

INFORMATION BULLETIN
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL



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WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE !

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**THE 31ST PLENARY SESSION OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST
PARTY OF ISRAEL**

On the 22nd-23rd of December, 1989, the 31st Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel took place with the participation of members of the Central Control Commission.

The Session was presided by George Toubi, member of the Central Committee Secretariat.

Meir Vilner, the General Secretary, lectured on the new political developments, on the situation in the socialist countries and on organizational issues.

David (Sasha) Khenin, member of the Political Bureau and of the Secretariat, reported on the work of the Bureau and of the secretariat.

A debate took place that was summed up by the lecturers.

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

In the beginning of the session, Meir Vilner congratulated the following comrades on their birthday: Ruth Lubitch, who is 80 years old; Yocheved Goner and Cassan Habib, who are 60 years old; Yoram Gozanski and Nissim Bracha, who are 50 years old- and wished them further fruitful work for the public, good health and personal happiness.

RESOLUTIONS

HANDS OFF PANAMA!

The Central Committee of the CPI condemns the invasion of Panama by the US army. The claim of the Bush administration, as if the military conquest of Panama was destined to restore democracy there, is an old imperialist excuse to justify the bombardment of cities, the killing of defenseless civilians and the establishment of a puppet government.

The American military invasion of Panama is totally contrary to international law and to the obligation of every state not to violate the sovereignty of another state. It contradicts the trend of improvement in international relations and the Soviet-American agreement, approved at the Malta summit, that every people and state have the right to decide their own fate, to choose the regime they find proper. This invasion, that threatens the peace of the world, will work, at the end, like a boomerang against the US military intervention and will isolate it still more.

The Central Committee warns against an official Israeli interference in the aggressive action by the Bush administration in Panama and reminds that in the beginning of September 1989 the government announced officially, that it will join the campaign for the downfall of the regime of General Noriega.

The Central Committee adds its voice to the call: Hands off Panama !

GREETINGS OF SOLIDARITY TO THE RUMANIAN PEOPLE

The Central Committee of the CPI expresses its full solidarity with the Rumanian people who revolted against the rule of Nicolae Ceaucescu who violated the democratic liberties and

committed bloody crimes against thousands of citizens.

The heavy deprivation and distress, the personality cult of Ceaucescu and his family, the reliance on special security forces and the silencing of everyone who disagreed with the official opinion- all these have discredited socialism, that is by its very nature a democratic regime for the welfare of the people.

The Central Committee expresses its hope, that the Rumanian people and its temporary leadership- the National Salvation Front- will establish a stable democratic regime that will respect the citizens' rights ,will act for the welfare of the people and develop the socialist economic and social principles.

EXTRICATE THE PEACE PROCESS FROM THE DEADLOCK

The Central Committee of the CPI reiterates its estimate, that Shamir's "Peace Initiative", that is supported also by the Alignment, is nothing but another barrier to prevent any advance on the way to a peace settlement of the conflict in our region. Even the American-Egyptian attempt to call for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue has entered a deadlock, because the Likud-Alignment government insists on its refusal to negotiate with the PLO or with a delegation to be set up in coordination with the PLO.

In view of the dangerous deadlock in the political process and the escalation of the oppression in the occupied territories, the Central Committee calls all supporters of peace, Jews and Arabs, to fight jointly , on the broadest possible basis, for the human rights to be respected in the occupied territories, for

terminating the occupation, for negotiating with the PLO and for respecting the right of the Palestinian people to an independent state alongside Israel.

The central Committee calls the CPI members and sympathizers, members of the Young Communist League and supporters of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (DFPE) , all supporters of Peace, to take an active part in the planned actions of the "Peace March 1990" and the peace convey for a meeting with the PLO in Cairo, and to continue with the campaign for material and medical aid to the residents of the occupied territories.

FOR A PEACE BUDGET FOR THE BENIFIT OF THE WORKERS

The state budget proposed for 1990 is an anti-labour budget, against the discriminated and middle sections. The high military expenses will continue to grow, to finance the oppression of the Intifada and the preparations for another military confrontation, while the civil expenses will be further cut, which will impose a still more heavy burden on the workers: Less allowances for the first and second child, elimination of most subsidies for basic commodities, no free education in elementary and secondary schools and higher Value Added Tax.

The 1990 budget grants still more privilages to the foreign and local big capitalists. According to the proposal of the Finance Ministry, the companies and persons with high income will pay even less taxes; the process of privitaization will be more rapid, and state companies, Histadrut and other public enterprises will be delivered into the hands of foreign capitalists (Maxwell and others) the depriciation of the real wages will continue and the high rate of unemployment will remain.

The Central Committee of the CPI calls for a public campaign to change basically the structure of the state budget- for a peace budget cutting considerably the military expenses, eliminating the costs of the occupation and increasing the funds for services and economic development.

CHANGE IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE DFPE FACTION IN THE KNESSET

After to the resolution of the DFPE Council on the 4th of December '89, that one of the DFPE members in the Knesset should resign within one month, the Central Committee decided to recommend to the DFPE Secretariat and its Knesset faction that the first to resign will be MK. Meir Vilner.

SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF THE IDEOLOGICAL-POLITICAL POLEMICS

Within the preparations toward the 21st Congress of the CPI, to be held in May 1990, the Central committee has decided to issue a special publication that will be open to party members to discuss ideological, political and organizational issues.

The debate in this publication will take place in addition to the ideological-political polemics already going on in the party organs, "Al-Ittihad" and "Zo-Maderekh".

EXPELLED FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The central Committee has decided unanimously to expel from the Central Committee Com. Samiah Ganadry, following a severe breach of discipline and violation of the organizational principles of the Party. his decision was preceded by a debate that started at the 30th Session and continued at the 31st Session of the central

Committee, when Com. Ganadry announced that he had violated knowingly the decision of the central Committee and will also not abide to its decisions in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CPI STATUTES COMMITTEE OF 20.12.1989

The Statutes Committee formed by the Central Committee recieved dozens of suggestions from Party members and held extensive discussions on each paragraph of the statutes and on the suggestions of the comrades.

The Committee summed up a proposal for a change in the statutes, based on the experience accumulated in the work of the Party, in the spirit of an expansion and deepening of internal Party democracy.

The Committee submitted its proposals to the Central Committee.

AFTER THE ELECTIONS OF THE HISTADRUT

WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO BUILD A BROAD JEWISH-ARAB COOPERATION

By: Meir Vilner

At the Central Committee of the CPI session on the 17th of November, 1989, the General Secretary Meir Vilner reviewed the elections results to the Histadrut institutions.

Differences Between Bush And Shamir

In the beginning of his lecture, Com. Meir Vilner reviewed the recent political developments and pointed out, that the intensified trend of the international detente, of putting out hearths of tension and resolving regional problems- affects also our region. The example of Namibia, where the national liberation movement Swapoo won the first general elections and the foundations for its independence are presently laid, is a model for a peaceful settlement under UNO auspices, combined with elections.

These changes in the international atmosphere, the unequivocal positions of Western Europe for a settlement with the participation of the PLO, and the two years of Intifada, the popular uprising against the occupation- all these push the US administration toward extending its links with the PLO and toward dissociating its self more distinctly from the positions of the Israeli government. It is no incident that the administration had delayed its official invitation of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir till the government announced its consent (though reserved) to the five points of the Baker plan for an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo.

Shamir's visit to the USA was marked by the growing isolation of the official Israeli policy in American public opinion, including the Jewish public. Shamir encountered sharp criticism, including the Jewish public. Shamir encountered sharp criticism concerning the military and nuclear relations with South Africa, the cruel acts of oppression in the occupied territories, the new settlements and his refusal to talk with the PLO. This does not mean that the Bush administration already exerts its unequivocal influence on the Shamir-Peres government. It is a fact, that last week the US delegation in the UN Security Council has supported the resolution condemning Israel in the issue of Beit Sahour, and the same week Congress approved again the traditional aid for Israel amounting 3 milliard Dollars for 1990.

The hesitations of the Bush administration are used by Shamir for a political delay on the one hand, and for an intensified oppression in the territories on the other. The escalation in the pressure of the Palestinian inhabitants of the territories found again its cynical and brutal expression when on the 15th of November soldiers tried to prevent manifestations of joy, hoisting of flags and balloons on the first anniversary of the proclamation of Palestinian independence.

Referring to the possibility of a government crisis following the announcement of Agudath Israel on the withdrawal of its support for the Likud and the Shamir government, Com. Vilner estimated, that the government will not fall immediately. However, the results of the Hisatadrut elections may serve as a catalyzer in the process of distintegration of the present government whose policy is disconnected from the developments in the world and in our region.

Failure of the Likud, Success Of The Labour Party

Analyzing the election results to the Histadrut Congress, Com. Vilner emphasized, that though numerically the Likud has reached this time better results than in previous elections (27.5% compared with 23,5%) it is true that the Likud in the Histadrut has been stopped. While the Likud, in the municipal elections, has ousted the Labour Party from the domination in some 30 local councils, the Likud has made every effort to gain also the leadership in the Histadrut, to get at least one third of the votes and the control of 15 labour councils. These objectives were not reached: The Likud has not even 30% of the Congress delegates and does not dominate even one labour council.

The Labour Party and Mapam succeeded to obtain almost the same percentage of votes they got together in 1965: Then the Alignment got 69% of the votes and now the Labour Party and Mapam together have 65%. The Labour Party was afraid, rightly, to lose some of its strength, perhaps even its majority in the Histadrut. The expanding unemployment, the high prices, the crisis in the Histadrut enterprises, the closing of plants and dismissals, the fact that the Finance Minister, who caused hardships to the workers, is a leader of the Labour Party- all these were sufficient reasons that those who voted Alignment in the past would punish this time the Labour candidates. But post factum it turned out, that the Labour Party has again reached a 55% majority in the Histadrut Congress, 58% in the Naamat Working Women's organization, and controls all labour councils.

The success of Mapam, getting some 9% of the votes to the Histadrut Congress, even after the party has run 20 years in the elections as part of the Alignment, shows that its separate list

was justified . Ratz, on the other hand, is disappointed at the election results, after having increased its representation in the Histadrut from 2.7% to 3.9% .

The Joint List and Activity of the CPI

Regarding the results achieved by the joint Jewish-Arab list in the Histadrut , Com. Vilner pointed out, that the establishment of the List itself was a vital and positive step, though it got less votes than expected: 4.5% compared with 4.4% that the Democratic Front for peace and Equality has so far.

Com. Vilner reminded, that after the election campaign to the municipalities, the CPI estimated that the conditions are ripe for a cooperation between the DFPE and other forces based on an agreed platform and a joint action programme. The desire to form the broadest possible front found its expression in the proposal by the DFPE, already in April 1989, to Mapam and Ratz to cooperate in the Histadrut elections. These two parties have not responded and didn't form a joint list either. After the two parties- the Progressive List and the Arab Democratic Party- announced their intention to run in the Histadrut elections, the DFPE suggested to them to establish a joint Jewish-Arab list.

The negotiations between the three components brought the establishment of the Joint List for Work, Equality and Peace to the Naamat Congress and to 18 labour councils. The fact, that the negotiations continued and the list was formed on the eve of the elections, made it more difficult to organize, considering the need to cooperate in conditions of different approaches and methods of action.

The election campaign has proved, that the establishment of the List was welcomed by most supporters and activists of the three parties, who regarded it as an opportunity for building a broader Jewish-Arab democratic cooperation. But this support found no adequate expression in the ballots and the results are disappointing this time. The joint List faced no few obstacles, including the hostile campaign by the Islamic movement that even contested openly the elections to two labour councils (in Nazareth and Lod); the support by the Labour Party for the Islamic movement and the support of part of this movement for the Labour Party ; the pressure and intimidations by the Labour Party inside the Histadrut institutions and also the fact that 75% of the Arab Histadrut members were prevented from voting for the labour councils in their localities; the strengthening of clans family trends; the changes taking place in the last years in the social composition of the Arab population, reflected in the growing tendency of some sections toward integration in the established structures.

However, that we have not succeeded this time has also some subjective reasons.

Appreciating the great contribution of the CPI to the activity of the Joint List, Meir Vilner pointed out, that many comrades made great efforts in propoganda and organization, but not all. There were comrades and sympathizers, who, because of their confusion in view of the events in socialist countries, were not active in the Histadrut elections. Furthermore, the campaign for the Histadrut elections has again underlined the existing weaknesses in the activity of the CPI and the DFPE among the workers, in neighborhoods, among women and youth and in daily social issues. The Jewish and Arab workers expect from us-emphasized Com. Vilner- that we help them to improve their lives today

and are not satisfied that we have a correct policy in political questions, especially in the issues of peace and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They want that we deal more energetically with economic and social problems, with problems of unemployment, housing and educational services, the discrimination of women at work and in society, in the campaign against the discrimination of the Arab Histadrut members at all levels. The trade union activity must be the systematical task of all party branches and institutions and not only of individuals.

In places where the comrades worked with energy and enthusiasm and dealt appropriately with social problems, we succeeded in increasing our strength, even considerably.

The True Line of Separation

Even though the Histadrut election results have not fulfilled our expectations, Com. Vilner pointed out, the CPI will continue the strategical line of reaching the maximal possible cooperation based on an agreed political and social programme. We shall continue to develop the cooperation within the joint-Arab list. that is an important step in the implementation of this strategical line and a basis for the continued efforts to establish a broad leftist-dovish alignment of forces.

Com. Vilner rejected the argument voiced by Ratz and Mapam, as if there were no room for cooperation between them and the DFPE and the Joint List, because it is not Zionist. The CPI, as a Marxist-Leninist Party, is opposed in principle to the Zionist ideology and practice. But at the same time we are against a policy of dividing the working people and citizens according to ideological marks. In the political reality, the separation line passes between

supporters of peace and opponents of the occupation and its supporters, between those who recognize the PLO and those who oppose any negotiations with it; between those who accept the principle of two states and those who oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel; between those who care for the interests of the toilers and those who serve the interests of the capitalists, between the supporters of Jewish-Arab equality and cooperation and all kinds of racist and transferists . In this context, Com Vilner reminded, that Abie Nathan, who was arrested because of the terrorist law forbidding contacts with the PLO, and also many of those who are in jail for their refusal to serve in the territories, are Zionists.

We shall continue to fight against the sectarianism of Zionist parties and groups with leftist and dovish approaches who refuse to cooperate in agreed issues. We shall continue our efforts to convince them that they have to adopt a new way of thinking, in conformity with the changing conditions in the world, in our region and in our country.

Finally, Com. M. Vilner pointed out, that the results of the elections to the Histadrut , though they have a general political significance , are no clue for possible results in the coming elections to the Knesset. The results of the elections in the Histadrut are also influenced by the special features of this organization.

ZO-HADEREKH 22.11.1989

**THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE
TO TALK WITH THEM**

Speech in Knesset:Tawfiq Toubi

The serious condition of the detainees in the Ashkelon prison and in other detention compounds was presented to the Knesset by MK. Tawfiq Toubi on 5.12.89. He pointed out that the only "crime" of many of the detainees is their desire for national freedom.

The intolerable overcrowded conditions in the Israeli jails have been since a long time a cause of concern for the public. But the situation is still much worse in the prisons where Palestinian detainees are kept- in Israel and in the occupied territories.

A month ago, a document arrived from the Ashkelon prison where the detainees describe their situation and the cruel methods of punishment. In August 1989, 30 detainees were transferred to the Ramleh prison where they were held in dark isolated cells, unaired, in an underground section. Every time when one of them was taken out to meet his lawyer, the hands of the rest of the prisoners were tied behind his back . Even during their one-hour walk in the prison courtyard ,their feet remained chained.

In the Ashkelon prison, where also lebanese caught in the open sea are kept, the prisoners are allowed one monthly visit only. Also to meeting with their families they are taken with their hands tied behind the back. They are not even allowed to pray together, because the prison wardens have orderes to tie their hands every time two or more prisoners are together in one room.

The prisoners complain they are not allowed to get newspapers, books and radio sets, even wrist -watches were taken from them. They sleep on uncovered mattresses and get 3 thin blankets. The food is poor and sometimes filthy. They are not allowed to get salt ,even to buy it themselves.

The bad health conditions and the insufficient food expose the prisoners to diseases and undernourishment. But there is no doctor in the Ashkelon prison and only one male nurse comes once or twice a week. Medicines were confiscated from prisoners who brought them. Without any warning or reason, prisoners are taken from their cells for one purpose only: They are beaten with electric wires under the supervision of an officer .

MK. Toubi wound up the facts from the document and pointed out, that the bad treatment and the inhuman conditions in the Ashkelon prison are a crude violation of the international convention concerning the treatment of prisoners and of the basic human rights. He called for the establishment of public inquiry commission to examine the conditions of the prisoners in Ashkelon and in other prisons.

Further ,MK. Toubi mentioned the cruel suppression of the prisoners protest in the Meggido jail in June and July 1989, that caused the death of two and the wounding of twenty . Thousands of prisoners in the Ansar-3 detention camp (Ktsiot) many of them detained by an administartive order, live in the worst conditions and their situation deteriorates still further in winter.

Finally, MK. Toubi said, that the two years of Intifada prove, that no measures, not even prison camps of the Ansar-3 type, will break the

spirit of the Palestinian people. The Ansar camp must be dismantled because the government will have to sit down and speak with those who are detained there.

ZO-HADEREKH 13.12.1989

**THE TIMES ARE CHANGING BUT
THE GOVERNMENT IS FOSSIL**

By : Meir Vilner
speech in the Knesset

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INTIFADA * WITHOUT PEACE
WE SHALL WAGE AGAIN LOST WARS * SOME 30 KNESSET
MEMBERS ARE ALREADY PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH
THE PLO.

What is the Intifada ? The word is widely used. By its essential contents , Intifada is a popular uprising by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, an uprising against the occupation . The Intifada is not against Israel. The Intifada is not against the existence of the State of Israel. The United National Command of the Intifada has recently published an agreed communique by all organisations participating in the leadership , that the Palestinian people recognize the right of the State of Isreal to exist and fights for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Isreal. Such a resolution was adopted earlier by the Palestinian National Council , the PLO parliament, held in Algiers. The PLO uses now terms that we have used since years : Two states for two peoples, Israel and Falestin. This is the meaning of the official resolution by the Palestinian Council of the united leadership of the Intifada.

Frankness at last

There was a time when people rejected to talk with the PLO with the excuse that this is a terrorist organization. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir declared on the 28th of November, that he denies talks with the PLO " not because of the terrorist character of the organization , but because it strives for the establishment of

the Palestinian state. I am ready to talk even with the devil. But this rule does not apply to the PLO, because talks with the PLO are tantamount to agreeing to the establishment of the Palestinian state ".

Now things are frank and clear: The Israeli government is not prepared even to start talks and negotiations only because the Palestinian people and its representative , the PLO want a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel. And I am asking the Knesset members and everybody in Israel : Obviously, in the beginning of the negotiations no solution is decided yet, so why should the Israeli government not respond to the PLO proposal and to the decision of its parliament and open negotiations on a solution, on an Israeli Palestinian peace ?

The problem is, that the Israeli government is opposed to the very recognition of the second party in the conflict. It is worse than South Africa : The Apartheid government has already recognized the African National Congress, the second party of the conflict, and is prepared to enter negotiations with it. It has also recognized the independence of Namibia after years of struggle . You, the government coalition, have remained the last cruel colonialists in the world .

The Intifada has made very important achievements in the peace efforts, in broadening the recognition of the PLO and the vital need of establishing a Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel . "The Economist", for instance, wrote this week, that "the Intifada has already achieved an irreversible change in the region, which is the rise of the Palestinian people, that doubles its blows, and Israel only strengthens the national Palestinain consciencess . Dozens of governments recognize

today Falestin, whose national independence Arafat has proclaimed a year ago. The more the Palestinians rise in the eyes of the world, Israel moves downward.". "The Economist" warns : If Israel continues to prevent a political solution and carries on its abominable acts in the occupied territories, then "the Intifada will inflict on Israel a very heavy blow- the West ,too, will turn its back on Israel".

THE USA NEEDS NO STRATEGICAL PARTNER NOW

The government doesn't even understand what happens in the world. The government relies on being a strategical ally of the USA against the Soviet Union. But times are changing now. The USA will not need Israel as a startegical ally against the USSR and in other places in the world. Times are changing and you, the government remain fossil. Western Europe recognizes the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people. The USA negotiates with the PLO. can't you in the government understand anything ?

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview to the "New York Times": "The Intifada can go on a year or two or more and the people of Israel can stand it". And further: "We shall continue to fight by all means, including confrontations, blows,arrests, plastic and rubber bullets and curfew on a large scale".

I am quoting these statements because the people of Israel is being deceived . The Intifada has changed essentially the public opinion in the world and also in the western governments on what is happening in the Middle East . Everybody will be against you, cabinet ministers, because the present trend is peace in the world, while the Middle East conflict causes

damage also to world peace.. If there will be another Israeli-Arab war, you, and only you, will be responsible . If tens of thousands of Jews and Arabs will die, you will not be forgiven. You, with your policy, endanger in the long run Israeli's very existence . I must say, if only we have warned of it in the past, I am now reading in an article by MK. Uzi Baram , who was General Secretary of the Labour Party, what only we have said once: that one side has to recognize the other side, that the PLO must be recognized and negotiations must take place, to recognize a Palestinian state alongside Israel. This is what almost the whole world demands now. Till when will you continue the bloodshed ?

PEACE-SUPPORTING KNESSET MEMBERS MUST COOPERATE

Minister Rabin has also said something true : "The Intifada will never end, if no political solution is found for the problem". But it is your policy, Minister Rabin ,that prevents a political solution . In this respect, there is no difference between you and the Likud. I quoted above what the Likud says: Recognition of the PLO is a recognition of a Palestinian state. You, Minister Rabin, have said so already years ago, and therefore you agree to an endless bloodshed, to more wars, that Israel will lose politically, because the Palestinian state is a necessity of the course of history. And the new developments in the international arena accelerate the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

The results of the continued occupation are not only bloodshed and dreadful political consequences. The results are also economic and social . Corruption of Israeli society because of the occupation must be deplored for generations. But there are more peace forces in Israel than before. And many activities are

organized by Peace Now, by the united peace movements and the Committee protecting the interests of the Arab population.

In the Knesset and outside, a cooperation and coordination between the peace-supporting Knesset members must be achieved, in spite of the ideological differences and differences about details. Who supports recognition of the PLO, that has already recognized Israel; Who supports the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and the establishment of a state of its own alongside Israel, is a supporter of peace. There are five such factions in the Knesset, and also in the Alignment faction there are many Knesset members who hold this opinion. Together we are almost 30 Knesset members who are for a recognition of the PLO, for the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. When we all will coordinate and cooperate in our activities in the Knesset and outside, then we shall be an influential force in the Israeli public.

STAIN OF SHAME

I have figures on the killed and wounded during the Intifada, by security forces and settlers. There are various statistics because apparently those who have died from their wounds are not counted. The exact figures are: Killed- 760 Palestinians, including children, women and others; wounded - 51,969. The number of wounded is based on reports from all hospitals in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, added up toward the end of the second year of the Intifada. The number of those arrested during these two years is 64,000 including 35,000 inhabitants of the West Bank, 29,000 of the Gaza Strip. 9,000 of these are administrative detainees.

These shocking figures are a stain of shame on the government, that not only discredits Israel , but also presents a security and existential danger to the state . Recognize the PLO, agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel- and so you will serve Israel's national interest, our need to live a normal life.

ZO-HADEREKH 13.12.1989

THE WORK DAY OF A FOREIGN WORKER
IS MORE THAN 12 HOURS

Speech in knesset By : Tawfiq Toubi

The issue of the foreign workers is a problem in an economy struck by unemployment where the greater part of the 163,000 jobless live in the discriminated towns. We know the results of the unemployment and of the social gap: Half a million Israelis live in poverty, the wages are declining and tens of thousands of children suffer from enviromental backwardness.

But in spite of the unemployment, the employers import, through private agencies, workers from Turkey, Yugoslavia ,Portugal and from other countries, for jobs in industries and services. What is the logic? It's quite a simple matter. The employers are interested in cheap labour whom they can pay a low salary and "save" the social benefits due to them. The usual victims of this exploitation, workers from the occupied territories , are often absent from their work places because of the Intifada. Therefore , foreign workers are imported, who, because of economic hardships, go to other countries where the employers are happy to take advantage of their distress.

The foreign workers come to Israel usually through private manpower agencies that treat them like slaves. A manager of one of these slave trade companies told in an interview to "Kol Ha'ir", 24 .11.89 : "Believe me, these Polish women (housemaids and nurses for sick and old people brought from Poland) work 24 hours a day. Obviously they need a few hours sleep, but they do everything you want. They don't go out if you don't tell them to go to the grocery or something like this. Besides you get a two months guaranty. We are responsible . If she is not O.K., you get another one ." So, a real slave

trade is going on right under the nose of the authorities.

The foreign workers are mostly employed without a permit. Out of an estimated 15,000 foreign workers in Israel, 11,000 have no permit. Their salary is low, usually 35% to 45% less than that of the Israeli workers in the same trade . Sometimes they work 12 to 18 hours a day under shameful conditions.

This exploitation has created a situation of workers unprotected by any trade union and of employers who behave like masters.

A woman who acquired the services of a housemaid from Poland says: " I found out that as Israelis we do not know to be masters. We don't know the rules of the game of master and servant . After three months the true problems with the Polish woman began, she started to feel comfortable. Slowly her presence was better felt and she actually dominated the household. Today I have a girl from Kenya, who is much more modest and gentle. Her place is quite defined , and she does not pretend to be one of our family. We have learned something from the experience with the Pole."

We protest against the introduction of norms of slavery, not against bringing to Israel some professional experts who are needed in some place. We protest that while there are unemployed workers in Israel, foreigners are brought here. We protest that these foreign workers are brought illegally and not in a regulated manner, which causes their shameful exploitation and creates dangerous norms in Israeli society.

There are some who use the foreign workers to get rid of the workers from the occupied territories. They want to make people believe as

if it were the same problem. This is cheap demagogy. The territories are under Israeli occupation and their inhabitants are not allowed to manage a sovereign economy. The responsibility for these territories rests on the occupant, i.e. the Israeli government. It is the duty of Israel as long as it maintains its military presence in the territories, to enable their inhabitants to make a living and let them work in Israel.

No need to point out, that we wish the inhabitants of the occupied territories to establish soon their independent Palestinian state that will accept the responsibility for their living. But till then the State of Israel is responsible. According to a report of the International Free Trade Unions, the Israeli government collects taxes from the inhabitants of the territories, who get no social services in return. These taxes are accumulated in the treasury and nobody knows what happens to them. At the same time, the workers from the territories are forced to work and live in inhuman conditions. The taxes collected from the workers of the territories must be transferred to the trade unions there, to be used for the benefit of the workers.

ZO-HADEREKH 20.12.89

SUPER - POVERTY

By: Tamar Gozanski

"NOBODY IS HUNGRY"- "THERE WILL ALWAYS BE POOR PEOPLE"- "THE ALLOWANCES FOR THE RICH MUST BE ABOLISHED AND THE POOR MUST BE HELPED DIRECTLY"- THESE REACTIONS ARE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN AND OF SUPPORTERS OF THE EXISTING SOCIAL SYSTEM WHO WERE FORCED TO REACT TO THE REPORT ON POVERTY. NOW THEY PREPARE FOR THE NEXT ATTACK ON THE LIVING STANDARD OF THE WORKERS, OLD-AGED AND FAMILIES WITH MANY CHILDREN .

The figures on poverty, like all statistics cover up twice as much as they reveal. It says, for instance, that the poverty line for an individual in 1988 was 395 Shekel a month, which was 23% of the average wage at that time . But half of all poor families had a free income(i.e. after receiving the allowances) of only between 57% and 100% of the poverty line. This means, that for them even the poverty line was too high because they live far below it.

This example demonstrates the problematics of poverty figures, without underestimating their importance. It is an answer to the argument that poverty is something relative. who had to live in '88 on a monthly income of 300 Shekel, lives in terrible distress: if he bought bread and milk, he could not afford to heat his home in winter.

It is also important to crush the usual image as if poor people are only old-aged and unemployed .Clearly these categories are at the lowest income level, but some of the poor are workers. How come? Quite simple: In '88, the income of 11% of all families whose breadwinner is a wage-earner, was below the poverty line that is only 23% of the average wages.

So it is clear, that the starvation salary paid in some enterprises and areas (for instance

So it is clear, that the stravation salary paid in some enterprises and ereas (for instance in sewing shops in arab villagea, (for temporary jobs) pushed into the circle of poverty people who want to work, working people.

CHILDREN ARE A BLESSING?

The number of fmilies living in poverty (according to the National Insurance Institute) is an amazingly constant figure, with the number of poor children increasing. Between '87 and '88 900 families entered the poverty statistics, but during that single year the number of poor children was growing by about 11,000 , before the payment of the allowances .After taking into account the income from the allowances, the number of children remaining below the poverty line increased between '87 and '88 from 172,000 to 198,000 , or by 26,000 in one year alone.

against the background of this shocking fact, not only the presumptuous statements of the Deputy Finance Minister, Yousi Beilin, are shocking, but first of all the schemes of the finance Ministry that might push down tens of thousands more children under the poverty line.

One of the chief instruments to help poor families with children are the children's allowances . However, since the "national unity" government was formed and since the "economic recovery" is carried out, these allownces are a target of constant attacks. In the first stage (April '34) it was decided to tax these allowances. In July '85 ,the allowance for the first child was abolished for families with less than 3 children, except for those whose income is below 80% of the average wage . But a check by the National Insurance Institute showed, that half of those who are entitled to the allowance for the first child , don't get it.

Now it is suggested to cancel also the allowance for the second child, with the excuse of transferring resources to education. This plan is a double cheat. The previous cuts in education have nothing to do with the children's allowances: When the cuts in the education were made, these allowances were cut, too. Furthermore, the education budget is no source for allowances, that are paid by the National Insurance Institute, i.e. at the expense of the payments of the employees themselves and of the employers.

WHAT IS NOT CUT ?

However, a direct link exists with those times that the government prefers not to mention. In those years, when the education budget was trimmed and "grey education" (at the expenses of the parents) expanded, the government handed out generous gifts to the capitalists: In April '87, the Finance Minister lowered the maximal income tax paid on highest income from 60% to 48%. This amendment costed the Finance Ministry a milliard Shekel a year and after the fury that broke out over it, a temporary tax was added that brought up the maximal tax rate to 53%, and since August '89- to 51%.

Now, when the Finance Minister "remembers" that he has to take care of education and uses it as a pretext to trim the allowances, he does not touch the tax benefits enjoyed by the rich. On the contrary. The special Added Tax will also be cancelled and it is planned to lower again the maximal tax from 48% to 45%.

The Finance Ministry doesn't link the costs of the occupation, of oppressing the Intifada and of the colonial settlements with the education budget. The idea that seems so simple- to transfer money from the occupation to

education- sounds to this government almost as sacrilege.

TIGHTENING THE BELT OF THE 1990 TYPE

The attack against the National Insurance allowances is only one of the items in the Finance Minister's plan toward the coming year. It appears that the government intends to cancel subsidies for public transport services, which means that the bus fees might rise considerably, besides a sharp cut in the subsidies for bread and milk and its products. Their prices will rise steeply.

And if this is not enough, the government intends also to raise the Value Added Tax by 1% and thus cause a general price increase. This means, that on the one hand the rich will pay less income tax, but VAT will be higher. And this tax is paid by everybody, also by those who don't pay income tax because they earn little.

But this ,too, does not end the list of anti-Labour measures. By what is called a tax reform, the Finance Ministry intends to cancel important achievements of the working class like tax-free meals in factories, less tax on shift work and for inhabitants of development towns.

The Finance Ministry also intends to abolish free secondary school education by collecting a levy, and to worsen the conditions of sick fund insurance by collecting a fee for a visit to doctors.

One may therefore say, that the government has reached a conclusion that the extent of poverty in the State of Israel is not enough. Nobody dies of hunger, as the Prime Minister declared . So they bring into the circle of poverty many more thousands of children and old-aged. And after carrying out their plan, the

Deputy Prime Minister may boast again: "One should not paint society with excessive poverty that does not reflect the reality. This is dangerous demagogy."

If we let them, they will paint the reality. they will form it like life itself

ZO-HADEREKH 13.12.1989

EYE WITNESS

" AND THE THIRD SHOT HIM IN HIS STOMACH FROM A DISTANCE OF 1 METER"

A group dealing with west bank issues in the Haifa branch of the Civil Rights Association sent last month a letter to the Commanding General of the Central District, Yitzhak Mordechai . The letter includes serious testimonies on the events in the Jenin area, concerning shooting procedures ,opening fire against the rules, maltreatment of wounded persons by soldiers and abstaining from medical aid to injured .

Testimonies by soldiers

A reservist, who asked not to mention his name, told a representative of the Association in Haifa: "...After two days training ,on 30.8.89, the Battalion commander gave us the following briefing on the Jenin area: "In my area the procedure is to speed up the arrest of suspect by simultaneous action of three soldiers: One shouts "Halt" ,the second one shoots in the air and the third shoots to hit the feet."

This testimony supports what Avi Benyahu wrote in "Al-Hamishmar" (23.10) :"... The Battlion commander has not denied to me that he the words 'speedy procedure of opening fire'.. He says this procedure is known in several battalions in the territories and also to the area commander".

The above reservist reported on a sever case of shooting: "On 7.9.89, the regiment commander went on a tour in the area in a jeep with his adjutant, accompanied by another jeep with the deputy company commander and a NCO . What happened in the incident I heard frome the NCO

immediately after he returned from the tour . He was deeply excited and told me and several other soldiers who were present : We passed the village of Akaba; a 14 years old boy threw a stone that hit the jeep... I fired one shot in the air and then the adjutant of the regiment commander aimed his weapon at the boy and he was hit".

An activist of the Association wrote an additional testimony on the same or a similar event, from an eye-witness who refused to give his name and claimed he told it to the Red Cross. In that event, a 14 years old boy was severely injured on 7.9.89, at 11.00 and died from his wounds in the Afulah hospital.

An eye witness reported: "...a convoy including a white car, in which officers and the 'high' military commander were sitting, accompanied by three military jeeps with soldiers, passed the village. The pupils walked at the roadside when the military convoy passed...The first jeep behind the white car stopped .One soldier fired from the car a shot in the air and then jumped off the jeep, took up a position near it, knelt down, aimed at the pupils and fired ...The soldiers hit the boy in the lower part of his back , 10 meters from the soldiers. After the boy was injured he continued to run ...he got weaker and leaned at a tree in an almond grove. Three soldiers came running, beat him in his stomach, while the boy was screaming with pain and claimed he did nothing . two soldiers stood on the feet of the boy and the third one shot him in his stomach- at less than one meter's distance."

The witness says he was driving in the car behind the third jeep, and saw everything that happened from a short distance.

In any case, one thing is clear from the testimonies: Weapons are used not for defense and against the official firing instructions.

Testimonies by Local Residents

Another eye witness reached the Haifa branch of the association (that has his name) on an incident in kabatyeh on 10.9.89 after which an inhabitant of the village, Mohammed Ahmed Sabaneh, 20, (Ident.No. 94685735) died. A violent incident occurred that day in the village between a group of youngsters and an Israeli military force, in which the above young man was wounded. The witness tells:

"I was hiding from the soldiers and saw them kicking Mohammed in the stomach (after he was wounded by a bullet). There were some 15 soldiers, but only some kicked him a few minutes. Later they seized his feet and dragged him on the road for half an hour..."

Mohammed was "freed" from the hands of the soldiers by a group of women and brought to the Jenin hospital where he died.

Another incident :A few villagers of Jaba reported to the branch of the Association on an event in their village on 10.9.89 when the local inhabitant Maher Ahmed Kassem Halilya ,20 (Ident. No. 95516717) was killed. Some witnesses, who asked not to publish their names, told that the incident started by a provocation of four soldiers in uniform who were driving in a jeep and provoking the inhabitants. The witnesses claimed that the soldiers fired without any justified reason at a group of young people, wounded two and killed one. The army spokesman's communique published in the press claims there were no soldiers in the village that day.

In a signed declaration a woman of Jenin tells she witnessed on 16.10.89 at 15.00 p.m. the shooting by two soldiers of a young man, entirely contrary to the official firing orders.

She claims she saw the two soldiers approaching the door and firing one shot, without any warning, that hit the young man. No event that justifies such a reaction preceded the shooting.

On 9.11.89, an inhabitant of Jenin , Mufid Mohammed Jamil Hizbun, 19 (Ident. No. 90809144), was severely wounded and died of his wounds three days later .His family says he was shot without warning (there are no eye witnesses). But an eye witness claimed he saw how the wounded man was left lying without medical treatment for an hour till he was evacuated by a military ambulance . Other eye-witnesses say Mufid stayed at the military government office three hours despite his critical condition and only then was brought to the Afulah hospital.

At the end of the letter, the civil Rights Association demands that General Mordechai should order a thorough, rapid investigation of three grave events and put the guilty on trial. The General is also asked to make the results of the investigation public ,to prevent the repetition of similar acts.

Zo-Haderekh 13.12.1989

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PROTESTERS MARKED TWO YEARS OF INTIFADA

MASS DEMONSTRATIONS, MEETINGS AND STUDY STRIKES IN ISRAEL MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE THIRD YEAR OF THE POPULAR UPRISING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

Jerusalem

5,000 demonstrated on Saturday, 9.12, in an impressive mourning procession organized by Peace Now. The marchers carried signboards with pictures of 143 Palestinian and Israeli children killed during the two years of Intifada, as well as torches that looked like remembrance candles. Part of the demonstrators arrived from other cities and kibbutzim all over the country. They marched in silence on the instruction of the organizers. Slogans carried at the head of the demonstration said "143 children - how long?", "Talk peace with the PLO-Now".

A short meeting near the Van Leer Institute concluded the demonstration the speaker, Yoki Amir, called the government to start negotiations with the PLO and accept the fact that the Palestinian people want a state of their own.

Nazareth

Over 10,000 participated on Saturday in the central demonstration organized by the steering committee of the Arab population. The procession was headed by Knesset members Tawfiq Toubi, Mohammed Miari, Abd Al-Wahab Darawsheh and Hussein Fares and other Arab public personalities including Ibrahim Nimer Hussein and the priest Shehadeh Shehadeh, members of the Nazareth city council and heads of local councils. Delegations of peace movements were among the demonstrators, including "Women in

Black" and "Red Line", as well as Jewish personalities .

Kfar Kassem

Some 2000 from all villages in the Triangle took part in a mass meeting on Saturday, including leaders of the CPI and of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality as well as heads of local councils. Speakers were head of the Kfar Kassem local council, Ibrahim Sarsur ,MK. Tawfiq Toubi, Prof. Zvi Razi of Tel Aviv University ,Sheikh Nimer Darwish and others.

Haifa

Many hundreds of Jewish and Arab inhabitants of Haifa and its suburbs and of nearby Kibbutzim formed on Saturday a human peace chain, along the Khoury and Allenby streets. The demonstrators carried colorful slogans in the colors of the Israeli and Palestinian flags, calling "Enough of the Occupation!", "Negotiate with the PLO" and "Two States for Two Peoples". Issam Makhoul, in the name of 14 peace movements in Haifa, addressed the audience.

Shafran

A protest picket organized on Saturday became a mass demonstration that lasted over two hours, attended by representatives of public institutions in the town and various political movements.

Umm Al-Fahm

In spite of the heavy rains in the area on 8.12. hundreds marched in a protest procession . The meeting on the public town square was addressed by Hashem Mahameed, head of the public committee for aid to the inhabitants of the

occupied territories, Lianna Kanetz of "Women in Black" and Morid Fareed, member of the public committee.

In The Universities

The Arab students committee and Campus movement in the Hebrew University organized a protest meeting on 6.12 attended by some 250 students and addressed of Mohammed Adwy, Chairman of the Arab students committee, Prof. Danny Amit and Zvika Ben David of Campus.

On Sunday, the Campus and Zavta students groups organized at Tel-Aviv University a meeting together with the Arab students committee. Some 100 students took part in the event. Speakers were: Dr. Yehuda Kupfermann, of the "Ad Kan" lecturers group; Shelly Freed of the Campus movement, Michal of Zavta; and Nader Masarwa, chairman of the Arab students committee.

Secondary Schools

Study strikes and sit-down strikes took place in secondary schools in the Arab sector. Students stood a minute silent in memory of the victims of oppression in the two years of Intifada.

Policemen Attacked Quiet demonstrators

A picket line of 50 young Communists League members in Nazareth carrying on 7.12.slogans and torches to mark two years of the Intifada, was attacked by over 70 policemen. They were beaten and 8 were arrested. Hundreds of by-passers were furious at the policemen who used the slogan raised in the picket line "Rabin, how many children you killed today" as a pretext for the attack.

On the same day a solidarity picket line with the Intifada took place in Kfar Yasif. The demonstrators stood on the place where the weekly market was held. Three police units turned up and 4 of the demonstrators were arrested, including Nerjis Sharif who stood there with her 3 years old daughter. Later, after being accused of an "illegal meeting" and "solidarity with a hostile organization", they were released against bail.

ZO HADEREKH 13.12.1989

DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS

Letters and cables sent by
The Central Committee of the
Communist Party of Israel

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* To The 14th Congress of The
League of Communists of Yugoslavia
Belgrad - Yugoslavia

Dear Comrades,

On the occasion of the 14th Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia we have the pleasure to extend to you on behalf of all Israeli Communists, Jews and Arabs, heartiest fraternal greetings.

We wish your Congress fruitful deliberations and every success in promoting the living standard of your peoples in deepening democracy and in advancing the general cause of peace, national independence, international cooperation and social progress.

* To the CC Polish United Workers Party
Warsaw - Poland

Dear Comrades

Fraternal greetings on the occasion of your 11th congress. Your congress which will end the function of the Polish United Workers Party will establish the party of the left. We wish you success in your deliberations and in preserving unity of ranks on the basis of socialist values for interest of Polish working class and People and for interest of general cause of peace democracy and social progress.

To the CC Communist Party of Cuba
Havana - Cuba

Dear Comrades,

On the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution we have the pleasure to extend to you heartiest fraternal greetings. We wish the People of Cuba success in the efforts for consolidating socialism and advancing the general cause of national independence democracy peace and socialism

12/1989

CC TELEX NO. 371595 ISCOMP IL

C O M M U N I S T P A R T Y O F I S R A E L
C E N T R A L C O M M I T T E E - F O R E I G N R E L A T I O N S D E P A R T M E N T
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C a b l e A d d r e s s : I S C O M P A R T E L - A V I V