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WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

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2ND PLENARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

On March 20, 1981, the 2nd plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel took place, with the participation of the members of the Central Control Commission.

The session was presided over by Comrade Yehoshua Irge, secretary of the Central Committee.

Comrade Meir Vilner, the General Secretary, lectured about the political situation and delivered a report about the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Comrade David (Sasha) Khenin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, delivered a report about the election campaign to the Histadrut and the work of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat.

A debate took place and was summed by the lecturers.

The Central Committee approved the lecture, the reports and the conclusions and adopted resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL ADOPTED AT THE 2ND PLENARY SESSION ON MARCH 20, 1981

THE 26TH CONGRESS OF THE CPSU

The Central Committee points out the great contribution of the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to the cause of peace in the world and the struggle of the peoples for national and social liberation.

Under the conditions of the aggravation of the international situation and the intensification of the danger of war, at a time when the President of the USA, Reagan and his assistants attack the detente, increase the military budgets and organize new aggressive blocs - the 26th Congress of the CPSU manifested the firm aspiration of the Soviet Union to ensuring peace in the world, consolidating the detente, to the cessation of the dangerous arms race, to the liquidation of the hotbeds of

war.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel expresses its full support for the new peace initiatives of the Soviet Union, which were presented by Comrade L. Brezhnev, the General Secretary of the CPSU and President of the Soviet Union. These initiatives are directed at rebuffing the imperialist offensive against the detente, and at consolidating peace in the world.

The new peace initiatives of the Soviet Union manifest the humanism of socialism, the principled Leninist policy of peaceful co-existence between states of different social regimes. This is a policy, whose aim is to save mankind from a nuclear catastrophe. Therefore, the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union are in accordance with the supreme right of all the peoples, of all human beings - the right to live.

The Central Committee expresses its full support for the new initiative of the Soviet Union for the establishment of comprehensive, just and stable peace in the Middle East, which was presented by Comrade L. Brezhnev at the 26th Congress of the CPSU. This plan is commensurate with the peace plan of the Communist Party of Israel and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality.

The Central Committee points out that the initiative of the Soviet Union for convening an international peace conference for the Middle East, with the participation of all those involved in the Israeli-Arab conflict - the Arab states, Israel and the PLO, as the sole authorized representative of the Palestinian people, and also the Soviet Union, the USA and other interested states - is today the only path for getting out of the impasse of the Camp David deal, which has removed farther the prospects for peace, caused the intensification of the tension and the armament race in the region and the aggravation of the economic situation of Israel and Egypt alike.

Just and comprehensive peace will put an end to the bloodshed, will realise, as Comrade Brezhnev has said, the right of the Palestinian Arab people to the establishment of its independent state and will ensure the security and sovereignty of all the states in the

Middle East, including the State of Israel.

The Central Committee points out with satisfaction that the PLO has expressed support for the new peace initiative of the Soviet Union and has thereby proved again its wish for peace with Israel on the basis of respecting the rights of all the peoples and states.

The Central Committee calls upon the peace forces in Israel to support the peace initiative of the Soviet Union, to struggle unitedly for a fundamental change of the ruling Israeli policy, into a policy of just peace, national independence and neutralism in foreign policy.

TOWARDS THE ELECTIONS TO THE HISTADRUT AND THE KNESSET

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel calls upon all champions of peace and democracy, the workers in town and village, to support in the elections to the Histadrut and the Knesset, the Jewish-Arab Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, which struggles consistently for peace, democracy, equality of rights and social progress.

The Central Committee calls for toppling down the Likud regime, the rule of the adherents of the Complete Eretz-Israel (Complete Land of Israel- Palestine -IB), the enemies of peace, democracy and workers' rights.

The steps of Minister of Finance, Y. Aridor, are nothing but demagogic election tricks. The Likud has raised the inflation to a world record (133 percent in the year 1980); has brought about the doubling of the rate of unemployment; curtailment of public services and lowering the real wages of the workers and the standard of living of the popular masses.

The Likud is the bloc of the big capitalists, who rake in enormous profits from the exploitation of the occupied territories, from the increase of military spendings and military production. It is an urgent and vital necessity to put an end to the rule of the Likud which has brought about a grave economic, social and moral crisis.

The Central Committee calls upon the masses not to support the Alignment, which did not at all change

its old policy, which is to the detriment of peace, democracy and workers' rights. The policy of the Alignment leadership proved throughout the 29 years of their rule that they are unable to solve any problem of all the fundamental problems of Israel. They have not brought about peace, but wars; they did not care for the workers but acted for lowering their real wages and standard of living. They did not bring about equality of rights but introduced a policy of discrimination and national oppression of the Arab population in Israel, the discrimination against the sons of the Jewish oriental communities and the discrimination against women in Israel.

The "national consensus" of the Likud, the Alignment, the Mifdal (National Religious Party), "Shinui" and their likes against just peace, against the right of the Palestinian Arab people to the establishment of their independent state alongside the State of Israel is the principle source of the tremendous military spendings, which cause the ruin of the economy and society; this is the source of the danger of war and lack of security.

The Central Committee stresses that there exists an alternative. It is possible to solve the economic and social problems of Israel! It is possible to attain peace and put an end to wars!

The Communist Party of Israel and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality show the way to this.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE TEACHERS AND THE JUST STRUGGLES OF ALL THE WORKERS

The Central Committee expresses its full support for the just struggle of the teachers for attaining their just demands; against the policy of deceit conducted by the government, which hits the teachers and their status. The Central Committee demands of the Histadrut to call upon all state employees to strike in solidarity with the teachers.

The Central Committee expresses its support for the just struggles of the workers of the government hospitals; of the Electricity Company, of the textile mills and metal works and other groups of working people, for raising wages, against job firings and unemployment.

TOWARDS LAND DAY

The Arab population and the Jewish democratic forces will, this year, mark the Land Day on March 30, 1981, under conditions of aggravated policy of national discrimination and expulsion of the Arab population from their land.

The expulsion of the Bedouin population in the Negev from their lands; the installation of watch-towers (which encircle and strangle Arab villages - IB) and the attack on the Arab population in Galilee; the increased number of demolished houses; the intensified discrimination in the level of public services; the growing racist and fascist ravings in the universities, which has been expressed in the bloody attack on Arab students in the dormitories in the Technion of Haifa - all these oblige the consolidation of the unity of the Arab population and the broadening of the joint Jewish-Arab struggle against the policy of discrimination and national oppression and for equality of rights.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel calls upon the members of the Party and its sympathizers, the members of the Young Communist League of Israel and upon all the democratic forces to mobilize their forces and mark the Land Day en masse; to strengthen the unity of ranks and the general democratic struggle for equality of rights, in order to curb the forces of racism and fascism in Israel.

AGAINST THE COLONIALIST DOMINATION OVER THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel states with concern that the Likud government carries out a feverish campaign of establishing colonial settlement and colonialist domination over the occupied Palestinian West Bank. Tens of thousands of dunums (thousands of hectares) of land are robbed and transferred to colonial settlers and military authorities. The colonialization of the occupied territories has been accelerated towards the elections to the Knesset, in order to erect further obstacles on the path to the establishment of just peace.

The Central Committee condemns the policy of colonial plunder implemented by the Likud government and warns that no land seizures and colonial settlements will succeed in denying the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. They only heap obstacles on the path to peace and bear the danger of a new war in the region.

The Central Committee calls upon all forces of peace and political realism to struggle against the policy of de facto annexation of the occupied Palestinian territories, to demand the cessation of the process of colonial settlement and the dismantling of the existing ones.

An end to the policy of brutal oppression in the occupied territories, an end to the occupation!

AN END TO THE INTERVENTION IN LEBANON -
STOP THE SUPPORT RENDERED TO THE HADDAD GANG

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel denounces the military intervention of the Israeli government in Lebanon and demands to put an end to the de facto conquest of South Lebanon by Israel. The Central Committee demands to pull out the Israeli forces from South Lebanon and to stop the support extended to the gangs of the Israeli mercenary, Sa'ad Haddad.

The Israeli military intervention in Lebanon against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples intensifies the bloodshed and constitutes a gross violation of the sovereignty of the State of Lebanon, a member of the UNO.

The true interest of Israel is to put an end to the intervention in Lebanon, to stop the support for the Haddad gangs.

THE ISRAELI ASSISTANCE TO THE FASCIST
JUNTA IN EL-SALVADOR MUST BE STOPPED!

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel condemns the military and political support extended by the Israeli government to the fascist junta in El-Salvador with the assistance of American imperialists.

The Central Committee demands immediately to stop the transportation of arms from Israel to the military junta in El-Salvador, to immediately return the military instructors, who take part in the dirty war of the ruling murder clique in that country.

The Central Committee calls upon all conscientious people in Israel to raise their voice of protest and to demand of the Israeli government to cease immediately the sending of arms and other assistance to the rule of reactionary military dictatorship in El-Salvador and to the other fascist dictatorships in Latin America.

ZO-HADEREKH, March 25, 1981.

THE THIRD PLENARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL
SUMMED UP THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS TO
THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS -
THE HISTADRUT

On April 13th, 1981, the 3rd plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel took place with the participation of the members of the Central Control Commission.

The session was presided over by Comrade Abraham Levinbroun, member of the Central Committee.

Comrade Meir Vilner, General Secretary of the Party, lectured about the results of the elections to the General Federation of Trade Unions and the political situation.

Comrade David (Sacha) Khenin, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the CC reported about the work of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat.

A debate was held and was summed up by the lecturers. The Central Committee approved the lecture and the summing up and adopted resolutions.

The Central Committee pointed out the wide mobilization and the devoted work of the members of the CPI, of the YCL and sympathizers of the Party in the election campaign to the General Federation of Trade Unions. The Central Committee pointed out, as well, the important contribution of the components of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality to the election campaign of the General Federation of the Trade Unions.

The Central Committee assessed that the results of the elections to the General Federation of Trade Unions were an achievement to the DFPE which has strengthened its force both relatively and absolutely, despite the difficult conditions of the election campaign.

The Central Committee states that the abstention of nearly half of the members of the General Federation of Trade Unions is an expression of protest against the anti-worker policy of the Likud which rules in the state as well as against the policy of the Alignment leadership which rules in the Histadrut, which curbs the workers'

struggles. On the other hand, the abstention also expresses moods of despair of a part of the Histadrut members and their disbelief in a possibility of changing matters.

The Central Committee calls on the working class and popular masses, Jews and Arabs, not to be indifferent in the face of the great dangers to peace, democracy and workers' rights. The path to changing this situation lies in struggle. The elections are an important link in the struggle. The strengthening of the force, which is most consistent and loyal to the worker's interest, to the interest of peace, democracy and equality of rights - the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, in whose centre stands the Communist Party of Israel - will strengthen the struggle against the ruling policy and for positive political and social changes.

The Central Committee calls on all members of the Party and the Communist Youth, on all sympathizers, on all components of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, to mobilize themselves for an energetic activity in the campaign of elections to the 10th Knesset, on June 30, 1981, for the success of the DFPE list.

VOTES CASTED TO THE DFPE IN THE 1981 HISTADRUT ELECTIONS

<u>District</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1981</u>
Nazareth	11,938	12,563
Acre	4,533	5,531
Triangle	4,819	5,383
Tel-Aviv	2,291	2,098
Haifa	1,820	1,729
Plain	534	567
Negev	380	455
Jerusalem	340	311
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Total	26,657	28,637

ZO-HADEREKH, April 15, 1981

THE STATE BUDGET 81 - 82 - AN INFLATIONARY
BUDGET, A FRUIT OF THE POLICY OF WAR AND
ENRICHMENT OF THE CAPITALISTS

Speech delivered
by MK Meir Vilner

This debate in the empty hall does not only testify to the economic, social and moral situation of the State of Israel today, but also to the manner in which the Likud government deals with the budget, to their belittling the Knesset and to the pressure exerted to hold the debate about this enormous budget in the Knesset in one day, without any detailed, business-like and thoroughgoing discussion. This is also a danger to democracy. This government of the Likud has most seriously contributed to the undermining of the status of the Knesset in the eyes of the public and to their searching for a "strong man". This slogan of "the strong man" means a call for a dictatorship.

The economic and social crisis syndrome in Israel does not stem from any unavoidable economic regularity, but from the comprehensive policy of the government. I regret to have to state that in this respect there is no essential difference between the fundamental lines of the economic policy of the Likud government, which is the full and direct rule of the big capitalists and the plan - if this may be called as such - of the Alignment leadership and their probable economic experts and expert teams. Therefore also the debate in the Knesset and the public between the Likud government and the Alignment leadership does not touch at all upon the entirety of the fundamental causes of the crisis and the fundamental economic problems.

First of all, it is instructive that neither the Alignment leadership nor - of course - the Likud cabinet ministers define the fundamental cause of the inflation in Israel, which the Likud has raised to a world record, not only to an Israeli record - of 1000 percent since their coming to power. It is an open question whether the policy of the Alignment would not also have brought the increase of the inflation. For the fundamental cause is the military spendings, the occupation and colonialist settlements, the war in Lebanon - it is they which skim off two-thirds of the budget, which is here debated today.

More than once, Peres, the head of the Labour Party (main party in the Alignment bloc - IB) attacked in the Knesset the Likud government precisely from the hawkish side, from the still more rightest side; and they attacked even any formal, even just ostensible proposal to curtail the military budget.

The second cause of our economic situation is the policy favouring big American, German, international and Israeli capitalists; the new division of the national income, by means of the state budget, in favour of the big capitalists and to the detriment of the workers, the medium strata, the inhabitants of the slums, the poverty-stricken townlets, etc. All this is well known. For 29 years the Alignment ruled and for four years the Likud has been ruling. Both have brought about this poverty, for example the fact that already the third generation of (Jewish) oriental communities are living in a corroding distress in all spheres. Therefore the Alignment and the Likud do not want to disclose the fundamental causes of this disgraceful situation,

Now the military expenditures and the expenditures for the colonial settlements have assumed monstrous dimensions. The "peace accord" with Egypt has not only failed to bring about the reduction of these expenditures but on the contrary, these are ever more increasing. This is connected with the fact that the Likud government, with the consent of the Alignment, integrates in the American global policy in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

Deputy Minister of Defence, Mordechai Tsipori, who recently visited the United States, conducted there negotiations about Israel's integration in the strategic array of the United States in the region. This means - a mercenary force and also a budget for spendings for the military systems and for military preparations, not only as customary until now but also with additions to the extensive global expenditures. All this means that the bread must be taken out of the mouth of the Israeli worker, that the glass of milk of the child in the slums must be taken away. Thus, there is a connection between politics, economy and society.

The colonial settlements demand spendings of hundreds of billions of Liras - or tens of billions of Shekels and this is done today at a feverish pace of crazy people,

with unprecedented colonialist roghness. The words "Cry Out, Beloved Country!" fit what goes on in the West Bank. And all this costs enormous sums of money in addition to the political and human crime.

What is now happening in what is called "Hadassa House" is a fascist raving of the Gush Emunim settlers, headed by rabbi Levinger. The picture given in the press showing how rabbi Levinger beats an old shop-keeper in Hebron is a picture of the occupation and fascist danger. Today the press has published the news that the military authorities have announced the closing of the case against the colonial settlers who intentionally destroyed the floor in "Hadassa House", in order to drive out a Palestinian shop-keeper. Certainly, still more cases have been closed, which should not have been closed. As against this, till this day, not even an investigation has taken place into the attempted murder of the West Bank mayors. We accuse the government with having extended a hand to the attempted murder and with covering up the criminals among the colonial settlers. Inside the military government are persons who stand behind these crimes.

Why should yesterday young people be attacked on the West Bank because they hoisted the Palestinian flag? This is the flag of the Palestinian people who want national independence. It will be fortunate for Israel if a Palestinian state with a Palestinian flag will be established alongside the State of Israel with its Israeli flag, and the two flags will fly side by side. This is also the key to the solution of Israel's economic and social questions.

Has the intervention in Lebanon no connection with the budget? Yesterday an Israeli raid was carried out near Tyre. Does this not cost money and not only blood? I warn against the precedent created by this arrogant policy. If one who has the power to conquer southern Lebanon, does that, then tomorrow, or after five years, or ten years, if the balance of forces changes, will you consent to the conquest of parts of Israel or to attacks upon Israel from sea, air and land? In principle you are opening the way to gangsterism in international relations.

As a result of your policy, struggles are waged by the teachers, hospital employees, workers in textile mills and metal factories, and even employees of the defence ministry, of employees of El-Al, etc. These struggles will intensify. The social fermentation will be directed against you and will force you to fundamentally change your policy.

There is an option, there is a solution. If we will conduct a policy of peace, if we will defend Israel's independence without denying the independence of the Palestinian people. If we will not be mercenaries in the service of a foreign power, but will wage a neutral policy in foreign relations. Then the budget will look different. Then we will have close economic ties with our region, with the Arab states and the socialist countries. Then the whole situation will change.

ZO-HADEREKH, April 9, 1981

Speech By MK Tawfiq Toubi

In his speech in the debate about the state budget held in the Knesset on March 31, 1981, Comrade Tawfiq Toubi laid the stress on the fact that if the state budget in general contradicts the interests of the popular masses, it makes still more apparent the discrimination against the Arab population in Israel.

THE STATE BUDGET 81 - 82 ADDS INSULT TO INJURY

Comrade T. Toubi said in his speech: If the budget in its totality stands in contradiction to the social interests of the popular masses and is based on extortion, exploitation and intensification of poverty, still more conspicuous is the national discrimination against the Arab population in all spheres of life: in the municipal services, education, health and welfare.

By means of our reservations with regard to the budget, we intend to redress a number of gross distortions and indeed to manifest the anger and protest against the policy of national discrimination and denial of rights of the Arab population.

Members of Knesset,

Yesterday was Land Day. This day was observed by the Arab population together with the Jewish democratic forces. Not only the memory of the victims of the policy of land seizure was evoked on this day - this policy which was sharpened at that time by the Alignment government under the leadership of Yitzhaq Rabin, which was responsible also for the death of the six martyrs who fell on Land Day. From the manifestations of this year's Land Day also arouses the resolute demand to stop the policy of confiscation of lands from the Arab population, and arouses the demand to enable the Arab population to live as citizens with equal rights in every sphere, also in relation to the land in this state; to the inalienable right of ownership of their land and inalienable right to live on the soil of their homeland.

It cannot be that the Arab as a citizen of the State should be deprived of any right to what is termed "state land". The Arab population will not reconcile

themselves to the confiscation, nor to the racist policy which does not take the Arab population into account and which denies all their rights to what is called "state land". And this happens after the Arab population has been deprived throughout the 32 years which have passed of the majority of the lands which had been in their possession and the Arab villages have been evicted from their private and public land.

How can the Arab population reconcile themselves to their eviction from their land, to the crimes committed there every day in the power of the outrageous law which has been adopted? How can they reconcile themselves to the violations, such as the murder of the Bedouin woman Ganima Abu el-Qaimeh? With the starving of the inhabitants whose flocks are driven away or confiscated? The daily harassment, the crime committed against the Arab inhabitants in the Negev in order to bring about their eviction, is a mark of disgrace on the brow of the Likud government, just as the benches of the Alignment who have lent a hand to legislating the law for evicting the Bedouins from their lands.

The Arab villages are starngled through the lack of land for housing, public buildings, clinics. The Arab local councils have run for years from Pontius to Pilatus and cannot obtain a piece of land for establishing a school or a clinic or a cultural club in the village. Is it by mere chance that until this day no zoning plans exist for the great majority of the Arab villages? That no local planning licenses for building in the Arab villages are being issued? Everyone knows that the principal reason for the absence of these fundamentals for an ordered life and licensed building is the intention to continue the policy of national discrimination and eviction of Arab citizens from their lands. The Arab villagers who make their living from breeding sheep have their flocks driven away from their pasture and thus have their livelihood ruined. This is what happened in the middle of this month in the hamlet Mu'awiya in Wadi Ara where its inhabitants who live from breeding their flocks, were forbidden to have their flocks graze on the village's natural pasture under the pretext that this land has long ago become state land and all sorts of other pretexts. The harassments of the sphepherds, arrests, shots, threats - all these day-to-day actions against the inhabitants of this hamlet are committed in order to starve them, choke them. We condemn these acts and demand their cessation. These are things that happen

to many villages, to many inhabitants. This terror and this discrimination must be dropped.

The Arab inhabitants are choked through the lack of human housing. They are compelled to give twenty and sometimes thirty dunams of land in exchange for half a dunam for building a house. The houses which were built without license were not built because of any wish to build without license but because of the very situation which exists to this day, a situation which is continued by the government and ministry of the interior: A situation of absence of drawing up a zoning plan, so as to continue the policy of land plunder.

Why has the Arab agriculturist no right to acquire or rent land directly but only to work as a wage earner of his Jewish patron, who has the right to receive state land which the Arab agriculturist is forbidden to cultivate.

Members of Knesset,

The racist land policy waged in Israel, and which derives from the Zionist ideology is the crass and most dangerous expression of the national discrimination in Israel. It is dearly anti-democratic, does not only create a distorted society which fundamentally contradicts the human rights, but also bears within itself dangers for the whole Israeli society. Every democrat and conscientious person must demand the cancellation of the discrimination against Arab population on the issue of the land, and the conduct of a policy of equal rights for all the citizens of the state budget and proposing our reservations, we raise the question of the discrimination against the Arab population almost in all spheres of life and our reservations with regard to the budgets for social services express the demands for equality of rights.

Especially grave is the situation of the Arab local councils. Indeed, the situation of the local councils in Israel in general is very bad. They live from hand to mouth and in constant danger of being closed down. One time, Lahat Lahat, the mayor of Tel-Aviv and another time someone else - the mayor of Haifa or the mayor of Holon, threatens this. However, the situation of the Arab local councils is several times graver. They are strangled by

the budgets which in any case are cut down by the ministry of interior and grants that are given for two years, in which they are discriminated against from the outset and in the grossest manner.

The general budget for the local councils for this year reaches about 16.7 billion Shekels. What is the part of the Arab local councils from this total? Hardly 2.5 percent while population wise, the Arab local councils constitute about 12 percent. When the budgets of the local councils were fixed, the director-general of the ministry of interior, Mr. Kovarsky announced that the budgets totalling 16.7 billion Shekels are based on 4,700 Shekels per resident. In accordance with this, the budget of Nazareth, for example, should have been 240 million Shekels. And what is the real situation? The budget of the municipality of Nazareth does not reach 50 million Shekels, which makes the gross discrimination clearly stand out.

ZO-HADEREKH, April 9, 1981

THE TENDENCY TO THE GROWTH OF POVERTY WILL CONTINUE

Speech By MK Charlie Biton

Speaking in the debate about the state budget, Member of Knesset Charlie Biton, said:

The budget reflects the socio-economic policy of the government for the coming year. From whom to take and how much? Where and how much to invest? In our state, where tens of thousands are physically and psychologically consumed by poverty and the social gap, I hoped that in spite of everything, I will find in the budget some reference to the issue of poverty and social gap. To the regret and disappointment of the slum dwellers, there is not only no reference to this painful problem, but according to the paragraphs of the budget and its components a still greater deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the people who suffer from deprivation in Israel is to be expected.

Exactly one year ago an article in the "Yediot Ahronot" which predicted the growth of the number of families who live under the poverty line in Jerusalem, A responsible government would have immediately prepared the ways and means for solving these painful problems, especially as the party which rules today is the same party which at the beginning of the year 1977 promised that they would act for the liquidation of poverty and social gap within 9 months. As will be recalled, the prime minister himself announced that his government will "be good to the people".

Yesterday towards the deliberations about the new budget, information was published about the growth of the number of families who have lived under the poverty between the year 1977 and the year 1979. The growth was 78 percent. That is to say, this growth is to be put on the account of those "who will be good to the people". This is already not due to the inheritance (from the previous Alignment government - IB). The information also revealed that this tendency has continued also in the year 1980.

The lowering of the prices of motorcars, luxurious furniture and dish-washers does not contribute to the quantity of milk for children, which had been cut down by the cancellation of the subsidies. This cannot redress the socio-economic distortions and will not bring back the thousands of young families who have left the country because of the difficulties in finding housing.

All this acrobatics has been carried out in order to help the merchants and importers who had been encountering difficulties in marketing because of the reduction of the purchasing power and were facing bankruptcy. The actions of Aridor (Minister of Finance) were undertaken in order to save them. He lowered the prices of cars for the higher income brackets and raised the prices for public transportation for the lower income brackets.

In the paragraphs of work and welfare, health, education and housing no change has been made. The increase in the sums cannot cover even the differences made by the inflation. Therefore still more restrictions and freezing of the personnel, plans and welfare services are to be expected.

On the other hand, the government allocates billions for the colonial settlements which we will have to evacuate tomorrow and in addition to this we will perhaps also have to pay compensations to the settlers., amounting to billions of liras like the compensations paid to the evacuees of Sinai of 17 billion liras. For this sum one could have built 17 thousand flats for the slum dwellers and young married couples. For this sum we could have made easier the life of the despairing young couples.

ZO-HADEREKH, April 9, 1981

WILL JOURNALISTS BE HANDCUFFED?

By Yehuda Ungar

"Who knows, we might reach a situation where journalists will be handcuffed" - this cry was sounded by the chairman of the National Union of Israeli Journalists, Levi Yitzhaq Hayaroshalmi, at the general meeting of the Union in Tel-Aviv, held in February 27, 1981 in Bayt Sokolov. He expressed himself strongly regarding what is awaiting Israeli journalists. He reviewed the laws that were passed or about to be passed by the Knesset and whose aim is: limiting freedom of the press. The meeting adopted a decision which warned against this process and its dangers to the press, democracy and human rights in Israel:

"The meeting points out that freedom of the press constitutes a firm foundation for a democratic society. Every attempt to limit it, harms the immunity of the regime in the State as well as the fundamental human rights. The meeting strongly opposes every attempt to limit freedom of the press, by means of legislation."

A DRACONIC LAW AGAINST THE PRESS

One law which was entirely meant to silence newspapers and journalists, has already been passed by the Knesset. This law was called the Law for "Defence of Privacy" which under the cover of the attractive name (why not defend privacy?) and imposes severe prohibitions on those working in the press by forbidding them from publishing material which is of great importance to the public. Here is a partial list of those prohibitions:

- * Investigation or keeping watch over someone's movements which might harass him;
- * Publishing of a photograph of one person, with others, in circumstances in which the publication might insult or cause contempt to him;
- * Copying the contents of a letter or a document which is not for publication or use, without a permission from the addressor or addressee;

- * Using a news item regarding the private affairs of someone, or delivering it to another, not for the aim in whose name the news item was forwarded;
- * The publication of an affair that has to do with privacy of the personal affairs of someone, or regarding his health situation, or his behavior.

These prohibitions will prevent, from now onwards, revelations regarding corruption affairs, intentions to harm individuals or population groups or their rights, of conspiracies regarding public interest, etc.

The majority of the revelations regarding violations and the harming of public interest became known to the public by means of investigations of journalists, who obtained information and revealed it - by means of keeping watch over the movement of people, by obtaining documents, letters, etc and the publication of their contents.

From now onwards, all this will be forbidden. Any journalist who, nevertheless, will publish material of this kind, will run the risk, according to this law, of being imprisoned for one year, in addition to the payment of a large fine and even the payment of compensations according to a civilian claim of someone who consider that he was harmed by the publication.

It should be emphasized that private affairs are not involved at all. No journalist who respects himself will publish letters regarding love affairs or private secrets that are of no interest to the public. But the law purposefully does not distinguish between publications of this sort and publications which have a clear public character, for instance revealing crime, corruption, harming the citizens, etc. For instance, if a letter of Minister of Settlements A. Sharon, in which he orders his officials to confiscate lands belonging to residents of the occupied territories or to evict Bedouins from their residence - falls into the hands of a journalist and publishes it - without the permission of the Minister - in order to mobilize the public for the prevention of this planned injustice - he is liable to be punished.

Not in vain, this law was described by MK Mordachy Vershovski, as a "draconic law".

WHOEVER PUBLISHES THE TRUTH GOES TO PRISON

One of the special "qualities" of the Law "for the Defence of Privacy", makes it possible to punish, through it, journalists for publishing truth, or more correctly, regarding the publication of a true thing. Prior to the Law of Slander - which also limits freedom of the press - if a journalist proves that the things he published were true - it was impossible to convict him. But not according to this law. The publication of the truth is in contradiction to the list of prohibitions and is punishable.

However, under the pressure of the journalists and their institutions, a number of concessions were inserted. For example, it was stated in the Law that the accused or defendant can claim that the "harm was done under circumstances in which a legal, moral, social or professional obligation to do it was laid upon the injurer", or that "within this harm there was a public interest which justified it under the circumstances". But these definitions are too general and could be subject to arbitrary interpretation and their acceptance depends in the end, on the court, that is to say the matter is not clearly dealt with in the law itself.

This is a clear anti-democratic law even according to the concept of Western democracy prevailing also in our country. Its purpose is to defend the people of the establishment from revealing their illegal acts and the exploitation of their authority for persona; as well as party aims. This law also serves the existing Likud government and might serve - according to past experience - also the Alignment rule (if they indeed replace the Likud rule).

Because of this it is possible to understand the decision of the Alignment leadership not to vote against the law in the Knesset, but instead to give the freedom of voting to its members of Knesset and this regarding a law that severely harms democracy - namely freedom of the press.

THE FALSE DEFENDERS OF PRIVACY

Another law proposition, which is supposedly came to defend individual freedom, was presented to the Knesset by three members of Knesset - David Glass

(Mifdal, who was among others that put pressure in an aim to make the Knesset adopt the Law for the Defence of Privacy), Dov Shilanski (Likud) and Benjamin Halevi (DASH). The proposed aims of preventing the publication of names of detainees accused of committing a criminal felony until the presentation of charges in the court. The reasoning - defence of the individual (detainee) lest it appears that he is not guilty and will not stand for trial. Then why cause to him harm by publishing his name.

Newspapers, jouranalists and their institutions went out strongly against the above-mentioned law proposal.

The "Haaretz" daily (Feb. 11, 1981) wrote in its editorial:

"... the press opposes the proposed law, since its adoption will prevent it from carrying out two of its most vital roles: to reveal nuisances in the Israeli society and defend citizens from arbitrary arrests..."

The "Davar" daily (Feb. 11, 1981) wrote in its editorial:

"... this initiative contains a danger not only to freedom of the press in Israel, but also to democracy and the fight against gangsterism..."

The Committee of Editors of Daily Newspapers in Israel, the National Union of Journalists of Israel, the Union of Newspaper Administrations in Israel and the Council of Press in Israel, published in common a protest statement in which, among other things, it said:

"The proposed law will deny the public, vital information regarding public nuisance and will prevent the mass media from fulfilling its duty towards the public in reporting about negative phenomena in society. We will not lend a helping hand to the attempt to cover public officials, in this field, no matter who they are."

In this statement it was said that the law proposition constitutes: "a harm to the foundation of democracy and freedom of expression", and that "... the mass media in Israel, in all their kinds and trends, are united in absolutely rejecting it."

In an article published by the jurist Nathan Ribon in the Haaretz daily (March 13, 1981) an article entitled: ("A Pseudo Defence of the Rights of the Individual") in which he proves that this law proposal not only was not meant to defend the rights of the individual, but in many occasions - if it will be approved and becomes a law - will precisely harm these rights. The non-publication of the name of a detainee allows his arbitrary imprisonment, without informing his relatives or his lawyer, namely not allowing him to defend himself. This thing might be exploited also for political objectives. If an individual gets arbitrarily arrested on false charges, then the publication of his name and details of the incident will cause to him harm among his acquaintances. On the other hand, the non-publication of names of detainees who are really guilty of committing felonies, makes it hard on the fight for the extermination of crime.

Nathan Ribon draws the attention to an additional perspective. In the law proposal the publication of the name and details of the detainee were not only prohibited from being published in the press, but in general. Namely, not only the journalist who publishes these details will be liable to face half a year imprisonment but also the relatives of the detainee are liable to face the same charges, if, for instance, they talk about it to their neighbours.

THE PRESS INSTITUTIONS PROTEST

As we pointed out already, the unions of journalists and institutions of the press have come out strongly against the laws that limit freedom of the press. They also come out against the barren atmosphere which prevailed in regards to the press and which was sponsored by the government of the Likud-Mifdal and the circles close to it.

The Council of Press, the Committee of Editors, the National Union of the Journalists of Israel and the Union of the Administrations of Newspapers have recently

rejected the invitation of the Ministry of Justice to take part in the committee which was delegated to prepare an Israeli law for the press in place of the press order prevailing since the days of the British Mandate. In the letter expressing their rejection, it was, among other things, said:

"In face of the wave of attacks against the mass media which was also expressed by the Knesset in the preparation and the adoption of laws that severely harm the ability of the mass media to gather and publish information vital to the public we do not see it as appropriate to take part in any way in the debates regarding the preparation of a new law for the press."

We stand before a number of weeks prior to the end of the candidacy of the present Knesset and in the height of election season. We do not see any possibility today for a practical and relevant debate, detached from the political inclinations of different elements, for the legislation of a law whose results might be decisive regarding freedom of the press in the future.

It became known that in these unions and institutions, a suggestion was debated regarding the holding of a one-day general strike of all the Israeli newspapers, in protest against the limitations on freedom of the press.

The communist journalists join their call to the voice of all those who protest against these arbitrary laws and welcome the steps that were adopted for the defence of freedom of the press in Israel.

ISRAELI RULERS - WHERE TO?

Editorial of Al-Ittihad
(April 3rd., 1981)

The Israeli government is carrying out daily military attacks on Lebanese towns and villages and Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. In addition to this, the Israeli clown S'ad Haddad is violating Lebanese sovereignty with Israeli support. These military attacks are being accelerated with the deepening of the general crisis - economic, political, ministerial and social - which faces the Israeli rulers and the new administration in the United States and their aggressive designs in the region. It is no more secret that the Likud government and its generals would like to carry out a wide-range military aggression against Lebanon. Their calculation is that such a "capital" would help them to stay in power in Israel in consequence of the forthcoming elections. The Israeli rulers understand that sport victories and economic acrobatic steps of Aridor (minister of finance - IB) are not enough to keep them in power. But it should be said that there is a great difference between sports and economic victories from the one side, and the victory in a wide-range military aggressive action on the other. The first difference that the Likud rulers are "free" to run after sports and economic victories. Will Washington grant "freedom" to the Israeli rulers to carry out a general war which will definitely face the Syrian forces in Lebanon with the clauses of the Friendship and Cooperation Agreement between Syria and the Soviet Union! The second difference is that a general aggressive war at present is not a "game"

The Israeli forces have carried out this week two bloody raids in South Lebanon, the first was on Tuesday morning when Israeli forces ambushed civilian vehicles on the Tyre-Beirut highway and bombarded Palestinian refugee camps. The Israeli news media boasted that in this action they have killed 8 persons and wounded 12 Palestinians and Lebanese and that "our forces returned safe". The second operation took place the second day on Wednesday morning when an Israeli force raided a Lebanese village Toulin, adjacent to Marj Iyoun. This operation took the toll of one soldier from the regular

Lebanese army. The raiding Israeli force have blown up four houses in the village and kidnapped two civilians. This operation took place despite the fact that a Nigerian unit from UNIFIL is stationed in this Lebanese village. The provocations against UN forces either directly or through their puppet Sa'ad Haddad is an implementation of the the threats voiced last week by the Chief of Staff of the Israeli army, Rafael Eitan.

We follow with deep concern the escalation of the Israeli aggression and warn from its consequences. At the same time, we consider this adventurous escalation as an additional proof to the political bankruptcy which characterizes the Likud government and will definitely characterize any government which will follow this same bloody path. This path has recently led to a direct military confrontation with the United Nations (UNIFIL) and the resolutions of the Security Council. We know that the Israeli rulers are following this path after they had the impression that they have got the "green light" from the new American president Reagan. But we point out the following fact: Never before the General Secretary of the United Nations Kurt Waldheim, and the general commander of UNIFIL in South Lebanon were forced to adopt such a clear oposition to the continuation of the Israeli aggression in South Lebanon and to insist upon the complete liquidation of the dirty phenomena of Sa'ad Haddad. The adventurous Israeli military aggression costs highly and carries in its wake immense dangers. But, at the same time, it is a transparent attempt to cover up the suffocating crisis which engulfs all the Israeli aggressive designs against the Palestinian Arab people and against Lebanon. These adventures might bring to the Likud government certain votes in the forthcoming elections on the background of enormous ruins, but it cannot stand long against the resolutions of UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

Sound reasoning should have long ago led the Israeli rulers to comprehend that the military option is not the way out. If this did not happen till now, there is a great hope that the American "masters" will be forced to realize the new international correlation of forces, which is constantly changing in our world and which influences our region too and will force them to curb those who need to be curbed in Israel before it would be too late.

As it was proved that the "Egyptian option - Camp David" is not a way out and that the "Jordanian option" was born dead, it will become evident that the "military option" also is not a way out and nothing will remain to the Likud government and to all those who adhere to the policy of expansion, aggression and ignoring the rights of the peoples but to collapse willingly or unwillingly. There will be no practical way out except through the "Palestinian option", namely peace based on the just national rights of the peoples.

AL-ITTIHAD, April 3rd, 1981

THE MARKING OF THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF LAND DAY 1981

MARCHES TO THE MARTYRED VILLAGES

Four popular marches that included thousands of residents, led by the holders of wreaths and by bands of the Young Communist League took place in the afternoon and in the four martyred villages of Sakhnin, Arabeh, Kufur Kana and Deir Hanna.

In Sakhnin, the march began from the Front's square to the memorial of the Land Day martyres. In Arabeh, the march began from the local council square, went through the village streets and ended in front of the Land Day grave of the martyre Khair Yassin. Head of the Arabeh local council, Mohammed Ebri delivered a speech there. In Deir Hanna the masses gathered in the Land Day square then a large march went through the village. In Kufur Kana, the march started from the club of the Communist Party branch and reached the grave of the Land Day martyre, Mohsin Taha. There, the marchers put flowers wreaths and the head of the local council Saleh Abed al-Kader delivered a speech.

Popular delegations, headed by the National Committee for the Defense of Land have laid wreaths in front of the grave of the martyres in Sakhnin.

WE HAVE NO HOMELAND EXCEPT THIS ONE

The representatives of half a million Arabs in Israel who came to the Galilian town of Nazareth, have renewed the oath of their firm attachment to the homeland, the land, to the militant unity of ranks which made them a democratic force that no one can ignore and made them qualified to directly participate in the various coming campaigns, in the self-determination of their entire people and the future just peace.

Starting at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the masses from the villages came in groups, holding and chanting their slogans, and entered the square of the Municipal Secondary School. Their number exceeded 6000 thousand. This took place despite the concentration of police forces who behaved provocatively. The police attacked

a group of the Haifa Young Communist Leaguers who were on their way to the rally and arrested four of them. The police assaulted also four young women who were seen entering the festival square while being injured.

The festival was also attended by a big number of democratic Jews, headed by the communists and members of the Democratic Front, who came to express their solidarity with the Arab population. A number of prominent and progressive public figures and artists were seen in the festival.

On the restrum there sat the members of the National Committee for the Defense of Land, members of Knesset, Vilner, Toubi and Zayad, 17 heads of Arab local councils, tens of deputies and councilors, Sheikh Farhoud Farhoud, chairman of the Druse Initiative Committee, Prof. Daniel Amit, Prof. Mati Peled, the writer Amnon Kapiliok, editor of Al-Ittihad the writer Emile Habibi and a number of leaders of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality.

THE BEGINNING OF THE FESTIVAL

From amongst the chanting of over 6000 participate from Galilee, the Triangle and the Negev, Reverand Shihadeh Shihadeh, the chairman of the National Committee for the Defense of Arab Land, opened the Land Day festival by saying: We gather today in the fifth anniversary of Land Day in order to mark the memory of our martyres and in order to express together the unity of our ranks, our views and our path, a unity which cannot be defeated.

Head of the Sakhnin local council, Jamal Tarabay, said in his speech: We stand today in respect for those who shed their blood for the land of the dear homeland. He added: Land Day has united our ranks in support of the Democratic Front which is conducting a struggle against the policy aiming at eviction

Secretary of the National Committee for the Defense of Land, Saliba Khamis, declared that the police have blocked the street leading to the festival, and have provoked its participants. He added: We demand from the police to stop its provocations and release those who were detained. We proved that we are capable of holding an organized peaceful rally and we can keep order. The issue is that the police should stop its provocations.

ONE PEOPLE

As an incarnation of the unity of the sons of the Arab Druse Community with the sons of their Arab people, Sheikh Farhoud Farhoud, chairman of the Druse Initiative Committee delivered the Committee greeting on Land Day which has become a national holiday of our masses. He stated: We have no existence, nor steadfastness and neither life - without unified ranks. Sheikh Farhoud Farhoud stated: Allow me to convey to you the greeting of your steadfast brothers in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights who are giving the occupationists daily lessons in patriotism and struggle.

THE ARAB WOMAN

Mrs. Mary Kiryani from Kufur Yassif delivered a speech on behalf of the Arab woman. She stressed that time has come for the Arab woman to participate with her people in their struggle and get mobilized in this struggle against the rule of oppression and discrimination which has changed its color during the past 32 years.

Matitiyahu Peled, delivered a speech on behalf of Sheli, in which he read out a speech sent by Walid Sadeq, member of Knesset on behalf of Sheli. Matitiyahu Peled said: I call upon the government of Israel to return back all the lands that were confiscated in 1976 to their owners and pay appropriate compensations for them. There can be no compromise on this issue. Land confiscation is a crime committed against the Arab citizens. This crime cannot be erased except by returning these lands back to their owners.

Despite this, Prof. Peled dedicated the largest section of his speech in an attempt to beautify the Zionist movement and attributed his position to one of the PLO representatives in Europe, Issam Sartawi. The masses regarded this attempt by Prof. Peled as being both untrue and out of place.

Ahmad Kiwan from Um al-Fahim stressed the imperative-ness in the guarding of the militant unity of our masses. He added: There are 8 closed zones in the northern section of the Triangle. Local committees have begun preparing petitions demanding the opening of these zones. We call upon the National Committee to support us in our just struggle.

MEIR VILNER

Member of Knesset and Secretary General of the Communist Party of Israel, Meir Vilner, delivered a speech which was interrupted by waves of applause. Vilner stated: Land Day has become a day of struggle for the Arab masses in Israel, the Jewish democratic forces, the Palestinian people, the Arab peoples and the entire progressive world - against national oppression in Israel as well as against the occupation. Land Day is a day of the unity of the masses in the struggle for equality and an end to occupation. This struggle is also in the interest of the people in Israel because both peoples are interested in peace. Such peace cannot be realized without withdrawal and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel.

Meir Vilner condemned the police assault on YCL Haifa branch members that took part in the festival in Nazareth and the shooting at a woman resident of the Jalazoun refugee camp. He chanted: Hold off your hands from this people!

Reverend Shihadeh Shihadeh read out a greeting that was sent by the Solidarity Committee of Cyprus with the Arab Peoples, and tens of greetings from the occupied territories.

KUFUR BUR'UM

On behalf of the residents of the village of Kufur Bur'um, advocate Anis Shaqour delivered a speech in which he revealed the continued government promises for the residents of the two villages of Kufur Bur'um and Iqrit to return to their villages. These promises have always evaporated. He added that the residents of Kufur Bur'um have gathered in their church inside the village last Saturday and have decided to revive their case in order to draw the attention of the local and international public opinions. On the coming April 19th, the residents will organize a march from the adjacent Gish village to their villages.

Prof. Daniel Amit said that Land Day is to the Arab masses a 365 days in the year. He added: We must save this country from the reality of having our children being

brought up in the shadow of hatred, discrimination, robbery and militarism.

TAWFIQ ZAYAD

In a comprehensive and enthusiastic speech, mayor of Nazareth, the host town, Comrade Tawfiq Zayad stated: Today, we are facing many challenges. As a people, we reject the entire policy of the present government just as we did in the past. We will not accept an option between the Deir Yassin and Kufur Qassim massacres (Deir Yassin was in 1948 and Kufur Qassim in 1956 - IB). The only option which we insist upon is that of complete equality. Our Arab masses will continue its future struggle against the policy of land expropriations, the setting up of watch towers and for our right to equality, development and for complete equality to our Arab local councils.

Mayor Zayad added: We are part of this state and we do not accept anything but equality. At the same time, we are part of the Palestinian Arab people and we struggle for their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state alongside the State of Israel. Let it be clear for everybody, that when we say this, we emphasize at the same time that we are steadfast and will stay here in our homeland. We are inhabitants of this country and we have no homeland except this one.

Mayor Zayad further said: Whoever really wants peace should make it neither with Sa'ad Haddad (the pro-Israeli Lebanese right wing mercenary - IB) nor with Sa'ad Murtada (the Egyptian ambassador to Israel), but must sit down with Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Zayad read out excerpts from the greeting of the PLO which emphasizes the solidarity of the PLO with the programme of the Democratic Front for comprehensive and just peace.

HERE, WE SHALL STAY

Head of the Tamra local council, Mr. Abass Hijazi, stressed in his speech that land is ours, it is our right, we are the owners and we accept no substitute for it. He added: We will stay on this land and will live on it.

Al-Ittihad, March 31, 1981

UNDER THE YOKE OF OCCUPATION

THIRTY THREE YEARS ON THE DEIR YASSIN MASSACRE

Thirty three years ago and on April 9th, 1948, the "Itsel" Zionist fascist gang committed one of the most brutal bloody massacre against the Palestinian Arab people by attacking the peaceful village of Deir Yassin (adjacent to Jerusalem) and massacred hundreds of children, women and elderly.

In memory of those martyres, which took place on April 9th, students from the schools of Nablus, Ramallah and Al-Bireh held demonstrations. The students at higher institutions and in colleges held a strike. In Ramallah, tens of students held a demonstration and clashed with the army and the colonial settlers who were passing through the town and who attempted to disperse them by force. The demonstrators threw stones at the settlers who arbitrarily shot at them. The occupation forces imposed curfew on two regions of the town.

In Nablus, the occupation forces broke into the Qadri Touqan school, shot at the demonstrating students and arrested tens of them. Students at the M'azouz Al-Masri school held another demonstration. The demonstrators burned tires in the streets.

FIVE PALESTINIAN INMATES IN THE HEBRON JAIL SUFFER FROM OPPRESSION AND DISCRIMINATION

In a report that was dispatched to the Al-Ittihad Party biweekly, advocate Walid Fahoum reviewed the harsh conditions faced by 500 Palestinian inmates in the Hebron jail.

Advocate Walid Al-Fahoum states that "the basic problem faced by the political prisoners in the Hebron jail is that of overcrowdedness. The situation in room No. 11 in this jail cast a light on the general conditions. This room houses 24 inmates who sleep on 16 sponge-made thin mattresses, namely two-thirds of a mattress per inmate. The territorial zone of each inmate does not exceed 1½ squared metres. The inmates spend 21 hours daily inside this suffocating crowdedness. A break twice a day is provided to the inmates where they

stroll in a square that lacks any sunshine.

Another problem from which the inmates suffer is that due to financial difficulties, the International Red Cross has, since April 1981, stopped its assistance to parents of inmates wishing to visit their sons in jail.

In addition to these problems, the Palestinian political prisoners suffer from lack of hot water. Recently, prison authorities have confiscated the soap from the inmates. The prison authorities of the Ramla jail allow its inmates to receive from their relatives a total of 1500 Israeli Liras, while at the Hebron jail, the Palestinian inmates are allowed to receive only 500 Israeli Liras, a sum that does not cover the purchase of cigarettes.

THREE PALESTINIAN WOMEN STRUGGLE AGAINST SICKNESS AND OPPRESSION IN THE NEVI TARTSA PRISON OF WOMEN

After visiting the Nevi Tartsa prison of women, advocate Walid Fahoum, dispatched a report to Al-Ittihad regarding the conditions of 3 Palestinian inmates.

TERES HALSA

A young woman from Acre was sentenced in 1972 for life imprisonment after being charged with membership in the Al-Fateh organization.

Teres informed advocate Fahoum that she was operated on three times after she was shot. In addition, she suffers from an ulcer and a skin disease and receives no appropriate medical treatment.

ZUHA FRAYTICH

A young woman from occupied Nablus. She was arrested in 1979 and sentenced to two years and seven months prison term, after being convicted of "theoretical" training on how to produce a Molotov Cocktail, of participation in demonstrations and of throwing stones on the occupation soldiers in Nablus.

Zuha suffers from stomach pains and is forced to work extra time in the field inside the prison premises.

IMAN MAHMOUD ABU KHATER

A young woman from Tul-Karem who was arrested in November 29, 1980. She was accused of membership in Al-Fateh organization and the possession of 2½ kilograms of gun powder. She has not been tried yet.

It should be mentioned that Iman's brother has been recently released from jail after being convicted on similar charges. The occupation authorities have also arrested her elderly father and another brother despite the fact of having no relation whatsoever with her arrest nor with her charges.

NEWS IN BRIEF

RELEASE OF GADI AL-GAZY

In response to pressure by local and international public opinion and due to a wide popular solidarity campaign with the struggle of Gadi Al-Gazy, the draft dodger who on principle refuses to serve in the occupied territories - the Chief of the Israeli army Gen. Rafael Eitan was forced to take measures in his responsibility that led to the release of Al-Gazy last week prior to the completion of his prison term.

Eitan has reduced the prison term of Al-Gazy from one year and half of actual imprisonment to half a year and kept a 3-year suspended sentence. Thus Gadi Al-Gazy has spent 8 months in prison since the beginning of his courageous and just struggle. However, this campaign has not ended and is still undecided, because the Israeli authorities still refuse to recognize the right to refuse military service inside the occupied territories.

It should be noticed that the arrest and non-recognition of the right of Al-Gazy to refuse to be an occupationist soldier has generated a wide, local and international solidarity campaign which was characterized by protest meetings, demonstrations and the dispatching of protest letters to the Prime Minister and to the Ministry of Defence.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH ARAB STUDENTS

On the background of the fascist assaults against the Arab students attending Israel's universities, and due to the helplessness of the police and its lenient attitude towards the hoodlums - a national conference organized by the National Union of Arab Students was held on March 20th., 1981 in the Arab city of Shafamer.

The Conference was attended by chairman of the NUAS, Mohammed Barakeh; mayor of Shafamer, Ibrahim Nimer; secretary of the NUAS, Jawad Boulos; representative of the CAMPUS organization Dani Badnis; chairman of the Militant Committee for the cancellation of the Resolu-

tion to Ban the Confernce of the Arab Masses, Dr. Emile Touma; member of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Defense of Arab Land, advocate Mohammed Me'ari and mayor of Nazareth MK Tawfiq Zayad.

Prior to this national conference, a demonstration in protest against fascist bloody assaults was held by the Arab students in Jerusalem on March 3rd., 1981 and a solidarity meeting was held in Haifa on March 12, 1981 and was addressed by a CAMPUS representative, a group of Jewish democratic professors and representatives of the Arab students.

THE MARKING OF MARCH 8 - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN IN ISRAEL

On behalf of the Movement of Democratic Women and other democratic municipalities and public organizations, March 8 was celebrated by rallies, bazars, festivals and lectures.

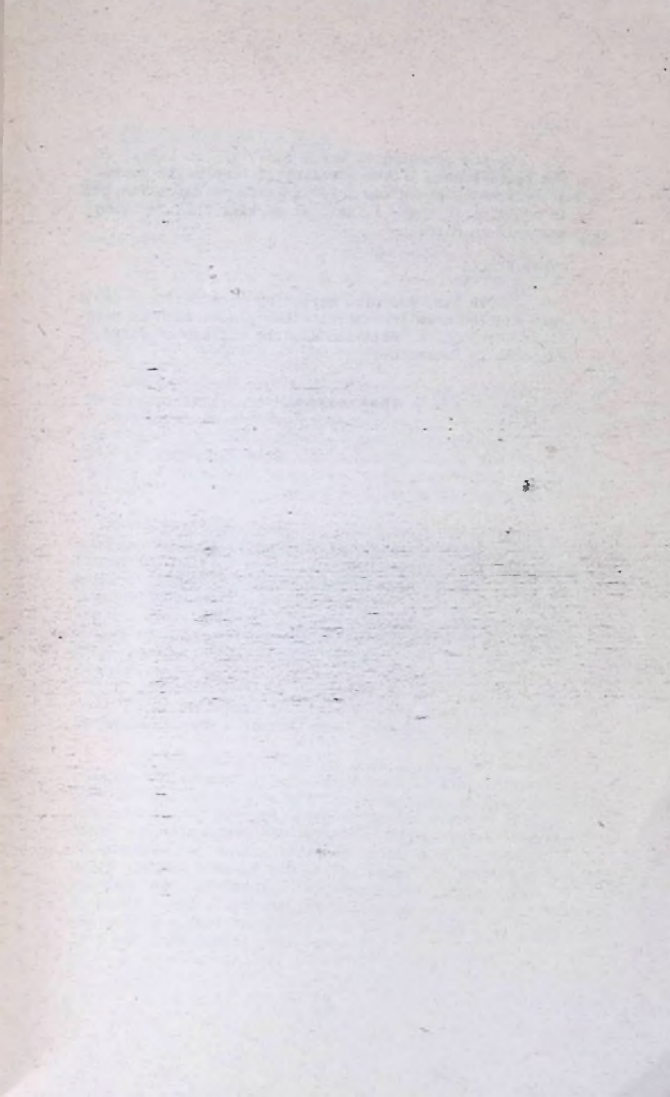
NAZARETH

The Nazareth democratic municipality held a party on March 2nd, 1981, especially in honour of its female employees and in celebration of March 8. The party was addressed by mayor of Nazareth comrade Tawfiq Zayad, who hailed the female employees of the municipality on the occasion of March 8 - the International Day of Women.

On March 7th, the Movement of Democratic Women held a large festival in celebration of March 8th., in the Diana movie theatre. The festival was addressed by several women activists.

ACRE

On March 8th, the Acre branch of the Movement of Democratic Women held a festival in Ulami Akko, Acre, in which it marked the International Day of Women. Several speakers from the neighboring Arab villages addressed the meeting which was concluded with a programme of music playing, singing and dancing.



HAIFA

On the occasion of March 8th., and on behalf of the Haifa branch of the Movement of Democratic Women, a Jewish-Arab bazar was held in Haifa on March 7th, 1981. In addition to that, a festival marking this occasion was held in Haifa.

OTHER PLACES

March 8th, was also marked by celebrations, festivals and lectures in several other places such as Majd El-Kroum, Buqai'a, Beit Jan and the village of Jaffa, adjacent to Nazareth.

DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS

GREETINGS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL TO THE TWELVTH CONGRESS OF THE BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY HELD ON 31.3.1981.

Dear Comrades;

Delivered by Emile Touma, member
of the Political Bureau.

Our delegation has the honour to bring to the Twelfth Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the warm fraternal greetings of the Communist Party of Israel, of the Jewish and Arab communists and of the many friends of socialist Bulgaria in our country.

We have been profoundly impressed by the Report of the General Secretary of the B.C.P. Comrade Todor Zhivkov to your Congress and feel that its review of the achievements scored by the energetic creative Bulgarian people. and its realist plan for the acceleration of the construction of developed socialism, will inspire the people to fulfill further successes in socialist upbuilding.

We have come fresh from our nineteenth congress, held in Haifa in February 1981, it was of great significance. In the face of the economic, political, social and moral crisis gripping the country as a result of the anti-popular, aggressive and expansionist policy of the ruling circles, our congress endorsed the only viable alternative policy capable of rescuing Israel from the explosive and dangerous dead end, it has reached, both internally and externally.

It is no longer possible to hide that Israel's isolation in the international arena is complete.

Our programme of action, once implemented would reverse the catastrophic consequences of the militarization of the country; rebuff the creeping phenomena of fascism; arrest the galloping inflation of over 130% last year; liquidate the expanding unemployment; increase expenditure on social services which have been drastically reduced because 66% of the budget is earmarked for military establishment - for adventurist aggressive purposes - and eliminate the policy of national oppression and racial discrimination which has been the lot of the Arab national minority in Israel.

Our 19th Congress reiterated that the struggle for peace in our region is pre-eminent.

Such a comprehensive, just and durable peace can never be achieved through imperialist US manipulation, such as the Camp David conspiracy and its appendage of separate so-called Israeli-Egyptian peace.

Our Congress emphasized that the Palestine question is the crux of the Middle East crisis and its solution is a prerequisite for the defusion of the explosive situation in our region, pregrant with the danger of a war conflagration whose repercussion could not be predictable. Our Party which condemns the escalation of the Israeli vicious terror against the Palestinian people - both in the occupied territories - the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and in South Lebanon - fights for the Israeli-Palestinian Peace that would end the magic circle of bloodshed in our region and institute the desired comprehensive, durable peace.

Our Party demands, for this purpose, the withdrawal of Israel from the West Bank, including Arab Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent national state alongside Israel; and the respect of the independence and sovereignty of all the states in the region, including Israel.

We draw great strength and encouragement that this peace plan correponds with the international consensus as expressed, among other forms, by the resolutions of the United Nations Organization.

At the same time it is of utmost importance that the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization - the PLO considers that our peace plan converges with its perspectives. However, our Party draws also substantial strength from the fraternal solidarity and identification, of the communist and working class parties all over the world.

We valued immensely the fact that the socialist states - among them Bulgaria - of the Warsaw Pact - in their conference in Warsaw in May 1980 emphasized the need to resolve the Middle East crisis and suggested specific

elements for this purpose. These were parallel and converged with our Israeli-Palestinian Peace plan.

Our Party welcomed with enthusiasm the Soviet initiative towards this end, announced by comrade Leonid Brezhnev in his report to the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, held last February.

During the coming days and weeks our Party - the leading force of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality - will contest the Trade Union elections for our Trade Union organization - the Histadrut - and our Parliament - the Knesset.

We join this double competition with optimism because we represent the only viable and peaceful future for our people.

Our Party understands fully that the success of its struggle is organically interconnected with the paramount struggle for detente and peaceful co-existence between states of different social regimes. It is aware of the US imperialist onslaught on detente, and warns against the danger for our country, our region and the world.

However, we are convinced that this onslaught would be rebuffed. The anti-imperialist and revolutionary forces in the world are strong enough to do so.

In our view the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Bulgarian Socialist State and the Bulgarian people would play a great role in this decisive objective.

We are most happy to be in the same camp with the Bulgarian Communist Party. We are most happy that the relationship between our two parties is friendly, deep-rooted and solid. We shall consolidate this fraternal friendship still further on the common Marxist-Leninist principles.

Long live the 12th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party!
Long live the fraternal friendship of our two parties!
Long live communism!

S U P P L E M E N T

ISRAEL'S GLOBAL TASK - TO BE SUPPLIER OF
ARMS - By Professor Israel Shahak.

In this issue we publish the first part
which appeared in ZO-HADEREKH, March 25th,
and April 1st., 1981. The second part will
be continued in our next issue.

ISRAEL'S GLOBAL TASK - TO BE A SUPPLIER OF ARMS

By Professor Israel Shahak

We tend to be so immersed in our perpetual struggle here in Israel and the occupied territories, and in a wider sense, in our support of the progressive forces in the Middle East, that we tend to forget that in recent years the State of Israel has also an additional task all over the world: To be an ally and supplier of arms to the most contemptible and hated regimes in the world.

This task which the State of Israel fulfills, has in recent years assumed great quantitative importance. Not long ago we read in the "New York Times" that Israel is the seventh state in the world in its export of arms. The same article specified the amount of 1.3 billion dollars as the value of Israel's arms export for the year 1980. Other estimations, such as that of the Institute for Strategic Studies in London and the Institute for Peace Researches in Stockholm, have specified even greater sums, up to 1.45 billion dollars. For the benefit of comparison we will point out that in the previous year, 1979, the total of the entire Israeli export was only 3.8 billion dollars. We will not err much if we suppose that in the year 1980 (about which we have as yet no complete data), the part of the arms export in the whole export was at least 40 percent (supposing that export did indeed rise). We live ever more on the death and destruction of others - of the Palestinians here and of numerous peoples in other parts of the world. One must assume that a large proportion, if not the entire "assistance" which we receive from the USA stems from these two reasons.

We will open with a brief and partial description of the states all over the world, which are today (or have recently been) our allies and to which we supply arms and assistance of another kind in large quantities.

EL-SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA

As known, El-Salvador, is now in the centre of world-wide interest. The brutal murders carried out by the junta, which rules over that state, both by its army and by murderous organizations which are maintained

by the authorities, have had some publication also in the Israeli press, and have gained wide prominence in the world press. According to data of the Institute for Peace Researches in Stockholm, the State of Israel supplied in 1980, the entire import of arms of that murderous regime. The whole world (of course with our exception) sees on the television the "Galil" rifles and "Uzi" sub-machine guns in the hands of the murderers. In many states, including West Europe and - sometimes - even in the USA, the television commentators are accustomed to remark: "These persons (or women, or children, or nuns, or ministers of the church have been killed by the bullets of "Uzi" or "Galil" - or this village has been bombed by "Arava" planes made in Israel." These planes are described in the publicity columns of the western commercial press, which specialize in encouraging the sale of that kind of equipment as "commercial" planes which can quickly be converted for military use, and the numbers of soldiers, bombs and cannons with which they can be equipped are set out in detail. Only our own communication media avoid pointing out these facts. After all this we wonder "Why we are not loved?" and this is ascribed to anti-Semitism or to "Arab money", instead of asking ourselves what we are doing to the world!

According to foreign sources, El-Salvador is not the only country in America which we provide with arms. Israel was an important arms supplier (of the whole import) of Guatemala, whose murderous regime equals and perhaps surpasses that of El-Salvador. What is interesting, is the inception of these friendly ties between the two states. Several years ago the oppression in Guatemala reached a record: Hundreds of students who were demonstrating were cut down by machine-guns in the central square of the capital. The world (with the exception of Israel) was shocked and the USA stopped for a while - the arms supplies to Guatemala. With a short space of time, the chief-of-staff of Guatemala together with Marcus Katz (one of the important agents of arms deals of Israel in that region (about whom we will speak later),
.....
..... we will yet see this phenomenon of olympic calm in many similar cases.

But one of Israel's records in that region was the prolonged and close cooperation with the Somoza regime in Nicaragua. In the last year of the existence of the Somoza regime, Israel supplied 98 percent of its arms import. This fact assumes great importance if we recall that only in the last two years the Somoza regime killed about 50 thousand people! If we recall that his regime bombed - principally with "Arava" and "West Wind" planes made in Israel, the poverty slums of their capital, Managua, and other towns inside the state. After the final fall of the Somoza regime the dimensions of the Israeli assistance were published in the whole world. This assistance is felt to this day - as the People's Army of free Nicaragua is mainly equipped with the captured Israeli-made arms, which were found in Somoza's arsenal and this could be seen in all photos taken of this army.

We have seen the series of articles in "Davar", written by Nahum Barnea and Shimschon Ehrlich, which have to some extent been eye-openers not only in this affair, but also with regard to the whole structure of the death machinery made in Israel. Thus we have learned ("Davar", November 23, 1979) that the "Galil" rifles sold by Israel to the regime of Anastasio Somoza in mid-1978, were directly sent to a special terror unit commanded by the son of Somoza, which carried out murder of political opponents, among them women and children. The rifles were sold to Somoza in contravention of normal usage and no account was taken of the political damage that will be caused to Israel in Latin America because of this deal." (My emphasis - IS)

Of interest is the consideration of the newspaper "Davar", which loyally represents the whole Israeli establishment: Not the blood of people, women and children is the important thing. Not the abysmal hypocrisy is decisive: Israel, which pretends to be "against terror" supplies arms to the worst of all terrorists (just as it turns a plane-hijacker into a national hero, while continuing to condemn plane hijackers!). The only factor which is important is "the political damage", that is to say if the blood that has been shed, blood of women and children, has in the opinion of the establishment's specialists brought "political benefit" instead of damage to the State of Israel - then everything is okay! A greater hypocrisy than such considerations is hard to imagine.

MARCUS KATZ, HAMMER, BEN-MEIR AND THE CIRCLES CLOSE TO BEGIN

But let us continue the story: "The agent who struck the arms deal with Somoza was considered a friend of Nicaragua's ruler and a friend of the top personalities in Israel, David Marcus Katz" ("Davar", December 13, 1979). In continuation ("Davar", November 14, 1979) the authors set out in detail the character of the friendship and ties: according to spokesmen of his friends, "Katz, who left this country, before the 1948 war, serves today as the agent of about 17 Israeli enterprises, partly suppliers of military equipment and first and foremost the aviation industry and army industry (Ta'as). He frequently visits this country and meets some political personalities with whom he has close contacts, some of them in the Likud and the Mifdal (National Religious Party). He is known for his close connection with minister Hammer and member of Kneset Ben-Meir (leaders of the fanatical religious-nationalist Gush-Emunim - IB) and for his contributions to religious funds... at the higher governmental echelons the impression has been created that Katz has the backing of political circles, among which such as are close to the prime minister." (My emphasis - I. SH.)

To this we must add that the friends of the friend of the tyrant Somoza are not only limited to the circles of the Likud and the Mifdal. The newspaper, which has praised and lauded this arms dealer to the sky was precisely "Al-Hamishmar". ("Who are you, Marcus Katz?" by Dr. Eliyahu Harel, December 30, 1980). There is no limit to the praises which this paper, that permanently bears the slogan "For Zionism, Socialism, and Brotherhood of the Peoples", heaps on the friend of the murderers of women and children: Marcus Katz speaks Hebrew fluently, has pleasant manners; his public activity he began in this country as one of the founders of Na'm - Mizrahi Youth (Mizrahi - precursor of Mifdal - IB). Like the majority of people at that period he joined the 'Hagana' (the main Zionist military organization in British-ruled Palestine - IB), but in 1947, before the establishment of the State he went to his parents in Mexico... According to him, he did not find it easy to leave the country on the eve of the establishment of the State, but one of the Mizrahi leaders at that time, David Zvi Pinkas, imposed on him the mission

to establish a branch of the movement in Mexico". In addition to this, "Al-Hamishmar" points out with satisfaction and pride that mister Katz is a patron of religious institutions in the USA, Mexico and Israel; has instituted the Katz Prize - for encouraging the "ways for activating the Halakha (Jewish religious law - IB) in modern life", has also received certificates of the "crown of the Tora" (the Old Testament of the Bible - IB) and received a degree of doctor honoris causa from the "Yeshiva University" (religious university - IB). "Al-Hamishmar" also hastens to point out that the "affair of the plane which brought ammunition composed of the 'Galil' rifles, whose destination was Guatemala, which landed on Barbados and was seized by the local authorities, was connected with the Eisenberg corporation and not the Katz corporation". This really consoles us and on this occasion we have learned how and why the Alignment passed in the Knesset the notorious "Eisenberg Law" which exempts this arms dealer from paying income tax.

But we will be mistaken if we think that even Nahum Barnea and Yossef Periel, although they infinitely surpass the "Al-Hamishmar", have made the final account or the real account of Israel's arms deals, even with regard to the Somoza regime. First of all, the matter which interests them particularly is money. Did Katz receive an exaggerated commission? Were steps undertaken to diminish his commission? To all these questions, whose importance is nil, they devote the greater part of their series, together with a detailed description of the internal plots (do the Israeli ambassadors give sufficient assistance to the arms export? Whether or not the aviation industry should dominate this export, etc.).

"THE LEADING GROUP IN THE ISRAELI INDUSTRY"

Only in the last article of the series ("The Robot Rises Against His Maker", "Davar", November 16, 1979) the authors come to the main point. First of all, they state, to my view justifiedly, that the "arms-producing enterprises" are the "leading group in Israeli industry". The export of these arms "to states, which in their majority cannot acquire arms in the United States; and the regime in some of these states is noted for its notoriety." (this is of course only a half-truth.

There is not a single state , to which Israel sells arms in great quantities, whose regime is not noted for its notoriety!). However, the authors also point out "advantages": "A large arms industry is apt to contribute a decisive share to the Israeli war effort in emergency conditions. In addition to this, this is a sphere in which Israel has a relative superiority and prestige. It is important to state that the decisions on this issue were taken years ago and the responsibility for them - for better or for worse - rest with the political echelon, the former minister of defence, Shimon Peres." The authors also call attention to the fact that within this framework the government ministries enabled ambassadors and senior Israeli army officers to get integrated in the arms trade, and ignore the whole true and juridicial significance of such an act." But in spite of the promised investigation into this matter by the foreign ministry, under this regime, there was not and will not be any investigation of the basic significance of Israel's friendship with the Somoza regime. Also the view of the authors is here extremely amazing (even though it is characteristic of the Israeli society): "About six months before the downfall of the tyrant, the Israeli government promised the Americans to join the embargo on arms supplies to Nicaragua. The government was not obliged to make the promise (my emphasis - I.SH.) but when it had made the promise it was obliged to keep it. The promise was grossly broken. When this was exposed, her international trustworthiness was severely damaged. Ostensibly, in this affair actions were carried out without any authoritative confirmation." The authors also repeat the exposure of Shimshon Ehrlich in "Ha'aretz" of November 14, 1979, that an "agent of the corporations which deal with arms export ... continued supplying Israeli weapons to Somoza until the final stages of his downfall... The agent employed one of his men in Nicaragua, who lived in the bunker of Somoza's army commander. This man presented himself as a commander in the Israeli army..." In view of what we have here read about "senior Israeli army officers", who "were enabled" to "get integrated in the arms trade," one can definitely assume that this "presentation" was the truth!

We have dealt at length with the case of Somoza's regime because of the more detailed information available about it and because of the political importance of

Marcus Katz, who not long ago was honored by the (Israeli - IB) Chief Rabbi, Shlomo Goren, government minister Zevulun Hammer and two hundred other guests of the top Israeli society who were especially flown to the wedding of Katz's daughter (at the expense of Marcus Katz, or more correctly at the expense of the blood of the murdered which cries from the earth against the guests of the murderers' friend.

We will, more briefly, deal with other Latin American states: According to foreign sources, Israel has supplied arms to Honduras
.....
.....
in South America, Israel supplies large quantities of arms to the following tyrannical states:.....
Paraguay, Argentina, Chile and Ecuador. Of special interest is the close cooperation of Israel with Paraguay, a state known as a shelter of the worst nazis.

Much is known about Israel's cooperation with Argentina (a state, in which according to a report of "Amnesty International", Jewish prisoners are forced to kneel before Hitler's picture!) and with Chile. About this we are told by Marcel Zohar (Israeli Generals in South America, "Ha'aretz", August 10, 1978): "In the course of one and half months three Israeli generals (in reserve) visited Argentina. In May this year Lieut.-General in the reserves Hayim Laskov (former chief-of-staff of the Israeli army - IB) arrived in Buenos Aires.... Laskov came there on the eve of the (Israeli) Independence Day. After meeting Jews from Buenos Aires, he met the chief of staff of the Argentinian army and held conversations with him and others. Laskov was received with all respect by the senior officers corps of the army and his visit opened the path to additional Israeli generals (in reserves) to visit the South American continent. The additional generals, according to this article are: General (in reserves) Mordekhai Hod who lectured to the general staff of the Argentinian air force), visited in July. One week after Hod's visit, Argentina welcomed Lieut.-Gen. (i. res.) Motte Gur. Motte Gur arrived at Buenos Aires after his visit to Chile. In Chile he was welcomed by the president of the state, General Augusto Pinochet, and he held talks with various elements. Gur attempted

to defend Pinochet's regime, saying that the reports of the press about Chile are not commensurate with reality."

Such a thing is of course called being "more Catholic than the Pope". In the opinion of Motte Gur, even the enslaved and censored press of Chile is an exaggeration...

GUR AND PINOCHET'S VICTORY

However, Motte Gur who has a senior position in the Labour Party writes in "Davar" (the official organ of the Labour Party-controlled Histadrut - IB) every week (but not about Chile!). He has let himself be photographed with Pinochet (the photo is being distributed, as I can witness, in the USA as an "Israeli proof" how "good" the regime in Chile is). He also declared before (Pinochet): "I know that Chile's army has become used to gaining victories and has an appetite for gaining victories". We remember of course over whom this victory was achieved. How is it said: "Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are."

After this visit with one of the biggest murderers of the world, it is no wonder that when he came to Argentina, the Israeli embassy celebrated "with great success the 'Motte Gur' festival in Argentina. Gur appeared on Television... The Argentine treated him as if he was still the chief-of-staff." Replying to questions of a newspaper, he confirmed that "we are very much interested in our trade in this sphere..." The author continues pointing out that "this is no secret; everybody knows that Israel has in an international tender successfully competed with powers with a long tradition in this sphere, with regard to arms for the Argentinian army." Motte Gur also talked with General Viola, the supreme commander of the Argentinian army. Also a festive reception was given to him" (with the presentation of the film that was produced by Golan about the Entebbe operation) in one of the halls of the Jewish community in Buenos Aires... among those present were the heads of the intelligence services and the operational staff of the Argentinian army" - that is to say those who are responsible for the tortures and disappearance of thousands of people and other outrages. The photos showing Motte Gur together with the murderer of the Argentinian people are also distributed in the

USA and constitute an effective propaganda weapon.

Before leaving the American continent, which has been saturated with blood and tears by the export of Israeli arms, Israel's ties with Ecuador will provide us with a kind of comic relief in all this tragedy. It seems to me that whoever collects newspaper clippings will recall the episode which Matti Golan published in "Ha'aretz" at the beginning of the year 1977 (March, 22, 23 and 28, 1977). It turned out that "Ghandi" (nickname of general Rehavam Ze'evi - IB) together with the actor Hayim Topol proposed to the government of Ecuador, sophisticated equipment and man-power for service in the war against "terror". The third person in this deal was Mister Bezalel Mizrahi, whose name is very well-known.... (in connection with organized crime in Israel - IB). General Rehavam Ze'evi was introduced by the Israeli ambassador in Ecuador (who had not been notified about the visit beforehand) as a private person. But a brief clarification showed that he still was on the pay roll of the prime minister's office (then Yitzhaq Rabin), where he until shortly ago served as an "advisor in the war against terror." Additional facts in this affair have come to the fore in Matti Golan's investigation. He tried to ask in government ministries what the connection was between actor Hayim Topol and the war against terror. The reply of a senior official in the prime minister's office was an attempt at convincing him not to publish the information, claiming that "Ghandi" is on his way to carry out private business and the publication would damage his livelihood... The question about the connection between play acting and terror was clarified later: Hayim Topol alleged at first that he exports biblical films to Ecuador. After further investigations he confirmed his partnership in "Ghandi's" group, which included apart from Hayim Topol and Bezalel Mizrahi a former member of the "Mossad" (Israeli espionage and terror agency -IB), whose name is not permitted for publication".

After "some security factors" came forward - without great success - to help "Gahndi", claiming that he and Bezalel Mizrahi have great plans, in which a large number of Israeli security specialists are involved, "Ghandi" himself also explained himself. In a long interview in "Yedi'ot Ahronot" (April 1, 1977) he announ-

ced that first of all he does not see anything shameful in being an arms dealer and revealed that the business ties with Hayim Topol for the distribution of biblical films he had started in South Africa(!). He remarked that this is a well-paying business and that he has serious intentions to establish a company for security advice outside Israel. He explained that Israel has many persons who had terminated their duty in the security services, that they encounter difficulties in finding work in Israel, in conformity with their qualifications. His company will not only solve this problem, but it will also cause an influx of foreign currency into Israel. He agrees beforehand to supervision of his company by state institutions. The only concern of "Ghandi" was that such "specialists" will perhaps exploit their job for leaving Israel. Therefore, he proposed various means to prevent this danger.

We do not know the continuation of these matters. But I should not be astonished at all if such a commercial company still exists and that next to the big item of Israel's incomes from export of arms also stands a small item of incomes from the export of specialists in tortures. And I have forgotten - also from biblical films which are distributed by "specialists" against terror...

ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

For the benefit of the subject of this article we will ignore the "duties" which Israel has fulfilled in the Arab countries of North Africa, because these "duties" are the same as Israel's "duties in the Middle East". We do this in spite of the fact that recently the world press has published numerous details, for instance of the decisive part played by Israel in the re-establishment of the Moroccan secret services in the sixties (according to an English book published in London), in the kidnapping and murder of Ben-Barka and all sorts of "visits" and "meetings" of the Alignment leaders and adherents of Shelli, such as Amos Kenan, in that state.

We will here speak about the African countries to the south of the Sahara desert.

Before the 1967 war, Israel had an enormous influence in a considerable part of the African states. The

1967 war and still more the 1973 war and the obstinate refusal of the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied territories and to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians caused a political landslide in this part of the world, with the exception, of course, of South Africa. Precisely the position of the Israeli conqueror, strengthened the friendship between these two states. We will first of all deal with those states of black Africa where Israel has as yet a strong influence and in continuation we will devote the main points of our discussion of Israel's relations with South Africa and the adjacent states.

In three of the independent states recently a very strong Israeli influence has been felt: The Ivory Coast, the Central African Republic and Malawi. The regime in the Ivory Coast is justifiably considered one of the most demoralized regimes in Africa. Estimates which have been made in France, stated that 80 percent of the property in that state belongs to the president, his family and a tiny number of his favourites. Any development does not serve the gross interests of the ruling clique and therefore is almost nonexistent. Elementary and secondary education is at a low level, even in comparison with the situation prevailing at the time of the French colonization. The peasants are compelled to sell their produce, at prices which are fixed by the government, to monopolistic companies which are controlled by or belong to the president and his favourites, who then sell these produce with great profit to Europe and America. Against the background of the terrible poverty of the peasants and the majority of the townspeople, the showy standard of living of a narrow stratum of rulers stands out in sharp relief. This stratum has converted the Ivory Coast into a centre of exclusive tourism for the "sparkling circle" of western Europe. The luxury hotels, the palaces of the rulers, the monopolist companies - all this was and is built in close cooperation with Israel, and first and foremost with the Histadrut-owned corporations and then also with a number of private companies. The number of Israelis who work in the Ivory Coast is rather large also now, and in the course of time, have justifiably become the centre of hatred of all progressive forces in that country, for they are one of the central pillars on which the tyrannical regime of the Ivory Coast rests.

Things were still clearer when the Central-Africa Republic was for a brief period an "empire", under the rule of the tyrannical "emperor" Bocassa. One of our "famous generals", general (i. res.) Shmuel Gonen decided after the publications of the Agranat report (the report drawn up by a commission headed by the former president of the Israeli Supreme Court Agranat was unfavourable to him - IB) that his place in life is to be friend and favourite of the cannibalistic "emperor", Bocassa I. Gonen's former surname was Gorodish. He was notorious in the Israeli army for his harassment of his subordinates (till this day, officers who behave like him are called by soldiers "little Gorodish"). Gonen-Gorodish did not only obtain the Israeli press - especially the "Ma'ariv" that he built up public relations in the world for Bocassa. Among the arguments adduced by Gorodish in favour of the self-appointed "emperor" was not only - of course! - the deep freindship, as he said, of Bocassa, towards Israel, but not less and not more than that he is not worse than the Shah of Iran. The latter, was, as known, also a fervent friend of Israel, and as we shall yet see, of the Israeli Labour Party. However, general Gonen's days of splendour did not last long: With the assistance of French soldiers, the "emperor" was toppled down and sent into exile - in the Ivory Coast itself, in one of his luxurious palaces, as the proverb says: "birds of feather flock together". There he will also not be caught by the press in order to find out to which of the western rulers he has made presents of diamonds. Almost the first thing which the new rulers of the Central-African Republic and their French advisors have found out is the fact that taxes and custom fares to a very great amount not paid by "Gorodish" to the state treasury. General Gonen has been now for several months under house arrest, and an investigation into this matter is being carried out.

From the aspect of Israeli society it is very interesting that Gonen's status at the court of the cannibalistic emperor has not at all touched the social status in Israel of Begin. General (i. res.) Gonen was at one and the same time the friend of the cannibal and an elected delegate to the last congress of the Herut party (Begin's party - IB) for the north of Tel-Aviv! His popularity at this congress was great and he embraced and kissed Begin in front of the cameras of the press. How has it been said? Birds of a feather flock together - and this precisely fits - in my opinion - Menahim Begin

and the notorious revisionist "splendour" in this context refers to the extreme right wing in zionism, to the "revisionist" ideology and party under that name - the precursor of the present Herut party - IB).

A particularly dark duty is fulfilled by the Israeli government in the state of Malawi. The rule over this state has been seized at the time of its establishment by a tyrant of the name of Dr. Benda who very soon revealed itself to be loyal and open friend of the apartheid regime among the African states. His visits to Pretoria as an honoured guest of the leaders of South African governments which are as notoriously known in the world as the visits of South African ministers in Israel. Before the overthrow of the Portuguese colonialists in Mozambique he helped them against the freedom fighters of that country. The regime in Malawi is one of the most horrible in the whole world and can be compared only with that in states like Guatemala and El-Salvador, but what characterises it especially is the fact that the murders and tortures of Dr. Benda's opponents are carried out by boys. The state youth movement, which was established by advisors of the "Gadna" and "Nahal" (Israeli official pre-military, respectively military formations) who were sent from Israel, is used as a private instrument of the tyrant in order to murder political opponents, terrorize workers, flogging and variegated tortures of anyone who dares to doubt the "divine wisdom" of the nation's "father", Dr. Benda. In exchange for this service, the chosen gangs of this "youth movement" are allowed to rave also in non-political respects: to beat, torture and harass innocent citizens, "just for the fun of it", for the benefit of terrorizing people and perhaps also for purposes of training. Till this day, Israeli advisors are training this "youth movement", even though it is not known precisely what sort of training this is. The Israeli press describes it as something resembling the "Gadna" and "Nahal".

It should be remarked that the world press knows very well the character of Dr. Benda's regime and from time to time publishes some details.

But in recent years the principal ties of the State of Israel are with South Africa, the "states" or Bantustans

which have been established by the apartheid authorities and with occupied territories like Namibia.

Until recently, one could add to this list also Ian Smith's of Rhodesia (and Bishop Muzurewa) - today the liberated Zimbabwe . According to foreign sources, Smith was given an Israeli concession for production of "Uzi" submachine-guns. The name of the "Uzi" produced for Rhodesia was "Rhuzi" (Rhodesian-Uzi) and apart from its military employment it was sold (of course only to whites) at a price of 100 Rhodesian liras per piece. Israel also served as "reloading point" for important military equipment, such as American helicopters whose direct sale to Rhodesia was forbidden by American law. As was broadcast at the time in a report of the British television, these helicopters were "sold" to Israel and afterwards immediately resold to Ian Smith.

March 1981

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