

**INFORMATION BULLETIN
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL**



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WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

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DEAR READERS, DEAR FRIENDS,

HAPPY NEW YEAR - 1981 !

The editorial board of Information Bulletin extends to you heartiest fraternal greetings and wish you a happy New Year. Let it be a year which brings us closer to our lofty aims, for attaining further successes in our common struggle for peace and disarmament, for democracy and national independence of the peoples who are still lingering under imperialist and colonialist domination, for strengthening the unity of our national communist and workers movement in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and for communism!

For us Israeli communists, 1981 will be the year of our 19th Congress and of two important election campaigns to the Histadrut Trade Union Federation and to the Knesset (Israeli Parliament).

It will be a year of an intensified struggle against occupation and oppression, for just peace in our region, based upon the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel which is in accordance with the real interests of the Palestinian people and the Israeli people alike.

We are sure, dear reader, that you are interested in receiving regularly you IB copy (including the Congress material) during 1981. Please order your subscription and send us your cheque - or confirm the reception of your free copies or any change of address.

Fraternal Greetings
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Information Bulletin

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AGAINST THE ARBITRARY PROHIBITION OF THE
ARAB POPULATION'S NATIONAL CONGRESS :
FOR FREEDOM OF POLITICAL EXPRESSION
AND ASSEMBLAGE :

The following is the official text of the order issued by the Minister of Defense, and published in the Official Gazette No. 2676, December 1st, 1980:

"By virtue of my authority according to Regulation 84 (1) (Bet) of the Defense (Emergency) Regulations, 1945 I hereby declare:

"Any association of persons working towards convening a convention, conference, congress, meeting or other gathering in the wake of the document called the 'Charter of the Sixth of June; the manifestos that were published and distributed in the convention that was held in Shfaram on 6.9.80, and the remarks that were said in meetings preparatory to the convention and in accordance with that is said in these documents and remarks, which contain an expression of sympathy and support for the organization called P.L.O., which was declared a terrorist organization according to the Prevention of Terror Ordinance, 1948, is an illegal assemblage."

Menachem Begin
Minister of Defense"

(NOTE: It is the first time use has been made of the amendment added to the "Ordinance for Prevention of Terror - 1948", adopted by the coalition majority in the Knesset in July 1980 - see INFORMATION BULLETIN 7-8, 1980, pages 65-68. The amendment was called to be a fascist one by comrade M. Vilner, a "terrorist law against Jewish and Arab democrats.)

STATEMENT OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL:

THE PROHIBITION OF THE CONGRESS IN NAZARETH
IS AN ANTI-DEMOCRATIC AND RACIST ACT

The prohibition to hold the Congress of the Arab population, with the participation of Jewish democratic and peace forces

by an order issued by the Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, M. Begin, making use of the British colonial emergency regulations of 1945, is a distinctively fascist act. It is also a racist step because it denies the right of democratic organisation of the Arab population just because of its being Arab. It is also a reactionary attempt at dividing between Jews and Arabs.

The aim of the anti-democratic step of the government is to hit all the forces in Israel, Jewish as well as Arab, who struggle against the policy of discrimination and national oppression and for equal rights for the Arab population in Israel, against the occupation of the Arab territories occupied since 1967, and for a just Israeli-Palestinian peace on the basis of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, alongside the State of Israel.

The Political Bureau expresses its energetic protest against the prohibition of the Congress of the Arab population in Israel, with the participation of Jewish forces of peace and democracy, and demands the cancelation of the prohibition.

The Political Bureau rejects with loathing the campaign of incitement and slanderous lies which is organised by the Likud government and its puppets, against the organisers of the Congress in Nazareth and against the Communist Party of Israel.

The Political Bureau warns, stating that democracy is indivisible. Historical experience proves that fascism begins with persecuting national minorities and communists, but in the end it hits all the democratic forces.

It is the duty of all the democratic forces, irrespective of party affiliation and political views, to raise their voice and struggle unitedly against the fascistisation of the State of Israel, to demand the cancellation of the prohibition of the Congress in Nazareth.

Let us not permit the fascist cancer to spread!

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NOT ONE WORD OF TRUTH

Within the framework of a speech about an ordinary motion for the agenda, which the parliamentary DFPE group has tabled on the subject of shots fired at pupils on the West Bank, comrade M. Vilner also said: We warn against the danger that the cancer of occupation, national oppression, indiscriminately fired shots, deportations, the attempt on the lives of the mayors, will also pass into Israel. Do not forget that there was a man or a man-beast, called Joseph Goebbels, that accused nazi who called for a war of extermination against the Jews and against the communists. These were the two slogans of Hitler and Goebbels. Such a thing is not made fairer if instead of "Jews" one writes "Arabs". And what has now happened in the State of Israel and what is being said about the Congress in Nazareth which should have taken place on Saturday next, these are actually Tales of Goebbels. Not one word of truth.

I want to say that the official version of the Prime Minister's announcement is simply based on a lie. The alleged things have never been said. The truth is that he has arbitrarily prohibited the democratic, legal Congress of the Arab population.

In continuation, comrade M. Vilner quoted from the article by MATITYAHU PELED which appeared in HAARETZ of November 27, 1980, in which he wrote:

"As it has turned out from the material which has been until now prepared towards the Congress of the Arab population in Israel, the principles make it clear that although they are a part of the Palestinian Arab people, they accept their status as a national minority in Israel and define themselves as Israelis. This statement constitutes an explicit confirmation that for them the green line is a fundamental fact which is not repealed, in spite of the policy of the Israeli government. Only on this basis is it possible to maintain the differentiation between the Palestinians who demand for themselves statehood and independence in the occupied territories and those who are living in Israel and do not raise such a demand for themselves.

"Hence it also follows that the PLO is accepted as the leadership of the Arabs of the (occupied) territories, but does not constitute a leadership of the Arabs of Israel, because the latter are not struggling for liberation from the yoke of the occupation but only support the struggle of the inhabitants of the territories for their liberation."

His conclusion is: The Nazareth Congress must be welcomed. And you cannot say that Matityahu Peled wants to liquidate the State of Israel! (M. Peled is a colonel in reserve and teaches military history at the Tel-Aviv University - P.R.)

Comrade TAWFIQ TOUBI: THE GOVERNMENT TRIES TO SILENCE THE VOICE OF PEACE

Deputy Secretary General of CP of Israel, T. Toubi said in the Knesset:

The prohibition of the Congress of the Arab population, whose purpose was to raise their voice together with the Jewish forces of peace and democracy for equality of rights and for just peace based on Israel's withdrawal from the 1967 frontiers, respecting mutually the rights of both peoples to an independent state, one alongside the other, is a tangible proof of the corruptness of the regime which wants to continue the occupation and denial of the Palestinian people's rights.

The prohibition of a public, open and legal congress, which has lofty aims cherished by hundreds of thousands of Israeli citizens, testifies to the dangerous direction towards which the government wants to lead the state. This is a black day for democracy, a ringing of an alarm bell with reference to fascisation. I call upon everybody who is concerned about Israel's future, the security of the Israeli people, democracy in Israel's life, good neighbourship between our two peoples, to rise and cry out against the injury done by using the emergency regulations, with the intention of silencing the voice of peace, the voice of equality, the voice of the Arab citizens of Israel, who demand their right to express their view, just as any citizen of Israel, regarding the fateful issues of the country, who demand their right to live in dignity, equality and peace in their homeland, in the State of Israel.

ZO HADEREKH - December 3, 1980.

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Comrades MEIR VILNER and TAWFIQ TOUBI in Knesset:

THE PROHIBITION HAD NO MORAL, POLITICAL OR JURIDICAL BASIS

In the framework of a debate on the question of the necessity of appointing a new War Minister, CP General Secretary M. VILNER told the Knesset plenary session:

I want to express my protest on behalf of our parliamentary group against the distinctively fascist step taken by the War Minister, Begin, by prohibiting the convening of a National Congress of the Arab population in Israel, with the participation of the Jewish forces of peace and democracy. There was no basis, neither moral, nor political nor legal for that.

Why should the Arab population, a national minority which is a part of the Palestinian people, be forbidden to convene and elect their representatives? Do you want their representative to be the P.L.O.? They recognise the P.L.O. as the representative of the Palestinian people. In Israel they want to elect their own representative. It is a slanderous lie that in the platform of the organisers of the Congress something is said against the State of Israel. On the contrary, the platform and all the written and verbal declarations are based on the recognition of the right to the sovereign existence of the State of Israel within the frontiers of June 4, 1967.

At the same time they are for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. This is a legitimate view, a view supported by many. This is an Israeli interest, not less than a Palestinian one. This is the interest of the Jews in Israel and not only of the Arabs. One may debate this position, one may favour a "complete Land of Israel", in the framework of political polemics. But to use the British colonialist emergency regulations from the year 1945, in order to prohibit a most democratic, legal convention of the Arab population?!

Those who organised the Congress of the Arab population are for two states, a sovereign Israel and a sovereign Palestine, one alongside the other. Those who do not agree with that, the extremists, did not sign the platform and do not support the Congress.

MASS PROTESTS ALL OVER ISRAEL AGAINST THE PROHIBITION OF THE NAZARETH CONGRESS OF THE ARAB POPULATION

In a meeting of the representatives of the Arab population in Israel held in Haifa, they protested against the order of prohibition which had been issued by the Minister of Defense M. Begin outlawing the Congress which was due to convene on Saturday, December 6th, 1980 in Nazareth, with the participation of Jewish democratic forces. A committee was set up on the spot, which is to struggle for the cancellation of the order and in defence of democracy and the right of the Arab population for political and social struggle. It was also decided to hold Jewish-Arab protest meetings all over the country. The central meeting was held in Tel-Aviv, on Saturday, Dec. 6, 1980.

The participants called upon all the Jewish democratic forces to struggle in solidarity, and demand the cancellation of the prohibition. Also on the spot a fund raising campaign was decided upon to finance activities.

A Jewish-Arab public action committee to coordinate the struggle for revocation of the Begin government's arbitrary order outlawing the Nazareth Congress of the Arab population of Israel for defence of the democratic freedoms in Israel and for national and civil equal rights for the Arab minority was constituted on Saturday at this public rally in Tel-Aviv. The rally took place in BAT-DOR Theatre Hall filled to the brim by a large publicum of a broad political spectrum of the Israeli democratic forces.

Many people assembled outside the hall while several hundred policemen and border guards surrounded the building allegedly in order to intimidate people not to attend the rally, but without success. "Suspicious looking", e.g. Arabs or people with Arab-like appearances were thoroughly searched by policemen and their identity papers checked...

The rally's presidium which constituted itself as the core of above mentioned Action Committee was composed of Jewish and Arab personalities, Members of Knesset of various parties, heads of municipalities and local councils, politicians, writers, artists and intellectuals, etc..

The rally was convened as a kind of substitute for the Congress of the Arab minority of Israel which was to take place

at the same time in Nazareth but was outlawed by the government. The speakers stressed that the aim of the banned congress was to unite the masses in the struggle against the national oppression and racial discrimination the Arabs suffer in Israel from, for their full national and civil rights as citizens of the state they live in, for defence of democracy and against the grave danger of fascism, for just and lasting peace on the basis of mutual respect for the national rights of Israel represented by her government and the Palestinian people represented by the PLO.

The chairman of the Tel-Aviv rally, UZI BURSTEIN, stressed that the Arab population of Israel, representing over 16 per cent of Israel's population has the full right to express its aspirations and to political struggle for peace and equal rights. He condemned (as did also other speakers) some public statements made lately by cabinet ministers threatening the Arab minority with mass expulsion from their homeland and the Communist Party being outlawed. "There are signs of fascism at the door" - he warned and praised the broad spectrum of political representatives of Israel's democratic forces participating at this protest rally - "A good beginning of a broad and united anti-fascist front."

Among the main speakers at the rally were Dr. EMILE TOUMA who headed the (now outlawed) Nazareth Congress Preparatory Committee, Black-Panther leader MK CHARLIE BITON, General Secretary CP Israel, MK MEIR VILNER, leader of the SHELI-party Dr. MEIR PAIL, MK (SHELI) URI AVNERI, and others. Hundreds of cables and letters of support for the protest rally arrived from prominent personalities and democratic organisations.

"This rally taking place in spite of Emergency Regulations and the strong police cordon surrounding it, proves that we, the Arab and Jewish democrats and peace forces represent a strong force in Israel - not yet dominant, but showing the certain future for our country" - declared M. Vilner during his speech, and continued: "The rally also proves the possibility of a united front of cooperation of democratic forces with different world outlook and political affiliation who are prepared to stop the ugly wave of fascism endangering to sweep over our country, before it is too late!"

Several other protest meetings against the banning of the Nazareth Congress took place in towns and villages around the country, and many more are to follow.

Dozens of foreign and Israeli journalists and television crews attended a Press Conference on behalf of the organizers of the Nazareth Congress in Tel-Aviv, on Dec. 2nd. Dr. E. TOUMA explained the anti-democratic order outlawing the Nazareth Congress. He said that the hitherto preparatory committee has established itself as a committee to coordinate the protest movement against the prohibition order.

NUMEROUS PROTEST - As did the DFPE parliamentary group, MK MEIR TALMI (ALIGNMENT-MAPAM) and MK SHULAMIT ALONI (Civil Rights) demanded an urgent debate in the Knesset while objecting the use of the British Emergency Regulations to ban the Nazareth Congress. The SHELI group supported the motions which were rejected by the Likud-Labour majority. Editorials of AL HAMISHMAR, DAVAR, HAARETZ, JERUSALEM POST dailies voiced criticism of the arbitrary prohibition.

Cables and letters of protest were sent to Begin's office by the League of Human and Civil Rights, the Israeli Association of Fighters at the Anti-Fascist Front and Victims of Nazims, The Movement of Democratic Women in Israel, and others.

MK TAWFIQ TOUBI; THE ARAB POPULATION HAS
A LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY
AND JUST PEACE

A grave step which unprecedentedly is harming democratic rights, freedom of speech and organization was, taken by the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Menahim Begin when he issued - relying on the 1945 Defence Emergency Regulations of the British colonialists - an order based on section 84 of these colonialist regulations banning an open and legal conference, of public figures and representatives of the Arab population, with the participation of Jewish public forces of peace and democracy. This conference had as its declared legitimate aim, to express its aspirations and demands for equal rights for all citizens of Israel, for just peace between Israel and the Palestinian Arab people - stated Comrade Tawfiq Toubi in opening a speech in the Knesset on the matter.

This grave measure does not only harm the Arab population and freedom of speech of its sons and representatives, but constitutes also a threat to the democratic freedoms of the entire Israeli society. Therefore, within the (Labour) Alignment leadership, who, regretfully have incited the Likud government into taking this anti-democratic step, will yet feel on their own flesh the results of the process of fascisation which is growing in the shadow of the Likud government, and which is harming the popular masses, first of all the working people, a process that such anti-democratic measure will only accelerate.

This is also an additional step in the policy of national discrimination against the Arab population and the negation of the right of freedom of speech, against its legal organization as a national minority. We are faced with a situation, when officially and by administrative means, the government prohibits the Arab citizens of Israel, for their being Arabs, to express their opinions regarding questions that deal with their position as citizens with equal rights, in relations between them and the authorities, to crucial matters that deal with the State and with their life, such as the issue of peace between Israel and the Arab countries, between Israel and the Palestinian Arab people.

WHAT THE CONFERENCE WAS BOUND TO EXPRESS

In order to justify the prohibition order and neutralize public opinion in Israel in regards to the aggravation of the policy of national discrimination, the government spokesmen, some of its ministers and by means of the order itself, are dissimulating slanders and ferocious incitement against the Conference. The Conference itself is being presented, by falsifying all its documents, as a Conference of identification with aims and designs for the liquidation of Israel or, as if it will constitute a foundation - as alleged by Minister of Justice, Nissim, for an organization that will endanger the existence of Israel. Any unbiased person who has read the documents of the Conference, may agree or disagree to their contents, but must be well aware that the Conference was called in order to protest against national discrimination in the fields of municipal services, education, employment, and against the policy of land confiscations in the Negev, the Triangle and the Galilee. Aren't the grievances of the Arab population in these fields known? Isn't it well-known that even babies and children of Arab families do not receive the same allowance from the National Insurance as children of Jewish families? Isn't it known that under the rule of the Likud government the situation of the Arab population has worsened? Isn't it a fact that even the ex-advisor for the Prime Minister on Arab Affairs, Dr. Moshe Sharon, has resigned from his office in protest against the non-readiness of the Begin government to deal with the very painful problems of employment, education, housing, lack of land, of municipal services, and disregard for the rights of the Arab population? Why is it forbidden for the representatives of the Arab population to convene and discuss these fundamental problems and demand the right of the Arab population to equality in all walks of life?

Government ministers scream in a demagogic way regarding the human rights in the world while they violate them at home. Everyone unbiased who has read the documents of the Conference apprehends quite well that the Conference was meant to express the concern and anxiety of the sons of the Arab masses who are part of the Palestinian Arab people - and they are such and no one can change the facts of life, exactly as they are citizens of the State of Israel - and this was stated

in all the documents and in the most clear way. The same goes with regards the concern about the continued lack of peace in our region, and the continuing occupation and intensified harassment perpetrated against the masses of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories.

The Conference's organisers wanted to express the clear demand of just and stable peace between Israel and the Palestinian Arab people; therefore, they wanted to demand the withdrawal of Israel from the territories occupied since June 1967; the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip alongside Israel; and mutual recognition of the sovereignty and independence of Israel within the June 4, 1967 lines and of the Palestinian state and all the Arab states.

UNEQUIVOCAL CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE PLO

This what has been written in the documents of the Conference which was banned by the Prime Minister.

MK Josef Rom (Likud): interjects, what is written in the documents regarding the issue of who represents the Israeli Arabs?

MK Tawfiq Toubi (DFPE): I will touch upon this point, just be patient. But I will tell you in advance, that the allegation as if the organizers of this Conference declared that the PLO is the representative of the Arab population in Israel is an outright slander.

MK Josef Rom: We heard this on television.

MK Tawfiq Toubi: If you heard such a thing your ears seem not to hear properly. Such things were not said on television by the organizers of the Conference. What I said in that TV interview are the things that were stated, and not what the government spokesmen have fabricated and falsified. Even the government ministers who opposed the ban, according to "Ha'aretz" daily of December 2nd., 1980, have stated that the demands of the organizers of the Conference have been voiced also by different political forces in the Knesset and not only by the Democratic Front and the Communist Party.

It is true that the documents of the Conference have called upon the Israeli government to recognize the PLO as the sole and only authorized representative

of the Palestinian Arab people and to hold negotiations with it in order to reach a peace based on mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinian state. Today, this is the only way to a stable and just peace between Israel and the Palestinian Arab people, as forwarded by hundreds of thousands of Israeli citizens belonging to different parties. This is the demand of various political forces in Israel. This is the demand of the United Nations as well as that of the majority of nations all over the world.

MK Shmuel Toledano (Shinui - Centre Party) interjects: Following up the question of MK Rom, it is very important for us to know if the Communist Party believes that the PLO represents the Israeli Arabs or not. If I understand you properly, do you declare from the Knesset rostrum that the Communist Party determines that the PLO does not represent the Israeli Arabs?

MK Tawfiq Toubi: I will come to this point, but I will say in advance and in a clear and unequivocal way: We have always stated this. The PLO does not represent the Arab population in Israel, despite our stating the fact that this population constitutes a part of the Palestinian Arab people. But this population lives under different circumstances and in a different situation as the Palestinians outside Israel. They are Israeli citizens and their representatives are those elected by them to the Knesset, to the local councils and to the Democratic Front. These are the representatives of the Arab population in Israel and not the PLO. We said this and reiterate it not under the pressure of the banning order, but out of our positions and responsibility towards the Arabs in Israel who will contribute their share as citizens of Israel to just peace and recognition of the just rights of the Palestinian Arab people, towards the realization of his just rights for the establishment of their state alongside the State of Israel.

MK Josef Rom: If I understand you properly you claim that the Israeli Arabs constitute a part of the Palestinian Arab people. I understand also that the Communist Party accepts that the legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people is the PLO. If we add the first thing to the second, we get that the PLO is the representative of the Israeli Arabs. In addition to that, in the preparations to this Conference, besides the Communist Party there were elements who participated and who do not accept what you claim that the Communist Party

is saying. The Nazareth Conference was supposed to represent also those Israeli Arabs and not only members of the Communist Party. Maybe there are members of the Communist Party who consider the PLO as their representative and consider a way how to undermine the State of Israel. I would have hoped that on this point at least, you would say the truth and not mislead the public.

Tawfiq Toubi: You do not have to tell me to say the truth, or falsely allege that I mislead the public because we always state this as our position but you distort it with the intention to distract attention away from this truth.

Regarding your question I will answer it in the most objective way. The things I said here are not only my ideas as expressed from the rostrum of the Knesset, or in the Communist Party press. These are also the opinions expressed in the June 6 Document and in all other documents of that Conference. There is nothing in them which states that the PLO is the representative of the Arab population in Israel. There is also no contradiction between this and our saying that we are sons of the Palestinian Arab people, or that we are part and parcel of this people.

We became a part of the State of Israel as the result of a certain historical development. This is our place, this is our reality. We constitute a part of the citizens of Israel, in spite of being also sons of the Palestinian Arab people. There is no contradiction in this. We are a people that was split between two states. Is the Palestinian people the only one that was split between two states? There are lot of such peoples. The Palestinian Arab people who is demanding today the right to establish their own state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is represented by the PLO. However, the PLO does not represent the Arab population in Israel. If after all this explanation you do not understand, it means you do not want to understand. What can I do in face of such an impenetrability? The truth is that you only attempt to divert the attention away from the facts and cover up, in a demagogic fashion, the criminal policy of the government. At the same time, you are doing a bad service to those who truly want the Arab people, citizens of the State of Israel, to live as equal citizens of Israel and who struggle in legal way for their rights.

MK Uri Avneri (SHELI): What Member of Knesset Rom is saying, brings us to the absurd conclusion that the Jews all over the world would not be citizens of the countries in which they live in .

THE ARABS OF ISRAEL ARE NOT SECOND CLASS TENANTS

Instead of positively evaluating the fact that the Arab population in Israel of over half a million people, while being part and parcel of the Palestinian Arab people, publically declared its aspiration for just peace based on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, alongside an independent and sovereign Israel within the framework of the June 4, 1967 lines; instead of evaluating this responsible position which is being brought forward in a clear rational thinking with which the Arab population in Israel is presenting a significant contribution to the desired peace between Israel and the Palestinian Arab people; instead of positively evaluating this responsible position which establishes bridges for peace and a future of cooperation between the two peoples and between their two independent and sovereign states, while the Arab population in Israel remains a part of the State of Israel; instead of evaluating these facts - government ministers and spokesmen proceed with threats, curses and a campaign of terror against the Arab population and against the Communist Party.

The truth is, that by means of this instigation campaign initiated by the Likud government against the Nazareth Conference of the Arab population through disregard for its clearly declared aims for Israeli-Palestinian peace and even by distorting the truth and by diverting it into empty arguments, the Likud government is apparently interested in achieving two things: Firstly, to impose terror and intimidation upon all peace-loving people in Israel who put forward the demands for a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, for a solution of the unfortunate conflict and for putting an end to the continued bloodshed; Secondly, by means of this campaign and by banning the Conference, they want to push the Arab population towards adventurist positions from which both people will be hurt.

In continuing his speech, Tawfiq Toubi reacted to the racist threats of Minister Patt and Sharon (implying that those Arabs who are not satisfied with their situation should leave the country otherwise they will experience another holocaust as in 1948 - IE) and emphasized that the Arab population is living in their native homeland as free citizens of the State of Israel and respect the laws of this State. They are not second-class tenants of minister Patt, or minister Sharon, or the government of Israel. T. Toubi said: We reject these arrogant threats - one time threats of eviction, another time threats of a tragedy similar to that of 1948, and another time by "taking us in a taxi within half an hour across the borders." The Arab population in Israel clings to their homeland and will not let a second tragedy of eviction just like in 1948 - be imposed upon it. We will struggle as citizens of the State of Israel in order for us to live as respected members of the Arab people in our homeland and contribute our part, hand in hand with the Jewish forces of peace and democracy for just and stable peace between Israel and the Palestinian Arab people, in the interests of both our peoples.

Tawfiq Toubi summed up his speech pointing out that everybody who understands that democracy cannot be divided unevenly, that entreatments against democracy will, in the end, hit every citizen of Israel, must lend an active hand to the struggle to stop such a dangerous course of fascisation of public life in Israel.

ZO-HADEREKH, Dec. 10, 1980

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONGRESS OF THE ARAB MASSES IN ISRAEL

Bearing our historical responsibility and adhering to our natural and legitimate task in fulfilling all our vital duties and while facing the dangerous challenges that threaten our present and future, we, the representatives of the Arab masses in Israel covering their various strata and socio-political affiliations have called this conference, with the participation of the fraternal representatives of the Jewish forces of peace and democracy to be held in Nazareth on December 6th., 1980, on the basis of the June 6th, 1980 document and in response to call of the Preparatory Meeting in Shfa-Amer, held on Saturday, September 6th, 1980, declare the following:

We express the will of the Arab masses in Israel when we declare that these masses in virtue of their legitimate citizenship in Israel and as inhabitants of this country with no other alternative homeland cling to their right to live in equality, reject national oppression and racial discrimination and rebuff conspiracies against their existence. And in virtue of their historical, national attachment to the Palestinian Arab people, the Arab masses in Israel look forward towards peace, justice and a secured future. In this respect they cannot be indifferent to the suffering and pain of the Palestinian people caused by the denial of their just national rights by the rulers of Israel imperialism and Arab reaction. They cannot stand aside while peace is absent and mounting dangers as a result, threaten both peoples of this country.

In the light of this, we resolve to continue the struggle to achieve the following objectives:

FOR FULL EQUALITY

Our right to live in Israel as citizens with equal rights is unshakable. We have the right to practice our national and civil rights.

We demand the abrogation of civil repression, national oppression and racial discrimination

suffered by the Arab masses in the country. We express this in the following demands;

1. Recognition of the Arab masses in Israel as a national minority and not as scattered communal minorities, whom the authorities are attempting to obliterate by sowing dissension among them;
2. Renunciation of the policy of the seizure of Arab citizens' land in order to render them destitute, which means:
 - A. Abrogating the decrees, measures and regulations designed to confiscate Arab lands, returning confiscated lands to their owners, allocating the necessary lands for the development of Arab towns and villages either by cancelling expropriations or by allocating state lands for this purpose.
 - B. Abolishing the Judaization of the Galilee and the construction of "stockades" to further the racist plan of the Northern District Commissioner, Israel Koenig and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir who called for "A Jewish Galilee and not a "Gentile Galilee..." (or foreigners-Arabs). This practically means denying the Arab masses their right to equality and uprooting them from their lands and homeland. We call for a policy of development for the benefit of all inhabitants of the Galilee.
 - C. Abolishing the law expropriating the lands of the Negev Arabs and putting an end to attempts at rendering them destitute under various unacceptable pretexts.
 - D. Industrialization and development of Arab towns and villages, and the development of Arab agriculture on modern basis and allocating the necessary water for irrigation.
3. Equalization between Arab and Jewish local authorities in terms of budgets, grants and loans, so as to enable Arab local councils to carry out development projects. Thus would the Arab councils

rise to the level of the Jewish towns and villages, and solve the problems of education, housing and social services.

4. Availing Arab workers high-school and university graduates with the opportunities to work in all sectors of work ,and to enjoy equal rights and work conditions with Jewish workers. At the same time, we demand that the Histadrut defend their rights and provide them with its services.
5. Raising the Arab educational level, in elementary as well as secondary spheres and creating the material and organizational conditions for the affiliation of Arab students to the universities and for their study in a normal atmosphere, without the measures of discrimination, pressure and chauvinistic incitement.

Substituting the educational curriculums, based on disseminating national nihilism, with curriculums that provide Arab students with the possibility to study their national and patriotic heritage.

6. Establishing a University in Nazareth which will meet the cultural and scientific needs in the Arab sector. Such a University would be open to all students regardless of nationality. sex and beliefs.
7. Developing and solving the problems of the cultural, artistic and athletic life in the Arab sector.
8. Releasing the Moslem religious Trust (Waqf) which have been arbitrarily seized by the authorities and handing them over to committees to be elected by the members of the Moslem community in every town and village where such Trusts do exist.
9. Revoking the orders of compulsory military service imposed on members of the Arab Druze community, who have from the outset, rejected the attempts of the authorities to falsify their national character and separate them from their Arab people as well as from the Arab masses in this country.

STOP FASCISM

The mounting dangers threatening to liquidate democratic freedoms in Israel as a result of the upsurge of fascist encroachments on the political life, viciously threaten all citizens and especially the Arab citizens.

These threats have recently materialized in a series of laws and amendments to laws characterized by racism and fascism. Among these laws: the law expropriating Negev-Arab lands which deprives the citizen of his elementary right to appeal to any juridical authority in the country. Amendment of the Citizenship law which entitles the Minister of Interior to annul the citizenship of a citizen whose "allegiance to the State" is suspect or that "threaten state security". The amendments leaves it to the minister sole discretion to decide the meaning "allegiance" and "security".

It is clear that annulling the citizenship of any person paves the way for his deportation from the country.

The "law of organizations" which entitles the Minister of Interior to illegalize organizations that "threaten state security", in accordance with a government decision.

The "Tamir Terrorist Law" which is called, "the law for combatting terrorism" which also does not define "terrorism". This law exposes every Arab citizen to danger merely if he expresses his national and patriotic feelings.

This onslaught on the Arab masses has also been embodied in the imposition of compulsory confinement orders on a number of activists defending the rights of the Arab masses.

The dangers of fascism are being continuously aggravated due to the continued occupation and lack of peace. They threaten all citizens of this country and more severely the Arab masses.

We stand with the entire Jewish democratic forces in Israel, in one front confronting the fascist dangers and while doing so, we demand the cessation and annulment of repressive measures, as well as the abrogation of the Emergency Regulations, inherited from the British Mandate, including the regulations declaring areas closed, restriction of movement and the imposition of compulsory house arrests..

We demand the annulment of the racist and anti-democratic laws. We call for the establishment of a united front to confront the dangers of fascism in Israel.

THE JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE
IS THE ONLY FEASIBLE PEACE

The Arab masses point to the enormous and excessive price which the Palestinian Arab people have been suffering from as a result of the adventurist and aggressive policy being pursued by the rulers of Israel in cooperation with American imperialism and Arab reaction.

The vicious circle of bloodshed and wars, which have barricaded our region and brought about catastrophies is still charged with the dangers of wars which severely hurt the peoples of the region, including the Israeli people and at the same time threaten the security and future of the Arab masses in Israel.

The establishment of just and durable peace can terminate this tragic situation. We consider the Israeli-Palestinian peace capable of achieving comprehensive peace in the region. This peace should be based on the following basis:

1. Recognition of the right to self-determination of both the Israeli and Palestinian people. This was the basis of U.N. Resolutions of 1947 and this has been the basis of UN resolution since 1974 (when the Palestinian question reemerged on the agenda of the UN).
2. Recognition that the two fundamental sides in the Middle East conflict are the Israeli and Palestinian sides. Their representatives are, the Israeli government on the one hand and the P.L.O. on the other. Peace

can be achieved through negotiations between them.

3. Cessation of the brutal measures of oppression in all the occupied territories and putting an end to the racist annihilation raids on the Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon which aim at the liquidation of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Annulment of the annexationist "Jerusalem Law" and relinquishing the attempt to annex the occupied Syrian Golan heights to Israel.

Under the prevailing conditions we consider that the foundations for peace should be:

1. withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories occupied in the June 1967 war including occupied Arab Jerusalem.
2. Recognition of the right of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent national state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip including Arab Jerusalem alongside Israel.
3. Recognition of the right of the refugees to return to their homeland in accordance with U.N. resolutions.
4. Establishing of peaceful relations between the State of Israel and the Palestinian state and the other Arab states within the framework of U.N. Charter and in accordance with the international and agreed-upon guarantees.

OUR CAUSE IS JUST

We believe that our cause is just. Our programme is realistic and we consider the backing of the Jewish forces of peace and democracy as an act of support to it. Through its implementation, our Arab masses will enjoy equality and peace will be achieved. Consequently both the Israeli and Palestinian people will enjoy security and a sound basis will be created for the development of relations of fruitful cooperation, fraternity in all fields of interests, for both peoples as well as in the interest of all peoples in the region.

IMPRESSIVE JEWISH-ARAB RALLY IN TEL-AVIV PROTESTING AGAINST THE BANNING OF THE NAZARETH CONGRESS AND THE DEPORTATION OF THE TWO PALESTINIAN MAYORS

The masses of Jews and Arabs who had come to the meeting from various parts of the country belonging to different political circles, were unpleasantly surprised by the reception prepared for them by large police forces who thoroughly searched every participant in the rally.

The rostrum was decorated with slogans in Hebrew and Arabic:

"The Begin Government - A Danger To Democracy!"
"Cancel The Prohibition Of The Nazareth Congress!"
"Today Freedom Is Attacked In Nazareth - Tomorrow It Will Be In Tel-Aviv!"

A thousand people streamed into the Bat-Dor hall, the same hour the Nazareth Congress should have been convened.

Masses of people had to remain outside because the police was "concerned" about "order to be maintained" in this Jewish-Arab meeting.

The Jewish-Arab protest meeting prominently demonstrated the impotence of the Begin government, which had believed that by banning the conference of the Arab population in Nazareth, on December 6, 1980, with the participation of Jewish forces of democracy and peace, they will deter the peace forces.

Now the impressive demonstrations of Jewish-Arab brotherhood took place in Tel-Aviv and many Arab towns and villages.

The Begin government also completely failed in its attempt at deterring the Arab as well as the Jewish masses by telling them that the Communists stand at the head of a campaign which allegedly has as its aim the partition of Israel, delivering Israel to Arafat... The participation of the Israeli Arabs from many sectors and the great participation of the Jewish activists of democracy and peace in the protest manifestation in Tel-Aviv, and the numerous greetings which reached the meeting, the

wide-spread condemnation in the press of the Begin government's anti-democratic steps have emphasized that it is precisely the Begin government that has become isolated in the Israeli society, and is being supported only by the nationalist-chauvinist circles.

The presidium of the rally, composed of the members of Knesset Meir Vilner, Uri Avneri, Tawfik Toubi and Charlie Biton of Dr Meir Pa'il, Gabriel Stern, Dr Emile Touma, the poet Yevi and the head of the local council of Me'ilya, Elias Layus were applauded.

The chairman Uzi Burstein categorically denounced the prohibition of the Arab population's Congress in Nazareth and condemned the deportation from their homeland of the two mayors, Muhammed Milhem and Fahed Quawassmeh (*deported the previous day*). He said that the Arab population has the full right to take a stand on many issues. The chairman also denounced the encirclement by the police of the hall in which the present rally was held.

The well-known journalist Gabriel Stern, in his speech came out sharply against the prohibition of the Nazareth Conference and the deportation of the Palestinian mayors who are personally known to him as active fighters for peace. In his opinion, these measures contradict Zionism. The speaker stressed that the Nazareth Conference of Arab population was to be an important step towards Jewish-Arab rapprochement and towards peace. He added that it is a moral obligation to allow the Arab population to state their views.

The chairman informed that the supreme leadership of the "Hashomer Hatzair" has sent to the meeting a letter of protest against the government's prohibition of the Nazareth Conference. Poet Yevi read a greeting sent by Professor A.E. Simon, who because of his observing the Sabbath was unable to attend the rally. Other greetings came from Professor Micheal Harsgor, Prof. Tzvi Lamm and artist Yigael Tumarkin. Greetings and declarations of support of the rally's aims were sent also by other personalities and organisations. The chairman of the local council of the Arab village of Me'ilya Elias Layus, said that the Arab workers are not only good builders of peace. In his greeting, the editor-in-chief

of "New Outlook", Simha Flapan, showed that on the one, the Begin government speaks about the normalisation of relations with Egypt but on the other hand it prohibits a legal democratic conference of the Arab population in its country.

In a brief speech MK Uri Avneri sharply criticised the activities of the government, pointing out that this same government, which demands rights for Jews to assemble in all countries of the world, including in the Soviet Union, forbids in its own country a conference in Nazareth. The speaker called for sending a greeting to the two deported Palestinian mayors and demanded their being returned to their homeland, He also called for holding peace negotiations with the P.L.O. and its leaders.

In his speech Dr Benjamin Cohen posed the question: "When are Jews hit? And he replied to his rhetorical question: When a government is in a difficult situation. In our country, Israel, the Arabs are hit because the government cannot curb the soaring inflation of 200 per cent, when it outlines no way out from the difficult situation, when it has no perspective at all. Therefore, the united struggle against this government is a national necessity. The Congress had the aim of being a peace conference. He thereby rebuffed all the lies and falsifications which had been diffused about the participation of Jewish activists of democracy and peace.

The speaker warned against the danger of fascism and called for unitedly rebuffing the dark tide of racism and war. The speaker pointed out that in the programme of the Conference which was to take place in Nazareth, there had been the explicit call for recognition of a Palestinian state in the (occupied West)-Bank and Gaza strip, along side the State of Israel in its 1967 frontiers.

The big struggle for cancelling the prohibition of the Nazareth Conference is a struggle defending democracy and a struggle for Jewish-Arab brotherhood and peace.

"This (Tel-Aviv) rally, taking place in spite of 'emergency regulations' and the strong police cordon around it, proves, that we, the Arab and Jewish democratic and peace forces, represent a strong force

in Israel - not yet dominant, but showing the certain future for our country. The rally also proves that the democratic forces with different world outlook and political affiliation who are prepared to stop the ugly wave of fascism endangering to sweep over our country, before it is too late" - declared Meir Vilner in his speech.

"It may not look like it at present, but we democrats and peaceforces, when fighting together, will be the future of Israel under the sign of Jewish-Arab brotherhood and just peace with our Palestinian neighbours" - added former MK Dr. Meir Pail.

Continuing he emphasised that he speaks as a Jew and Zionist and that precisely of that, it is his view that if Jews have the right to struggle for their equality the Arabs too have the full right to struggle for equality as citizens of Israel. The speaker called the last steps of the government - the prohibition of the Nazareth Conference and the deportation of the two mayors - a policy of Sodom and Khelem (traditional Jewish symbols of atrocity and stupidity - IB).

Where do they push the Arabs in Israel and the Palestinian Arabs in the occupied territories to, if they deprive them of any opportunity to struggle for their rights? He called for struggling against the serious danger of fascism and at the same time he warned against not making any false step in just struggle against the actions of Sodom and Khelem.

Dr Emile Touma denied a whole series of falsification monitored by the government into the press and mass media, which had been intended to weaken the importance of the Congress of the Arab population. The rulers have attempted to take all steps in order not to permit the convening of the Congress. When all attempts failed, they took recourse to the British colonialist regulations. The Congress has indeed been prevented. The Begin rulers had taken fright at the concrete, real programme for peace, which was outmapped and of the wide echo of the peace programme among the Arab masses and wide, sound Jewish circles, Dr Emile Touma stressed.

Dr E. Touma declared that the government had prevented the preparatory committee of the Nazareth Conference from continuing its activities and therefore a committee has been established, which will struggle for

cancelling the anti-democratic instruction of banning the Nazerzth Congress.

In an elevated militant mood the Jewish-Arab mass meeting in the centre of Tel-Aviv was summed up by the chairman who announced that the presidium is constituting itself as a committee for the cancellation of the prohibition of the Nazareth Congress.

It is important to stress that the appeal of the chairman to donate money for covering the expenses of the mass meeting was successful and the participants hastened to pay their voluntary contribution.

"DER VEG", DECEMBER 10, 1980

ISRAELI COMMUNISTS PREPARE THEIR XIX CONGRESS

In Mid-December 1980 the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel published the theses to the XIX Party Congress which will be convened on February 11-14, 1981. The 12-chapter theses is now under discussions in all Party organizations throughout the country, in circles of sympathizers, progressive youth and student circles, the communist press, etc.

The theses sum up the developments in the world the Middle East, and particular in Israel since the XVIII Congress four years ago (Dec. 1976), draw conclusions from them, and propose a platform for the Party's policies and activities.

In the preface to the theses it is stated inter alia:

"The XIX Congress will convene at a time when the Israeli occupation of Arab territories continues already its 14th years.

military spendings are the main causes of the economic and social ruin the popular masses are suffering from, and they intensify the danger of fascism.

"The XIX Congress will convene under Israeli domestic conditions different from those at the time of the XVIII Congress. In 1977, for the first time in Israel's history, the direct representatives of big capital, the rightwing-hawkish Likud Bloc, in coalition with the clerical National Religious Party that has undergone itself a most radical nationalist turn, came to power".

Further it is said there that the annexationist and oppressive policy of these rulers in the occupied territories, the Jewish colonialist settlement on expropriated Palestinian land was extremely intensified after the Camp David accords (1978). In the wake of this plot the intervention of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East has increased, the armament race has reached hitherto unknown heights.

One of the chapters of the theses is dedicated to the escalated armaments race and the possible introduc-

tion of nuclear arms into the region.

Begin's Likud government is increasingly narrowing down the democratic freedoms. Under its wings fascist organisations- like "Gush- Emunim" and Kahane's gang and others related ones- are growing and arm themselves. Fascist hoodlum attacks on Arab citizens, students, Jewish and Arab leftwing and other progressive forces are dangerously increasing, attacks on the headquarter of the C.F. and clubs of the Party. as well as on premises of other parties, on personalities of the peace camp, etc, have become regular events." The danger of fascist takeover becoms more and more acute" - is said there. But. the democratic and peace forces have grown too considerably. The XIX Congress will call upon all worker's parties, on all democratic and peace forces to mobilize in a common anti- fascist action front in order to rebuff this fascist onslaught.

Further, the theses deliberate upon the sharply intensified policy of racist discrimination and oppression the government is leading against the Arab population in Israel (16 percent of the Israeli population), the increased seizure of Arab land according to the so-called plan of "Judaization of the Galilee", the law of expelling the Negev Bedouins from their land and "resettling them in SOWETO-like ghettos. The XIX Congress will call for a united struggle of the Arab population. Shoulder to shoulder with Jewish democratic forces to rebuff the onslaught and for equal national and civil rights of all Israeli citizens.

Another chapter points to the discriminatory police against certain ethnic (oriental) Jewish population groups, the main contingent of the slum dwellers in towns and "development townlets", and the necessity of the struggle for their equal social integration and human housing developments to liquidate the slums and poverty neighbourhoods. One chapter is dedicated to the social situation of women in Israel and the struggle for their rights in all spheres.

The Congress will map out a general programme for the solution of the unprecedented economic and social crisis Israel is undergoing (the consumer index is running away at present at an annual rate of more than 140 percent hike, the unemployment figures are rising).

The theses point to the connections between the struggle for Peace and disarmament, for defence of democratic freedoms and for equal rights on one hand, and the struggle for defence of the class interests and rights of the working people and all other popular strata hit by the policy of granting unheard-of privileges and grants to inflate the superprofits of big capitalists and stock-exchange profiteers. One chapter of the theses analyses the economic and social developments in Israel on a Marxist-Leninist basis.

The Congress will call for a broadest possible front of peace and democratic forces, of the working masses, of all opponents to the anti-national, anti-labour LIKUD Government of big bourgeoisie and rightwing radicals, in order to get of it as soon as possible. However, it is stated regretfully that the leadership of the (social-democrat reformist and zionist) Labour-Alignment does not propose a truly alternative policy to the Begin Government's one. The same goes for some ad-hoc electioneering lists (as e.g. one of former defence and foreign ministers Weizmann and Dayan together with other which is being prepared according to press reports) the aim of which is only to fool again certain parts of the electorate that have become disillusioned from both the LIKUD and the Labour.

The theses stress the historical importance of the foundation, following the initiative of the XVIII Congress, of the "Democratic Front for Peace and Equality" (DEPE). The activity of the communists and their front-partners have been manifold and fruitful. The front had relatively remarkable successes at the elections to the Knesset (1977), to municipal and local councils, to the different trade-union bodies etc. The XIX C.P. Congress will call for this front, based on a sound common political platform, to strengthen the efforts towards widening it yet on a broader spectrum of progressive forces.

"What Israel needs, as air for breathing, is a fundamental change of her foreign and domestic, of the economic and social policy. Therefore, the XIX Congress will put before the Israeli people a truly alternative policy based on realistic foundations, one of peace, national independence and security, of democracy, equality

of rights and social progress.

CP's PEACE PROGRAMME

The Central Committee submits to the XIX congress a programme for comprehensive, just and lasting peace, the important parts of it read:

- Israel shall retreat from all Arab territories she occupied in the 1967 war. The (pre-war) lines of June 4 th. 1967 will become the peace borders.
- The Arab Palestine people's right to self-determination and to establish its own independent state, alongside the State of Israel, shall be respected.
- A just solution of the Palestinian refugee problem shall be secured according to the respective U.N. resolution that recognise their right to chose between return to their homeland and acceptance of compensations.
- The rights of the State of Israel and the Arab states to sovereign existence and development in conditions of peace and security shall be respected.
- All sides shall cancel any claim to belligerency and shall respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all the states in the region, as well as their right to live in peace within secure and recognized borders, free from threats or use of force.
- The peace terms shall be anchored in treaties between the states, that will become the legal basis for peaceful coexistence.
- The annexation of Eastern (Arab) Jerusalem shall be abolished. It will fal within the sovereignty of the independent Palestinian state Western (Israeli) Jerusalem shall remain the capital of Israel. In the framework of a peace settlement there is room for mutual agreed upon arrangements which will safeguard cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian parts of the town in the municipal domain, for free access to the holy places, free movement between the two parts, and so forth.

Further it is said there, that in order to reach comprehensive, just and lasting peace, the Camp-David accords(and the consequently signed separate "peace" treaties between Israel, Egypt and the U.S.A.) shall be abolished, since they negate the rights of the Palestine people to self- determination and its independent state, because they detach the treatment of the Mideastern conflict from the United Nation's framework, and from international relations of detente. For all these they contradict true efforts for peace in our region. Instead of this adversary course, an international peace conference should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations and on the basis of the U.N. resolutions. In this conference, the Soviet Union, the U.S.A. and any other interested state should participate, as well as all sides directly involved in the conflict, Israel, represented by her government, and the sole legitimate and recognized representative of the Arab Paletine people - the P.L.O. - included.

"Our Israeli Communist Party will fight with all means in its hand that the longed-for peace will come true. The Party will work towards the setting- up of a broadest possible front to struggle for the attainment of this lofty aim"- is said in the peace programme.

IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE IS NOT ADVERSE TO UNITY OF ACTION

The theses proposes to re-endorse the ideological principles regarding the Israeli communists' points of view concerning the zionist ideology and practice, adopted by previous (especially the XVI and XVII) Party Congresses. The developments of the last years have proved the correctness of these principles.

Zionism is in the interest of big capitalal and contradicts grossly the interests of working masses. The Zionist circles ruling Israel prevent Israel from becoming rooted in the Middle East and the region's nations, are hindering peace with the Arab neighbours, and imperil the very future of Israel, as well as world peace. The economic and social crisis holding the country in its grip, is mainly the result of the ruling Zionist policy, characterized by nationalist arrogance, chauvinism, aggressiveness, and hired sword-bearing for imperialism. Therefore, the unabaded struggle against

Zionist ideology and practice lies in the very patriotic interest of the working class and other masses of Israel.

However, this struggle does not, and should not stand in the way of greatest efforts to reach broadest possible unity with other forces of peace and democracy- also within the Zionist camp- on the basis of concrete aims to reach peace, to defend democratic freedoms, to fight for social progress.

FRATERNAL TIES WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF THE WORLD

"During the period between the XVIII and XIX Congresses the fraternal ties between the C.P. of Israel and the Communist and Workers Parties in the world have deepened. The Communist Party of Israel its modest contribution to cementing the unity of the international movement of communist and workers parties on the sound basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism" - is stated in the theses.

The Communist Party of Israel supports systematic exchange of ideological and political thinking within the communist world movement. This is to the best of all, since learning mutually from the experience of fraternal parties assists in finding answers to newly arising problems, while strengthening the unity of our camp. Such exchange of ideas should take place in two-sides or many-sided, or regional meetings as well as in a new international consultative conference of the international communist and workers movement.

The theses stress also that the Communist Party of Israel looks upon the vehement rebuff of the anti-Soviet slander and incitement campaign led by the Israeli ruling circles and the Zionist leadership in collusion with the most extreme enemies of detente in the imperialist camp. As its internationalist duty. The Party gives great importance to spread the truth about the Soviet Union and her principled policy. The CPI looks upon the CPSU as the avantguard of the international communist movement. This is an objective fact is stated there - since the CPSU has made the largest contribution to the struggle of all peoples of this world for national and social liberation, and this inter alia because the

CPSU has the greatest historic experience as the first party that led socialist construction. Upon its shoulders falls the special responsibility as a socialist power for defending peace and the freedom of the nations. The CPI assesses the attitude towards the Soviet Union and the CPSU as the criterion for the loyalty to the cause of socialism and anti-imperialist struggle.

The theses rebuff sharply the treacherous leadership of the Communist Party of China for having betrayed the communist world movement and for colluding with the most arch imperialist forces against the people fighting for their national liberation.

Special importance is stressed in the theses to the very close ties of friendship and fraternity between the CPI and the communist parties of the Arab countries, especially with the Jordanian Communist Party. The strong ties of solidarity between the Communist Party of Israel and the heroically struggling comrades of the Organization of Palestinian Communists in the occupied territories are of special importance in the struggle against occupation and occupationist terror, for just peace and good neighborly relationship between the two peoples. The friendly relations between the CPI and the Palestinian communists and other patriotic forces within the Palestinian people suffering oppression and expulsion from their homeland and their PLO leaders prove that on the basis of mutual respect and equality a fundamental change in the relationship between the two people of Israel and Palestine, peaceful co-existence and friendly neighborly relations and cooperation is absolutely possible.

In the last chapter of the theses it is reckoned that the ranks of the CPI have grown in the four years since the last Congress by more than 25 percent (netto). The number of local branches has increased from 79 to 86 - a considerable number for such a small country. It is stressed there that the younger generation among Arabs and Jews has contributed the vast majority of the new Party cadre, and this is in spite of terror and intimidation, of discrimination in getting jobs and work, in spite of the chauvinist and militarist brainwashing, especially among the Jewish youth.

Summing up, the Central Committee calls upon the Congress and the Party rank and file to do everything possible to strengthen the Party. *"The intensification of Party work and voluntary activity of every Party member strengthening the unity, the inner-Party discipline and their revolutionary vigilance on the one hand, and the strengthening of inner-Party democracy on the basis of democratic centralism, on the other hand are the unconditional preconditions for further strengthening our Communist Party and its tempering towards fulfilling its historic tasks in Israel."*

APPEAL FOR ACTION AGAINST THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S GROSS BREACH OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On December 1 st. 1980, Prime Minister Begin, in his capacity as Defence Minister issued an order banning the convocation of the congress of the Arab population in Israel, with the participation of the Jewish democratic and peace forces, scheduled held on Decemeber 6th., 1980, in Nazareth.

Prime Minister Begin resorted, in order to implement this undemocratic measure, to the infamous British Mandatory repressive regulations known as the "EMERGENCY DEFENCE REGULATIONS 1945."

Democratic Public opinion in Israel has always condemned these grossly oppressive colonial regulations and called for their abrogation.

We appeal to you to support our struggle in defence of human rights and for the abrogation of the order banning the congress.

For this purpose we provide you with the following information:

1. The Preparatory Committee for the convocation of the members of Knesset (parliament); heads of local of the Arab national minority in Israel including members of Knesset (parliament); heads of Local councils, trade union leaders, leading members of women organisations, journalists, writers, poets, youth and student representatives and lectures.

Thus the committee was truly representative of the vast majority of the Arab population in Israel.

2. The now banned congress was designed to endorse a programme of action and elect a permanent committee
3. The prepared programme calls for the elimination of national discrimination and oppression suffered by the Arab national minority in Israel. It calls for the institution of full equality in all spheres of life which means inter alia cessation of

expropriation of Arab - owned land; equal to Arab Local councils; improvement of Arab education at all levels, and equal opportunities of work to Arab workers, and secondary and university graduates who find most industries and government and private institutions closed before them.

The programme calls for the defence of democracy against fascist encroachment embodied in various laws such as an ammendment of the citizenship law which authorises the Minister of Interior to annul the citizenship of any citizen, suspected of so-called disloyalty to the state.

4. The programme includes also a just and stable Israeli Palestinian peace. This plan emphasised that the two basic sides to the conflict are the Israeli side and the Palestinian side. The first is represented by the Israeli Government and the other by the P.L.O. "and peace can be achieved through negotiations between them.

The platform of the Congress calls for the Israeli evacuation from all Arab territories occupied in the June 1967 war, and the establishment of the Palestinian independent state in the West- Bank - including Arab Jerusalem - and the Gaza Strip. alongside the state of Israel.

5. Government spokesmen admitted that there are Israeli political parties and circles which subscribe to this plan in its basic outlines, and it is therefor clear that the banning of the Congress was an expression of the anti-Arab policy of national discrimination and oppression implemented by the Israeli governments.

It was symptomatic of this attitude that on the aftermath of this undemocratic order two ministers revealed the aggressive attitude of important sections of the Israeli ruling circles, towards the Arab national minority. Gideon Patt, Minister of Industry, said: "we have to choke this attempt of the minority and whoever does not like life here he can pack and leave the country and we will wave him goodby on the bridge...

Minister of Agriculture and Colonial Seetlement in the occupied territories Ariel Sharon threatened the Arab

minority with repetition of the catastrophe which befell the Palestine Arab people in 1948.

6. Furthermore preventing the representatives of the Arab population from expressing their views on issues involving the future of the citizens of Israel is a clear act of national discrimination. It means refusal to recognise the full right of citizenship of the Arab national minority in Israel.
7. The fact that a number of parties and circles belonging to the establishment protested against the order, discredited the demagogic false claim that the congress would have "undermined security" and threatened the "existence of the State"!
8. More over the above mentioned peace plan accords with the U.N. resolutions on the Palestine question and corresponds to the views of world wide consensus on this issue.

We enclose the draft programme of the banned preparatory committee and request you to take action to support our just struggles for the annulment of the anti-democratic order banning the congress of the Arab population with the participation of the Jewish democratic and peace forces. This will contribute to our struggles in defence of democracy against fascist encroachment on the cause of peace in the Middle East and to the fight for the Israeli government's adherence to human rights.

Sincerely Yours
Committee for Struggle
Against the Order
Banning the Congress

THE DFPE CALLS FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S RESIGNATION

The government has begun discussing the state budget for the fiscal year 1981/82 as proposed by Minister of Finance Y. Hurovitz. The Likud government, which had been in a state of disintegration even before is now more than ever torn by the efforts of each and every government minister in view of the forthcoming elections to drag out a bigger budget for his own ministry, in accordance with his own interests, and the interests of his party.

Meantime, it has been published that the rise in prices in November 1980 amounted to 9.4 per cent in October 11 p.c. The real increase, as expressed in the spending for vital food and consumer goods, housing etc., of the workers' families, is much higher, because at the end of November the prices of milk and dairy products, as well as other basic products and services were raised on the initiative of the government and these latest price hikes have almost not been taken into account in the above raise of the consumer price index of 9.4 p.c.

According to the assessment of the Histadrut, the real increase in the index for November 1980 amounted to 11 p.c.

In an annual reckoning (November 79 to November 80), the price index has risen by approximately 140 per cent - an "Israeli record", which puts Israel in the front rank of the states which suffer from accelerated inflation.

The Minister of Finance, Yigal Hurovitz, has refused to react to this publication about the rise of the index. The "Knight of I have no money" suddenly lacks the words for explaining why every time, when he proclaims the "curbing" of the inflation, the latter reaches new peaks.

In reality, the explanation is simple: The government continues its policy of accelerating the rise in the cost-of-living by the continuation of its enormous spendings for military purposes, raids into Lebanon, colonial settlements; by raising the prices of

products and services which are under its control (electricity, gas, milk, eggs, public transportation) by the continuation of the "encouragement of capital" and first and foremost of the parasitic capital and profiteering at the Stock Exchange, from which no taxes are collected; by the continuation in financing a considerable part of the state budget by means of loans (state bonds) and "printing of money".

HUROVITZ'S PLAN FOR THE YEAR 1981

The data of the rise in the index in November 1980 were published at a time when the government was beginning deliberating the state budget for next year.

The debate about the budget is indeed only in its inception stages and so far no detailed data of its various points have been made public. However what has already been published, one can learn in which direction the Price-hike Minister and the whole Price-hike cabinet are striving.

According to publication in the press, whose sources are to be found in the Ministry of Finance, Minister Hurovitz proposes that in the forthcoming budget, the spendings for "defence" will be cut, as well as the spendings for the welfare services and of labour in the public sector.

At first sight, this is a vision of the "End of Days": Minister Hurovitz, who at the time opposed the separate agreement with Egypt because it entailed a withdrawal from Sinai, now proposes a cut in military expenditures! However, when the matter is subjected to closer scrutiny, it turns out that any feelings of elation are premature.

When Mister Hurovitz talks about a cut in the military spendings he means the discussions he has had with the war ministry about the increase in military spendings in this year. It turns out that the war ministry demands, in addition to the additional budget, which has been confirmed not long ago, another 1.65 billion Shekels (16.5 billion Liras) should be allocated to them as a "supplement due to the increased prices". And, in fact, the war ministry already acts as if this additional

sum had been confirmed. Thus, the Ministry of Finance debates the question of this sum, so that it will not be included in the framework of military spendings in the forthcoming year. And if the Minister of Finance will achieve anything at all in this matter (and so far this is not clear at all), he will hypocritically call that a "cut".

As against this, when Minister Hurovitz deals with the public services and the firing of workers - his language is clear and equivocal. Hurovitz's plan is to try and decrease the inflation from the present annual rate of 140-200 percent to an annual rate of 100-120 percent and this by the firing of 43 additional employees in the public sector; the curtailment of the social national insurance allowances for children and the aged; the freezing of the project of "restoration of the slum quarters"; a wage freeze; cancellation of the payment of CoL (Cost of Living) increments in January; a steep rise in payments of health and educational services; restriction of number of classes and firing of teachers; cancellation of 300 beds in hospitals, etc.

About such a "plan" one can without any hesitation say that it constitutes a continuation of the present policy, which as it is known, has caused an annual inflation of 140 percent. And if these were the results this year, why should the results of the same policy be different in the following year?

The causes of the inflation are neither the "superfluous" teachers nor "superfluous" office employees, or the "exaggerated" allowances for children and the aged, or the "high" wages. The prices are galloping at a monthly rate of 10-11 percent because of the enormous military expenditures in effect since 1967, because of the militarization of the economy, because of the deficit in the state budget subsequent to the military expenditures and the strangling reimbursement of foreign and domestic debts. Therefore the wage freeze, which in the conditions of the raving price-hikes and the payment of 80 percent of the CoL increments - and that, too only once every three months - constitute a decline in the real value of the wages, will not lessen the inflation, but it will raise the profits of the employers and lessen the part of wages in the government spendings.

THE DFPE CALLS FOR THE RESIGNATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

In view of the steep increase of the price index in November and in view of the plan of drastic cuts as proposed by Minister Hurovitz in his proposed of state budget for 1981, the Histadrut leadership has declared that it will demand a special compensation for the high cost of living in January. This is an absolutely just demand. However what does the Histadrut leadership intends to do in order to mobilize the working class for the struggle for attaining this demand?

The DFPE bloc in the Histadrut has called for the immediate resignation of the government of high-cost-of-living, who has declared war on the working class and has sharply outlined the workers' demands, which are now the order of the day.

ZO-HADEREKH, Dec. 17, 1980

THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR PEACE AND EQUALITY
STARTS ITS ELECTION CAMPAIGN TO THE TRADE
UNIONS

STRENGTHENING THE DFPE - IS IN THE INTEREST
OF THE WORKERS, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

MEIR VILNER - THE DISCUSSION IN THE GOVERN-
MENT REGARDING THE CURTAILMENTS IN THE MILI-
TARY BUDGET IS A CAMPAIGN FOR DISTRACTING
ATTENTION AND AIMED AT COVERING UP THE PLANS
FOR CUTS IN THE BUDGETS OF WELFARE AND
PUBLIC SERVICES.

With a feeling of optimism and strong will, a
national conference of the DFPE was held in Haifa
and thus started the campaign for the forthcoming
elections of the trade unions due to be held in
April 1981.

The Conference was presided over by Jamal Tarabay
head of the Sakhnin local council.

**MEIR VILNER: THE DFPE HAS PROVED ITS SUCCESS
AND IT IS IMPERATIVE TO STRENGTHEN ITS FORCE
IN THE ELECTIONS**

The first speaker in the Conference was MK Meir
Vilner. He pointed out that we are witnessing at present
special conditions in which the forthcoming elections
to the trade unions and the Knesset will not be similar
to the previous ones.

In the last elections the DFPE which was previously
established and included Jewish and Arab democratic
circles - appeared for the first time. The DFPE included
the Communist Party of Israel, the Black Panthers organi-
zation, Shasi (Israeli Socialist Left), the Left Front
and forces representing most of the Arab population. Such
a Front was established for the first time in Israel. This
thing was not easy and now we must examine if this has
succeeded.

The speaker stressed that if we sum up the whole
experience, it is possible to say without doubt that
the Front has succeeded in its aims - under the prevail-
ing conditions in Israel - and this was a step forward

in the public struggle in Israel.

In continuation, Meir Vilner stated that the warnings of the DFPE in the election campaign four years ago regarding the ascendance of the right to power - has been realized. The one responsible for this is the Alignment whose anti-democratic and anti-proletarian policy has paved the way for the Likud whose rule is worse much more. We reached a 200% rate of inflation, the value of wages continuously decreases, communal discrimination has sharpened, the oppression of the Arab population is sharpening, and occupation, which is the most dangerous thing is intensely continuing. Occupation prevents peace, destroys society, distorts the economy and has negative effect on everybody.

At present a discussion is taking place regarding the curtailment of the military expenditures. Once it was only the communists who raised this demand. Now also the ministers, Hurovitz and Sharon say that it is possible to cut down the military expenditures. What is happening here? This is nothing but a campaign of deceit from the side of the government which is losing public confidence, a government from which senior ministers (Weizman, Dayan, Tamir) have ran away. The government pretends that it is cutting down also military budget in order to be able to cut down the budgets of health, education and others. But, practically, it does not intend to cut down the military expenditures.

In order to prove this, the speaker mentioned an article written by Meir Mirhav which was published in the Jerusalem Post (Dec. 26, 1980) which stresses that the military budget is not being cut down but on the contrary it is being increased.

The budget will be increased through four methods:

1. Minister of Defence can add to the budget IL.5 billion during the year;
2. The money accumulated from selling used military equipment will go directly to the military budget;
3. The present decisions are only valid for a period of six months, and in October 1981, when the budget will be discussed again, the financial commitments of the military establishment will be taken into consideration;
4. The military budget will be adjusted to the inflation

during 1981 in accordance to the index of the military expenditures. This index will depend to a great extent on the calculations of the military establishment itself. There will be other military expenditures which will be decided upon by the army chiefs and this might be for example military operations in Lebanon, aid to 'Major' Haddad in South Lebanon, etc.

In his speech, the speaker condemned the policy of national oppression towards the Arab population, the demolition of houses and the prevailing discrimination against Arabs inside the Histadrut (trade unions).

In the forthcoming elections we should be cautious from those who call for toppling down the Likud government and intend to practically continue the old policies. We still remember the policy of the Alignment and its actions.

We will struggle against the discriminatory clerical laws especially those against women, which were enacted by the Alignment and aggravated by the Likud government.

Meir Vilner warned all political parties from the grave danger threatening democratic freedoms.

On behalf of the Conference, the speaker greeted and expressed solidarity with the teachers who are struggling for their rights. He warmly greeted the mayors of Ramallah and Nablus who returned back to their homeland after the criminal attempt on their life.

Concluding his speech, Meir Vilner called upon all the components of the Democratic Front to strengthen their unity and intensify their struggle and to strengthen the Front still further in the forthcoming elections to the Histadrut.

Y. IRGE: THE REMEDY WILL NOT COME FROM THE ALIGNMENT

Y. Irge, member of the Executive Committee of the trade unions, while attacking the policy of the Likud, warned against the policy of the Alignment which contradicts the interests of the workers. He called upon all those who are really interested in putting an end to the present grave situation, to strengthen the Democratic Front - the consistent force struggling for the interests

of the workers.

Y. Irge sent an emotional greeting to the soldier Gadi Algazy who is facing a military trial because of his refusal to serve in the occupied Arab territories.

**JAMAL MOUSA: DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ARAB WORKERS
ALSO EXISTS INSIDE THE HISTADRUT**

Jamal Mousa, member of the Executive Committee explicitly spoke about the policy of discrimination against the Arab workers in the Histadrut. He mentioned that in the majority of the Arab villages, there are no workers councils. There exists inequality in wages to the detriment of the Arab workers. Many Histadrut-owned enterprises are closed in face of the Arab workers.

Jamal Mousa, pointed out in his speech, the consistent struggle of the bloc of the DFPE in the Histadrut and called for its strengthening in the forthcoming elections.

**NAIM GIL'ADI: THE DFPE IS THE ONLY BLOC WHICH
HAS PROVED ITSELF**

Naim Gil'adi (Black Panthers) member of the Executive Committee of the Histadrut said that the policy of discrimination applied against the Arab workers was also applied against Jewish workers of Oriental origin. The speaker said that towards the elections, different new lists will appear to hunt the votes of the workers. We should warn and explain that the only list which has proved itself as a consistent defender of the workers is the Jewish-Arab list of the DFPE.

ZO- HADEREKH
31.12.80.

THE BLOC OF THE DFPE IN THE HISTADRUT AND
THE WORKERS COMMITTEES ASK TO INITIATE A
FIGHT IN DEFENCE OF REAL WAGES

From a speech by Benjamin
Gonen in the Trade Union
Executive.

Referring to the latest hikes of consumer price index during October 1980 along by 11 percent and November 9.4 percent, Comrade Benjamin Gonen, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Israel told, on behalf of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, the Trade Union Executive at its meeting on December 16, 1980, inter alia:

"The unprecedented rise of the consumer price index proves again the utter failure of the Begin government's policy. If this government does not yet draw the only possible conclusion and does not resign, part of the responsibility for it lays also at the hands of the Histadrut (Trade Union Federation) leadership's hanky-panky policy and under-cover deals with that government."

Further he reminded the Histadrut General Secretary Y. Meshel his pledge given to a mass demonstration of workers in front of the Prime Minister's offices in Jerusalem (November 16), when he promised to lead the struggle for defence of the real wages and rights of the working masses. "Many ask today: Where and when is that struggle he pledged so often to lead? We think also Meshel should draw the conclusions and resign, if he is not prepared to lead - as should be his task - the real struggle are urgently necessary in order to force the government to resign."

Benjamin Gonen continued and said, that instead of initiating and leading the struggle of the working masses, Meshel hands out sedatives, as for instance: "In January we shall ask for full compensations for the price hikes." At the same time he himself knows very well that cost-of-living increments will be paid only in March next year for the hikes of these past months. And the inflation will have run amok meanwhile again, and more increments should be paid for compensa-

tions, and new collective agreements have to be concluded until then. Benjamin Gonen also pointed out that it was even officially published by the Government Bureau of Statistics that alone during the first ten months of 1980 real wages have deteriorated by an average of 14 percent.

"Up to which point have things to deteriorate?" he asked. Already broad strata of families of workers - not to speak about the increasing number of unemployed - of employed wage earners sink down into the abyss of welfare needed families.

Benjamin Gonen called upon the Histadrut leadership to lead the working masses' struggle. However, since there is no sign that it takes its tasks seriously, he called upon the 13 workers committees of the largest industrial plants and port dockers (who organized themselves lately to fight in common) and other committees of workers and employees, to take the initiative in their own hands in order to lead the workmen's struggle for defence of their real wages, their social benefits and rights. Such united mobilization of masses will also force the Histadrut leadership to do something about it. He proposed the aims of this struggle to be:

- A 30% wage rise immediately as compensation for already lost wage-losses caused by galloping hikes of consumer price index during the past year which had been only partially compensated by CoL increments;
- Cost of living increments from 100%, reckoned and paid every month according to the price hikes;
- Updated rise, according to index hikes, of children allowances paid by the National (Social) Insurance;
- Gross opposition to cutting down employment and struggle for full employment.

ZO-HADEREKH, Dec. 17, 1980

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EXPULSION OF THE TWO PALESTINIAN MAYORS

An interview with Comrade Felicia Langer (abridged)

In an interview given to "ZO-HADEREKH", Comrade Felicia Langer, attorney of the expelled mayors, Fahed Qawasmi and Mohammed Milhem, first pointed out the courage and steadfastness of the two mayors. This encouraged her to continue with her juridical activity in spite of pressures and threats brought to bear upon her throughout several months.

Comrade Felicia Langer pointed out that she had been greatly assisted at various stages of the juridical struggle by advocates Yossi Shoham, Meir Morgenstein, Aaron Pinhasi and Abed al-Assali.

She pointed out further that one of the three judges of the Supreme Court in Israel, the deputy president of that Court Justice Hayim Cohen, virtually accepted her contentions that the international conventions are valid with reference to the inhabitants of the occupied territories. Taking this background into regard, the following is an interview with advocate Felicia Langer:

- Q: Can one say about the Qawasmi-Milhem affair that the last word has been said?
- A: No, the expelled mayors have not given up. In a telephone conversation, a few days ago, they told me: " We shall return with the help of the world, the UNO, and first and foremost, the democratic and progressive forces in Israel, who are standing at our side still more decidedly."
- In addition to this, a sort of consensus has been created in public opinion against the expulsion and it will suffice to go through the pages of the Israeli newspapers. As to the government, the conclusion is very sad from the political aspect and of what is called "security" aspect. If they had hoped for a "pacification", it has turned out that the expulsion has given rise to excitement and justifiably so; it has been long since demonstrations at such a scale have taken place in the West Bank. This is yet another point, relevant to the question whether "the last word has been said".

From the beginning I claimed that at the base to expell my clients, ther had been motives of negeance; yielding to "Gush-Emunim"; absence of bona fide; and not precisely motives of "security". This claim was rejected by the three judges as "cannot be proved". Before the Military Commission I added that the demand for the second expulsion stems from the wish to maintain prestige of the authorities. It is true that I was unable to hand in affidavits from all those who could have quoted the expressions of the military government staff (of course, due to their apprehensions), which could have convinced the judges that the orders (for expulsion) should be rescinded. One senior officer even declared that if the orders were rescinded he "would take off his uniform".

Q:But we have read that with reference to Yigal Karmon (advisor on Arab affairs to the commander of the West Bank, who had collected the material against the petitioners) the judges gained the impression that he had not acted bona fide. At least, not at the night of the deportation...

A:This is correct, but in spite of the fact that they declared that lieutenant-Colonel Carmel had not acted correctly, he had not, in their view, "manipulated the material which he had been collecting". However, what happened after the end of the affair? A meeting at the Knesset Foreign and Security Committee was held and deputy-Minister of Defence Tsipori, gave evidence that if there had been a different decision, this would have been received as a "sign of weakness". As against this motivation he said that he had reservations on the issue of deportation.

In the light of this, the jurist Moshe Hanegbi wrote in "DAVAR" of Dec. 10, 1980 that the claim of the defence from the beginning of the process on, that there had been considerations of prestige - was justified.

Q:You have mentioned the stormy demonstrations, about which all of us have heard. The mass media maintained that in fact that there is no great difference between what is happening today and what happened half a year ago, only the policy has changed, that is to say, the press is prevented from covering the occurances. Is this also your view?

A:Absolutely not. The demonstrations this week are entirely different and have taken place almost in all the largest towns simultaneously and with a

clear political aim. This reminds us of the period of the attempts at deporting Nablus mayor Bassam Shak'a and also of what happened after the attempted assassinations of the mayors. The conception of "calm after the removal of the mayors (Qawasmi and Milhem - IB) and the maiming of another two mayors" has failed, and the journalists access to the occupied territories has been forbidden in order to conceal the brutal oppression and the collapse of this conception. They tried to break the mirror but the face remains!

- Q: Let us come back to the beginning. When did the struggle for Qawasmi and Milhem start for you?
- A: A few hours before the deportation, on May 2, 1980, at the time of the curfew in Hebron subsequent to the attack on the "Hadassa Building". When I got in touch with Qawasmi in consequence of my misgivings (I phoned from a neighbour's house, because my telephone has been disconnected at nine o'clock in the evening. He told me: "Felicia, everything is all-right". I gave him the phone number of my neighbour. On the next morning, Qawasmi's wife rang to my neighbour's house and informed me that Qawasmi and Milhem had been taken from their homes at night and have not yet returned. Therefore, I immediately requested (it was during Sabbath) from the Supreme Court to issue an order nisi. In order to prevent further disgrace, the authorities, evidently overheard the phone conversations and knowing about the petitions (to the Supreme Court of Justice) announced at nine o'clock in the morning that Qawasmi, Milhem and Tamimi had been expelled at the same time I was on my way by car to Jerusalem in order to present the petition. Later it became known that the same Yigal Carmon who had known the mayor of Hebron for years, came to him at night, asked him to accompany him to meet Ben-Eliezer (the commander of the West Bank - IB) and then to meet Weizman (Minister of Defence at that time - IB) in Tel-Aviv. Instead of that, they put a sack over his head and deported him together with Milhem using Weizman's helicopter to Lebanon through the command-post of Haddad (major Haddad - commander of the rightists mercenaries in Southern Lebanon under Israeli command - IB).

In the petition to the Supreme Court, I exposed this whole inadmissible and illegal method which had been

taken recourse to because it was clear that an attempt was made to prevent the petitioners by any ways and means from receiving juridical assistance and from appearing before the Military Advisory Commission for Appeal (as is their legitimate right prior to the deportation - IB) all this was not denied by the respondents to the first petition to the Supreme Court of Justice, and they did not even deny in writing the disconnection of the telephones. Therefore all our claims relating to the illegal form of the deportation were confirmed by the Supreme Court of Justice. This led to the endorsement of the order nisi, which was however, limited to one point only: Why had the petitioners not been given the opportunity to appear before the Advisory Commission for Appeal (all the other items referring to our claims that there had been considerations of prestige, vengeance, absence to bona fide, contravention of international conventions, etc. were rejected). Throughout days and nights, together with advocates Shoham and Morgenstein, I persued hundreds of Israeli and foreign verdicts and we came to the conclusion that in every respect, the expulsion orders are illegal. Having no factual arguments, the Attorney General Gabriel Bach, now elaborated on a different tactic: to present the petitioners as inciters against the State and its existence, trouble makers, and persons who by their incitement have caused the attack on "Hadassa". This influenced the judges, as it became clear in the verdict pronounced by the majority. Parallel to this, a defamation campaign was conducted in the press. As against this, we presented affidavits of Mati Peled (major-general in the reserve) Victor Shimtov (general secretary of MAPAM) and Hayim Bar'am (one of the leaders of the Peace Now Movement) to the effect that the petitioners are known to them as persons striving for peace on the basis of mutual recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people and Israel that was a "war of affidavits" supported by newspaper clippings. I suffered from another difficulty: the absence of the petitioners themselves. On this point, the judges proposed to me that I meet them in Cyprus, that I bring affidavits on their behalf and I was even made to understand that my clients may not recognize the Supreme Court of Justice...

I was given six days in order to find out from my clients. Not only were they deported but they were also urged to meet me at places which they could not reach. In spite of all, one day before the continuation of the court procedures I received from them an affidavit sent from Amman, given one week before to the American consul there. There, inter alia, was a personal appeal to the Supreme Court, containing an expression of general opposition to bloodshed. This had an important impact not only juridically but also politically, in turning back the accusation of incitement. The affidavit affected the judges as well as public opinion. The mayors' image in the press started changing in their favour.

In spite of all this, the majority of the judges - Landau and Kahane - rejected our claims, while Justice Hayim Cohen invalidated the government's steps. We could definitely console ourselves in presenting the unprecedented criticism of the military government pronounced by the judiciary (also by the president of the Supreme Court Landau himself). This showed that the victory of the government was pyrrhic one.

In my view and that was said in an article in "Davar" daily in any other state, the senior officers who were so severely censured, would be dismissed from their posts - but notoriously in our country there are no dismissals in such cases. Yet the verdict left the door open for the two mayors to turn to the Military Commission for Appeal, subject to their pledge that they would not violate the law in future. Only the Qadi Tamimi's petition was rejected out of hand by the majority of the judges, who stated that he had incited against the State and no juridical assistance was due to him. In this case, Bach's tactic succeeded

- Q: Is it correct to say that here the first chapter, which is the order nisi, ended and the preparation started for the appearance before the Military Advisory Commission for Appeal?
- A: In the municipal council of Hebron and in the minds of the expelled mayors, the view had gained preponderance that no opportunity must be left unused for effecting the return to the homeland and presenting the truth here. Therefore I drafted an affidavit which was intended to reach Qawasmî and Milhem through a member of the Hebron municipal council,

so that they could sign it. And here "affair of the bridges" occurred. The town conselor was held up on the bridge over the Jordan and the documents were seized from him. Only after my taking up the questions with the authorities and after the "explosion" of the affair on the pages of the newspapers, the documents were returned to us and finally reached their address. Here again was a chain of wretched actions for which no person was called to account for. The affidavit was passed on to me through the International Red Cross and presented to the Supreme Court and the Commission for Appeal.

Now we demanded that the expelled mayors could appear before the Commission while keeping their pledge to abide by the law which they had never violated, and that they deny the utterances which had been attributed to them in some foreign press organs, referring to their alleged support for violence, their alledged call for liquidating the State of Israel, etc. With referance to their opinion against the colonial settlements and the "autonomy" plan, was said in the affidavit that this was the opinion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and that also among the Israelis there are many who oppose "Gush Emunim" and the government's policy of settlements and who consider the PLO the legitimate representative of the Plaestinian people, just as do the petitioners.

Meantime, I was invited to the Sofia International Conference of Peace Forces. Qawasmi and Milhem were there too. This was our first meeting after the expulsion and we drafted together what in the Commission for Appeal and in press reports was termed the "Sofia Affidavit". In that affidavit, the mayors repeated what they had said in their previous affidavit, but set it out in greater detail, and actually replied to all allegations. The affidavit was really a turning point, and consequently the decision was made to permit them to appear personally before the Military Commission for Appeal.

Many honest people in Israel thought that if they had already been given the permission to return, they would not have to leave anymore...

On October 14, 1980 they returned and were locked

up at the terminal at the Allenby Bridge. In my view, the very fact of holding the hearing before the Commission at the bridge, by the side of the River Jordan in order to facilitate a second expulsion was intended to create an atmosphere of intimidation. The hearing was "top secret" and not allowed for publication, but accompanied by one-sided leakages on part of the military government and a whole system of rumours, such as "in another few hours the expulsion will be recommended, Ben-Eliezer will confirm it and the helicopter will take off"

Indeed, all the time it was hinted to me that a copter is ready for the deportation. Those were difficult days of marathonic hearings and examinations which extended well into the night, while the military government leaked their version to the press. I understood why the hearing was declared "top secret": In order to prevent the petitioners declarations about their not being involved in any violence from reaching public opinion. I could quote only from their talk in the corridors.

My concluding pladoyer a few hours. Advocate Pinhassi, who had known the petitioners personally, addressed the Commission in the name of conscience and peace. I felt the double standard and prejudice against the deportation. The result is known. In view of the threats that the Commission will "close the case", I quickly reserved for myself the option of turning to the Supreme Court, in case of a negative decision of the Military Commission and its confirmation by Col. Benjamin Eliezer.

It is worthwhile to point out that in that period the attackers of the "Hadassa" building were arrested and in their confessions they confuted all the allegations that there had been any connection between the petitioners and their own act. In spite of the negative deciiison of the Military Commission of Appeal, at the end of their recommendation it was said that "indeed the petitioners had embarked on the high road" and that "in due time" it will be possible to return them in order to examine the sincerity of their intentions. This contradiction, which did not make it clear why precisely the mayors should be expelled a second time, was of importance, and it was emphasized by my second petition to the Supreme Court. it is possible that it influenced the readiness of the judges to

debate the petition at all .

Q: Would it be correct to say that immediately after that the last chapter began e.g., the hearing before the Supreme Court which has been wound up two weeks ago?

A: No. After Ben-Eliezer's decision, the petitioners proposed to turn to the political level and held a 10 - day hunger strike in protest against the decision. They were transferred to Ramleh prison (in central Israel) in order to "better deal with them". Elias Frej, the mayor of Bethlehem and Rashad A-Shawa, mayor of Gaza, turned to Begin requesting him to cancel the expulsion order, but he rejected the request, bringing into play "juridical arguments", as it were. This rejection led to public censure and even some renowned jurists (such as professor Claude Klein) stated that the decision of the political level would have at any rate repeated the whole juridical procedure. Therefore the Prime Minister had no justification at all to hide himself behind allegedly and purely juridical arguments to the effect that the matter was, allegedly sub-justice.

My petition was presented at the last moment in order to allow the political level (e.g. the government) some span to revoke the deportation; however, as said before, to no avail, now the last stage of the petition could start. I presented an additional affidavit made out by the petitioners regarding the conclusions reached by the commission, and rendering prominent the contradictions in their conclusions.

Q: Considerable parts of the verdict were published in "Ha'aretz" daily Dec. 5, 1980 and in other papers. It seems that the main diversions of views was about the status of the occupied territories, the validity of the Jordanian law within them, and whether article 49 of Geneva Convention has a binding validity?

A: In addition to the juridical arguments, I dwelt on more general issues such as irrationality of the expulsion and the damage it will cause to the State; on the ridiculous demands asked from the petitioners to maintain loyalty to the State of Israel, something they are not obliged to do at all, being residents of the occupied territories; on the absurdity of the arguments relating to "peace", which is now allegedly "reigning in the occupied territories"; and, of course, on the last point in the Commission's recommendation which logically leads precisely to the obligation to immediately permit the mayors to return. Additional

affidavits were presented, with regard to the validity of the Jordanian law in the occupied West Bank, on behalf of advocates Jody Shehuan, Wasfy Al-Masri, Anwar Nusibeh and Aziz Shehadeh. The last one referred to paragraph 9 in the Jordanian law which forbids the expulsion of Jordanian citizens and which rescinds article 112 of the (British colonialist Emergency Regulations of 1945), in accordance with which the petitioners had been expelled.

Justice Hayim Cohen accepted (in his minority verdict) the main argument relating to the Geneva Convention, and this was the first time that a judge of the Supreme Court (who is also its Deputy President) adopts this approach. If just one other judge had joined him, the verdict of rejecting any expulsion would have become obligatory.

Hayim Cohen dwelt on the validity of article 49 of Geneva Convention which forbids expulsions from an occupied territory and contains "a core of habitual international law, which is virtually in force from time immemorial all over the world". He pointed out that this had been valid even before its formal ratification by the nations of the world in 1949 as a part of the Fourth Geneva Convention for the protection of civilians in wartime. Thus, he contradicted the view of the majority as to the solely contractual character of this article, which obliges states among which mutual relations of peace exists.

Hayim Cohen stated that "it is a law that no legislation of a regional commander can stand up to a principle of habitual international law" and that accordingly his authority is restricted to the expulsion of foreigners only and not of citizens.

"I regret that these simple and clear positions have not been adopted by my respected colleagues," Justice Hayim Cohen wrote.

Indeed, all of us must regret this together with him.

Q: It seems to me that it is worthwhile to speak in conclusion about the role of public opinion in this affair.

A: In this affair, the juridical aspect was dominant, unlike in the affair of the attempt to expell Bassam Shak'a (December 1979). The main reason for this was the activation of the policy of the "strong hand", which in my opinion should be termed "the iron fist". However, in spite of this, protest manifestations took place in the occupied territories and in Israel, at

different levels; there was an uninterrupted expression of solidarity with the deported mayors throughout these seven months, and it intensified after their return on October 14, 1980. In this whole period, a ramified campaign was conducted in the UNO and among public opinion in Europe and the USA, against the expulsion. This was done by the expelled mayors themselves as well as by various international organizations. The second expulsion was much less accepted by public opinion than the first one, and we must see that in the struggle for public opinion in Israel, we have been successful. It suffices to see the press before the second deportation and after it.

The deported mayors knew their allies in Israel and told me: "The publications which appeared in this country on the day before their expulsion instilled in them hope that they will remain in their country. Therefore, the decision to expell them came to them as a shock. Again, there was that course of expulsion through the command post of the mercenary "major" Haddad in Southern Lebanon, only this time they passed the whole night sitting in a corridor next to the toilet, and at dawn, they were driven to Taibeh and from there they could proceed to Beirut...

I spoke about the iron-fist. There is no sophistication in the methods of Rafael Eitan (Chief-of-Staff of the Israeli army). Today, the authority of major - general Dani Matt (the "coordinator of actions" in the occupied territories) has strengthened. Many things ensue from this situation: while Weizman was the Minister of Defence, there were less questions left open and to a certain extent, Matt was limited. It appears that Begin, in his capacity of Minister of Defence does not care and has been turned into a sort of "rubber stamp" for the actions of Matt and Eitan. And these two are getting entangled in their own explanations:

When "calm" reigned, they considered this a reason for continuing keeping away the expelled mayors, and when stormy demonstrations erupted again, they explained that precisely this was the reason for not returning the mayors...

It had now become obvious that the arguments for the expulsions had been and remained to be spurious. I hope that the day is not far off when the mayors

will return to their home - just as they themselves believe - for this is their natural right.

ZO-HADEREKH, Dec. 12, 1980

UNPRECEDENTED HOSTILITY AT THE MILITARY COURT

An unprecedented and severe affair concerning the alleged "search for truth" - even in the "glorious" history of military jurisdiction in the occupied territories - took place during the proceedings of the trial of Tariq Shumali from Beit-Sahour who was accused of throwing a stone at a military vehicle of the occupation governor. He was arrested, severely tortured during "interrogation" inside the offices of the Military Governor, was hospitalized and consequently operated on. All this "search for truth" in the Military Court took place, while the attorney of defence and the witnesses were prevented from carrying out their task to prove the real truth.

During the second session of the trial which took place on November 26, at the Rmallah military court, the court exhibited an unprecedented hostile attitude towards the defence and the witnesses.

All the questions of advocate Felicia Langer regarding the method of "interrogation" of Tariq were disqualified. Sometimes, the questions were disqualified by the court even before the prosecution voiced its opposition to them.

In order to prevent the defence from bringing before the court evidence regarding the torture of the defendant - out of fear that the truth will be revealed to the representatives of the Red Cross who was present in the courtroom the prosecution prevented holding of a minor trial by means of abandoning the presentation of the defendant's "confession" which according to the version of Tariq, was taken from him by illegal means.

"THE IDF IS NOT ON TRIAL"

The hostile attitude of the prosecution towards the defendant (who acted in this court session as a defence witness) was quite apparent to a point where it had no precedent even in the annals of the (Israeli) military courts. Everytime the prosecution opposed any question that dealt with the beatings and the hospitalization of the defendant, the Military Judge would justify this by saying: "The IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) is not sitting here on the defendant's bench, but the

accused and this trial is not about maltreatments but deals only with with the throwing of a stone..." Despite this Tariq succeeded in describing (although in only a few sentences, which were not all down in the protocol) how he was tortured at the offices of the Bethlehem military governor and how he was transferred to the hospital. However, "in this very moment" the court was not interested in listening to him anymore...

The prosecution stood like a buttress acting in a way that not one word against the military government should be said and in order to prevent the defense from proving that the prosecution witnesses have lied regarding "the proper health" of the defendent, at a time when he was wounded, bruised all over, and had to undergo urgent operation.

The military prosecutor voiced a severe and unprecedented argument by saying that the throwing of a stone cannot be pardoned, and that the defendent's claim of being sick is similar to a person who murdered both his parents and then appeals to the court to consider his being an orphan...!? He asked the court to punish the defendent by sending him to prison in order to deter him, as well as others. His utterances were saturated with hatred, and when the lawyer remarked this to him, he answered that she is "trampling upon the good name of IDF soldiers".

The attorney responded by saying that those who shoot students without distinction, like they attempted also to shoot at Tariq, are the ones who trample upon the good name of the IDF...

FUTILE ATTEMPTS TO FRIGHTEN WITNESSES

A defence witness, a government physician, Dr. Peter Comri, who attended to Tariq in the evening of May 13th., 1980, asked to testify about Tariq's condition on the same day, in order to contradict the testimony of the prosecution witnesses. But the opposition to every question raised by the defense, started immediately when the first question regarding the health condition of Tariq was asked - and was approved by the court only at the end of a 20-minute long argument! And this was repeated at each single question put by the defense attorney to the witness. They also rejected to translate the evidence given by the witness to the defendent. Dr.

Comri said, that the condition of Tariq was pretty bad. He was bruised, had a black and swollen eye, a cracked urine canal, and had to be operated upon on the spot.

Here, the judge remarked: we do not know why he needed an operation - maybe he was sick before?

The prosecutor, attempted to directly frighten the witness by asking him whether he is aware that he is giving his testimony as a government employed physician?

The witness answered by saying: "I am a physician and I am giving testimony in accordance with my conscience."

The witness refuted also the claims made by the prosecution as if "the defendant was wounded as a result of falling from his bicycle..."

Dr. Ahmad Hamzeh testified as a defense witness that Tariq will have to be operated on as a result from injuries received on May 13th, 1980. After that he will need a constant medical treatment of dialysis, etc.

The short testimony of the defendant's father, which also proceeded in an atmosphere of nervousness, was very shocking: Despite all opposition and interruptions from the side of the prosecution managed to say that he saw his son half-conscious and horribly beaten. After that, while standing next to the door at the Military Government office, he heard how they were beating his son who was screaming. "In the evening they took him to the hospital so he will not die at the military government office, and they took us to a deserted refugee camp" - and here the witness was forbidden to continue...

CONVICTION WITHOUT PROOFS

The defense demanded the acquittal of the defendant since it could not be proven, in any way, that while riding his bicycle he was able to throw a stone and that the trial and conviction were needed by the military government personnel in order to serve as an alibi for the crimes against which the defendant and his family are accusing them of having committed, and

which are being investigated.

On Nov. 30th., 1980, the court convicted Tariq, believing the prosecution witnesses, pointing out that though the topic of their testimonies was indeed circumstantial, yet the very fact that the defendant ran away from the governor, indicates that he was the one who threw the stone, otherwise why should he have been afraid?

The defendant's version that the officers began to shout at him, to curse him and threaten him, and that he became frightened from them - was not accepted by the court. The judge also pointed out in his verdict, that he did not allow the advocate to expand the limits of the trial with questions connected with the interrogation of the defendant, or about who hit him, or regarding the history of his family, because these were "political matters that have nothing to do with this trial."

The judge stated in his verdict that although he agrees with the prosecution that the crime is very grave, and since he became convinced that the defendant is really sick and needs an operation, therefore he will not sentence him for actual imprisonment. He sentenced Tariq to a 6-months suspended imprisonment for a period of 4 years and a fine of 5000 Shekels (about 750 US Dollars).

Thus, one of the raging and painful trials of the Ramallah military court came to an end. His parents commented by saying: "After they caused us harm and suffering for no reason, they still wanted to see Tariq punished."

ZO-HADEREKH, Dec, 1980

DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS

The following letters and cables were sent by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel:

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA

Dear Comrades,

We wish you fraternal greetings on the occasion of the 22nd., anniversary victory of the Cuban Revolution which opened up a new historical era for the American continent.

We wish you further successes in socialist upbuilding and in the struggle against imperialism, for national independence, peace and communism.

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION

Condolences on the death of Alexei Kosygin, the outstanding Soviet leader.

Comrade Kosygin contributed greatly to the cause of peaceful coexistence, to worldpeace and successful socialist and communist construction. His death is a great loss to the Soviet people.

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY

Dear Comrades,

We send you hearty fraternal greetings on the occasion of the 60th., anniversary of the glorious French Communist Party.

During its history your Party has continued and developed the best revolutionary and democratic traditions of the French people.

We Israeli communists will never forget your Party's leading role in the anti-fascist and anti-nazi resistance, and later your internationalist positions regarding the struggle of the Vietnamese and Algerian peoples against French colonialism and for national independence. The pledge of the famous leader of the French communists, Maurice Thorez, "The French people will never fight against the Soviet Union" has combined always the best national interests of the French people and proletarian internationalism. The latest call of your Party, mobilizing the French masses to fight for upholding the human rights in your country and other countries ruled by monopoly capital, as well as your fight for peace, disarmament, democracy and social progress, are highly inspiring for progressive forces all over the world.

At this occasion we mark again the close fraternal ties our two parties, strengthening by this our common struggle against imperialism, for the general cause of peace, democracy, national independence and socialism.

We wish you, dear comrades, all French communists, further success in your noble struggle.

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST
PARTY OF AUSTRIA

Dear Comrades,

We send you our best greetings on the occasion of the 24th National Congress of the Communist Party of Austria. We wish you full success in the struggle for peace and security in Europe and the world, for disarmament, for solving the deep economic and social crisis, for unity in the class struggle of the Austrian working masses, for progress and democracy.

We wish you full success in strengthening the ranks of the communist Party of Austria, in strengthening and deepening Marxist-Leninist thought and putting it into practice. We greet you too for your positions led by proletarian internationalism, rebuffing anti-

Soviet slanders and fabrications, propagating the true face of socialism and its enormous achievements in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, strengthening the unity of the communist and workers international movement on Marxist-Leninist principles.

At this occasion we mark again the very close fraternal ties connecting our two parties, born out of the fraternity and solidarity between communists and workers all over the world, furthering our common aims in the fight against imperialism, for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST
PARTY OF SAN-MARINO

We wish your 10th., Congress success in mobilising the popular masses in your country for advancing the cause of peace, democracy and social progress.

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE USA

Dear Comrade Gus Hall,

We greet you wholeheartedly on the occasion of your 70th., birthday. We wish you good health and many more years of revolutionary activity.

For many years we admire your heroic struggle and great contribution to the strengthening of the Communist Party of the USA., to the cause of the working people of your country. Our solidarity had been with you and all USA communists during the dark years you had to spend in jail persecuted by the monopoly circles.

We appreciate highly your great contribution to the struggle against racial discrimination and oppression in relation to Afro-Americans and other minority groups, for equal rights.

We Israeli communists admire your international solidarity with the national liberation struggle of

the peoples against US imperialist onslaughts and intervention into their own affairs. We appreciate highly your important contribution to the general anti-imperialist struggle for peace, democracy, national independence and socialism.

We highly esteem your outspoken positions rebuffing vehemently ideologically and politically the anti-Soviet and anti-Communist slander campaigns led by the US imperialists, assisted among others by their Israeli counterparts and the zionist lobby in your country.

We hail your important contribution to cementing the unity of our international communist and workers movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

At this occasion, let us again stress our close fraternal ties with the Communist Party of the USA, a relation we look upon as of special importance, precisely because the rulers of both our countries collude together against freedom and peace-loving nations, aiming at sharpening international confrontation and widening the cobweb of US aggressive military bases around the Soviet Union. Our common struggle against this gloomy collusion, which found its expression in the Camp David plot of obstructing true peace efforts in the Middle East, contributes towards foiling this imperialist connivance.

Dear Comrade Gus Hall,

We wish you again strength for many years to come. Let your fruitful activity as outstanding leader of the Communist Party of the USA and international communist movement enrich the noble cause of our common ideals and struggles for a better world, a world that belongs to the popular masses of the nations, a world of peace, of socialist and communist construction, of real democracy and humanism.

TO COMRADE DOLORES IBABURI, MADRID, SPAIN

Dear Comrade Dolores Ibaburi,

On the occasion of your 80th., birthday, we extend to you heartiest greetings and wish you many more years of health and activity in the interest of the Spanish working people. Your glorious contribution to the anti-fascist struggle, for peace, democracy and socialism will never be forgotten.

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE ROMANIAN
COMMUNIST PARTY

Dear Comrades,

We convey to you and through you to the Government of the Romanian Socialist Republic and the whole Romanian people fraternal greetings from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel on the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of the Romanian Republic, wishing them further success in constructing socialism and in advancing the general cause of peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

TO MR. KARIM KHALAF, MAYOR OF RAMALLA

Dear Friend,

On the occasion of the New Year 1981 and your return to your Palestinian homeland, we extend to you heartiest greetings and best wishes for good health and success in the struggle against occupation and oppression for a just peace based on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank, including Arab Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, under the leadership of the PLO.

This is the real vital interest of the Palestinian people and the Israeli people alike.

December 1980

COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL
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