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Workers of All Countries, Unite !

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## 15TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

On January 28-29, 1983 the 15th plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel took place with the participation of the members of the Central Control Commission.'

Chairman of the session was Comrade George Toubi, Secretary of the Central Committee.

The General Secretary, Comrade Meir Vilner, lectured on the political situation and the tasks of the Party.

Member of the Political Bureau, Comrade Benjamin Gonen, lectured on the struggle of the workers and the Trade Unions.

Member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee, Comrade David (Sasha) Khenin, delivered a report about the work of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat.

A debate took place, which was summed up by Comrade M. Vilner. The Central Committee endorsed the lectures, the report and the summing up and adopted resolutions.

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At the opening of the session Comrade M. Vilner congratulated Comrade Leon Zehavi, Member of the Central Committee, on the occasion of his 60th birthday. The Central Committee wished Comrade L. Zehavi good health and many additional years of fruitful activity, in the leadership of the Party, for the lofty ideals of peace and communism.

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### RESOLUTIONS OF THE 15TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

#### IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE DANGER OF FASCISM AND WAR

##### 50 Years after the Coming to Power of the Nazis in Germany

The Central Committee states that the principal lesson of the coming to power of the nazis in Germany is, that one must struggle against the danger of fascism and war while it

is still in the bud. The unity of the working class and all the antifascist forces in the struggle against the domination of fascism is the guarantee for its repulsion.

The social demagogy, the extreme racism, the nationalist slogans served the nazis as a means for leading the masses astray, under the conditions of deep economic and social crisis. The divisionist policy of the leadership of the German social-democracy, which preferred collaboration with the bourgeoisie against communism and the Soviet Union to the unity of action against fascism - enabled the coming to power of fascism in Germany.

Georgi Dimitrov, the outstanding communist and anti-nazi leader, justly stated that the victory of fascism in Germany was not inevitable. The working class was powerful and highly influential, but it was not united and the leaders of social-democracy considered communism, and not fascism, the main danger.

Fascism, which is the open terroristic dictatorship of the most reactionary, and most chauvinistic factors of financial capital, and especially German nazism, opened the second world war and carried out atrocious acts of genocide. Fifty million victims fell in the war, including 6 million Jews, 20 million citizens of the Soviet Union and also sons of other peoples.

German fascism brought disaster also on the German people themselves. On the 50th anniversary of the coming to power of nazism in Germany, we will not forget and not let forget who exterminated and who saved.

Fourty years have elapsed since the historic victory of the Soviet army in Stalingrad, a victory which caused a basic turn in the second world war. The USSR has decisively contributed to the victory over Hitlerism and saved the peoples of Europe. The Soviet Union has prevented the additional expansion of German nazism and thus saved our country from fascist occupation which was liable to bring about the annihilation of the Jewish population and disasters upon the Palestinian Arab people and upon all the peoples of the region.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel denounces the policy of the Begin-Sharon government and the leaders of the Labour Party, based on the strategy of US imperialism which endangers world peace and supports fascist and racist regimes.

The security and future of the people of Israel will be ensured not through cooperation with imperialist powers, with fascist and racist regimes against the Arab peoples, against the national liberation movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America and against the Soviet Union, but through cooperation with the Arab peoples and the forces of progress in the world against fascism and reaction and against the war mongers who endanger world peace. Peace and security in the world means peace and security for Israel.

In Israel a dangerous fascist process is taking place. The danger of fascism is being aggravated together with the escalation of the policy of war and occupation. The order of the day is to unite against fascism, to defend democratic liberties and to wage a united and consistent struggle against the dominant policy which contradicts peace and the real interests of Israel.

#### FOR AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

The Central Committee states that the continuation of the Israeli occupation in Lebanon endangers peace in the entire region and constitutes a threat of expanding the aggression of the Begin-Sharon government, with American backing, against the forces of the Palestinian Resistance, the Progressive Lebanese Movement and the Syrian army in Lebanon and even against Syria itself.

The Central Committee condemns the provocative demands of the Israeli government for establishing military bases in Lebanon, patrolling Lebanese air space and coast by Israeli air and naval forces, and maintaining the domination over South Lebanon in the hands of the Israeli mercenaries of Haddad. These demands prove that the Begin-Sharon government aspires to turning Lebanon into an Israeli colony, perpetuate its occupation, liquidate Lebanon as a sovereign state and bring about its division. The continuation of the aggression of the Israeli government in Lebanon causes many additional victims among Israeli youngsters, many additional victims among the Palestinians and Lebanese, and additional destruction.

The Central Committee states that the aims of the aggression of Israel and the USA in Lebanon are common to both governments. Without the all-round American assistance the Israeli government would have been unable to open the aggressive war and maintain the prolonged occupation in Lebanon. The differences of opinion between the government of Israel and the USA are not questions of principles but on tactical questions

connected with the distribution of the military and political "booty" in Lebanon between them. The Reagan administration is interested in setting up American bases in Lebanon as a part of its strategic plan against the independence of the states of the region, against the national liberation movements and against the Soviet Union. The Reagan government has misgivings that the direct and overt Israeli domination in Lebanon is liable to interrupt the intrigues of American imperialism in the region and in the pro-imperialist regimes in the Arab countries. On its part the Begin government is interested in dominating a considerable part of Lebanon, in order to prevent any international handling of the occupied Palestinian territories - the West Bank and Gaza Strip - and in order to gain time for continuing the plunder of the lands and the establishment of additional colonial settlements.

All these plans of annexation are doomed to failure. The American administration and the Israeli government base their policy on trampling underfoot the rights and freedom of the peoples, particularly on trampling underfoot the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. However, the war in Lebanon has proved that the war crimes, the acts of massacre and genocide have not only failed in liquidating the Palestinian Arab people and their representative - the PLO - and despite the sufferings and numerous victims, they have not broken their spirit, but their international status is today firmer than ever before.

The Central Committee demands the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. This is an Israeli interest not less than a Lebanese and Palestinian interest. This is the interest of peace and security in our region and the world.

The Central Committee calls for intensifying the united struggle of the forces of peace in Israel against the continuation of the occupation in Lebanon, for toppling the Begin-Sharon government, for just Israeli-Palestinian peace as a basis for comprehensive Israeli-Arab peace for the interest of all the peoples.

PUT AN END TO THE MILITARY TERROR IN THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP

The Central Committee states with concern that the Begin-Sharon government is aggravating the military terror against the Palestinian population in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Shocking maltreatment of inhabitants of



towns, villages and refugee camps; the sadistic encroachments on part of the "security forces", the colonial settlers and Quislings of the "village associations"; the wholesale robbery of the Palestinian lands; the torturers in the prisons; the restrictions against the trade unions and universities - all these steps are meant to pave the way for the realisation of the treacherous plan for expelling the Palestinian people from their homeland and annexing the occupied Palestinian territories to the State of Israel.

The Central Committee denounces the policy of brutal oppression and annexation, demands to put an end to the military and "civilian" terror, and calls upon all persons of conscience, all persons with political realism, not to be silent but to raise their voice against the terror of the Begin-Sharon government, against trampling underfoot the elementary human rights in the occupied territories, for respecting international law and the Geneva Convention with regard to occupied territories.

An end to oppression and occupation! An end to the policy of war and annexation!

#### AGAINST THE CONFISCATION OF LAN IN THE GALILEE AND TRIANGLE DISTRICTS

The Central Committee condemns the racist policy of the Begin-Sharon government which aggravates the policy of discrimination and national oppression against the Arab population in Israel, the confiscation of dozens of thousands of additional dunams from 16 Arab villages in the Galilee, the confiscation of numerous additional lands from the Arab villages in the Triangle, the eviction of the Bedouins in the Negev (Naqab), the choking of the Arab quarters in the mixed towns of Yaffo (Jaffa), Haifa, Acre, Ramleh and Lodd, the strangling of the Arab local councils, the discrimination with regard to children's allowance - a discrimination between Arab and Jewish children, the discrimination with regard to study fees in the universities, between Jewish and Arab students - all these are a mark of disgrace to the Israeli government and to all those who support this racist policy actively or passively.

The Central Committee calls for a united struggle of the Arab population and the Jewish democratic forces against the policy of eviction, discrimination and oppression, for equality of rights for the Arab population in Israel in all spheres of life.

AGAINST THE FASCIST THREATS DIRECTED AT THOSE WHO HOLD TALKS  
WITH THE P.L.O.

The Central Committee denounces the fascist threats of government ministers and others against personalities from Israel who hold talks with the PLO - the exclusive and recognised representative of the Palestinian Arab people. Their opposition to talks with the PLO stems from their opposition to Israeli-Palestinian peace, from their preferring ceaseless wars to peace without annexations and on the basis of the establishment of an independent Palestinian State alongside the State of Israel.

The Central Committee regards as positive, the contacts and dialogue between Israeli factors and the PLO, with the aim of advancing the cause of peace. The dialogue with the PLO is a vital necessity for the people of Israel. Only a just Israeli-Palestinian peace will ensure security to both peoples.

ZO HADEREKH

February 2, 1963

## WHO GAINS FROM THE WAR IN LEBANON?

*Speech of  
M.K. Meir Vilner*

I listened to what Member of Knesset Amoraï (Labour Party) had to say, and I agree with him on one thing, that is: if there is no mass employment in Israel now, it is not due to the economic policy of the Israeli government or the policy of the Finance Minister, but due to the mobilization of many workers from the reserves. But I am sorry to say that M.K. Amoraï, it seem, did not read the law.

M.K. Amoraï: was there time for this at all, was it possible?

M.K. Meir Vilner: (waging a small piece of paper on which the short law is printed). This is all the Law! It is not a question of time. It is written in it that they ask for the increase in the budget for defence - and this is the main point in the law - by 9.3 milliard shekel, and another 3.7 milliard shekel for the Ministry of Defence, which were transferred from other Ministries, and to be more exact - from the Ministries of welfare, from public services: education, health and so on. To all this M.K. Amoraï made no reference. It is not clear if you support or oppose this. If you agree, that the people of Israel should continue to finance the war in Lebanon, you must say so. But to refrain from dealing with this question is not understandable. You have said nothing about the main point.

This additional budget which amounts to 16.5 milliard shekel - out of which 9.3 milliard shekel to the budget of defence - is intended to finance the war in Lebanon. However the additional budget is not 16.5 milliard shekel, but 32 milliard shekel. This sum it seems, will be divided over a period of three years. Only to the budget of this year the sum of 9.3 milliard shekel will be added. The expenses of the war in Lebanon are terrific.

From where this money will come? Part of it will come from the so-called loan "The operation for peace of the Galilee", in fact, it is not serious at all now, to call it so. Another part will come from the increase of the rate of the value Added Tax. All these are regressive steps, specially when speaking about the Value Added Tax, which is a constant burden on the widest popular sections. It has already been published that towards the end of the fiscal year, the Finance Minister will ask for an additional budget in order to cover the rate of inflation which according to all opinions will reach about 130%.

## WHAT IS THE COST OF THE WAR IN LEBANON?

When we speak about the defence budget - and this is the central point in this discussion - we must take into consideration not only the additional budget, but first of all the original budget for defence and the dozens of milliard shekels which we have to pay for the war and its results during the coming years. I am not speaking about the numerous victims, about the killed and the injured. I am not speaking about the political or the moral consequences of the war. It is also necessary to take into consideration the increase in the external debts and mainly those debts which stem from the war. The total sum, of the governmental debt, the Bank's debts and other debts which are guaranteed by the State amounts to 25.2 milliard dollars. And the result is: Our independence is further away and our peace and security too, is further away.

The prices of weapons are huge. I do not want to specify every thing. But if we only take into consideration the barbaric bombardment of Beirut, during the last two days of the war, 11th and 12th of August 1982, that is to say the end of the formal war - because, in fact the war has not ended yet - the economic price is huge, this besides the massacres and destruction. It was published that during those two days, 8000 bombs were dropped from the air over Beirut, dozens of thousands of bombs were shot from the ground from cannons and tanks, and hundreds of thousands of bullets from light weapons. A heavy air to ground missile costs 5 million shekel. There are cheaper versions, but they too cost not less than half a million shekel each. The cost of an hour's flight of F-15 is 350 thousand shekel. An hour's flight of the Kfir which accompanies the F-15 costs 220 thousand shekel. It is estimated that Beirut was bombarded for a period of 300 hours. If we take into consideration all the other expenses during those two days in addition to the bombardment of Beirut we will reach the sum of 5 milliard shekel. And if we will sum up the cost of the war until now - according to an inaccurate calculation - we will reach the sum of 4 milliard dollars. (This figure includes also the supplying of food to the soldiers, the preparations towards the winter and the new motorways in Lebanon.)

What was possible to do with all this money?! even part of this sum would have been enough to solve the problems of the slums, the problems of health and education and many other painful problems.

## WHO GAINS FROM THE WAR?

In addition to the political objectives of the war in Lebanon - the liquidation of the national existence of the Palestinian people, the liquidation of the PLO and imposing a puppet government on Lebanon etc... there is an economic-class objective of the war. There are certain circles, though not large, who are interested in the war because of economic reasons. Not only the US arms magnets who sell us or provide us with arms in exchange to the blood of our soldiers in order to save the blood of their soldiers, but also inside Israel there are circles and companies which profit from the war in Lebanon by supplying weapons and other needs to the army.

It is not by chance that during the last eight years the Middle East has acquired huge quantities of arms. In the year 1974 the US arms magnets have sold arms to the Middle East which amounted to the sum of 8 milliard dollars. Israel is a very important market for the American arms magnets and their Israeli partners. To them, Israel is an important factor for enhancing the arms race in other countries in the region. In Israel there are many companies which produce weapons and supply other products to the Israeli army. Those suppliers are either American companies or American-Israeli companies.

The military US assistance to Israel in loans or grants which amounts to milliards of dollars, is not given in fact to Israel, but is transformed directly to the accounts of the private US arms companies from the US Finance Ministry money which is taken from the American tax payer.

Moreover, the US arms magnets, are establishing factories in Israel - either themselves or as partners with Israeli capital - under easy conditions. The government provides them with easy credits to the extent of 50% of their investment and exempt them from taxes and other obligations. In addition to this, the labour force in Israel is cheaper than that in the USA and other Western countries.

All this help the American arms magnets, and their Israeli partners, to influence the political establishment in the country and even the composition of the government. They use Israel as a channel for supplying US arms or US-Israeli arms to countries which the supply of arms to them is internationally considered as a dirty transaction such as South Africa or other fascist countries in Latin America.

Concluding his speech MK Meir Vilner warned from the danger of the renewal of the war and its expansion to the north of Lebanon and against the Syrian army.

ZO HADEREKH

8.12.1982

## WHAT IS IN THE NEW STATE BUDGET AND WHAT IS NOT IN IT

*Speech of MK Tawfiq Toubi  
in the Knesset on January  
17, 1983*

A budget of 13 figures which amounts to 1,123 trillion shekel was presented by the Finance Minister who exalted himself, while obliterating his failures and whitewashing the antiworker and antipopular policy in the service of the capitalists. He made a transparent attempt at concealing the fundamental source of the mortal disease of the inflation and the grave economic crisis which grips Israel. The source of these diseases is the policy of war, occupation and the ever increasing military expenditures, which characterise the present budget even more than the previous ones.

The budget is described as a "Remedy budget". About what remedy do you speak? Even the economists of the finance ministry admit that the new budget is a "budget of continuation". Continuation of what? Under the shadow of the Likud policy in the previous year there was indeed a continuation of inflation, increasing prices, impoverishment of the toilers and the popular masses, greatly enhanced enrichment of the banks and the big capitalists, who are the real masters of the Likud government. The wages of the workers declined, poverty expanded, the spendings for welfare services were reduced, the distress of health, services, educational and social assistance have aggravated. The misery of the poor quarters has increased. Economic growth has stopped, export decreased, enterprises were closed and the deficit in commercial balance has increased. The debts of the state and especially the foreign debts, mainly to the United States, have increased.

In the centre of this list, and due to the criminal war in Lebanon which has not yet ended, the military expenditures have increased. This is the fundamental source of the economic crisis and the troubles of the Israeli economy.

The prominent features in the economic and social fields during the year 1982 in Israel, according to the report of the Central Bureau of Statistics and to official and budgetary sources - are: an inflation of 132% as compared with 101.5% in the year 1981 and 133% in the year 1980. The prices for food in the past year increased by 153%, housing by 133% and other vital products and services by 140%. In the course of

the last five years the prices increased by more than 40 times. That means by more than 4,000%.

For the first time since the year 1953 the economic growth has stopped and in the year 1982 the GNP (Gross National Product) has not increased. This constitutes in practice a decline in the production level per person, as the number of the inhabitants of the state has increased.

#### DEBTS WHICH ARE PAID IN BLOOD

The foreign debts of the state increased from 24.2 billions at the end of the year 1981 to 26 billion dollars at the end of the year 1982. This means: Intensification of the dependence and economic enslaving to the USA, which is the principal lender. This astronomic debt has increased in consequence of the increasing military spendings. Practically, every person in Israel, from the day of his birth, owes 6,400 dollars to foreign factors.

Why does the USA give loans and grants of billions of dollars? This is the support which it renders to the policy of occupation and aggression. From this, naturally, profit the US arms and financial magnates. And in exchange for this money the masses of the people in Israel pay with usurious interest, in money, blood, and lives of the Israel young men.

The commercial deficit increased in the year 1982 by half a billion shekel and has reached the sum of 4.7 billion shekels. Export has decreased by 5% but the real value in practice smaller by 9-10%. As against this, civilian import increased in this year by 45%, as compared with the import in 1981 (without taking into account the military import) and this import has a destructive influence on the industrial branches in Israel. However, the dimensions of decline in export are still more serious. If we take into account that the component of arms export - to tyrannical fascist regimes, with which Israel is connected and which it boosts - has increased also this year. This is an export which is not only dangerous politically, but is also a source of an economic shock, when the pestilential swamps to which this arms export flows, will dry up.

Agriculture is in a grave crisis. Agricultural production indeed increased by 7.9% in 1982, but the real income has decreased by 1.6%. The losses of farmers have reached 230 million dollars. Especially prominent is the crisis in the branch of citrus fruit, which is nearing bankruptcy.



Tourism is in a serious decline. This is so in consequence of the war in Lebanon. The number of tourists has decreased from 1,140,000 in 1981 to 996,000 in 1982 - a decline by 12%.

Starting construction of dwelling houses decreased this year by 22%. Sales of flats declined by 8%.

### INCREASING POLARISATION

The data of the Central Bureau of Statistics reveals that the average real wage decreased in 1982 by 2.6%. But in public services it decreased by 6.8% and among the workers of the Electric Company and the waterworkers by 11%.

The official claim that there was an increase of 7% in consumption is demagogic and misleading. The increase refers to the well-to-do persons, to the rich, but a decrease has taken place among the lower income brackets. In this situation, the social polarisation is deepening in the shadow of the Begin-Aridor-Sharon government, which had promised to do good to the people.

The figures and facts about the profits of the banks, the profits of the capitalists, the profits of the speculators at the stock exchange are too big. For instance, in the first half of 1982 the net profit of the Bank Leumi Group increased by 124%, and this constitutes a real increment of 7% in comparison with the same period in 1981. The profits of the Bank Hapoalim increased by 140% and this is a real profit of 23%. The net profit of the IDB (Discount Bank) amounted to 1.1 billion shekels, as compared with 362 million shekels in the parallel period in 1981; a real increase of 100%.

As against the enormous enrichment of the narrow elite stratum, poverty spreads and the living standard of the toiling masses decreases. Here, the real face of the Begin government is exposed; It generates wars, sheds the blood of the people and at the same time the poor in Israel get more numerous, while the pockets of the rich get still more puffed up.

### 16% OF SECOND CLASS INHABITANTS

The policy of national discrimination against the Arab population has aggravated and deepened. The Arab population is discriminated in the budget in allocations for the vital services, the educational and health services, the

municipal budget, in housing, agriculture and conditions of employment. For example, in the sphere of municipal services, the part of the Arab Local Councils in the general grant which is given to all the Local Councils, was in 1982 only 4% and only a short time ago it was raised to 5%, although the inhabitants of these Councils constitute more than 12% of the whole population. The same happens in education, agriculture and the other services.

There are also additional examples. The rate of credit in 1982 in the Jewish Local Councils was in 1982 on an average of 220 shekels per person. The Arab Local Councils received a rate of only 80 shekels per person. The budget per person in the Akko Municipality, whose population is smaller than that of the population in Nazareth, was in 1982 - 3,825 shekels; in Nahariya, where the number of inhabitants is still smaller - 3,866 shekels, but in Nazareth, where 45,000 people live, the budget was only 1,838 shekels per person. In Shfar-Am - 1,575, in Tamra - 1,433; in Sakhnin - 1,233 etc.

The discrimination is also prominent in the budgets for education given to the Arab Local Councils. The great lack of buildings for schools and the low level of the educational services, in consequence of the lack of classrooms in a number of villages, the present school year started in "classrooms" outdoors and under trees.

The Arab children in public kindergartens constitute only 9% (18,400 out of 204,300) of the total number of children in kindergartens. In schools for special education the Arab children constitute only 5% (802 out of 13,549); in vocational schools they constitute only 4.4%; in teachers' seminars only 3.4% (3,528 out of 79,889); in the universities they are only 3.1% (2,400 out of 60,658). This happens at a time when the Arab population constitute 16% of the entire population (in 1982) and the percentage of the age groups up to 18 is much higher than that.

Even in the allocation provided by the ministry for religions (1983 budget) the Arab inhabitants are discriminated against. Apart from that they have been deprived of the property of the Muslim Wakf. Out of a budget of 4.62 billion shekels, the Muslims, Druse and Christians get only 1.7%.

#### DELUSION

The 1983 budget will aggravate the disease of the economy and society in Israel. The finance ministry and its

agents will continue talking demagogically, just as bourgeois economists do, they will claim that the wages and the demand to adjust them in view of the rising prices are the source of inflation. But the policy of expansion and occupation; the policy of service rendered to American imperialism, which in the past year was expressed by the war in Lebanon, the tremendous spendings for maintaining the occupied territories and colonial settlements - these are the fundamental sources of the inflation, high cost of living and budgetary deficits.

The finance minister and his spokesmen demagogically speak about the decrease in the rate of military expenditures from 28.4% in the 1982 budget to 24.4% in 1983. They refer only to the paragraph of the defence ministry in the budget. This is a delusion, because they try to obliterate the extent of the military spendings by dividing these expenditures and dispersing them among all kinds of paragraphs. To the budget of the defence ministry, totalling 237.8 billion shekels, one must add budgets and other military expenditures which are in the budgets of other ministries directly or indirectly connected with the war and occupation. An example of this: the police - 15 billion shekels; the spendings for colonial settlements, in the occupied territories in the budget of the ministry for housing - 4,320 billions; the Committee for atomic energy, for purposes of the nuclear arms race - 1,003 billions; allocations to the standing army - 3 billions; financing the international forces - 1,050 million; allocations to corporations working for defence - 2.2 billion; compensations to the evacuees from Sinai - 200 millions; expenditures connected with defence and the occupied territories in other ministries - one and a half billion; return of debts and interest - 389 billion shekels, and the reserve budget which generally is finally allocated to military spendings - 45 billion shekels. Thus we reach the sum of 738.9 billion shekels which constitute 65.7% of the whole budget, as compared with 63% last year.

But this is not all. To this, one must add the sums paid by the National Insurance Institute for the army reservists; these sums are not included in the state budget. In 1982 this sum reached 8 billion shekels, and according to that, one must assume that in the present budgetary year, with the high inflation rate of more than 100%, which is forecasted, we will reach 16-17 billion shekels at least. Thus we reach to the enormous amount of 756 billion shekels for military expenditures, which constitute 61.9% of the GNP (Gross National Product), which will reach the sum of 1.222 trillion shekels, as estimated by the finance minister. This is to be compared with 54% last year. This is a world record, a

regional and local record. There is no such an example.

The huge military spendings are the source of the serious diseases of the Israeli economy; they suck the sap and the blood of the people, and express the constant policy of the ruling circles, which prevents peace.

In spite of the high rate of taxes in Israel, perhaps the highest rate in the world, which is imposed on the citizen, and in spite of the fact that the burden of taxes and obligatory payments in the GNP has increased from 36% in 1971 to 45% in 1982, and an increase to 48% in 1983 is foreseen, the deficits in the budget are increasingly growing and will amount to 463 billions shekels - and again they will be financed from local and foreign loans and by printing money. (The deficit totalling 463 billion shekels in the 1983 budget is covered by: internal loans - 164.5 billion shekels; advances from Israel Bank - printing of banknotes - 116.2 billions; Loans from the USA - 135.3 billions; other loans from abroad - 47 billions; a total of 463 billion shekels).

The deficit in the budget of this year reaches 41.2% of the budget itself. This is a rise of 2.2% in comparison with the budget of last year. The meaning of this situation is a ceaseless enlargement of state debts, and this in addition to the economic and military grants which the Israeli government receives from the United States. (Foreign debts have risen to dizzy heights after every war. In 1971 foreign debts amounted to 3.4 billion dollars; at the end of 1973 it went up to 7 billions; in 1980 to 21.8 billion dollars and after the war in Lebanon in 1982 to 26 million dollars. The foreign debts are approaching the GNP of the entire year).

Thus, from year to year there is an increase in that part of the budget which is mortgaged for payment of debts - stock and interest. And if in 1981 these expenditures constituted 26.2% of the budget, in 1982 - 27.8% - in 1983 they will amount to 34.6%. (A large part of the new loans is transferred to the reimbursement of debts. In the year 1981 repayment of debts swallowed up 51% of the new loans. In 1983, according to the official forecast, the rate will be 45%, but there is no doubt that the rate will be larger. According to the estimation of the economic correspondent Dov Genikhovsky ("Yediot Ahronot", November 9, 1982) Israel will have to defray in the financial year 1982 a debt of 3.8 billion dollars on account of the stock and more than one billion dollars on account of the interest - a total of 4.8 billion dollars. This is an amount which is larger than all the

grants and loans. But also according to the "rosy" estimate of Prof. Assaf Razin (in the economic supplement of "Al-Hamishmar" of December 1982), it emerges that in 1984, the difference between the grants and the expenditures from the USA to Israel and the reimbursement of debts, stock and interest will amount to zero and after that Israel will have to repay all the grants and loans and yet other additions from its meagre resources.

Thus Israel has ever more become dependent, economically and politically, on the United States and it moves farther away from economic independence.

### POLICE AND BULLETS

The expenditures for the adventurist war in Lebanon which have not yet been paid in their entirety, have recently been estimated by the finance minister by 30 billion shekels. Other estimates move around 2 billion dollars. But that is not yet the end. The spendings for colonial settlement and expansion of existing ones in the occupied territories have reached a record figure in the past year. According to the evaluation of Prof. Assaf Razin, advisor of the former finance minister, Erlich, they have amounted to 400 million dollars in 1982. That is to say, almost 13.2 billion shekels at the price of today, and from the present budget only the overt figures amount to 7 billions - and they are probably much higher. These adventurist spendings cause an inflationist vertigo and are spent in vain, just as similar spendings in Pithat Rafiah (Rafeh) in Sinai and Yamit were spent in vain. These adventurist expenditures of the war in Lebanon and the colonial settlements aggravated and are aggravating the economic situation, accelerate the inflation on the one hand, and cause cruel cuts in vital services, building, rehabilitation of the poor quarters and other vital expenditures, on the other hand.

The settling for one family in the West Bank costs today, according to the deputy minister Dekel between 4 and 5 million shekels. This, the government pays out generously, but for the inhabitants of Kfar Shalem and other quarters in distress - they "have no money". For them they have the police and bullets, if they protest against their harassment (a young man was shot dead by the police because he tried to prevent the demolition of his home - IB). But this is nothing in comparison with the Arab bedouins who are evacuated from the Negev (Naqab) and driven out of their homes and soil and thrown to the four winds, and the compensations paid to them are ridiculously low.

Thus the economic and social crisis sharpens and poverty increases as the result of the policy of war and occupation, and in consequence of the policy of service to capital.

In order to cover up the ever deepening crisis and conceal the dangers which are inherent in it, finance minister Aridor declares that Israel has turned into an almost isolated rock of almost full employment, something which is considered an "economic miracle" - according to his words. This is a well-known demagogy. The masses of the workers in Israel know that all this "miracle" of minister Aridor is the handiwork of minister Sharon, who started the war in Lebanon and sent the Israeli youngsters to kill and be killed, and continues sending army reservists. Masses of the people know that the whole "miracle" lies in the mobilisation of thousands of reservists to serve in Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. And I am sure that the masses of the people in Israel are awaiting the day when this "miracle" will be ended and the soldiers will be sent home forever.

Minister Aridor promises now, that the unemployment will slightly increase, and will in 1983 reach 5.2% as against 4.9% now. That means 72,000 unemployed as against 68,000. However, a serious danger exists that the economic crisis in the West European countries and the USA will contradict minister Aridor, as long as the real economy is bound to the navel of the sick American and European economy, and yet harder days for the economy and the popular masses lie ahead, as long as the government continues the policy of war, occupation and dependence on the United States.

#### NOT ONE WORD TO THE ARABS

What else does minister Aridor promise? He will continue cutting subsidies at a rate of 5% a month. This will raise the prices of vital products. He will continue the monthly devaluation of the shekel by 5%. Cutting the subsidies will not curb the inflation, but will decrease the living standards of the popular masses.

As against this, the minister promises the capitalists serious support; to the exporters - 18 billion shekel and to the subsidy of credits - 33 billion shekels in the present budget.

With regard to the Arab population, minister Aridor has no word to say; about their needs and their situation; not one thought, not one point in the budget for closing the

big gap which exists in the social services, the educational, health, housing and municipal services. The Minister has not one word to say about the development of the Arab villages and about finding sources of employment for the Arab inhabitants in the vicinity of their towns and villages. He has no word to say about any effort to assist Arab agriculture and the Arab peasants who were evicted from their land, on one hand, and who were discriminated in the development budgets on the other hand.

Without any change of the fundamental policy of the ruling circles in Israel, without abandoning the policy of force, aggression, occupation and territorial expansion at the expense of the Arab neighbours, without abandoning the policy of occupation, colonial settlement and annexation, without respecting the just rights of the Palestinian Arab people and establishing just peace with them, by recognising their right to an independent Palestinian State alongside Israel, without passing on to a policy of peace - the war economy of Israel will continue to lead to inflation, rising cost of living, decline of the living standard, dependence on foreigners, profits for the capitalists, and their enrichment and the impoverishment and distress of the popular masses.

There is no other path for recovery, for a progressive economic and social development, apart from the embarkment on the road of peace and abandonment of the road of war, aggression, occupation and service to US imperialism.

The blown-up inflationist budget due to the gigantic military spendings, will swell still more during this year by means of additional budgets, as was the case in previous years.

This budget is antipopular, it is a budget which carries in its wake new wars, a budget which will increase misery and poverty, a budget of national discrimination against the Arab population, a budget which expresses the intensification of dependence on US imperialism and removes Israel yet farther away from independent economy and peace. We oppose it and propose to return it to the government.

ZO HADEREKH,

January 26, 1983

## BREAK THE CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE !

*Speech of MK Tawfiq Zayad  
in the Knesset*

MK T. Zayad brought before the Knesset some of the horrifying details of the situation of the Palestinian prisoners-of-war in the Israeli camps and jails.

The theme was brought up after tendious and protracted "elucidations" had delayed time and again the proposal to put this subject on the agenda of the Knesset.

The proposal was presented by the DFPE after the testimony of five detainees in the Hebron prison about their cruel tortures and the death of one detainee as a result of the inhuman tortures which the Palestinian prisoners-of-war are undergoing.

The minister of war, A. Sharon, who replied to the proposal attempted to deny the accusations of the DFPE (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) parliamentary group, which were put forward by MK Tawfiq Zayad. Sharon alleged that the five POW's, mentioned in the debate had been interrogated and had told that they knew nothing about the murder of POWs as a result of tortures. However, the idyll which the war minister tried to paint, was smashed to smithereens on the spot by MK Tawfiq Toubi who cried out from his seat that those detainees who had allegedly repented the testimony had disappeared and are not to be found. "Where are these detainees? You have concealed them! Where have you taken them so that they could not testify? We demand to know where these detainees have disappeared!" The question of MK T. Toubi remained without reply.

The majority in the Knesset removed the proposal from the agenda.

MK Tawfiq Zayad, who presented the proposal, stressed that the situation of the POW's in the camp "Al-Ansar" and other places in the occupied territory in Lebanon and inside Israel is one of the darkest aspects of the aggressive war against Lebanon. What characterises the behaviour towards the prisoners are tortures, as the result of which many have been killed and many were physically tortured. The second characteristic is the conspiracy of silence about everything related to the thousands of prisoners who had been held and were set free and the thousands who are still



held captive in those camps. The Israeli authorities refuse to publish any fact that refers to the situation of the POW's - neither their number, nor their names, not even the places of detention and under what conditions they are being held. The authorities also forbid visits of families and of international and humanitarian organisations.

The aim is clear: concealment of the truth about the situation of the prisoners of war after torture. If the names of the prisoners will be published it will be very difficult for the Israeli authorities to continue persecuting them and even killing them.

But, despite the conspiracy of silence, facts have filtered out and were published in Israel and the world. These facts, in most cases were revealed by prisoners of war who were set free and from international organisations. But from the little we do know, it is possible to realise how cruel the general picture is, and what happens in the prison camps.

Who are those prisoners? A relatively small part, a minority among them, are Palestinian and Lebanese fighters. A relatively small part are also members of other nationalities. But the decisive majority are persons who are accused of having connections with the PLO or that they could be PLO members.

This reminds me of the year 1948: In Nazareth and several Arab villages hundreds of persons were taken prisoner whom I know personally and about whom I know that they had in all their life not touched any weapon. They were taken prisoner, were held for many months in detention, many of them even for a year and longer, in order to intimidate them.

The prisoners are held in the camp Al-Ansar; in the military prison near Athlit; in a school in Sidon; in buildings which belong to the orange trading company "Safa", which lies south of Sidon; in the old and neglected hospital "Shmuel Harofe"; in the military prison Megiddo, in the Hebron prison and other prisons in Israel.

Prisoners had also been kept in the Military Government building in Tyre which was blown up.

From time to time, the Israeli authorities transfer prisoners from one place to another. When an additional place is disclosed, it emerges that there are other places which must be disclosed. The aim is clear: To make it difficult

to find any possibility to know the facts.

#### WHAT HAD BEEN DONE TO THE PRISONERS

MK T. Zayad revealed the attitude towards the prisoners by two living examples. The first one is about a Lebanese prisoner, whose story was published by the Lebanese newspaper "A-Saffir" on November 1, 1982. The story covered two pages and relates only to the first week of detention of that prisoner. Here are just a few items from the story of that person:

"I was taken prisoner on July 2, together with others. Our eyes were covered with our undershirts. When we were put into two buses, many shots were fired. We were brought to the factory "Safa", where the first interrogation took place: Ceaseless beatings and humiliations. In the night we stayed in the yard of the factory in the open air, without any mattresses or blankets. We received one tomato and a slice of mouldy bread. All the time - beatings. It was forbidden to talk or to move. Many of us had their arms, legs, shoulders or teeth broken. This was the first day.

The second day was a repetition of the first one: Murderous beatings and humiliation. On the same day new groups of prisoners arrived. On the third day we were handcuffed and put into two buses. Our eyes were covered. We were about 88 prisoners in the two buses. When the buses stopped in Nahariya (Israel), a number of persons came into the buses, cursing and beating us. Then the buses continued on their way. During the journey we were robbed by the soldiers, who guarded us, of everything we had - altogether 8,200 Lebanese liras, 49 watches, 11 gold rings and 30 gold chains.

After travelling about three hours and a half the buses reached their destination - one of the camps. While we were taken down, we were beaten. In that camp there is a special place for interrogations and tortures by trained experts. We were beaten all the time. The soldiers used bludgeons, electric cables, iron rods and other means. Among us were minors and people of 70 years and more. On the next day they took our cloths off and sprayed us with D.D.T. After that a new round of interrogations started: Beatings with bludgeons, iron rods etc. We were beaten all over our bodies, including the sex organs. Tortures of every sort.

It was very hot, the prisoners asked for water, soldiers urinated into their mouth through rubber hoses.

A number of prisoners died. The soldiers left their dead bodies among us. Next day we were transferred to another camp. In that camp there was a number of tents. In my tent there were 50 prisoners. The meal was: one orange and a piece of bread. We relieved ourselves in the tent. The camp was a ground on which stood 27 tents. Around the camp was a fence and over the entrance gate was written in big letters (in English): WE LIKE TO GO HOME. All the time there were clear instructions: It is forbidden to speak. Hands have to be held above the head. Anyone who defied these instructions would experience hell. All the time the interrogations continued, beatings, tortures. In this way the first week of our sufferings passed".

A second example about the behaviour towards the prisoners was adduced by MK T. Zayad. He told the story of a Lebanese which was published in the French newspaper "Liberation" on December 11, 1982. This Lebanese prisoner, who is 50 years old, was recently released after 105 days of detention in the Al-Ansar camp in Southern Lebanon.

The following is an extract of his story:

Everything started when the Israelis came in June, accompanied with informers who wore masks. I was arrested together with other persons and was taken to the "Saba" organisation in Sidon. For two days they kept us in the heat of the sun and if any of us tried to cover his head with a piece of cardboard, they hit him very hard. To be allowed to the lavatory - depended on the mood of the soldiers. These lavatories were not real services but a trench near the central square. Sometimes prisoners were forbidden to go to this trench and they released themselves on the place where they were standing.

Then they transferred us to a detention camp in Israel. We arrived there in a bus in the night, handcuffed and with our eyes covered. We were about 1,000 prisoners and the place looked like an old camp. We were brought in ranks of 5 to a wing where Israeli officers waited for us together with two masked informers. I was not afraid because I was innocent. But the fear gripped me when I saw what they did to the person who had been standing before me. They took him to the wing where there was a special torture, in which were holes for legs and arms, and they beat him with sticks and whips...

In "Al-Ansar" the conditions were better. But here three prisoners who lived with me in one tent died before my eyes. One had a heart attack. We asked the assistance of an Israeli officer, but he replied: inform me when he dies, so that we can take him.

They divided us into groups of 50 and put over us a "chief". They chose rough men who whenever they liked, beat us. If one of them did not beat the prisoners, they exchanged him for another.

It happened that the shoulder of an 80-year old man broke from the beatings. After intervention of the International Red Cross the "chiefs" were forbidden to carry sticks.

On the Muslim holiday "Id al-Fitr" women came near to the camp and demanded the release of their relatives. The women held stones in their hands and shouted. When the prisoners-of-war saw the women near the fence, they rose up. The uprising and protest comprised the whole camp and the soldiers opened fire. In the beginning they fired into the air, then the legs but did not succeed in suppressing the anger of the prisoners. Then they shot to kill, murdered three and wounded eight. The newspaper "Liberation", which published the interview with that person, added that the man declared that he hated the Palestinians. Well, if a person who hates the Palestinians is beaten in such a way, and gives such a testimony, what will the sons of the Palestinian people say?

Continuing his speech to substantiate the proposal of the DFPE parliamentary group, MK T. Zayad recalled the report which was published in this country on December 3, 1982, according to which in the "Al-Ansar" camp two people were killed and a number wounded by shots of soldiers. Such things also happened in Jelameh camp and other places, but they are concealed from the public. The whole world is shocked and asks: How is it possible that a government which represents the State of Israel, a state of the Jewish people who suffered so much from the nazis permits to perpetrate such things?

We welcome the negotiations about the release of the Israeli prisoners and demand to exchange all the Israelis, Palestinians and all prisoners-of-war. We demand to change the behaviour which I have described and to publish all the facts which I mentioned.

ZO HADEREKII,

January 12, 1983

## HEBRON: SUFFERINGS, BLOOD AND DISGRACE

*Speech of  
MK M. Vilner  
in the Knesset*

The parliamentary group of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (DFPE) proposed to hold a debate about the colonialist crimes in the occupied territories.

Comrade Meir Vilner presented the proposal on behalf of the DFPE group.

He said:

The subject about which we want to speak now, refers to some facts which happened in Hebron. But it refers to the policy of the government in the occupied territories and to its general policy.

On January 6 and 8, 1983 members of the Kiryat Arba Council (the local council of the colonial settlement in Kiryat Arba, near Hebron - IB) demolished electric poles in Hebron. On the same day persons who had been sent by the Kiryat Arba Council demolished with bulldozers the house of an inhabitant of the town, Zeid al-Jabari.

These actions of the Kiryat Arab settlers cannot be termed otherwise than crimes of cruel colonialists, who lack any conscience. They act ferociously and endanger the lives of those who attempt to stop them from carrying out their acts of looting and destruction.

The government decided on January 16 to extend the area of jurisdiction of the Kiryat Arba Council to Manoah Hill. Thereby they encouraged the provocations of the colonial settlers of Kiryat Arba.

"Yediot Ahronot" of October 29, 1982 reported rumours going round in Kiryat Arba and outside it about "setting up" a local underground movement of Jews armed with firearms and obsessed by a fanatic, uncompromising ideology. The newspaper continues: "The Gush-Emunim (extremist colonialist movement) adherents in Kiryat Arba say that there is no underground organisation but only a spontaneous movement in order to revenge from the Arabs". But this is one and the same thing

## A LIST OF CRIMES OF THE KIRYAT ARBA PEOPLE

The events which occurred recently in Hebron are the continuation of similar and even more serious events which had happened there before. The colonialist settlers demolished four houses in the centre of the town and as a result of this three more houses were damaged. The inhabitants have appealed to the Supreme Court.

A few months ago, the (Hebron) Municipality started constructing a pavement in the street next to the Ousama school which in Hebrew is called "Romano House". The Municipality had permits issued by all the military and police authorities. In spite of that, the colonial settlers prevented by force the workers of the Municipality to carry out the work, although this endangered the lives of the inhabitants in this heavily populated area. A further fact: The colonial settlers constantly set up check posts in the middle of the road next to the "Hadassa House" and thus obstruct traffic. Four months ago the settlers stuck posters to the walls of houses, in which it was said that the place is a Jewish synagogue and the Arabs must leave this country and go to Arab countries. One month ago a threatening letter was sent to the Mayor of Hebron, Mustafa Natsheh, and to members of the Municipal Council. In this letter they were ordered to cease their activity, otherwise their lives will be in danger. The Kiryat Arba settlers bring bulldozers and trucks, load fertile soil from the lands of the fellahin and take it to the Kiryat Arba terrain. They do not only seize lands but now they are also transferring soil from the occupied territories.

The settlers move around in the town of Hebron with firearms, provoking the inhabitants, threatening them and endangering their very lives. Since the settlers have seized the "Hadassa House", 15 families were driven out from their homes. Next to the "Hadassa House" there is a big building, and in it there are 18 shops which were damaged by the acts of demolition, carried out by the colonial settlers.

Comrade Vilner spoke about the protest activities of the "Peace Now Movement", and the solidarity actions such as the attempt at erecting again the electric poles which had been pulled down by the settlers.

In continuation he read from a letter of Menahem Golan from Haifa in "Ha'aretz" where it was said: "When will the leaders of Israel wake up and comprehend that the bulldozer which demolished the house of Al-Jabari in Hebron - that bulldozer also undermines the fundamental columns of our own home in Israel as a state of law".

## SADISM OF THE GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

Comrade Vilner also mentioned the murder of the 16-year old youngster Samir Taslek of Nablus on December 18, 1982. The evidence of eye witnesses, which was published in "Davar" of December 19, 1982, exposed the lies which were spread by the Israeli army spokesman, according to which the youngster was murdered in the street and not inside the courtyard, in order to cover up the crime of the frontier guard-sman who killed the youngster.

"Inhabitants of the town of Hebron report that this is the fourth case in which the same frontier guardsman was involved. The stories that when the soldiers opened fire on the demonstrators, they were in danger of their lives are pure invention".

The army authorities, instead of bringing to trial the criminal who shoots premeditatedly, they cover up his successive crimes and keep him in the occupied territories and permit him to quench his thirst for blood.

Lieutenant-Colonel Yigal Carmon, who had been the deputy chief of the "civil administration" in the West Bank, published in the middle of the month of November 1982 barbarian instructions referring to the dealings with the inhabitants of the occupied territories. Their aim is to foster gangs of collaborators with the occupation authorities and at the same time to oppress brutally anyone who opposes the continuation of the occupation.

It has been reported in the press that the commander of the "Area of Judea" (the colonialist term for the southern part of the occupied West Bank - IB) said that "beating up arrested people was in fact a part of the policy of the "strong hand" and that in several instances detailed instructions were issued to beat up demonstrators, outside the framework of dispersing demonstrations".

As will be remembered, the "defence" minister, Ariel Sharon said very grave things when asked at a meeting with Professor Milson (previous head of the "civil administration" of the West Bank - IB) what should be done to persons who create "disturbances". He said: "Tear out their testicles!"

These sadistic words of the defence minister and the examples which I have cited before are a proof that the oppressive acts and maltreatment of the Palestinian inhabitants

in the occupied territories are not exceptional cases but this is a planned and intentional policy whose aim is to drive out the Palestinian inhabitants from the occupied territories and in this way advance the plan of annexing the West Bank.

What has happened in Hebron is what happens also in other places in the occupied territories and all this is done with the clear, unequivocal intention - to pave the way for an official annexation of the occupied territories.

Comrade Vilner adduced an example of what happens in the occupied Gaza Strip, such as the plan for demolishing 65 houses in Beit-Lehiyeh.

The occupation authorities do not stop the colonial settlers who run amok because those carry out the policy which the government lays down. And this policy is to seize domination over the centres of the urban population in the West Bank - Hebron, Nablus and other towns.

To sum up: It is clear that everything that happens now in Hebron, Nablus and other places, all this is intended to bring about the realisation of the "Complete Land of Israel" (Israeli domination over the entire territory of pre-1948 Palestine - IB). One can even term what the Kiryat Arba settlers are doing as actions of the O.A.S. in Algeria. At a certain stage the O.A.S. in Algeria also collided with the French government. Here, the O.A.S. is the Begin government. They (the government - IB) plan to annex the whole of "Algeria" - all the Palestinian territories to the State of Israel.

I want to tell you that also if you pull down electric poles, also if you continue demolishing houses, also if you continue the land seizure, also if you continue killing in cold blood, also if you evict and torture, all this will not help you. This country is a country of two peoples, of the Israeli people and the Palestinian Arab people. The State of Israel exists, and alongside it a Palestinian State must be established. Everything you do will only add sufferings with blood and with shame.

Therefore I request the Knesset to hold a debate. This debate is not only for the benefit of Hebron or the benefit of the Palestinian people. The debate must be held so that the Knesset can tell the government: Stop your ravings in the occupied territories!



## ABOUT THE DEBATE

MK Ya'akov Tzur (Alignment - Labour Party) also spoke against the vandalist actions of the Kiryat Arba settlers, and added: I, my movement and Party were among the initiators and supporters of the Jewish settling in Kiryat Arba.

MK Muhammed Watad (Alignment-Mapam) proposed transferring the debate to the committee.

Deputy prime minister Dov Shilansky dedicated the greater part of his reply to the proposal of no-confidence to quotations from the biblical Old Testament and writings of Jabotinsky, which "prove the historical connection of the Israeli people with Hebron". About the demolition of the electric poles he said that they had been set up on "state land". He proposed to drop the proposal from the agenda. The proposal was defeated by 49 members of the government coalition against 30 votes of the opposition. It must be remarked that the majority of the Alignment voted for transferring the debate to the committee.

ZO HADEREKH

January 26, 1983

## IGNOMINIOUS WORK CONDITIONS FOR WORKERS FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

*Speech of MK  
Tawfiq Toubi in the Knesset*

On December 10, 1982, mankind celebrated the Day of the Human Rights Charter. In the preamble to the Charter it is said that UNO had declared this Charter "because the recognition of the natural dignity of all members of the family of man and their rights, which are equal and irrevocable, is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world". (Retranslated from the Hebrew).

How the natural dignity of the Arab labourer from the occupied territories, who works in Israel, is preserved, how in Israel the equal and irrevocable rights of the Palestinian worker from the occupied territories, who works in Israel, are maintained, we have seen in the telecast (on December 3, 1982) which showed a workers' camp, where Arab labourers, who work in citrus groves belonging to villages in the Tel-Mond area, Mishmeret and Herut (the last name means "liberty") are living. We saw how employers exploit Arab labourers from the Gaza Strip and keep them in subhuman conditions and how their dignity as human beings is being trampled into the ground. They make them sleep in cages, in dilapidated buses, without any sanitary conditions. Not thoughtlessly were they defined in the telecast as "labour camps of the Soweto style in racist Africa".

There are persons in Israel who rise up in anger against the very fact of employment of the Arab workers on the land of the (Jewish) village, because in their opinion this is a violation of what is termed: Principle of Hebrew labour on the "land of the nation". This is a racist principle and I reject it, but not to this I will refer here.

### AN ECONOMIC INTEREST UNDER THE CLOAK OF NATIONALISM

For capitalists there is no principle that is more important and more sanctified than making profit and accumulating capital by means of exploiting labour power, and particularly cheap labour power, and no preaching will be of any avail in trying to change this socio-economic interest. The camps of the Arab labourers in the Tel-Mond area are not the only ones in Israel and they only reflect the general panorama of exploitation and treading on the rights of tens of

thousands of Arab workers from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, who labour all over the country from Eilat up the Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem areas.

The obstinacy of the ruling circles in Israel in holding the occupied territories and annexing them, covering this up by extreme nationalism, by the "historical attachment", by talk about the "integrity of the country", and other hollow slogans, originates first and foremost in the economic interests of the capitalists and Israeli bourgeoisie. It is these social forces which dictate today to the government its policy, which is colonialist in its character. The capitalists in Israel fatten on the continuation of the occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, from turning the occupied territories into the most profitable business as a market for Israeli merchandise and a source of cheap labour power in construction work, agriculture and the services.

The occupation is constantly concerned with turning the existing human potential in the occupied territories into cheap labour power for the Israeli labour market. The eviction of the inhabitants from their land, which is confiscated from their owners, the seizure of water sources, the persecutions and restriction of all sources of livelihood and subsistence have turned a large part of the labour power in the occupied territories into wage earners who look for earning their livelihood from the Israeli capitalists, directly - by working in Israel, and indirectly - by working in enterprises in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which are chained to the Israeli productive process. There are also persons who leave their country and work in Arab countries. They do this in their thousands, in order to maintain their families.

According to official data quoted by Miron Benvenisti (former deputy mayor of Jerusalem) in his article in the "Jerusalem Post" on September 10, 1982, in the year 1969, the percentage of persons employed in agriculture was 46% of the total labour power in the West Bank. But in the year 1980 the percentage went down to 26%. This shows that as a result of the process of eviction and colonial settling, many people are compelled to look to the Israeli labour market. According to the same sources, one half of the workers who have remained in the West Bank, work today as labourers in Israel. According to figures which were published recently, close to 80 thousand Arab labourers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip work in Israel. About 30% of them come to work illegally - outside the framework of the government labour exchanges.

According to data of the Histadrut, the workers from the occupied territories who work in Israel, constituted in 1970 - 2.1% of the whole manpower in Israel. But in 1982 - 5.6%. This datum shows the constant increase of the place taken up by wage-earning labourers from the occupied territories within the productive manpower in Israel. A further fact: In 1970, the number of workers in Israel from the occupied territories constituted 11% of all the workers in the occupied territories, but in 1982 this increased up to 35%. It is the policy of the occupation authorities to restrict the sources of livelihood in the occupied territories, with everything entailed by this colonialist process for the future of the popular masses there.

### THE UNSKILLED AND HEAVIEST LABOUR

The workers from the occupied territories work in Israel according to the following distribution: 49.5% in construction; 18.5% in industry, where they are employed in unskilled and heaviest labour; 13.3% in agriculture, and 18.6% in other work.

This is a disgrace and shame for the Israeli society - and I say this with deep pain that almost all street cleaners in the Israeli cities are from the occupied territories. There are some persons who boast of this: it is a proof of the greatness - of a society of overlords. But woe to this "greatness"!

The age group of workers from 14 to 24 constitutes 41.1% of all the workers from the occupied territories. With the increase of danger of unemployment in Israel, many are dismissed without any previous warning and without any compensation.

The workers from the occupied territories are a subject to cruel exploitation in regard to the level of wages and also in regard to the inferior social conditions. They have no trade union protection and no right whatsoever is guaranteed to them, because the occupation authorities and capitalists have joined hands in order to create the most convenient conditions for their exploitation. A survey which was undertaken by the organisational department of the Histadrut points out that the average wage of the Arab workers from the occupied territories, who work in construction, agriculture and industry, is in practice only 50 to 60 per cent of the usual wage in Israel.

The majority of workers from the occupied territories are only temporarily employed. More than 46% of the workers have no regular place of work and wander from place to place. This situation robs them of the possibility to enjoy any social conditions. As against this, from their inferior wages all the amounts are deducted which are demanded by the social funds, the war taxes and various "defence" loans. Enormous sums of billions of shekels have accumulated in the boxes of the employers and the coffers of the government - out of these deductions. However, instead of transferring these sums to the trade unions of the Arab workers in the occupied territories, so that the workers could enjoy their social rights by means of their organisations, these sums are pillaged for increasing the profits and for the anti-social expenditures of the government.

#### THE MONEY OF THE SOCIAL FUNDS - NOT FOR THE WORKERS

The workers from the occupied territories, have in practice no trade union protection. Even those who come to work through the governmental labour exchanges do not receive equal decent wages. In many cases the employers do not pay them the whole wage due to them, and keep it or take off a part of it. Thousands of workers, especially suffer from this licentiousness, who come to work without a permit. These workers frequently encounter such a behaviour but they cannot lodge a complaint to the police because they are afraid that then their punishment will be more drastic than the pillage of their wages.

The lack of social rights creates difficult situations. For instance, in the absence of social insurance, hospitals do not receive persons suffering from work accidents and transfer them to hospitals in the West Bank or Gaza Strip, which causes damage to their health, consequent on the dragging from one place to another, and the long travel involved. More than 80% of the workers from the occupied territories who work in Israel return to their villages. The government regulations forbid them to spend the night in Israel. Only few have permission to stay overnight. The long travels lengthen their workday to 11 and 12 hours and cause much suffering. Therefore many prefer to lodge in the boundaries of the Bank or Strip, in areas near to their work place. Thus, for example, in the area of Kalkiliyeh, which is nearest to the Tel-Aviv area. Indeed camps have been set up there for having the workers sleep there - but those are in scandalous conditions.

The lodging conditions of the labourers from the occupied

territories who stay in Israel without any permit from the military government are most difficult. As shown in the telecast, those who lodge in yards in the Jewish villages and others, lack any sanitary conditions, without any human dignity and are in practice detained in their compounds as they are not allowed to leave them after work hours. It is known that there are employers who lock their workers in their lodgings, and fires have already broken out, in which workers were burnt alive, because they did not succeed in getting out from the locked-up places.

Particularly severe are the conditions under which 5,000 Arab labourers who work in Eilat, in their majority from the occupied territories. A great part of them came there by means of middlemen, and it is unknown what pay they receive. There is no direct connection at all between these workers and their employers. The middleman ("ra'is") takes off sums from their wages and leaves to them the crumbs. This is possible because the workers cannot come on their own. They must come through such an agent of the employers and the military government, who receives a permit for their staying at their workplace in Israel. They work ten and a half hours a day in order to have after two to three weeks a free day, on which they can visit their families.

The living conditions of the workers in Eilat, their huts, the odours, the rats who gnaw at the hands of the workers during night and about the police persecutions have already been described in the press. An outcry must arise in order to change this cruel reality, in which labourers who are in need of work live in order to maintain themselves and their families.

After the report about the situation of the Arab workers in Eilat was published, a great storm arose some time ago. But in "Davar" of December 10, 1982, it says: Not only have the conditions of the living quarters of the Arab workers in Eilat not improved but they have aggravated. In an investigation carried out by a correspondent of 'Davar' filth and ignominious sanitary conditions have been revealed. It has also become known that a rat had nibbled at a finger of one of the workers from Um el-Fahem (an Arab village in Israel), while he was asleep. The Arab workers complain that the attitude towards them is still humiliating".

The shameful work conditions and the cruel exploitation of the Palestinian labourers from the occupied territories, who work in Israel are a severe indictment of the

colonialist policy of Israel which on one hand evict a people from their homeland and tramples underfoot their right to independent national life, and on the other hand turns their sons into a cheap labour force which is exploited and down-trodden.

The masses of Palestinian workers, together with all the sons of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip want to see soon the end of the night of occupation and its atrocities. They strive and struggle for putting an end to the occupation and for the achievement of just Israeli-Palestinian peace, when they will have their own independent State alongside Israel. But as long as they are compelled to look for work in Israel in order to maintain their families, they have the right to human work and living conditions, to dignity and equality.

Therefore the prohibition for lodging at night in Israel, must be revoked. The speculation in permits for staying overnight, in order to blackmail and pressures, must be stopped. In-human lodging conditions and persecutions by the police and nationalist authorities of all kinds must cease.

Equal wage must be paid for equal work. Equal social rights must be provided. Free activities of the trade union in the occupied territories must be allowed, their persecution must be stopped and their right to defend their members must be respected. They must get into their hands the management of the various funds paid out of the wages of the workers, in order to insure their social rights and the money which have been seized by the employers and the Israeli government.

The validity of all the work laws and rights of national insurance must be extended to the workers from the occupied territories, and these rights must be realised by the trade unions to which they belong in the occupied territories.

This painful matter has more than once been brought up on different forms and it is to be hoped that the debate on this issue from the rostrum of the Knesset will assist in changing the grave, inhuman situation in which the Arab workers from the occupied territories are living.

ZO HADEREKH,

December 29, 1982

THE STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED BY THE BUILDERS, BECOMES  
NOW THE CORNER STONE!

*Editorial of Al-Ittihad*

"Al-Ittihad" which was first published 39 years ago as the organ of the Arab workers in Palestine, is proud to publish today the full text of the historic joint declaration (the joint declaration was published in our I.B. No. 12/82) about the talks which were held in an atmosphere of friendship and unity of opinions between the Palestinian Communist Party and the Communist Party of Israel.

The joint declaration, since its publication in the international press conference in Moscow on Thursday the 23rd of December, 1982, has aroused the interest of popular and official circles in different parts of the world and especially in our country. Many observers of this declaration have linked its contents, simple and clear as they are, to that simple and clear solution which has always existed to that "Riddle", whose perpetrators have complicated it still further with what they added to it from black lines and red spots and behind which its perpetrators have aimed at bleeding the capacity of the peoples interested in its solution.

The solution has always existed. Who ever cares, can see nothing new in the basis and content of the solution presented now by the Palestinian and Israeli Communists in their historic joint Declaration. What is new, is that all other "solutions" have proved through long and bloody experience and despite the high and horrible cost, that they have failed to bring the Arabs and the Jews to the safe shore. The new basic thing, is the fact that our solution is no longer limited to the Palestinian and Israeli Communists. This solution is being presented now by the whole Palestinian people, represented by their sole legitimate leader the PLO. This solution is also being presented now, by wide Jewish popular circles, by the United Nations and by the overwhelming majority of the countries of the world.

During the long history of this complicated problem, many factors were heaped, which imposed upon the Arab and Jewish Communists in Palestine and later in Israel, to content themselves, in many cases, with the task of warning. Obviously we did not want to limit the influence of our positions just to that of a warning. But we can definitely



say that this "stone" was rejected by Arab and Jewish builders alike in numerous decisive hours. Thus it was only natural for Palestinian and Israeli Communists to start their historic joint declaration by expressing their "high appreciation of their common revolutionary past of the history of the Communist Party of Palestine and its farsighted policy".

Thus were the realities of history, positively or negatively as they may be. We believe that especially after the massacres in Lebanon, nothing remained in the hands of the Zionist rulers of Israel, (and with them Washington) which they did not use in executing their mass crimes. Despite all this, they failed in liquidating the Palestinian Arab people and their just cause.

It is imperative today, that both official and popular circles, should deeply think of the conclusion, at which the Finance Ministry of Israel has arrived at regarding the expenditures of the last Israeli aggression against Lebanon, which has not yet ended. The conclusion which officials of the Israeli Finance Ministry have arrived at is that: "The State of Israel is unable to afford all these expenditures". (Ha'aretz). The question which should be asked - can the USA afford all these expenditures? and until when?

Thus were the realities of history, negatively or positively as they may be. We believe that nothing has remained in the hands of Arab reaction which was not used, in order to gain the sympathy of the imperialists. Despite this, they failed and they will fail in the future in solving the Palestinian problems through imperialist drains.

All factors of this tragic experience were heaped in face of the Arabs and the Jews, and transformed the role of the Communists from mere warners into the sole heralds. Thus, it was only natural for the Palestinians and Israeli Communists to conclude their joint historic declaration by stressing this fact and consider that: "The strong fraternal relations which exist between them are a great victory to the noble cause of peace, national liberation and Communism. The fraternal relations between the two parties are the herald of the future relations between the two peoples based on mutual respect of rights and peace".

We are not naive so as to disregard the perils which beset this herald. But at the same time we do not disregard the lives of thousands of victims from both peoples who fell without listening to our warnings. Never will these sacrifices

go in vain.

The realities of history, positively or negatively as they may be, have picked this stone which was rejected by the builders in order to be used as the corner stone of the patriotic and internationalist unity in the struggle for peace based on the just rights of the peoples.

AL-ITTIHAD

December 28, 1982

## FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE ISRAEL-CUBA

Recently a number of Israeli personalities - Jews and Arabs - sponsored the establishment of an organisation whose task would be to foster friendly and cultural relations between the two peoples living in Israel on one hand, and the Cuban people, on the other hand.

The sponsors, among them university professors, doctors, workers and writers, drafted a platform, which will constitute a guiding line to the activities of the Friendship Committee Israel-Cuba.

We quote the principal points from the platform that was adopted by the sponsors:

"The victory of the Cuban people at the beginning of January 1959 put an end to the rotten and bloodthirsty regime of the Batista dictatorship, opened the way for the liberation of Cuba from the absolute dependence of Cuba on the USA... Since their victory, the Cuban people, under the leadership of their peaceloving government achieved national independence, social progress and impressive progress in all spheres of life...

"US imperialism initiated, planned and carried out overt and covert aggressive acts against Cuba, in order to turn back the wheels of history. Thanks to the heroism of the Cuban people and thanks to international solidarity all these attempts failed...

"Today, too, the ruling circles in the USA continue sabotage and provocations, encourage dictatorial regimes in Latin America to undermine Cuba and the movements for national liberation in Latin America...

"To our regret, the Israeli government is now integrating itself in these reactionary plans. Arms and military advisers are being sent to dictatorial regimes in Latin America, thereby smearing the reputation of Israel in the world...

"The Friendship Committee Israel-Cuba will act for promoting solidarity with the Island of Freedom, for fostering friendly relation between the people in Israel and the Cuban people. This friendship will contribute to the cause of the Israeli-Palestinian peace... just and stable peace based on

respecting the rights of all the peoples of our region, including the right of the Palestinian Arab people to establish their own independent state alongside the State of Israel."

The adherence to the above formulated principles was and is being expressed by Israeli citizens by signing this platform.

At a meeting of the sponsors of the Friendship Committee, an Executive of the Committee was set up, which elected a Secretariat, consisting of the following persons: Chairman: Professor Shaul Fogel, Jerusalem University; Deputy Chairman: Youssif Sabbagin, office worker, Nazareth, and Dr. Pedro Shulman, phrenologist, Haifa; Secretary: Poet and writer Moshe Barzelay, Tel-Aviv.

During the month of January 1983 rallies in honour of the 24th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban Revolution were held in several key towns and villages of Israel. These rallies were addressed by public figures (the mayor of a village, professors, personalities in political and cultural life) who in their speeches gave expression to their feelings of friendship for the victorious Cuban Revolution, and the subsequent unprecedented achievements of the Cuban people. Cuban revolutionary songs were broadcast in the respective halls where the rallies were held and exhibitions were displayed, showing the photos of Cuban leaders and various aspects of the socialist upbuilding in Cuba.

## DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS

GREETINGS OF DAVID (SASHA) KHENIN  
MEMBER, POLITICAL BUREAU AND SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL  
COMMITTEES OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL  
TO THE 11TH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE

Comrades and friends, delegates to the Congress,

I have the honour to convey to your Congress the greeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, the greeting of its Jewish and Arab members and all the consistent fighters for peace and progress in our country.

We have with great interest followed the Report of the Central Committee delivered by Comrade H. Florakis to the Congress, a report which gives expression to the indefatigable struggle of your Communist Party for the interests of the working people in your country, for the consolidation of democracy, independence of Greece, for the removal of the foreign American bases from your soil, for severing Greece from NATO, for peace and social progress.

Your devotion and loyalty to the interests of the working class and the people, your patriotic and internationalist policy, have born fruit. The support of your Party among the people has grown. With all our heart we greet and congratulate your Party on the great success in the campaign of the last municipal elections.

Dear Comrades,

Our two Parties are linked by fraternal relations which are based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. We are united by the links of solidarity with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, with the struggle against imperialism, reaction and fascism; we are united by the solidarity with the struggle for national and social liberation of our both countries. Our two countries are situated on the shores of the Mediterranean and therefore our Parties have a great interest in the preservation of peace and the advancement of the peoples' independence, in foiling the intrigues of American imperialism and its allies in our region.

Dear Comrades,

The Israeli Communists act under difficult and complicated conditions. Today Israel is ruled by a government headed by the reactionary Likud. The policy of the Begin-Sharon government is characterised by its extreme hostility towards the anti-imperialist national liberation movements in our region; by its anti-Arab chauvinism; by its armed aggression and its preparedness to service the global and regional strategy of American imperialism against the Soviet Union and the socialist countries and against the struggle for the national independence of the peoples.

The aggressive war against Lebanon, which was opened by the Begin-Sharon government was an American-Israeli war - a result of the Camp David accords and of the strategic cooperation between Israel and the USA. The aim of the war to advance the strategic aims of American imperialism in the Middle East; to liquidate the PLO; the Palestinian liberation movement and to bring about a "new order" in Lebanon. The war brought ruin and destruction on towns and villages in Lebanon, liquidation of refugee camps, tens of thousands of killed and wounded - Palestinians and Lebanese, the peak of which was the massacre in the refugee camps Sabra and Shatila. In this war thousands of Israeli soldiers were killed and wounded - victims of the criminal policy of the Begin-Sharon government. In this aggression, the Israeli government sustained a political and moral defeat. This aggressive policy was condemned by international public opinion, led to a still greater isolation of Israel in the world and even among the Jewish communities in the Western countries. Criticism against the Begin government has intensified.

In Israel a broad movement of opposition to war has risen. This has found its expression in the mass demonstrations, rallies, hunger strikes, organisations of reservist soldiers. The demand for cessation of the war, for full retreat from Lebanon, for an investigation commission of the war crimes, and for the resignation of the Begin-Sharon government has turned into the demand of a considerable part of the people. The false "national consensus", fostered and upheld by the leaders of the Likud and leaders of the Labour Party as justification of the war, has broken down. Today, more than in the past, the conviction is growing among various public circles that a change of Israeli policy is necessary and that peace and security can be achieved if there will be an end to the policy of occupation and annexation of the Arab territories which were occupied in June 1967, if Israeli-Palestinian peace will be established, which means an independent and sovereign Palestinian State alongside the State of Israel as an independent and sovereign

state. Peace can be attained on the basis of the international consensus within the framework of detente. A realistic plan for peace was again proposed by the late President of the Soviet Union, M. Brezhnev and also by the Arab summit conference in Fez.

The plan which is called "Reagan Plan" denies the right of the Palestinian Arab people to self determination and a state of their own. The "Reagan Plan" completely ignores the PLO and thereby is aimed at preventing just and stable peace in our region.

Dear Comrades,

The policy of war and occupation has put a heavy burden on the workers and popular masses. The foreign debt of Israel has reached 22 billion dollars; inflation has this year amounted to 135% and more than that; unemployment is expanding; a drastic cut in the social services has taken place. Vis-à-vis the attack of the government and employers on the living standard of the popular masses, we witness the increasing resistance of the working class. A wave of strikes encompasses almost all spheres of life. The struggle of the Arab population inside Israel is being intensified against the policy of national discrimination, against the robbery of the lands and the encroachment on the Arab municipal councils.

The Israeli Communists and their allies in the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality are in the front ranks of the struggle for peace and against war, for the defence of the interests of the workers and popular masses, for communal and national equality, for the defence of the democratic freedoms and against the danger of fascism.

The Communists stand up against the anti-Soviet incitement campaign, a campaign which is intended to serve the enemies of progress and peace, and which causes damage to the vital interests of Israel itself.

In face of the policy of war and occupation, of lowering the living standard of the masses and the liquidation of the democratic freedoms, the Communists act for the establishment of a broad democratic front which will constitute an alternative to the present rule; another policy which will bring the longed-for peace and which will advance the interests of the working people.

Dear Comrades and friends,

We wish you fruitful and successful work of your Congress; wish you additional achievements of your Party, which has a revolutionary and patriotic tradition in the struggle for advancing the interests of the working class and the people, for peace, democracy and socialism.

Long live the 11th Congress of the Communist Party of Greece!  
Long live the brotherhood between our two parties!  
Long live Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism!  
Long live peace!

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The following cable was sent by The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel:

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY

Condolences for the death of the chairman of the Lebanese Communist Party Comrade Nicola Shawi, an outstanding internationalist communist leader, staunch antimperialist fighter and great son of the Lebanese people. His lifework and memory will always be a source of inspiration in the struggle for our common noble cause.

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**January—February 83**

COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE - FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT  
P. O. B. 26205, TEL-AVIV ISRAEL  
Cable Address: ISCOMPAR TEL-AVIV