

**INFORMATION BULLETIN
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL**



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Workers of all countries, unite!

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ISRAEL NEEDS A NEW GOVERNMENT AND A NEW POLICY

STATEMENT OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

The Declaration of Menachem Begin regarding his intention to present his resignation as Prime Minister, a step which leads to the resignation of the Likud government, is a result of the failure of his policy, which was based on war, occupation, annexation, colonial settlement, regional and global service to US imperialism, enriching the capitalists, attacking the standard of living and the rights of the workers, national discrimination, curtailment of the democratic freedoms and the encouragement of fascist elements.

Menachem Begin and his government are responsible for the death of 518 Israeli victims and for the death of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese victims in Lebanon. They are responsible for the involvement of Israel in a war, which its end is not seen yet, a war which was faced with a mounting opposition among the people and mainly among soldiers in the reserve. Begin and his government are responsible for the galloping inflation, for the increase of the state debts, for the crisis in the productive branches and civil export, for the heavy burden of taxes and for the deepening of social polarization. The declaration of Begin regarding his intention to resign fell in the framework of the widening public criticism of his failing policy and in face of the lack of stability inside the government coalition.

The Communist Party of Israel and other peace-loving circles have demanded again and again the resignation of Begin. Now, when his resignation is on the agenda the most urgent task is - to prevent the establishment of another Likud government or a government of "national coalition" and to act for the establishment of a new government which will follow different policy.

Six years, during which Begin held the post of Prime Minister, have proved into which political, economical, social and moral abyss his policy is heading. The national interest and the cause of peace demand a policy which will put an end to occupations, which will strive for comprehensive and stable peace - peace without annexations - based on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. Such peace, could be achieved through negotiations with the PLO

and in the framework of an international peace conference under the auspices of the UN and the participation of all factors, including the USSR and the USA.

It is vital to establish a new government which will withdraw immediately and unconditionally the Israeli army from Lebanon, which will stop the establishment of colonial settlements in the occupied territories, which will lend a hand to the convening of the above mentioned peace conference, which will defend the democratic freedoms and rebuff the dangers of fascism, which will defend the standard of living, the rights of the workers and welfare services, which will direct means for the development of the economy by cutting down military spendings, which will put an end to the policy of national discrimination and expropriation of lands directed against the Arab population, which will act for putting an end to communal discrimination and take care of the poor quarters and developing towns, and which will practically ensure equal rights for women.

A new government which will follow such a policy, will enjoy the support of the public, the kneset and all those who want to prevent the continuation of the rule of the Likud.

The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Israel calls upon all the peaceloving forces and upon all those who support a realistic attitude to unite and increase their efforts in order to put an end to the rule of the Likud in the state. In case a new government which will follow a new policy will not be established, it is necessary to hold elections to the kneset at the earliest possible time.

August 30th, 1983

STATEMENT OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

FOR A UNITED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE POLICY OF OCCUPATION AND ITS ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES

The Political Bureau states with concern that the Reagan administration and the Begin government act for preventing an end to the war in Lebanon and continue violating its sovereignty. They act for the perpetuation of Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon, for the partition of Lebanon and turning it into a US military basis in partnership with the Israeli government. They attempt to force upon Lebanon the rule of the fascist Falagas, in contradiction to the wish of the decisive majority of the Lebanese people who is represented by the Front for National Salvation. They act for turning Lebanon into an American-Israeli basis for an offensive against Syria.

The Political Bureau states that the mission of the representative of Reagan, Mac Farlain, to the Middle East, is not the pulback of all foreign forces from Lebanon but the achievement of the above mentioned aggressive aims, which constitute a danger for Israel itself, for the peace of the Middle East and even the peace of the world.

The official declaration of the representatives of the US administration that it is not practical to disband the colonial settlements in the occupied territories, and the US veto on the proposed decision of the Security Council against the colonial settlements and the condemnation of the massacre in the Islamic University in Hebron is like the providing of the green light to the Begin government and the rioting colonialist settlers to continue with the creeping annexation of the occupied Palestinian territories and with the programs against the sons of the Palestinian people.

The Political Bureau states that, this whole policy is connected with a far-reaching plan of US imperialism against peace in the Middle East and the world, against the policy of independence and the national liberation movements, against the Soviet Union and against other socialist states. Relying on the political, military and financial backing of Washington the official circles in Israel and the extremist, fascist bodies are intensifying their threats to expel the Palestinian people from their homeland, to turn the "Complete Eretz Israel" (the whole territory of Palestine) into a purely Jewish country and a large American basis.

The Political Bureau warns against the grave consequences which this adventurist policy is liable to bring to Israel. The people in Israel already feel its grave consequences. Daily, additional victims fall. The economy collapses. Destructive economic and social tribulations are being planned, which aim at lowering the living standard of the workers and the popular masses, to cause mass unemployment, and to bring about a drastic curtailment of the educational, health and welfare services.

The policy of war, occupation and colonial settlements brings, on the other hand, gigantic profits to the big capitalists, land speculators, exchange speculators, the big contractors who act in the occupied territories and in Lebanon, the military-industrial complex and the arms dealers.

The Political Bureau calls for an intensified and united struggle for overthrowing the Likud government, which is responsible for all the political and economic disasters - and for a fundamental change of Israeli policy.

ZO HADEREKH

August 10, 1983

REMOVE THE STAIN OF AL - ANSAR

LET ALL PRISONERS RETURN BACK TO THEIR FAMILIES

Speech by MK Meir Vilner

The subject which I intend to present today before the Knesset is one of the most tragic and gravest subjects which I had ever presented before the Knesset since its establishment.

EVIDENCE OF ATROCITIES

Lieutenant-Colonel Dov Yirmya wrote in his war diary about what is happening in the Al-Ansar prison camp. He quotes what he terms the "evidence of an educated and intelligent person who evokes confidence, a prisoner who had been released". In his witness he says: "... we were concentrated in the yard of the nunnery. From the moment of our detention started the beatings, starving, causing thirst and humiliation. At least seven detainees died and were buried in the Muslim cemetery in Sidon. We were beaten with bludgeons over our heads and backs whilst sitting on the ground, the head bowed down forwards between the thighs, the hands tied closely behind the backs and the eyes covered with rags. We were transported by bus to Israel. Any movement, any moving of the head - beatings. When we arrived at Meggido, we were driven with beatings, curses and with our eyes covered into enclosures. The main point of the interrogation really was to make us admit that we were members of one of the organisations (one of the detachments of the PLO - IB). After a few interrogations every-body admitted what they wanted. It was clear that if we do not admit, the beatings will be limitless. One of the methods of intimidation was: setting on dogs which were tied by straps (they also bit detainees - about this can be read in the report which was published in 'Dr Spiegel'). The beatings were inflicted on those parts of the body, where they were most painful. There were cases of kicking the genitals. In July, when we were transferred to Al-Ansar, shackled and with covered eyes; strokes fell on us like rain. The white car of the interrogators we used to call "the burial car". Those who returned by that car from the interrogation bore always blue stigmata of beatings in the face and all parts of the body, wounds and frequently also had a fractured hand. I myself, after being released, had bloody urine for 28 days. Until today I have swellings and pains".

In "Al-Hamishmar" of April 8, this year, we read: "Several dozens of detainees lost their sound senses in the long months of detention. Almost every week additional cases were disclosed in the camp of prisoners who by any definition should have been put into psychiatric hospitals. Next to them, there are in the camp several dozens of invalids, old people, lame and even blind. The danger to the security of Israel from those persons is obviously extremely great. Otherwise, why are they still held in Al-Ansar? The Israeli army does not permit visits of relatives. Moreover, inside the camp there are criminal elements, murderers, rapists, robbers and such people as had belonged to the underworld in southern Lebanon, and these take an important part in the domination over life in the camp. Some of those were appointed to the post of "shawish" (literally 'sergent') and these are the rulers of the enclosures. They frequently prevent people in the enclosures from getting food".

In another article, also in "Al-Hamishmar", which was published in June, this year, we read: "After a number of cases in which during uprisings several detainees lost their life, severe limits were set to the security personnel who guard the camp". This means that they had behaved in such a manner that even the authorities were compelled to confess that it already passed any limit of brutality. The detainees are not treated as prisoners-of-war, but not even as humans at all. All the laws in the world are broken, including international and Israeli laws.

CYNICISM AND THE LEGAL ASPECT

In an official affidavit addressed to the Supreme Court of Justice, in reaction to the request of three lawyers to visit their clients in the Al-Ansar camp, Colonel Michael Ben-Shahar, assistant to the chief military police officer for imprisoning - who is responsible for imprisoning in the Israeli army, writes that "the Israeli army refuses to permit Israeli lawyers to visit clients in Al-Ansar because in Lebanon there is no Israeli administration. The keeping of persons in the Al-Ansar camp does not derive from any internal Israeli legislation. Keeping persons in Lebanon under guard of the Israeli army is an ACT OF STATE, in relation to which the local courts do not have any jurisdiction. The detainee has no rights whatsoever to turn to the internal courts (of Israel - IB) which could criticise the legitimacy of his detention. The issue of keeping the detainees at Al-Ansar lies outside the sphere of the Israeli law".

Falsifying the Geneva Convention he writes that paragraph 78 does not state any right to representation by a lawyer and as the detainees in Al-Ansar are not going to be brought to court, there is no need for any lawyer.

And another absurd claim: "What is the business and authority of an Israeli lawyer to demand the right to meet with a detainee who had been arrested and is being kept outside Israeli territory? And in Lebanon no Israeli military administration has been set up..."

And yet another pretext appears in the affidavit: "The arrival of lawyers will cause fermentation and will be a security risk". He recalls the fact that on the Muslim holiday Al-Faitr the wives and children came to the fences of the Al-Ansar camp in order at least to see their unhappy relatives and when they approached the fences this caused shooting at the detainees in the camp who also approached the fences. He writes in his affidavit: "This was an event which caused losses among the detainees". Thus it is admitted that shots had been fired at detainees.

Even the "Amnesty" Organisation - and sometimes the government, too, when it suits it - writes in the memorandum of April 19, this year: "Amnesty" continues being concerned about the fact that the persons who have been detained in Lebanon by the Israeli army are denied the legal rights, in accordance with the accepted international norms. "Amnesty" is concerned about the fact that the detainees are denied the right to see a lawyer. "Amnesty" is also concerned about the fact that many of the detainees are kept for long periods in isolated detention".

"Amnesty" also protests that "the Israeli authorities have stated that they do not recognise the fact that these detainees should be kept in accordance with the third or fourth Geneva Convention, or in accordance with the Emergency Regulations of 1948".

This is what we have said: "There is no justice and no judge". Also, lists of detainees are not published and the families are living in fear. Also, there are smaller camps about which nothing is published, and there undescrivable tortures are carried out."

WHERE ARE THE MISSING?!

There are also missing persons. Only today the war minister said in reply to a query of Member of Knesset Tawfiq Toubi, what has happened to four persons one of them was found in Al-Ansar and the other three were not located...

Shall we speak only about missing in the Argentine? I al protest against what is going on in the Argentine. But here, from the rostrum of the Knesset, minister Arens (the war minister) says: "Were not located", when names were given to him and not just some talk in general.

"Amnesty" calls for an international campaign to demand of the Israeli government: "1. To enable all the detainees in Lebanon held by the Israeli army to contact a lawyer. 2. To publish a full list of all the detainees in the hands of the Israeli army in Lebanon, who are still being held in the Al-Ansar camp or in other places in Lebanon and Israel. 3. To enable humanitarian organisations to visit all concentration and detention camps. 4. To enable visits of families of the detainees. 5. To carry out an immediate investigation of every complaint about tortures and that the results of the investigation shall be published in full".

There is wide international activity on this problem, there is activity in Israel, inter alia on behalf of the Israeli League of Human and Civil Rights, but so far there have not been any results.

What are the conclusions? They are not recognised as prisoners-of-war. They are not recognised as administrative detainees in accordance with the Emergency Regulations. They are called "brought persons", so that no international law should cover them, no international convention, no Israeli law, no law whatsoever. They are only recognised as "two-legged animals", as "cockroaches" and the attitude towards them is accordingly.

"LIFE AND DEATH ARE EQUAL"

More than 5,000 human beings are detained in the Al-Ansar camp and recently their number has again mounted. Salah Ta'amari one of the leaders of the PLO in the camp warns against a tragedy in the camp in the near future: "The prisoners-of-war are going, sooner or later, to climb the fences, facing the machine guns, as in their despair, life and death have become for them equal". ("Davar", June 19, 1983).

Human beings are brought into a situation where they do not care to die by shots!

Information is being published, allegedly published by the International Red Cross. I read in the papers: The Red Cross says that everything is all-right; the Red Cross says: The conditions in Al-Ansar are good. We contacted the Red Cross and they told us that the Organisation had not published even a single information, besides stating that they had visited the camp.

Just as the whole war is a web of lies, thus it is here: concealment of facts which would shock every civilised and conscientious person. Even the US administration, which at present is again on a honeymoon with Israeli concubine, is compelled to express in public its opposition to the atrocities in the Al-Ansar camp. The press published on June 14, 1983 that the spokesman of the State Department expresses "sorrow at the events in the Al-Ansar camp and he said that the administration is concerned about the conditions in the Prisoners-of-War camp in southern Lebanon". Even they!

HUMANE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ISRAELI POW'S

As against that, the attitude towards the Israeli prisoners-of-war in Lebanon is completely different. One can quote from the Israeli press, and from what we have seen and heard on the (Israeli) television at the end of the previous year and since then: what the Israeli POW sergeant Reuben Cohen said, as well as the POW Abraham Kornfeld and others. They had a radio, television, books. They were never beaten. Now, too, in spite of the change which has taken place in the last weeks - they are not beaten. The change has come, as also the Israeli POW Dani Gilboa says, because of the terrible conditions in Al-Ansar. Thus, perhaps an attempt is made to influence a certain mitigation in Al-Ansar. But even if this is so, we have heard from the Israeli POW, Yossi Grof: "It is true that they do not give us a television set as until now, but they do not beat us, they do not do what is being done in Al-Ansar".

In conclusion, exchanges of POW's could have been affected long ago. Of course, of all the POWs, of all those in the Al-Ansar camp and those in the other camps, in prisons in Israel and southern Lebanon. The whole list must be published and it must be disclosed what happened to the missing. An immediate end must be put to the brutal harassment of the Palestinian, Lebanese and other prisoners and to the atrocious attitude towards their families.

An end must also be put to the sufferings of the families of the Israeli POWs, who must be returned home by means of the exchange of prisoners.

I have first hand information that the delay of the exchange of the prisoners comes from the Israeli side, from the Begin government. The prisoners are being held as a political card, and I suspect even more than that, that there is perhaps a plan to kidnap the Israeli prisoners. Because, as well known, the PLO, the two organisations who hold the Israeli POWs, have long ago been prepared for an exchange of all the prisoners from both sides.

Finally, after this will be done, we will propose that a state investigation committee of enquiry will be established to investigate thoroughly the barbarianism in the Al-Ansar concentration camp, because this effects our whole life. If the crime will not be condemned, tomorrow such things can happen also in Israel, for this is bestialisation, dehumanisation of our society and we will suffer, not only the Palestinians. The Al-Ansar camp will remain a dark stain for generations to come - on the brow of the present rulers of Israel, of those who lack conscience and morals.

ZO HADEREKH,

July 6, 1983

THE WAY THE LAMB PROVOKES THE WOLF,,,

*Speech of MK Tawfiq Toubi
in the Knesset on July 13,
1983*

Rivers of blood are still being shed in the occupied territories, in Lebanon, the blood of Jews and Arabs. It causes us pain that the list of bereft parents, orphan children and widows is growing. All those who were killed in the terrible bloodshed - Jews and Arabs - cause pain and sufferings whether it is the young settler Aharon Gross or the Palestinian youngster who demonstrated against the occupation, or the victim of the barbarian bombings in Beirut, or a prisoner in the Al-Ansar camp, or a soldier who falls in Lebanon.

The circumstances are different, but we accuse first and foremost, the Likud government and its policy of occupation, the policy of colonial settlements and the stupid attempt at annexing territories and evicting a people from their homeland, we accuse this policy and consider it responsible for the continued bloodshed.

What is happening today in Hebron is happening in fact in all the occupied territories. There are some people who look for the cause and the guilty person in this or the other event and there are some who accuse the Arabs. There are some who accuse the Jews, while Jews and Arabs are the victims and the guilty is he who insists today on continuing the policy of war and bloodshed, who refuses to accept a way-out, a compromise between the two peoples. A compromise would lead the two peoples to embark on a road of peace, coexistence and cooperation.

THE REAL AIM

Now it is becoming clear to everyone, that the Likud government with Menahem Begin at its head, and in accordance with his instructions, considered the killing of Aharon Gross a convenient opportunity to intensify still more their nationalist policy, in order to deepen the process of colonialist Jewish settling in Hebron and in all the occupied territories, to expel the Palestinian people from an additional part of their homeland, to disband their institutions of higher education, to deny them the authority to manage their own affairs, even their minor municipal affairs, and to take a further step towards perpetuating the occupation, annexing territories and thinning out the Palestinian Arab people until their expulsion.

All the pressure and amok-running of the colonialist settlers and the demand - as they call - for a "suitable Zionist answer", is nothing else than a show which is coordinated between them and the prime minister and his cabinet ministers who respond enthusiastically to every racist demand of Levinger and Kahana.

The government of law and order of minister Arens (the war minister - IB) has not found it correct to disassociate itself from and to condemn the racist pogrom that the settlers of Kiryat-Arba carried out in the market, in the very heart of Hebron, burning, destroying and ruthlessly rioting

The Begin government has prepared all the reactions that the Levinger and Kahana men had demanded. Immediately steps of collective punishment were taken against all inhabitants of the town; curfew at the time of the holidays, the dismissal of Mustafa Natche from his post as deputy mayor of the town, the disbandment of the municipal council, the appointment of an officer of the military government to conduct the affairs of the municipality, all these steps have pleased and satisfied the settlers of Kiryat-Arba.

It is clear that the removal of the elected local authority is a step which will enable the elimination of an additional obstacle on the path of carrying out the design of colonial settling inside the town of Hebron and the eviction and expulsion of its Arab inhabitants, as is openly said by the racist settlers and their spokesmen, one of whom is Member of Knesset Hanan Porat. They say openly: The new officer who is administering the municipality of Hebron will revoke the plea to the High Court of Justice, in which the Hebron municipality had requested the prevention of work which is carried out by the initiative of the Kiryat-Arba settlers inside the town of Hebron without permission of the municipal council. In the document pronouncing the disbandment of the municipal council it is cynically said that Mustafa Natche and the members of the council had continuously provoked the Jewish settlement in the town of Hebron. This is just like the well-known story about the wolf who decided to tear to pieces the lamb and found no other argument than that the lamb was troubling the water from which the wolf drinks, while the wolf drinks from the upper reaches of the river, and the lamb drinks from its lower reaches.

Who provoked whom? Who pushed himself into Hebron in order to settle there and dwell there and to expel the Arab inhabitants of Hebron? There were extremely rude provocations from which even the present government disassociated itself.

Formally the decision of this government still stands, according to which those who invaded the "Hadassa Building" had done so without any permission. Those people still wait for the order of expulsion and they must be evacuated in accordance with the decision of the government which is still valid.

Is it not the colonial settlers who, covered by the military government, day by day, embittered the life of the inhabitants? Did they not attack homes in the outskirts of the town, in order to expel the owners of those houses? Did they not tear out electric poles, burn buses, shoot and kill inhabitants in Hebron and its environments? And all this without being brought to the courts and punished?

In the session of the government which took place following the murder, again there was a talk about populating Hebron with Jews, on the one hand, and about using a strong fist for imposing law and order, on the other hand. And we know what is intended when reference is made to imposing law and order.

THERE IS NO COEXISTENCE BETWEEN THE OCCUPIER AND THE OCCUPIED

It is said: Why the right of the Jews to return to Hebron is questioned? But is it possible to turn back the wheel of history only in Hebron? If the wheel of history is turned back in the Jewish quarter in Jerusalem or Hebron, why is this same right denied to the sons of this country, the sons of the Palestinian Arab people to return to Jaffa, Ramleh, Lydda, Haifa, Acre and the whole regions of Galilee and Negev (Naqab) and the hills of Jerusalem? And there is still a difference when speaking about the Arab refugees who wish and want to return, while respecting the independence of the state of Israel on the one hand, and the Likud government, on the other hand, who do not only reject equality of the right to return, but want the Jews to return and settle in Hebron, Nablus and the whole West Bank and the Gaza strip, while imposing by force a foreign rule upon the Palestinian Arab people and deny their independence and their very existence in their homeland.

It is said: Coexistence between Jews and Arabs in the occupied territories - why not? But this is a hypocritical demand which lacks any moral basis. It is said: Why is it forbidden to live in peace and coexistence, each alongside the other, in Hebron? But this is a coexistence between masters and slaves; between evictors and evicted; between those who

have behind them the authorities, the army, the force, and those who are robbed of every defence, those who day after day are under pressure of the occupation authorities to leave the country, to abandon their homeland, those whose basic rights are not kept at all. This is not coexistence.

The events in Hebron are symptoms of what is occurring and what is liable to occur still more radically in the occupied territories and even in the whole country, if the Likud government will continue its adventurist steps for the realisation of a policy for perpetuation of the occupation, for Jewish-colonial settling in the occupied territories and the strivings for annexing them to Israel when they are "cleaned" of the Arab population.

The details of the events which reflect the whole sad picture of the policy of the Likud government, whose adventurist and unrealistic policy leads the country from bad to worse, from one adventure to another, from the adventure in Lebanon which has not yet reached its end, with its thousands of victims, up to the new disasters in Hebron. This policy will indeed shed the blood of many, while the government rejects the hand of the Palestinian Arab people and the leadership of the PLO, a hand which is extended for a peace of compromise and coexistence, when each people will have independence in his homeland. But the government will be unable to prevent this. And in order to shorten the way to true peace, the government must resign and go.

ZO HADEREKH

July 20, 1983

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FAILURE

Speech of MK Meir Vilner in the Knesset

On July 27, 1983, the DFPE (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) proposed a motion of no-confidence in the government. In this context MK Vilner said:

THE MASSACRE IN HEBRON

What happened in Hebron adds a further argument to the motion of no-confidence in this government. When today, the details are made clear and accurate, it turns out that this act can be termed a massacre, murder in cold blood.

Not only the blood of the victims cries to us from the earth, but also the policy which leads to murder, massacres, to designs of expulsion of a whole people from their homeland. This is the policy of the "Complete Eretz Israel", a policy of denying the very fact that this is a country of two peoples, not one people, the country of the Israeli people and the Palestinian Arab people.

The aspiration not to recognise the existence of the second people, the plans for expelling them from the country - this is what led to what happened in Hebron, what happened in Nablus, to the policy of colonial settling in Hebron and all the occupied territories.

This policy has brought about the fact that, despite the declaration of the minister of the interior of this government, that armed underground forces exist - no one looks for them. The government does not investigate the source of the attack on the mayors, after three years have already passed. We accuse you of not wanting to find the criminals because of political reasons. We accuse you of not looking for them. We accuse you of regarding that matter only as a small part of your policy, of preparing the official annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza strip and the solution of the demographic problem which will arise from the expulsion. You prepare the expulsion by provocations in all spheres. Now this tendency preponders in the town of Hebron.

THE WAR IN LEBANON

One of the decisive reasons for expressing no-confidence in this government from our side is the war in Lebanon. If this government had a feeling of national responsibility or human honour, or what is called "ministerial responsibility" - you should resign on your own initiative.

You brought about the disaster. Even the prime minister says that this is a tragic situation. You have brought about the tragedy of the Palestinian Arab people, the Lebanese people, but also of our own people. During the six years of your rule, until the crescendo of the war in Lebanon, you have changed Israel; before that we were not enthusiastic either. You have turned the name of Israel into the name of a monster not only in the eyes of the world, but also in the eyes of many of us who live here in the State of Israel.

Yesterday in the morning I heard on the radio that a senior government minister had said: "I will no longer support any military adventure, we must not serve as an American policeman for the Middle East". These are the words of a senior minister, who remained anonymous.

It is very interesting that a hand is lent to the utmost criminal acts, to the gravest acts, which will cause weeping for generations to come. However, this senior minister does not resign, the same with other senior government ministers. That senior minister does not resign but he says: "I will never support..." In other words, he says: 1. We carried out a military adventure in Lebanon. 2. We serve as an American policeman for the Middle East. This is the meaning of what he says and this is what we have said from the day of the opening of war and throughout all the following long months.

If you are concerned with the honour of the homeland, with the honour of the people with national honour - even because of this alone you should go, in order to maintain our national honour.

WHY DID BEGIN NOT GO TO REAGAN?

The prime minister announced that he will not travel to the United States because of personal reasons. But President Reagan issued an order to appear immediately to two Israeli ministers - the war minister Moshe Arens and the foreign minister, Yitzhak Shamir. He said: The prime minister has

personal reasons - let him sit at home, but you must come immediately; do not wait even for the motion of no-confidence on Wednesday.

Thus the two ministers quickly flew last night to the United States. Because, if they did not comply with the order, an order to bring them soon would have been issued. So, they - excuse my expression - like stinking children, immediately left on a night flight in order to report to the bosses in the U.S.A.

The truth is that you, the prime minister, today I have heard what your lady secretary has said (but I have already, one day before that, prepared my speech) that because of political reasons you did not go to the United States. In other words, you did not want to receive directly the instructions which you are forced to listen to and to carry out, just like what had happened also at the time of the war. Therefore you did not travel, and you sent the two ministers to face such a situation. As already someone has said: Begin has not travelled, but two Beginists have done so. All this, is the result of the political collapse and to a certain degree also due to a military failure in Lebanon. The decision of the government about a partial withdrawal in Lebanon, is a decision to perpetuate the Israeli occupation in a considerable part of Lebanon, or as it is termed today - the establishment of a Northern Bank. The second aim is to bring about the partition of Lebanon. The third aim is to evoke anew the civil war in Lebanon in full momentum and to leave inside Lebanon as a permanent supervisor the US army and other Nato armies.

You say that you are independent. I say that you are not independent. You did not open the war in Lebanon alone, but you have started the war in full cooperation and agreement with the Reagan administration in the political, military, financial and economic fields. Secondly, you will not get out of Lebanon even partially, without the consent of those who give you a part of the money and arms for warfare and for the preparation of the war against Syria. Whoever has a head on his shoulders and looks at the political map and on the map of the deployment that has been decided upon and which will be carried out in very slow steps, according to what the Americans will now agree with, realizes that everything is politically and militarily planned for attacking Syria in Lebanon and even Syria herself, if it will not accept the American orientation and if it will refuse to cooperate with the American policy in the Middle East and outside it.

WHOM DOES AMIN JUMAYEL REPRESENT?

Members of Knesset, what for are we now in Lebanon? In order to uphold the rule of Amin Jumayel? Whom does he represent? He represents the Falangas and not the Lebanese people, not even the majority of the Christians in Lebanon. He has sold his homeland, its sovereignty and its security to the United States, and to Israel in order to impose his rule with your assistance on the Lebanese people whose majority opposes him. This is also proved by the establishment of the Front for National Salvation in Lebanon.

Therefore the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, which turns Lebanon into a country under Israeli-US patronage has no validity at all.

Secondly, your whole conception has failed.

If, after all what has happened, a time bomb explodes at the place which you call "the good fence", if inside Israel Katyushas fall again, it is a sign that by military means it is impossible to solve anything.

In order to impose on Lebanon a rule of a small minority, of the Falangas, about which you also say that they carried out the massacre in Sabra and Shatila; in order to keep Lebanon for the USA as a springboard for war against Syria, you destroy Israel from inside morally, socially and economically. You destroy the reputation of Israel in the world.

Members of Knesset, I want to warn that the Israeli-US strategical cooperation is a partnership which endangers the very existence of the State of Israel. This danger will intensify if we will continue this partnership, if additional initiated wars will be carried out if we will not act according to political realism and agree to peace with all the neighbouring states. All the neighbouring states are prepared for peace with Israel and the Palestinian people, headed by the PLO, is also prepared for peace with Israel, to a peace treaty to peace with international guarantees on the basis of a sovereign Israeli state within the frontiers of 1967 and an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza strip, while Western Jerusalem will be the capital of Israel and Eastern Jerusalem - the capital of independent Palestine.

THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES

Members of Knesset, I want to say, that it is impossible to understand the economic consequences if we will not see their connection to this policy. Where all these billions, tens of billions go? To the war in Lebanon, to the keeping of the West Bank, to the colonial settlements. This, together with the return of the debts and the stock, for the arms which we buy for the war in Lebanon, for preparing a war against Syria, for ruling the West Bank - destroys our economy more than any other cause. Additionally, you fill the pockets of the Israeli billionaires of the industrial-military complex in Israel. A few reck enormous profits from producing arms, from works in the colonial settlements and from the preparation of a new line in Lebanon. Only a small stratum has an economic interest in the continuation of the wars and the occupation, but this is not the interest of the people.

Therefore your economic solutions are absurd, they are a disaster, just like your political-military solutions. Since you do not want to cut the military spendings, by adopting a policy of peace, you want to reduce the living standard, this is no secret any longer - you want to freeze the real wages, to sterilise the cost-of-living allowance, to reduce the health and education services still more.

Therefore, our motion of no-confidence which we propose, is on behalf of the interest of our people, on behalf of security - real security - on behalf of peace, which is the supreme interest of Israel, and on behalf of the social and moral interest of the Israeli people.

ZO HADEREKH,

August 13, 1983

FOR STRENGTHENING THE FORCE AND REPRESENTATION OF THE DFPE
IN THE MUNICIPALITIES AND THE LOCAL COUNCILS

Speech of Tawfiq Toubi

ELECTIONS TO LOCAL COUNCILS

Elections to municipal and local councils in Israel will be held on October 25, 1983.

The election campaign of the Communist Party of Israel and DFPE (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) was opened in a national conference which was held in Nazareth on August 5, 1983, with the participation of representatives and activists of the DFPE. At this conference comrade Tawfiq Toubi delivered a speech, from which we quote the main part.

The municipal elections will be held under the shadow of new grave dangers which threaten our region and our country. The reasons of these dangers are the continuation of the aggressive war in Lebanon; the intensification of the oppression and the colonial settlements, the deprivation of the Palestinian Arab people of their rights; and because of the abandonment of the resources of the country and the lives of its youngsters in the service of the imperialist US plans.

The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality puts at the centre of the election campaign to the local councils the task to act for ending the aggressive war against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, for the unconditional withdrawal from the whole Lebanese territory, in accordance with the Security Council resolutions.

The US-Israeli pressures which now again are being exerted by Mac Farlein, instead of by Habib, aim at dragging Syria into the tent of "Camp David" and partial settlements, such as separation of forces and provisional solutions, whose aim is - as has been proved by past experience - to drag the region yet again into war.

The DFPE underlines in its platform the question of just peace, which is based on mutual respect of the rights of the two peoples of the country, and will act in the forthcoming election campaign for strengthening the mass struggle for ending the occupation and colonial settlements and for just peace

IN SPITE OF THE DEPRIVATIONS - THERE ARE ALSO SUCCESSES

Regarding the internal situation in view of the policy which prevents the local councils from receiving the necessary funds for ensuring the vital services, the DFPE struggles for the increase of the central support to the local councils, in order to free them from the deep accumulating crisis, from the heavy interest to be paid and from the holding-back of payments, which are due to the local councils from the State.

In the framework of the general deprivation of the local councils, the policy of discrimination against the Arab local authorities is obvious. They are suffering from double deprivation. According to the ministry of interior (published on January 11, 1983 in "Ma'ariv") the average budget of the Jewish local councils per person is double of that in the Arab local councils.

These days, the minister of the interior and the advisor of the prime minister on Arab affairs, Benjamin Gur-Arye, met with a number of Arab heads of Arab local councils in order to sell the wares of the Likud, Mafdal (Jewish national-religious party) and the Alignment, in the Arab sector. Burg (the minister of interior) boasted that he had succeeded in raising the share of the Arab sector in allocations provided by the government to the local authorities from 4% in the year 1981 to 5.5% in the year 1982. Even if we take this miserable addition in its entirety, the share of each individual in the Arab local councils will still be about one third of the share of each individual in the Jewish local councils. Therefore, if there is something in those numbers, it is a stain of shame on the brow of the government. And if the ministry of the interior - according to their own figures - have taken a small step towards closing the gap in the services between the Jewish and Arab local authorities, we can say that its doubtlessly due to the important achievements which the Democratic Front attained in the elections of 1978. The Front came to lead 19 Arab local councils, including the biggest in the country, and influenced some important changes by their functioning. This change had a positive impact on the Committee of Heads of the Arab Local Councils, which the influence of the establishment and its advisors on the Arab local councils in general has decreased.

The support to be given to the Committee of the Heads of the Arab Local Authorities and its strengthening for intensifying their activity against the policy of discrimination, constitutes an important aim of our Front in this election campaign.

The success of the campaign against the design to tear off the lands from 17 Arab villages in the Galilee and annex them to the regional council of Misgav (a Jewish council - IB), emphasises the importance of the public struggle, at the head of which stand those local authorities which are led by the Front.

This struggle for ensuring building sites and living space must be continued with yet greater momentum, based on the unity of ranks. The results of this struggle depend, to a great extent on the results of the forthcoming elections and on the joining of additional local councils, the list of councils which are led by the Front.

CAMPAIGN FOR ELECTED COUNCILS

From this hall we declare our solidarity with the municipality of Nazareth and with the inhabitants of the town in their just struggle against decreasing the area of jurisdiction of the town, as planned by the ministry of the interior and the head of the (Jewish) municipality of Upper Nazareth, member of the Labour Party.

When we declare our solidarity with the municipality of Nazareth, we are sure and confident that the inhabitants of the town will again in the forthcoming elections give their vote to the leadership of the democratic municipality of the Front, in face of the oppressive onslaught of the government and the designs of the Likud, the Alignment and the National-Religious Party and their old-time and new henchmen.

There is no justification at all for the fact that more than 62 Arab villages, among which are big villages with 2,000 inhabitants and more, have no local rule with legal authority. Tens of Jewish localities with not more than a few hundreds have elected local councils with legal authority.

The DFPE will continue its struggle for the establishment of elected local councils in all the Arab villages.

Here is the place also to protest against the double attack on the local authorities in Ablin, Mughar, Abu-Snan and Peki'in, where the ministry of the interior arbitrarily dispersed the elected local councils, violating their rights, and today the ministry prevents them from exercising their right to vote. We demand most energetically to hold elections to those councils together with all the local councils in the country, in the month of October.

The DFPE demands to change the law from the days of the British mandatory rule, which imposes the patronage of district governors; we demand giving independence to these elected authorities and extending their fundamental authority. The DFPE struggles for ensuring sources of permanent financing to the local authorities and this in such a form that the central assistance shall be a fixed part in the budget of the local authorities - each one in accordance with the number of its inhabitants and its needs. We oppose the prevailing system of municipal taxes and the arbitrary grants which the finance minister in his great mercy provides to the local authorities.

The struggle for these aims in the election campaign demands the mobilisation of the broadest possible resources of the Jewish democratic forces and the Arab population in Israel. This means not only preserving the leadership of those 16 democratic councils which are now left after the ministry of the interior dispersed several local councils, which are headed by the Front, but also the addition of new democratic bulwarks. This does not mean only preserving the representation of the Front in the towns and villages in Israel through the 109 councillors of the DFPE, as it is now, but the widening and strengthening of this democratic representation. This is the main task before us.

STRIVING FOR UNITY ON A POLITICO-MUNICIPAL BASIS

The leadership of the Alignment have taken upon itself, as it appears, in coordination with the Likud rulers, the task of preventing the national democratic change in the Arab local councils. We extend our hand in every locality to the widest unity around the Democratic Front and to the establishment of widest alliance with the Front. We call for overcoming communal and family conflicts which are fed and fanned by those who dream to use the Arab local councils as a prop for the policy of discrimination and national oppression. We extend our hand to the unity of the widest strata for establishing together local authorities under democratic directions which will raise the level of social services and constitute a fortress for resistance and struggle for equality, progress, democracy and a future of peace.

The experience of democratic fronts in the 1978 elections and the achievements which the Arab local authorities attained in advancing the services to the population, has proved that cooperation with the Communists and with the other democratic forces is the only way for anyone who wishes to serve truly the society in which he lives.

With regard to the proposal to wage the election campaign to the Arab local authorities in one list which represent all the circles and strata of the population in the same local authority, the Front is prepared actively to lend a hand to this proposal. With regard to those local authorities in which the Front, for the first time, launches a campaign for the head or for membership in a local council, we will decide upon our attitude toward the candidates and lists, guided by the principle of establishing the widest front against the Likud and its help-mates. Simultaneously we will take into consideration the attitudes of those forces in relation to war and occupation; to joint action with the Front; to the policy of national discrimination and to the development of the social services. We will discuss matters in each locality separately and will decide upon our position in accordance with the real local conditions. Let no person think that votes of the Front are guaranteed to him.

The great aims which we put before us in the forthcoming election campaign obliges all of us to exert great efforts and sacrifices. We do not only look forward to preserving our achievements in the 1978 elections, but intend to obtain additional local authorities to be led by the Front or by an alliance with the Front; we intend to have additional representatives of the Front in a number of large local councils in the Triangle; to the re-election of the representatives of the Front in Haifa; to our renewed representation and strengthening in Ramleh, together with various other forces; to the strengthening of our representation in Acre; to ensuring democratic representation in the town council of Tel-Aviv-Yaffo, by striving for cooperation with other elements, on the basis of a common platform; to conducting the election campaign on behalf of the Front in several towns where we did not take part in past elections; and to the spreading of the ideas and platform of the Front in every place.

Also, each and every one of us is called upon to strengthen the Front financially, in face of the soaring cost-of-living, because the share of our Front in the financial grants of the State for the expenditures of the elections will not cover our expenses.

The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality calls upon all the Jewish democratic and peaceloving forces, irrespective of ideological views, upon the whole Arab population in Israel to exert efforts for turning the municipal elections and their results into a mass campaign which will advance the cause of equality and democracy, social progress and peace in Israel.

ZO HADEREKH

August 17th, 1983

IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE VOLUNTEER CAMP IN NAZARETH: 100 PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY 9,000 VOLUNTEERS

It has become a tradition for the democratic Municipality of Nazareth to organise every year a camp of volunteers for carrying out important public work for the benefit of the inhabitants of Nazareth.

This year a record number of volunteers came to Nazareth, mostly from among the youth of Nazareth and other Arab towns and villages, from among young Jewish progressives, from among youth coming from the occupied territories and even from foreign countries.

PRESS CONFERENCE ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER CAMP IN NAZARETH

At press conference called by the mayor of Nazareth, comrade Tawfiq Zayad, and the Coordinating Committee of the camp on August 21, 1983, a report was delivered in which the following details were revealed:

The number of volunteers was approximately 9,000. The number of projects which were carried out from plan into reality was 100 - among them some large-scale projects. Among the projects realised were paving 23 roads, demanding the pouring of 1,500 tons of asphalt and 4,000 tons of concrete mixture. In the camp work was done also by 65 units of heavy equipment: 12 mechanical digging devices, 8 compressors, 10 concrete mixers, 15 lorries, 12 rollers and 5 tractors.

Numerous inhabitants of Nazareth lent their equipment and even directed themselves the performance of their machinery.

The mayor, Member of Knesset Tawfiq Zayad told at the press conference that "the development budget for Nazareth which is allocated by the government reached only 7 million shekel and that the per capita general budget (allocated by the government) to the Arab local authorities amounted only to one third of the budget given to the Jewish local authorities". At the previous volunteer camp the value of the work done amounted to 25 million shekel, while now, at the last camp, the value reached 110 million shekel", said comrade Zayad. He pointed out that in this camp a profound expression was given of the devotion of the inhabitants and of Jewish-Arab brotherhood.

The secretary of the Democratic Front of Nazareth and chairman of the engineering committee in the camp, Engineer

Walid al-Hadji, reported that projects were this year carried out, which value was 4 times higher than the value of the work done in the previous camp. He gave some important details of projects which were now realised, like: construction of stairs leading from the Bir-a-Jish quarter to the main road Nazareth-Affuleh; paving a road in an area of 1,500 square meters; the erection of a protecting wall; the change of water pipes in the a-Safafa quarter; paving another 5 roads; construction of a protection wall in the eastern quarter; construction of graded pavements in the Latin quarter; the construction of stairs on Hamouda Hill; paving a network of roads on Jebel a-Doulah and Bir al-Emir; paving the road leading from Nis Kardoush street in the A-Roum quarter paving two roads (1,400 square metres) in the A-Shufani quarter, erection of a protective fence at one of the vital roads in this quarter; the beginning of paving a road in the A-Roum quarter (1,000 square metres); paving a road in the A-Namsawi quarter; the carrying out of diverse projects in the Workers' quarter, such as paving a road near Shnellier etc. Also some important projects were realised in the al-Mukhles quarter and al-Arkiyeh. The volunteers also carried out important labour for the civil and religious institutions in the town.

Walid al-Hadji told the press conference that all these projects were carried out thanks to the well-planned activity of the Coordinating Committee and the direction of the municipality, thanks to the spirit and high morale of the thousands of volunteers who participated in the grand enterprise; thanks to the donations of the inhabitants of the town and the great assistance which they gave by providing food, machinery, etc.

INHABITANTS OF THE OCCUPIED AREAS WERE FORBIDDEN TO TAKE PART IN THE VOLUNTEER CAMP

During the small hours of August 19, 1983, between 1 and 3 a.m. the police carried out provocative raids in some homes in Nazareth and the nearby village of Yafia and arrested volunteers who had come from the occupied territories in order to take part in the work. The police also detained the residents of the homes which had extended hospitality to those volunteers, under the pretext that they had given "assistance to persons from the occupied territories who broke the law".

The Coordinating Committee condemned the police raid which was intended to frighten the public. The Committee stressed that thousands of workers from the occupied territories lodge in Israel, throughout the year and the sudden "vigilance" of the police had only the aim to sabotage the volunteer camp.

The Democratic Front of Yafia denounced the police invasion of three houses, among them the home of the head of the Local Council, As'ad Youssif.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, August 20, 1983 the occupation authorities detained 5 buses in the areas of Hebron and Bethlehem which were carrying volunteers to the Camp. In the centre of Hebron identity cards of volunteers were seized from them and the driving licences of the drivers were taken away from them. Furthermore, they were ordered to report to the military administration.

In the Bethlehem area the volunteers were pressed into signing an obligation not to go to Nazareth, but they refused to do so.

Women were ordered to leave the place, while the menfolk (numbering 110) were held in the buses inside the yard of the military administration. Following upon this, the volunteers held a sit-in strike near the gates of the military administration in the main road. Foreign journalists, who were passing by and attempted to interview the volunteers were rudely removed from the place by soldiers.

It must be pointed out that the occupation authorities had taken similar steps also in the previous year and prevented numerous volunteers from reaching the Camp in Nazareth.

ZO HADEREKH

August 24th, 1983

DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS

*SPEECH OF TAWFIQ TOUBI - MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT-ISRAEL, AT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE,
GENEVA (29 AUGUST - 7 SEPTEMBER 1983)*

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to address the UN sponsored International Conference on the question of Palestine, as its guest, representing the forces of peace from Israel.

The convening of this International Conference is no doubt an important contribution to efforts for promoting a just solution to the question of Palestine helping to establish peace and security in the Middle East.

While wishing this conference every success in its work, I wish to condemn the Israeli government boycott of this conference. Israel's official absence and its negative attitude towards UNO peace-making efforts, while undermining the foundation upon which Israel was established 35 years ago, namely the UNO resolutions; this boycott stands at the same time in opposition to the real hopes and aspirations of the Israeli popular masses for reaching a just peace and a secure future.

For thirty five years the Israeli-Arab conflict, have been a source of permanent tension, a hotbed for five destructive wars, undermining the security and welfare of the peoples of the Middle East and endangering world peace. The Arab people of Palestine have been the main victim.

Instead of abating with the passage of time, the Middle East conflict is becoming more inflammatory with recurring eruptions and tragedies.

The years following the June 1967 war and the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza strip and other Arab territories, while failing to liquidate the Palestine problem - the root of the conflict - as intended in vain by the ruling circles of Israel, have brought more wars culminating by last years' unfinished savage war of aggression against the Lebanon, against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

While this massive use of force was intended by the Israeli-Zionist ruling circles as a knock-out blow at the Palestinian Arab peoples' national right for self-determination and close the fate of the West Bank and Gaza strip as Israeli colonial domain, it proved to be only a boomerage. The war of genocide against the Palestinian people in Lebanon has asserted once again that no display of force in our epoch can liquidate the Palestine problem and deprive the Palestinian Arab people from their natural right to an independent and sovereign state in accordance with the principles and spirit of UNO resolutions on the Palestinian problem since 1947.

Every objective effort to solve the question of Palestine and reach a stable and just peace in the Middle East, also in the year 1983, cannot but be guided by the basic factors, developments and situation in Palestine, that guided the United Nations General Assembly in adopting the historic resolution of 29th November 1947, thirty five years ago, calling for the elimination of the British Mandate, and granting the two peoples of Palestine - the Arab and Jewish peoples - independence within two sovereign states that will co-exist and cooperate.

The fact that the Arab people of Palestine were prevented thirty-five years ago from exercising their right to self-determination and constituting their independent state as the Jewish people in Palestine did, does not abolish this right so much as when it was forcefully deprived of this right by a tripartite unholy alliance. The British and American imperialists triggered the 1948 war in order to prevent the carrying out of the UNO resolution in full and redivide spheres of influence; the Zionist leadership; and the Arab reactionary rulers, especially the then British protege King Abdullah who acted together in unison as confirmed later by the secret meetings early in 1948 with Golda Meir, Dayan and other officials. Through military operations they prevented the formation of the Arab Palestinian State, dividing its territory amongst them.

While formally accepting the UNO General Assembly resolution of November 1947, the Zionist leadership and the provisional government of Israel headed by Ben-Gurion acted overtly and covertly to prevent its application upon the Arab people in Palestine.

The Palestine Jewish people's administration, to become later the Israeli government, refused by a majority vote upon insistence by Ben-Gurion during its 12th May 1948 session when debating the declaration on the proclamation of the state, refused to define Israel's official boundaries.

It is a classical position of the Zionist leading circles to keep Israel's borders undefined in order to expand them by force and settlement whenever an opportunity arises.

It is interesting in this connection to hear M. Dayan addressing a youth meeting of the "Ihud Hakvutzot Vehakibutzim" on July 5, 1968, more than twenty years later:

"... in your time and life you have to assist in extending settlement. You are not obliged to finish this task. But God forbid that you should say "this is the limit, up till here, up to Degania, up to Meflasim and Nahal-oz and no more (names of border settlements - T.T). This process of expansion has gone on for about a hundred years. You must add your share today we are sitting in an area from the Suez up to the Golan heights, and we are advancing step by step, from the ground of realities, to attain the targets set by us".

Israeli forces in 1948, 1949, acted according to a plan to occupy maximum Arab territories, calling them "liberated" territories and saw to it that the minimum number of their Arab inhabitants remained. In this process, the Israeli leadership resorted to mass massacres like Deir Yassin and to mass expulsion of Palestinian Arab population as the case of expelling the 50,000 inhabitants of Lydda and Ramleh upon direct orders of Ben-Gurion as confirmed by Rabin's book published in 1979. Lately, the deputy speaker of the Knesset Meir Cohen expressed regret that the Israeli authorities did not resort in 1967 war to the same tactics as in 1948 in order to bring about mass expulsion of Arab population from the West Bank and Gaza strip.

All this helped undermining the ground for an independent Arab national existence alongside Israel in accordance with UN resolution.

Exploiting cleverly rejectionist, extremist and reactionary slogans by certain pro-imperialist Arab leaders against the existence of the state of Israel in its early years, the Israeli official leadership, since the inception of the state, have consistently opposed and undermined UN resolutions and efforts to bring about a settlement based on solving the tragic problem of the refugees in accordance with UN resolution 194 of 11.12.1948 calling for repatriation or compensation if opted for, and mutually respecting the rights of both peoples to self-determination.

Early signs of readiness of Arab countries to build peaceful relations on bases of UNO resolutions and recognising Israel's existence were distinctly turned away by Israeli government,

rejecting any repatriation of refugees and any settlement, taking into consideration the right of the Arab people of Palestine for self determination.

Between April and September 1949 the Lousan Conference took place under the patronage of the UN Conciliation Commission with no result, due to Israel's opposition to UN resolutions calling for a Palestinian state, and repartriation of the refugees.

Even when defending Israel's application to be admitted to UNO, Israel's representative Abba Eban on 5.5.1949 refused to commit Israel to support UNO resolutions on the Palestine Arab state and called for settling Palestinian refugees in Arab countries.

The Arab countries together with the non-aligned Afro-Asian countries at Bandung Conference in April 1955 unanimously called for peace on basis of UNO resolution. It was Israel's government that rejected the stretched hand.

In his 1st of May 1965 speech, the Egyptian President Abdul-Nasser announced that "he stands by the Bandung resolution to resolve the Israeli-Arab conflict on the basis of UNO resolution of 1947, but it was Israel that rejected for years such a proposal".

Well remembered are proposals of President Bourgibah of Tunis in 1965 to hold Israeli-Arab negotiations on the basis of 1947 UNO resolution. Minister of Foreign Affairs Abba Eban declared in an interview to the Jewish Observer in April 1966: "Israel cannot accept the proposal to conduct negotiations on the basis of the 1947 UNO resolution. This proposal is not new; the Arabs suggested it a number of times in the past at the UNO and in other international forums, and Israel rejected it".

Many other Arab peace initiatives and feelers were proposed but rejected stubbornly by Israeli leaders.

These consistent positions of the Israeli ruling circles against UNO resolutions, have not only barred before the people of Israel the road to peace and enforced upon them isolation and continued warefare with their Arab neighbours, but have as well created with imperialism-British, French, and now USA - a relationship of dependence and mutual interest in opposing the process of national liberation, independence and free development of the neighbouring Arab national movement and the Arab countries, making

Israel's ruling circles a military and political tool of imperialism not only against the neighbouring Arab countries, but also on a global scale in Africa and Latin America as symbolised by last year's memorandum on strategic understanding between Israel and the USA, and the coordinated support to reactionary regimes and dictators by supplying arms and experts.

With such an adventurist policy, Israel's consecutive rulers have plunged Israel into a chain of aggressive and unjust wars as in 1956, 1967, 1973 and now the unfinished war of aggression against Lebanon in 1982. These wars caused serious political economic and social damage and material losses, but without realising any of Israel's trumpeted aims of achieving peace, security and normal relations with its neighbours, which were in fact a cover for expansion.

This policy of expansion and stubborn denial of the national rights of the Palestinian people, condemns Israel to live only on bayonets and guns amongst the neighbouring Arab countries endangering in the long run its very future.

Dear Friends,

During the seventeen years of occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territory since the June 1967 war, the Israeli rulers demonstrated more adventurously their complete disregard to the many relating UNO resolutions of the security council and the general assembly.

UN missions and emissaries were turned back snobishly empty handed. UN commissions were refused entry to the occupied territories.

By annexing Arab Jerusalem and the Golan heights, by extensive land expropriation and wide colonial racist settlement in the occupied territories ignoring international conventions, by instituting a rule of colonial oppression and terror, by throwing thousands in jails and deporting others, Israeli rulers hope to realise the strategic aim of eliminating finally the rights and even the very national existence of the Palestinian people in order to annex finally all the occupied territories as designed by the Begin government and declared as an official aim in the guiding lines of the government placed before the parliament.

In pursuing this predatory policy, the Begin government have received the backing of the US government in opposing and

sabotaging UN resolutions and international efforts aiming towards a just and stable settlement. The absence of the USA from this conference is very demonstrative and stands to condemn the USA record on the question of peace in the Middle East and on the question of Palestine.

U.S. vetoing, early August, the Security Council resolution condemning the abhorring massacre of Arab students in Hebron, joined with actual support of Israeli colonial settlement in occupied territories is a new crying demonstration of USA determination to support outspoken aggression and to undermine UN efforts for a just peace.

Instead of the security council resolution 338 and in place of the promising framework of the Geneva Middle East peace conference promoted by the UN and co-chaired by the USA and USSR, which raised great hopes for a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement, the USA government together with the Begin government and Sadat of Egypt resorted to separate deals and partial settlements known as the Camp David accords.

In accordance with the Camp David separate deal, Israeli forces will continue to occupy the West Bank, Gaza strip and Golan heights. Instead of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state alongside Israel there comes the so-called autonomy plan of Begin as a preface to total Israeli annexation and to eliminate completely the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Egypt was detached from the Arab countries giving Begin's government a free hand. The step by step tactics under American imperialist patronage and under the cloak of Camp David, have brought the region to a new war in the Lebanon, to a new tragedy to the Palestinian people symbolised by the massacre of Sabra and Shatila. This policy of separate deals under USA patronage has also brought a new plan - the notorious Reagan plan - for liquidating Palestinian rights, a new separate semi-colonial deal - the USA-Israeli-Lebanese capitulatory agreement - if imposed on the Lebanon, means a certain new war against Syria.

However, the heroic opposition and resistance of the Palestinian people led by its sole, chosen and legal representative the PLO as recognised and confirmed by the UNO and also of the Lebanese people, have brought to failure these designs against peace and against the Palestinian people. The just cause of the Palestinian people have gained greater support and wider recognition in the world and even in Israel itself.

Gone are the days when previous Prime Minister Golda Meir would ask where are these Palestinians? Who are they? Nowadays notwithstanding the intensification of the policy of oppression, colonial settlement and total annexation and the growth of extremism and chauvinism in Israel under the rule of Regin's extreme right government, nevertheless more people in Israel recognise that no real peace can be achieved if it is not an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreed upon with the Palestinian people and negotiated together with the PLO.

The forces of peace and progress in Israel standing-up in solidarity with the just cause of the Palestine Arab people, oppressed and denied their national right and fighting against the expansionist and aggressive policy of the Zionist ruling circles in our country, have always stressed that a just peaceful settlement is one that is based on recognising and respecting the right of both peoples - the Palestinian Arab people and the Israeli people for independence and sovereignty within two states co-existing peacefully side by side as prescribed by UNO resolutions. The ruling circles of Israel who categorically deny the basic right of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination, to live independently in their own state in the West Bank and Gaza strip, while the Israeli people are exercising their independent life within their own state, hold the historic responsibility for blocking the road towards peace.

On opposite and different ground stand the representatives of the Palestine Arab people, the PLO, when by supporting and accepting the resolutions of the UN, the Arab countries' peace program on Palestine adopted at Fez summit conference, and the Middle East peace plan proposed by the late Soviet President Brezhnev, confirmed and upheld by the 16th national council of the PLO, with these positions upheld, the cause of just peace gains new impetus and new allies amongst the people of Israel. And the more these courageous positions in support of just peace are upheld higher, the more isolated become the ruling circles of Israel, and the forces of peace in Israel will grow stronger in their difficult effort to change the balance of forces within Israel in favour of the cause of just peace.

It is our deep conviction and life long experience have proved that refusal to recognise the state of Israel whether from tactical considerations or on other grounds, only play in the hands of the Zionist leaders of Israel who demagogically claim that the Arabs aim at throwing Israel to the sea, while they have in practice been throwing the Palestinian people into the desert.

It is our deep conviction that the cause of just peace in the Middle East and the cause of world peace are closely interlinked and interwoven with detente and international cooperation. While the explosive situation in the Middle East is a source of danger to world peace, efforts to exclude the UNO and the Soviet Union from efforts to bring about a just and stable settlement and enforce USA patronage are only detrimental to the cause of peace and futile at same time.

Every sincere person knows that when the Geneva Middle East peace conference was held in December 1973, a fresh breeze of hope enveloped our region and the world. Hopes were again revived when the Soviet Union and the United States made public their joint declaration on the 1st of October 1977 on the Middle East and the Palestinian problem.

An objective review of the position of the five permanent members of the UN security council will clearly show that the Soviet Union has been most principled and consistent in upholding the resolutions and positions of the UNO on the question of Palestine and on the Middle East conflict, in supporting the cause of just and stable peace and the legitimate rights of all peoples and states in the region for sovereign and secure existence.

It is my proposal that this conference comes out with a call for the immediate reconvening of the Geneva Middle East peace Conference co-chaired by the USSR and USA under the auspices of the UN secretary general and with the participation of all parties concerned including Israel, the concerned Arab countries and the Palestinian side represented by its sole and legitimate representative, the PLO.

This is the most practical and correct step to remove the question of Palestine and the related burning issues from the crater of an erupting volcano to a workshop for real creative efforts towards peace and security for all.

When so many suspicious and unrealistic steps have been proposed or dangerously tried, it is high time and most essential that this suffering region of ours try the principles of the UN charter and UN resolutions concerning our region, the interpretation of which would mean:

(1) Immediate and unconditional Israeli forces withdrawal from the whole of Lebanon;

(2) Full withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied in June 1967 and dismantling of all the Israeli colonial settlements, built in opposition to international conventions and against UN resolutions;

(3) The Arab Palestinian people to exercise its right for self-determination and establish their own independent state in the West Bank (including Eastern Jerusalem), and Gaza strip, led by the PLO the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

(4) Ensuring a just solution of the problem of the Palestinian refugees in accordance with the UN resolutions which recognize their right to choose between repatriation and receiving compensation.

(5) A peace agreement to be drawn under the auspices of the UN which will respect and guarantee the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states of the region, including the prospective Palestinian state and the State of Israel, and their right to live in peace within recognized and safe borders, free from any threat or use of force;

(6) All states party to the peace agreement to express their commitment that any remaining or ensueing issues to be solved in the future only by peaceful measure, in accordance with UN charter.

It is our deep conviction that only by applying this programme will the peoples of our region including the Arab people of Palestine and the people of Israel enjoy a safe secure and peaceful future. May this international conference be a historic landmark on our road towards this goal.

Letters and Cables sent by
the Central Committee of the
Communist Party of Israel

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE ROMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Dear Comrades,

On the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the liberation of Romania from fascist yoke, we have the pleasure to extend to you and through you to the people of Romania hearty fraternal greetings.

The historic victory of the Soviet army over fascism have enabled the heroic uprising of the Romanian people under the leadership of your party which led to the liberation of Romania, opened a new page in the history of Romania and paved the way to socialism.

Under the leadership of your party the Romanian people have scored important achievements in all fields of socialist construction.

We wish you additional success in the struggle for peace and socialism and for a prosperous happy future.

August 22nd, 1983

TO THE AMBASSADOR OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA

Dear Comrade Vasiliu,

On the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the liberation of Romania we have the pleasure to extend to you, to Mrs. Vasiliu and to the staff of your Embassy in Tel-Aviv, heartiest fraternal greetings.

We wish the Romanian people additional achievements in all fields of Socialist Construction and in the struggle for peace.

We wish you success in your work for developing friendly relations between the peoples of Romania and Israel for the interest of the cause of peace democracy and social progress.

August 22nd, 1983

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SRI-LANKA

Dear Comrades,

We have the pleasure to extend to the 12th Congress of your Party heartiest fraternal greetings.

We wish your congress every success in advancing the struggle of your people against imperialism, for defending national independence, for national sovereignty and for democracy, peace and social progress.

August 20th, 1983

july - august 83

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