

**INFORMATION BULLETIN  
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL**



1 - 2

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Workers of all countries , unite '

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THE SECOND PLENARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL  
COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

On January 17-18, 1986, the second plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel was held with the participation of the Central Control Commission.

Chairman of the session was Comrade *Emile Habibi*, member of the Political Bureau.

*Meir Vilner*, General Secretary of the party lectured about the political developments and presented the proposals of the political bureau regarding the composition of the editorial boards of the organs of the party and the composition of the departments of the Central Committee.

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

A debate was held, which was summed up by the lecturers.

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

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECOND PLENARY SESSION OF THE  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

THE HISTORIC PEACE INITIATIVE OF THE SOVIET UNION

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel considers the new comprehensive peace initiative put forward by the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, M. Gorbachov, an act of utmost importance for the whole of mankind.

The Soviet peace plan presents a concrete way for the gradual abolition of the nuclear arms in the whole world up to the year 2000; for the prevention of the militarization of the outer space; for the abolition of the chemical arms and any other weapon of mass annihilation. The plan which has been put forward by M. Gorbachov, includes an agreement on all means of control, even including control over research laboratories.

The new comprehensive peace initiative of the Soviet Union proves to every honest person that the Soviet Union is doing everything for preventing a third world war and for saving mankind from destruction.

The new Soviet plan for disarmament and for the consolidation of peace in the world is of historic importance. The imperialists and their lackies will no longer be able to continue their false propoganda about a "military danger on part of the Soviet Union;" No longer will they be able to claim that it is impossible to reach an efficient control over disarmament.

The comprehensive Soviet peace initiative also includes the continuation of the unilateral abstinence of the Soviet Union from any nuclear test for three additional months, after it had done so, unilaterally, throughout half a year, till the end of 1985. The Reagan

administration has up to now refused to respond mutually and also to stop nuclear tests. On the contrary, the Reagan administration continues the nuclear tests as well as the preparations for the star war.

In face of the imminent existential danger to all peoples from the conflagration of a nuclear rocket world war and in face of the feasibility of preventing it and consolidating peace on earth, as have been put forward by the inspiring peace initiative of the Soviet Union - it is the foremost duty of every people, of every party, of every public body and of every person, to save no effort in order to bring the state in which he acts, to side with the struggle for peace and against the threat to world peace.

The year 1986 has been declared by UNO as "the year of peace". The goal of the Soviet peace plan is that the year 1986 will practically be a turning point in international relations, a year in which relations of trust will prevail among all states, safeguarding peace which is the common interest of all the peoples.

During the year of peace, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel will initiate wide scale public struggle in Israel, for bringing about a fundamental change in the official policy towards a policy of peace in our region and the world.

The interest of peace binds Israel to three obligations:

1. To abrogate the strategic alliance with the US administration which is directed against the Soviet Union and against independent states in the Middle East and other regions in the world. Israel should stop its involvement in the plan of the "stars war" and oppose it.

2. To support the establishing of a just, comprehensive and stable peace in our region, for

the interest of all peoples; To withdraw from all Arab territories which have been occupied since the year 1967, from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including Arab Jerusalem, from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon. This will make it possible in the framework of an international conference to establish comprehensive, just and stable peace with all neighbouring countries and with the independent Palestinian state which will be established in the West Bank, (including Arab Jerusalem) and in the Gaza Strip, alongside the state of Israel.

3. To sign the international convention for the prohibition of nuclear weapon signed by all the Arab states. If Israel will not renounce the "nuclear option", the nuclear weapon will not remain for long its monopoly. Nuclear weapon which Israel possesses, according to foreign sources, is liable to be not a deterring weapon, but a weapon for committing suicide.

The Central Committee calls upon all political circles, public organisations and individuals irrespective of party affiliation and world outlook, to unite their effort and turn 1986 into the year of peace in the Middle East and all over the world

#### AGAINST THE PLANS OF AGGRESSION FOR TRUE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel warns against the new aggressive plans of the Reagan administration and the Peres, Shamir government.

The Israeli government, supported by the USA, is acting with full force for foiling the agreement which has been reached between the principal forces in Lebanon, with the help of Syria, and aimed at putting an end to the civil war, to national conciliation and ensuring the unity and independence of Lebanon.

The governments of both the USA and Israel



are planning a war against Syria and aggressive acts against Lybia and other Arab states as part of the strategical alliance between Israel and the USA.

The visit of the chief comandar of the USA army, Crow, in Israel is aimed at coordination the strategic military activity, which is liable to lead to the conflagration of war in our region and beyond it.

The show off activity of the US administration through its emissary, Murphy; the meetings of Murphy with King Hussein and with prime minister Peres in Holland and Britain are aimed not at advancing the peace process, but at preventing the peace process in our region. The continued attempts of the governments of the USA and Israel aimed at reaching a separate agreement with Jorden on the account of the rights of the Palestinian People, prove that they are not interested in true peace in the Middle East but in liquidationg the national existance of the Palestinian People, in isolating Syria and, from an international aspect, to turn the whole of our region into an American base against the Soviet Union.

It is impossible to acheive peace in the Middle East without and against the Palestiñian People, whose sole representative is the PLO.

It is impossible to acheive a comprehensive peace without and against the Soviet Union.

The only way to peace is by convening an international conference under the auspices of the UNO with the participation of all parties involved in the conflict, including Israel and the PLO, as well as the Soviet Union, the USA and

other interested countries.

**AGAINST THE ASSAULT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EMPLOYERS ON THE WORKERS. FOR A UNITED STRUGGLE FOR BREAD WORK AND PEACE.**

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel affirms with deep concern that the government and the employers continue and even intensify their anti worker and anti popular policy. The workers by their united struggle are able to foil these plans.

The results of the "neweconomic plan" which was dictated by the American monopolists are most destructive to the workers and the middle strata of the population; unemployment is spreading and is already encompassing 120 thousand unemployed (8% of the labour force); dozens of enterprises are being closed and their workers are being pushed to the streets; the medical services are collapsing endangering the health and lives of the patients; the educational system has been severely harmed; the real wage of the workers has been eroded and declined by more than 30%; a grave crisis is gripping the local councils and their public services; agricultural farms are collapsing; social security allowances have been drastically cut; poverty and distress among the workers' families have widened, especially in the poor towns and neighbourhoods as well as among the Arab population. All these phenomena are a direct result of the socio-economic policy of the Likud - Labour government, and a true expression to what is hidden behind the slogan - the remedy of the economy. The proposed budget for the year 1986 will aggravate still more these problems, since, as previous budgets, this

budget too is a war and anti-popular budget.

The Central Committee places the responsibility for the mass unemployment on the government, and demands to prevent dismissals, the closing down of enterprises and to ensure productive work for the unemployed. The Central Committee calls upon the institutions of the Histadrut to put an end to their policy which enables the robbing of the workers, to defend the interests of the workers in the companies which went bankrupt and not to repeat their unsuccessful treatment regarding the textile company "ATA".

The Central Committee expresses its solidarity with the workers of the Tiberias Club Hotel, Klarin, Israel Shipyards, Solel Boneh, Tadiran and other companies, who are fighting against dismissals. The Central Committee expresses its solidarity with the nurses who declared a work dispute demanding reward for the drastic erosion in their wages; with the employees of Discount Bank who are struggling for an increase of their wages; with the Jewish and Arab local councils who are demanding allocations for financing vital municipal services; with the T.V technicians who are fighting against the suspension of the chairman of their committee and against the unileteral decision of the management and with other workers who are defending their rights.

On the background of the increasing preparedness of the workers to struggle for bread and work - the discussions regarding the work agreements for the coming two years have started. The Central Committee demands from the leadership of the Histadrut and the trade unions

These events, and many others, show the mounting frenzy racism and the direct connection between racism and the occupation. The aggressive racism carries in its wake grave dangers to the future relations between the two peoples.

The Communist Party of ISrael denounces all acts of racism, and the policy which nourishes it. The Central Committee calls upon all forces of democracy and peace to unite in a relentless and consistent struggle against racism and against the policy of occupation and colonial settlements, which constitute the soil on which racism grow and which increase the danger of fascism.

ZO HADEREKH, January 29, 1986

THE INTERCEPTION OF THE CIVILIAN LYBIAN AIRCRAFT IS A  
DANGEROUS HAZARD FOR THE SECURITY AND FUTURE OF  
ISRAEL

Comrade M. Vilner

The DFPE (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) proposed a motion of no-confidence in the government on account of the interception of the civilian Lybian aircraft which was on route to Damascus. "This was an act of piracy and terror par excellence" - said Comrade Meir Vilner in substantiation of the motion of no-confidence in the Knesset on February 10, 1986.

"The Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, The Minister of Defence, Yitzhak Rabin and the army chief of staff, Moshe Levy have proved that they are irresponsible adventurers", said Comrade Vilner. "They want to "eliminate" by means of terror and military actions the Palestinian question. Only adventurers can think that we are permitted to do everything: To upset the international civilian flights, to bring the tension in the Middle East and the Mediterranean to a boiling point."

MK Vilner added: "The method of kidnapping leaders and intercepting aircraft is impermissible on principle. This is a matter of principle, not a "mistake" of the military intelligence. If the kidnapping had succeeded, the harm would have been even greater and who knows what aggravation would have occurred in the Middle East and the Mediterranean basin. The question is whether we are a law abiding state or a state of robbers. If we do not respect those who break any international law, then others, too, are permitted to exclude Israel from the international framework of law and from the family of nations.

AN UNRELIABLE SUPPORT

And further, upon whom do you rely? on the sixth fleet, which only now has sent two aircraft carriers in order to protect the planes of "El-Al"? Upon the veto of the U.S.A in the Security Council? At the end you will find out that in the long run, this

is, a miserable prop and a perilous game with the security and future of Israel.

Let us assume that you had even succeeded in catching a Palestinian leader. You think that no one will replace him? Even if you kill Palestinian leaders - as you have done more than once in the past others will rise. Does any one of you believe that by eliminating leaders you will eliminate the Palestinian problem? Only primitive politicians, lacking any political comprehension, failing to learn anything from the history of the struggle for national liberation - only they can undertake such adventurous acts

The U.S administration has tried in the past more than once, to liquidate movements for national liberation by murdering leaders of those movements in Africa and in other continents. However, experience proves that the murdered leaders were replaced by other leaders who have continued the national struggle until the attainment of independence.

The words of the defence minister, Rabin, that "the capture of the Palestinian leaders would have caused embarrassment and disorder in their organizations, would have supplied an important source of information to Israel and would be the best address for clearing up the fate of the four Israeli soldiers who are missing since the Lebanese war" - these are very dangerous demagogical utterings. After all, the result could be the opposite: Stealing the will and preparedness for the intensification of the struggle against the occupation. And how would you squeeze "information" from the captives? By torture?

To tie up the attempt of kidnapping with the delicate problem of the missing soldiers is irresponsible and undermine the efforts for locating them:

#### ONE BIG DECEPTION

Still deeper concern is caused by the uttering of minister Rabin and others that "this time we did not succeed but we will continue these methods."

They do not commit themselves to abandon the

methods of piracy and terror, but declare explicitly that they will turn it into the official policy also in the future.

The leaders of the Labour Party, Peres and Rabin, have proved once again that their talk about peace is nothing but one big deception. The talk about peace is sometimes in their mouth, but terror, piratical acts and the sharpening of the oppression in the occupied Palestinian territories - are their acts.

The interception of the civilian Lybian aircraft in the air space of Cyprus and upsetting the function of the radar in that country, which might have caused air disasters, prove that those who had decided on the action did not behave as heads of a sovereign state, but as highway men and robbers. The daily "Al Hamishmar" wrote justly on February 5, 1986 in its leading article: A STATE IS NOT RALBO".

More than once, government ministers declared that states which harm innocent passengers who travel by plane or by ship, have no place among civilized nations. This is true, but the interception of the Lybian plane shows that the leaders of Israeli policy themselves act in a way which will throw Israel out from the civilized nations. The Knesset should remove this disgrace from our people by expressing no-confidence in this government.

#### STATE TERROR WILL NOT PREVENT THE PALESTINIANS FROM ATTAINING INDEPENDENCE

The method of hijacking civilian air planes is totally rejectable and those who carry it out must know that it is liable to harm them, too. This is proved by the statement that flights in El-Al planes are not safe, and that their safety depends now on the mercy of the sixth fleet.

The Palestinian question is a question of a people, living under Israeli occupation and suffers for almost two generations in refugee camps. No state terror whatsoever and no American veto can

prevent the Palestinian people from achieving independence and just peace.

The motion of no-confidence in the government presented by the DFPE parliamentary faction was supported by the factions of MAPAM and the PROGRESSIVE LIST.

ZO HADEREKH, February 12, 1956



THE PRICE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC  
ILLUSSIONS

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Speech of *Tawfiq Toubi*

The deliberations held in the Knesset about the state budget for the year 1986 are not impressive, as everybody knows that the impact of the Knesset upon the determination of the dimension and points of the budget is marginal. Even the annoyance of a part of the Labor Faction members and their threats contain nothing impressive, as one can easily guess how they will vote at the end of the debate.

The prevailing impression is, that it is the government which determines the budget. After all, ministers discuss for days questions related to the budget, they even quarrel among themselves and then they reach a compromise. Thus it is clear the government which has the final say in determining the budget and the socio-economic policy which is reflected in the budget.

The prime minister, *Shimon Peres*, once mocked us, because at the beginning of the "new economic plan" we declared that the state of Israel is not independent in laying down its budget and its economic policy. And so! here comes the letter of *George Shultz*, the US foreign minister, sent to *Peres* last month (published in full in "Ha'aretz", December 31, 1986) and does not leave any doubts as to who is the boss in everything pertaining to the economic policy of the government.

After lauding the prime minister to the heavens for the "dramatic economic overturn" which he has carried out since July 1985, *Shultz* states that what was done

in the sphere of cutting the government's expenditures, the lowering of the wages and the curbing of the inflation, is insufficient.

In his letter of instruction Shultz writes:

"According to the information which you have passed on to us, the minimum wage will increase by 18% to 20%, in the period November - April. If this will not be significantly restrained by means of measures which will include a rise of the prices of products and, the adjustment of the course of the shekel (that is to say, devaluation) it is vital for preserving the profitability of the export. This will cause a new spiral of prices - wages, which will imperil your whole plan. Your experts and ours agree that there is a way of solving this dilemma. If an additional budgetary cut will be carried out, this will enable you to gain control over the wages and prices, as planned."

The exact details of this economic plan were reflected clearly in the speech of the finance minister about the budget. *Yitzhak Nodaai* presented to the Knesset a plan and a budget MADE IN USA, which are nothing but a dictate of the rich American who serves the interests of the capitalists, the interests of the "strategic ally" who provides grants, loans and issues orders. From year to year the independence and sovereignty of the state of Israel is dwindling and the popular masses are those who pay with their sweat and blood the price of the dependence.

## UNEMPLOYMENT AND DESTRUCTION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES

The budget for the year 1986 which was presented to us, foresees 28.9 milliard new shekalim (net budget) which are 18.2 milliard dollars (according to the average course for 1986 as it appears in the budget booklet - 1.585 new shekalim. This budget that has been elaborated in accordance with the instructions from *Shultz*, is a budget of mass robbery from the working people, a budget which lays a heavier yoke on the wage earners and popular masses and exempt capital profits from taxes; this is a budget of painful cuts in the social services - education, health, welfare, housing and municipal services; of stagnation in the economic growth; of austerity and increasing unemployment; of lowering the living standard of the popular masses, and here, the hardest blows are dealt first and foremost upon the weak sections of the population, upon those who depend on the National Insurance, the residents in the development smalltowns and the Arab population.

At the same time, the 1986 budget is a budget in service of the capitalists, in the service of the monopolies and banks (a service which is styled by the government "economic healing"), and above all - this is a budget for upholding the occupation, for the continuing aggression on Lebanon and the preparation of a new war.

For the luxury buildings to the colonial settlers in the *Hadassa House* in Hebron there is money, but for the poor neighbourhoods there is a closed fist.

To channel these days arms and equipment, costing millions of dollars, to the *Falanges* in Lebanon, in order to disrupt the

Damascus Agreement and prevent peace among the various religious communities in Lebanon, in order to keep stirring up the sediments in the Lebanese cauldron - for this there is money; but for paying decent wages and ensuring human work conditions for the hospital nurses - there is no money.

The finance minister boasted about the "success of the economic plan"... One can indeed say, that regarding the real aims, not the proclaimed aims, the government has succeeded. It has "succeeded" in decreasing the workers' wages since July 1985 - in the public sector by 22% and in the private sector by 17% - according to official data. It has "succeeded" in bringing about the closing down of one enterprise after another, starting with *ATA* and up to the *Israel Shipyards*, and in causing mass unemployment. According to data of the Central Bureau of Statistics, the number of unemployed rose from 85 thousands at the end of 1984 to 120 thousands at the end of 1985. The forecast is that at the beginning of this year there will be a further increase of unemployed which will reach 132 thousands. (the number of 20 thousands unemployed which was specified by the finance minister, is just the number of those who receive dole.) This figure does not correspond with the bitter reality of mass unemployment, and especially in the development smalltowns and the Arab localities.

The government has "succeeded" in destroying the educational and health services. It has succeeded in pushing magnificent hospitals to the verge of collapse and in putting the Sick Fund before the danger of paralysis. It has "succeeded" in eroding the salaries of the nurses and other hospital workers and make their work so heavy as to compel the nurses to declare a strike. We call upon the government to respnd to the just demands of the nurses and other hospital workers!

The government has "succeeded" in sharply cutting the subsidies, is raising the prices of vital products and removing them further away beyond the reach of the poor. The government has indeed reduced the rate of the monthly inflation, but this has been achieved at the cost of unprecedented cut in the wages and in lowering the living standard of the workers, at the cost of tens of thousands of workers who have been fired out and hurled into the market of unemployment, while at the same time the big capitalists have enjoyed large profits.

What kind of success is that when in fact there is no economic growth, that very same growth which, according to the promises of the government, was supposed to absorb 30 thousand young people who every year join the labour market. After all, even one half of them has not been absorbed.

And what are the "good tidings" of the new budget in this sphere? The government will contribute to the aggravation of unemployment by abolishing 7,000 jobs and the dismissals of 2,400 teachers. All the high talk about "renewal of economic growth" is nothing but threshing straw, as the process of collapse of industrial enterprises and companies is ever increasing. If at the end of 1984 two hundred and fifty enterprises had encountered difficulties, at the end of 1985 the number of enterprises anticipated to collapse will be 1,300. The government is cutting down the investments and its own investments in the construction branch will decline from 4.1% of the budget in the year 1985 to 3.2% of the budget in the year 1986.

Even the illusion of the promised growth, which the government had fostered

expenditures and the repayment of the debts (incurred in the past for military spendings) in the 1986 budget is 69.1 per cent.

If the government will be cured of the megalomania which prevails in the political and military industrial establishment, and will abolish such adventurist plans as the production of the *Lavi* air plane it will be possible to restrict the military budget, but a fundamental curtailment can only be attained on the basis of fundamental change in the direction of the official policy.

The tragedy is that the government again presents to the Knesset a budget for preparation of a war, and this time against Syria: This is a budget not only for the continuation of the occupation but even for expanding Israeli intervention in the region, as is happening again in Lebanon. This is a budget based upon equipping Israel with nuclear arms, and upon service to the strategic interests of the United States. Recently the illusion is being fostered that Israel will gain from joining the dangerous plans of the "stars war" which the United States is preparing. This vain illusion will also explode just as the illusion of growth based upon the development of the military industry had exploded.

Not cutting the old age allowances, nor by raising the price for bread; not by cutting the number of study hours at schools, not by increasing the taxes imposed on the popular masses; nor by raising the tax for the Sick Fund, nor by curtailing the rights of the invalids when they exchange their cars; not by the heavy blows dealt to the living standard of the poor strata, nor by distributing benefits to capitalists and financial

companies - not by all that will the economy be cured, but by a fundamental change of of policy towards a policy of peace, which will make it possible to significantly diminish the military expenditures. Such a change means: complete withdrawal of the Israeli army from Lebanon; putting an end to occupation and establishing just peace with the Palestinian Arab people; abandoning the job of the policeman of the United States in the Middle East.

EQUALITY AS A RIGHT AND NOT AS AN ACT OF MERCY

The state budget for the year 1986, just as the preceding budgets, ignores the needs of the Arab population and reflects the policy of discrimination in all spheres - education, health, welfare, housing and employment. The continuing national discrimination aggravates the situation of the Arab population, which suffers especially from the spreading of unemployment and the deterioration of the public services.

Particularly severe is the discrimination towards the Arab local councils as expressed in the low allocation provided to them and in the big gap existing in the level of the services. Why only 2.3% of the whole budgets for the local councils have been allocated to the Arab local councils, while their population comprises 12% of the inhabitants of Israel? Why does the unbearable situation continue, where in the calculation per person, the budget for Arab local councils is only 20 - 25 per cent of the budget for the local councils in the Jewish sector? We demand of the government to cover without any delay the entire deficit that has accumulated in the budgets of the Arab local councils - an amount of

10 million dollars.

We demand a budgetary policy of equality towards the Arab population in all spheres, and especially in the domain of education and the municipal services. We demand this equality not as an act of mercy, but as a right which appertains to the Arab citizens of the state.

In conclusion, our faction, the faction of the Democratic front for Peace and Equality proposes to return back the draft budget to the government and will vote against it.

ZO HADEREKH, January 29, 1986



## THE SHIPYARD WORKERS HAVE DRAWN A LESSON FROM THE "ATA" WORKERS

Based on a speech of Comrade *Meir Vilner* in the Knesset about the "Israel Shipyards"

(January 27, 1986)

This government, perhaps precisely because it relies on a decisive majority in the Knesset, has lost every humane feelings. For them there are no human beings in the state of Israel - but only numbers.

If there are any human beings, they are the big owners of capitalist companies, bankers and the rich. The others are not human beings at all.

This attitude did not start in the shipyards. I remember a visit - the first visit - of the Knesset Labour and Welfare committee at the "Ata" works. Member of Knesset Charlie Biton and I said: They deceive you, they have already decided to close down "Ata". Other members of Knesset heaped promises on promises: I have spoken with this official and with that government minister, and things are going to be settled. We on the other hand, said already then: "Dont deceive yourselves; without a struggle , the "Ata" works will be closed down".

Now workers speak about solidarity with the shipyards workers, and I tell all the works committees and all workers: With this solidarity you dont do any favour to the shipyard workers, who are threatened by the danger of unemployment. This solidarity is an excellent action of self defence. When the crisis broke out in "Ata", the shipyard workers did not understand that they are the next victims, because such is the comprehensive policy of the government. Then the slogan: "Today ATA - tomorrow you" was raised. Now it is said: "Yesterday ATA, today the Israel Shipyards and tomorrow you".

The government has decided to cause mass dismissals and to exert pressure on the workers in order not to struggle for decent wages and human work conditions. Thus the government serves the class interests of the capitalists.

I listened to the speeches that were delivered before mine. MK Shamai of the Likud said: It is a scandal to close down the shipyards, and so on and so forth... To whom are you speaking, Member of Knesset Shamai? From whom do you demand to act? After all, these government ministers are yours.

After that I heard MK Kaiser, the general secretary of the Histadrut, saying: It is an impossible situation. We will not allow this to happen! To whom does he speak? To his own ministers.

In a case of a private enterprise, like "Ata", just as in the case of the "Israel Shipyards", it is possible to thwart the policy of the government and the capitalists, because no power can stand up against the working class and the Histadrut. But why has the general strike been delayed until a week later and why is the strike to be held only for two hours? The Histadrut can even cause the toppling down of the government which is the worst government for the workers.

The Histadrut could do much more.

Turning to a Likud MK, Comrade Vilner said: You and your colleagues speak nicely but when we will present a motion of no confidence in the government, all of you will vote for the government. There is a contradiction between what you, Likud people, speak in the Knesset and

tell the workers, and between what you do.

It is possible to prevent the closing down of the shipyards, just as there had been no objective necessity to shut "ATA". But what does the government do? Instead of negotiating with the trade unions, it takes up the method of appointing a receiver for the liquidation of the company and of turning to the courts.

We are entering a period in which the achievements of the working class in this country are being demolished, including achievements which had been attained already at the time of the foreign rule of the British Mandate. The government destroys the trade unions and the works committees by using receivers for liquidation of companies and by fighting the workers at court.

The shipyard workers have learned the bitter lesson from the experience of the "ATA" workers. They have not left the workplace and refused to take an unlimited unpaid leave. It is the government that should be sent to an unlimited leave. Because the continuation of its office means further disasters for the workers and social and moral destruction.

I wish to protest also against the use of the police and the Frontier Guards at the first stage of the struggle.

I warn against the method of the "salami sausage", according to which, at the beginning 200 workers are fired, then 200 more and later 100 more - which after all means closing down the enterprise. This is what precisely had happened in the "ATA" works: At the beginning they talked about decreasing the number of the workers and a committee was set up which consented to these dismissals. We warned against the method of the "salami" because

in the end the enterprise would be shut and therefore, we said, this method must be opposed from the very beginning.

There were cases in which the workers agreed, as a result of pressure and threats to the closing down of the enterprise and to go on pension or receive compensations. Now in the shipyards they not only want to send the workers on an unpaid leave, but also to give minimum compensations to those who would be fired. This is a maltreatment of the workers who had invested in the enterprise their health and lifelong work.

I protest, and demand from the Knesset committee for labour and welfare, to investigate the information according to which attempts had been made to bribe a member of works committee and that a stoolpidgeon had been introduced into the enterprise in order to detect what the workers are planning. These are rejectable methods and those who are responsible for them should be brought to trial, and punished with all the severity of the law.

The struggle of the shipyards workers is of utmost importance for the whole working class in this country. The success of the workers in their struggle against closing down the shipyards is liable to stop the attempts of the government to continue its assault against the workers and their rights. To continue the process of closing down enterprises and widening the circle of unemployment.

ZO HADEREKH, February 5, 1986

FOR \_\_\_\_\_ SAFEGUARDING AND STRENGTHENING THE  
STATUS OF THE KNESSET

Speech of Comrade Tawfiq Toubi

On the 37th anniversary of the establishing of the Knesset, I wish to congratulate the people in Israel, the Members of the Knesset, the former Members of Knesset and the Knesset personnel. I wish the people in Israel to achieve a new composition of the Knesset that will bring Israel just and stable peace with the Arab states and peoples and first and foremost with the Palestinian Arab people.

Yesterday I was asked by a Jerusalemite presswoman what do I wish to this Knesset. My reply was - and I tell the Knesset the same thing with full responsibility and honestly: I wish the 11th Knesset that it will enact a law for its dispersal - without any delay, a law which will lead to the election of the 12th Knesset hoping that it will bring Israel a different government, better than the present one.

The 11th Knesset has formed a government whis is, in my view, one of the worst Israeli governments. The rotation government which is called "a government of national unity" has harmed - and is continuing to harm - most severely the living standard of the popular masses. Instead of an economic growth, enterprises are being closed down and thousands of workers are pushed to the streets and hurled into unemployment. Speeches are made about the peace process, but Israel is being removed further away from peace. At the same time the oppression of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories intensifies and intervention and aggression continues in Lebanon. The days of the alliance with the Falanges are returning.

in the end the enterprise would be shut and therefore, we said, this method must be opposed from the very beginning.

There were cases in which the workers agreed, as a result of pressure and threats to the closing down of the enterprise and to go on pension or receive compensations. Now in the shipyards they not only want to send the workers on an unpaid leave, but also to give minimum compensations to those who would be fired. This is a maltreatment of the workers who had invested in the enterprise their health and lifelong work.

I protest, and demand from the Knesset committee for labour and welfare, to investigate the information according to which attempts had been made to bribe a member of works committee and that a stoolpidgeon had been introduced into the enterprise in order to detect what the workers are planning. These are rejectable methods and those who are responsible for them should be brought to trial, and punished with all the severity of the law.

The struggle of the shipyards workers is of utmost importance for the whole working class in this country. The success of the workers in their struggle against closing down the shipyards is liable to stop the attempts of the government to continue its assault against the workers and their rights. To continue the process of closing down enterprises and widening the circle of unemployment.

ZO HADEREKH, February 5, 1986

FOR        SAFEGUARDING AND STRENGTHENING THE  
STATUS OF THE KNESSET

Speech of Comrade Tawfiq Toubi

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In addition to all this, never before there has been a government which has hit so hard the Knesset, which has so deeply disrespected it and so much lowered its prestige, as the present government. We have reached a stage when the Knesset decides and takes up a position and even tells the government what must be done, but the government does not take into account the wish of the highest institution from which it receives its authority.

Thus, for example, on June 25, 1985 the Knesset unanimously took a decision with respect to the "ATA" enterprise, explicitly stating that the closing down of the enterprise must be prevented and that the works must be restored on the basis of an economic plan which is to be elaborated for this matter, and which shall ensure the rights of the workers. The government has completely ignored that decision and has even acted in contradiction with it.

On January 13, 1986, The Knesset adopted a decision that concludes a debate about the social repercussions of the economic crisis. The decision warned from hitting the system of social security, particularly the National Insurance, and called upon the prime minister to set up immediately a public council for matters of social welfare, but now we have got a budget which totally contradicts that decision. Yesterday, again an unanimous decision was adopted, not to close the "Israeli Shipyards", not to push the workers to the street. Will this time the government respect the decision of the Knesset?

This behaviour of the government towards the Knesset entails a peril to the very existence of the parliamentary regime. Upon the members of Knesset rests a public



and constitutional responsibility, and they must draw conclusions from that.

Members of Knesset! a process of lowering the status of the Knesset is taking place. This is part of the process of an anti-democratic development, which characterises the life in Israel since 1967. The occupation and the continuation of the rule over the Palestinian Arab People in the occupied territories nourish the anti-democratic process in the Israeli society, which are expressed by disregard of the Knesset and the strengthening of the forces of reaction, nationalism and racism which endanger the rule of the democratic parliamentary order.

The perilous racism which is nourished by this anti-democratic process has raised its ugly head in the elections to the present Knesset, when the racist Kahana was elected. The struggle against racism and its various adjutants must be continued both inside and outside the Knesset, and not only in order to realise and uphold the equality of rights of the Arab population: This struggle is a vital necessity for the existence of a democratic, humane, and sane Israeli society.

Members of Knesset! The demagogical attack which is being voiced time and again regarding the alleged "privileges" of the members of Knesset, starting with the attack upon the salary and telephone services and ending with repeated attacks upon their immunity - hit the Knesset and its status, and pave the way to violating the democratic parliamentary life and to the rise of fascist dictators under the cover of social demagogy.

Certainly, it is necessary to improve the work of Members of Knesset, in order to promote respect for the Knesset, and first and foremost, it is necessary to re-examine the rules of ethics with regard to their behaviour and form of work. In my opinion, Members of Knesset should be forbidden to represent clients before state authorities on a business basis, in any form whatsoever. Objectively, this is a kind of exploiting the status of a Member of Knesset for advancing his personal interests. In fact this phenomenon is expanding and it reflects a negative development in the life of the Knesset, which one must not accept.

There is also a process of restricting the role of a Member of Knesset. It is necessary to enable the Knesset member more possibilities in the Plenum, to present proposals for the agenda and private proposals of laws for deliberation. For this purpose more time must be allocated.

On the 37th anniversary of the Knesset one must emphasise the obligation and importance of acting for strengthening and consolidating the status of the Knesset, in order to consolidate and strengthen the democratic foundations in our public life. There is a tight connection between the advance towards the aspired peace and its attainment, and the preservation and advancement of decent parliamentary and democratic norms of life. And if one has a prayer in heart today, this prayer is for our success to have a Knesset which will confirm an Israeli - Palestinian peace treaty so that the two peoples of this country will reach a safe shore.

ZO HADEREKII, February 5, 1986

## THE SHIPYARD WORKERS HAVE RAISED THE BANNER OF STRUGGLE

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The chairman of the DFPE faction in the Histadrut, Comrade Benjamin Gonen, demanded already on January 23, 1986, of the general secretary of the Histadrut, Israel Kaiser, to organise widest solidarity actions with the Israel Shipyards workers. Only three days later Kaiser called upon the workers to hold a 2 hour protest strike against the closing down of the shipyards. The date set by Kaiser for this strike was February 4.

### TOO LATE AND TOO LITTLE

As the threat of closing down the shipyards and the dismissal of the workers had been hanging like the sword of Damocles over the heads of the workers for quite some time, while the leadership of the Histadrut had done nothing but talked, the further delay in setting the date for the strike can only be characterised as "too late and too little". More so since in reality, the country-wide two-hour strike was carried out in the form of "workers' meetings" and not as a fighting country-wide struggle, which was an absolute necessity in view of the anticipated massive dismissals of workers all over the country.

### WHY ARE THE SHIPYARDS CLOSED DOWN?

The official argument states that the shipyards are closed because of the unrentability of the works. But this is not true. There is another reason for shutting the shipyards:

The government intends to sell the works to an American company within the framework of handing over to American corporations such enterprises that are connected, in one way or another, with military production. In order to facilitate the sale, the government is selling the workers. It has announced the closing of the shipyards and handing over the enterprise to the tender mercies of a "receiver" for

the liquidation of the Israel Shipyards.

#### A RECEIVER OF STOLEN PROPERTY

In juridical parlance there is such a notion: "receiver of stolen goods". Receiving stolen property is punishable by law... Whatever the status of property owning in Israel may be - as in the whole of the "free world" - the liquidation of an enterprise constitutes, in a moral sense, the receiving of stolen property, because the real owners of that property are the workers who have produced all the wealth throughout many years, sometimes throughout their whole adult life.

#### THE WORKERS FIGHT BACK

The workers did not wait for the bosses of the Histadrut leadership to do something. While the DFPE faction had demanded action on January 23, already on the next day - the 24th - the workers demonstrated en masse in Haifa, held consultation with the workers' representatives of other enterprises protest meetings and exerted pressure on the Histadrut and the government.

#### MEETINGS OF WORKS COMMITTEE WITH THE DFPE DELEGATION

While the delegates of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality - Member of Knesset Charlie Biton, dockers' leader from Ashdod, Yehoshua Perez and the chairman of the DFPE faction in the Histadrut, Benjamin Gonen, met with the works committee, of the Israel Shipyards in the room of the shipyards' works committee, tens of workers gathered outside shouting: "We want to hear them" The three men delegation went out to the hundreds of workers who had been called by hooters. The first speaker was Yehoshua Perez who told the assembled workers on the experience of the Ashdod port workers (who had been struggling for many years, and especially under the leadership of Yehoshua Perez himself, about 20 years ago). Perez now told the shipyard workers that unity must be preserved. He said: If every worker struggles alone you will be beaten, because this is a battle

between the workers and the employers.

B. Gonen said: The words of Yehoshua Perez are a message to the Histadrut leadership. If the leadership will not stand at the head of the fight against shutting the shipyards, the workers will have no other choice but to set up a framework for struggle and solidarity. One of the workers who addressed his colleagues, said: "If some time ago, when "Ata" textile workers were struggling against the closing down of their works and the dismissals of the workers, there had been more solidarity actions with them, today the "Israel Shipyards" workers would be in a different position."

An original form of action was carried out by a great mass of the shipyard workers who went on boats into the Haifa port, where they called for solidarity. The dockers and seamen in the port expressed their solidarity with the shipyard workers by sounding their horns.

On February 4, 1986, about 200 shipyard workers demonstrated in the building of the Haifa Workers' Council. They shouted: "Bread and Work"!

Other shipyard workers stormed into the offices of the transport minister, Haim Korfu.

Benjamin Gonen, chairman of the DFPE in the Histadrut, said that the Histadrut had raised a fund for "economic growth" and had announced that they have already raised millions of shekels. Let them, said Gonen, pay the shipyard workers the wages of the month of February.

Meantime the workers do not agree to return to work and receive only up to 70% of their wages.

THE SHIPYARD WORKERS WERE NOT SCARED BY POLICE  
VIOLENCE

The workers held a militant demonstration in front of the prime minister's offices in Jerusalem on February 9.

They were joined by Member of Knesset Charlie Biton and by Benjamin Gonen, on behalf of the DFPE, by MKS Granot, Tzaban and Shem-Tov of MAPAM, Ran Cohen of RATZ and also by some members of the executive Committee of the Histadrut.

Some persons alleged that the workers' demonstration was "violent". But the truth is that it was the police who displayed cruel violence, attacked demonstrators and beat others by clubs. Photos clearly show that on one side demonstrators are standing quietly, perhaps shouting slogans, but not armed in any form whatsoever. But on the other side there is the police, brandishing their clubs. People were injured by police clubs and by police horses and some had to be brought by ambulances to hospital.

Muhammad Abu-Ahmed from the Nazareth Workers Council came with some colleagues to express the solidarity of the Arab workers. He said - inter alia - We came to express our solidarity with the workers this matter is also connected with our own interest. We have a growing unemployment in our area. This is intolerable.

#### RED LIGHT

A representative of the workers of the Aircraft Industry, Yitzhak Ben Shmuel, said: The closing of the "Israel Shipyards" is a red light for all the workers in Israel. The government has chosen the easy way of closing down enterprises and no enterprise will be safe from now on."

When government ministers Shahal and Yacobi tried to speak to the demonstrating workers, they were not allowed to speak and shouted at them : " Liars , we do not believe you!" "Korfu go home!" "Dismiss the receiver!"

Neither the stormy weather, nor the wounds inflicted by the police and not even the arrests carried out by the police, deterred the workers who demonstrated for hours and who are ready to come again

to demonstrate against the government for work and bread.

#### DFPE PUBLIC MEETING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE SHIPYARD WORKERS

On February 9, 1986 The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality called a public meeting to express solidarity with the shipyard workers.

Salvator Cohen, DFPE representative in the Haifa Workers' Council, denounced the attitude of the Workers' Council, led by the Labour Party, towards the struggles of workers.

Nush Menahem, member of the shipyards Workers' Committee, said: We are grateful to all those who attend this meeting irrespective of political affiliation.

He told the hundreds of workers from Haifa and the Haifa area who had responded to the invitation of the DFPE and came to attend this public meeting: "We have nothing but our unity; every worker must help his fellow worker and every works' committee must help the other works' committee".

Tawfiq Awad called upon all works' committees in the area to coordinate the struggle for bread and work. T. Awad is a member of the works' committee of the "Hatafoukh" enterprise.

Benjamin Gonen said: "In Jerusalem the workers have been brutally attacked by the police while demonstrating under the slogan WORK AND BREAD FOR THE CHILDREN! But the workers have learned from the experience of others and from their own experience and say: We will not permit the closing down of the enterprise.

Gonen denounced the policy of the government in accordance with the dictates of the U.S.A administration, a policy of lowering the living standard of the workers and increasing the unemployed. He also condemned the policy of the Histadrut leadership

which supports the economic policy of the government.

Member of Knesset Charlie Biton (DFPE) said in his speech that unemployment is not a natural disaster, but the bitter fruit of a planned policy. Addressing Menahem, the representative of the shipyard workers' committee, MK Biton said: Gonen and me have come from the exploited working class and have come to politics as persons who sincerely and truly represent the class from which we have come and not like those who comb their hair to be as straight as a ruler. The policy of the Alignment, just as the policy of the Likud, is intended to break the working class, but we will not allow them to impose upon us a policy of unemployment as was the case in the fifties.

Based on material published  
in 20 HADEREKH on January 24,  
February 5 and 12, 1986



## NO EMPTY TALK, BUT ACTION!

By Neora Bar-Nir

When I came to the closed down Israel Shipyard, I kept hearing again and again the workers' questions: "What will become of my children?" The workers expressed their will not to reconcile themselves with what is liable to happen.

The people were agitated, in a stormy mood. The workers are under no circumstances ready to let the shipyards be buried. They do not want to recite any prayer for the dead, but continue their adamant struggle.

They shouted angrily at the bosses of the Histadrut who filled to capacity the improvised rostrum: "NO EMPTY TALK, BUT ACTION!" They demanded an active struggle against the closure of the shipyards and against their dismissals. They also demanded not to mention this or the other government ministers as the responsible person for the policy regarding the shipyards, but to state clearly and honestly that the blame must be put at the door of the whole government. Another demand was put forward: That the Histadrut declare on the spot a solidarity strike and that the staff for the struggle conduct their activities straight from the place of work and not from their offices.

Representatives of work committees of numerous enterprises in the Haifa area were present, including the former committee from the closed "Ata" - an enterprise which had turned into the symbol of the method of liquidation of enterprises and of paralyzing workers and undermining their vigilance. The representatives of the shipyards and other committees warned of any lack of vigilance which had been engendered by promises by the government and others.

David Abraham, a representative of the shipyards workers, asked: "THE ISRAEL SHIPYARDS HAVE BEEN TURNED INTO 'ATA' NUMBER TWO. WHO WILL NOW BE TURNED INTO 'ATA' NUMBER THREE?!" D. Abraham warned that if the workers will not come out in open struggle and against the method of "buying" works committees, they will lose everything.

David Tzemach, representative of the "Soltam" works committee, who just lately had waged a bitter struggle against mass dismissals, and succeeded partially, pointed out the chain of sacking and shutting enterprises. He declared that the workers will not allow the continuation of such activities.

The representative of the "Ta'as" (military industries) workers, Abraham Zohar, called the governmental decision to appoint a receiver for the liquidation of the company "irresponsible, insane and cruel". He called upon the Haifa Workers' Council to conduct a more intensified struggle in order to find a solution.

The representative of the shipping company "Zim" said: "We are in favour of dismissals for inefficiency, but where there is a surplus of personnel, and as there is a surplus of government ministers - let them start the dismissals." This aroused a stormy applause of the workers.

Gabi Weizman, representative of the "Vulkan-Foundry-Works", was asked to mount the rostrum, as the adamant struggle of the Vulkan works is well known. He stressed: "IF WE, ALL THE WORKERS OF THE HAIFA BAY, WILL NOT UNITE IN THE STRUGGLE AND WILL NOT LAY STILL THE WHOLE OF HAIFA, WE WILL ACHIEVE NOTHING, BECAUSE NONE WILL HELP US!" He called upon the Haifa Workers' Council to declare a real struggle immediately.

Albert Levy, of the Technicum employees, who in the past had been a member of the "Shipyard" works committee, also stressed that the dealing with the shipyards reminded him of what had happened in the "Ata" works. "Against the united force of the Alignment and the Likud in the government" he stated that in his view, the Histadrut should organise a strong force all over the country.

Gershon Peled, former chairman of the "Ata" works committee said that the lesson is: What the common sense does not do, time will do." Some of the assembled workers shouted: "What the common sense does not do, FORCE WILL DO!!"

I spoke with several workers. More than one was not ashamed to weep. No wonder; among them were fathers of 4 children. One of those who has worked in the shipyards for 37 years. His working life started at the age of 16.

There were several demonstrations of the "Israel shipyard workers", one, for instance, outside the home of Moda'i, the finance minister.

An outstanding example of the impudence of the regime was given by one of the police officers, a certain Borovsky, who told the workers, who were fighting against their being sacked, through a megaphone: I am inviting anyone who will be fired to join the police force...

One of the workers, a war invalid who relies on a walking stick in order to walk, asked that officer if the police will receive him, too.

Then the police officer changed his tactics for intimidating the workers: He called on purpose, again through his megaphone on one of the members of the

solidarity delegation of the DFPE (Democratic Front for Peace and Equalit) - Issam Makhoul (apparently choosing him for being an Arab and thus to divide the masses on nationalist basis) to show his identity card. However, the workers did not fall into the trap and the police failed.

It is worthwhile that the government decision makers and those who use the police against the workers to take notice: The workers in the shipyards have a slogan written on a banner saying: WE DONT GET OUR LIVLIHOOD FROM THE STATE, BUT THE STATE IS DRAWING ITS LIFE FROM US!

ZO HADEREKH, February 5, 1986

THE ISRAELI ARMY DECLARED WAR AGAINST THE CHILDREN  
OF BALATA.

By Joseph Alghazy

On the southern outskirts of Nablus there lies one of the largest refugee camps in the occupied West Bank - BALATA. According to data reported by UNRA there are approximately 12,000 inhabitants in the camp.

Throughout the last months, the camp has been put under a severe rule of oppression. During this period a precipitous rise in the number of detained persons has been recorded, especially youth and children.

The number of boys and girls from Balata that are under detention is estimated by one hundred. If recently a drastic increase of detainees in the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip has been recorded, it is especially felt in Balata. In this camp adults have also been arrested, but the number of children and youths between the age of 13 and 17 who are suspected of having thrown stones, is conspicuous. Personnel of the military government have been quoted to have said: "the inhabitants of Balata must be educated".

Until two months ago, a reinforced unit of Frontier Guardsmen had been stationed there. In the meantime they have been replaced by a large unit of paratroopers. The residents of the camp say that the "green berets" (the Frontier Guards) are cruel, but the "red berets" are even more so. Groups of about half a dozen of armed soldiers, equipped with communication devices, patrol twenty four hours a day through the narrow lanes of the camp, being themselves very nervous, they molest the inhabitants, particularly the young people. From the early hours of the morning, they provoke children and adolescents and plague them on their way to school. It is sufficient for a child to run away, to cause these soldiers to chase after him. The soldiers do not refrain from beating children. They put them against walls, search their belongings and bags and arrest them. One mother said: "The soldiers pester the children from the early morning hours as if they had been dreaming about them during the night".

Sometimes the soldiers surround the schools under the pretext that they are searching for children suspected of having thrown stones or written slogans on the walls. A mother said: "There is an impression that the Israeli army had declared war against the children of Balata."

Since about two months there is hardly a night in which the military authorities do not arrest children and adolescents in the small hours of the night. The procedure has become a matter of routine: Soldiers accompanied by one or more Secret Policemen, surround the house; other soldiers take up positions on the rooftops of the neighbouring houses. They knock forcefully at the doors and windows, then they break into the houses as a storm", carry out searches and arrest a boy. In most cases they tell the parents and weeping smaller brothers that the boy will be returned in the morning after interrogation. Yet, this never happens. The boy is led away, his hands chained and blindfolded, usually to the notorious detention camp Far'a. If that camp is overfilled, they take the boy to other detention camps, in Nablus, Hebron etc. Parents who come in the morning to the military government to find out where their child is, receive no reply. They turn to the Red Cross and only two or more weeks later they get the information where their child is imprisoned. The families run from one prison to another, ask wardens and released prisoners in order to find out where their son is held. They want to be sure that he is still among the living and inquire about his health. The Red Cross receives the name of the detainee and may visit him only two weeks later. In the meantime, the detainee is handed over to the "tender" hands of his interrogators who, in the most cases succeed in squeezing out a kind of confession

From all the collected evidence, it seems that from the very moment of their arrest, the children become victims of violent maltreatment: Beatings begin already in the vehicle which takes them to the place of detention. In that place the methods of treatment are not always identical, some are beaten by fists, some are boxed on the ear and kicked. Buckets of cold water are poured over them. Sometimes they are "forgotten" to be fed for a day or more. Sometimes they are being chained

by their wrists and forced to hold their arms against a wall for hours. Sometimes they are left outside in the cold and rain for hours on end. The main thing is to "break" the boy and get him to sign a confession. Then immediately he is brought before interrogators in the general prison block and awaits trial. During the interrogation, accompanied by beatings and maltreatment, attempts are made to turn some of the boys into informers.

It is said that, lately, the Far'a prison is overfilled. In court, the military judges impose heavy fines, the maximum permitted by law, fines which are equal to 2 to 4 months of wages, or imprisonment for 3 to 12 months in a case of stones throwing.

The punishment does not end with the imprisonment: secondary school pupils are not allowed to return to study in the governmental schools, in which they had studied, in spite of the fact that these schools are maintained by the Jordanian government. At best the boys can study at the expensive private schools.

In Balata, imposition of curfew is a matter of routine. At the beginning of February, in one of the nights, a curfew was imposed from 8 p.m. till 4 a.m. the reason of the curfews are not made known to the camp's inhabitants. In times of curfews searches are usually carried out in the houses, some of which were already been marked by crosses. In some cases of searches, soldiers tore out tiles from the floors.

The occupation authorities make use of informers and collaborators. The authorities bestow them some sort of favours and enable them to blackmail the inhabitants. There are many cases when people in need of services of the occupation authorities, such as licences for passing to Jordan through the bridges, visits of member of their family, travelling abroad for the purpose of studying, staying during the night in Israeli territory where they work etc. turn to informers; and they obtain the permits, in exchange for bribes. Thus the occupation authorities try to

strengthen the status of the collaborators among the people.

In the West Bank and the Gaza Strip people confirm the words of Dr. Miron Benvenisti, former deputy chairman of the Jerusalem municipality, who said at a press conference last month that the policy of "the hard fist" of the present government and the defence minister Yitzhak Rabin is not softer than the policy of "strong fist" conducted previously by the Likud government and the former army chief of staff, Raphael Eitan. A considerable increase in the number of deportation, demolition of houses and first and foremost in the number of administrative detainees has taken place.

Enlightened public opinion cannot reconcile with this situation. When mere children and youngsters are placed under detention and imprisoned - it becomes the matter for all conscious persons.

ZO HADEREKI!, February 12, 1986.



DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS.

GREETINGS OF COMRADE *DAVID (SASHA) KHENIN*  
MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU AND SECRETARY  
OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST  
PARTY OF ISRAEL TO THE 3RD CONGRESS OF THE  
COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA

Havana, 4 - 7 February, 1986

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel I have the pleasure to convey to the 3rd Congress of your party warm fraternal greetings.

The Israeli Communists and all progressive forces in our country, Jews and Arabs, highly esteem your party, its heroic path and its internationalist positions.

The report of the Central Committee which was delivered by Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party, demonstrates convincingly the achievements of Cuba in the field of socialist construction, and its staunch stand in face of the US imperialist intrigues directed against socialist Cuba and intended to deprive your people from their right to shape their own life and their own society free from imperialist shackles and capitalist exploitation.

The Cuban people, under the leadership of your Communist party has successfully foiled the intrigues of US imperialism and is scoring additional achievements in the up building of the new society.

The peoples who have liberated themselves from the yoke of colonialism, and those who are still fighting for national

liberation, learn from the experience of the Cuban people how to get rid of the chain of foreign enslavement, how to fight against the heavy burden of foreign debts, which is used by imperialism and especially by US imperialism as means to enslave peoples and states and enable the multi national monopolies to exploit them cruelly. The peoples are learning how it is possible to overcome backwardness - which is a direct result of long years of colonial and imperialistic rule - and how to build a new life based on national independence, democracy and social progress.

We express our full solidarity with the heroic struggle of the people of Nicaragua, with the people of Salvador and with all the peoples of Latin America who are courageously fighting against US imperialism. I would like to take this opportunity to declare our strong opposition and strong condemnation of the military support of the Israeli government to the fascist dictatorship in Latin America which is being carried out in coordination with US imperialism. Let me assure you that the Israeli Communists, together with the progressive forces in our country will save no effort in order to put an end to the direct links between the ruling circles in Israel and the fascist dictatorships in Latin America.

Dear Comrades,

In face of the grave danger to world peace and to the existence of mankind as a result of the aggressive global strategy of US imperialism, the escalation of the arms race and the satanic plan which is called the stars war, we declare the support of the peace forces in our country to the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union presented by Comrade Gorbachov at the summit conference in Geneva and his state-

ment from January 15th 1986, aimed at stopping the nuclear arms race which is threatening civilization.

We highly esteem the persistent peace policy of Cuba which together with the socialist countries and the Soviet Union are exerting energetic efforts for easing international tension and preserving world peace.

I wish the Cuban Communists and people every success in implementing the resolutions of your congress and additional achievements in the upbuilding of socialist and prosperous Cuba.

Dear Comrades,

The Israeli Communists are working under difficult and complicated conditions. The governments of Israel and the leadership of the Zionist movement are following a policy which contradicts the vital interests of the Israeli people. Instead of standing side by side with the Arab national liberation movement against imperialism they stand to the side of imperialism against the struggle of peoples of the region for national liberation and social progress.

More than 18 years have passed since the occupation of the Arab territories which were occupied in the aggressive war of June 1967. In fact the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon continues, and the Israeli involvement in Lebanon is still going on.

The heroic struggle of the patriotic forces in Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance against the aggressive war which was opened by the Israeli rulers in coordination with US imperialism in June 1982

against Lebanon and against the PLO have foiled the main aims of the aggressors. The anti-war movement which developed in Israel has played an important role in the failure of this aggressive war. This was expressed in the mass demonstrations against the war and especially the huge demonstration in Tel Aviv in which 400 thousand persons took part. More than two thousand soldiers and officers declared openly their refusal to serve in Lebanon, out of them 150 were sentenced to imprisonment by military courts. Various frameworks were set up for the struggle against the war and against the massacre in Sabra and Shatela.

The ruling circles in our country have learned nothing from their failure in Lebanon. Even today there is a serious danger of a new war against Syria and against other Arab countries.

US imperialism with the help of the Israeli government and the Arab reaction are trying to impose upon the peoples of the region a settlement which is aimed at advancing its aggressive global and regional strategy and against the interests of the peoples - they intend to turn our region into a military base directed against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries: against the national liberation movements in the Middle East and against the peoples of Asia and Africa. This is the real aim of the Reagan plan. The Amman agreement which is supported by reactionary forces is meant to serve the Reagan plan.

Our party is exerting every effort for mobilizing the masses in our country in the struggle for putting an end to the anti-national and pro-imperialist policy of the ruling circles in Israel. We are presenting

a realistic plan for the just solution of the Arab - Israeli conflict. This plan is based on the withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories which were occupied in June 1967: the recognition of the right of the Palestinian Arab people for self determination and the establishment of their own independent state alongside the state of Israel; the recognition of the right of all peoples and states in the region, including Israel, for independence and sovereignty and to live in peace and mutual cooperation, and the solution of the problem of the Palestinian refugees according to the resolution of the United Nations. In order to achieve this it is imperative to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of all sides involved in the conflict including the PLO; the legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, as well as the Soviet Union and USA and other states.

The policy of war and occupation is causing much harm to the Israeli economy and society. The military expenditures including the repayment of debts and interest constitutes 75% of the whole budget, the external debts of Israel have reached the sum of 30 milliard dollars. The result of this policy is inflation, the spreading of unemployment - 150 thousands which constitute 10% of the labour force are unemployed - the decrease of the real wages (during the last 6 months the real wages were decreased by 30%) and the drastic curtailment of the services of health, education and welfare.

The Israeli Communists stand in the front ranks struggle for defending the interests of the workers against the policy of discrimination towards the Arab population in Israel, against communal discrimination against the growing danger of racism and fascism, against anti-Soviet and anti-

socialist incitement and for democratic freedoms.

Members of our party, together with our allies in the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality show the way out by bringing about a basic change in the official Israeli policy towards a policy of peace, independence, democracy, equality and social progress.

In our struggle we fulfil an internationalist and patriotic mission. Our strength lies, in the policy which we present before the working class and the Israeli people, in our Jewish-Arab unity, in our fraternal relations and solidarity with the world communist and workers movement and with all the forces of freedom and progress.

WS wish you dear comrades, every success in implementing the very important resolutions of your congress.

LONG live the freindship and the fraternal relations between our two parties!

LONG live socialist Cuba!

LONG live Marxism-leninism and proletarian internationalism!

LONG live peace!

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

To the Central Committee of the Communist  
Party of Lebanon.

Dear Comrades,

We were shocked at hearing the news about the criminal assassination of comrades Khalil Naous, member of the Political Bureau and Suheil Taweeli, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lebanon.

This treacherous act has afflicted grate harm to the patriotic anti-imperialist forces in Lebanon, to the fight against the Israeli occupation and intervention in Lebanon.

While extending our deep condolence to you and to the bereaved families, we would like, on behalf of all Israeli Communists to reaffirm our solidarity with the struggle of the Lebanese Communists against the Israeli forces of occupation and their merceneries in Lebanon for defending the unity and sovereignty of Lebanon.

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TO COMRADE HERMANN AXEN

Dear comrade ,

Heartiest greetings on the occasion of your 70th birthday . We highly esteem your anti-Fascist struggle , your contribution in uprooting nazism and upbuilding of socialism in GDR . We highly appreciate your devoted efforts for strengthening world peace .

We wish good health and many more years of fruitful work for advancing our common noble ideals - peace democracy and socialism .

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1986

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