdrawal . These things were decided in the resolutions of the last PNC .

* In view of the last Israeli measures against the "Intifada", what are the steps taken by the PLO ? Will the next stage of the "Intifada" be the stage of the armed struggle ?

- The "Intifada" continued and forcefully, and the Israeli rulers admit, that their attempts to suppress the "Intifada" by military means have failed.

Therefore, the Palestinian leadership, relying on the resolutions of the 19th PNC session, is taking extensive actions in the Arab and international level to mobilize the resources for an efficient international conference , and reaching international support of the programme for a political solution .

We stand seriously against the last Israeli steps of escalating the oppression against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories . We have many assignments before us, but also wide horizons, that must be used to develop the Palestinian diplomacy, that is needed by the "Intifada", to reach its yearned aims . This support of the "Intifada" is the first point in the PLO action programme and the Palestinian leadership is waging now a wide world campaign to expose the Israeli steps of escalation.

As to the second part of the question, the Palestinian leadership underlines the peaceful character of the "Intifada" and continues it at the level and with the methods to which the geniality of the Palestinian people and its tradition in the long struggle have brought it .

* How do you see the last Israeli initiative to hold elections in the occupied territories ?

- What Israel proposes is not an initiative but a scheme . It is an old game with an open shame . The PLO leadership has rejected this scheme in its announcement of last month and it was also rejected by the united leadership of the "Intifada" .

The Israeli talks about elections intend to harm the legitimacy of the PLO representation of the Palestinian people , claiming that Israel recognizes only the Palestinians inside the occupied territories. Talking about holding elections , Israel is trying also to mislead the world, as if the occupation is liberal and democratic .

We are ready to hold elections, but after the Israeli army withdraws from the occupied territories, under UNO auspices and in an atmosphere of full freedom that will enable our people to express their will .

The talks about stopping the "Intifada" are also a ridiculous comedy and illusion . The "Intifada" continues and becomes more powerful thanks to its successes .

* And what about the Palestinian Soviet talks and the Soviet talks to promote the Palestinian diplomacy with the aim of reaching an international conference ?

- The Soviet and Palestinian positions are even more identical than in the past . In view of our successes, it was necessary to raise the level of coordination and regular consultations between the PLO and the Soviet Union and therefore it was decided between the two sides to establish a permanent Palestinian-Soviet commission .

During the last visit of Poliakov, head of the Soviet delegation, we heard the assessment by the Soviet leadership regarding the last developments concerning the Palestinian problem on the international level .The Soviet side expressed its great esteem for the mature and responsible political positions of the Palestinian leadership, that helped, in his opinion, to create a world wide change in favour of the Palestinian people. The Soviet leadership appreciates greatly the PLO efforts to convene an international conference and reach a solution . The Soviet-Palestinian relations will become still closer, and we believe that new horizons were opened for such relations.

ZO-HADEREKH 2.3.1989

GREETINGS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL
TO THE JEWISH AND ARAB WOMEN IN
ISRAEL ON THE OCCASION OF THE 8TH
OF MARCH, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WORKING WOMEN, HOUSEWIVES, MOTHERS AND GIRLS,

This year, 1989, we mark International Women's Day under the conditions of the Likud - Alignment regime, that continues a policy preventing peace, harming severely the health and education services, and carrying out the policy of discrimination of women and of religious coercion.

But the new in the situation is the heroic popular uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the historical resolutions of the PLO at the Algiers Council, that promoted the struggle in the international arena and inside Israel for a just Israeli-Palestinian peace .

Special greetings to the women in Israel who fulfil an important task in the struggle against the occupation and for a just Israeli-Palestinian peace .

Special greetings to the Palestinian women who are leading a devoted struggle against the cruel occupation of oppression and for peace, for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Let us all struggle for peace, for equal rights and social progress.

ZO-HADEREKH 15.3.1989

8TH OF MARCH IN TEL AVIV :
WOMEN'S SQUARE

By : Neora Bar-Nir

No such big women's demonstration has ever been seen in Dizengoff Street in Tel-Aviv like on the 8th of March this year . A big Beduin tent was erected on the Kikar Malkei Israel city square that attracted a big crowd of Jewish and Arab Israeli Women and guests- A Palestinian women's delegation from the occupied territories. "Everything for equal rights for women, to end the occupation and for an Israeli-Palestinian peace", said the organizers .

The Beduin tent was open for talks and creativity. An impressive piece of cloth was painted by dozens of women , depicting the yearning for peace .This work was sent to a meeting between Israelis and Palestinians in the USA. A sculpture made of earthenware, representing a woman crying out for peace, was prepared by Nusra Jaber of Taibeh . Women artists brought their works for exhibition and to express solidarity. In another tent, paintings of women by the well known artist Viola Bindish of Haifa were exhibited. Richie of Kfar Hanassi brought impressive collage pictures she made since the start of the "Intifada" . Ceramics were Ety's contribution of solidarity . The walls of this tent also were decorated by a photo exhibition on the activities of the Movement of Democratic Women all over Israel for peace and against the occupation .

There was also a solidarity bazaar of handicrafts and artwork. A corner of home-made foodstuffs from the occupied territories attracted attention.

Women signed petitions against the killing of children, demanding Rabin's resignation , against the deportations, and against violence.

On the square , between the stands and tents , the speakers conveyed their message, combined with

performances by artists . Alongside this festival, discussions,talks ,political dialogues developed. There were also unpleasant voices ,echos of the right-wing demonstration that took place on the same square a day earlier .

The special event was directed by Nabila Espanioli and Haya Touma. The messages by Amal Arury in the name of the committee of deported Palestinians in the occupied territories, and the greetings of Amal Hareisha,representative of the working women`s committees in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were recieved with excitement. Amal spoke about the double significance of this day for the Palestinian women and emphasized, that no equality for women can be achieved without an independent Palestinian state. Amidst the applause of the audience she said , that the message of the Palestinians to the Israelis is a message of peace and that no force can stop the aspiration of both peoples for a just peace .

To the message of brotherhood and peace of the Israelis contributed Carmit Miron ,Rivka Assa, Bracha Seri and the singer Esther Shamir, who read her well known poem "A moment before the storm". There was also a pantomime performance by Said,and songs by Amal Murkus,Zipi Bartok, Rim Talhami and Zimra Ornat. Gay and exciting moments gave the traditional Debka dance group of Kalansawa, whose rythm attracted one woman after another to the dancing site .

Guests who greeted the participants included Nasha Lubelsky, general secretary of the "Histadruth" working women`s organization and the secretary of the textile and leather workers union, Amira Adrianov.

Behind the usual event stood the 8th of March Committee, where many women`s groups participated : The initiative was by the Movement of Democratic Women; "The Peace Map" group prepared a map of pieces of pictures by thousands of Women,layed out in June 1988 opposite the Knesset; "Women in

Black" who demonstrate every week in the big cities;"Shani" ,aid center for victims of rape and violence ;"Woman to Woman" (from Haifa) , feminists , "Bridge to peace", "Women's league for peace and also central activists of women's organizations, who did not participate in the event, welcomed the initiative for the event .

This set-up characterized also the impressive Jewish-Arab women's demonstration, that started from Malkei Israel square at the end of the event, carrying posters and pictures ,calling for a just peace ,for two states for two peoples,and at the same time condemning violence against women, demanding equality in society ,in the family ,in work,against price raises and unemployment .

ZO-HADEREKH 15.3.1989

A DESIRE TO COOPERATE AMONG
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DOVISH
PARTIES AND PERSONALITIES

By : K. Ben-David

Some say that the melody is not less important than the message, and this sounds friendly and wonderfully quiet during an evening under the heading : "Towards Glasnost in the Israeli Left - Controversies and Boycotts , Past and Future", that should have roused expectations for deep introspections .

The Tel Aviv Zavra Hall was overcrowded in the late evening hours of February 8 . The Chairman Prof. Yeremiyahu Yoval, defined the meeting as a "structureless evening" . After all, the structure was fixed and the reason for the absence of polemical tension , to which the Left is used, must be attributed probably to what one of the initiators of the event, the poet Nathan Zach , defined as a "plot.., we cooked , a sort of historical evening . It was a gradual process till it could be organized ." Some left with a feeling that the politicians "smoothed" the problems, but it seems to me, that they hadn't done so, the meeting might have missed its target . In their speeches, Knesset members Shulamit Alony (Ratz), Avraham Burg (Labour), Meir Vilner (DFPE), Mohammed Miary (Progressive) and the Mapam representative Victor Shemtov, contributed all to the feeling of historical responsibility and this, too, means a lot .

The writer Yoram Kanyuk, one of the organizers of the evening (on behalf of the Israeli-Palestinian Producers Committee) wondered : "Can we, from the Alignment to the left, cooperate ? The very fact that we are sitting together on the podium, from Burg to Vilner , is an achievement. When we are speaking of the Intifada and the occupation, Why can't we appear on the same platform together, Emile Habibi and I ? (A hint to a Peace Now meeting in Ramat Aviv, where the

participation of Emile Habib was cancelled in the last minute, a decision that caused Kanyuk's non-participation) . I don't remember that such a meeting ever took place ! " .

The broad representation of the speakers in the Peace Now meetings was mentioned also by CPI General Secretary Meir Vilner ,who disclosed, that the participation of the DFPE representative in the recent Peace Now assembly on Tel Aviv's Kikar Malkei Israel square was prevented under the pretext that he is "Not a Zionist". "Must ideological differences prevent cooperation?" asked Vilner rhetorically, pointing out : "We are for cooperation with everybody. We must not surrender to boycotts, there is no limit to it . We Israelis suffer from it in the international arena ,for instance, from Lybia. We have to overcome the sediments of the past. The world is changing rapidly. The sectarian attitudes have caused so much damage, that we have to face now the present and the future. The Decisive division in Israel is between those who want peace and those who seek occupation and transfer. So, for peace - which is the first national interest- we extend a hand to everybody." He expressed his hope that the meeting in Zavta will mark a turning point towards cooperation thus it will be historical for the State of Israel .

"I am not interested in the ideological part of this evening", declared MK Shulamit Alony, arguing with Victor Shemtov, who tried to define who is a Leftiest in Israel today . Alony called to unite the camp that counts hundreds of thousands, around three demands : a- Stop the occupation; b- Negotiations with the PLO, c- respecting the human rights . "Against a nationalist intransigent government we have to go together to build a big peace camp!"- she called, reminding of the recent initiative, that aimed at coordinating between the dovish parties and protest groups. Hinting at some leftist and centrist factors, she criticized those who care for the "image" instead for "character" and emphasized : "I am not frightened that we are

identified with any color " and to those who raise the slogan of security she said "An army is not a value, but a tool to safeguard values".

Victor Shemtov, former Mapam general Secretary, spoke about the historical aspect of the split in the left, in the world and in Israel, pointing to the relativity of the term. For him , a leftist in Israel is : a) who views in Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a balanced approach and supports a just peace based on equal rights for both peoples; b) who defends the democratic system and condemns its open and disguised enemies. He is embittered about the lack of connecting points in the left, that stands against the aggressive Right-wing. " We are captives of words and slogans ", He said, and as an example he brought the inability of Mapam and Ratz to unite in the last elections and the fact that the Labour Party did not turn towards the left after the elections .

MK Muhammed Miary demanded to define real targets in connection with the Palestinian issue . The Palestinian state, he said, has already risen, in fact . The Arab citizens of Israel, he emphasized, are a left peace force in the first place: "All Arabs in the state are Peace Now.." Miary presented his minimum conditions for a settlement : a- Recognition by the Palestinians and the Arab world of the State of Israel and its Security ; b- Recognition by the State of Israel of the right of self-determination of the Palestinians , including their right to a state , and also a solution of the refugees problem, "Not to leave any tails". He called for a coordination between the peace forces and the formation of a permanent coordinating forum in the Knesset.

Avraham Burg roused roars of laughter when he declared : "I do not represent the Perestroyka of my Party ". He introduced himself as a "national Jew" for whom all the country is mine, all its culture is mine , but as a person with his legs on the soil I know that it is necessary to divide it with others ; I am a dove, a Leftist, who remains

in the Alignment, so that the moment when I shall be a majority in it, the minority should not leave". He expressed concern that a fundamentalist camp has arisen in Israel : "The Jewish religion has passed an enormous distance, from the Book of Zohar to Uri Zohar ..." Referring to the situation of the Left, he said: "For peace an overwhelming majority of the people is needed, and the masses are not in the Left camp". In his opinion, the reason lies in the fact, that the Left has forgotten the factor of society and the community.

Prof. Menahem Brinker, also one of the initiators of the evening, said, that many voters of the Likud know that we should leave the occupied territories, and arguing with Burg he said, that one should not underestimate a majority of 51%. He defended the policy of Peace Now in the issue of the image and "The effectiveness of the political activity inside the Israeli public ", for instance denying a forum to Vilner , "even though I have no problem to say, that the platform of the DFPE is close to me". At the same time he supported an occasional speech by Vilner, Miary or a Degel Hatorah member at some Peace Now meeting so that they should not feel boycotted. His objection to a refusal of serving in the territories roused some reactions among members of "There is A Limit" who were present at the event. Brinker ended with a call for maximal cooperation and for establishing a peace lobby of the parties and extra-parliamentarian bodies .

It must be hoped, that the discussion in the Zavta Club contributed to the establishment of such a peace lobby, that will lead toward overcoming the boycotts of the past and towards a dovish and Left cooperation.

ZO-HADEREKH 15.2.1989

A USUAL DAY IN THE
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

By : Nissim Abu-Kheit

THE WRITER OF THIS REPORT JOINED A TOUR IN THE
NABLUS AREA ON 15.2.89 BY SEVEN RABBIS OF AN
ASSOCIATION NAMED "RABBIS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS" HE
TELLS ABOUT WHAT THEY SAW AND HEARD .

BURNS AND SPLINTERS IN THE BODIES OF CHILDREN

In Nablus we climbed the mountain on the way to Mount Eival and we went to the Al-Ittihad hospital where we were recieved by Dr. Afif Barbara who is in charge of the emergency treatement and anaesthesy department .

In the second floor, in a two-beds room , lies 10 years old Azam Naim Abdallah of Tayasir village near Tubas . Two days before we came, Azam, his five years old sister Ikhtimal and their two cousins were playing in the street near their house . The child tells, that a heliocopter passed above their heads and threw some bomb two meters from them . He was wounded by splinters under the knee. His sister was severely wounded in her head. The father, sitting on the child, s bedside adds, that the explosion shook the whole village and the inhabitants hurried towards the children .

On the saecond bed lies 13 years old Anis Besharat of Tamoun village . He tells, that on the 4.2.89, when he was with the sheep on the mountain, together with his 8 years old cousin Talal, a military jeep approached them and a grenade was thrown at them that exploded and hit them . His right leg was broken , the left leg scratched , splinters hit his head and his right side testicle was cut off .

COMPULSORY LESSON

When we left the Hospital, a group of children noticed us and after we passed them ,one of them decided to throw a stone that hit the back-door of the car . Nobody is hurt and no damage is caused, as the laconic daily bulletin says .

A short time before 12 at noon ,the entrance into Nablus looks like a market , the density is great. The traffic in front of us stops a moment, after a military vehicle sounds its sirenes and drives ahead .

At the outskirts of Beita village we notice a ruin that was not long ago a house and nearby tents provide shelter for the evacuated family . In an ordinary street we enter an ordinary gate that leads to an unusual street : Two women's classes - one gets advice on issues of health , pregnancy and birth,similar to our "Tipat Halav"* , the second class - first-aid lessons . These are compulsory at the time of the "Intifada". Here the women learn how to help wounded,how to treat various injuries ,how to protect themselves against poison gas . The place belongs to a charity institution that has also a spacy , clean kindergarten . Finally there is also a clinic , one of the many established by the Doctors Association in the occupied territories,after the outbreak of the uprising .

Dr. Barbara ,who accompanies the delegation during the tour, tells that the Doctor Association has appointed permanent doctors in the villages with over 5000 inhabitants . He remarks ironically, that the events have put an end to the unemployment among the doctors. They work almost as volunteers,because a doctor's salary is 450 shekel (150 Jordanian Dinar). This was an urgent necessity ,because a governemnt physician visits the village only twice a week for one hour only and also because curfew is imposed frequently and for long periods , while inhabitants are hurt by gas ganades and shooting . The clinic in Beita was established over a year ago . Till today the

villagers suffer from special sanctions, like a ban on visits to their families in Jordan .

The walls in the kindergarten are decorated with children's drawings. One of them shows a departing ship with a Palestinian flag on the mast.

COVERED FACES

The village of Salem is not far from Nablus, 2 or 3 Kilometers. An army roadblock is on the road to the village. The soldiers take the names of the Arab escorts. When they allow them to go on, an accompanying journalist gives the doctor, who shows signs of concern, his telephone number: If you will be persecuted, contact me. One of the Rabbis says to the doctor: Bravo! The journalist will defend him through the publication. His friend remarks: Maybe he will protect him from arrest, but not from daily harassments.

The rain water in Salem is drifting in the streets and uncovers the rocks under the car wheels near the clinic. When we entered, we asked a group of boys about the quality of the village roads. Never minds the roads, they say, but to half the inhabitants they cut off the electricity as a punishment that the young men did not comply with the demands of the army. Which demand? we asked them.

They demanded from the Mukhtar to erase the writings on the walls, to take off the flags, to hand over the wanted and to stop the resistance against the army. They tell that the last clash with the soldiers took place here less than two weeks ago: Men with covered faces entered the village, soon it turned out that they are from the intelligence service. They placed an ambush at the house of Sari Mohammed Jabor (38), shot at him and he was arrested. When his children and wife started shouting, they sprayed gas on them and left the house.

When we enter the car, hundreds of children say farewell to us on the roadside, raising pictures of Yasser Arafat and making a V sign with their fingers. Among them are children - three-four and five years old, standing with their faces covered, like the adults.

MATRESSES ON THE FLOOR

Returning to the Al-Ittihad hospital, we visit another wounded, Ismail Galb Shwahene, 23, of the Habla village. He was wounded when he was on his way, together with his colleagues, to console a mourning family after their son was killed. Near the house of the mourners they encountered an ambush of soldiers that opened fire at them. Two bullets entered his back and left left his stomach and a third bullet hit his leg.

Summing up the work of the hospital, Dr. Barbara says that he hospitalized constitute 60% of the wounded who were treated in the West Bank hospitals since the outbreak of the "Intifada". From 7.12.89 the staff treated 3280 injuries, including 46 cases that ended with death. He tells about the big difficulty of transferring wounded to hospitals in Israel. There are cases that cannot be operated in Nablus. The medical insurance is paid to the funds of the civil administration that raises every obstacle to prevent the transfer of wounded.

Dr. Barbara points out, that the medical services in the territories are underdeveloped and there are not enough clinics in the villages. Because the medical insurance is weak or non-existent, the patients are treated through the Doctors Association alone. Some children, he points out, die because of a lack of proper treatment and care, because of the absence of mother-and child care centers.

He says, the problems of medicine must be separated from politics and patients and wounded must be brought to the Israeli hospitals

Replying to a question he points out, that following the clashes with the army and a growing flow of wounded, three operating rooms were opened in the hospital, but they are forced to lay the wounded on mattresses on the floor .

The same evening ,when we returned home ,it was reported in the news broadcasts, that 5 years old Ikhtimal died from her wounds and the soldiers shot at demonstrators and wounded three inhabitants .

ZO-HADEREKH

2.3.1989

* Medical center for women .

LETTERS AND CABLES SENT BY
THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

To The Central Committee of The
South African Communist Party

Dear Comrades,

On the Occasion of the 7th congress of the South African Communist Party we have the pleasure to extend to you and through you to all forces fighting for freedom and national liberation in South Africa heartiest fraternal greetings.

Since its inception the South African Communist Party has been devotedly dedicated to the struggle against colonialism, racism and apartheid.

We highly esteem the heroic struggle of the South African Communists in the frame-work of the African National Congress against the white racist dictatorship ,for freedom, equality and national liberation.

Despite the barbaric acts of repression on part of the racist apartheid regime in Pretoria, despite the mass arrests , tortures and killings and despite the difficult conditions of illegality the South African communists and their allies in the ANC were never brought down to their knees , on the contrary with greater vigor and more success they continue their just struggle against apartheid and for freedom ,thus gaining the admiration and support of all people of good will, as expressed in the world wide campaign for the release of Nelson Mandela .

The Israeli Communists Jews and Arabs together with their allies in the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality are waging a relentless struggle for putting an end to the unholy alliance between the rulers of Israel and Pretoria .

Dear Comrades,

We wish your 7th congress every success in enhancing the struggle of your party and your people for putting an end to the shameful apartheid regime for equality, freedom, democracy and national independence.

To The Central Committee of the
Iraqi Communist Party

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of all Israeli Communists Jews and Arabs we have the pleasure to extend to you and through you to all Iraqi communists heartiest fraternal greetings on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the heroic Iraqi Communist Party .

Since its foundation the Iraqi Communist party has proved to be a devoted and loyal contingent of the International Communist and Workers Movement and a dedicated force in defending its unity on the sound basis of marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism .

All through the long years of relentless struggle the Iraqi Communists were always in the front ranks of the fight for national independence against imperialism and reaction for defending the daily rights of the working class and the popular masses thus gained the support of all the true Iraqi patriots and the admiration of all progressive forces in the Middle East and the world .

During the 55 years of its activity the Iraqi Communist Party has experienced illegality, fascist terror ,oppression and offered great and dear sacrifices, but it was never brought down to its knees. On the contrary you have always passed the hard tests with honor and success .

We highly appreciate your principled internationalist policy for solving the national question in Iraq based on the principle of the right to self-determination by advocating autonomy for Iraqi Kurdistan and opposing the brutal acts of terror against the Kurdish people in Iraq.

At present the Iraqi Communists are again facing repressive measures, persecution and oppression. This campaign of fascist terror directed against your party plays into the hands of imperialism and its Zionist and reactionary Arab agents that are acting against the independence and freedom of the Arab peoples and against the just national rights of the Palestinian people. This campaign against your party serves the aggressive policy of the Zionist ruling circles in Israel.

Dear Comrades,

We take this opportunity of the 55th anniversary of your party to extend to you our deep feelings of solidarity and admiration.

We wish you every success in your difficult and complicated struggle for the vital interests of your people and for advancing our common noble ideals peace, democracy and socialism.





FEBRUARY - MARCH 2-3/1989

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