

**INFORMATION BULLETIN
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL**



MARCH - APRIL - 1988

3-4/88

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The 15th plenary Session of the Central Committee
of The Communist Party of Israel

On April, 5th, 1988 the 15th plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel was held with the participation of the members of the Central Control Commission.

Chairman of the meeting was comrade Nimer Marcus, member of the Central Committee.

General Secretary Meir Vilner lectured about the new political developments and delivered a report about the work of the political Bureau and the secretariat.

A discussion was held and was summed up by the lecturer.

The Central Committee endorsed the lecture, the report and adopted resolutions.

Resolutions of the Central Committee of
the Communist Party of Israel

THE INITIATIVE OF SHULTZ IS NOT A PEACE

INITIATIVE

The popular uprising of the Palestinian people against occupation, and for the establishment of their independent state along side Israel, the atrocities perpetrated by the forces of occupation which have caused deep indignation in the world against the government of Israel and against the US administration which provide political military and economical backing to it all this have motivated the Reagan Administration to present what is called the " Shultz initiative " .

Already, from the very beginning we expressed our negative attitude towards this step and asserted that this is not a peace initiative, but a step which is meant to mislead public opinion and to enable the ruling circles in Israel and the US administration itself to escape from the perplexed situation which they are facing.

Not few peace-loving circles have expressed their support to the " Shultz initiative " and thus they are helping, to our

regret in misleading public opinion . These circles are drawing the conclusion from the opposition of Shamir and all the extreme rightest elements to the proposals of Shultz as if these proposals are liable to advance the desired peace . Shamir and his Party are opposing the "Shultz initiative " because they are against the idea of convening competent international conference and because they support the idea of the " Complete Land of Israel". But to oppose Shamir does not mean to support Shultz .

In his last declaration Shultz explicitly said that the U.S.A is ultimately against the establishment of a Palestinian state , against the participation of the PLO in the peace process , against the withdrawal of Israel to the lines of the 4th of June 1967 and against a competent international conference . These declarations should open the eyes of many persons who were misled .

The Central Committee calls upon all the political circles in Israel that support the right of the Palestinian people for self determination to refrain from supporting the steps of Shultz that deny this right and which without its realization there will be no peace nor security .

The Palestinian problem is the core of the Israeli- Arab conflict . Without recognising the right of the Palestinian people to self determination and the establishment of their independent state alongside Israel - all talks about peace are nothing but cheating . Without the participation of the PLO , the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people , which together with Israel are the main parties involved in the conflict - all talks about peace are vain talks .

The Central Committee asserts its opposition to the "Shultz initiative " not because it is an American initiative , but because it does not advance the cause of peace . If the US administration is really interested in solving the Israeli-Arab conflict and in putting an end to wars in our region , then it would have agreed to the principle of two states to the two peoples the Israeli and the Palestinian , and to the negotiations between the authorised representatives of the two peoples in the framework of the competent international conference . Such a peace plan , even if it would have been American we will support willingly .

Peace is a vital necessity to the people of Israel and to all peoples of the region . We will struggle for its realization

on just and realistic basis for the interest of all peoples .

AGAINST THE COLLAPSE OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM

The Central Committee states with concern , that the policy of the government has lead to the collapse of the health services in Israel . According to the hospital directors ,already in many cases , patients have died in the hospitals due to the cruel cuts in the budgets for medical services . The minister of Finance Moshe Nissim from the Likud is leading the struggle for the liquidation of the public health services according to the principle : he who is rich will recieve appropriate medical treatment and he who is poor does not deserve such treatment .

The agreement between the management of the Medical Fund of the " Histadruth " and the physicians in the hospitals regarding the need to speed up operations is not beeing implemented due to the conspiracy between the Ministers of the labour party , the Histadruth leadership and the Minister of Finance .

The general long strike of the physicians in the government hospitals , the sanctions of the soporific physicians , the campaign of the workers in the Laboratories and other workers in the hospitals and now the strike of the physicians in the hospitals of the sick fund of the Histadruth against the suspension of the agreement with them , all these struggles are acts of protest against the closed heart of the whole government which supported drastic cuts in the budget of the public health services

The Central Committee demands to implement the agreement with the physicians of the sick fund of the Histadruth so that it will also include the physicians in the government hospitals and to respond positively to the just demands of the other sections of workers in the hospitals .

The Central Committee demands to increase substantially the budgets of the public health services .

GREAT SUCCESS OF THE GENERAL STRIKE ON THE " DAY OF LAND "

The Central Committee points out the great success of the general strike of the Arab population on the "Day of Land"

on March , 30th ,1988 which was declared this year as the "Day of Land , Peace and Equality " .

United around the " Committee for the Defence of Arab Lands " and around the " Steering Committee " with all its representative organizations the Arab population , have carried out with great success the general strike , the manifestations the demonstrations and the numerous meetings . Despite the pressure and the threats on part of the covert and overt government apparatus , the Arab population in Israel expressed solidarity with their people with the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories against oppression , for the establishment of an independent palestinian state in the West Bank - including Eastern Jerusalem - and in the Gaza Strip and for peace. The Arab population in Israel also expressed its opposition to the expropriation of land , to the policy of national discrimination in all spheres and for full equal rights in the state of Israel.

Thanks to the political maturity and to the traditional democratic struggle of the Arab population , and thanks to the devoted and responsible efforts of the Communists together with their allies in the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality and of all the patriotic and democratic forces among the Arab population it was possible to foil the intrigues of the extreme rightest circles inside the government aimed at pushing the Arab population into a blood bath and intensity the incitement against it in order to pave the way for implementing the plans for its expulsion . The nationalist circles among the Arab population with their adventurous positions which help the forces of occupation and oppression have also failed .

The Arab population have foiled there intregues by their adherence to the path of political struggle . They have proved again and again that they are an important democratic and peace force in Israel that stand in the same front together with the Jewish forces of peace and democracy . In this way the Arab population in Israel is contributing immensely to the struggle against occupation , for just peace , against national discrimination , for full equal rights , against the danger of fascism and for defending democratic liberties .

IN SUPPORT OF " AL-ITTIHAD " FOR
DEFENDING THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

The Central Committee protests strongly against the anti-democratic racist step of the closure of the Daily - AL-ITTIHAD-

organ of the Communist Party of Israel in the Arabic language, according to an administrative order issued by Prime Minister Shazar acting as Minister of Interior for a period of one week. This is a grave step which stresses the danger to the freedom of press and speech as well as to the whole democratic liberties.

The closure of " AL-ITTIHAD " was meant to intimidate the opponents of occupation in Israel, Jews and Arabs and not only the Communists .

It is not coincidence that " AL-ITTIHAD " was closed precisely on the eve of the " DAY OF LAND " which was declared this year as a day of general strike of the Arab population . The closure of " AL-ITTIHAD " was meant to intimidate the Arab population and to sabotage the strike .

The leaders of the " HERUT " party who closed the daily newspaper intended to suppress the voice of wisdom , the voice of coexistence and peace and to provoke the Arab population .

The assault on the democratic liberties , which the closure of AL-ITTIHAD constitutes one of the climax , is a result of the continued occupation and the increasing oppression directed against the Palestinian people . This is an attempt to apply the oppressive norms of occupation inside Israel .

The Central Committee expresses its appreciation and gratitude to all the numerous circles and personalities in Israel and abroad , who expressed their solidarity with " AL-ITTIHAD " and demanded to cancel the arbitrary administrative order against it .

The Central Committee calls upon all forces of peace and democracy in Israel to enhance their struggle for defending democratic liberties , the freedom of press and speech , for putting an end to occupation , for the establishment of a comprehensive and stable peace , and for the establishment of the free institutions and laws which enable the closure of a newspaper by an administrative order .

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Communique of the Political Bureau of the
Communist Party of Israel AGAINST THE CLOSING
OF " AL-ITTIHAD " :
FOR DEFENDING THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND
THE DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES

The decision of the Prime Minister , Yitzhak Shamir , to close for one week the "Al-Ittihad " daily , organ of the Central Committee Party of Israel , is an arbitrary political measure that smells of fascism .

It is not incident , that this anti-democratic order was issued towards the Day of the Land, and that it is directed against the general strike of the Arab population , declared democratically by all institutions of the Arab population in Israel . For this reason it is also a racist measure .

The argument of the Prime Minister , as if "Al-Ittihad" is publishing inciting material and endangering the public peace , proves , that the Prime Minister acts as a leader of "Herut" , who regards all opponents of an " Undivided Land of Israel " , including the Alignment ministers , as a danger to Israel . In reality , his policy of war and occupations is a danger to public peace and to the whole of Israel . The Likud leader , who opposes every possibility of a peaceful settlement , proves by his arbitrary measure , that he acts also against the democratic liberties .

Our Communist Party , together with other democratic forces , have warned not once , that the cruel policy of oppression in the occupied territories and the violation of all democratic and human rights there - might expand also into Israel .

The historical experience also proves that democracy is indivisible . The violation of the freedom of the press , the use of suppressive administrative measures against political rivals leaves no democratic force immune against them .

Our Israeli Communist Party and its organs reject vehemently the accusations of the Ministry of the Interior . We shall continue to fight for a just Israeli-Palestinian peace for the benefit of both peoples , against the occupation of the Arab territories that continues since 1967 for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel , for a comprehensive , just and stable Israeli-Arab peace , and for the convening of an international conference for achieving this noble aim .

The supreme interest of the people of Israel is to put an end to the occupation and oppression to establish a comprehensive peace , with the Israeli-Palestinian peace as its core . This is the key for security , for getting rid of the terrible burden of military expenses , for stopping the ruin of Israeli's society , for a solution of the grave economic and social problems and for safeguarding Israel's future .

The Political Bureau calls upon all parties and personalities , all newspapers editors and the democratic organizations , to raise their voice in protest against the closing of "Al-Ittihad " and for the defence of the freedom of the press and of the democratic liberties .

Tel-Aviv , 24.3.1988

STATEMENT BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD
OF THE DAILY "AL-ITTIHAD" IN ANSWER
TO THE DECISION OF ITS CLOSURE

The Editorial board of the Daily newspaper "Al-Ittihad" published the following statement consequent the arbitrary decision of the Prime Minister Itzhak Shamir acting as Minister of interior concerning the closure of the only Arabic daily newspaper in the country for period of 7 days .

The decision issued by the Minister of interior to close our daily "Al-Ittihad" for a period of 7 days an arbitrary and adventurous procedure which excels the circle of the official policy exercised since more than three months and which is characterised in a systematic attempt to conceal from the eyes of the Israeli and world public opinion the crimes perpetrated in the occupied territories which if revealed are liable to spill the rage of every human being in Israel and the world .

We are obliged to consider the order of the Minister of interior as not less grave than the crime of burying the Palestinian youngsters alive and breaking the bones of the Palestinians after their arrest .

We do not think , that it is mere coincident that the government of Shamir have used the same order and against "Al-Ittihad" the same pretext which was used by the British Mandate exactly 40 years ago , in February 1948 . The British Mandate had closed at that time the newspaper "Al-Ittihad" under the pretext that "it endangers the security of the public" at a time when Al-Ittihad was the only Arabic newspaper which called for peace between the two peoples and for the implementation of the UN resolution in 1947 regarding the establishment of two states for the two peoples .

Today too "Al-Ittihad" is the clearest and

... which calls for just peace by tu-
ring the "green line" into ultimate peace borders
and the establishment of an independent Palesti-
... alongside Israel .

All those who oppose turning the "green line"
into the ultimate borders of the state of Israel
have acted for upsetting this order and are advo-
cating it .

It is obvious that this decision was taken
just before the "Day of Land" in an attempt to
prevent "Al-Ittihad" from fulfilling its demo-
cratic and peaceful task in confronting successfully
official circles that do not recognize the Arab
population in Israel as part and parcel of this
state and as part and parcel of the Israeli public
opinion , circles that are trying by means of
aggression to split a democratic and peace lo-
ving force like the Arab population in Israel
and the other forces of peace and democracy in
this country in a transparent attempt of creating
the wrong impression as if the forces of peace
and democracy in Israel are the minority , and
as if the forces of aggression and hatred towards
the Arabs are the majority in Israel .

We consider the attempt of the government
to put to silence the voice of "Al-Ittihad" an
adventurous procedure against all the forces of
peace and democracy in Israel which stains the
government of Israel in face of the world .

Next month "Al-Ittihad" will celebrate its
40th anniversary . During these years it has been
turned into a democratic rostrum for the Arab
population in Israel and for the Palestinian
people as a whole . There is no person who sup-
ports brotherhood and fraternity in Israel that
does not respect "Al-Ittihad" , thousands of them
have learnt the Arabic language from "Al-Ittihad"
There is no country in the world which does not
know "Al-Ittihad" and which does not receive it .
"Al-Ittihad" is known all over the world as a
most reliable source of information regarding the
struggle for peace and democracy in Israel and

the democratic struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for freedom in their homeland .

No one will dare to lift his hand on "Al-Ittihad" except a person who has reached such an extent of despair from his future that he lost selfcontrol .

The struggle for the oblishment of the decision to close "Al-Ittihad" as past of the fateful struggle which is taking place now for putting an end to the policy of force ,killing and breaking bones in the occupied territories for stopping the deterioration of the policy of the government towards a situation which prevailed before the establishment of the state and for changing the present official policy towards a policy of peace and democracy .

We are confident that if the forces of peace will fulfil their elementary obligations in this struggle they will thus decisively contribute to the cause of friendship between the two peoples and extract the feelings of mistrust which prevent reaching an understanding .

We are always sure of the democratic traditions of our Jewish brothers and the viability of the common democratic Jewish-Arab struggle .

We were not disappointed during the days of the common struggle against the military rule , our confidence has strengthened and it is being strengthened still more nowadays during the popular uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories .

We are confident in our belief more than ever before . We call upon our Jewish brothers and sisters : We are in the same boat - do not enable those who are desperate to make a hole in this boat .

The closure of "Al-Ittihad" even for a period of seven days is not mere hole but an adventurous attempt to blow up this boat .

A BUDGET AGAINST PEACE
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

speech in the Knesset
by Meir Vilner

At the beginning I wish to define the nature of the budget . The basis of this budget are the military expenses and the repayments of debts and interest on purchases in previous years and other military expenses in Israel and abroad . This is the main question . Why ? Because it includes 73% of the whole stata budget . Here lies the crux of the problem .

The second characteristic of the budget : it is anti-popular , anti-labour and anti-Arab, it is an expression of a clear class policy. This budget awards further profits to those with the highest income , to the Israeli capitalists , to the banks , while the budget means a disaster for the masses of the people , for the services , first of all the health services . The quiet smile of the Finance Minister is really amazing . While he is sitting here , he hears and knows what the doctors in the hospitals said , and all this was published in the press and in the media , that people die because he stubbornly insists on cutting the budget of the Health Ministry . The Knesset member of Hachiyah has previously spoken here about the birth rate . Jews and Arabs are dying here because of this fatal health budget . What the Minister of Health is asking for, is a negligible budget , but still the Minister of health together with the Alignment are being humiliated . This proves some contempt for the health of the public and for the life of the public .

It is a pity that this budget is presented with the consent of all coalition parties , with reservations that they know what will happen to them .

The main question , the 73% of the budget , results first of all from the policy of preparations for the next war . The day before yesterday the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has said , that in his opinion the danger of war is growing because of the policy of the Likud against peace . He also said , the right wing wants to take advantage of a war to carry out its plan of transfer . Not only we say it , the leader of the Labour Party says it . but his conclusion is to continue the cooperation with the Likud in the government .

Minister Yacoby (Labour Party) said - as I heard this morning in "Voice of Israel"- that the costs of the oppression of the popular uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories have already amounted to 500 millions in the course of three months , 100 millions of this sum , he said , were spent on direct oppressive operations . And the Health Ministry demanded only 60 million Shekel , and today I heard talks about 30 millions , 20 millions, like a poor beggar . The Alignment with more than 40 Knesset members , with a large electorate , kneels down in front of the Likud .

I know that the scheme includes also the Histadrut General Secretary , Knesset member Kaysar , who even said he will vote against the budget . Very nice , but this is funny . We heard similar things about Knesset member Shamai, leader of the Likud faction in the Histadrut who did once the same , voted against the budget or against items in the budget when the Likud supported it . But you belong to certain parties , fight inside your parties , otherwise all this makes the impression of election tactics .

I shall not speak about all our objections, but what is evident in this budget is the tax reform , that reduced the income tax for the capitalists and granted them further benefits , tax cancellations , and all this together amounts

will be reduced. On the other hand, it is evident from the other items of this budget, that the unemployment will remain, or may even expand, the subsidies for bread, milk and public traffic are cut and the allowance for the first child is cancelled, while a tax is imposed on the allowance for the second and third child, and we could mention many more such examples.

Characteristic for this budget is, that the government as a whole approved it, and one cannot evade this fact. Nobody in the government has voted against the budget, and the Alignment has already decided to vote for the budget.

The basic solution is to recognize the connection between the policy, the economy and the society. A wide section of the public, understands this fact already. We know that the slogan raised in the poor neighborhoods was "Money for the poor neighborhoods, not for the colonial settlements". This is only symbol: Money for development, money for peace, money for public services, money to raise the living standard of the workers, not money for war preparations. As long as this policy of occupation, of oppression, of war exists, nothing will change and we shall remain servants of the American administration and of the American arms magnates.

In the name of peace, in the name of national independence, for the interests of the workers we shall vote against the budget.

Finally, I wish to refer to one concrete, actual issue. I mean the policy of the government, but this matter concerns the Ministry of police. Next week, on Wednesday, the 30th Ma March, will be the "Day of the Land". The leaders of the Arab population, the committee that includes the heads of the Arab local councils, the Committee for the defence of the lands, the Arab Knesset members, have met and with a decisive majority, finally unanimously as far as the execution is concerned, decided to organize a

general strike and they call it "Day of the Land, Equality and Peace " . There may be opponents among Jewish political circles .They are intitled to raise objections . But to incite against those who want to strike is a fascist attitude.

there are threats and threats we have heard already in the Knesset two weeks ago from Minister Korfu, (Likud), who said , that Tawfiq Zayad is already sharpening knives towards the "Day of the Land " . these are irresponsible statements. I wish to remind , that if such a language is used it seems that somebody is preparing a bloodshed for next week .

But not only Minister Korfu . There are direct threats from the so-called Advisor of the Prime Minister on Arab Affairs , Amos Gilboa. I know what obscure jobs this man has done before this post . The "Ha'aretz" daily of 13th March published the following report from police sources : " On the "Day of the Land" , thousands of policemen and borderguards will be mobilized as mobile "power-fists" .

Some time ago , a general strike of the Arab population took place under the slogan "The Day of Peace " . This strike passed in an organized and exemplary manner . All newspapers wrote about it . Why ? The general strike with meetings passed in perfect order because the police did not interfere and did not appear .

We wish to warn : there is no room for interference . Don't intervene with threatening police presence . Nobody should organize provocations . If individual adventurers will try to cause disturbances - as happened in the past - the Arab population will know how to deal with them as they have done in the past .

We distinguish in principle between the just struggle and the methods of struggle of the Palestinian people for national liberation from the occupation . We are , of course , against terror. But other methods of struggle are justified and

may be used by every people under an occupation regime .

But if some adventurers inside Israel, Israeli citizens try to do similar things , it helps directly the government , the Likud and Shamir.

In Israel we fight and must fight only with political methods and mobilize the Jewish population , also on the "Day of the Land " ,for solidarity with the Arab population in Israel , that is national minority inside Israel and part of the Palestinian people . it is natural that they fight against what is perpetrated against their brothers in the occupied territories . Jews , too, and as well as other peoples in the whole world are shocked and protest , so no wonder that the Arab population will go on strike . They have also no equal rights inside the State of Israel .

In this context I want to protest against the fact that Knesset member Keysar is not present here . Mr. Gideon Ben-Israel of the Histadruth Central Committee has voiced not less dangerous threats , socially and politically , perhaps still more dangerous . He said : if the Arab workers will be fired because they will not come to work on the "Day of the Land " , the Histadruth will not protect them . I know , this issue does not belong to the Knesset , but I found it necessary to point it out in the Knesset today and make the positions clear .

23.3.1988

A BUDGET OF DISCRIMINATION

Speech in Knesset
by Tawfiq Toubi

One of the striking characteristics of this budget is the policy of serious national discrimination against the Arab population . In our various objections , especially against the budget for social services , we intend to protest against the national discrimination that continues since the establishment of the State .

Let me mention several objections of our bloc regarding this issue . in the Prime minister's office we propose to cancel the allocation for the Prime Minister's advisor on Arab affairs. The sole purpose of this job is to appoint a colonial high commissioner over the Arab population . We suggest to cancel this post .

To the Minister of Interior we suggest to increase the allocation for the Arab local authorities and especially to increase significantly the allocations for the development schemes in the Arab villages .

In the Ministry of Education we propose to increase its budget from 2.4 milliard Shekel to 4 milliard Shekel , to expand and guarantee the educational services . As for the Arab sector , we suggest to cancel the allocation for the special educational activities in the Druze sector , and to increase the allocation for the whole Arab population , that will include ,of course , also the Druze population , and to guarantee the closing of gaps and equality .

We suggest to increase the allocation for the building of schools in the Arab sector from 4.3 million Shekel to 50 million Shekel . We propose to increase the funds of the local authorities from 570 million to 2,3 milliard Shekel.

With regard to the Ministry of Labour , we suggest to cancel the allocation for services for the minorities and territories , as it is called , in the amount of 180 million Shekel . Instead , to allocate an amount of 500 million Shekel is to be allocated for the Arab population in Israel .

We propose to allocate 10 million Shekel for roads in Galilee and in the north instead of Zero Shekel in the budget .

Next week will be the 12th anniversary of the Day of the Land , a day that marks the struggle of the Arab population against the policy of land requisitioning , of discrimination and for equality and democracy in Israel . This is a day which have developed on the background of the struggle against the requisitioning of the lands of the Arab population , for equality in services in employment , in all spheres of life , for a life of equality and dignity in the homeland instead of a policy of discrimination and deportations called "Transfer" whose shadow has not been removed since the tragedy of the Palestinian Arab people in 1948 .

For 40 years , the Arab population has conducted a political public struggle as citizens of the state of Israel , jointly with the Jewish democratic forces , to continue their life in their homeland as equals and with dignity . Without this struggle , in which the Day of the Land is an important milestone , the situation of the Arab population would have been much more difficult than it is today , and the work of the Sharonists and Kahanists would be much easier .

Nevertheless , after 40 years , the Arab population is still suffering from an official policy of discrimination in services , in employment , agriculture , education , housing conditions and in their status as equal citizens also in the state administration , while the authorities treat them like a foreign elements in their homeland , not as partners in the life of the state .

Let me show you a few examples : The increasing land shortage among the Arab population results from the fact that more than half the areas owned by the Arab citizens of Israel north of the Negev were arbitrarily requisitioned since the foundation of the state . Furthermore , hundreds of thousands of dunams were taken away from them through the land settlement and the arbitrary laws adopted to evict the Arab farmer from the land taken over by the Israel Land Administration .

These days , for instance , the authorities take steps to deprive inhabitants of the Ein-Mahel village near Nazareth of 350 dunams of land adjoining the houses of the village , where olive trees are planted since dozens of years . it is painful that the authorities want to uproot them and to plant instead what they call a forest .

A well-known tragedy is the eviction of the beduins in the Negev and the north of the country from their lands whereby they become landless. it is known that the Arab inhabitants of Galilee are 50% of the total population there , but they hold only 8% of the land .

The land shortage among the Arab population aggravates the housing shortage . The policy of land evictions threatens today some 40 Arab localities in the north of the country where 10,000 persons live , uprooting them from their villages and causing this dispersal because their places of residence are not recognized as planning and development areas , even though they exist on their lands since hundreds of years .

The fact of Arab Al-Khwaled , near Tiv'on , according to the plan of the government , is total liquidation. So is the fate of Ein-Hod , Al-Arian Alhanoun in the Triangle , and Al-Kamana near Karmiel and others . the land shortage , absence of planning and of basic plans for the Arab localities aggravate the housing shortage and cause unlicensed building , trials and fines amounting to tens of thousands of Shekalim for every

additional structure , fines that are intolerable.

The areas of jurisdiction and building areas of the Arab local authorities are reduced inspite of the growth of the population , while the Arab towns and villages are strangled by an aggravated housing shortage .

24% of the Arab families live in a density of three persons in a room compared with 1% of the Jewish families ; almost 60% of the Jewish families live in a convinient housing conditions compared with a mere 20% of the Arab families .

As far as services and employment are concerned , the average government contribution granted to the Arab local authorities per capita are not more than 25% of the average contributions to the Jewish local authorities . In Nazareth with a population of over 50,000 there is one municipal employee for each 135 inhabitants, compared with an average of one employee for each 60 inhabitants , in a Jewish town .

Well known is the large gap that exists between the Arab and Jewish educational services, the growing shortage of calssrooms (1,500 additional classrooms are needed today in the Arab sector) and this problem exists beside the handicap in the physical conditions in education , in the number of teachers , in teaching hours , in technological education .

It is well known what kind of employment categories are open to the Arab workers . They do the hardest jobs , in sanitary services , petrol stations , resturants , agriculture , building, gardening , hotels etc . When unemployment is expanding , it is deeper and more extensive among the Arab workers .

36% of the Arab academicians are unemployed. 72% of the Arab academicians do not work in their profession . Over 52% of the Arab workers earn less than the average labour wages in Israel, compared with 37% of the Jewish workers .

These are examples of the deepening discrimination among the Arab population . in addition to these discriminating conditions , that make the life of the Arab population an extremely hard one , this population feels like foreigners who are deprived of equal rights in their homeland . When you add to this situation the events in the occupied territories and the savage actions of oppression against the Palestinian Arab people , the brothers of the Arab citizens in Israel , when young Palestinians fall daily in the sacred struggle for freedom and independence , supporters of peace and democracy , everybody who expects a better future for both peoples , Jews and Arabs , cannot stand aloof , and they raise their outcry : Enough of the occupation , enough of the killing , enough of the cruel oppression , enough of the arrests , They call upon the government of Israel : bring peace to the two peoples .

In these conditions , the reaction of the Arab population is understood . The representatives of the Arab population in Israel , at their meeting in Shefaram last Sunday , proclaimed the Day of the Land as a day of general strike, to raise their firm demand for equality and peace by stopping every kind of work , in meetings , in legal public activities , peacefully and lawfully . The Arab population in Israel , who has equal rights , will raise the just demand for equality in all aspects of life and will call the government to pursue a policy of peace and justice towards the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories .

We reject with disgust the voices of agitation against the Arab population , raised by chauvinist racist representatives of the regime, who threaten with oppressive acts and even with bloodshed. these threats are voiced by high ranking officials like the Prime Minister's advisor Gilboa and deputy minister Ronny Milo and others. The Arab citizens of Israel have the right to express their protest against the policy of discrimination against them and their demand to

stop the brutal acts of oppression in the occupied territories . It is their right to demand that the government withdraws from the occupied territories and to establish a just peace based on two independent states for the two peoples .

We reject vehemently the chauvinist -racist approach that denies the Arab citizens of Israel the right to express their opinion and to lead a lawful public struggle , jointly with the Jewish democratic forces , to change the policy of the government in favour of the just peace .

The Arab population acts within the law and is interested that the strike and the other public activities on the Day of the land shall pass without breaches of order and according to the law . Not the Arab population is interested in breaches of order but those who are interested in creating pretexts for provocations and oppressive measures and pogroms against the Arab population . And if there is marginal individuals who behave differently , don't let some racist blame the Arab population for what he would like perhaps to happen , in order to intensify the acts of oppression and aggravate the situation .

We call the authorities , the police , the government , to respect the right of the Arab population to strike , to meet , to protest lawfully . We call the police to enable the Arab population and its representatives to carry out the general strike and the public activities , the marches and meetings on the Day of the Land without provocations .

We condemn the arbitrary arrests carried out these days in the Arab villages without any reason and we demand to release the detainees . All the incitement against the Arab population uses some doubtful isolated incidents of stones thrown in some places , while it turned out later that a bottle was thrown near Ma'alot by a Jewish boy wanted to try such a thing . Thus the malicious intentions behind the whole noise are becoming clear: to take oppressive measures against

the Arab population .

The Arab population will make every effort, that the Day of the Land will be this year another contribution to the struggle for equality , for peace and Jewish -Arab brotherhood , for a better future for both peoples .

23.3.1988

FOR A DIFFERENT POLICY
FOR A DIFFERENT BUDGET

Speech By Charlie Biton in
the Knesset

I should like to speak about the aspects of the budget from the point of view of the development towns and the employment there and of the economy in general .

I have to remark here , that the method of election bribes by budgetary means - by allocations or by legislative means -is still customary ,even though many people believe erroneously , that the present Finance Minister and his office do not use these means .They dont bribe directly , but they have emissaries for this unlawful purpose . And what do I mean ?

It will be remembered , that in the elections to the tenth Knesset , in 1984 , the coalition has promulgated a number of laws that intended to persuade the electorate , that laws are made for the benefit of the people . One of these laws was ment to protect public savings ,a law that got almost a constitutional status , but post factum became perfectly clear , that this is an unprecedented legislation on this issue ,even ridiculous ,if not shameful .

Likewise , at such a time ,before the elections , Knesset members of the two big parties remember jointly to propose laws for specific sectors , such as ex-soldiers - a law that was abrogated today - the disabled ,old aged ,etc- laws that none of us ,Knesset members , remember except in election times .

For instance , the Knesset has now adopted the development towns law , that is also an example for election bribery legislation . All the heads of the development towns have been brought to the Knesset ,they were sitting here in a solemn ceremony , which did not happen when the draft law was submitted for the first reading , while the Knesset chairman lend his auspices to this ceremony deceiving here the representatives of the development towns , and through them, ofcourse ,the whole population in these areas .

Promises are made , of course , to the development towns in various fields . We have already raised the demands

of the development towns in the Knesset , when these towns suffered from severe unemployment and many of them wrestle still today for a chance to work and to bring home some bread for their families , and the Knesset behaves as it always does .

The serious aspect of this behavior lies not only in the cynicism and hypocrisy of these emissaries of unlawful acts , but also and especially in the fact . That nobody intends to implement these laws . It is also a deception and a fraud , because there are enough ways to delay the implementation of laws .

Knesset members .if you want to help the development towns ,you have to pursue a policy that prevents in vast unemployment in these places low salaries and bad work conditions , a policy that prevents young people and intellectuals from leaving these towns which suffer from cultural neglect , from a lack of clinics and hospitals , when those who need any serious medical treatment have to travel to distant localities -in short when the policy of the government plunges these people into social distress , can all these problems be solved by offering candies and mercies , benefits or tax reductions ? And sometimes what is offered is not only unfair , but even a mockery of the poor . For instance if an additional mortgage is offered to young couples to buy a flat , obviously nobody wants to purchase a flat there because later he cannot sell it .

Moreover , members of the Knesset , you know that there are localities like Mitzpeh Ramon and Yeruham in the south, and Shlomi in the north , where no housing problem exists and where too many apartments stand empty . Therefore , in such cases ,assistance to tenants is medicine that does not cure disease and who needs it anyway ? Give them employment with a decent salary . Give them an educational system with good teachers . Give them a reasonable health services because even when there is no strikes and slow-downs ,their situation is very hard .

Knesset members ,since many years , since the crazy colonization in the occupied territories has started , enormous resources are wasted , that should be used for the development towns and poor neighborhoods , and what you offer them today ? Nothing . This policy continues even today. The ministry of industry and commerce and the housing Ministry that are controlled by the Likud ,continue to promote

the settlements ,while cuts are made in the Ministries of Welfare ,Education and Health .

And what is the message of the budget for the coming year ? The same . And the situation will be still harder for the wage - earners , an attempt is made to cancel the cost of living allowance under ridiculous and false pretexts of a rise in the real wages . The prices of all products are raised, while the government pretends to pursue a policy of price - freezing . After the holidays price raises are planned also for subsidized commodities .

They want to sweeten all these bitter pills with those election bribery laws . Will they deceive the public again ?

Don't forget ,that the Finance Minister intends to continue openly the policy started by him with that income tax "reform" that as everybody admits ,enriches the rich , under the pretext of providing an incentive for initiative and work . The government tells us , that we have 100 million Shekel for tax reductions for the banks while we don't have 20 million Shekel to save the hospitals , when the crisis in the health services reaches a new peak because of the cuts in the health budgets carried out systematically by the Finance Minister in the last years .

And what about incentive for the worker , for the masses of wage-earners who bear the tax burden without any evasions , and their wages lose value even according to the existing cost of living agreements that the government wants to cancel or to change for the worse ?

The Finance Minister has once opposed the initiative to adopt a minimum wage law . Finally , the law was passed though in a limited form . Nevertheless , this minimal wage law is violated in masse , also by the government itself and by governmental institutions . This means , if they could not prevent the passing of the law , they simply ignore it .

The public has got used to accept an election economy, as if it were a gift from heaven , followed by calamities , public believe , that its situation will not become worse during the next months because of the elections this year , but finally the public , and especially specific sections of the population , are forced to pay the full price . These sectors include the development towns, the poor neighborhoods and the wage - earners . The results follow in the long run and

nothing will help to blur this situation . The budget shows the trends of this policy , the intentions and orders of priorities.

The government and the Finance Minister take advantage of the fact, that the public cannot read properly the budget books that are falsely interpreted , concealing the real intentions . And when we , the opposition , come to show the lies , we find that the public perceives the problem as an academic discussion and does not see it in simple terms of the daily reality . And then the question is ,Whom do you believe ?

The answer is the daily reality and the result of the policy shows , that there is nothing left except excuses there is no budget because of security needs - this is the well known usual excuse . But the truth is , that there is a budget for everything , if the money would not be wasted and stolen . This is the truth and it will finally become clear like other lies have become clear , for instance the war in Lebanon .

We have to tell this government openly , that a different policy is possible , a policy based on the requirements of the economy , that will look different when the aim is a comprehensive peace settlement , based on the recognition of the right of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination and on reciprocal talks between us and the leadership of this people , the PLO , because it is clear today ,that there is no other representative body with whom it is possible to reach a just, comprehensive peace , based on the rights of the two peoples to live in the region , to put an end to the circle of violence and hostility . Only by establishing a Palestinian state alongside Israel we can secure peace to our peoples and a budget of different priorities , for the benefit of the general public

DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS

The Dawn Of The Israeli-
Palestinian Just Peace

speech by Tawfiq "oubi
delivered at the conven-
tion of the " Anti
Discrimination Committee "
(A. A. A. D. C.)
U.S.A.- Washington

Ladies and Gentelmen ,
Dear friends

I would like to thank you for your invitation to take part in your convention , which is being held in fateful days in the struggle for peace in our tormented and beloved motherland .

The year 1987 was the year of the Palestinian people ; it was the fortieth year after the 29th Nov. 1947 UNO resolution ending the British mandate in Palestine and calling for the establishment of two independent states .

1987 was a reminder to the whole world that peace and security in our region require the fulfilment of the second part of this historic resolution ,namely enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their right for self-determination and formation of the independent Arab Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel established forty years ago in accordance with this resolution .

1987 was the fifth year for the notorious Israeli war of aggression in Lebanon . 1987 was a reminder of the continued Israeli occupation in South Lebanon , the source of all unrest and insecurity for the whole of Lebanon and also for Israel itself ,which reaped the whirlwind from this

aggressive war . It was a new warning for Israel to get out of lebanon for the sake of peace and security for all .

1987 also was the twentieth year for the June 1967 war called by Israel ,the six days war , implying working hard during the first six days of the week and resting on the seventh . But the twentieth year after June 1967 came to assert the universal truth , that occupying other peopl's land and denying their freedom and independence, deprives the occupier himself , not only of rest and security but at the same time of freedom and decency .

1987 came to stress that occupation while twenty years old is a volcano that can actively erupt at any time threatening the very future and existence of Israel . The various mass actions against occupation and for peace organised by Israeli forces of peace in 1987 came to remind Israeli people that occupation of Arab territory is not only impermissible by international precepts and contrary to UNO resolution , but is as well disastrous to the Israli people in the long run . While blocking the road to peace and co-existence , the perpetuation of the conflict means new wars and insecure future for all .

Now we can say that the 1987 -the year of Palestine was in fact clarion urging the whole world to take active steps to put an end to the prolonged Israeli occupation , to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right for self-detrmination and form their independent state alongside Israel and to bring about to The Middle East and its peoples , peace ,co-existence and security .

The current popular uprising of the Palestinian people against Israeli occupation has now entered its fourth month unabating . It is very clear that there is no return backwards , A new situation has arisen .

The Israeli rulers ,blind to see the real character of the popular uprising in the occupied

territories , alleged that it is a matter of few boys throwing stones ,and within few days they will "normalise" the situation .Shamir ,Rabin and Peres dize with military strength and with USA support , cannot read the political map of the country .

On the midst of December last , during the first days of the uprising , Defense Minister , Rabin signed with your Secretary for Defense Frank Carlucci a memorandum on cooperation concerning military issued , which gave Israel the status of a Nato member in its relations with the USA . Carlucci declared then that the USA will continue to strengthen Israeli's military power considering the special interests of the USA in the area . With this new American visa for Israeli policy of strength ,Rabin declared upon his return to Israel that he will resort to "tougher and more painful measures " ; he called on the army to " push them " i.e.. the Palestinians " harder with force including beatings" so that they will be the first to get tired .

Rabin to keep up his promise tried all the barbaric heritage of Genkiz Khan to quell the popular uprising of the Palestinian people .

With unnumbered acts of atrocities like those trying to kill Palestinians by burying them alive - the four from the village of Salem near Nablus - or dragging people tied to military jeeps ,or kidnapping youngsters from their homes and beating them to death , over and above shooting to kill with such atrocities and others , the Israeli military authorities tried to quell the uprising .

More than 120 Palestinians are already killed by the occupation forces since the beginning of the uprising . More than 3500 wounded, more than 2400 new detainees raised the number of Arab political prisoners to over 6000.

However , the few days promised by Shamir and Rabin to "normalise " the situation , have

exceeded a hundred days and are unable to break the indefatigable spirit of the Palestinian people .

The brave uprising of the Palestinian people focused the concern of the whole world to their just cause , and unmasked and isolated the unjust ugly face of Israeli occupation and aggression . Within three months , the Palestinian people achieved through mass , peaceful struggle in the occupied territories for advancing their just cause , what the reactionary Arab regimes failed to do over the twenty years of Israeli occupation .

It sent a ringing message to all , that stability and peace to the Middle East, can be achieved only through a just peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem and to the Israeli-Arab conflict based on Israeli withdrawal from Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since June 1967 , on the exercise of the Palestinian people's right for self-determination in their own independent state and on the conclusion of a peaceful settlement that will ensure co-existence , mutual recognition , security and independence to all states in the region including Israel and Palestine .

The popular uprising of the Palestinian people came to assert the basic fact , which we have always stressed , that the decisive factor in the struggle against the occupation and for just peace are the Palestinian people themselves in their occupied homeland .

The strengthening of this front is the duty of all those anxious to end occupation , reach an independent Palestinian state and establish just peace .

This weeks armed attack on the Israeli civilian bus near Beersheba resulting with the killing of three Israeli civilians , amongst them two women and the three armed Arabs , has done the opposite and should be condemned whatever the intentions and pretexts are . Objectively

it is a stab in the back of the Palestinian struggle against occupation and is a helping hand from heaven to the Israeli government besieged and condemned by world public opinion .

Dear friends ,

The Palestinian popular uprising have put into disarray all enemies of peace who behaved in the past as if Israeli occupation and trampling of Palestinian rights can continue endlessly .

When the popular uprising in the Palestinian occupied territories is putting again and urgently the Palestine problem and the M.E. conflict on the international agenda ,and the revolutionary mass struggle of the Palestinian people is pressuring the Israeli government and threatens to shake the stability of a number of Arab pro-imperialist regimes who are suppressing by fire any popular solidarity with the Palestinian people ,we see Mr. Shultz sudden concerned ,shuttling with a suspicious big fuss. Is it really an effort to bring a just peaceful settlement ? All indications show that it is again another manouvre to abort the popular uprising and avoid a real just peaceful settlement ?

We well remember Kissenger after the October war of 1973 and his sabotaging of the Geneva international peace conference which was convened in December 1973 . We remember his famous shuttling which replaced the overwhole peaceful settlement to the M.E. conflict and to the Palestine problem by partial agreements ,which hatched the ill-famed Camp David agreement , continuing the Palestinian tragedy and bringing about the aggressive tragic war against Lebanon in June 1982 .

I remind ourselves with this past because as all cocks are crying ,Mr- Shultz is cooking for us another deviation from the real comprehensive just peace which the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip had made the

order of the day and moved the situation very close to the birth of the Palestinian state and of real peace .

Dealing with semantics instead of real substance ,Mr. Shultz tries to revive the corpse of Camp David autonomy supervised by Israeli occupation or by Israeli-Jordanian condominium denying the Palestinian people the rights of self-determination in the form of ever-lasting interim arrangement .

Very doubtful are Mr. Shultz peace efforts when at the very time that he is donning the role of a peace maker , and pretending concern about Palestinians ,his administration at the same time closing down the many years old diplomatic mission of the PLO accredited to the UNO trampling over all international legality and on Palestinian legitimate representation ?

At the same time , in pursuance of strengthening American hegemony in the M.E. ,Mr. Shultz is watering the international conference for peace in the M.E. relegating it to a mere decorative facade where instead of negotiation assisted by international presence there will be a diktat by the occupying power -Israel - under USA patronage with its anti -Palestinian role .

More over the M.E. conflict with its international implications affecting world peace , can only be settled through international cooperation particularly ,Soviet-USA with its positive influence on the international climate of detente and peace .

Dear friends ,

The presentation of the Shmir -Peres dispute in Israel concerning the Shultz mission , as a dispute between the war mongers and the peace makers is misleading .It is not their differences which do exist and which we take into consideration - in as much as their national concerns which dominate the Israeli scene and block the

road to peace .

together they stubbornly oppose withdrawal to June 1967 lines ; Shamir is for total annexation and Peres is for dividing the occupied territories with Jordan . Together they refuse to recognise the PLO and sit down to talk with the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people ; together they oppose the right of the Palestinian people for an independent and sovereign state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with Arab Jerusalem as its capital .

Even the Shamir -Peres dispute concerning the international conference when analysed , is no more than fireworks , While Shamir negates the very idea of an international conference , Peres is adamant on an impotent fictitious conference without the Palestinians . What Peres is ready to accept as so-called "authentic Palestinians " are those chosen by Israel , Jordan , Egypt and the USA . He stands for a conference which will be a facade for Israeli-Jordanian negotiations under the USA patronage .

The important difference in Israel is not between the basic position of the leadership of the Likud and the Alignment , but between them both and the realistic rational forces of peace in Israel , gathering strength under the impact of the mass uprising of the Palestinian people.

The popular uprising in the occupied territories , entering the fourth month is polarising the internal situation in Israel . Nationalist , racist and right wing forces , nervous and upset , are clamouring for use of greater brutal force in order to suppress the uprising . They also draw on the devilish advices of your Mr. Kissinger calling for a bigger and more significant iron fist and closing the occupied territories to the press with the foolish hope that they can hide their ugly face from the world and from their own people .

Extreme nationalist and occupationist forces in Israel hysterically raising the call for

"transfer" , namely for expelling the Arab population , from the country as well as from Israel itself . But no force is of any help to the Israeli occusiers . It is a boomerange bringing disprace .

On the other hand , the Palestinian popular uprising , its mass character, its facing the brutal repressive measures of Israeli military occupation are also moving , the consciousness of increasing Israelis who are becoming concerned about the future of Israeli-Arab relations and about the future of Israel itself .

Significant amongst these voices are the 600 Israeli aċademicians and professors , the 500 phsychiatrists , the 215 writers , men of arts and the tens of thousands of demonstrators appearing in the streets in various forms and within numerous frameworks condemning Israeli rule over the Palestinians .

Worthy of mention are the hundreds of reserve officers and soldiers who express themselves against military service in the occupied territories .

Yet it is early to say that the scales have tipped in favour of the peace forces . However a new situation is developing in Israel itself influenced by the impact of the popular uprising .

Dear friends ,

The Arab population in Israel , part and parcel of the Palestinian people , and citizens of the state of Israel play a special role as such in influencing the relation of forces in Israel in the interest of wider solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinian people against occupation , and for advancing the cause of peace and democracy , the forty years old continuous struggle of the Arab population in Israel against racial discrimination , against plans aiming at uprooting them from their homeland , against land requisitioning , for their right to

live in their country as equal citizens and participate democratically in moulding the present and future of their homeland in cooperation and together with the Jewish democratic forces ,have introduced an important element in Israeli society .

Through this social-political process , the Arab population in Israel have grown up to a 650 thousand strong , 16% of the population of Israel , and now constitutes an organised , democratic , patriotic and progressive force , safeguarding its national affiliation and heritage and contributing from its special front to the struggle of its Palestinian brothers in the occupied territories, mobilizing solidarity and advancing the struggle for just peace by supporting and strengthening the political mass struggle of the Israeli democratic and peace forces . Opposing racial isolation and attempts at pushing us into a ghetto , we the Arab population in Israel are waging a succesful and effective fight for equality , for peace and for the democratic development of Israeli society for the better future of the two peoples .

It is our deep conviction , proven by life itself that this is how best we can contribute also for the just cause of our palestinian brothers and for the cause of peace and for democracy .

In pursuance of this rule ,there was declared the one day general strike of the Arab population in Israel , the "Peace Day " on 21/12/87 , which was an important contribution for developing the popular uprising in the occupied territories . There was also the mass demonstration of tens of thousands on 19th Dec. in Tel-Aviv and in Nazareth on the same day . the 50 thousands demonstration on the 23rd Jan. 1988 in Nazareth the 30 thousand Jewish-Arab demonstration in Haifa on 13 Feb. 1988 . The Arab population in Israel have initiated a wide network of humanitarian , food and medical aid to the refugee camps and villages in the occupied territories .

The 30th of March this month , the famous Land Day generated 12 years ago by the struggle of the Arab population in Israel against land requintioning , is to be this year a general strike by the Arab population , in support of the struggle for equality and in solidarity with our Plaestinian brothers against occupation and for

Significantly the Palestinian people with the popular uprising and their clear message for peace have put a challenge to the rulers of Israel who for years have succeeded in appearing as the peace seekers and the Palestinian people as terrorist , the rejectionist and those who threaten "little Israel" with being dumped to the sea ,while the Israeli rulers ,carrying the big stick of uncle sam have been continuously scattering the Palestinian people to the four winds and trying to drive those who remained in their homeland to the desert .

Now also in Israel itself more people are seeing the bare truth , that it is the Palesti-ians and the Arab hands that are stretched for real and secure peace , for co-existence and cooperation and Israel is rejecting the offer.

It is the Plaestinian and the Arab sides that are proposing an honest and secure and stable peace with Israel , as again decided upon in the last Arab summit conference in Amman and announced by PLO declerations , a peace based on Israeli withdrawal from all Arab palestinian territories occupied in June 1967 , and the establishment of an independent Palestinian Arab state alongside Israel with mutual recognition and co-existence .

The expansionist and annexationist designs of the Israeli ruling circles , nurtured by USA all sided support , political and economic have sabotaged up till now all sincere efforts . to bring about a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem and to the Israeli-Arab conflict .No doubt there is an imperialist USA

interest to keep the conflict hot , exploiting it with the help of 3 bilion dollars a year pumped to Israeli's military machine to keep Israel as a gandarne mobilised for serving USA regional and global interests . This is against the real interests of the American people and the Israeli and Arab peoples .

American public opinion have a very important role in helping the peoples of the M.E. particularly the Palestinian and the Israeli peoples to reach a just and stable peace .

This is not to be found in the Reagan plan nor in the Shultz so-called initiative , nor in the Camp David gimmiks because they are devoid of the basic elements for real ,stable peace .

Real ,stable and honourable peace can only be a just settlement of the Palestinian problem ,in short under the existing conditions it is two states for the two peoples- The Palestinian and the Israeli - through a negotiated peace agreement between the two sides , Israel represented by its government and the Palestinian side by the PLO , negotiated within the framework of the international conference for peace attended by the USA , USSR and the other permanent members of the Security Council .

And to those in the USA who consider themselves sincere friends of Israel , we say that if they are really concerned about the fate and the security of Israel it is high time to realise that what is realy threatening Israel is Israel's adventurist short-sighted policy itself .

it is neither territory ,nor military superiority -which cannot last for ever - that gives security to Israel , but eventually peace , peaceful neighbourly relations , and foremost with the Palestinian people , these are the foundations of a secure future .

I say this as a Palestinian Arab , as a citizen of Israel , and as a member of the Israel Knesset still carrying on after forty years the

battle for survival in my homeland as an equal citizen ; I say this out of concern for the secure , prosperous and happy future for both the Palestinian and the Israeli peoples .

Dear friends and brothers ,

you hold your annual conference at an eventful and decisive period . Allow me to wish you succes in your noble work against discrimination ,for human equality and for peace .

Our peoples at home very well understand that their peace and secure future is clearly conected and dependent on world peace and international cooperation . That is why together with all humanity we look forward to the approaching Soviet- American summit meeting next May in Moscow with great expectations wishing the two world super nuclear powers to take a second decisive step following the Washington agreement last year and agree now to reduce the strategic nuclear missiles and thus herald to humanity the great news that the scepter of a catastrophic nuclear war would be avoided , that our beautiful earth could be free of nuclear weapons and world peace would radiate on the horizon of the coming century . This will be the victory of life over death the victory of good over evil for the survival and happiness of humanity .

And if some nuclear star-war monger would want madly to keep his nuclear arsenal for his satanic designs and would demagogically try to convince simpletons that his earthly and heavenly nuclear arsenals are vital for defending freedom, and liberty as he claims , then do tells those who are misled the story of our epoch , the story of the brave Palestinian people . The brave small Palestinian people have sent a wise message to the whole world .When it comes to it that a people however small stands up for a just fight determined to uphold their freedom honour and dignity ,then they do not need a nuclear weapon , they can fight for their just cause with a stone in the bare hands of children , of boys ,girls .

old men and women , and win .

It is our conviction that the pains experienced by our people nowadays are the pains of birth of a new dawn of Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Press Communique On The Meeting
Between The Delegation Of the Communist
Party Of Israel and The Communist Party
Of The Soviet Union

On March , 16th , 1988, a meeting in the offices of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was held between member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee YEGOR LIGACHEV , secretary of the Central Committee ANATOLI DOBRYNIN and Candidate member of the Central Committee and deputy head of the International Department of the Central Committee KAREN BRUTENS and between a delegation of the Communist Party of Israel which was composed of General Secretary MEIR VILNER , member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee DAVID (SASHA) KHENIN , candidate member of the Political Bureau ZAHY KARKABI , Secretary of The Central Committee SALIM JUBRAN and member of the Central Committee LEON ZAHAVI .

The Soviet comrades reported to the delegation of the Communist Party of Israel (CPI) about the process of the implementation of the revolutionary Perestroika initiated by the CPSU and supported by the people and which includes all spheres of Soviet Society : economy , policy , social relations and the sphere of moral spirits . It was stressed that despite the natural difficulties in such a wide renewal , the policy of the Perestroika has already produced real results -first off all in revealing the creative potentials of the masses and by invigorating the human factor through the process of democratisation and Glasnost . The Israeli comrades were also informed about the results of the plenary session of the Central Committee of the CPSU in February and about the importance of ensuring the ideological basis of the Perestroika which constitutes today one of its central problems . It was reported that the CPSU is preparing for its 19th national conference .

Guided by the new political thinking , the CPSU is acting for the realization of the plan towards a world without nuclear weapons and a general system of international security . The signing of the agreement between the USSR and the USA regarding the liquidation of the middle and shorter range missiles constitutes a significant step in this direction. A progress in the sphere of disarmament will create better conditions for healthy world situation , for solving controversial questions including regional conflicts on the basis of a balanced attitude to the interests of all parties involved and a strict respect of the sovereign right of the peoples to decide themselves their fate .

The representatives of the CPI expressed deep appreciation to the Perestroika and to the consistent policy of the CPSU aimed at disarmament and at preventing nuclear catastrophe . They pointed out that the fate of the world of the human civilization and the fate of the national and social liberation of the peoples depend on the implementation of the transformations which are taking place in the USSR and on the political penetration of the new political thinking to the sphere of international relations .

The Israeli comrades informed about the activity of the CPI in the present stage when the lack of wisdom of the policy of annexation pursued by the ruling circles of Israel is becoming more clear . Now when the country is facing - to a large extent - a critical situation , the CPI considers as a vital need to abandon the hopeless policy of confrontation with the Arab peoples , the negation of the right of the Palestinian Arab people for selfdetermination and the establishment of their own state and to pass over towards a policy of peace and good neighbourhood. Only such a policy can ensure a future of peace to Israel . The CPI is acting for the establishment of a wide front for defending peace , against the aggressive and annexationist policy of the reactionary Zionist circles . The Communists express the real

interests of Israel also by their struggle against the nuclear pretension of the Israeli leadership and against the strategical cooperation between Israel and the USA which is directed against the Soviet Union .

The CPI is consistently and resolutely struggling for defending the interests of the Jewish and Arab workers , for their economic and social rights and against the discrimination of the Arab population in Israel .

The representatives of CPSU expressed their solidarity with the Israeli communists , with their principled internationalist and patriotic policy and with their brave stand in confronting militarist and chauvinist tendencies and against the anti-Soviet campaign organised by reactionary forces , In this context the representatives of CPSU asserted that the Soviet Union does not have a feeling of enmity towards Israel and its people and that the normalization of the relations with Israel is definitely possible during the process of a settlement in the Middle East . What is decisive is - which policy the leadership of Israel will pursue in the future .

The participants in the meeting pointed out that in the world there is a broad agreement regarding the need to convene immediately an international conference which will lead to the solution of the conflict in the Middle East. They asserted that it is impossible to achieve a real settlement without solving the Palestinian problem and without the participation of the PLO . the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people .

The representatives of the CPSU and the CPI expressed their common opinion , that the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories has provided a new qualitative dimension to the conflict . The uprising clearly proves the failure of the policy based on the assumption that by the use of force it will be

possible to perpetuate the Israeli rule in the occupied territories . They expressed their solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people , resolutely condemned the acts of atrocities perpetrated by the Israeli authorities and demanded to put an immediate end to these acts .

The participants of the meeting expressed their satisfaction regarding the fraternal relations which prevail between the CPSU and the CPI and expressed their desire to strengthen them still further .

The meeting was held in a warm comradely atmosphere .

March , 1988

JOINT COMMUNIQUE BETWEEN THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE AND
THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

In response to the invitation of the *Communist Party of Israel*, a delegation of the *Central Committee* of the Communist Party of Greece visited Israel between the 5th and the 9th of March 1968.

The guest delegation, which was headed by comrade Orestis Kolosof member of the *Political Bureau* and head of the *International department*, and comrade Nicolai Gazis from the *International department*, met with a delegation of the *Central Committee* of the Communist Party of Israel headed by comrade Meir Vilner, *General Secretary*, with the participation of Comrade David (Sasha) Khenin member of the *Political Bureau* and *Secretary of the Central Committee* and comrade George Toubi, *Secretary of the Central Committee* and head of the *International department*.

During the talks which were held in a warm comradely atmosphere, the two delegations exchanged views regarding the international situation and the recent developments in the Middle East, specially the Palestinian problem, as well as questions of common interest to both parties and the international communist and workers Movement.

Both delegations hailed the Soviet - American treaty on the elimination of the medium and shorter range nuclear missiles signed in Washington on December 8th, 1967. They consider this treaty as a starting point towards the reconstruction of international relations based on mutual security and peace. This treaty proves that nuclear disarmament is not a mirage but a realistic possibility which can be attained, since this is a vital necessity for a secured life on our planet. Both delegations expressed their hope that additional steps towards this goal will be achieved in the forthcoming summit meeting in Moscow this spring.

The representatives of the two parties expressed their support and solidarity with the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories who are fighting for freedom and independence . They strongly condemned the barbaric acts of atrocities which are perpetrated by Israeli forces of occupation and colonial settlers against Palestinian children , women and unarmed civilians causing the death of over hundred victims and thousands injured and displaced .

The uprising of the Palestinian people has shattered the illusions of the Israeli ruling circles that it is possible to perpetuate the occupation and continue trampling underfoot the just national rights of the Palestinian people . The uprising have proved anew that Israel will not achieve peace and security as long as the Palestinian people are deprived of their rights for freedom and independence .

Both delegations consider the shuttling visit of the secretary of state Shultz to the region and his project is nothing but a futile attempt to abort the uprising and impose a deal not different from the notorious Camp David accords and the Reagan Plan.

The two Parties are deeply convinced that just comprehensive and stable peace can be established only on the basis of complete Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories which were occupied in June 1967 and the realization of the right of self-determination to the Palestinian Arab people including their right to an independent Palestinian state along side Israel . These principles can be achieved by convening an international peace conference for peace in the Middle East 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 of the UNO .

The two delegations expressed the support of their parties to the struggle of the Cypriot people for an independent sovereign , territorially integral , United , federal and non aligned Cyprus

free of foreign troops and bases . They consider that that the convening of an international conference in the framework of the UNO for the solution of the international aspect of the Cyprus problem as the most realistic procedure .

The delegation of the Communist Party of Greece informed about the activities, work and struggle specially regarding its struggle against the establishment of a two party system and the promotion of the coalition of the forces of the left and progress for the change in the direction towards socialism .

The delegation of the Communist Party of Israel informed about the wide and intensive acts of solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people against Israeli occupation , about the struggle of the Israeli Communists and their allies in the Democratic Front for peace and equality for the unity of all the forces of peace in Israel in the struggle against occupation and for a just Israeli - Palestinian peace , for defending the daily rights of the workers for democracy and against the growing danger of fascism and about the struggle of the Arab population and the democratic forces in Israel against the official policy of national discrimination and for full equal rights .

Both delegations reviewed with deep satisfaction the cooperation and mutual relations between their respective parties and expressed readiness to strengthen and develop still further the relations between their parties for the interest of their peoples and the general cause of peace .

During its stay in Israel the guest delegation visited the party organizations in the districts of Haifa , Nazareth , Acre and Jerusalem and was acquainted with different aspects of the work of the Communist Party of Israel . The guest delegation has also visited the daily organ of the Party AL-ITTIHAD and met with its editorial board .

TEL-AVIV - Israel
MARCH - 1988

A Common Statement Issued By

The Delegation of the Trade Unions in The Occupied West Bank , The Delegation of the Representatives of the Democratic Front For Peace and Equality in the Israel Trade Union -(The Histadruth)

In April 1988 the two Delegations were invited by the CGT to visit France and get acquainted with T.U. activities .

In the meeting held between the two sides , negotiations were aimed at discussing current political , economical and trade union affairs where the background is the continual Israeli Occupation to Palestinian territories for more than 20 years. The two sides agreed upon the following statement :

1- With growing concern , the two sides point out continual Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories since 1967 and its oppressive practices ranging from arbitrary arrests to administrative imprisonments to " bone - breaking " , deportations , demolishing houses , controlling water sources , harassing the Palestinian Camps and excessive use of force leading to the killing of hundreds of Palestinians and injuring thousands. The two sides point out to the necessity to arrive at a political settlement which guarantees the Palestinian right for self - determination and the establishment of an independent state in the West Bank , Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem .the two sides reject the Jordanian option and the Functional Division and the whole lot of US initiatives aimed at the elimination of Palestinian national just rights , at imposing American dominance in the area as is recently shown through the Shultz initiative which came as an abortive measure against the Palestinian Intifada (Uprising) and to block the way of the efforts aimed at achieving peaceful settlement in the area , The two sides see that the way towards just and comprehensive peace goes through the International Conference . The US initiative, The Jordanian Option or Schultz Initiative are not adequate enough to achieve the goal ; the only way is to hold an International Peace Conference with full authority , with the participation of representatives of Israel , PLO and the five permanent members of the Security Council as well and the rest

and standard of living .

6- The West Bank Delegation highly appreciates the struggle led by the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality in Israel and its role as the spearhead against Occupation and Oppression in the occupied territories , its struggle for just peace which guarantees the national and solid rights for the Palestinians , its struggle for democratic rights and for its adequate representation of the Working - Class .

7- The West Bank Unions greets all of the Democratic Peace forces in Israel which fight the Oppressive measures against the uprising in the Occupied territories and which consider the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and recognize their right to establish their national independent State .

8- The West Bank Unions appreciate the consistent efforts of the DFPE to enlighten the Israeli public opinion on the activities of the trade unions and their resistance to the occupation efforts to suppress the labour activity . The Union also appreciates the DFPE support and defense for the right to practice Trade union activity according to international laws .

9- The two Delegations stress the importance of the positive phenomena prevalent now in the world and Israeli public opinion on the background at the Uprising in the Occupied Territories . The two delegations appeal to the World Trade - Unions , and to the national trade unions to reinforce the struggle and solidarity with trade unions in our region . We would like to see 1988 as the year for the struggle with and support for trade -union freedom of activity and for just peace and end of occupation .

10- The two delegations thank the French trade unions (C. J.T) for inviting them to this visit . We are sure that our negotiations with (C.J.T) will contribute to strengthen friendship ties among us and will enlist world public opinion for the cause of just peace ,democracy and defending the rights of workers . The two delegations also thank the people who called for such a meeting in the existing conditions .

7.4.1988



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