

**INFORMATION BULLETIN
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL**



1 - 2

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1987

	<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>Page</u>
*	8th plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel	4
*	9th plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel	5
*	No Confidence in the Government by MK Meir Vilner	6
*	Cease threatening Syria! From a Speech by Comrade Tawfiq Toubi in the Knesset	13
*	A budget against the workers is an anti-Israeli budget From a Speech of Comrade Meir Vilner in the Knesset	15
*	The acts of the Military Forces in the occupied territories and the administrative arrests carried out by the authorities. Proposal for the Agenda, pre- sented by Comrade Tawfiq Zayad	21
*	Mortal fear of a dialogue with the PLO	25
*	No violations of the freedom of Trade Unions in the West Bank and Gaza by Dr. Joseph Algazi	27
*	The visit of the Soviet Peace Delegation to Israel	34
*	Supplement Education Problems in Israel by Zippora Sharon-Toubi	38

CONTENTS

Page

* Documents and Materials

61

- To the Central Committee of
the Communist Party of Cuba

- To the 13th national congress
of the Communist Party of
Sri Lanka

8TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

On February 6-7, 1987 the 8th plenary session of the Central Committee took place with the participation of the members of the Central Control Commission.

Chairman of the session was comrade Salem Jubran, secretary of the Central Committee.

Comrade Meir Vilner, the general secretary, lectured about the political situation and the work of the Party after the 20th Congress, especially among the Jewish public.

Comrade Tawfiq Toubi, the deputy general secretary, delivered a report about the work of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat.

A debate took place, which was summed up by the lecturers.

The Central Committee confirmed the lecture and the report and adopted resolutions.

At the beginning of the session, comrade Meir Vilner congratulated, on behalf of the Central Committee, the member of the Central Committee Moshe Zisser, on the occasion of his 60th birthday. He pointed out his devotion to the revolutionary struggle, as a communist and workers' leader, throughout all his conscious life; his firm position in all the historical tests which faced the Party, being loyal to the principles of Marxism-Leninism.

The Central Committee wished comrade Zisser good health and many additional years of fruitful activity for the lofty ideals of peace and socialism.

* * *

The Central Committee stated that the Likud-Alignment government aggravates its policy, which is directed against the majority of the people - the workers and medium stata - destroys the health, education and welfare services, aggravates the policy of oppression in the occupied Arab territories, and the national discrimination of the Arab population in Israel. The government acts for preventing peace and leads towards a new aggressive war.

The continuation of the existence of the "national unity" government, which is in internal conflicts and self-abasement, is also a danger for the democratic liberties and intensifies the danger of fascism.

The Central Committee calls for intensifying the popular struggle against the policy of the government, and for declaring new elections to the Knesset.

ZO HADEREKH,
February 11, 1987

THE 9TH PLENARY SESSION
OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

On February 26, 1987 the 9th plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel took place, with the participation of the members of the Central Control Commission. Chairman of the session was comrade Nissim Brakha, member of the Central Committee.

Comrade Meir Vilner, the general secretary of the Party, lectured on the subject of the revolutionary changes in the Soviet Union and the confusion among the enemies of socialism.

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

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

ZO HADEREKII, March 4, 1987

NO CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT

by MK Meir Vilner

On January 14, 1987 a debate took place in the Knesset about the so-called new economic plan.

The DFPE (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) proposed a vote of no-confidence in the government.

The proposal was presented by MK Meir Vilner.

- - -

The economic steps which have been decided by the Alignment-Likud government last week will deepen the economic polarisation. The slashing of subsidies, which has raised the prices of bread, milk and dairy products, by 15-20% and the fares of public transportation will shortly be raised by 30%; the continuation of taxing children's allowances paid to the first and second child (by the National Insurance Institute - IB); the sharp curtailment of the state budget for education and health - all these blows are dealt to the wage-earners and to the lowest wage brackets of recipients.

At the same session, the government has confirmed all the demands of the capitalists: Those had demanded the devaluation of the Shekel and received a devaluation of 10%. They had demanded a cut in the cost-of-living allowance and received a cut of 2.7%; they had demanded a free hand in the capital market and received this; they had demanded reduction in the payment of income taxes on the upper decimal - and thus the rate of maximum income tax was reduced by 12%; they had opposed taxation of capital earnings and on earnings at Exchange - and such taxes were not imposed.

The government plan, which has been confirmed last week, is also a clearly militarist plan. After all the blah-blah about a nominal cut in the military expenditures, the government has decided not to cut

even by one shekel(!) the inflated military budget which swallows many billions of dollars. While voting inside the government about the military budget, it was decided not to carry out any cuts by a majority of 12 against 9. And who tipped the scale against any cut? The ministers of the Alignment who exposed themselves as supermilitarists: The "defence" minister Yitzhak Rabin and the deputy prime minister Shimon Peres.

A "RESTRICTED" AMPUTATION

The leadership of the Alignment in the Histadrut confirmed the package deal prepared by the Shamir-Peres government despite the fact that it is ultimately directed against the workers, against the members of the Histadrut. The Histadrut leadership tries to present the plan that has been confirmed as an achievement: According to their claim, it was thanks to the pressure of the Histadrut that the government has not confirmed the plan of the treasury to hit the tax exemptions of invalids, of working mothers, overtime hours, etc.

The Histadrut leadership tries to put on a make-up to make the cheeks appear healthy. But their "achievement" is nothing more than "persuading" the government not to amputate the workers' arms as well as legs and to be satisfied with amputating "only" their legs. Can this plan for "restricted" amputation be called an achievement?

Moreover, the minister of finance has already made it clear that tax exemptions for such groups of workers, as invalids, old age pensioners, etc. will "meantime" be in effect. The government will set up a committee which will examine what is called "tax reform", and they will reach conclusions that accord with the point of view of the treasury. Hence what is at stake is not the cancellations of the planned annulment of the tax exemptions but its postponement.

The gravest point in the decision of the Histadrut leadership is its consent to hit the existing

agreement about the cost-of-living allowance and "renounce" 2.7% of the cost-of-living allowance which should be paid by rights to the workers at the beginning of March 1987. The preparedness of the Histadrut leadership to renounce what had been fixed in the agreement signed with the employers, and their reconciliation with the breaking of the agreement throw a heavy shadow on the whole system of work and wage agreements.

It has been said that the deputy prime minister (Peres of the Alignment - IB) has violated the general secretary of the Histadrut (also Alignment) to consent to the governmental plan by threatening him to hit the Kupat-Holim (Workers Sick Fund which cares for 95% of the whole population - IB) and the Solel Boneth (Histadrut-owned construction enterprise - IB). I do not know if the term "violation" is here suitable but it is clear that the Histadrut leadership has been pushed into a corner and that it has raised its arms. The situation in the Workers' Sick Fund and in Solel Bone is most serious. But is the Histadrut leadership entitled to abandon its members, to abandon the poor who cannot make ends meet, and agree to further erosion of the wages in return to promises that money will be channelled to Histadrut institutions?

A JUST PROTEST OF THE WORKING PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH

The curtailment in the health and education services which has been decided upon by the government is already within the boundaries of madness and of absence of any conscience. All the government ministers, with the exception of the minister of health, Arbeli-Almoslino, have voted for dismissals of doctors and nurses, for aggravating the sharp crisis already in existence in the hospitals. The opposition of the minister of health to the curtailment must be appreciated but how is it possible to explain this on background of her declaration that she has opposed the cut of even one cent in the military budget? If no cut will be carried out in the biggest budget - the military budget - how can one avoid the carrying out

of such sharp cuts in the budgets for health and education?

The decision of the teachers to strike in protest of the cut in the scope of 150 million shekel in the budget for education deserves full appreciation and support. The decision to impose education fees annually - 410 shekel for each pupil starting from kindergartens up to the end of the secondary school - is nothing but the annulment of the important principle of free education. It is clear that Jefet (previous boss of Bank Leumi) and his capitalist friends are not moved a bit by such a decision but how will poor wage-earners pay for the education of two or three children?

The cut in the budget for education, which has already been hit hard has been turned into a method: Since 1981 the budget of the ministry of education in the "enlightened" State of Israel has been in real terms curtailed by 45%(!). The decision of the Shamir-Peres government to dismiss 1,239 additional employees in the public sector, doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers, has justifiedly irritated and angered the employees of the medical services: the administrative and economic personnel in the hospitals; doctors and nurses have already decided to strike in protest against the intolerable curtailments and the dismissals of about 600 workers in the medical services.

DEMAGOGY OF THE LIKUD LEADERS

On January 13, on the eve of the debate in the Knesset about the proposed vote of no-confidence in the government, a demonstration was held by inhabitants of the Jerusalem slums in front of the Knesset premises. The participants of the demonstration made clear the meaning of the government decisions regarding the recipients of monthly wages of 400 and 500 shekel.

The slum dwellers called upon the government ministers to leave their well-heated offices and come to the poor quarters. One of the slogans of the demonstration - "David Levy, leave your post, we don't want you any longer!" - shows a certain amount of sobering-up in relation to the housing minister David Levy and his friends in the Likud. After all, minister David Levy

who presents himself as a person who cares for the workers, for the slum dwellers and the poor, is precisely the person who demanded additional budgets for the colonial settlements: after all minister Levy has voted in the government for all the tribulations imposed on the workers.

Similar to the "opposition" of minister Levy to the "economic reform", also the head of the Likud bloc in the Histadrut, Yaakov Shamai, is opposed to the plan. MK (Member of Knesset) Shamai says that he is against the plan which had been prepared by the finance minister who belongs to his party, but he does not leave his party. How else can one call such behaviour if not leading the people astray?

MK Shamai and his friends make use of the equivocal positions of Mapam in order to attack that party. And indeed, how is it possible to comprehend the policy of Mapam? How can Mapam present a proposal of no-confidence in the government, because of its anti-worker plan, and at the very same time support the deal with the government in the Central Committee of the Histadrut, which is based on that same plan? Mapam says one thing and acts precisely in the opposite direction. How can one understand this?

THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN THE WORD "INDEPENDENCE"

The plan of the Shamir-Peres government will not lead to economic growth and will not ensure stability. The devaluation, the curtailment of the subsidies, the education fee and the dismissals - all these will speed up the inflation and will simultaneously increase the scope of unemployment and distress. The plan which has been confirmed under the pressure of Mr. Schultz and his instructions, expressed the deepening of the enslaving dependence on the United States. This submission to slavery costs a heavy socio-economic price and it also offends our national dignity. The destructive agreements - the agreement with the European market and the agreement of free trade with the USA - have entangled the Israeli economy, as we had predicted before. And now they are looking for ways

and means in order to impose the result of these complications on the shoulders of the workers.

The present government has forgotten since long even the word "independence". The government ministers haggle with minister Schultz and his emissary about the "Lavi" military airplane but also on that issue they will fulfil the instructions from Washington. The wrangling is only an attempt to receive some sort of recompense for folding their wings in the "Lavi issue".

WITHOUT A DRASTIC CUT OF THE MILITARY BUDGET
NO ESSENTIAL CHANGE WILL BE POSSIBLE

We have said in the past and we reiterate it also today, that there is no prospect at all to cure the economy, as long as the present structure of the state budget remains intact, as long as the all-round dependence on the USA remains as it is. The American aid does not help the Israeli economy at all: The Americans allocate to us what is termed "aid", in order to make us carry out their policy in the region and in various corners of the world but it is we who have to bear the main burden of the military spendings, it is we who have to pay the socio-economic price.

In order to change the situation fundamentally and extricate the Israeli economy from the crisis, we must drastically cut the military expenditures and this by putting an end to the occupation and the establishment of just and comprehensive peace. Look how many millions of shekels we wasted only in one day in Lebanon: By bombing from the air and by shelling from the sea, and by financing the units which are there and by financing the "South Lebanon Army".

The establishment of peace will open up big opportunities for Israeli export to the Arab countries, to the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and to the third world.

The establishment of peace will not only

prevent the cuts in the budgets for health and education but it will also enable us to increase them.

The establishment of peace will enhance the civilian market, will raise the living standard of the workers, and this will increase production and consumption.

The present government, which refuses to change its destructive policy, is liable to bring upon us additional disasters.

There is no-confidence in this government, which acts against the workers and serves the interests of the rich.

ZO HADEREKH,
21.1.1987

CEASE THREATENING SYRIA!

From a Speech by Comrade
Tawfiq Toubi in the Knesset
on February 24, 1987

Instead of warning and threatening the Syrian Army, after its entry into Beirut for stopping the bloodshed, and thereby preparing the path to an aggressive war against Syria, the debate should be directed against the continuing Israeli intervention in Lebanon against the Lebanese people and the sovereignty of Lebanon, as well as against the Palestinian people suffering in the refugee camps in Lebanon.

The Israeli government intervenes in Lebanon overtly and covertly in order to perpetuate the communal division and to put into power an Israeli-controlled puppet regime in Lebanon, as planned by the architect of a "new order" in Lebanon, minister Ariel Sharon. This is the fundamental source which caused, and is causing, the chaos in Lebanon, the instability and the continuing bloodshed.

Why do the supporters of the Israeli government ignore, in this debate, the continuation of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, the criminal activities of the Lahad flunkies - those Israeli mercenaries? These mercenaries have only last week carried out - under Israeli command (as witnessed by UNO personnel) - the heinous crime of the pogrom in the village of Assiri in southern Lebanon, set fire to the homes, murdered peaceful citizens, robbed the houses and plundered the inhabitants after preventing the UNO forces to be present in the place. Why do the government supporters ignore the criminal bombings by the Israeli airforce, throughout the whole of last week, of the refugee camps, especially in the district of Sidon and Tyre, spreading murder and destruction? Who does not know that the Israeli government encouraged and assisted the Amal forces by raids from the air and the sea, besieging and attacking the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and southern Lebanon,

with the monstrous annihilation of masses by starving and shelling? Who besieges the coast of Lebanon and behaves like a pirate, contravening every law and international convention, if not the Israeli government? And who is denounced by the family of peoples because of the permanent sabotage of peace activities of the UNO in the south of Lebanon - who but the Israeli government?

The fundamental condition for the success of the Lebanese patriotic forces for ensuring the unity of Lebanon, its independence, peace and security is that first of all the Israeli government takes its hands off Lebanon. This is also in the interest of Israel to stop its aggression and put an end to the occupation of Lebanese territories. The Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon is also an Israeli interest which will bring about an end to the blood shed and the squandering of money, not speaking about the fact that this will strengthen the security of Israel.

The warnings and threats against the entry of the Syrian army into Beirut, on part of government ministers and ruling persons in Israel, even though sometimes they are camouflaged cynically by "concern" for the independence of Lebanon or by concern for the safety of the Palestinians in the refugee camps - and I do not ignore the danger of a renewal of pogroms by Amal against the Palestinians in the new situation created - the warnings and threats which come from ruling personalities in Israel are aimed at covering up the policy of planning an aggressive war against Syria, against which we warn. Instead of banding about threats, it would be better to conduct a policy of peace with Syria, with the Palestinian people and the other Arab states in the framework of an international conference in which Syria and the PLO will be participants, in order at long last to attain peace.

From the Knesset protocol-24.2.87

A BUDGET AGAINST THE WORKERS IS AN ANTI-ISRAELI BUDGET

(From a speech of Comrade Meir Vilner
in the Knesset on February 2, 1987)

What is new in the budget for the year 1987, is the fact that the budget deepens and broadens immensely the social polarisation, hits hard the workers' wages and rights, carries out brutal curtailment in the budgets for education, health and welfare, and liquidates the subsidies for the most vital products and services. As against this, the budget provides the big capitalists a gift of one billion and 600 millions shekel by means of what is termed "tax reform". In addition to this, the government has granted them further profits by the devaluation, the reduction of payments to the National Insurance, the sterilisation of the cost-of-living allowance and the trampling down of the signed labour agreements.

This is a budget of a militarist and colonialist state, for which everything turns around the army and the apparatus of occupation and oppression, and whose leaders are preparing a new war.

This is a budget of a state in which the US and Israeli industrial-military complex have the last say.

This is a budget of a state which is controlled by the big capitalists, who with the assistance of the state budget exploit the workers, the medium strata, the inhabitants of the poor small towns and urban quarters, and the Arab population.

This is a budget which will not bring about any growth and cure of the economy, but will still more turn the Israeli economy and the State of Israel in its totality into a draggle-tail of the American monopolies and arms magnates, while ignoring its national independence and serving their interests in our region and in all parts of the world. Those services are directed against the peoples who struggle for

national liberation, against independent states, against the Soviet Union and the other socialist states.

This is a budget against the working people of Israel who are the majority of the people. In short this is an anti-Israeli budget. What is characteristic of this gigantic budget of over 39 billion shekel, is the fact that not even a single shekel has been cut from the inflated military budget, while the subsidies for bread, milk, etc. have been cut down and steps are being carried out which destroy the health, educational and welfare services.

ARMS FOR THE CONTRAS

On what is our export based? Principally it is based on arms sales. This is an export of a state in which the decisive factors are the arms merchants. One of the important destinations of Israeli arms is Honduras. Minister for war, Rabin, said on February 1, 1987 that we do not send arms directly to the contras who are fighting against Nicaragua. Thus Rabin in fact said that we do send arms to the contras but through Honduras and through the arms dealers Nimrod and Al Schwimmer. This is an export based on adventurism and built on sand.

THE ROOT OF EVIL IS NOT TOUCHED

The expenditures for military and police aimed at the continuation of the domination over the occupied territories, the spendings for the colonial settlements and for the preparations of the next war, which are included in the various paragraphs of the budget are, according to our calculations, higher than 10 billion shekel, which constitutes 26% of the budget. When one adds to this, the payments of debts, principal and interest, for previous military purchases of about 18 billion shekel or 45% of the budget the total military expenditures come to 28 billion shekel, or 71% of the whole state budget. It thus means that the military expenditures swallow up about three quarters of the state budget and for the

rest of the state expenditures remain only 29% of the budget.

Here is the root of evils. Here lies the main cause of the crisis of the Israeli economy which continues already for 13 years. It is very sad that to this decisive question none of the Members of Knesset of the other parliamentary groups has paid any attention, even by a single word. The MKs of the establishment's coalition and opposition do not wish to touch the root of the evil. They do not make a correct diagnosis of the disease of the Israeli economy and its dangerous dependence on a foreign power, the US of the "Reagagate" and the "contras".

THE POOR MAN IS ROBBED OF HIS LAST LAMB

But there are also voices of sober people who do not stand to attention when they are told: "security!", "army!", etc.

After all, the policy of the government is not only against the working people, does not only harm the economy, agriculture, industry and development, but it is a policy which also harms the security and destroys the Israeli society.

This is how the policy of the Likud-Alignment government, without any hesitation, robs the workers and the poor people. If in the year 1984 the subsidies for food, public transportation, electricity and water amounted to 656 million dollar, according to the 1987 budget, the budget given for subsidies has been cut down by 60% and will amount only to 257 million dollar.

The drastic cut in the educational budget, which amounts to 108 million shekel, has lead to the fact that since 1981 the budget for education has been curtailed by 45%. The teachers in the primary and secondary schools strike and demonstrate, together with the parents in front of the Knesset. Their outcry is a true expression of care for the education of the young generation, for the character of

the Israeli society for science and culture. In addition to the curtailments there are designs for imposing on the parents a payment for primary and secondary education, and again to raise the study fees at the universities.

The government drastically and cruelly curtails the budget for health and brings about a catastrophe in the hospitals. The treasury continues to demand that we pay for visits to doctors, for hospitalisation and make other payments in spite of the health insurance for every member of the Sick Funds (which cares for 95% of the whole population).

The foreseen raise of the tariffs of the public transportation is a component part of the budget which will be carried out already before April 1987.

The other tribulations inflicted by the treasury, including the cancellation of the tax exemptions and reductions for working women, invalids, senior citizens etc., have not been eliminated, but only postponed. Taxes are also paid for children's allowances. Sometimes one has the impression that in the State of Israel the only one thing is exempted from taxes: The air...

According to the budget, unemployment will increase. In the speech of the finance minister it was explicitly said that one thousand civil servants will be dismissed, 1,500 jobs in the local councils will be abolished and the labour force in all public bodies which are supported by the state budget will be decreased by 3%, which means - thousands of employees.

I want also to sound the alarm about the destruction of the National Insurance Institute. The part of the employers in the payments to the National Insurance Institute was 10.4% of the wages and now this part will be reduced to 3.2%; but the part of the worker which was 3.8% will be raised to 5.4% of his wages. All in all, the payment to the National Insurance Institute has been reduced from 14.2% of the wages to 8.6%. The finance minister has indeed

promised that the government will cover the deficiency. Let the credible persons rejoice! The finance minister has not yet paid what he had promised to the hospital nurses, the teachers and all those who were promised.

Lately we hear the claim that the corporations pay more income tax than the wage-earners. But what is the truth? Let us examine the data of the finance ministry: The debt which has not yet been paid to the income tax department (until April '86) was then 1,634 million shekel. And who did not pay? The "self-employed" - 30.4% of the debt; the corporations - 63.4%; however the wage-earners - only 0.8% of the debt.

This is to say that the corporations and "self-employed" owe a gigantic sum to the income tax, while this tax is automatically deducted from the wages. The finance minister wags, and rightly so, and this will perhaps be the only matter over which I agree with him, that the burden of taxes in this country is the heaviest one in the world. Until 1973 the taxes made up 26% of the GNP (Gross National Product), and now - 50%. It is correct that such taxation must be diminished, but at whose expense? The budget, too, must be diminished but at whose expense?

NATIONAL DISCRIMINATION

There is also a full measure of national and racial discrimination in the budget. Well known is the class discrimination of the Arab Local Councils in the general budgets and in the development budgets. Now there is a special discrimination against the Arab Municipal Council of Um-al-Fahm. The true reason for this encroachment is that it is planned to rob yet more lands from what have remained in the hands of Um-al-Fahm after the majority of lands have already been plundered long ago. The satanic design is that by means of an appointed committee it will be easier to tear off additional lands from Um-al-Fahm.

National discrimination has many faces. Take for instance the striking example of the labour force

in the Local Councils. In March 1986 the number of employees in the Local Councils was 56,000. Out of these, the "minorities" (the expression used in order to "save" one word - "Arabs") - 2,860 jobs, this is only 5% while the Arab population in Israel (without the occupied Arab part of Jerusalem) constitutes 16% of the whole population.

"DOWN WITH THE WAGES, LONG LIVE THE PROFITS!"

The central slogan of finance minister Nissim is - freezing the wages and increasing the profits, or "Down with the wages, long live the profits!" A continuation of the freezing of prices is being promised, but the prices rise daily. The government continues preventing the legislation of a law for a minimum wage.

It is already no secret that the budget and the economic plans express the instructions given by the US administration. We propose to return the proposed budget to the government. There is no possibility to amend it. It is full of injustice and must not be ratified. It is built on the ideology of capital, exploitation, oppression and war.

We think that the State of Israel can live differently. The solution is, first of all, putting an end to the occupation; and the establishment of just peace. Such a change will enable a drastic cut in military expenditures and a policy of social progress. This is the connection of politics with economy. There are solutions. The State of Israel can live differently, but the government continues conducting a policy which destroys the economy and public services, and in the end will seriously hit also security.

ZO HADEREKH
11.2.1987

THE ACTS OF THE MILITARY
FORCES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRESTS
CARRIED OUT BY THE AUTHORITIES

(Proposal for the Agenda,
presented by Comrade
Tawfiq Zayad - 24.2.1987)

For over a month the new wave of grave escalation of cruel oppressive activities is continuing in the occupied territories: In the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan heights. These cruel activities continue day after day and in every place, particularly in the towns, the refugee camps and the universities.

The blood harvest of this last wave took three lives: Ahmad al-Astal of Gaza, who was murdered on January 29, at the age of 14 years and 9 months - a mere child; Samih Arousha, a driver from Nablus who was murdered on February 18, and yet another inhabitant of Beit-Lihyeh who was killed yesterday. I must remind you that this pogrom had been preceded only a little longer than two months ago, by another pogrom - at the end of the previous year. At that time 5 youngsters, two of them from the Al-Najah University and two from the refugee camp Balatta, were killed. One of the victims, Majid abu-Dor'a was 14 years old.

The latest oppressive activities, in addition to the murder of those mentioned include the wounding of dozens of persons by the military forces in laws of other localities. Only last Thursday three persons were wounded by bullets of the military forces. Here I give just one example of one day - last Thursday. These are: the 10-year-old boy Akram Sha'ab from Gaza, Haled al-Jamal and Nasser Saïl.

There was also a great number of raids on universities, refugee camps and dozens of schools. Many pupils - boys and girls - were attacked.

Tear gas was used against pupils, against demonstrations and against persons who had taken part in demonstrations, in various places of the West Bank, in particular in the refugee camps.

Hundreds of people were arrested. I will give only one example: Until the 18th of this month, the number of people under arrest in Gaza - amounted to over 100 and were sent to the "Ansar 2" concentration camp. Today it has been reported that in "Ansar 2" camp more than 150 detainees are being held. Only on one day, February 9, 4 persons were injured by bullets in the refugee camp Balatta, among them a 14-year-old boy - Rae'd Rawash, and a young girl - Zakiyeh Halil. On that same day, five persons were wounded in the Al-Najah University. Next day, February 10, there was a raid carried out on the Balatta refugee camp by the defence forces, shots were fired, and wide-spread oppressive acts were committed. On that night, more than 60 persons were arrested.

Orders have been issued by the defence minister, to close down all the universities in the occupied territories: Al-Najah, Bir-Zeit, Bethlehem, Hebron and a great number of schools in the occupied territories. I wish to point out especially the oppressive actions against the Al-Najah University. Closing-down orders for more than 50 days were issued against this university since the beginning of the present study year. This means that since the 18th of October 1986 and up till now the university was closed down for a period of over 50 days. The "civilized" defence minister of a "civilized" state says openly that if the students continue their struggle in the universities, these will be closed down.

(To the interpolation of an extreme nationalist Member of Knesset, Yuval Ne'eman, who said: "this was a just act", MK T. Zayad replies: "What kind of justice is this? You remind me of all sorts of people, cruel rulers who closed universities, and burnt libraries. Go back to your history and learn from it!")

In addition, continued comrade Tawfiq Zayad, there exists the problem of administrative detentions. In his reply to an interpolation presented by MK Tawfiq Toubi, the defence minister says that in accordance with data valid for February 16, the number of administrative detainees is 54, and the number of persons restricted to their domiciles is 63, without taking into account the Golan heights and Jerusalem (annexed and declared to be "part of the State of Israel" - IB). To this figure one must add the dozens of administrative detainees who have been arrested and released during these past months. One should also add the dozens of administrative detainees since February 16. Hundreds of persons have been detained in the last few months. Some were released, new ones were detained again and again, without any trial and without any investigation. Member of Knesset Tawfiq Toubi and I were in the Joint prison in Nablus on February 6 and met with a part of the administrative detainees. Some of them are more than 6 months in detention. Every 6 months or every 2 months, their detention is prolonged.

(To the question of a rightist MK Yuval Ne'eman: "Have they done nothing?" comrade Zayad replies: They have fought for their homeland, for the liberation of their homeland").

On the 14th of this month, the military forces attacked thousands of Arab Druzes on the annexed Golan heights who attended the ceremony of unveiling the monument of Sultan Atrash (a famous hero in the history of Syria).

Comrade Tawfiq Toubi interpolated: If they have done something, put them on trial!

The aim is to break the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories in order to implement all the designs aimed at the liquidation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. But this will not be achieved. After 20 years of occupation it has been proved that it is impossible to achieve it; you are acting against life itself

against the laws of historical development. The Ministry of Defence is trying to explain that the struggle against occupation is initiated from abroad. What kind of talk is this? The suppressed people for 20 years, their sons are being murdered, thousands are being put in prison and they have to wait for somebody from abroad to initiate their struggle. This struggle is a necessity of life itself. This is the law of historical development for every people who strive for freedom. he has the right for freedom, he has the right for his own state under the leadership of its legitimate leader - the PLO.

I want to quote a person about whom you cannot say that he is a leftist or that he is against the State of Israel, General Aharon Yariv (previous head of the Israeli Army Intelligence Department), in the newspaper "Ma'ariv" of February 13 he said: "There is today an opportunity to reach a settlement even similar to that with Egypt. This is to say - a withdrawal from the occupied territories. We are obliged to advance towards this". He further says about the Palestinians: "They are prepared to pay a certain price for a state of their own and the sooner we advance towards them, the better"...

The threat to the State of Israel comes only from your policy. You must show some concern for the future of your people and for the future of your state, and fundamentally change all that policy.

MORTAL FEAR OF A DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO

The decision to bring to court four members of the peace delegation who visited Romania and took part in a dialogue with representatives of the PLO is an expression of the mounting nervousness of the government in view of the international pressure for convoking an international conference with the participation of the PLO. This decision is not a normal criminal-police matter but an act which stems from a clear political position, taken up by both the Likud and the Alignment: To do everything in order to distort the image of the PLO, to undermine its status among its Palestinian people and in the international arena, and to make it hateful to the Israeli public by means of a dehumanisation of its leaders and members.

A dialogue like that held in Costineshte in Romania cannot be any substitute for a political negotiation, for an international peace conference, with the participation of official Israel, the PLO and the other parties involved in the conflict, as well as the five permanent members of the UNO Security Council and on the Israeli side - peace champions of different political ideologies, who do not represent the Israeli government. Why, then does the government get so excited over the meeting and enforces against the Four the law for preventing meetings with the PLO?

The fundamental reason for this lies in the obstinate and harmful attempt of the government, of both its factions, aimed at preventing the participation of the PLO in any settlement, and because they are afraid that its participation in the peace process will automatically be considered as a recognition of the national rights of the Palestinians. Thus the fact is again made conspicuous that while the PLO is prepared to sit together with the official representatives of Israel, that is to say that it recognizes the existence of Israel as a political entity, the

Israeli government adheres to its policy of "No" and prevents a settlement of just, comprehensive and stable peace of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The mission of the Israeli peace champions is in accordance with the supreme interest of Israel - stable peace, which is the condition for security, economic prosperity and true independence. We condemn the bringing to court of Latif Dori, Yael Lottan, Elieser Feiler and Reuven Kaminer as an anti-democratic step which is based on a terrorist law, and as a governmental sabotage against any endeavour for reaching an agreement between Israel and Palestinian peace champions.

From a Leading Article in
"ZO HADEREKII" of 11.2.1987

NO VIOLATIONS OF THE FREEDOM OF TRADE UNIONS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE ISRAELI LEAGUE
FOR HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

By Dr. Joseph Algazi

We have no verified data on the number of wage-earners in the West Bank and Gaza, but it is clear that, as a result of various processes caused by the Israeli occupation in the course of twenty years (mainly expropriation of lands) their number has increased significantly.

Three trade union federations (with identical names) are active in the West Bank. The oldest of these organizations exists in Nablus. It is headed by Adel Ganem, has the largest membership and is recognized by the International Federation of Trade Unions.

The trade unions in the West Bank operate according to the reactionary Jordanian labour law of 1965, but while Jordan has introduced in this law, in the course of these 20 years, three series of amendments in favour of the workers, the Israeli occupation authorities do not permit their introduction in the West Bank. On the contrary, the occupation authorities have introduced in the old Jordanian labour law a few amendments that limit the freedom of trade-union activities. The main amendment refers to paragraph 83: According to the original paragraph, a criminal offender cannot be elected to a leading post in a trade-union; the occupation authorities have added a ban on electing of a leading post also a person who has been convicted to 3 years imprisonment or more because of a "security" offense, i.e. any offense of resisting the occupation. According to the Israeli amendment, the list of candidates to trade-union posts must be submitted one month in advance to the officer in charge of labour affairs in the civil administration,

who is entitled to delete from the list any name without having to give an explanation.

Furthermore, in the West Bank, only those who work in places employing 5 workers or more are entitled to organize in a trade union - a fact that denies to many wage-earners the right to join a union, because most work-places there are small. To illustrate this situation: only 44 enterprises employ 25 wage-earners or more.

According to paragraph 16 of the law, an employer is entitled to dismiss any employee for any reason, provided he informs him of the dismissal a week in advance. A dismissed employee is entitled to indemnity severance pay as follows: for the first three years three monthly wages; for every additional year - half a month salary. The total severance pay must not be higher than 9 monthly wages. A worker who resigns is not entitled to severance pay if he has not been employed 15 years or more in the same place of work. According to paragraph 20, every labour dispute brought before a court must be ended within one month; since the occupation this paragraph is not in force and many labour disputes in the West Bank are discussed by legal instances even two or three years. This practise, of course, operates to the disadvantage of the workers.

Paragraph 24 provides for what is called a "minimum salary" for the wage-earner; since the beginning of the occupation this paragraph is not put into practice.

According to paragraph 52, a child-bearing working woman is entitled to a severance pay of 40 days multiplied by half the daily salary; this paragraph too, is not observed in practice under the occupation.

What is "inciting material"

Paragraph 58 states the rate of severance pay in cases of work accidents. The paragraph refers to a table stating the compensation payable for the

loss of every part of the body. The amounts are shockingly negligible: For the loss of the right arm from the elbow up, the disabled person gets 70 dinars (one dinar is today about 4.70 shekel or 3 dollars); for the loss of a leg from the knee and above, 60 dinars; for the loss of one eye 30 dinars; a work accident causing the death of an employee requires compensation amounting to the salary of 1000 work-days, provided it is not less than 300 dinars and not more than 450 dinars.

The custom of signing collective work agreements does not exist in the West Bank. The trade unions operate under the vigilant eyes and control of the occupation authorities. For example:

The representatives of the occupation authorities, the army and/or security services use to enter the offices of the trade unions in the cities, to identify all those present and take their names, in order to deter people from visiting there, and search for "inciting material".

What is "inciting material"? A picture with the three colours of the Palestinian flag, cassettes with songs by Feyrouz or Marcel Khalifa. Such "inciting material" is sufficient to arrest persons for interrogation and even for a court material, where they are sentenced to heavy fines.

Trade union functionaries suffer all kinds of persecutions and restrictions. Some got orders confining them to their place of domicile or to nightly house arrest: many are restricted in their movements by military orders; they are forbidden to go abroad. The Israeli and Jordanian authorities cooperate by preventing them from passing the Jordan river bridges.

The occupation authorities do not allow in most cases the trade unions to mark the First of May. Ten years ago, when they permitted May Day meetings, they restricted the speakers. The authorities limit and practically ban the issue of trade union publications. Any material must be submitted to the censor 40 days before publication.

It must be pointed out, that organization fees are collected from tens of thousands of workers from the occupied territories who work in Israel through the labour exchanges. These fees are transferred to the Israel Federation of Labour (Histadrut) that does not protect their interests. The same applies also to other payments such as national insurance fees that are deducted from the workers' salaries, most of whom do not benefit from the rights due to them as a result of their payment.

In Gaza: The workers' clinic was closed

If the situation of the trade unions in the West Bank is hard, it is surely intolerable in the Gaza Strip. 6 trade unions exist in the Strip (for employees in trade and services, sewing and textile-workers, drivers, building and carpentry, metal workers, agricultural labourers) affiliated to the Palestinian trade union federation in the Gaza Strip, founded in 1965 during the Egyptian administration. Their activity was banned with the Israeli occupation. After a struggle, the authorities permitted in February 1980 the operation of the trade unions in Gaza, but did not allow them to accept new members.

At the same time the Israeli government hampered every activity: Toward the First of May 1980, the trade unions applied for permission to hold a festive meeting; the authorities did not reply, but instead surrounded on that day the meeting place with large military forces and prevented entrance of the audience.

A clinic established last year by the unions was closed by the authorities after operating 5 months only when it provided medical care at a symbolic fee. In 1985, the army broke into the library of the trades and services union and seized most books and all slogans that were hanging on the walls. Most books and periodicals in the library were on labour and trade union themes. The chairman of the union was even summoned to court. An attempt by the building workers and carpenters union to publish a calendar,

encountered the refusal of the authorities.

The authorities forbid the opening of new trade union branches in the Gaza Strip localities. also stopped the activities of several foot teams of the trade unions by summoning the players for frequent interrogations, threatening them and their families.

First elections after 20 years

In the last months, the trade union activities in Gaza were warned in interrogations and by threats not to hold elections in the trade unions, even though 20 years have passed since the previous elections and the number of registered members has grown in the last years, reaching 2500 today, including many young workers.

The authorities are interested in perpetuating the old institutions and they back the chairman of the trade union association, Abd al-Rahman Daraba, who resigned from his post a few years ago, when he became one of the millionaires in the Strip and a collaborator with the authorities. Last year the authorities were even prepared to allow celebrations on the First of May in Gaza and to grant a license for operating the trade union clinic, provided that Abd Al-Rahman Daraba would sign the applications. The trade unions rejected this blackmail with disgust.

In this situation the trade unions decided to hold the first elections to the building workers and carpenters union. The election date was fixed for Saturday, the 21st of February. Observers on behalf of the public organizations in Gaza, including the Red Crescent that enjoys wide popular support in the Strip, were invited to supervise the elections besides the election committee. A delegation of the International Labour Organization who visited Gaza on the 11th of February, was also informed of this arrangement. Consequently, two of the trade union leaders in Gaza were summoned by the civil administration for interrogation.

A few days before the election date the authorities announced that they forbid to hold the elections and that they would recognize only the old institutions. The workers, members of the building workers and carpenters union, demanded to hold the elections that, as mentioned, did not take place since 20 years, and on the election day most of the union members came to the trade union building in the city center.

The elections took place in the presence of personalities from all the country and from abroad, who came to express their solidarity with the workers who wanted to practice their trade union rights. The guests included a delegation of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality in the Histadrut, Benjamin Gonen and Gamil Abu Ras; the chairman of the Democratic Front in the Na'amat Working Women's Organization, Yaffa Gavish; a member of the secretariat of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, Dr. Joseph Algazi; a delegation on behalf of the trade unions in the West Bank; a representative of the "Law in the Service of Man" organization from Ramallah; a representative of the Lawyers Association for Human rights in the United States, Bill Berkley, as well as journalists.

In the beginning, soldiers under the command of a major tried to intimidate the workers not to enter the building, demanding them to identify themselves and taking their names and details. When they saw that this attempt did not deter the workers, they tried to lock and doors of the building and to prevent them from entering. Nevertheless, many workers got into the building. At this stage army reinforcements blocked entirely the entrance, surrounded the area, dispersed by force the workers standing nearby who intended to enter the building. From the roof of the building one could see clearly soldiers forcing workers to stand near the wall, checking their papers, searching on their bodies. One soldier was seen slapping somebody in his face.

The army officer asked also some of the Israelis to identify themselves and also demanded that Benjamin

Gonen, by order of the area commander, should leave the place. Gonen asked to see a written order and pointed out that he and the other persons from Israel and from abroad are there to serve as witnesses of the events and to guaranty the implementation

THE VISIT OF THE SOVIET PEACE DELEGATION TO ISRAEL

A delegation of the Soviet Peace Committee, composed of Nikolai Buchkov, Boris Makarenko and Konstantin Gaibanadov sojourned in Israel for seven days. During its visit in Israel the Soviet delegation held intensive dialogues with various personalities and toured the country.

The visit opened with a press conference at the Ben-Gurion airport with a great number of journalists present.

On the next day the members of the delegation visited the Weizman Institute where they were welcomed by the president of the Institute professor Arye Dvoretzky. The delegation toured the Institute accompanied by professor William Taub and were guided by doctor Michael Epstein through the Institute for Solar Energy, receiving explanations about the advanced research work in that Institute. Professor Buchkov, who is a genetician of world-wide renown and heads in the Soviet Union the Institute for Solar Energy of the Academy of Sciences, displayed great interest in the tour and held a long discussion with prof. Leo Sachs and professors Michael Feldman and Ruth Arnon. During the visit, the scientists found a common language on questions dealing with combating diseases.

The need for intensifying the campaign against nuclear armament was especially expressed by the guests.

The next station was the Tel-Aviv University, where they were welcomed by prof. Boikis. Also present was prof. Kramer of the Dayan Centre. The delegates then toured the campus, accompanied by the University's public relations officer, Yoram Shamir.

In the evening the delegation met with the members of the Committee of the Organisation of the Israeli doctors against Nuclear Weapons. At that meeting questions regarding the global struggle for

saving mankind from a nuclear holocaust were discussed.

On the next day the guests visited the offices of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, where they had a meeting with Meir Vilner, the general secretary and the deputy general secretary of the Party, comrade Tawfiq Toubi, members of the Political Bureau David Khenin and Uzi Burstein; chairman of the Central Control Commission Wolf Ehrlich; member of the secretariat Yoram Gozanski and member of the trade union department Avraham Levenbraun. After that the delegation met with members of the Hebrew-language central organ of the Party, "Zo Haderekh".

On January 15th, a meeting took place which was organized by the Committee for the improvement of the Relations with the Soviet Union. MK Ora Namir said that she represents a group in her party - the Labour Party - who exert every effort in order to establish peace, and she is sure that for peace two fundamental things are necessary: the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and Soviet involvement in the occurrences in the Middle East on the basis of collaboration between the two great powers - the Soviet Union and the USA.

MK Meir Vilner reacted to this by saying: "If MK Namir stood at the head of the Labour Party, the situation would be completely different".

The leader of the Soviet delegation Nikolai Buchkov, said that peaceful solution of the Middle East conflict will improve the international atmosphere and will create conditions for normal relations with Israel.

Next day the guests met with the Israeli Peace Committee and discussed the ways and means of joint struggle for peace in the Middle East and the world.

On the same day the guests visited kibbutz Gan-Shmuel where they were received the secretary of the kibbutz, Miriam Margalit and by Haim Margalit journalist of "Al Hamishmar" (organ of Mapam).

The delegation then visited the Arab town Um-al-Fahm, where they were received by the mayor, Hashem Mahamid. Here they heard about the grave situation with which the Municipal Council has to contend.

In the evening the delegation was received by the Municipal Theatre of Haifa. In the artists' club the guests were greeted by the director of the theatre, Noam Semel, the public relation officer Amalia Peled, the arts manager Gedalya Besser, actors Muhammed Bakri and others. This meeting was also attended by other personalities, such as MK Tawfiq Toubi and Zahi Karkabi member of the Haifa Municipal Council.

The next two days were spent in the north, where members of the delegation were welcomed by the Municipal Council of Nazareth, and the mayor, comrade Tawfiq Zayad and in Acre they were received by the local municipal council, headed by mayor Eli de Castro. Returning to Haifa, the delegation met public figures and met the members of editorial Board of the Daily "Al-Ittihad", central organ of the CPI in Arabic.

FASCIST ATTACK

On January 19, 1987 the Soviet delegation was invited by Members of Knesset from the parliamentary group of the DFPE, the Alignment, Mapam and Ratz to visit the Knesset.

A serious discussion took place about problems which are of concern for both the Soviet Union and Israel.

While the conversation between the Israeli Members of Knesset and the Soviet guests were proceeding in one of the halls of the Knesset, outside the door assembled extremist right members of Knesset Geula Cohen and Yuval Ne'man of the "Tehiya" parliamentary group and rabbis Waldman and Druckman of the Mafdal (National Religious) group and tried together with hooligans especially let into the Knesset by the fascist MKs, to enter violently the hall. MK Charlie

Biton went out and asked them to stop the provocation. He tore up a poster held up by MK Geula Cohen with an inscription against dialogue with the Soviet delegation. MK Ne'eman attacked MK Biton physically. Suddenly the rabid racist Kahana joined the other rightwing MKs. Thus it turned out that a planned fascist attack upon the Soviet delegates was organized. The three members of the DFPE parliamentary group reacted by tearing up the provocative anti-Soviet posters. Knesset guards removed the fascists and enabled the delegation to leave and continue their planned tour of Jerusalem.

The Soviet delegation ended its visit in Israel on 20.1.1987 at a meeting in the International Institute for Peace in the Middle East.

SUPPLEMENT

EDUCATION PROBLEMS IN ISRAEL

By Zippora Sharoni-Toubi

EDUCATION PROBLEMS IN ISRAEL

By Zippora Sharoni-Toubi

The character and future of the Israeli society will be determined greatly by the level and quality of the education system. Formal education constitutes an important component in educating the younger generation and moulding its values and character. The core of the problems of the education in Israel is the destructive influence and the severe repercussions of the situation of endless wars, occupation of Palestinian territory since 67, the trampling under foot of more than one and a half millions of Palestinian Arabs, and the impact it has on the mind and soul of the young generation. Hence, it is only natural that education should be given top priority, in reality however matters are different, education as well as other social and community services are being pushed aside.

Erosion in the infrastructure of education

School year 86-87 has not come to an end yet, and a new education toll of 200-300 dollars per pupil has been announced, as well as further curtailments in the educational system for school year 87-88. The "unity government" as previous Israeli governments preceding it must have reached the same conclusions reached by rulers of ancient times many generations ago: it is much easier to rule over and lead astray an illiterate people. Thus, systematically drawbacks have been made on basic education causing erosion of the infrastructure of culture and education in Israel.

What is the meaning of the curtailment plan?

The new curtailment plan means 4 to 6 weekly hours less per pupil in the educational system. Headmasters have been informed about the number of hours cut in each school as of the next school year. Taking into account, that at the beginning of this school year cuts have already been made, and two weekly hours have been reduced from the kindergartens, it means that the

children in kindergartens and first to third grade will be sent home at 11. How will they be taken care of until their parents come home from work?

Pupils will study less sciences, mathematics, physics, chemistry - less than the little they study today. Heads of the universities and the technological institutions have already called attention to the continuous descent in the preparatory level of secondary schools in general knowledge, sciences and English. To the danger of the lack of academic and scientific reserve for the near future, due to the low level of study and lack of budget allocations.

Subjects as arts, music, manual dexterity, physical education, agriculture, have been made sparse.

Complimentary education classes, computer equipment, audiovisual instruments, laboratories and libraries, educational projects will be eliminated. Cultural and sports clubs for the youth will shut down. The freezing of budget allocation for building will continue, thus increasing the present number of 40 pupils per class even more.

The serious blow dealt to the educational system will affect the ability to contend with advanced technology and science, the ability to acquire an all-around education. Less and less education is being given to the poor and weaker strata pupils.

At present we are faced with findings revealing that 20% of the enlisted youth - boys and girls - to the Israeli army are lacking basic education, cannot read and write, or carry out the simplest arithmetics. The above data does not include the Arab youth, so the overall percentage is much higher.

What will the situation be after the new curtailments? The spokesman for the Ministry of Education and Culture said: "from now on, there can be no further cuts be made without practically hurting the pupils of the poor and weak strata, and further injury to their ability of education will undoubtedly be irreversible and catastrophic"... nevertheless, the education budget cuts are continuing.

Investments are worthwhile - at an early age

The most worthwhile "investment" is at the early stages of the child's development. However, in Israel the kindergarten has been turned into a sort of luxury. The payments for kindergartens for 2-4 year olds, which in their majority are private, or belong to women's organisations, are soaring from year to year, and in practice rises every few months. A working mother spends the greater part of her salary for paying for kindergarten. And this happens at time when all the researches point to it that a child who goes to kindergarten at the age of two to three, arrives with better preparation to school and has more prospects to attain achievements, much more than a child who had visited only the obligatory kindergarten. They do not begin the race from the same point of departure.

Thousands of children of the age group 3-4 are wandering about the streets, and at best from grandmother to aunt, because their parents cannot afford to pay to a private kindergarten or nursery. And what happens to the thousands of children in the Arab villages, where there are no kindergartens for 2-4 olds at all? Where the ministry for education and culture has never concerned itself with establishing of pre-obligatory kindergartens for 4-5 olds. Is this so, because they are Arab children and therefore it is completely unimportant if they lag behind? Now, with the aggravating economic situation and the dismissals of thousands of workers - more and more workers' families cannot afford to permit themselves the "luxury" of sending their children to kindergartens. Where will the starting point of these children be when they come to first form?

The education tax of 200-300 dollars per child will put in question the study of thousands of children, not only in the kindergarten but also in the schools.

From where can a family of dismissed workers take 200-300 dollars per child to pay the education tax?

From where will a family of a textile workers, a food enterprise worker, or an agricultural labourer take this money? Who will remember the solemn promises to expand the law for free and obligatory education to children from 3-4? For a long study-day? For the

continuation of carrying out a reform in the entire system of education in the country? The budgets that were kept for these aims have been long ago swallowed up by the expenditures for wars and colonial settlements.

The low state of higher education

The institutions for higher education have ended the past budgetary year with a vast deficit and have warned that any further curtailment of the budget will lead to "not having any longer a higher education in the State of Israel. This is a complete destruction of our scientific, agricultural, industrial and spiritual future. We will not be very happy when we look at ourselves in the year 2000".

The institutions of higher education are in retreat. The budgets are being cut, while the study fees are soaring from year to year. Higher education has been turned into a luxury which cannot be attained by many good students. As of next year, in addition to the \$ 2000 university fees, every student will have to pay \$350 education tax.

Is it worthwhile to become a teacher?

One of the well-known advertisements of the Ministry of Education and Culture has been: the Best Ones - to Teaching. Anybody hearing or reading it today laughs.

Why should any person turn to teaching? For the measly salary? For the uncertainty of finding work? Dismissals to be expected, for the "lucky ones" who have succeeded in entering the educational system?!

6000 teachers were dismissed at the end of last school year, some of them were rehired only after the remaining 70,000 teachers agreed to renounce part of their salary for 3 months. Some were forced into early retirement. As it turned out, the teachers financed the Ministry's budget curtailments out of their pockets.

Now a new cut is expected and with that - a new wave of dismissals of teachers. Will the teachers again finance from their leaking pockets the continuation of education in Israel? Who then, will wish to engage in this difficult and eroding profession, which has no future?

Education to nationalism and racism

There is no people that lives in the capitalist regime, that is immune to racism and fascism, if it does not build the political, social, ideological and cultural barriers for preventing the expansion of this danger.

The Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan heights; the domination over one and a half millions of Palestinians and Syrians, the ceaseless attempts at oppressing them and driving them off their lands and their homeland, the policy of the Israeli mailed fist that is forged with American steel, the policy of deportations, demolitions of homes, closing universities, detentions, trampling underfoot of human rights and the war in Lebanon with its horrors - all these have been a fertile soil, a hothouse for growing the rotten fruit which in Israeli society stinks to heaven - nationalism and racism.

This rotten fruit is thriving at a scale, which gives rise to concern, and this process takes place precisely among the youth, the generation of Israel's tomorrow.

All researches point out the great task which education can fulfil in inculcating values, humane approaches, tolerance and equality, irrespective of nationality, religion and colour. If these values have not been inculcated and negative phenomena are rife among the youth, the cause of this must be searched for in the formal and non-formal education given to them.

The ideological infrastructure

Education in this country is based on the Zionist ideology, which is not prepared to see this country as the homeland of the two peoples living in it and tries all along the way to expropriate and expel the Arabs in order to get lands without any inhabitants.

The Zionist ideology is expressed in the different goals of education of Jewish pupils and Arab pupils:

In the curricula, in the textbooks which accompany the child at every stage of education, the Jewish child is educated in a spirit of nationalism, overbearing, hatred towards the Arabs and absolutely ignoring their rights in this country.

It is difficult to cite all the examples. They are interwoven in every subject taught, in every story, poem and excerpt. Therefore I will quote only a number of phenomena which are to be seen as examples of the general picture.

The aims of education

Already in the aims of education the foundations of the approach is visible. In the aims of education in the law for state education, 1953 it is said: "The aim of education in Israel is the foundation of education on the basis of Israeli cultural values and scientific achievements, and the love for the homeland and loyalty to the Israeli state and people, on the preparation for agricultural work, the professional one and the vanguard one, and on the aspiration to a society that is built on freedom, equality, tolerance, mutual assistance, and human love". (All emphasises are mine - Z.Sh.)

In 1975 the minister of education confirmed the educational aims of state education in the Arab sector: "The education is based upon the Arab cultural values, scientific achievements, on the aspiration to peace between Israel and its neighbours and on the love for the common homeland, for all citizens of the state and on loyalty to the State of Israel, by means of the common interests of all citizens of the state, and fostering the characteristics of the Israeli Arabs and the knowledge of Jewish culture"...

Among the goals of education for Jews, the aspiration for peace between Israel and its neighbours is not mentioned; also not mentioned at all is the common homeland. Neither is there any mention made of the obligation of knowing the Arab culture by the Jewish pupil parallel to the knowledge of Jewish culture by the Arab pupil.

Therefore there is no wonder that the data of a new poll by Dr. Mina Zemach, which had been commissioned by the Van Lier Institute and was presented in March, this year, show that 92% of the Jewish youth are sure that the Jews have full rights, or almost full rights over Palestine.

The pupils do not study the history of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Dr. Dan Gileadi, coordinator of the teaching of social sciences and civics, in the ministry of education, has levelled a year ago sharp criticism of the policy of the ministry, saying: "The majority of the pupils do not know the history of the Israeli-Arab conflict, a half of the secondary school pupils who are examined at the matriculation on the subject of civics do not study the chapters which deal with the conflict or the chapters which deal with the Israeli Arabs. (And this according to the material which had been prepared by the ministry of education, within the requirements of the establishment - Z.Sh.) In a part of the vocational schools the subject is not taught at all and in their majority it is not studied as an obligatory subject for the matriculation examinations".

Because of this criticism he has now been forbidden to express his view in a press interview about the form in which today the educational system contends with the teaching of the subject "The Israeli-Arab conflict". ("Ha'aretz", April 1, 1986).

This means that the educational system simply does not contend with the issue!

Brainwash by means of textbooks

One cannot find in Israel a map in which the frontiers of Israel ("the green line") are marked. In every map, Arab (East) Jerusalem and the Golan Heights (belonging to Syria) are marked as a part of Israel. In part of the maps, the eastern frontier is the Jordan river, the so-called "The Complete Land of Israel". By means of such maps hanging on each and every classroom wall, the pupils get acquainted with the frontiers of the state.

In the geography and homeland textbooks, on the maps of Palestine that show land division in different periods, the lands owned by Arabs are marked as "lands in other ownership" (non Jewish). God forbid mentioning the fact that the lands belong to Arabs. A student looking up the region of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the map index, learns that the land is in the ownership of unidentified other proprietors. There is no mention to the fact that these lands are Arab property, in text books as: "The National Jewish Movement and the Establishment of the State of Israel" "The Arab-Israeli conflict", "From Holocaust to Resurrection" not only in text books, but in any other official publication of the Israeli government such as "The Israeli Atlas"

The tendency of ignoring the Palestinians and their rights is expressed not only in geographical textbooks; it runs like a purple thread through all the textbooks of the various study subjects.

On the subject of civics, the book which deals with the Israeli-Arab conflict - "Fundamental Approaches to the Tradition and History of the Jewish People" (textbook for religious schools) includes in its absolute majority articles by persons with extreme nationalist views, from whom the pupils learn that one must not give back occupied territories: "Thou shalt not hand over lands to goy (non-Jew); all the lands in this country must be seized and held". The book educates in the spirit of the extremist "Gush-Emunim" and the colonial settlers, to evict the inhabitants and rob them of their lands - "lands without inhabitants".

Another book for studying civics for the matriculation examinations is the book of Amnon Hever "Central Issues in the History of the People and the State in the Last Generation"; (appears in the bibliography for teachers, in a circular letter of the ministry of education and culture in September 1983). The author attempts in this book to erase and eliminate the existence of the Palestinian people at all, and if there is no people, there is no need for any rights: "We did not find, when we came to

this country, any people and certainly not any people which had been living here for hundreds of years". "We dig here wells and are able to create life, while our enemies (read: the Arabs - Z.Sh.) are able only to close up wells and to enlarge the desert area". "There has never been a Palestinian people". "The Dome of Rock is not holy to the Arabs, They invented the story of the ascent of Muhammed to Heavens, in order to attribute some Arab sanctity to Jerusalem. This is an attempt at falsifying history". And there are other pearls of this kind in his book. This is a book which diffuses the poison of racism in every line. (It is worthwhile to point out that "Sifri", an enterprise of the Histadrut-owned Hevrat-Ha'ovdim) distributes this book.

The Palestinian problem is completely absent from the textbooks and curricula. There is no vestige of a Palestinian people. But this is not only in the textbooks. In all its publications, the Establishment does not define the Palestinian Arabs in Israel as a national minority, but as "religious minorities": Moslems, Christians, Druzes, that is to say - as lacking any nationality. Or they are referred to, as in the governmental Statistic Yearbook "non-Jews" - lacking any identity, even any religious identity. Thus they are marked in all the Statistical Yearbooks. This is a whole system that is built on the premise that the Arabs are not a nation, not a people, and that they are not entitled to equality of rights.

Learning from literature that disseminates racism and hostility

Dr. Daniel Bartal, senior lecturer for psychology at the Educational department of Tel-Aviv university, has undertaken an examination of the textbooks, in particular the textbooks concerning the study of Hebrew literature - the "Israeli Reader" for classes 1 to 8. His conclusion "By means of the textbooks the pupils are subjected to a brainwash for hatred towards Arabs... which has a horrible significance. The Arabs are described negatively, in a brutal and inhuman form...

One must not ignore the conclusions which a child draws, reading the story, and the generalisations which he will make afterwards with regard to all the Arabs".

The textbooks dealing with language, literature and history are filled with a nationalist and negative stereotype of the Arabs. I will quote just one example out of many, from a textbook for language: "The Arabs plundered, robbed and murdered" (page 277, paragraph 2). "The Jews brought the spirit of progress to the Middle East" (page 177, paragraph 3). This is from the book "Correction of Language and Improving the Style" by Ya'acov Rahat and Mordechai Ron, "Hakibbutz Hameuchad", 1970.

And as a complement to the racist venom spread by the children's literature studies at school there exists a children's literature such as the series of Avner Carmeli (who had been editor of the Israeli Army's periodical "Bamahaneh")! "The Young Sportsmen Return"; the series "Danny Dean" by Ron Sarig; the books of Batya Carmi "The Band of the Daring on the Track of the Terrorists", etc. etc.

"Not only the eyes and physiognomy of the figure of the Arab spread horror in a great part of Hebrew books for Jewish children constitute a stereotype, but the stereotype dominates also the description of his character, way of life, behaviour... ("Ugly Face in the Mirror", by Prof. Adir Cohen, Chapter 5).

"The frequent stereotype in the reaction of the children is that he is acquainted with in the children's literature. The children are influenced by negative stereotypes of the Arabs in this literature". On examining a total of 520 children's books the findings were as follows: negative characteristics were attributed to Arabs in 63.5% of them. 23.8% carried positive features and characteristics. 12.7% were non-descript and vague of character.

In the book "Ugly Face in the Mirror" by Prof. Adir Cohen, we see the dimension of the danger which

is spread by children's books and of the poison of hatred towards the Arabs, prejudices, mistrust. Everyone who is engaged in education knows that concepts and values which are rooted in early childhood are very difficult to uproot at a later age.

To this we must add the existing racist laws which discriminate between Jewish and Arab children (such as the law for children's allowances, scholarships for students, discrimination in budgets for education which are allocated to the Arab local councils and for Arab education in general etc.etc.); the racist expressions of public personalities, such as calling the Arabs "poisoned cockroaches in a bottle"; "cancer within the heart of the state", "two-legged animals", and most recently the conference of the extreme nationalist "Tehiyah" party, which decided that half a million Arabs from the occupied territories should be expelled to Jordan (what is wanted are lands and not inhabitants); the prohibition by Hedani, the man in charge of religious education in the ministry for education and culture, of meetings between Jewish and Arab youth; the declarations of the chief rabbis against living in mixed houses and neighbourhoods, and certainly against any form of meeting between groups of Jewish and Arab youth because of the "danger of assimilation".

On this fertile soil arise the wild growths of racism which endangers the whole society in Israel.

The opinion polls-point out the dimensions of the evil

"In recent years a frightening turn about has taken place in the moods concerning everything that is connected with the attitudes towards the Arabs, and also towards the Israeli values. Ignorance and feelings of hatred and vengeance, an atmosphere of extremism, nationalism, of a lack of readiness to understand the other side and to try to come to a compromise. A young generation has grown up, part of which, is possessed by racist views and tendencies" (Shmuel Toledano - former advisor on Arab

affairs, to the Prime Minister, "Ha'aretz", March 26, 1985).

"The possibility of Arabs being loaded on trucks that move towards the border, is definitely envisaged among the youth; the matter does not evoke among them any associations, on the contrary"... (From the television programme "This is the Time", March 18, 1985).

A poll which was organised recently by professor Adir Cohen, with the participation of Miriam Rot and Bilha Cohen, in the framework of the Centre for Children's Literature at the Haifa University, among 260 pupils of 4th to 6th grade, on Mt. Carmel, Haifa, disclosed that the pupils are deeply frightened by Arabs. The immediate association of more than 75% of the children is: Murderer, criminal, kidnapper of children, market peddler, baker of pitas (oriental type of bread), shepherd, pig, thieves, hatred, enemies. "Even if an Arab is a friend of yours, if you turn your back on him, he will shoot you in the back" - from a composition by a girl in 6th grade, included in the poll.

The researchers disclose that the ignorance among the pupils with regard to Arabs is enormous. Only 12% of pupils in Haifa had close knowledge of Arabs. (Haifa is a mixed town. What then would the percentage be in Tel-Aviv? In Netanya?) These (12%) have a more balanced relation towards Arabs, but not a positive one, God forbid.

The majority of the children, examined for the poll, think that the Arabs are foreigners in this country and they have no rights to it. Inasmuch as there was in the poll any positive reference to Arabs, it stemmed from the viewpoints of the advantages derived from the facts, such as "the Arab is a good and cheap worker" etc. Inasmuch as there were any expressions of tolerance, they were expressed deriving from a patronizing attitude and never from a standpoint of equality.

This poll dealing in three subjects: Association

which were aroused by the word "Arab"; a composition about a meeting with an Arab; and the influence of a book they had read and in which an Arab is described. On all three subjects the results were identical, as I have shown above.

According to a parallel research made by Prof. A. Cohen in secondary schools, the conclusion is: "If Kahana (fascist member of Knesset) would run for elections in secondary schools, he would reap a crushing victory". At present his strength is divided by the Hatehiya party which takes up a considerable part among the extremists.

Dr. Shlomo Ariel concludes a sample of young people before mobilisation to the army on the subject "What do the youth think?" "I determine unequivocally that the consensus was one of racist views of the most extremist and violent sort" (December 1984). This racist pestilence has penetrated the mind of young children of secondary school, pupils and the youth in general, and intensifyingly gnaws at the young generation.

General Hareven from the Van Lier Institute states: "In the average schoolclass in Israel the majority of pupils do not know that the Arabs are citizens of the state and on principle are entitled to quality in rights" (on a Study Day for Teachers in Tel Aviv, January 1985).

A tightly closed, politically intolerant society

In a recent survey conducted in 1000,8 to 12th grade classes in different schools, by Dr. Kalman Benjamini, Department of Psychology at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, about the "National conceptions among the Israeli youth and their attitude towards political tolerance" - 50% of the participants favour the denial of right of the Arabs to vote, to study in the universities, to appear in public, etc. The poll shows that the greatest concentration of intolerance towards the Arab inhabitants is among the religious pupils who come from the materially well-to-do strata of the population - of

these - 60% - are in favour of denying altogether any rights for the Arabs.

Phenomena of nationalism and racism are expressed also in the lack of preparedness to creating links and relations with Arab youth. This is reflected also in a research by Professor Yonathan Hoffman of the Department of Psychology at the Haifa University which encompassed 500 secondary school pupils in Haifa and its suburbs and of 700 Arab pupils from Nazareth, Um al-Fahm, Tarshiha and Ar'ara (Arab towns and villages) on the subject "Willingness to normal social relations between Jewish and Arab pupils of secondary schools".

The research which also dealt with a comparison of research works on this issue in the years 1973, 1975, 1984, points to a general decrease of preparedness of the Jewish youth in this country to relations with Arab youth in Israel, while in contrast, Arab youth show more readiness and openness towards relations and ties with their Jewish contemporaries.

Those who are filled with hatred towards Arabs also want the liquidation of Democracy

The inception of the process of nationalist and racist escalation has not begun today. Already in 1976, in the research of Shlomo Levy and Elyahu Lewis Gotman of the Institute for practical social research, young people of the 14-18 age group were asked about their relation towards Arabs. The data of the research were as follows: 15% hate all Arabs; 17% hate the majority of the Arabs; 29% hate a part of the Arabs. That means that 61% hate all Arabs or part of them; 21% hate only few of them and only 17% do not hate the Arabs at all. And this happened when the fascist and racist youth movements of "Hatehaya", "Tzomet", "Kakh" etc. did not yet exist.

The research work of the recent years disclose the intensifying negative conception of the Arabs in the eyes of the Israeli Jewish young people.

In a poll by Mina Tzemakh and Ruth Dayan for the Van-Lier Institute, which was undertaken in September 1984, among 651 youth of 15-18 about the "Adherence to the Values of Democracy", negative tendencies are expressed among the youth in relation to human rights in general and in relation to the Arab population in particular:

- 60% believe that the Arabs in Israel are not entitled to full equality of rights.
- 27% are in favour of restricting the democratic rights of those who oppose the government
- 42% favour restriction of democracy
- 47% are for restricting the rights of the Arabs
- 57% are for the expulsion of the Arab population of the occupied territories refusing to accept Israeli citizenship
- 46% support the freedom of organized activities against the Arab citizens within the State.
- 25% are prepared to join such organisations

Thus, a generation has grown up which is ready to renounce democracy and its values, a generation which holds in high esteem a regime of a "strongman", restriction and elimination of the influence of the parties, and there is no need to add where all this leads.

Intolerance, disparagement and a tendency to renounce democracy are not found only among the young; they are a characteristic of the Israeli society in general.

Dr. Mikhal Shamir, Department of Political Sciences, Tel-Aviv University, conducted two identical polls: One among pupils and the other one among population of 20 plus, in order to test political tolerance in Israel. Her conclusions were: "Israeli society today is very intolerant and rightist. Israel today resembles the USA of the MacCarthyite fifties... In Israel intolerance

is expressed against the left and against groups who support the PLO..."

"The higher the education of the examinee, the less he supports the rightist groups. The more the examinee is religious, the less he opposes the rightist groups and the more he opposes the leftist groups".

One must not measure tolerance according to communal origin, but according to education and the environment of the examinee".

In a state whose peace and future depend on the understanding between Jews and Arabs, these are phenomena which point to a situation that endangers the very existence of the State.

Discrimination and Deprivation of the Arab Education

In this country exists a glaring deprivation of the Arab education, a deep gap between the curricula for Jews and to the detriment of the Arab education.

"Studies in the Arab sector are on a decline in comparison with the Jewish sector and therefore the Arab study system in Israel cannot follow the innovations in the Jewish sector. If that gap continues in the next decade, it is very doubtful if the gap will ever narrow" (from the research of Elad Peled, former director-general of the Ministry of Education and Culture).

Suffice will it be to quote a number of facts from the latest research:

From the conclusions of the committee for examining the Arab education, headed by Emanuel Kopolovitch, the director of the Department for Education and Culture for Arabs in the Ministry for Education and Culture, from October 1981 to June 1984:

Subject	Jews	Arabs
Nursery schools age 3-4	98%	13%, mostly private
Obligatory nursery 5-6	100%	70%
Primary education, age 6-13	96.7%	94.2%
Secondary education, age 14-17	80%	50% mostly municipal
In 1981, towards Matriculation theoretical and technological trends	45%	26%, almost all only theoretical trend
Technological trend	60% of the pupils	20% mostly only 2 subjects
Dropouts before finishing 8th class, 1974	4.5%	32%
1982	0%	20%
Complete illiteracy in general population	6%	18%

Jews	Arabs
Control by regular education officer of 86% of the pupils	Control of 12% of pupils, and this in mixed localities and Druze villages
Average number of pupils in class - 26.3	31.2
Classes with more than 40 pupils - 4%	10.2%
Number of secondary schools out of all schools - 25.6%	15%
Curricula for Jews for different subjects - 123	Curricula for Arabs - 15

- * Number of Arab recipients of matriculation certificates is 40% lower than the number of Jewish pupils of the same school year
- * An Arab pupil receives 8% less lectures in various subjects than a Jewish pupil, because the Arab is obliged to study Hebrew within the framework of hours.
- * The average number of pupils in Arab primary school is by 25% higher than the number of pupils in Jewish schools.
- * 70% social workers in all spheres, not only for education and youth in the whole of the Arab sector.
- * A shortage of 3,500 classrooms in the Arab sector

In recent years a "magical cure" has been found for all the maladies of education in the Arab sector (as well as for economical and social maladies), by commissioning boards of inquiry to present recommendations.

This magical cure is of no avail for anything at all. The situation of the Arab education is deteriorating and the reports are gathering dust on a shelf or in the trash cans (the quotes are from the latest commission's findings).

In 1981 - 23% of all the 3 to 17 year-olds were Arabs, while the Arab population numbered 16.5% of the entire population in this country.

Kindergartens:

The starting point of the Jewish and Arab children is not equal, already from the beginning of the study track. The Jewish children have a considerable advantage already from the outset by the very fact of being educated in kindergartens at an early age. The kindergarten gives the first superiority for success in studies. Pre-obligatory nursery schools for 3-4 year-olds almost do not

exist in the Arab sector. 30% of the Arab children do not go to obligatory kindergartens as there are no rooms and equipment for all.

The conditions in the majority of the existing nursery school are very difficult, the premises - being attached to schools - are inadequate in structure, playing grounds, equipment and curricula.

Primary Schools

The percentage of children in the Arab population is higher than in the Jewish population, and in spite of that, the rate of Arab children in the first class is 3% lower than the rate of Jewish children.

In Jewish education, during the years a wide sphere of study trends, treatment of weak pupils and control over dropouts has developed. All that is entirely absent in the Arab education.

"The hope of the Arab inhabitants for equal education for their children has no basis in reality" (page 6 of the latest report). At the end of 1983 - 24% to 69% of the pupils of first grade do not understand their texts.

From a research by Professor Y. Barshai about the Arab schools the following emerges:

- 8% of the pupils of 4th grade are not able to read mechanically
- 20% fail in the understanding of the text, even at a low level
- 33% fail in the addition of 4 figures

Failure among Arab pupils is 15% higher than with Jewish pupils. These pupils will not be able to follow the curricula and will not succeed in various subjects of study.

The Arab education suffers from lack of budget allocations for psychological advisory aid,

classrooms and institutions for special education, assistance for weak pupils.

A considerable part of the educational state budget is devoted to children requiring special care only in the Jewish educational sector. There exists no framework for fostering such Arab children, even so there is a large number of children to whom assistance is applicable. The resources for pupils who require special concern are given only to Jewish children. The majority of Arab pupils who need special education (mentally retarded), sit in ordinary classes, as there is no framework for special education available and these pupils constitute a disturbing factor. There are no youth and sports clubs and public libraries which would enrich the youth and complete the education given at school. The classrooms are partly in rented buildings and rooms which are unsuitable to serve as classrooms; in many cases there are no sanitary services, water, electricity or sufficient daylight.

Secondary and Higher education

"Arab secondary education has a basic infrastructure which can absorb only one half, approximately, of the young people who are obliged by law to receive basic education and who want to complement their secondary education, and that at a restricted diversity of study subjects" (from the last report).

There are no institutions for vocational preparation which combine work and study. Those exist only in the Jewish sector (see table). "The quality of education and the average achievements of studies of the Arab education are significantly low in comparison with the Jewish education" (loc.cit.)

In the whole Arab sector there are only 2 secondary agricultural schools, those can take in 780 pupils. Apparently, at the Ministry of Education and Culture they think that there is no necessity for

Arabs to learn agriculture at a modern secondary school level (one can work without education at fruit-picking and in agriculture on the Jewish farms as simple labourers).

"The Arab education is not a partner to the changes and innovations which are introduced into the Jewish education in matters of curricula, textbooks and teaching systems" (loc.cit)

The Ministry of Education and Culture plans, evidently, to "narrow" the gaps by additional cuts in the Arab education. The headmasters have now been informed about cuts of 10% in the overall lessons in the next year, for all schools. The percentage of Arab students in Israel is about 5%, which is the second lowest in the world after Botswana in Africa. The percentage of the Palestinian students outside Israel has increased ten times as much as their percentage in Israel. Outside Israel. 3000 for every 100,000 inhabitants. In Israel: 300 for every 100,000 inhabitants.

The number of Arab lecturers at the universities in Israel does not exceed 10 (out of 6000 lecturers!).

This is a policy which attempts to continue the way of Lubrani who was the prime minister's advisor on Arab affairs - "to make them continue (the Arabs) being hewers of wood and drawers of water". But in spite of all discrimination, deprivation and the policy which is planned to prevent the number of Arab intellectuals to increase, growth has taken place in the number of Arab intellectuals who work as doctors, engineers, pharmacists, teachers, writers, poets and so on - intellectuals, loyally serving the cause of their people in widening the numbers and circles of Arab intellectuals.

Time urges onward

* 20% of the Jewish youth and 50% of the Arab youth do not reach secondary school. 3000 young people of 14-17 neither study nor work.

- * Youngsters aged 14 or less are obliged to work more than 7 hours a day (as they should according to law) earning 80% of the wages of an adult, without any social benefits. Many work at night.
- * 75% of all juvenile delinquents are dropouts. A majority
- * The number of juvenile delinquents increases from year to year. There is a specially high percentage among Arab children and youth, a result of dropouts from school, unemployment, a lack of social workers and because there is no institutional inspection and treatment at all.
- * the percentage of young people involved in drugs, also among school pupils, and also the percentage of youth who are alcohol addicts is rising.

Israeli society is facing two options: Option one - continuing to ignore the Palestinians; continuation of the occupation, ceaseless warfare, the bloodshed which we have known for years; additional cuts in the budgets for public services and first of all in education and the continuation of the dangerous repercussions of any extreme nationalist and racist society.

Option two - the recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to establish its own state in all the Palestinian territories that were conquered in 1967, alongside the State of Israel. The only way which leads us to peace, will break the circle of bloodshed, will contribute to uprooting racism and nationalism, and for returning to the values of democracy, and will enable us to channel resources for education and not for wars.

THERE IS NO THIRD OPTION.

DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS

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

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA

Dear Comrades,

On the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution we extend heartiest fraternal greetings.

The victory of the Cuban revolution has paved the way to socialism, inaugurated a new era in the history of Cuba and the Latin American countries. We wish you and through you we wish the Cuban people additional achievements in consolidating socialism, in advancing the anti-imperialist struggle for international solidarity and peace.

* * *

TO THE 13TH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF SRI LANKA

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel and in the name of all Israeli Communists Jews and Arabs, we have the pleasure to extend to you heartiest fraternal greetings on the occasion of the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka.

With keen interest we are following the heroic struggle of your Party and its fight against the pro imperialist policies of the government in your country, for the vital interests of your people for advancing the daily rights of the working people, for democracy and for reviving the traditional non aligned and peaceful policy of Sri Lanka.

We highly esteem the adherence of your Party . to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism for strengthening the unity of the Communist and workers movement, for developing still further the unity of the anti-imperialist forces, for enhancing the revolutionary struggle for national independence social progress and peace.

Dear Comrades,

Your Congress is being held at a time of grave dangers to peace and even to the very existence of life on our planet due to the aggressive policies and satanic nuclear schemes of US imperialism as reflected in the US strategical defence initiative known as the Star Wars.

The sincere, realistic and constructive peace initiatives of the Soviet Union aimed at easing international relations, putting an end to the arms race and liquidating the nuclear arms until the end of the 20th century, as well as the growing struggle of the peace forces in the world create the hope that it is possible to foil US treacherous plans and preserve world peace.

Dear Comrades,

Our Party is engaged in a fateful struggle against the pro-imperialist and anti-popular policy of the Israeli government and against its involvement in the strategical global plans of US imperialism, for reaching a just solution of the Palestinian problems and establishing stable peace in the Middle East, based on the withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories which were occupied since the June 1967 war, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel. The way towards the realization of these principles is the convocation of an international peace conference for the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of all sides involved in the conflict including Israel and the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people as well as the five permanent members of the

Security Council.

The Israeli Communists are energetically struggling for putting an end to the unholy relations between Israel and the racist apartheid regime in South Africa, and for stopping the Israeli military support to the fascist dictatorships in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

We are relentlessly struggling for defending the daily rights of the workers and the popular masses in our country, against the policy of national discrimination directed against the Arab population in Israel and against the growing danger of fascism for democracy, equality, social progress and peace.

Dear Comrades,

We are confident that the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, will be an important landmark in the history of your Party and will strengthen its struggle for advancing our common noble ideals, national independence, democracy, peace and socialism.

Long live the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1987

C O M M U N I S T P A R T Y O F I S R A E L
C E N T R A L C O M M I T T E E - F O R E I G N R E L A T I O N S D E P A R T M E N T
P . O . B . 2 6 2 0 5 , T E L - A V I V I S R A E L
C a b l e A d d r e s s : I S C O M P A R T E L - A V I V