

**INFORMATION BULLETIN
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL**



DECEMBER 12/1988



Workers Of All Countries Unite !

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A GOVERNMENT DETACHED FROM THE REALITY

Meir Vilner

Speech in the Knesset

THE GOVERNMENT COALITION WITH ITS 95 OR 97 KNESSET MEMBERS DOES NOT REPRESENT THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF ISRAEL

New international conditions have emerged that provide hopes for an Israeli-Arab and an Israeli-Palestinian peace. Excellent conditions have been suggested by the PLO for mutual recognition, for two states living in peace alongside each other.

Unfortunately, a government was now formed, that aims in fact to destroy the chances of peace, to risk the lives of our sons in a new war. It was formed to stand together against the chances of peace. This is the basic reason for this unity.

The basic lines of the government are a handiwork of fraud and public deception. This is a government headed, as Shimon Peres defined him, by a murderer of peace. Let me tell Mr. Peres: who gives a hand to the Shamir government that he gives a hand to the murder of peace.

On the one hand the basic lines of the government policy declare that Israel will seek peace. On the other hand they say, that Israel will oppose a Palestinian state and will not negotiate with the PLO, that is to say Israel will act against the peace with the Palestinian people, whose representative, recognized by the whole world, is the PLO.

So the peace is between the Likud and the Alignment and not between Israel and the Palestinian people.

On the other hand, the basic lines of policy say, that further settlements will be established to harm still more the chances of peace. In the new government, the Likud will hold the offices of the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, while the Alignment Minister Rabin will continue to intensify the oppression in the occupied Territories. This is a

complete bankruptcy of the Labour Party .It saved the Likud that could not form a narrow government . because evidently ,if it is formed ,it will be weak and will disintegrate rapidly .

UNITY AGAINST THE WORKERS

This government is united against peace , against the workers and against the Arab population in Israel . Socially ,the governemnt ,in its basic lines, threatens to reduce public expenses and consumption , i.e. a further strangulation of the health , educational and welfare services . It says : "restraining private consumption", meaning a further cancellation of subsidies for food and hitting the workers wages .

The government says it will continue to take steps for equal rights also for the Arab population . What does "continue" mean? -It will continue the requisition of lands , to demolish houses ,to discriminate Arab local councils , to discriminate with the children's allowances and to humiliate in daily life .

As a dessert they serve us the change in the election system. Not the election system causes the instability ,but your policy ,that is dangerous for Israel .

If the Alignment had stayed in the opposition and offered an alternative policy ,all the developments would be different . We would save our young men , killed and wounded and we would have saved the disaster we brought there to the Palestinians and Lebanese . And what was "reached" is a political and military failure.

ELECTIONS- NOT UNDER THE BAYONNETS OF THE OCCUPATION

Mr. Peres' "argument" against talks with the PLO is, that the PLO is not an elected body . And the Jewish Agency in the forties was an elected representative of the population here? But nobody objected ,because there was a desire to find a solution .

Every national liberation movement ,after its victory in the struggle for independence, holds free elections in its country , not elections under bayonets . Even after the municipal elections in the occupied territories , didn't they deport and injure the heads of the municipalities elected under the occupation ? So you speak about elections ? .

Second , the Palestinian problem is a problem of a people who are mostly refugees whose tragedy has been going on for forty years . It is not only a problem of the Palestinians in the occupied territories . If you present the question this way , you don't even recognize the Palestinian people as a people .

The UNO Assembly in Geneva has decided with an overwhelming majority opposite decisions and you want to stand against the whole world . Even the USA understands already , that this policy of yours is crazy , and the USA had to dissociate itself from it , to save its status in the Arab world and everywhere . You are detached from the reality in the country and in the occupied territories ,from the reality all over the world .

You are not representative : You will be 95 , or 97 coalition Knesset members - you don't represent the national interests of the State of Israel . And I suggest that we all concentrate on the main national objective -peace , to bring peace , otherwise nothing will be solved here and there might be casualties unprecedented in our history .

UNITY AGAINST TALKS WITH THE PLO

What has really led to the establishment of this government ? Not the election results , but the agreement between the Likud and the Alignment to prevent a just and realistic peace . They are united by their 'No's ,not by the election results . Unfortunately financial considerations of the "Histadruth" workers Society enterprises have also some effect . We want to secure the activity of the Workers Society , the recovery of agriculture and industry and the whole Israeli economy . But for this purpose it is necessary

to change the distribution of the national resources ,
to limit the enormous military expenses , aimed at a
continuation of the occupation and another war . We
have also to cancel the privileges of the big
capitalists and of the banks . And above all-this
government was formed to stand together against all the
world after the resolutions of the Palestinian National
Council that led to the recognition of the PLO by the
whole world , even by the USA .

Let me conclude with the call: To face the National
unity government against peace , we have to establish a
unity of action and cooperation of all responsible
factions in the Knesset . Sectarian considerations must
be abandoned . The peace factions in the Knesset have
16 members . Don't let us split our forces , don't
compete with each other , the times are too serious and
demand great responsibility , These 16 Knesset members
must cooperate , consult each other how to operate
against this disastrous government and how to mobilize
the public for peace .

ZO-HADEREKII 28.12.88

**WE HAVE NOW A HISTORICAL
OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE**

Speech in the Knesset

By : Meir Vilner

IF I WAS A RELIGIOUS MAN I WOULD SAY IN RESPONSE TO THE PLO PLAN : BLESSED BE HIM WHO ENABLED US TO LIVE AND REACH THESE TIMES .EVIDENTLY ,THIS IS WHAT WE WANTED .

One who is not demagogue ,who really wants peace , should be happy with the new developments . When I was speaking once in the Knesset about positions like those that the PLO holds now,I was interrupted by calls from the Alignment benches ,from the left, but also from the Likud benches : "That what you say , let Arafat say it". And now suddenly you close your ears and eyes ; you don't want to listen and you don't want to see. What's the matter with you ? What else do you want still before negotiations and still before you will recognize the other side .

I shall remind only a few things .Yesterday in Geneva,Arafat said : "I am asking the Israeli leaders to come here ,to Geneva , under UNO auspices ,so that we can build peace together ". Now he is speaking about the right and the legitimacy of the United Nation Assembly resolution of 1947 that speaks about an Arab state and a Jewish state ,Israel . He recognizes not only the State of Israel ;he recognizes a Jewish state of Israel. What else do you want ?

Obviously, it is written in our Scroll of Independence ,that the State of Israel was founded, on the basis of the resolution of the General Assembly of 1947 . And it is also written there : The State of Israel will cooperate with the United Nations for the implementation of the Assembly resolution of 29th November ,1947 .

What the PLO has decided in Algiers and what Arafat said afterwards in Strasbourg and in Stockholm and yesterday in Geneva -is a recognition of Israel . This is wonderful,this is a window to peace , which we need

more than anything else . This is a declaration on the foundation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel . In fact this is what they explicitly said : A Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel . The recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338 is not only a recognition of Israel , but also a recognition of the fact ,that one speaks now not of the 1947 borders ,but of the borders of 4th of June 1967 .

MK Ehud Olmert (Likud) :Then why doesn't he say so ?

MK Vilner : The PLO says so . Yesterday, in Geneva, Arafat said : "Our Palestinian National Council has confirmed the need of an Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967". And you ask why he doesn't say so ?!

Tell the truth : You don't want peace .Say,that even if there will be another ten wars you will not recognize the right of self-determination of the Palestinians . Speak frankly and don't play with words. What do you think , that the world is stupid ? The world has applauded yesterday to Arafat ,because the world wanted to hear what he said .Say , that in order to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state within the lines of 1967 , alongside the State of Israel,and in order to prevent a peace agreement under international auspices - you are prepared to go to wars .

The PLO has raised high the banner of peace, while the Likud government, and also the Alignment leadership,refuse to make peace .I know that there are also doves inside the Alignment ,serious people who really want peace, but the policy of the Alignment is not decided by them today .

Yesterday we heard from Arafat the following words:"The PLO will seek a just solution between the parties involved in the Israeli-Arab conflict, including the state of Falestin and the state of Israel and the other neighbours, within the framework of an international conference for peace in the Middle East on the basis of resolutions 242 and 338 ,and thus to ensure equality and a balance of interests ".

What else do you want ? I am asking :Why do you demand only from the PLO to say this and that . And when the PLO says it,you argue : This is not enough . Why don't you demand anything from the Israeli government ? It does not move even a millimeter toward peace and nothing you demand from it .

MK Abd-Alwahab Daraushe (Arab Democratic Party): It moves backward .

MK Vilner: True , it moves backward .

The PLO does not want to liquidate Israel by stages; the Israeli government and its supporters are those who want to liquidate by stages the national existence of the Palestinian people . This desire suits the slogan of the Revisionists and their likes : In blood and fire will Judea arise ,and the idea of an "Undivided Land Israel" .Because of this desire you don't want to listen ,and not because you don't know that the PLO proposes peace .

Now about the American position .I heard from well-informed person, that the Americans had admitted, that there is also something positive in Arafat's speech, but under heavy pressure of Prime Minister Shamir they said : We shall not yet talk with the PLO. But everybody understands that this is a temporary position . The USA is today totally isolated in the issue of the solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict .

A historical opportunity exists now for peace .Who misses it, will be responsible for the next war and nobody will forgive him .154 states voted at the Assembly in New York against the decision of the US Administration not to grant a visa to Arafat and for transferring the debate to Geneva ; and all speakers in Geneva,except the representatives of the USA and Israel, supported Arafat's proposals that were received with applause by all those present at the Assembly, except the Israeli representative who was not present in the hall . The State of Israel was never so totally isolated since its foundation . Prime Minister Shamir reacted on the PLO peace initiative in such a primitive

way, as if he was a child who thinks that all take him serious. He is entirely blind .

Foreign Minister Peres behaved yesterday , apparently,wisely,and did not hurry to react like Shamir . But he denied the Algiers resolutions totally, like Shamir . I agree to what Itzhak Ben Aharon writes today in "Davar" on this issue: "We should welcome the change in the PLO. I am sorry about the response of Shimon Peres, that is influenced by the unhappy companionship with the Likud. Peres is also trying to straighten the Line with Yitzhak Rabin,who said that one must give a chance to the policy of the Likud".

This is probably the truth. What is the test for a statesman , not a politician ? That he is ready to tell the people the truth . Finally the people will defeat all who pretend to be naive, all who lie ,all impostors here .

Behind the refusal to make peace ,by the Likud leadership and others ,also of the Alignment leadership,is hiding the rejection of the very principle of two states for two peoples ; the rejection of the principle of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. Shamir said so frankly on television. Whatever the PLO will declare-said Shamir- even if it will declare it more clearly than yesterday,we shall not speak with them .

Yitzhak Rabin said still a few years ago: We shall never recognize the PLO,we shall never negotiate with any independent Palestinian representatives, because this means recognizing the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people,meaning a Palestinian state.

Therefore the question is not what Arafat will say, and what words he will use exactly. The truth is ,that you, the leaderships of the Likud and the Alignment,don't want peace on the basis of two states.

We warn: You might lead Israel toward such a war, that all previous wars will be a child's play compared with it . I call the Knesset to show courage,not to be afraid and not to think of personal interests,of

ministerial posts and all kinds of official jobs. Have courage ,be concerned with the true interest of our Israeli people,of peace. The PLO extends a hand for peace, and it will be a crime if the Knesset rejects this extended hand .

ZO-HADEREKH 21.12.1988

COMMUNIQUE OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

DOVES MUST COOPERATE AGAINST THE
GOVERNMENT THAT REFUSES TO MAKE PEACE

The speech of the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and chairman of Supreme Soviet of the USSR ,Mikhail Gorbachev ,at the UNO General Assembly is of greatest significance for the complex of developments in the international relations and for the solution of regional conflicts in the spirit of the new way of thinking .

The announcement by Gorbachev on the decision of the USSR to reduce unilaterally its army in Europe by 500,000 men and also on a significant unilateral reduction of its conventional weapons ,is an unprecedented of the Soviet peace policy that is aimed at consolidating world peace ,creating mutual relations of confidence ,disarmament, the liquidation of nuclear weapons and restriction of conventional weapons for defence purposes only .

The reference by Gorbachev to regional conflicts , especially to the Middle East conflict and the PLO , deserves special attention . The Israeli governeemt shows by its policy that it ignores the new international reality and the historical change in the position of the PLO that extends to Israel a hand for peace based on the UNO resolution of 1947 on the establishment of two states , Jewish and Arab, in the Mandatory Palestine . this is laso a clear readiness on part of the PLO to recognize Israel on the basis of reciprocity : The acceptance of the Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 means recognition of the right of Israel to exist within the lines of the 4th of June,1967 .

More people in Israel understand now , that what prevents peace is the obstinate position of the Likud and Alignment leaders, who deny the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and are not prepared to recognize the PLO on a mutual basis and

to negotiate with it within an international conference.

Gorbachev, in his speech at the UNO Assembly, pointed to the constructive position of the PLO, while the US Administration refuses to allow PLO chairman Arafat to enter the USA to take part in the Assembly discussions on the Palestinian question. The UNO Assembly, almost unanimously, opposed the US Administration in this issue. Israel and the USA remained totally isolated. Again it turned out, that the US Administration stands behind the Israeli peace refusal and bears the responsibility for the continuation of the occupation and the bloodshed.

The Political Bureau states with concern, that the Likud-Alignment government not only does not respond to the peace call of the PLO and of the international community of nations, but acts to increase the tension by military provocations against Lebanon and by a further intensification of the oppression of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The decision of the Central Committee of the Labour Party to join the government headed by the Likud on the basis of the policy of their previous joint government, that blocked the way to peace, harmed severely the interests and the rights of the working people and aggravated the discrimination of the Arab population in Israel-proves, that the Labour Party leadership does not present an alternative to the policy of the Likud.

The majority in the Central Committee of the Labour Party has not complied with the call of our Communist Party, of the DFPE and of other peace forces in Israel, to go into the opposition and not to crawl on its knees to a government headed by the Likud, and thus caused a damage to the cause of peace, to the people of Israel, and to the Labour Party itself.

The Political Bureau points as positive to the fact, that over one third of the Labour Party Central Committee members voted for going into the opposition

in the present circumstances and for presenting an alternative to the regime .

In view of the situation that has arisen, it is still more vital to achieve a cooperation between all political parties and Knesset factions , that are more dovish ,or more leftist than the Alignment ,so that their joint efforts ,together with the doves inside the Alignment ,can influence more the developments in Israel .

A government that pursues a policy against peace will not be stable. The new development in the international arena ,the continuation of the popular uprising of the Palestinian people against the occupation and for a just peace ,the very positive changes in the positions of the PLO and the struggle of the peace forces in Israel—all these together might force the peace refuseniks ,who rule in Israel ,to retreat from their positions or to abandon the political scene .

ZO-HADEREKH 14.12.1988

THE UGLY FACE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

By: Tamar Gozansky

THE PRICE OF THE CRISIS ; WHO PAYS AND WHO PROFITS?

RESEARCHES IN TWO BRITISH CITIES ,STRUCK BY UNEMPLOYMENT (LIVERPOOL AND NOTTINGHAM) REVEAL , THAT THE GROWTH OF ONE PERCENT IN UNEMPLOYMENT CAUSED THE DEATH OF 17,000 PERSONS . NO SIMILAR RESEARCH HAS BEEN MADE YET IN ISRAEL ,THOUGH UNEMPLOYMENT HAS GROWN THIS YEAR RAPIDILY AND REACHED ALREADY 7.6% OF THE LABOUR FORCE ,AND EVEN THOUGH 12,000 WERE DISMISSED IN INDUSTRIES ALONE .

The beginning of 1989 will be marked by " the greatest crisis in Israel since the recession of 1966"- says Dan Proper , chairman of the labour committee in the Israel Industrialists Association , The collapse of enterprises and companies and the rapid dismissals become a daily routine ,and by all signs ,will become still more acute in 1989 .

We don't know yet the number of unemployed this moment ,but it surely is more than 120,000. According to the Bureau of Statistics there were 118,000 unempolyed in Israel in the months July-Septemper 1988, Which is 7.6% of the labour force.As the dismissals have continued afterwards , it means that we start in '89 with a number of unemployed similar to that at the peak of the previous great crisis (the recession of 1966).

To a passimistic evaluation of the further growth of unemployment contribute also the figures of the number of companies that are facing difficulties ,and which increased in the second half of '88 by 24% and reached 3680 companies , not to speak of the crisis in the Koor concern where many thousands might lose their jobs .

LIKE CARD TOWERS

What happened in 88 ,that made plants and companies fall like card towers ?

In the election campaign to the Knesset ,a few months ago, the Likud and Alignment leaders boasted of their success to cure the economy and assured that it is on the way toward growth . But a lie has short legs and the first official summary of developments in 88 shows ,that it moved backwards .

Figures presented by the Director of the Ministry of Industry indicate ,that in '88 a drop occurred in industrial output compared with '87 ,and the investments in industries dropped by 20%.The immediate price of this process:12,000 dismissed from factories ; the long-term price :a drop in the competitive capacity of industries , and hence a smaller possibility to absorb workers in the future .

Why has the industry entered such a grave crisis ?

In the last two years the governeemnt has prevented changes in the exchange rate of the Shekel (meaning a devaluation) ,claiming that constant currency rate is an instrument to reduce the rate of inflation . But as the prices continued to rise at the rate of 15-20% ,the export industries (some textile works ,electronics) got into a crisis : their expenses in Shekalim were growing while their income from export ,which were exchanged at a constant rate ,did not grow .

This governmental policy of a constant exchange rate of the Shekel against the dollar caused also the flooding of the Israeli market with imported goods , that competed with the local products (clothing , footwear, toys , cleaning materials , canned food , furnitures , electrical appliances), which was the cause of the collapse of the plants .

The enterprises that could not export or compete with imports suffered in '88 also from general decline in purchases in the organized trade (marketing chains), and when people buy less , the competition between the companies is kneener and those who cannot face such a situation are forced to dissolve or go bankrupt .

And the results are clear: 5,000 were fired from textile plants in '88 , 2000 from leather and shoe factories ,2500 from furniture factories .

DESTRUCTIVE INTEREST RATE

If the calamities that struck the industries are not enough , they had to pay also their debts to the banks and to pay a high interest rate (twice or threefold the rate of inflation). Figures from the Kibbutz movement show ,that its labour costs have not increased in '88(namely wages),but financing costs(i.e. the interest payments) jumped by 30%.

This high interest rate ,that swallows in some cases all the profits of the plant and even more ,is also the outcome of an intentional government policy . the government ,that promised to fulfil the obligations of banks following their shares crisis ,it also gave them the backing for taking high interest rates ,(presently 40% in real value per annum).

In some trades (like tourism,food ,textiles and building) enterprises suffered this year from the effects of the Intifada. According to official statistics ,the Arab population in the occupied territories reduced this year their purchases in Israel from 850 million dollars in '87 to 250 million dollars only in '88 . The drop in sales caused in many plants an increase of stock and finally limited their operations .

At the same time , the Intifada caused a significant decline in the number of tourists and thus caused difficulties in the hotel branch and other sections linked with tourism .

CENTERS OF THE RECESSION

The accumulation of causes that worsened the situation of the industries led to the dismissals of many thousands and to a rapid growth of unemployment . But the skilled and unskilled industrial workers are not the only ones who join the ranks of the unemployed. As the government cuts as much as it can from the

budgets for education , research and health, there are also no jobs for university graduates who ,too, join the army of unemployed .

All signs indicate that this grave situation will continue and unemployment in '89 will further grow and demand its heavy social and human price . The localities that suffer already today from severe unemployment (development towns, Arab localities, Beersheva and Haifa) , might become chronic unemployment centers. Those among the unemployed whose vocation has become outdated or who are above the age considered by the employers as the limit (36-40) will remain in those unemployment centers . Others , the younger and more educated , will continue to move into the cities in the center of the country and attempt to find a job there.

The governeemnt has so far done nothing to solve the unemployment problem and all signs indicate that it won't do anything . In view of the trend towards rapid inflation ,the pressure for further cuts in the state budget will grow and because there is no intention to cut the military budget , that might even be increased because of the Intifada ,it is clear that the cuts will affect again the funds for development and public services .

IMMEDIATE STEPS ARE NEEDED

A basic solution of the unemployment problem requires a change in the trend of the official policy . The Israeli economy cannot recover as long as it carries the burden of the occupied territories and once every ten years , in the average , it becomes involved in a war that aggravates its condition still further .

But meanwhile ,until Israel will embark on a new political road and take advantage of the existing chances , for peace with the Palestinian people ,it is necessary to demand that the government takes immediate steps to help the unemployed and save enterprises that can continue their production . These immediate steps include ,for instance :

- * Shortening the work week to 40 hours .
- * Expanding the facilities for vocational training (while paying unemployment allowance) for ex-soldiers, secondary school graduates and dismissed employees .
- * Supplying budgets to the universities ,so that they can engage more students and researchers ; -
- * State support for enterprises that have got into difficulties ,giving the workers a share in the management , to prevent a situation where the assistance provided will helps the capitalist and not the enterprise.
- * Increasing the investments in the development of the roads and other investments in infrastructure .

At the same time it is vital to resist the attempts of the employers and the government to use the expanding unemployment to cut wages and important social benefits . The dangerous precedent of reopening the sewing factory in Kitan Dimona with a third of the employees (40 out of 120) and with less pay , indicates to the direction of the policy that owners of companies and plants will adopt in order to rack immediately higher profits .

Inorder to repel the attempt of the employers and Finance Ministry to use the unemployment for an offensive against the wages (cancelling in fact the cost of living allowance ,sterilizing the expected devaluation from the index calculation for the purpose of paying the cost of living allowance and open wage cuts) against the unemployment fees , the minimum wage law ,etc. the working class (including the unemployed) must launch a counter-offensive .

ZO-HADEREKH 28.12.1988

GREETINGS TO MEIR VILNER ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

In addition to the greetings which were published in our last issue NO. 10-11/88 we publish here the following greetings

ORDER OF GEORGI DIMITROV FROM THE
BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

In the name of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party ,in the name of all Bulgaria Communists and in my own name ,I am sending you our heartfelt greetings to your 70th birthday and following the fact ,that the highest medal of bulgaria ,the order of Georgi Dimitrov , was awarded to you .

The Bulgarian Communists know you as a faithful son of the Israeli people , as consistent patriot, as an internationalist and as a prominent figure in the international communist and workers movement . You have dedicated your life to the struggle against imperialism and reaction ,to the defence of the vital interests of the workers in Israel , to the achievement of a just and stable peace in the Middle East , to democracy and socialism .

We appreciate highly your contribution , as the General Secretary of the Central Committee of th Communist Party of Israel ,to the further strengthening of the fraternal relations between the Communist parties of Bulgaria and Isreal on the basis of marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism .

We wish you , dear Comrade Meir Vilner ,good health ,further successes in your hard and noble struggle for the hapiness of the Israeli people and for the victory of peace and socialism .

Todor Zhevkov
General Secretary

GREETINGS FROM THE POLISH
UNITED WORKERS PARTY

On behalf of the Central Committee of the United Workers Party of Poland ,I am sending you warm greetings and best wishes on your 70th birthday .

We feel deep appreciation for the long years of your work for the Communist movement and for your devotion and loyalty to the principles of the cause of socialism ,social justice and peaceful coexistence between the nations .Your activity was a valuable contribution to the peace settlement in the Middle East conflict and served the building of friendly relations between all peoples living in the region .

On your birthday we wish you ,dear Comrade Vilner ,good health and further achievements in your work for the toilers in Isreal and for our joint goal : socialism and peace .

Wojcek Jarozelski
First Secretary of the
Central Committee

" I UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS IS THE ONLY
WAY I CAN CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS A HUMAN BEING

By : Inbal Perlson

Every year ,on the 9th of December ,Felicia Langer celebrates her birthday .Last year ,she says ,she got a wonderful present . The Palestinian people in the occupied territories , for whose defence she works and lives ,gave her as a gift the Intifada .

Towards the end of the first year of the Intifada I am going to listen to her personal conclusions . This years summary concludes the long years she went through in the world of suffering and oppression , in an attempt to help the population as far as she could .

Sitting down in her office after some inevitable delays (because a family whose house is threatened by demolition is much more important than a newspaper interview) Felicia says : Every year interviewers used to come at the beginning of June . What is good ,is that this time they come on the anniversary of the Intifada and not on June the date of the occupation .

With the Palestinians who come to her office to ask for help Felicia speaks in fluent Arabic . It seems that she is used even to the rules and habits . But it was not always so and I am asking her to return back to her first days of work , to the decision that turned her ,one may say , into a symbol (a symbol that represents different things for different people , as we shall see in the course of our conversation).

PUBLIC OPINION HAS CHANGED

After a long moment of silence ,when it seemed that she turns back in a kind of time-machine , Felicia starts her story : I began to be active in the defence of human rights in the occupied territories in 1967 , immediately after the war . If I could , I would have done it even during the war , because for me the war was a tragedy and mainly because I knew of the atrocities committed in Gaza in the 1956 war . Because

of my political awareness I felt that from that moment an entire population will need protection and that the euphoria of victory will soon be replaced by an established oppression . The demolition of the three villages in the Latroun area and the reports on refugees who tried to return through the Jordan river-women ,men and children whose blood drenched the water-convincd me more than anything that in order to continue to live as human being and to function as a human being , I have to use my profession . I did not think that such a strong bridge would be built between us as happened later , because I did not imagine that it would last for such a long time . It was hard to begin as a woman , a Jewess , not knowing the language. But I may say the ice smelted at once ,when the first client came to my office . Probably there are common human values for human beings that makes communication easier .

From the begining I became acquainted with the oppression that shocked me and caused me an injury that continues till today . Then the question arose how to translate it into action and to direct the feelings combined with my professional knowledge in a useful way. I hope I found this way . My writings helped me . It seemed that one side of the activity is not enough . I saw heroism ,suffering and brutality and felt the need to write it down . Later I understood that this opens also a personal ventile that made the suffering easier for me .

The work of a lawyer of my kind is hard . Sometimes I think ,that if I would detach myself , it would be easier , but immediately I make the necessary analysis and I know that if it were not for the involvement and heavy sensitivity , I could not go on . This is the dialectic . I know that the moment I would feel that I got used to it and succeeded in cladding myself in an armour , I would have to end my job .

Felicia , I say , you serve as a symbol for all those who believe in your way and appreciate your devotion to the hard job you undertook , but at the same time you are the aim of the arrows of hatred by those who stand on the other side of the barricade ,

whose conception is opposed to yours . How do you live with it ?

It is not easy . This is a painful hatred . Each of us needs to be loved . Now this changes . Some time ago I went in a car with a religious woman . When we left the car , she told me : " Mrs Felicia Langer , this is the first time I meet you . You are not at all like I thought . I did not like you , I liked to hate you " . I have not changed , I have not turned to the left nor to the right . Public opinion has changed . When I was crying out against the terrible things that are done , they said I was lying . Then the Landau Commission came and said the general Security Service has lied for years , but does not lie any more . When I said they lie now , too , they said again I am wrong . It turned out that the GSS lied also to the Landau Commission .

Only now they discover , that those with whom I went, who stood behind me ,were always right . It is important for me that we remember that we were the first ,the first who cried out , who went to the occupied territories , to the jails . Some years ago I wrote already a story about stones . I said there , " the country is full of stones . As long as there will be hands ready to throw them , there will be no quiet". This is the motto of my new book .

BIG HANDCUFFS ON LITTLE HANDS

And the Palestinians , I am asking , how did they accept you ? Did they regard you as the single saviour, or did they regard you , too, as a representative of many people who care and want to change all this ?

I did my best to show that I am not a unique phenomén , answers Felicia and continues : Maybe this did not penetrate all minds . Sometimes little children in families say : " No , no , this is impossible . We are afraid from Jews . " and the parents said : " But this is Felicia " and the children answered : "But Felicia is not Jewish ". I always tried to explain - and I must say the mothers tried too - that it is not only me , but also the Communist Party and many others more . And still they found it hard to understand ,

because from the moment they understand ,they see the soldier .The soldier who beats ,who craches furnitures, who takes the father ...

When I saw these children leaving school at noon and I knew they did not sleep at night , when I saw them sitting in court with handcuffs that are too big for the little hands , I knew and I said so to the Nablus court , that these children who are sitting here are a death sentence for the occupation . They looked at me and laughed cynically : " From where do you take these words ?" Then I explained that I defend already a second generation . And if those who were born during the occupation do not accept it , even though they never knew another condition , if you cannot buy them, then the occupation has no chance . These are children who are prepared to spend their pocket money to fill bottles with spirit ... this was still in 1985. But those who were sitting in the court believed still in the unlimited power of Israel , that can continue with a relatively cheap occupation , to continue exploiting this good market , this cheap labour force .

Today we speak about a different period . A period when the Palestinians have translated all this into a political language . After a long struggle against the occupation they see a light ,not at the end of the tunnel ,but nearer . This gives me strength . The children of the Intifada are like my own children . I saw them growing , with humiliations ,robbed of their childhood . They used to come to me as little children with their mothers and then when they grew bigger , their mothers came alone because they were in jail . All these stages I went through with them . Therefore they are so close to me . They fight for things that are recognized almost by all the family of nations as elementary .

But still I am afraid of more serious things , of massacres . because the people in the occupied territories are not protected , not from the army and not from the settlers . The fear is , that after every thing that has been done so far did not succeed to break the Intifada ,they will try more terrible things,

With this anguish I appeal again and again to the public in the country and in the world .

THE STRENGTHENING OF AN EXISTING PHENOMEN

I tell Felicia , that in my visits to the occupied territories I found a pride that was unknown before the Intifada , she confirms this and adds that this fact has also influenced public opinion in Israel . But this pride and unity were not built on the 9th of December , but in an obstinate struggle during twenty years .

The Intifada , Felicia says ,was built by those people who were prepared to fight the occupation still in '67 . By mothers who educate their children to love the land and the homeland . By the felaheen who stuck to the soil . By the young who were forced to study for the examinations after tortures . By the young generation who were taught not to accept the reality because they saw their fathers , because they heard of other liberation movements in the world . This was the background where the Intifada was growing . The popular movement did not exist at the beginning of the occupation ,but there were heroes who marched before the camp , like Sulieman Al-Nejab , Naim Al-Ashhab , Bassam Shq'a and others. The Intifada is the strengthening of a phenomen that existed long time ago.

Felicia , you shared with the Palestinians all the years their sufferings ,did happen also to share them some joy , when the Palestinian Independence was proclaimed ? on the day of the proclamation I celebrated with the staff of my office . But the true celebration was next day , at "Ansar 3" , with those , who ,I hope , will be the cadres of the state which is emerging . I told the camp personal who stood and watchwd all our movements , that now they keep here the best youth and entelligentsia . We were eating the candies I brought and talked about peace . It was exciting to speak with sun-burned men , suffering from illnesses at this terrible place , while armed soldiers where standing between us , and to speak with a high morale ,about peace and brotherhood . These are

unforgettable moments in human life , that gives me strength to carry on .

ZO-HADEREKH 7.12.1988

A DRY REPORT BY TAMAR PELEG SHARIK ,A LAWYER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS ,REVEALS A LITTLE OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE "SECURITY" WING OF THE SHARON PRISON. THE REPORT IS QUOTED WITH SOME ABBREVIATIONS.

MEETING WITH NO PRISON GUARD PRESENT

During my visit to the Sharon prison (Tel Mond) on 2. 1.88 . I met six arrested Palestinian women ,three of them administrative detainees , two before their trial (one is 17 years old) and a female prisoner , already sentenced . When the first administrative detainee , Janen Al-Bitar , a 46 years old inhabitant of Nablus , treasurer of the Red Crescent , entered the room allocated to us , a prison ward appeared and sat down on a chair ,one meter and a half from us . Comanders explained to me that "these are the orders ". There is no law that contradicts them . The prison director ,who appeared in the course of the talk , with a guided tour ,decided : The prison guard will be present only at the meetings with the sentenced women , and in the meetings with the administrative detainees he will only look from a distance and not listen . Indeed , the ear listened carefully during my meeting with the sentenced woman and for this purpose a veteran local guard was replaced by a new immigrant from Ethiopia who understands english . He listened carefully and even reacted accordingly with his look and face muscles during the whole conversation .

In spite of my request , the people in charge of the section did not point to the relevant rules that allow to limit the right of the prisoner to meet her lawyer alone .

" You must show us the clauses in the law " , said the prison commander . Indeed , Regulation 29 of the prison rules (1978) , that a meeting where no prison guard is present - a meeting between a prisoner and his lawyer , and also a visit of a person who the prisoner asked to contact in the case of his arrest or legal procedures , will take place not in the presence of another person , as far as the security conditions and

the security of the State make it possible . There is no difference between a "sentenced" prisoner and one who is not "sentenced" , there is no "looking" ,not to speak of "listening distance".

INSECTS IN THE MEAL

The "security wing" is part of a new building that does not indicate its function from the outside . But also inside the wing is totally different from the usual Israeli prisons . The friendly manners of the prison director are also worth mentioning . The complaints of the female prisoners refer mainly ,but not only , to the food ,the "reports and the medical treatment .

"The food in the prison is very bad and sometimes I find insects in it ", says Jenan Al-Bitar . In her declaration she adds : "yesterday ,1.11.88, I found in the soup we got at noon little insects like those found in old rice . The quantity is not always sufficient . It is usually cooked with a very bad taste so that I am sometimes unable to eat and I throw it into the bin . " Jenan believes that the arrestees would prefer to cook their food themselves ,but the prison authorities do not respond to this request .

An administrative detainee, a student of psychology at the Al-Najah University ,confirms the words of her 25 years older companion and adds : " On 16.10.88 I found in the cornflakes little black-greenish particles" She is not certain what they are , they look like mice shit . Other prisoners believe these are eggs of cockroaches .

I got from one of the prisoners these insects that were taken from the food and it will be possible to get a statement of opinion from an expert on their true identity . The prison director will probably have to intervene to prevent a repetition of these cases , because ,as another prisoner states , " we told a prison warden and showed him the insects and the dirt . His answer was : "Never mind,you look to me nice and healthy ". The declaration also says : "Many times we got fish that looked to me uncleaned from inside and

with scales . Not once we were forced to throw into the bin the food we got . Sometimes we got uncooked food , straight from the refrigerator " .

PUNISHMENT REPORTS AND DEFICIENT MEDICAL TREATMENT

Ahlam Al-Elul ,the above student ,says : " On 23.10.88 the officer Alice entered our cell. When she was already in her way out ,near the door ,I took a cigarette from the ashtray ,that I smoked before . Alice, who turned her head back and saw it , wrote a report . The consequence is ,that next time I shall not be allowed to have a family visit " .

The prisoners complain about this frequent unjustified punishment .

All prisoners I met say the medical treatment is deficient . A few examples : A detainee asked to see a doctor because of pains in her hips. Two weeks ago she gave urine for a test .Since then nobody told her anything . The pains attack her frequently ,sometimes heavily."Before I was examined , I asked three times to see a doctor . Now I don't ask any more because I don't believe I shall be given treatment". The prisoner complains ,that prison guards stay inside the clinic and no proper examination is made ."Nobody cares or listens"- the detainee states .Another detainee tells , that already at the first examination ,when she was brought to the prison ,she told the staff that she suffers from haemorrhoids and asked for the medicine she used to get : proctozerine . She was told the medicine is not good and there is no other medicament . The prisoner suffers pains .

A FEW MORE "DETAILS"

Further complaints and requests were mentioned to me by several detainees . It is not at all understandable, why the administrative detainees are allowed to get from their families clothing only once a month , and only cotton clothes in yellow , blue,white and black colors . The administrative detainees who are entitled to wear personal clothes according to the rules ,do not

understand why only the Red Crescent is allowed to supply them woolen clothes and only in the above colors.

The administrative detainees complain also that they are not permitted to get Arabic language weekly Newspapers .For instance ,the "Al-Biader" weekly that was brought to them ,was not approved ,nor was "Al-Katab" . They claim ,that only part of the books forwarded from the Neve Tirtza prison were put at their disposal . They suggested to supply them a chestboard to keep the books and they themselves will take care of their distribution . Their proposal was rejected . Moreover, the books brought by their families are censored and partly rejected . Without going into the question of censorship ,the prisoners complain , that the rejected books remain in the prison and are not returned to the families .

* An administrative detainee told that an arrested women asked to send a letter to the Prison Service Comminssioner through the prison authorities . The letter was returned to them by the management .

* The detainees claim they don't get any cigarettes or not enough .

* The piping system in the prison is defective , almost every day there are water stoppages and sometimes the sewage is flooding the rooms .

* The administartive detainee Naila Zakut , whose 7 months old baby is with her , told that the treatment of the baby is good ,even warm . But she does not get for him a regular supply of fresh fruit and vegetable and she cannt feed him with the meet that is given to the detainees and there is no suitable meat . The baby needs warm woolen clothes and he will soon need a stove.

* 25 Palestinian women are in this prison ,including administartive detainees, women before their trial and sentenced prisoners .They include one minor girl .All want to be together during the walks .The prison authorities refuse to be flexiable in this issue . The

walks take place in three separate groups . Because of the refusal of the authorities ,all prisoners held a walk strike .

* And finally :two women in the Sharon prison are sentenced to long prison terms : Fadwa Abassi and Lamiya Ma'aruf want to work in the kitchen . They need to work to keep their sanity . The prison management refuses .

THE STORY OF A DETAINEE

Shadiya Al-Kaferna (16) of Beit Hannan in the Gaza Strip is a new detainee in the Sharon prison . On 30.10.88 soldiers broke into her house and claimed that her husband , Saber (24) ,had thrown stones . Their denials did not help and the soldiers caught him and beat him heavily , the young woman who was pregnant at that time ,wanted to detach the handcuffs to release him . She ,too, was beaten and , protecting her womb with one hand , pushed a soldier ,being afraid that his rifle might hit her . Shadiya was also arrested . One day she was held at the Ashdod police station and then at the Ashkelon police . On 16.11.88 advocate Nafa Basus submitted an application for her release against bail and the civil rights association supported it for humanitarian reasons . The application was rejected and it was hinted that she would be accused for an attempt of murder by a knife . Advocate Tamar Peleg , who visited her on 18.11.88 , asked to transfer her from this place where no conditions existed for keeping a woman .

On 21.11.88 the charge sheet was read , mentioning the use of a knife , in an attempt to stab the unit commander ,according to the testimonies of three soldiers . The detained woman denied it totally .Nor was the "knife" presented as evidence .

The request for her release against bail was rejected and the demand of the prosecutor to arrest her till the end of the procedures was accepted .

Why did you say that Shadiya was pregnant that time? Because in 17.10.88 she was examined by a

gynaecologist after she breathed teargas and he found that she is pregnant . However ,on 20.11.88, after a test ,it was found that she is not pregnant . The doctor explains that she had an abortion between the 17.10.88 and 20.11.88 and therefore both medical certificates are correct (that she is pregnant and that she is not pregnant).

It must also be pointed out that in their separate testimonies on what happened when the soldiers broke into their house ,the couple described a similar situation .

ZO-HADEREKH 30.11.88

**PROTEST MOVEMENTS - ONE YEAR INTIFADA:
TEL AVIV REMINDER. THOUSANDS OF
DEMONSTRATORS CALL FOR TALKS WITH THE PLO**

After the two previous demonstrations in June and October, 1988, organized by the protest movements, this time the mass meeting in Kikar Malkei Israel square in Tel Aviv was an inspiring and exciting moment. Without underestimating all the other participants, the surprising and stunning speech by the well-known writer Dan Almagor was the highlight of the evening. The respectable range of speakers and artists produced a new quality in the broad spectrum of the camp, whom the poet Nathan Zakh greeted with a cheerful "Good evening, opposition". He elaborated: "What seemed to us as an opposition, namely the Labour Party, was actually a position and not more". And he added: "We march in front of all the people and we shall pull them in the right direction. Like peace Now. We shall continue to fight and gradually all will join us. We shall not be broken till the whole State will stand here on the square".

Prof. Amos Funkenstein of Tel Aviv University ridiculed the saying "No matter what the PLO will say" and compared this approach with the refusal of the priest at the time of Galileo Galileio, 500 years ago, to look through the telescope at the moon to see that there are mountains and valleys, as Galileo said. "We shall live with dignity in our country, if we allow the others a life of dignity".

A clear message - two states for two peoples - Israel and Falastin - alongside each other, brought Dr. Haidar Abd Al-Shafi, chairman of the Red Crescent in the Gaza Strip, through Dr. Josef Algazy who read his speech after he was prevented from reaching the meeting because of the curfew imposed on his city. "Many of my people are with you this evening on the square", wrote Dr. Al-Shafi. The representative of the Jewish American organization New Jewish Agenda expressed warm solidarity with the demonstrators.

After a moment of silence, commemorating all the killed of the Intifada, 362 Arabs and 8 Jews, the

meeting was opened with oriental rock music by the Zaviot band . Other performers were the actor Assi Hanegbi ,the couple Amal Murkus and Nizar Zareik and the actors Sinai Peter and Rasan Abas who concluded the meeting with a joint reading , in Hebrew and Arabic, of the two anthems , Hatiqvah and Biladi .

Most of the audience arrived after a big demonstartion along Tel Aviv's Dizengoff and Frishmann streets , including Knesset members Meir Vilner and Charlie Biton . The calls of the marchers for two states for the two peoples and for talks with the PLO echoed this time especially strong all the way long . While the police issued the license for the demonstration conditional on its start at 4 p.m. -which limited the number of participants due to the Shabbat- the municipality allowed the opening of the meeting only after the end of Shabbat ,thus creating an interval between the two events . But the great interest of the public brought nevertheless thousands into the streets.

NUMEROUS DEMONSTRATIONS AND MEETINGS IN THE ARAB SECTOR

A mass meeting took place on 9.12.88 in Nazareth organized by the DFPE .Before the opening an exhibition of paintings with the portraits of 70 victims of the Uprising was shown on the place in front of the Friendship House . The pictures were drawn by Israeli and Palestinian artists . The central speech was made by the Mayor ,Knesset member Tawfiq Zayad .

A demonstration tokk place in the villages of Kfar Yasif and Abu Snan ,that ended with a meeting attended by thousands ,addressed by the head of the Kfar Yasif local council , Nimer Murkus , Prof. Kalman Altman and Mohammed Nafa .

Another demonstration and meeting was held in Shafr'am .Speakers were Shafiq Khuriyeh and Moussa A-Segeir .

Public meetings took place in many other places and many inhabitants from the triangle participated in the big demonstration in the streets of Tel Aviv .

ZO-HADEREKH 14.12.1988

Documents and Materials

GREETINGS OF DAVID (SASHA) KHENIN
TO THE 12TH CONGRESS OF THE
PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY

Oporto 1-4/12/1988

Dear Comrades ,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel and in the name of its Jewish and Arab members I have the pleasure to greet your 12th congress.

Members of our party are following your struggle with keen interest . They highly esteem your heroic struggle under conditions of fascist dictatorship . Your historic contribution to the April revolution and your relentless struggle against the liquidation of its achievements .

The report of the Central Committee which was delivered to the Congress by comrade Alvaro Cunhal arouses deep interest . The report provides profound analysis of the international developments , of the internal situation in Portugal and the tasks of the Party. We wish the delegates of the Congress fruitful deliberations and to adopt resolutions which will enhance still further the struggle of your Party .

Dear Comrades ,

As you know our Party is working under difficult and complicated conditions . The Israeli society is characterized by deep political polarization .

From one side the right forces together with the religious fanatics and fascist elements are growing , this was reflected in the results of the elections to the Knesset (Israeli Parliament)- while on the other side the peace forces and the realistic approach towards solving the Middle East conflict are gaining strength. Today not only the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality-in which our Communist Party constitutes the major factor- but also additional circles including

two political Parties represented in Parliament are stressing the necessity of recognizing the right of self determination to the Palestinian Arab people and their right to establish their own independent state along side Israel .

The international developments as a result of the Soviet peace initiatives are emphasizing the need and the possibility of solving regional conflicts including the Middle East conflict .

The resolutions of the 19th National Council of the PLO on the background of the 1st anniversary of the Intifada-the popular uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories- strengthen the struggle of the peace forces in Israel for putting an end to the occupation of the Arab territories which were occupied in the war of June 1967, and these of Lebanon for achieving peace , based on the principle of two states for two people- Israel and Palestine- and for opening a new page in the relations among the peoples of the region . All this is stressing the urgent need of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East ,with the participation of all factors involved in the conflict including Israel and the PLO as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations .

The Israeli Communists evaluate the increase of votes given to the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality by 20% in the last elections as an important achievement . The Israeli Communists stand in the front ranks of the struggle for an Israeli-Palestinian peace against the cruel oppression in the occupied territories and for solidarity with the popular uprising in the occupied territories .The Israeli policy of occupation and annexation leads to the fact that 73% of the state budget is dedicated to direct military expenses and to the payment of debts and interest . As a result of this there are drastic cuts in social services, in health and educational services which are entangled in grave crisis .Nearly about 650 thousands inhabitants of Israel are living below the line of poverty. Unemployment is spreading, around 3000 enterprises are in crisis .

The Israeli Communists are in the front ranks in the struggle for defending the daily rights of the working class and the popular masses, against national discrimination and for equality of rights to the Arab population in Israel, against racism and fascism and for democratic liberties .

Our Communist Party is exerting every effort for establishing a broad cooperation between parties organizations and public personalities in the struggle against the policy of the government headed by Shamir, against the establishment of a government of national unity between the Likud and the Labour Alignment ,for bringing about a change in the official Israeli policy towards a policy of peace ,democracy, equality and social progress. Thus in this way the Israeli communists are fulfilling their patriotic and internationalist task .

Dear Comrades ,

We wish your 12th Congress every success !

Long Live the fraternal relations and solidarity between our two parties which are guided by the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism !

Long live the struggle for peace, democracy, social progress and socialism !

**GREETINGS DELIVERED BY BENJAMIN GONEN
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE**

ATHENS 2-4/12/1988

Dear Comrades ,

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Greek Communist Party I have the pleasure to be here with you in this festive assembly and to convey to you heartiest fraternal greetings on behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel and in the name of all its Jewish and Arab members .

For a long time ,our two parties have had special and friendly relations between them . our two parties were founded in the wake of the Great October Socialist Revolution which inaugurated a new epoch in the history of mankind .

Our two parties have led in their respective countries a relentless struggle against imperialism and against local reaction for peace in the world and in our region . Both our parties have always been faithful to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism . Both our parties have consistently acted for consolidating the unity of the world communist and workers movement and for strengthening the cooperation among the communist and workers parties in our region .

All through the long and stormy years of its struggle the Communist Party of Greece has experienced periods of illegality and fascist terror and has offered great and dear sacrifices , but it was never brought down to its knees , on the contrary under all circumstances it has held high devotedly and courageously the banner of true patriotism and genuine internationalism .

The Communist Party of Greece have always proved to be a staunch fighter for peace ,national independence , democracy and for the vital interests of the working people in Greece .

No wonder that the Communist Party of Greece has come out of these battles as the leader of the working class and all democratic forces in Greece and gained the admiration and respect of the Communist movement and all people of good will .

Your struggle will be always a source of pride and encouragement to the Israeli Communists .

Dear Comrades ,

Today the Israeli communists are facing a new and fateful challenges on the background of the new grave and dangerous situation in our country .

The Intifada , the heroic popular uprising of the Palestinians in the occupied territories which in few days will mark its first anniversary , the realistic and constructive resolutions of the last National Council of the PLO and the declarations of the Palestinian independent state alongside Israel have created a new opportunities for just and stable peace in the Middle East , which can be achieved through an international peace conference under the auspices of the UNO with the participation of all factors involved in the conflict including Israel and the PLO as well as all permanent states members of the Security Council .

Israeli society is witnessing a process of deep political polarization, from one side the rightist forces together with the religious fanatics and fascist elements are growing - this was expressed in the results of the recent elections to the Knesset (Israeli Parliament)- while on the other side the anti-war and progressive forces in Israel are gaining strength . This was also reflected in the fact that the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality - in which our Party constitutes the major force - has scored an important achievement in these elections and increased its votes by 20% .

Our people in Israel are now facing the real danger of a new nationalist government of a coalition with dark and racist forces headed by Shamir .

The Israeli communists and their allies in the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality are appealing to all forces of peace and democracy in Israel to establish the broadest possible unity for enhancing the struggle against the official Israeli policy of war , annexations and oppression in the occupied territories for just peace based on the principle of two states for two people - Israel and Palestine .

The Israeli policy of war and occupation is hitting hard the Israeli society ,over 73% of the State budget is allocated to military expenses and the repayment of debts and interests . This is the main reason for the grave deterioration of the socio-economic situation in Israel . Unemployment is spreading and it encompasses now more than hundred thousand workers ,8% of the Labour force more than 3000 enterprises are facing serious crisis ,social health and educational services are on the verge of collapse .

The policy of national discrimination directed against the Arab population in Israel is being intensified .

Our Party is exerting every effort for mobilizing the workers and the popular masses Jews and Arabs in the struggle for defending their daily rights for democracy ,equality and social progress .

Dear Comrades ,

We wish the Greek Communists and the working people of Greece every success in their struggle for peace , democracy and social progress .

We hope that you like us are strengthened by the revolutionary historic changes in the Soviet Union towards implementing Perestroika , Glasnost democratization and the new thinking .

May the 70th anniversary of the Communist Party of Greece constitute an important lever for enhancing your struggle for the interest of your people and your country and for advancing the general cause of peace and socialism .

Long Live The Greek Communist Party !

Long Live Proletarian Internationalism !

Long Live the Friendship Between the Communist
Parties of Greece and Israel !

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

**TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA
HAVANA - CUBA**

Dear Comrades ,

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution we have the pleasure to extend to you , and through you to the Cuban people warm congratulations and heartiest fraternal greetings .

The Historic victory of the Cuban Revolution inaugurated a new era of annals in Latin America and opened a new page in the history of the Cuban People , enhanced the struggle against US imperialism ,for national independence and peace . The Cuban Revolution scored a remarkable achievements ,substantially raised the material and cultural standard of the working people of Cuba . Wish you and the heroic people of Cuba every success in developing still further your socialist society ,for victory in our comon noble ideals of peace,democracy ,national independence and socialism .

**TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF SPAIN
THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE
PEOPLES IN SPAIN**

Dear Comrades ,

With deep satisfaction and pleasure we read the news of the unity of the communists in Spain .

This historic event will no doubt contribute to the strengthening of the unity of all the left forces in spain and will enhance the struggle of the working

class and the popular masses in your country, for defending their daily rights for democracy , social progress and peace .

The unity of the Spanish Communists is in accordance with the deep voted revolutionary traditions of your party .

We wish you every success in your struggle for the victory of our comon noble ideals , democracy , peace and socialism .

**TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
ROMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY
BUCHAREST - ROMANIA**

Daer Comrades ,

On the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of the Romanian Republic ,we have the pleasure to extend to you and through you to the Romanian people heartiest fraternal greetings .

We wish the Romanian people every success in their efforts for dseveloping socialist society,deepening democracy and enhancing the general struggle for preserving world peace .

**TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF THEN SOVIET UNION
MOSCOW -USSR**

Dear Comrades,

We were deeply shocked by the tragic results of the horrible earthquake which resulted in the loss of thousands of human beingws and enormous material destruction . Kindly extend our deep feelings of sympathy to the Soviet people and our sincere condolence to the families of the victims .

TO THE EMBASSADOR OF THE
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA
TEL-AVIV - ISRAEL

Dear Comrade Julian Bituleanu ,

We have the pleasure to extend to you and to the staff members of your Embassy heartiest fraternal greetings on the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of the Romanian Republic .

We wish the Romanian people further achievements in developing their socialist society and preserving world peace .

DECEMBER 12/1988

CC TELEX NO. 371595 ISCOMP IL

COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL
CENTRAL COMMITTEE - FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
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