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WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE !

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27TH. PLENARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

On February 14-15, 1985, the 27th. 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.

Comrade Ruth Lubitz, member of the Political Bureau, presided over the session.

Comrade Benjamin Gonen, member of the Political Bureau lectured about the preparations towards the elections to the Congress of the Histadrut, on the background of the political and economic situation.

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

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

Comrade Meir Vilner, the general secretary, lectured about the latest political developments and delivered a report about the work of the Political Bureau and Secretariat.

A debate took place which was summed up by the lecturer.

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

THE 20TH. CONGRESS OF THE PARTY

As a result of the decision to hold elections to the Histadrut institutions in the month of May 1985, the Central Committee decided to postpone the 20th Congress of the Party to the first half of December 1985.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF
THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE DFPE IN THE
ELECTIONS TO THE HISTADRUT CONGRESS

The elections to the Congress of the Histadrut and to the Local workers' Councils, the Congress of Na'amat (Working Women's Organisation -IB) and the Agriculturists' Congress, which will take place on May 13th. will be a very important test.

The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (DFPE) is the only list which represents a real alternative to the Alignment leadership in the Histadrut, which abandons the interests of the workers and curbs their struggle. The DFPE representatives in the Histadrut have proved that they are the sole consistent force which fundamentally negates the offensive of the Alignment-Likud government against the workers' wages, their rights and living standard. The DFPE representatives in the Histadrut have proved that they are the only force which support, without any reservations, the struggles of the workers against dismissals and the closing-down of enterprises, against the cutting-down in the budgets of the subsidies for basic products, against the destruction of the health and educational services, against the restrictions of workers' rights in the national insurance, and against the imposing of heavy taxes on the shoulders of the wage earners.

As against the attempts of the Alignment leadership (Labour Party and Mapam) in the Histadrut to justify their support of the package deals which erode the wages and enhance unemployment, under the pretext that "it could be worse"; as against the hypocritical propaganda of the Alignment and the Likud in the Histadrut, who try to appear as an opposition to the government, which is led by the Alignment and the Likud - as against all these, the DFPE points out the real causes of the sharpening socio-economic crisis. The main cause is the enormous military spendings for the war in Lebanon, the colonialist settlements, the rule over the occupied territories and the services which the Israeli government offers to the United States beyond our region.

The Alignment-Likud government acts in favour of the

interests of the big capitalists. It imposes the burden of the economic crisis on the workers and at the same time the rich enrich themselves still more.

The Histadrut is a tremendous potential power. If this power would have been used by a leadership which is loyal to the interests of the workers, then it would have been better for the workers. However, the Alignment leadership in the Histadrut lends a hand to the government in its sharp attack on the wages and rights of the workers.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel calls upon the members and sympathizers of the Party, on the members of the Young Communist League of Israel and upon all the Jewish and Arab workers, who are afflicted by the policy of war, inflation and unemployment, to immediately and energetically mobilize for the success of the DFPE in the elections to the Histadrut Congress, as time is short and plenty of work is ahead. The strengthening of the DFPE in the Histadrut institutions will strengthen the struggle for the rights of the workers; for the defence of the wage and its increase, for full employment; for the defence and widening of the social rights; for a full, monthly paid cost of living allowance; for a minimum wage, amounting to 60% of the average wage in the economy; for professional preparation for all the youth; for full equality of rights of the Arab workers; for the establishment of elected local workers' councils in the Arab localities; for a democratic administration of the *kievat-Haovdim* (workers' cooperatives and Histadrut-owned enterprises -IB), for the benefit of the whole working class; for comprehensive and just peace, in whose centre stands the Israeli-Palestinian peace, which is the precondition for economic recovery and a future of security and prosperity.

Let us work as one man for the success of the DFPE in the elections to the Histadrut institutions!

REGARDING THE REGIONAL MEETING OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel welcomes the resolutions of the second regional conference of the Communist and Workers' Parties of the Mediterranean region, the Middle East region and the Red Sea region; which took place in January 1985 in Nicocia.

The Central Committee emphasizes the special importance of reaching unity of views of all the participating parties on all subjects which were discussed, including the question of establishing just peace in the Middle East.

The Central Committee states that this unity has been attained thanks to the fact that the policy of all the fraternal parties which attended the regional conference is based upon the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, on the basis of the struggle against imperialism, for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

The Central Committee confirms the work of the Party delegation at the regional conference, which was composed of comrades Meir Vilner and Emile Habibi.

"ZO HADEREKH", February 20, 1985

THE WAR IN LEBANON - ADMISSION OF THE FAILURE

Speech of Comrade Meir Vilner in the Knesset

Before speaking about Lebanon I would like to say that since long ago it was possible to establish peace with the Palestinian people, with the PLO and all the neighbouring countries; Jordan, Egypt and Syria. All of them are ready for peace with Israel on the basis of the establishment of an independent Palestinian State alongside Israel, on the lines of June 1967. This is not my own evaluation. This has been published in official documents of all the factors which I have enumerated above, and in a most competent manner - by governments and by the National Council of the PLO, especially in the 16th. session.

Therefore, instead of speaking in a round-about way, one must tell the truth, that the only responsibility rests upon the policy of the government which does not agree to mutual recognition of the national rights, does not agree to two states, side by side. This is the root of the problem; all the rest is obscuratation and evasion.

About the agreement between Arafat and Hussein: The details are not yet known. But if reference is to peace on the basis of the establishment of an independent Palestinian State within the frontiers of '67, on the basis of independence of the Palestinian representation - and this does not negate coordination with anyone - and on the basis of an international conference under the auspices of UNO, then this is positive. But if reference is to turning Palestine into a Jordanian province under the auspices of the USA, then this is negative. Yesterday the PLO made it clear that it is prepared for peace in accordance with the UNO decisions. 242 is one of these decisions. At the time, when the Likud opposed the resolution 242, we voted for it in the Knesset. But we said that it is not the whole problem. We said that the problem is not only one of refugees and not only about withdrawal from the occupied territories, but the recognition of the

right to national independence of the Palestinian people, just as the right of the Israeli people to national independence had been recognized.

And now to the issue of Lebanon. The issue of Lebanon does not stand separately. Whoever attempts to speak about the question of Lebanon without connecting it with the whole complex, either does not understand the matter or leads people astray. One of the aims of the war in Lebanon was to liquidate the Palestinian problem. There was an additional aim - to establish a new order in Lebanon and turn it into an Israeli-American protectorate against Syria and other joint strategical aims.

The decision of the government on the Lebanese issue is first of all an admission of the failure of the war. This is a fundamental failure. This is a failure of the strategy, of the conception which says that it is possible to solve the Palestinian question by military means.

The war minister, Rabin, has once declared in the United States, that "From the political point of view, it is Syria which has emerged victorious from the war in Lebanon". Very nicely put. This means that there was a failure in attaining the strategic aim which is common to the Reagan administration and the Likud government, to impose upon Lebanon the rule of their puppets. But also from the military point of view, that has been a failure, if one takes into account the balance of forces, the massive employment of the most modern combat means by Israel, the ruthless, immoral methods of destruction and devastation, the mass annihilation. Everything has been tried out in Lebanon, with the exception of atomic weapons. There has been an invasion of American and NATO forces - and the result was a crushing defeat. Lebanon has been in many respects a second Vietnam for the United States.

And there is a legend making its rounds: There is much talk about Shi'ites. Is it only Shi'ites? The Lebanese people, members of all communities, and not only Shi'ites but also Christians fight the occupation. This is the truth. Therefore the Lebanese have set up the government of national conciliation and do everything in order to put an end to the Lebanese tragedy. Only the fascist Phalangists, the allies of those who opened the war and the Israeli and American agents are attempting now daily to bring about the renewal of the civil war.

The Israeli bombings from the air - why there is no talk about this here?!

The bombings from the air, in Lebanon last week, yesterday and the day before yesterday, the reports which were published in the foreign press and to a little extent in this country, are acts of massacre of civilians, among them many women and children, including the pupils of a school which was strafed. And here the lies of the Likud government are continued: "We have bombed command posts of terrorist". This is a lie! You have bombed a school, murdered school children; yesterday you have strafed villages and there are casualties among them women and children. And all these bombings are barbarian show bombings for the sake of internal needs inside Israel. We demand to stop this massacre immediately!

What has happened in Lebanon? To tell the truth, it was not only the Likud and the religious parties who supported the war, but also the Alignment, and especially the Labour Party, and not only with respect to 40 kilometres. Member of Knesset Gad Yacobi of the Alignment, now government minister, said in February 1984 in the "Moked" programme on the Israeli television the following words which I quote from a recorded tape: "Anyone who supported the war, supported it, in my opinion, knowing that it is liable to lead to a general entanglement, an entanglement for which we paid a costly price and we will still pay, more and more for it".

He said also in this interview, two years after the war, that he had absolutely opposed the war, but voted in the Knesset for it. He is not the only one. Afterwards others have said: I was not really in favour of the war, but in the Knesset I voted for it. How can one understand this? At least, with regard to a part of them, I explain this thus: If the war will be successful, I will be a hero, for I have voted for it; if the war will fail, I will say that I do not belong to that; failure has no father.

It must also be said clearly: The Likud, but not only they, also Peres, today the prime minister, and Rabin, today the war minister, actively supported the war and also served as mouthpiece and advisors to the Begin government. At the time of the proposal of no-confidence in the government, which I had the historic merit and honour to present in the Knesset in June 1982, the main interjections, as one can see from the protocol, came from the benches of the Labour Party, and one of them even called for boycotting the

debate in order to "demonstrate the unity of the Zionist parties against the enemies of Israel".

I wish to speak now in the Knesset about a matter of principle.

There exists an ideological problem. That is correct. Sharon is a Zionist and Raphael Eitan is a Zionist too, but they have brought a disaster on Israel. If they and their likes will continue their activities, this will in the long run endanger the existence of Israel in this region. We are not Zionists. We are Marxist-Leninists, communists, peace champions, but what we proposed in the 8th. Knesset in June 1967 represented the national interest of the State of Israel and of the people living here. Therefore, whoever dogmatically makes such a differentiation - Zionists and non-Zionists, in reality says: With Sharon, even with Kahana. I say that the differentiation must be a different one, according to the real and concrete interest of the State of Israel, despite the ideological contradictions.

The same goes for other questions too.

The government's decision is a compromise between a purified position of the Alignment and a still more purified position of the Likud, about a withdrawal by stages, a withdrawal by three stages, and each stage needs a decision by the government. As regards the third stage, the following has been said in the decision: There shall not be any withdrawal to the international frontier. The third part will be under the control of the Israeli army (Tzahal) and the South Lebanon army (Tzadal). What is that Tzadal? Look how they desert now at Sidon, how they run away like rats from a sinking ship. It is necessary to liquidate what is called Tzadal, these corrupted mercenaries and there must be an immediate withdrawal to the international border, within a few weeks and without any conditions or any military intervention. Lebanon is a sovereign state.

I am sure that if this will be the position of the Israeli government, it will be possible to reach an agreement which will ensure both sides against violations, Lebanon as well as Israel. There already was an agreement and it worked. Now it is certainly possible to come to an agreement, but on the basis of non-intervention in Lebanon.

It is necessary to solve the central problem, the Palestinian problem.

How many more wars do you want? How much blood must still be shed before you will stop your dogmatism for which we pay so dearly? Stop your alliance with the United States! After all, without the Americans you would not have unleashed this war. They give you a little money for our blood; we save them from paying blood for their own aims. The whole of Israel has now been turned into a US military base. And American broadcasting station is being installed in Israel against the Soviet Union. This is complete dependence. Israel now turns completely into an American puppet, and such puppets have no honour. We want an independent Israel, non-aligned in foreign policy. This is the real interest of Israel. And your fear of peace really cries to heaven.

Yesterday I read in a newspaper that in the concentration camp Ansar there are again 1,400 detainees, in reality civilian prisoners of war.

In that report it was said that also when the Israeli army will withdraw from that place, the detainees will not be released, but will be transferred to a concentration camp in southern Lebanon, nearer to the Israeli border, or inside Israel. We demand to stop the detentions - set them free!

In conclusion, the security of Israel rests upon just peace alone. The security of Israel rests upon the withdrawal from Lebanon and all the territories which have been occupied since 1967. The security of Israel rests upon the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in the West Bank and the Gaza strip, with eastern Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people. The security of Israel rests upon a policy of national independence and non-alignment in foreign policy. No oppression, no bombings, no colonial settlements, no US backing will change the course of history. An independent Lebanon, an independent Palestinian State will be established. The policy which is dominant today in Israel, denies Israel of its independence. We fight for peace as well as for the independence of Israel.

"ZO HADEREKH" , February 20, 1985

THE LADY UNDER THE SHAWL

By Benjamin Gonen

The "package deal number one", which should have curbed the inflation, ended at the beginning of February 1985 (as we anticipated) with soaring price rises of basic consumer goods, fuel, electricity and water. Will the "package deal number two" be different?

Once we were promised a price freeze of three months, from November 4, 1984 until February 4, 1985. Now they talk about "moderate price rises" which will be limited to 3-5 per cent every month.

Once we were promised to maintain the real wages. Now the General Secretary of the Histadrut, Israel Kaiser, promises that the erosion of wages this year will be only 3.5%.

Once they talked about full employment. Now they speak about a working week of 5 days (with wages paid for 5 days only!), in order to prevent dismissals from work.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE WAGES?

On the eve of the elections, in June 1984, the average wage in the economy had the value of 708 dollars. In December 1984 the average wage has dropped to 511 dollars. This is an erosion of 25% in the course of only half a year. Thus look the promise- for maintaining the real value of wages.

In January, the last month of the "Deal", the prices of basic consumer goods rose by 25%: The price of the fuel was increased by 35% (in two stages); the price of electricity rose by 50% (in two stages); the bus fares rose by 30% and all this is just the introduction to the "package deal number two".

As against these ferocious price rises, what happens

to the wages?

In the course of 40 years the system of Cost-of-living allowances was valid. This ensured the wage earners to receive a compensation (though not a full one, and always late) for the rise of prices.

In the course of the years various attempts were made aimed at hitting the cost-of-living allowances: The index of rents for housing were deleted from the price index; it was decided that the prices for vegetables and fruits should be included in the general price index, without taking into account the fluctuations of the seasons; it was agreed upon that the c.o.l. allowance will be only 30% of the index etc. But what has been decided upon now, in the framework of the "package deal number two" puts in a question the whole arrangements of the c.o.l. allowance.

It was the Histadrut leadership who proposed to sterilize from the price index for consumer the influence of the rising prices of basic consumer goods, so that the c.o.l. allowance there will not be a compensation to the wage earners for the price rises of bread, milk, eggs, electricity etc. Instead of that, the leaders of the Histadrut proposed to give a uniform compensation (in shekels) of 6,750 shekels on February 1, 1985 and of 1,650 shekels every month beginning with March 1 (reference is to gross sum from which income taxes will be deducted...)

The government and employers (partners, together with the Histadrut, in these deals) have happily endorsed this proposal and from now one will have in this country two price indexes: one price index, the lower one, without taking into consideration the basic products - for the calculation of the wages; and a second price index, the higher one, which will include the price index for calculations of capital (linkages of mortgages for housing, securities etc.).

If, for example, the prices of basic consumer goods will cause an addition of 9% in the index of February (in January the impact was partial), and if the price rises for other products will be 10% then, for the calculation of the wages on April 1, 1985 (when the c.o.l allowance for February is received) the index will show a price rise of 10% while for the calculation of capital the index will show a rise of 19%. The result is liable to be that the wage earners will not receive any c.o.l.

at all on April 1.

Hence the conclusion that the "package deal number two" will cause an additional, severe, erosion and will create a dangerous precedent of liquidating gradually the c.o.l. instrument.

Also, the uniform compensation in shekels which the wage earners have received at the beginning of February and which they will receive also in the following months will be nothing but throwing sand in the eyes. Reference is here to ridiculous sums and not to any real compensation. Reference is here also to solitary sums and not to any constant addition to wages. The uniform compensation will not increase equality among the workers, but will attempt to conceal the fact that the second deal is going to turn numerous wage earners into recipients of low wages.

If one wants to assist wage earners who receive low wages, then one must not put on a show of uniform compensation. Those who earn today only 30% of the average wage must be guaranteed a real rise by means of fixing a minimum wage which will be at least 50% of the average wage in the economy.

SUBSIDIES AND INFLATION

On the agenda is also an additional severe proposal: to cut off 17% from the wages of wide groups of workers including state employees, by means of setting up a working week of 5 days, coupled with lopping off the wage which is due for six days. Minister Ariel Sharon has called last week (in New York) for introducing such a working week. Apparently the leaders of the Histadrut will consent to this on the basis of the false argument that this curtailment will prevent dismissals and unemployment.

If the wage of the workers will go down by 17% in consequence of the lopping off of one working day, they will also buy less. And if they buy less - there will be less work and then precisely unemployment will increase.

Any attempt at convincing the workers that wages and subsidies for vital foodstuffs is the cause to the inflation, is an act of deception. Last year (1984) real

wages were eroded (and this according to all calculations) - precisely last year the inflation climbed to a record figure of 445%. If the subsidies have been curtailed and the prices of products have risen by dozens of per cent - will this curb the inflation?

And why did the subsidies increase in the last few months? The subsidies increased because the government wanted to obtain a low index for the month of December 1984. It will be remembered that the increase in the index was only 3.5% in order to enable them to continue their offensive against the workers and their rights. And after increasing the subsidies "in order to block the inflation".

We have not heard that the government accuse the big companies in the economy that they contribute to the inflation. We have not heard that the government and the Histadrut leaders laid any blame at the door of the "Elite" company which from 1984 on has increased the price of instant coffee by 675%, the prices of tea by 600%, the price of chocolate and sweets by 490%. We have not heard that they laid any blame at the door of the companies Amcor and Tadiran who raised the prices of refrigerators by 550%. We have not heard that they laid any blame at the door of the Dubek company which increased the price of cigarettes by 500%, or the Shemen and Yitzhar companies for raising the prices of washing powder by 510% - and all this at a time when the general price index rose last year (1984) by 445% and at a time when all these products are under the supervision of the ministry of trade and industry.

We have not heard the truth about the enormous military expenditures and the show-off projects, such as the "Lavi" air plane because of which we have such a hole in the budget; that the government print every week 50 billion shekels, which are the real cause of the inflation.

We have only heard about the wages and subsidies which they want to cut down drastically.

DESPITE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HISTADRUT,
THE STRUGGLE MUST BE INTENSIFIED.

In the "package deal number two" there is no answer to unemployment which already encompasses 90 thousand women

and men, young and adults, Jews and Arabs.

In an interview to "Ha'aretz" (January 25, 1985) the General Secretary of the Histadrut, I. Kaiser, did not oppose unemployment, replying to the question "Would you not oppose unemployment for a limited period?", Kaiser answered: "If I knew that it is a question of unemployment, this would not be terrible".

Unemployment will increase in 1985 - and the signs of this are becoming ever more obvious in the sphere of production as well as in the spheres of services. On one side, enterprises and companies are closed down, on the other side, no new enterprises are opened and the public services do not receive any new workers. In 1985 about 40 thousand additional persons will demand jobs, from among the soldiers who end their compulsory service, from among graduates of universities and secondary schools, women etc. And if they will not find any work, the number of unemployed will increase to 130 thousand.

The Histadrut leadership has betrayed its duties of their duties, at a time when they are partners to the package deals and to a policy whose aims are to lower the real wages, the elimination of the subsidies, the gradual liquidation of the cost-of-living allowance, an additional sharp constriction of the public services and a further increment of unemployment.

The wage earners in Israel do not want to be unemployed or recipients of social assistance. It is their right to work in accordance with their professional skill, to make a livelihood and be respected.

However, in order to realize this right, an obstinate and united struggle must be wages by the workers against the anti-worker "package deal number two".

THE LAST WINTER IN LEBANON ?

By Tamar Gozanski

The dust storm which raged for 30 hours during the last weekend should have brought back to the Middle East reality also those who prefer to live in delusions. Just as closing the windows did not prevent the dust from pervading every corner of our homes, it will not be in the power of the Israeli army, either, to prevent by means of blocking the passage ways and by other oppressive actions the expansion of resistance to the occupation in southern Lebanon.

The statement of the prime minister, Shimon Peres that "the present winter will be the last winter in which soldiers of the Israeli army will be in Lebanon" and the agreement which was reached (according to the reports) between Sh. Peres and Yitzhak Rabin (the war minister- IB) that the Israeli army will return to the international frontier already in the month of July - are a public admission that the basic aims of the war in Lebanon have not been achieved, despite the victims and destruction which have been caused in this war.

Menahem Begin, did not, indeed, announced when he was flown by helicopter to the Beaufort bastion, the "establishment of the Third Kingdom of Israel" but also if he did not repeat those words of Ben Gurion in 1956 (the Suez war - IB), the Lebanese war had far-reaching aims: to change the internal balance of forces in favour of the pro-imperialist right (whose symbol had been Bashir Juma'el); to turn Lebanon into one of the supporters of the USA in this region; to drag Syria into a military confrontation which would lead to a basic change in its policy; to destroy the Palestinian organisations and to pave the way for the annexation of southern Lebanon to Israel. Now, when the talk is about the withdrawal of the Israeli army towards the international frontier - which of these basic aims has been attained? Not a single one of them.

Moreover, in the interpretations given to the decision

American and other NATO forces. They reinforce their unity of action, escalate their resistance against the Israeli occupation and American intervention and they are taking important steps in the direction of thwarting imperialist, zionist and reactionary plans.

The many-sided material, political and moral support given by the countries of the Socialist Community and, in the first place, by the USSR, to the revolutionary and patriotic regimes and the popular and national liberation movements constitutes a great contribution to the cause of the peoples, of national independence and sovereignty, of socio-economic development, and of the peace and security of the countries of the region.

The Communist and Workers' Parties participating in the Meeting vehemently condemn the Israeli occupation in Lebanon. They reaffirm their active solidarity with and support of the Lebanese Communist Party, the Lebanese National Front of Resistance to the occupation, the National Democratic Front and the other patriotic and democratic forces in the struggle for the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from South Lebanon, for the preservation of its national independence and sovereignty, its territorial integrity, the unity of its people, its Arab identity and its democratic evolution.

They reaffirm their militant solidarity with Syria in its determined resistance to the threats, pressures and undermining plans of imperialism, zionism and Arab reaction.

They reaffirm their militant solidarity with and support to the Palestinian Communist Party, the Arab people of Palestine and its legitimate and sole representative, the Organisation for the Liberation of Palestine. They stress the need for the protection of the unity and independence of the PLO and of its anti-imperialist line, strengthening the resistance to the efforts to drag it to any capitulationist solution by adhering to the Aden and Algeria Agreements and the resolutions of the Palestinian National Council particularly those of its 16th Session. They also reaffirm their support to the Palestinian people's resistance in the occupied territories.

They reaffirm their solidarity with the Communist Party of Israel, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality

and other peace forces of Israel in their fight against the Israeli aggression for a just and lasting solution of the Palestinian problem and for a comprehensive peace in the area.

The solution of the Middle East question, and the realisation of a just, comprehensive and permanent peace in this region demand the complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, the dissolution of all the Israeli settlements in them, recognition and respect of the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine and, above all, of the right of self-determination and the foundation of its own independent national state on Palestinian territory, respect of the right of all states in the region to independent and peaceful life within secure and internationally recognised frontiers. The latest proposal of the USSR for the solution of the Middle East crisis through the convening of an International Conference constitute decisive contribution in this direction.

The continuation of the Iraq-Iran war serves only imperialism and the reactionary forces in the two countries and the region more generally. The immediate cessation of hostilities in Iraq-Iran war is imperative and the solution of the differences between the two countries through peaceful means on the basis of mutual respect, of national independence and sovereignty, in accordance with the rules of international law. The recent movements of units of the US Fleet and of other imperialist states in the region of the Gulf and of the Red Sea, and also the intensified antipopular and anti-democratic measures taken by certain government of Gulf countries, on the pretext of the war, make the need for this war to be ended more imperative.

The withdrawal of imperialist fleets, forces and bases from the region of the Gulf, the Red Sea and the Arabian Peninsula, the preservation and respect of the national independence, sovereignty and of non-alignment of its states and the restriction of the huge arms expenditures would contribute to their economic development and progress, the removal of tension from the region and its transformation into a zone of peace and security.

The proposal for the transformation of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace is particularly timely. In this direction the efforts are positive which are being exerted

pulate disputes in the areas from which they are going to withdraw. Already for four days they bring trucks loaded with arms to their agents, such as for example to Abu-Arrideh (the commander of the "National Guard" in Sidon").

The warnings of Nabih Berry point out the ways in which the Israeli army is deployed for the forthcoming moving forces - massive supply of arms to those forces which collaborate with the Israeli army and which the Israeli government is interested that they will replace the army against the Lebanese democratic forces and against the Palestinian organizations. Hence, if bloodshed will break out after February 18, 1985, the Israeli government will be unable to wash its hand of it.

THE AIM

The decision of the Peres-Shamir government for a new deployment of the Israeli army in Lebanon was taken as the result of the increasing public pressure. According to data of a public opinion poll which was published last week, 20% of those asked supported unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon and another 60% favoured a withdrawal from Lebanon under certain conditions. Only about 10% opposed any withdrawal. This pressure of the public opinion was expressed by the painful words of the families and friends of the soldiers of the Israeli army who are falling in Lebanon; in the protest activities of "There is a Limit!" movement, "Peace Now" and "Parents against Silence". Perhaps the most significant expression of the degree of the wish of the public for a withdrawal from Lebanon is the failure of a mass rally against the withdrawal, which took place at Kiryat-Shemonah (near the Lebanese frontier -IB) last week.

However the broad general agreement regarding the question of the withdrawal from Lebanon does not show that the supporters of the withdrawal from Lebanon are quite aware of the true meaning of the government's decision in the question of Lebanon. This is illustrated by the words of Professor Daniel Amit in support of the government's decision and his opposition to the continuation of the refusal of conscious objectors to serve in Lebanon.

In a certain respect this situation reminds one of the mood which prevailed after the Camp David accords -

the delusion which was prevalent, that we allegedly had embarked on the path to stable peace. Today the illusion is being diffused that moving the Israeli forces beyond the international border will put an end to the intervention of the Israeli army and will also prevent the daily casualties among the soldiers.

In order to put an end to the Lebanese adventure which has been going on for two years and a half, the Israeli government must pull out the Israeli army from Lebanon, not by stages but at one go, and avoid any form of interference (military or political) in the internal affairs of Lebanon. The option of military intervention ("aggressive and mobile defense") which the Peres-Shamir government preserves for itself, carries in its wake the concrete danger of an additional war in Lebanese territory (in continuation of the Litani operation in 1978 and the Lebanese war in 1982). Israel needs a withdrawal without any such military option, a withdrawal without ADAL and TZADAL, a withdrawal which will not result in another war, whose scope, victims and economic and political price cannot be foreseen.

Such a withdrawal, complete and unconditioned, will pave the road to an agreement with the Lebanese government and with UNO (and indirectly also with Syria and the PLO), by means of which it will be possible to achieve a settlement which will also insure the security of the Israeli localities on the Lebanese frontiers.

In consequence of such a withdrawal and parallel with it, sincere efforts are needed for attaining a settlement of just and comprehensive peace, in whose centre stands the Israeli-Palestinian peace. Precisely the failure of the Lebanese adventure, a failure which is admitted now also by government circles, leads to the conclusion that intensified endeavours are needed for the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East - endeavours which are continuously sabotaged by the governments of the United States and Israel.

ZO HADEREKH, January 23, 1985

Manmoud Hussari (Abu El-Affu)

His hands planted Olive Saplings

In a solemn mass funeral with the participation of the inhabitants of Um el Fahem and many public delegations, which took place on Tuesday, February 12, 1985, the Communist leader Mahmoud Hussari (Abu el Affu), who died suddenly at the age of 60, was brought to his last resting place.

He was the son of a family originating in northern Africa which emigrated to Palestine. From his early youth he worked as a labourer, truckdriver and auto mechanic, also in camps of the British army. After the establishment of the State of Israel he worked as a truckdriver, agricultural labourer and as a worker at a petrol station.

In the year 1950, at the age of 25, M.Hussari joined the Communist Party of Israel. Those were the days of the military rule, the days of military restrictions, a time of persecutions and arrests, and joining the ranks of the Party demanded at that time particular courage. As member of the Communist Party, M.Hussari participated actively in the acts of protest, marking the massacre at Kufr Kassem and the May day events. The authorities attempted to harass him again and again, and many times he was thrown into prison for the "crime" of taking part in a demonstration or also within the framework of "preventive custody" on the eve of memorial days and other special occasions. In 1958 he was sentenced to two years of imprisonment consequent upon the May Day demonstration which marched through Um el Fahem.

M.Hussari was for many years the secretary of the Um

el Fahem branch of the Communist Party of Israel and a member of the Triangle District secretariat of the Party. His ramified public activity in his village and in the Public Committee for Defence of the Land led to his election to membership in the local council of Um el Fahem, on part of the DFPE. For a certain period he was also the head of the local council of his village. At the 19th. Congress of the Party, M.Hussari was elected member of the Central Control Commission.

At the grave side Mahmoud Hussari was eulogized by the secretary of the Um el Fahem branch secretary of the Party, Muhammed Ali Mahamid; the head of the local council, Hashem Mahamid; the chairman of the Central Control Commission of the Party, Wolf Ehrlich; the secretary of the Democratic Front of Um el Fahem, Taissir Khaled Agbariyeh the representative of the Committee for Defence of the Lands, advocate Muhammed Kiwan; and the Deputy General Secretary of the Party, Member of Knesset Tawfiq Toubi. Dr. Affu Hussari, the son of the late comrade, thanked all those who participated in the funeral.

The speakers stressed the special contribution of M. Hussari to the struggle of the Arab population in Israel against the military rule and for the establishment of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality in Um el Fahem. It was also stressed that M.Hussari was an ardent propagandist of Jewish-Arab brotherhood and of the ideals of the Communist Party.

Two days before his sudden death, M.Hussari participated in the planting of olive saplings near the village of Sakhnin in the framework of mass planting as a protest against the uprooting of olive trees by the army and the "green patrol". The olive sapling which was planted by M.Hussari is a symbol of his aspiration for peace between the peoples and of his contribution throughout many years to the defence of the rights of the Arab population, including their right to live on their lands.

"ZO HADFREKH" February 20, 1985

DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS

DECLARATION OF THE 2nd CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES OF THE REGION OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST AND THE RED SEA

The representatives of Peoples' Democratic Party of Afghanistan National, Liberation Front of Bahrein, Akel of Cyprus, Egyptian Communist Party, Workers' Party of Ethiopia, Communist Party of Greece, Tudeh Party of Iran, Iraqi Communist Party, Communist Party of Israel, Jordanian Communist Party, Palestinian Communist Party, Communist Party of Saudi Arabia, Syrian Communist Party, Communist Party of Turkey and other Communist and Workers' Parties of the region of the Eastern Mediterranean, Near and Middle East and Red Sea met in Nicosia in January 1985 and examined in common the situation in this region.

The Communist and Workers' Parties of the region with great concern ascertained that the developments internationally as also in the region are rapidly acquiring an exceptionally dangerous character.

Since the meeting in 1981, certain significant events have occurred such as:

The US-Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the further intensification of imperialist intervention and military presence in the region. The US aggression against Grenada, the aggressive activities against Nicaragua and the people of Salvador and the threats against Cuba. The imperialist military build-up in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean. The developing of nuclear weapons by the reactionary regimes of South Africa, Israel and Pakistan. The deployment of the US nuclear missile PERSHING II and CRUISE in Western Europe and the US escalation of the nuclear arms race and its expansion to the outer space by their plan for stars-war, brings humanity still closer to the brink of a thermonuclear catastrophe.

The Communist and Workers' Parties of the region emphasize that the solely responsible for this cold-war turn in international relations is imperialism and es-

pecially US imperialism. Its aims are:

- The overt efforts of the USA to break the existing balance of forces so as to acquire military strategic superiority over the USSR in order to advance the aim of World domination.

- The undermining of and the overt striking against - with all means possible and through military interventions - the national liberation and progressive movements and countries, and to isolate them from their natural allies the Soviet Union and other Socialist Countries.

- The strengthening of US hegemony in the capitalist world, the erasure of every centrifugal tendency and differentiation from it, and the strengthening of the cohesion of the NATO countries and other aggressive imperialist alliance.

Nevertheless, despite the fact that today world peace is treated as never before since World War II, detente has strong roots. The forces of peace - the countries of the socialist community headed by Soviet Union, the working class movement, the national liberation movement and the peace and anti-war movements all over the world - are ever growing and mobilising to curb the criminal war plans of imperialism. Even to certain ruling circles of capitalist countries the adventurist policy of the US gives rise to concern and discontent.

The participants in the Meeting take into consideration that:

- the main problem of our times is the prevention of war the termination of the arms race and the struggle for disarmament,

- the problem of peace is directly linked with the solution of the social and economic problems of the working class and other working people,

- detente and peaceful coexistence ensure better conditions for the struggle waged by the peoples for their vital interests.

They reaffirmed their resolution to step up their struggle to the highest level possible and, together with all the progressive, democratic and peaceloving forces of their countries to prevent the militarisation of outer

space, to stop the deployment of the US Pershing II and Cruise missiles in Western Europe, for the withdrawal of all those already deployed, for the prevention of a thermonuclear catastrophe which threatens humanity, for the return to the policy of detente and peaceful coexistence. This is why they support the peaceloving initiatives of the USSR and other members of the Warsaw Pact as well as the retort-defence measures which they were compelled to take to prevent the USA from achieving superiority and from violating the principle of equal security. They also support the initiatives of other peaceloving countries, parties, personalities and movements which seek an end above all, to nuclear armaments, and complete and comprehensive general disarmament. They support the creation of denuclearised zones in the Balkans the Mediterranean, the Middle East and elsewhere.

The Communist and Workers' parties which took part in the Meeting, ascertained that the developments in each single country in the region are closely linked with the more general developments taking place in the region and the world. The peoples of the countries in the region are confronting a series of common problems which are created by the efforts of imperialism to recover and stabilise its positions in this crucial geopolitical region.

The policy of the imperialists is manifested by;

- the developing strategic alliance of the USA and Israel
- the encouragement of the Israeli invaders in the continuation of their aggressive actions. The escalation of the threats of armed attack against Syria. The military intervention of the USA and other NATO states in Lebanon. The agonizing efforts for the continuation of the line of Camp David and Reagan Plan, aiming at the imposition of the US Israeli hegemony in the region and the frustration of the just cause of the Palestinian people.
- The escalation of the attempts to turn Cyprus into an unsinkable aircraft carrier of NATO in the region with the building of air, naval and missile bases in Northern Cyprus, following the proclamation of the state of Denktash, which constitutes yet one more step towards the partition of Cyprus.

- The extension, activation and reinforcement of the US bases in the region. The development and the constant exercises by the Rapid Intervention Force as well as the creation of the new US central Command for the region. The creation of local, military agreements and intervention forces.

- The threats and provocations against the countries of the region which have freed themselves from imperialist domination as well as the efforts to undermine them and to export counter revolution to them. The incitement of local wars, civil wars and internal clashes.

- The encouragement of provocations on the part of the Turkish fascist regime and the reinforcement of its role in imperialist plans in the region. The all-sided (multi-latera) support and reinforcement of local reactionary regimes and forces.

- The transformation of Pakistan, under the military regime, into a major springboard of US imperialism for conducting plots, interventions and aggressions against the countries of the region, particularly against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Despite the intensified attack of imperialism, zionism and reaction, the difficulties arising from the complexity of the situation, the popular and national-liberation movement in the region has not ceased to grow.

The vanguard role of the working class and of its parties is increasing giving the popular and national liberation movement ever more anti-imperialist content and orientation. The fight against imperialism, the reactionary regimes and forces and for national independence, democracy, economic development and social progress is growing.

The revolutionary regimes in Afghanistan, Ethiopia and the People's Democracy of Yemen, are being consolidated more and more and they are taking important steps towards completion of the stage of the national-democratic revolution on the road to socialism.

The patriotic forces in Lebanon with the support of the Arab and international anti-imperialist forces achieved a great victory by the cancellation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of 17 May 1983, and of the withdrawal of the

of the government to pull back the Israeli army gradually from Lebanon, one can find ideas clearly expressed that after the actual pull-back of the Israeli army it may turn out that what is termed "the security situation" will be worse than it had been on the eve of war. The reports about injured Israeli soldiers; about the Katyusha launching pads and about the intensifying hostility towards Israel - all these have shattered the illusion that by means of a war of occupation and by using a huge military force it is possible to achieve peace for Israel - in the north or at any other place.

THE SECRET

To the misfortune of Israel, also the decision of the Peres-Shamir government about the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Lebanon in stages, despite the tacit admission of the failure of the war, does not foretell any change in the official policy and any embarkment on a new way which leads to peace.

Why did the talks at Naqoura fail? The Lebanese government demanded the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Lebanon and also the Peres-Shamir government speaks about the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the whole territory of Lebanon until the month of July - if that is so, then why the talks have reached a deadlock.

The secret is to be found in the second part of the government's decision. Indeed there is a clear mention about the re-deployment of the Israeli army in the northern frontier of the State of Israel", but it is also said that this deployment will be carried out in an area in southern Lebanon (ADAL), in which local forces, (TZADAL) will act with the backing of the Israeli army (TZAHAL)". (The so-called TZADAL local forces are mercenary gangsters IB).

The Lebanese government refused to yield to this Israeli dictate which is called ADAL and TZADAL. It refused to recognize the right of the Israeli government to continue intervening in southern Lebanon, directly or through mercenaries. That is why the negotiations at Naqoura failed. That is why it should be stressed that the decision which says that the Israeli army will not stay an additional winter in Lebanon, is a pre-conditioned decision. In accordance with the decision of the govern-

ment, in the next winter Israeli soldiers (although in small numbers) will be in Lebanon, in order to ensure that ADAL (south Lebanon) also in the future be the "North Bank" of Israel and not an integral part of the State of Lebanon.

The war minister, Yitzhak Rabin, explicitly stated that "the Israeli army will act in accordance with a method of mobile aggressive defence, in order to ensure the security of the inhabitants of the north" (Northern area of Israel -IB). What is the meaning of a method which is "aggressive" as well as "mobile"? It means that the Israeli army will continue carrying out aggressive actions from Israeli territory (for example - bombings from the air), will invade Lebanon, will bring about the blowing up of buildings that will be defined as "bases of terrorists", will arrest and transfer to Israel "hostile elements" and all the other acts of aggression which since long have been recorded in the history of the long-old war which Israel wages in Lebanon.

THE WARNING

Until the 18th. of February 1985 the Israeli army is supposed to evacuate the area of Sidon and while the preparations in the area for the evacuation is still going on, there is somebody who is concerned with diffusing the assessment that in the areas which will be evacuated by the Israeli army, massacres will be committed, which will surpass the massacre at Sabra and Shattila.

In these days, when government minister Sharon - with the backing of the government - attempts at exploiting a decision of a New-York courthouse jury in order to purify himself and his fellow members in the government from the responsibility for the massacre in the refugee camps Sabra and Shattila - any talk about the massacres which will be carried out in consequence of the partial evacuation, must turn on a red light.

Nabih Berry, the minister for South-Lebanese affairs in the Beirut government and leader of the "Amal" movement announced at a press conference on January 19, 1985 that the plan for the withdrawal of the Israeli army "is intended to bring about confrontations among the Lebanese in the south, in the El-Kharoub area and in Beirut." Nabih Berry stressed that "the Israeli forces sti-

within the context of the UNO and the proposal which was approved by the last Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, for a Summit Conference to be convened on the Indian Ocean.

The representatives of the Communists and Workers' Parties condemn the proclamation of the illegal Turkish-Cypriot state and the instigators and supporters of this illegal action of Turkish chauvinists and US imperialists. They condemn the construction of big military bases in the occupied territory of Cyprus for the US Rapid Deployment Force. They greet the progress in the proximity talks under the auspices of UN Secretary General and support his efforts for a comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem at the High-Level Meeting to be held in New York on the 17 January based on the UN Resolutions. They support the struggle of AKEL and the Cypriot people for an independent, sovereign, territorially integral, federal, non-aligned and completely demilitarised Cyprus without foreign troops and foreign bases.

The participants in the Meeting condemn the provocations of Turkish chauvinist circles and US imperialism in the Aegean and they consider that the Greek-Turkish differences must be settled as quickly as possible by peaceful means on the basis of the rules of international law, the Final Act of Helsinki, the Charter of the UNO and the respect of national independence, sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of the two sides.

The development of atomic weapons by Israel and the deployment of US nuclear missiles at Comiso in Sicily, constitute additional factors of tension and direct threat for the countries of the region and beyond it. The participants demand that US nuclear missiles be removed from the region and that Israel stop the development of atomic weapons and sign the Treaty for Non Proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The participants in the Meeting greet the struggle being waged by the peaceloving forces in the region of the Mediterranean and they underline the need for the fight to be stepped up for the removal more generally of all the foreign military bases and facilities, for the transformation of the Mediterranean basin into a zone of permanent peace, security and cooperation among the peoples. In this direction, the materialisation of the Warsaw Pact for the withdrawal from the Mediterranean Sea of the ships which are armed with nuclear weapons,

can make an important contribution.

They strongly condemn the imperialist provocations, threats and interventions against Lybia, Angola, Mozambique, Grenada, Nicaragua and El Salvador and they reaffirm their full solidarity and support for the peoples of these countries and all the revolutionary and patriotic regimes and the popular national-liberation-anti-racial and antidictatorship movement in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The participants condemn the Atrocities committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the population of the occupied territories in Lebanon, Palestine and the occupied Syrian territory of the Golan Heights. They condemn the rising racist and fascist activities inside Israel and demand that Israel should sign the international convention of human rights.

They condemn the crimes of physical extermination, detention and tortures committed by the Iranian fundamentalist regime against TUDEH Party of Iran and democratic progressive forces in Iran and also those committed by the dictatorial regime of Iraq against the Communist Party of Iraq and other democratic forces.

They condemn the fabricated trials and physical extermination of progressive people in Turkey and the elimination of democratic life and the application of emergency rule in Pakistan. They express their solidarity with the Kurdish people who are languishing under national oppression in our region.

The participants condemn all practices jeopardising democratic rights and freedoms, especially tortures and arbitrary detention committed by Egyptian regime against progressive, democratic and patriotic forces. They condemn the latest and continuing wave of assassination committed by the extermination bands connected to the ruling circles in North Yemen against tens of Yemeni patriots and democrats. They call upon the President of the Arab Republic of Yemen to disperse these extermination bands and bring to trial the instigators and executors of crimes of assassination, the release of all the political detainees and the disclosure of the whereabouts of the prisoners declared as missed.

The participants note that the Gulf Cooperation

Council has become a military alliance serving imperialist machinations in the region of the Gulf. They condemn the oppressive measures practiced by the states of this council against patriotic and democratic forces, condemn the violations of human rights especially in Saudi Arabia Bahrein and Omman. They demand the disclosure of the fate of political detenees, their release and the endorsement of the international declaration of human rights. They condemn the practices of searches, summary detention, torture of prisoners and the elimination of general liberties in Sudan, Somalia and Jordan.

The parties which participate in the Meeting express their firm conviction that the imperialist attack in the region, especially of USA imperialism which bolsters up the Israeli zionist and other reactionary circles, can successfully be bridled and the balance of forces in the region be changed in favor of the forces of peace, national liberation and social progress. The basic prerequisite for this is the cooperation of the broadest anti-imperialist forces in the region with the active participation of the popular masses through the defence and restoration of their democratic freedoms and rights, the satisfaction of their basic social and economic needs. It is imperative that differences on secondary issues be set on one side, that the discriminations against the communists be overcome as well as the efforts made by certain forces to isolate them, so that a broad anti-imperialist front be created to raise a barrier against the imperialist attack and our region be finally free of dependence on imperialism and the road of national independence and progress be opened up for all the countries in the region and to contribute to the consolidation of peace in the world.

The fraternal parties participating in the Meeting consider that anti-Sovietism and anti-communism aim mainly to maintain the subjection of the peoples and exploitation of the working masses, to weaken the patriotic, democratic and progressive forces, and international solidarity and the struggle against imperialism and reaction. They consider that the unity of the communists constitutes the basic factor for the advance of the unity of the world workers movement and of all the anti-imperialist and anti-war forces.

The participants express their conviction that an international conference of communist and workers parties

to promote joint action against the imperialist threat for detente and peace is necessary and timely.

The imperialist threat is not a new phenomenon. It is the result of the capitalist system of production and distribution of goods. The imperialist system is based on the exploitation of the laboring masses of the world. The imperialist system is based on the exploitation of the laboring masses of the world. The imperialist system is based on the exploitation of the laboring masses of the world.

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Speech of Meir Vilner, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Israel, in the second conference of the communist parties of the Eastern Mediterranean Near and Middle East and Red Sea. 10.1.85

NICOSIA - CYPRUS

I would like to express our feelings of gratitude to the Communist Party of Greece for its initiative and preparation of this conference. We are also grateful to the Akel Party for its share in organizing and preparing the second conference of the Communist parties of our region, the Eastern Mediterranean, Near and Middle East and Red Sea.

Since September 1981, developments in the world and in our region have been very rapid. Many changes, positive and negative, have taken place.

We consider the convocation of our regional conference the exchange of views and common conclusions as of the utmost importance, for this means the strengthening of our unity. We have a high opinion of other regional conferences that have taken place, bi-lateral meetings between communist and workers parties, and broader conferences with the participation of communist and other parties such as social democratic organizations, national liberation movements, etc. At the same time these cannot replace international conferences of the world communist movement.

In our opinion, the non convening of the international communist movement for 16 years, has not produced positive results and not been justified. This has not strengthened our ideological and political unity. We have now arrived at a situation when clear and sometimes extreme deviations from our ideology appear in several communist parties. There are even those who attribute the deterioration in international relations to the policy of both the USA and USSR, and put equal blame on the so-called two "superpowers". When our ideological adversaries profess this theory we can understand their motive. But when communists follow this line, it is not only wrong and unjust and contrary to the obvious facts, but it is showing the lack of a proper class analysis. It is also the cause of ideological confusion in some circles. Therefore it should be rejected ideologically and politically.

We consider the convening of an international conference of communist and workers parties for an ideological and political discussion, first of all on problems of principle such as peace and war, of the utmost importance. This does not mean that the international unity of the communists should replace the wider unity of all peaceloving and anti-imperialist forces in the world, on the contrary. The strengthening of the unity and coordination of the communists can only strengthen the general movement struggling for peace against imperialism.

Anti-Soviet propaganda appears to be the main ideological weapon used by our enemies, the enemies of peace, national liberation and socialism. In Russia, in 1917, the enemies of the revolution used to declare: "Soviets yes but without bolsheviks". Now many say: "Communism may be a fine idea, but without the Soviet Union", you may be a socialist and even a communist, but dissociate yourself from the Soviet Union.

Many people who consider themselves, and in some ways possibly are progressive and peaceloving, do not understand that anti-Sovietism and war go together, just as Soviet Union and peace do.

In Israel, everybody who is against the Soviet Union is welcomed by the ruling establishment. Anti-Sovietism is the most dangerous weapon used against the cause of peace and progress. In our Israeli conditions it is the foremost ideological and political barrier, to an extensive increase in the ranks of our Jewish-Arab Communist Party.

In this connection it is notable that in the Middle East the illusion is widely spread that "only the United States can exert pressure on Israel" and that "we have to save what can still be saved, otherwise Israel will colonize and annex all occupied territories". These ideas are capitulation to the spirit of the Camp David deal and the notorious Reagan Plan. We should not forget that the aggression against Lebanon has been an Israeli-American or rather American-Israeli aggression. It involved American weapons, American political backing, American money and even direct American military interference which ended in a fiasco.

The Zionist ruling circles of Israel are not ready to leave Lebanon. They stipulate unacceptable conditions

one of these, being the demand that Southern Lebanon would be controlled by the Israeli puppet, the so-called "South Lebanon Army" backed by the Israeli army.

It should be remembered that the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States relates not only to the Middle East; it is world-wide, comprising Africa, central America and Asia, and is directed against the socialist countries, first and foremost against the Soviet Union

The only way to solve the Middle East problem, the core of which is the Palestinian problem, and to bring peace to our region is the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations Organization and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, Israel and the Soviet Union, United States and possibly some other interested states. The USA and Israel vehemently oppose this. President Reagan still strives to impose a "Pax Americana" on the region.

This means that the United States and Israel are against a peaceful solution of the Middle East crisis which endangers the peace of the world.

One of the weaknesses of the present situation in our region is the conflict inside the PLO. We are very much worried by this. We consider the unity of the PLO on its traditional anti-imperialist basis, on the basis of the independence of the PLO, the independence of the Palestinian decision as imperative. The dialogue between Fatah and the Democratic Alliance which includes the Palestinian Communist Party is of the greatest importance. We hope that it will lead to the reestablishment of the unity on the basis of the Algerian-Aden agreements.

As regards Syria, it is a real tragedy that the anti-imperialist forces are not united and even fighting each other. The objective interest of the PLO and of Syria, the Syrian and the Palestinian people, and of all our peoples is to put an end to the occupation by Israel of the Palestinian territories, the Syrian Golan Heights and the Lebanese territory, for a just permanent and comprehensive peace. In the opinion of our party the danger of a new war against Syria still exists.

In the Palestinian occupied territories, the cruel oppression continues. At the same time the Palestinian peo-

ple oppose the occupation. We are sure that no repressive measures can stop the just struggle of the Palestinian people for their right to live in freedom in an independent Palestinian State and not under foreign occupation.

I wish to stress the role of the Palestinian Communist Party, its great influence in the occupied territories and beyond these.

The establishment or rather the re-establishment of the Palestinian Communist Party was objectively inevitable. It has already produced positive results, one of which is the position and influence of the Palestinian Communist Party within the Democratic Alliance and the PLO generally.

Our Communist Party of Israel has very strong ties with the Palestinian Communist Party. We do our best to cooperate with it and coordinate our efforts. It is an objective necessity and stems also from our common historical roots.

We are in full solidarity with all communist parties, our neighbours, the Palestinian, Jordanian, Lebanese, Syrian and Egyptian communist parties.

Allow me to give our opinion on the war between Iraq and Iran. We also hold that this war only serves the interests of imperialism, the ruling Zionist circles in Israel and Arab reaction. Cui Bono ?

The previous Israeli prime minister (now vice prime minister and foreign minister) Shamir publicly declared in a cynical and cannibalistic manner: "Let the Iraqis and the Iranians kill each other as much and as long as possible".

We want to express our solidarity and deep fraternal feelings towards the Tudeh party of Iran which is suffering so much from the barbaric repressions described by the Iranian delegate to this conference.

We express our solidarity with the struggle of the Iraqi communist Party under the complicated and difficult conditions of a dictatorial regime.

The Cyprus problem has remained unsolved and even be-

come aggravated as a result of the global strategy of American imperialism and Nato.

We have been informed that serious negotiations are in process between the two communities under the auspices of the general secretary of the United Nations. Let us hope for success, and as a further step all military bases and foreign armies should be removed from this famous island.

We want to express our solidarity with the Workers' Party of Ethiopia. The Israeli ruling circles were the best friends of the absolute monarchy in Ethiopia. They hate the Ethiopian revolution as much as their imperialist bosses do. They exploit the natural calamity in Ethiopia to inveigh against the Ethiopian Workers' Party, against socialism and Marxism-Leninism.

Our opinion is quite different from that of the Israeli chauvinists and reactionaries. The measures undertaken by the Ethiopian Workers' Party and Ethiopian government, and the huge help of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries demonstrate the superiority of socialism. In other African countries, which are also suffering from the drought which has become a natural calamity the suffering are even greater and no serious measures are taken, and no plans prepared to solve these crucial problems of the African countries basically.

As to Afghanistan, we are in full solidarity with our fraternal party, the Peoples' Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and we congratulate our comrades on the occasion of their 20th. anniversary.

The revolution in Afghanistan and its defence is of utmost importance not only for the Afghan people, but also for the cause of peace and security in our region and in the entire world. The intervention does not come from the Soviet Union but from imperialism in the territory of Pakistan. The Soviet Union is giving assistance to the Afghan people who are defending their homeland against terrorist military intervention organized by US imperialism. In Israel, our adversaries are attacking us daily on the Afghan problem. Last week, for example, I spoke in the Knesset (parliament) against the increase in the number of atomic reactors in Israel. The reactionary members of the Knesset interrupted me by shouting a single word: "Afghanistan!" Shamelessly and demagogically they tried to compare the Israeli American aggression in Lebanon with the Soviet internationalist assistance to Afghanistan. The mass media in Israel are constantly inci-

ting against the Soviet Union and Afghanistan, and also against other socialist and progressive states.

Now, allow me to dwell on the question of relations between fraternal parties. All our parties here are based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. Therefore we can develop relations of full solidarity and mutual respect. The details of the tactics and the forms of struggle in each country are the right and responsibility of every party. There may be differences in definitions, in stressing this or another aspect of the problems, but it is vital to coordinate our efforts, to adhere to a correct policy and Marxist-Leninist principles.

I shall shortly analyse the recent developments in Israel. We now have a government of nearly all Zionist and religious parties - 97 deputies out of 120, a so-called "National Unity Government". It reflects the deterioration of the leadership of the Labour party, which together with the right-wing Likud bloc has formed a government with a common programme, not only in foreign policy, in adherence to the American imperialist global strategy and anti Palestinian policy, but also in economic and social fields. There exists no basic difference between them.

Israel is now passing through the deepest economic, social and moral crisis in its history. The living standard of the masses and the wages of the workers are now being lowered not every year but every month. Unemployment is spreading. The dependence on the United States is greater than ever before. Hence there is no need for American pressure on the Israeli government to follow a more reasonable policy. It would be quite enough if the American imperialists were to stop their financial, military and political support to the continuation of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and the policy of aggression. Without the massive American support, the Israeli ruling circles would be unable to continue their present policy, which engenders the danger of fascism and new military provocations.

But this is not the whole picture. For the first time in the history of Israel, the war in Lebanon has evoked a mass anti-war movement. Ever more people begin also to understand the Palestinian problem. New movements have appeared against the aggressive policy. In

the previous wars of aggression - except us, the communists, all supported the wars. Now the war in Lebanon is opposed not only by the communists. One of the anti-war movements is called "There is a limit". Thousands of soldiers and officers signed a declaration by this movement refusing to serve in Lebanon. Some of them also refused to serve in the Palestinian occupied territories 145 of them were sentenced to prison by military courts. They comprise people of different ideologies: communists zionists and others. For this reason, while combatting imperialism and zionism as a reactionary racist ideology and practice, we differentiate between the zionists. Some of them oppose occupation together with us. Their position on the Palestinian problem and the war in Lebanon is contrary to that of the official zionist policy.

Our Party is also active in the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality. The CPI is the main body in this Front which is a new phenomenon in Israel. (founded in 1977), the Front is based on a common platform of struggle for peace, democracy, equality (for the Arab Palestinian population in Israel, the Jews from Africa and Asia, and women), and for the interests and rights of the working people.

PLATFORM OF THE ISRAELI PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE
12th. WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS
(MOSCOW 1985)

We the under signed, Israeli Jewish and Arab champions of peace and democracy, express our support to the important traditions of the world Festival movement of youth and students struggling for peace and fraternity.

The Festivals' tradition started since 1947, two years after the end of World War 2. Young people and students from all over the world gathered in Prague - the last city liberated from Nazy occupation - and decided to hold a huge demonstration of youth against wars and war mongers.

The Festivals' tradition has turned into a gathering of different nations, cultures and languages with one common idea: Anti-imperialist solidarity, Peace and Friendship.

We, young Israelis, Jews and Arabs, support the idea of the festival, and join the initiative and set up an Israeli Festival committee towards the World and students' Festival in Moscow, which will spread the Festival's ideas in our country. We shall organize the participation of a wide Israeli delegation in this huge demonstration of youth and students.

The Israeli Festival committee will act in the spirit of the appeal of the World Preparatory Committee, to mobilize world youth for peace and cooperation, to stop the arms-race, for disarmament; against all forms of oppression, discrimination and exploitation for anti-imperialist solidarity and for solidarity with the peoples, the youth and students of Latin-America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, for the cause of peace, freedom, national liberation independence, sovereignty and social progress; for the rights of the young generation to work and study.

As supporters of the idea of the Festival in Israel, which is one of the focus of tention in the world, we will

put a special emphasis on the following subjects:

Demand from the Israeli government to join the international charter preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

For a neutral Israeli international policy.

Against the strategic agreement between Israel and the USA. Against military basis and service to US army in Israel.

For immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli army from Lebanon. For putting an end to the use of the mercenaries of the so-called "South Lebanon Army" by Israel.

For just and stable Israeli-Arab peace based on Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied since 1967, the establishment of an independent Palestinian State alongside the State of Israel. For an international peace conference for the Middle East, under the auspices of the UNO, in which all sides involved in the Middle East conflict will take part, including the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people, and the USSR, the USA and other interested countries.

Strengthening Jewish-Arab fraternity as a wall against phenomena of racism in our country. Solidarity with the Arab population in Israel against national discrimination for full civil national equality.

Solidarity with the Palestinian people struggling against occupation and for the realisation of its just national rights.

For diverting of resources for development, health, education and not for wars and settlements in the occupied territories.

To stop military, nuclear and other cooperation with the Apartheid regime of South-Africa.

To stop spending arms, military training and consultants to fascist regims in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

The 12th. Festival will be held in Moscow, 40 years after the victory over fascism. It will take place in the Soviet Union, whose people had a decisive part in defeat-

ing Hitlerian fascism.

The Israeli festival committee will act in order to distribute the ideas of the festival in Israel in order to show another face of Israel, peace loving and democratic, in the 12th. World festival in Moscow, summer 1985.

LETTERS AND CABLES 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 26th. anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution, we extend to you and to the Cuban people heartiest fraternal greetings.

The victory of the Cuban revolution under the leadership of Fidel Castro, paved the way to socialism in Cuba and opened a new era in the history of the Latin American continent and enhanced the general struggle against US imperialism, for national independence, peace and socialism.

We wish the Cuban people further achievements in socialist construction and in the struggle for strengthening international solidarity of communists and all anti imperialist forces.

To the Central Committee of the
Democratic Party of Afghanistan

Dear Comrades,

We extend to you fraternal greetings on the occasion of the 20th. anniversary of the foundation of your party.

We highly esteem the adherence of your party to the principles of Marxism Leninism and Proletarian Internationalism and your staunch struggle against imperialist intervention in support of the reactionary forces aiming at diverting Afghanistan from the path of progress and socialism.

We highly appreciate the close cooperation between new Afghanistan and USSR which constitute an example of internationalism. Foiling imperialist and reactionary intrigues against revolutionary Afghanistan is in accordance with the vital interest of the peoples of our region and of world peace.

We wish you success in achieving the noble aims of your party.

To the Central Committee
of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

To Comrade Boris Ponomariov

Dear Comrade,

Heartiest fraternal greetings on the occasion of your 80th. birthday.

We highly esteem your devoted efforts and contribution for consolidating the unity of the World Communist Movement on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, and in creatively applying the Leninist foreign policy of the USSR.

We wish you good health and further fruitful work for the interest of the Soviet people and for the general cause of peace and socialism.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1985

**COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL
CENTRAL COMMITTEE - FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
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