

Communist party of israel
central committee · tel aviv
December 1967 P.O.B. 1843

IN THIS ISSUE :

OCTOBER MEETINGS THROUGHOUT ISRAEL
E. VILENSKA : ECHOS OF THE OCTOBER
IN PALESTINE ■ 21st SESSION OF
THE CC, CP OF ISRAEL ■ B.B ALTI ON
THE MILANO SYMPOSIUM ON THE MIDDLE
EAST ■ ETC.

HX
632
A1
W9
No. 1105
MAIN





A Happy New Year

*Our best wishes for further successes in
the common struggle for Peace, National
Independence, Democracy and Socialism.*

*Foreign Relations Department
C. C., Communist Party of Israel*

CONTENTS

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

October meetings throughout Israel	4
Message of greetings to CPSU	5
Echos of the October in Palestine - E. Vilenska	7

EVENTS OF THE MONTH

21th Session of the CC, CP of Israel	12
C. P. I. motion at the political debate in Parliament	17
Always first on the road to space conquest	18
On the election of the President of the U. N. Assembly	19
Condemning the assault on Meir Vilner	20

CLASS STRUGGLES

Harvest workers against the rise of norms	23
The slums cannot wait for the Messiah - P. Tubin	24
Who will defend the artisan ? - N. Pariser	26

ACTIVITIES

Mass meeting of the "Young Generation"	28
Anti-nazi fighters demand ban on neo-nazi activities	29
Veterans of the movement support C. P. I.	30

SOLIDARITY IN STRUGGLE

The Milano symposium on M. E. - B. Balti	32
P. Novik in Israel	35
Message of greetings to the Communist Party of Great Britain	38

OCTOBER MEETINGS AND FESTIVE PARTIES THROUGHOUT ISRAEL

Masses of Israel's workers marked the October Jubilee in meetings and festive parties organised by the C. P. I. in all parts of Israel. The Central meeting on behalf of the C. P. I. Central Committee was held on the 3rd of November at Tel Aviv's Mograbi Theater. Speakers were the General Secretary Com. S. Mikunis and politbureau member E. Vilenska.

The October celebration in Haifa was addressed by member of the Politbureau, M. Sneh.

Meetings and celebrations were also held in Jerusalem, Beersheba, Ramat Gan, Bat Yam, Holon, Ramla, Petah Tiqva, Rehovot, Bnei Beraq, Nathanya, Yad Chana and other places. These celebrations were attended by thousands of workers who listened to the word of the C. P. I. on the occasion of the 7th of November, brought to them by members of the C. P. I. Central Committee.

Festive Issue of "Kol Ha'am"

A special festive issue of "Kol Ha'am" was dedicated to the Jubilee of the Revolution, on the 7th of November. The pages of Israel's Communist daily, carrying slogans and pictures, published the call of the C. P. I. Central Committee to the working people of Israel on the occasion of the 7th of November. A large number of articles, reports, poems and pictures were dedicated to this great event.

The issue published, i. a., the speech of Com. S. Mikunis, C. P. I. General Secretary, held at the great public meeting in Mograbi Theater, Tel Aviv, - "With the Jubilee of the Revolution", the polemic speech made by Com. Moshe Sneh, Politbureau member, at a public discussion organised in Tel Aviv on the October Revolution, (other speakers were Mapai representatives Y. Gotthelf, editor of the Histadruth daily, and Prof. Hayim Halperin); an article by Politbureau member Com. E. Vilenska on the influence of the October Revolution on the Israeli labour movement (this article is published separately in this Bulletin). The festive issue also contained evaluations and notes by Prof. Eisenstadt, Zirulnikov, Lahav, Feiler, Arad, Teitelbaum, as well as a special article of C. P. I. Politbureau member Y. Silber on the influence of the October Revolution on Germany. The literary section of this issue published i. a. a Hebrew translation of part of Yevtushenko's poem "Regard me as a Communist" a special interview by "Kol Ha'am" with the well-known Israeli poet Nathan Bistrizky, as well as fragments on the October by Ehrenburg, Aragon, John Reed and others.



Mass meeting held by the C.P.I. in honour of the October Jubilee at the Mograbi Theater, Tel Aviv, 3.11.67

MESSAGE OF GREETINGS

To the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

On behalf of the Communist Party of Israel, its Central Committee sent the following telegram to the CC, CPSU :

The Central Committee
 The Communist Party of the Soviet Union
 M o s c o w .

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Great Socialist October Revolution we, the Communist Party of Israel, wish to forward to you, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and through you to the great Soviet people, our heartiest fraternal greetings.

The Great October Revolution has opened a new era in the history of mankind, an era marked by the decline of capitalism and the rise of socialism, by a world-wide struggle for peace and friendship among peoples.

The Great October Revolution denotes the victory of the theory of Marx-Engels-Lenin over revisionism and opportunism in the workers' movement, it became the starting point for the revolutionary changes in the world, for exercising international influence on all revolutionary processes in our period, for the establishment of a world socialist system and the break-down of the colonialist system of imperialism. The banner of the October Revolution has become the banner of struggle of the international workers' movement and all the people in all the world fighting against imperialism and for peace, for the independence of peoples, for democracy and socialism.

Our people will never forget that it was the Soviet Union, who played a decisive role in the defeat of Hitlerism, who saved millions of Jews from being annihilated by the Nazis and who so greatly assisted in the establishment of the State of Israel.

We are firmly convinced that the differences of opinion which have arisen between you and us in connection with the present crisis in the Middle East will not be of long duration and that the Soviet Union will still adopt an attitude of strictly unbiased non-preference for either of the sides engaged in the conflict, thereby clearing the path to a peaceful solution of the problem by means of negotiations and agreement.

Such a solution would frustrate all the plots of imperialism, that seeks to exploit the Israeli-Arab conflict for its own ends and purposes.

At any rate, these differences of opinion did not and will not take away from the high esteem in which we hold the historical achievements of the Soviet Union, and certainly not from our admiration for and adherence to the universal and sublime values of the Great Socialist October Revolution.

On this great day we extend to you and to the heroic Soviet people our heartfelt congratulations, wishing you further successes in your endeavours to build the first communist society in the world, to protect peace in the world, to assist in the struggle of the peoples for national and social liberation.

With Communist greetings
The Communist Party of Israel
The Central Committee

(-) S. Mikunis, General Secretary.

In an article abounding in quotations from various sources published in Palestine in the twenties, Com. Esther Vilenska, member of the C. P. I. Politbureau, stresses the positive influence of the October Revolution on the Palestine proletariat. She writes :

"The October Revolution roused great enthusiasm, warm interest and sympathy among the workers of Palestine. The ideas of the revolution influenced the organisation of cooperative forms of agricultural settlement in this country, the foundation of the General Federation of Labour and the idea of a socialist society in our country, an idea that was adopted by considerable parts of the Palestine labour movement.

One of the expressions of the influence exerted by the Russian revolution on the thoughts of the working people and the intelligentsia in our country were the words of the writer Joseph Chayim Brenner, who said : The victorious October Revolution harbours the hope for the redemption of humanity.

The powerful echos of the waves of stormy resistance to the intervention reached the shores of our country, were a young and small labour movement was getting organised in the twenties.

In 1920, the Hebrew periodical "Kuntress" published in Tel Aviv the excited appeal of the well known French writer Henri Barbusse condemning the military intervention of 14 capitalistic states against the Soviet Republic.

This famous appeal said i. a. : "Only because of the value of the ideological and practical truth and the light spread by Bolshevism, and not because of some hardships of the rule exerted by the Peoples' Commissars - temporary features of every revolution - our enemies inflicted tortures of hell and extermination upon Russia. "

And further on : "Save the truth of the world by saving the truth of Russia. Be sure that future generations will estimate the honest people of our generation as far as these will be raising now their voice in a warning cry : No ! "

The "Kuntress" of 1921 published Lenin's words at the Congress of the Third International : "Soviet Russia relies on the working class and the peasants; the peasants are confronted, from time to time, with the question :

whose discipline to accept, that of the workers or that of the capitalists ? We have requisitioned lands for the peasants from land-owners. The peasants have given in return the crops to the government. Here the common interests of both of us have met - and that is why they supported the Red Army. After seven years of war, hunger, poverty and want, it is imperative to start a great construction work. The Communist Party has brought the bourgeois revolution to its end and has opened the way toward the socialist revolution. We shall advance only if we electrify our country, too."

In the same year, 1921, the appeal of the secretariat of the Executive Council of the Socialist Parties to the workers of the world to help the Soviet workers who were in a state of misery, as a result of the civil war, was published in Palestine in the Hebrew language. This call was the response to the appeal of Maxim Gorky to all the civilised peoples to render help.

"It is the duty of every person to help his brother in distress. A double-fold duty rests upon us, the workers, to save the Russian proletariat from the affliction of hunger and disease" - said this appeal. Furthermore, stressed the appeal of the Socialist Parties' Executive, the dispute with the Russian Communists "has not weakened the strong ties that have been linking us with the Russian proletariat since the days of its struggle against Zarism; it is our holy duty to help it now, in its misery, too. Let every worker extend his help in accordance with his means lest it be too late."

In September 1921, the "Kuntress", having become a weekly, published the appeal of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Federation of Labour to the workers of Palestine to contribute for the Soviet workers who were suffering from civil war. The following is the wording of the appeal :

"Russia is starving. For years, all the enemies of the workers' government have been fighting Russia from inside and from outside, and brought starvation on her. Now, nature too, has joined : Hunger, death and epidemics are exterminating the peoples of Russia. Those who are rejoicing at this disaster, pretend having mercy and coming to help ; they are bringing with them, together with some bread, a sword of revenge and their scheme is to achieve by starvation and "relief" what they did not succeed in achieving until now by their war - against the workers' government. The defeat of Russia foretells a disaster for all the workers of the world, and first of all the people of Israel living in Russia. In the blood of Israel, in pogroms and calamities, in the workers' blood, the new government will be set up in Russia.

Comrades, workers of Palestine, don't be the last to help the star-

ving, The workers of Jaffa have undertaken to contribute on day's work for the benefit of the starving, and all the workers in the country will do the same.

One day's wages for the hunger-stricken workers of Russia ! In two weeks time, all the money must be brought to the Executive Committee to rush it to its destination, because no time must be lost. Remember your duty, the duty of Jewish workers ! "

Signed by the Executive Committee of the General Federation of Jewish Labour in Palestine. This appeal was printed in the "Achdut" Press, Tel Aviv, September 1920. "

Com. Vilenska adds : "This is a document of historical importance that proves that the whole Palestine labour movement was in those fate-ful days of cruel military intervention conscious of the partnership in destiny between Soviet rule and the workers throughout the world, and also between the future of the Jewish people and the future of the Revolution. The value of this document lies also in the appeal launched by the Histadruth Executive Committee for material aid and wide, general public action building a bridge between the workers of Palestine and the workers of the Soviet Union who were struggling to defend the Revolution against its enemies from outside and inside. "

Furthermore, the writer quotes the following excerpts from "Ha'adamah" monthly, from "Davar" and "Kuntress" :

The monthly "Ha'adamah", edited by Joseph Chayim Brenner published in 1923 an impressive description of the common features of the Soviet Republic of 1917 and the Paris Commune of 1871, emphasising that "both were relying on the revolutionary proletariat".

After V. I. Lenin's death, "Kuntress" of 1924 published an inspiring poem under the heading "Toward Moscow", stating i. a. :

"The banners of mourning that have been lowered in Moscow are woven by the faithful workers in all countries. The Hebrew proletarians, on the Hebrew island, turn toward Moscow saluting the funeral of Lenin. "

The fact that the writer of these lines, the poet Uri Zvi Greenberg, is now in the camp of the extreme right-wing, does not belittle the historical value of those words that have been said in 1924 and were at that time an expression of solidarity of the workers of Palestine with the toilers

of the Soviet Union.

An editorial by Berl Katzenelson that appeared in the first issue of the Histadruth daily "Davar" on the 1st of June 1925, writes, i. a. : "In the light of the great revolutionary idea of the world labour movement, the young movement in Israel has been forged and has paved its way, the way of pioneering creation of the workers, the way of unity of the Histadruth that does not cease to deal with little things at a time when its eye and heart are devoted to great things. "

Here remarks E. Vilenska :

"Although the policy of the majority in the leadership of the Federation of Labour did not conform in the past and does not conform at present with the daily and historical interests of the workers, this does not annul the fact, that the great ideas of the October Revolution, which opened a new era of victory of social ownership of the means of production, inspired many in the Palestine labour movement, and this inspiration found its reflection in the new ways of life in workers' settlements, in political activities and in publicistics, in poetry, and prose, in various periods and in various forms. "

At the end of her article, E. Vilenska writes :

"Under the influence of the October Revolution, the Socialist Workers' Party (MPS) was set up in Palestine in 1919. At its Fourth Congress, in 1924, this Party adopted a Communist programme and defined itself as the Palestine Communist Party, at the time acting underground, under the difficult conditions of British occupational rule.

At the founding Congress of the Federation of Labour, held in December 1920 in Haifa, six among the 87 delegates were Communists (members of MPS). A Communist was among the four members of the Presidium of this founding Congress of the Histadruth.

The ideas of the October Revolution exerted their influence on the collective foundations of the kibbutz movement in Palestine, on the cooperative principles of all working class agricultural settlements and on the ideals outlined by the founders of the General Federation of Labour, at their first Congress of 1920 in Haifa, an ideal that set to the Histadruth the aim to lead the struggle of defence and of liberation of the working people and to erect in Palestine a working society freed from class exploitation.

The October Revolution expressed the revolutionary power of the working class and its talent to fulfil its historical mission. The enthusiastic echoes in Palestine, following the greatest among the social revolutions, reflect the universal character of the aspiration for socialism and the deep and vital interest of Israel's people in socialist changes.

Every people will arrive at its October when conditions will become ripe. The Israel labour movement, too, that will strengthen its ranks in the struggle for its daily and historical interests, will carry out socialist changes when the day comes. The toilers of the Soviet Union have brought many sacrifices, being the first who broke through the chain of capitalism. They attained wonderful achievements in their long road, though not without errors. There is every reason to believe, that all the good, the new and the inspiring in the way of the great and victorious October Revolution will help the workers of Israel in their own way toward the revolutionary change of society, toward the rule of the working class, toward social ownership of all elementary means of production, toward the cessation of class exploitation and national oppression, toward the victory of socialism in our homeland, Israel."

THE 21st SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST
PARTY OF ISRAEL

On the 15th of October 1967, the 21st Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, wound up its discussion. Members of the Central Control Commission participated in the debate. The meetings of this session were presided over by the Comrades P. Tubin and R. Kaminer.

The General Secretary, Com. S. Mikunis, reported on the political situation and the activities of the Party. Nineteen members took part in the extensive debate, which was wound up by the lecturer. The Central Committee approved the report and the summary, and adopted the following resolutions : -

1. TO SAFEGUARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In the situation created following the Six Day War, the Central Committee of the C. P. I. holds the foremost national and international duty to safeguard peace and security in the Middle East through negotiations and a peace treaty between Israel and the Arab states, to be based on mutual recognition of the legitimate rights of all peoples concerned, and that will draw up agreed permanent borders to replace the temporary cease-fire lines.

The Central Committee rejects the demand made by the Arab governments and their supporters that Israel must unconditionally withdraw from the territories she holds, because this would mean restoring the status quo ante that caused the Six Day War, which entailed a blockade by land and sea and threats of extermination and restoring the situation that - in view of the Arab non-recognition of Israel's right to exist - bears the danger of a new war.

The Central Committee of the C. P. I. rejects the slogan of annexing the conquered territories that has been advocated in Israel by various public personalities and groups, among them government ministers. An arbitrary annexation of the territories conquered by the Israeli Defence

Army in the war of defence runs counter to the cause of peace that is vital to the Israeli and Arab peoples alike and is liable to trigger off a war of revenge on the part of the Arab states when the time is opportune. Moreover, the slogan of annexation sows chauvinist and anti-democratic trends of thought among the public and the youth.

The Central Committee demands that the government of Israel explicitly and authoritatively declare its readiness, within the framework of peace treaties and security settlements with the Arab states, to annul the territorial conquests and replace them by agreed permanent borders that are to be drawn up in peace treaties without dictates and without surrender.

The Central Committee again declares its view that the government of Israel would be taking decisive step towards peace, if it declared its preparedness to negotiate with a democratic representation of the Palestine Arab people in the Israel-held territories with regard to all problems that must be solved between the two peoples, the relations between them to be based on peaceful co-existence and the right of self-determination.

The Central Committee firmly rejects the trend constituting the basis of the resolutions adopted at the Khartoum Conference - i. e. to separate the solution of the armed conflict of June 1967 from the solution of the Israel-Arab conflict in general, for this would mean liquidating the results of the Six-Day War without liquidating its causes. The Khartoum resolution saying "no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel, no peace with Israel" is in flagrant contradiction to the international principles of peaceful co-existence and of the right to independent national existence of all peoples.

The Central Committee of the C. P. I. regards the continuation of the hostile relations between the Arab states and Israel as a danger to regional and world peace that is being exploited for the selfish interests of imperialism, mainly American imperialism. On the contrary, for the sake of the security and independence of the peoples, for the sake of their liberation from the dependence on imperialism - mutual agreement and understanding are needed between the peoples, as well as mutual recognition of their just national rights. The Central Committee therefore calls upon the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, for the cause of peace in the Middle East and for the benefit of the anti-imperialistic struggle in this region - to replace its one-sided stand supporting the nationalist anti-Israeli Arab front by an all-round approach toward the Israeli-Arab problem and to exert its influence for negotiations, agreement and peace between the two sides, in accordance with the general principles of Soviet foreign policy that were formulated in the Soviet Foreign Ministry statement on the Middle East of the April 17, 1956, and in other Soviet declarations,

2. THE TREATMENT OF THE ARAB POPULATION IN THE TERRITORIES HELD BY ISRAEL - AND THE PROBLEM OF THE TERROR

The Central Committee of the C. P. I., raises its voice against every violation of the right, the dignity and the property of the Arab population in the Israel-held territories, as a community and as individuals.

The Central Committee condemns the acts and the attempts of sabotage and murder perpetrated by "Al Fatah" and other terrorist organisations in the cities, villages and on the roads of Israel. This terrorist activity is a violation of the cease-fire agreement on the part of those Arab governments that are lending a hand in any way whatever to the terrorist activities of irregular armed forces against Israel. A special responsibility rests with those Arab governments that - even in contradiction to the Khartoum Conference - are demanding an uninterrupted continuation of the war against Israel, for the time being by means of guerilla warfare.

In any case, the peaceful Arab population in the Israel-held territories as a whole must not be held responsible for the acts of terror. That is why the Israel Communist Party has protested against every case of employing the method of collective punishment with regard to the Arab population (destruction of houses and similar acts) and the Party now demands that the Government completely abandon this wrong method.

To counter the voices that are calling for a "campaign to capture Damascus" and similar ventures, an international political campaign must be conducted against the Arab governments which bear the responsibility for terrorism; the nests of terror must be forcefully liquidated, while taking care not to harm innocent people and respecting and safeguarding the equality of the Arab population as a whole, safeguarding its democratic rights, seeing to the provision of its public services, keeping up the return of the refugees of 1967 and starting the rehabilitation of the refugees of 1948. These are the lines according to which the government of Israel must act in order to silence terrorist activities and to improve the atmosphere and the relations between Jews and Arabs.

3. THE SITUATION IN THE ISRAEL LABOUR MOVEMENT

The Central Committee of the C. P. I. states, that, faced with the continued campaign of the employers and the government to freeze wages, to raise working norms, to worsen social conditions, to violate the rights of the workers in general, the leadership of the Histadruth (Israel Federation of Labour) is continuing the line of giving way to the

pressure of the capitalists and to government policy. The partial and local struggles of the workers for their vital interests deserve appreciation and support by the whole working people, but they are not followed up by the necessary initiative and encouragement on the part of the Histadrut organs. In this situation, the Central Committee calls on all the workers to close their ranks and intensify the class struggle for work for all who demand it, for the preservation of the social gains, and for a decent living standard of the working class in Israel.

The C. P. I. upholds the principle of the unity of the working class, of a united front of the labour parties in Israel to safeguard the national and class interests - for the defence of peace, democracy and the workers' rights, for the socialist future of Israel.

The Central Committee regards the absence of such a platform as the deeper reason of the failure to unite Mapai with Rafi and Achdut Ha'avodah Parties. The Central Committee regards the absence of a platform with a true socialist content as sufficient grounds for Mapam to abstain from joining a union of an alignment with the social-democratic right-wing parties. The C. C. regards as a vital and urgent need the establishment of the unity of the labour Left through cooperation between Mapam, the Communist Party and other left-wing groups, which would bring nearer the complete unity of the Israel labour movement for full national and social liberation.

4. THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION

In accordance with the 15th Plenary Session (April 1967), the C. C. resolves that the Communist Party of Israel will mark the 50th anniversary of the Great Socialist October Revolution with popular meetings, study-days and similar events. Moreover, the biography of V. I. Lenin, the genius of the proletarian revolution, will be published in Hebrew translation.

With regard to the fact that the C. P. I. was not invited by the Central Committee of the C. P. S. U. to the Jubilee Celebrations of the Great October in Moscow, the Central Committee of the C. P. I. finds it necessary to remark that :

a) The differences of opinion between the C. P. I. and the C. P. S. U. over the present crisis in the Middle East do not justify the non-invitation, just as very broad differences of opinion between the C. P. S. U. and other parties did not prevent their being invited to the joint celebration of this historical event ;

b) Even the split in the ranks of the Communists in Israel does not justify the non-invitation, because the principle of equality and mutual non-inter-vention that is agreed upon in the international Communist movement should be binding upon the Central Committee of the C. P. S. U. to approach the two Communist organisations in Israel equally.

Together with these remarks concerning the attitude of the Central Committee of the C. P. S. U. , the Central Committe of the C. P. I. empha- sises that neither the present wrong Soviet policy toward Israel nor the dis- crimination against the Communist Party of Israel will influence our high appreciation of the historical achievement of the Soviet Union, nor our allegiance to the noble universal values of the Great Socialist October Revolution.

5. SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM

The C. C. of the C. P. I. expresses its firm protest in view of the in- creased aggression of American imperialism in Vietnam, that is shedding the blood of the Vietnamese people in the North and in the South, is destroying its country and is violating its freedom and aspirations for unity, and is endangering peace in the Far East and the whole world.

The Central Committee adds its voice to the call of peace-loving forces all over the world, including the United States itself, to put an end to the air-raids on the Vietnam Democratic Republic, and to open the way to- wards negotiations for a just peaceful solution of the problem of Vietnam in accordance with the agreement of the Geneva Conference of 1954.

The Central Committee calls upon the members of the Party and of the Young Communist League, sympathisers and all supporters of peace and freedom in Israel, to take part in the activities to be held on the Day of Solidarity with the Vietnamese people (21st of October 1967).

6. TO ENSURE THE APPEARANCE OF THE DAILY "KOL HA'AM"

The Central Committee approved the cuts in the budget of the Party press proposed by the Political Bureau, so as to ensure the continued appearance of the daily "Kol Ha'am" in the year 1967/68.

The Central Committee calls upon all members and sympathisers to increase their activity for the distribution of "Kol Ha'am" and the Party periodicals, for the completion of the fund drive of the C. P. I.

7. ALLOCATION OF DUTIES

The Plenary Session elected Com. Yair Tsaban to the Secretariat of the Central Committee.

The Session also appointed the heads of departments of the Central Committee for the coming period.

The report of Cde. S. Mikunis, General Secretary of the CC, will be published in the next number of our Information Bulletin.

C. P. I. MOTION WINDING UP THE POLITICAL DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT

On the 13. 11. 67, the Knesset (Israel parliament) wound up the political debate that was opened two weeks earlier.

As summary of this debate, Com. Shmu'el Mikunis, C. P. I. General Secretary, tabled the following motion :

1. The Knesset regards the careful observation of the cease-fire by all parties concerned as a preliminary possibility of an advance towards peace and demands that the government take efficient political initiatives for such an advance.
2. The Knesset demands that the government explicitly and authentically announce, that within the framework of a peace treaty and security arrangements between Israel and the Arab countries, that will safeguard the legitimate rights of both sides and will fix agreed borderlines, the Israel government will be prepared to annul the territorial conquests.
3. The Knesset demands that the government safeguard the civil rights, the economic and cultural interests of the Palestine Arab people in the Israel-held territories, and, while eliminating the nests of terrorist groups, will abstain from collective punishment inflicting damage to the peaceful and innocent population and rousing among them justified indignation.
4. The Knesset demands that the government inform the Palestine Arab people in the Western Bank and the Gaza Strip of its readiness to secure their right to self-determination and to open talks with their own elected democratic representatives, so as to solve - without dictate on the one hand and without surrender on the other hand - all the prob-

lems pending between both peoples, jointly and by agreement, including the problem of rehabilitation of the refugees, for the benefit of peace and national independence, for the best of the legitimate rights of both parties.

5. The Knesset appeals to all main international factors to exert their full influence for peace in the Middle East, for the interest of peace of the peoples of Israel and the Arab countries for putting out the fire of war inherent in the Israel-Arab conflict and for achieving peace between them to be based on the legitimate rights of Israel and the Arab peoples alike. "

ALWAYS FIRST ON THE ROAD TO SPACE CONQUEST

"To every new station on the road to space conquest, the Soviet Union arrives first" - wrote the daily organ of C.P.I., "Kol Ha'am", on 27.10.67 in an article of praise of the wonderful Soviet conquest - the landing of "Venus 4" in the planet Venus.

The newspaper enumerated one after the other Soviet space achievements and wrote : -

"Once again Soviet science, Soviet technical know-how and above all the Soviet man, have achieved a new peak in the campaign to conquer the cosmos by the human race and for its benefit. The successful flight to its goal along a path of 320 million kilometres, the successful and exact parachuting of the laboratory, the success of research and broadcasting from the laboratory to earth - this is conclusive evidence of the enormous knowledge, of the tremendous ability of the Soviet Union. Only by virtue of the supremacy of the Socialist regime over the capitalist is it possible to explain the lead over the U. S. A. which the land of the Soviets has attained in the race of penetration into cosmic space, in which almost all branches of science and technical knowledge of civilization of today are involved. Whilst in the actual launching of man into cosmos, by overcoming legendary distances, by attaining knowledge concerning cosmic bodies - lies a great victory for the scientific world-outlook, the materialistic dialectic viewpoint, according to which the environment is knowable, and indeed human understanding progresses constantly from the unknown to that which is known, from partial and defective knowledge to a fuller and more complete knowledge. "

The organ of C.P.I. concluded by a message of congratulation :

"We heartily congratulate the Soviet people for their achievement and express our esteem for their venerable sons who are opening to humanity the road to the planets. "

A special editorial was published by the C.P.I. daily organ "Kol Ha'am" of 20. 9. 67 on the occasion of the election of the Rumanian Foreign Minister C. Manescu, as president of the 22nd Assembly of the United Nations Organisation. The newspaper wrote, i. a. :

"This is an event of great importance. For the first time, the representative of a socialist state has been elected to this high post.

Socialist Rumania was justly awarded this honor that bestows upon her representative at the U.N.O. also a great responsibility. She found the way to keep good relations also with capitalist states as well as with neutralist states. Bukarest maintains orderly relations with Moscow and Peking, with Paris and Washington, with Cairo and Tel Aviv, and so on. Socialist Rumania has developed economic relations with many countries and has defended the principle of indiscriminate trade relations that are not subject to political conditions.

Socialist Rumania has greatly contributed to the solution of international problems by way of cooperation between all countries. She took a firm stand in defending peace, security and the rights of the peoples. The Rumanian government has not once emphasized its solidarity with the heroic struggle of the people of Vietnam and all the peoples fighting for freedom and independence."

The organ of the Communist Party quoted the General Secretary of the Rumanian Communist Party N. Ceaucescu, referring to the Middle East crisis :

"Rumania has no special interest whatsoever in the Middle East. . . We are friends of the Arab peoples and we always emphasized the solidarity and our support of their aspiration for national unity, social and economic progress, for national independence. . . and at the same time we frankly told our Arab friends that we do not understand the attitude of the circles that are advocating the liquidation of the State of Israel. "

And the C.P.I. daily writes at the end of its editorial :

"The attitude of Rumania toward the Israel-Arab conflict was received with appreciation by wide public circles in Israel.

The election of the Rumanian Foreign Minister to the high post is an act of appreciation for the peace-loving policy of the Rumanian Socialist Republic."



Many festive meetings were held in Israel's cities on the occasion of the 23rd of August, the National Day of the Rumanian Socialist Republic. The Communist "Kol Ha'am" and other newspapers published on that day articles and reports on this subject, expressing their appreciation of Rumanian policy and attitudes.

CONDEMNING THE ASSAULT ON MEIR VILNER

On the 15th of October 1967, an assault was committed on the N.C.L. Knesset member Meir Vilner; he was stabbed in his back and brought wounded into the hospital. On the 16th of October, the C.P.I. Daily "Kol Ha'am" published an editorial severely condemning the crime. The article says :

"The assault against the Knesset member Meir Vilner, one of the N.C.L. leaders, is a criminal and foolish act.

A crime is the violent attack against a person because of the views he represents, whatever they are. Personal terror against political opponents is a disqualified method that is unbearable in an orderly society, and no reason or motive can alter the criminal character of the act of terror.

Foolish is the "reason" given by the assailant, that he intended to express "his protest and pain against the situation of the Jews of Russia". As a matter of fact, the attempted assault will serve all those who recently have been so much slandering Israel as a further pretext of false accusations claiming that the N.C.L. is persecuted and the life of its leaders is in danger. Israel's democracy allows the N.C.L., like every party, legal existence, and the assault against one of its leaders is an exceptional incident that, we hope, will never occur again.

The investigation that has started already yesterday night, must state if anybody has stood behind the assailant, or if he acted on his own - and a just sentence must end this prohibitive act."



The whole press of Israel condemned the assault the day after it occurred. Minister Galili also condemned the crime on behalf of the Israel government.

S. Mikunis demands maximum charge against M. Vilner's attacker

The Secretary General of C. P. I. and Member of Knesset, S. Mikunis, directed on 23. 10. 67 to the Minister of Police an interpellation demanding maximum charge against the man who stabbed the N. C. L. leader, Meir Vilner. Mikunis' interpellation states : -

"The criminal attack on Member of Knesset, M. Vilner was condemned by the entire Israeli press and by the Government representative Minister Galili as a severe phenomenon, which contradicts the democratic institutions of Israeli society and is dangerous to free expression of opinion.

The Israeli society rejects the use of violence in public discussion and in settling differences of opinion, it opposes hooliganism as a means of solving differences between the various parts of the public or between person and person.

As was said in the press, the police is charging the suspect with causing bodily harm, whilst the circumstances attending the attack show that it was an attempt of murder.

I, therefore request the Minister to instruct the police authorities under his authority to change the charge accordingly" - concluded M. K. S. Mikunis his interpellation.

In this context we bring M. Sneh's, member of the political Bureau of C. P. I., comments in a lecture in Haifa on 27. 10. Speaking on the attack on Meir Vilner, he said :

"We reject police and legal methods of prohibition and oppression against any Party whatsoever, including N. C. L.; we oppose hooliganism against political opponents of any kind, and we were the first to condemn categorically this criminal and base attack on M. K. M. Vilner, which was in fact an attack upon Israeli democracy and upon the good name of Israel. However, even this regrettable act will not deter us from carrying on the ideological and political struggle against N. C. L. " stressed M. Sneh, in face of the chantage that appeared in "Zu Haderech" organ of N. C. L., as if the polemics of C. P. I. with N. C. L. have something to do with the atmosphere in which the attack was carried out.

"The atmosphere of revulsion towards N. C. L. , which prevails amongst the Israeli public, is a result of the disgusting position and line of N. C. L. leaders themselves and let them not blame others for it. "

A few days later the charge was indeed changed and the suspect will be charged with attempted murder.

It was also stated that he will not be released on bail but will remain in prison until the trial and its completion.

DO YOU KNOW ?

CLOSE TO A MILLION MEMBERS IN THE HISTADRUTH

970 thousand members are organised in the Histadruth (the General Federation of Labour in Israel), of which dues payers number 665 thousand and members' wives 280 thousand. There are 31 thousand dues paying members in the Working Youth Section of the Histadruth. According to estimates, after deducting dropouts, for 6 months of this year, the general figure of Histadruth members (including Working Youth) will be at the end of 1967 - 982 thousand.

HARVEST WORKERS AGAINST THE RISE OF NORMS

About 40 thousands workers in Israel are employed each year in picking and packing the citrus harvest. Each year the employers and their organisation as well as the Institute for Labour Productivity plot devices for increased exploitation of the workers. Towards the present citrus season they wanted to increase citrus picking norms by no less and no more than 70 to 150 percent.

A conference of agricultural Workers Committees and secretaries of Workers Councils was convened in the light of this intrigue and unanimously adopted the position of the Agricultural Center's bodies to absolutely reject the conclusions of the Institute for Labour Productivity regarding the rise of norms. Most of the conference participants demanded a return to harvesting on a daily wage basis, and ensuring the agricultural labourers' wages and working conditions.

The C. P. I. representative, Eliezer Feiler, demanded that the Histadruth and its institutions support the agricultural labourers.

E. Feiler, a member of the Central Committee of the C. P. I., said *inter alia* :

"We are united in evaluating the conclusions of the Institute and on the need to reject them and from now on to return to work on a daily basis". The "original sin" was unqualified support of the norms-system by the Histadruth, without educating the worker to look after his rights - to a meal-break, to preserve his strength for later years, etc.

"The raising of norms without raising wages means lowering the wage" - warned Feiler - and it should be made clear that even when norms are raised in a certain branch owing to technical or other modifications, the workers are entitled to a share in the additional income, meaning, a wage rise !

Such a declaration would curb the intense desire of the orange-growers to raise norms. "

E. Feiler pointed out that about 50% of the orange growers belong to the Histadruth Sector and if this sector will insist, together with the workers, that present norms be kept - we shall succeed in pushing back the attack of the Farmers Association.

THE SLUMS CANNOT WAIT FOR THE MESSIAH...

Com. P. Tubin, member of the C. P. I. Central Committee and head of its Municipal Department, published in "Kol Ha'am" of 22.8.67 instructive facts regarding the slums and their hardships. We read there, i. a. :

"There is no government and no municipality, and the Tel Aviv Municipality more than others, that would not promise the liquidation of all slums on the eve of elections, general or municipal. But after the elections all promises sink down, like plumb to the bottom of the sea.

For instance, last August, the "Ofer Plan" for the liquidation of slums was brought before the Tel Aviv Municipal Council, and was unanimously approved. In the same month, the Israel Minister of Housing returning from a visit to England, France and Belgium, declared : In these countries, like in other European countries, housing is not a business or an economic investment, but a public service to all who need it. Here, too, the government must provide its citizens with housing and domiciles, just as it must do in the spheres of health and education. "

At the same time, the Israel Ministry of Housing discussed a programme involving an investment of 66 million Israel pounds. Its main object was declared to be the "liquidation of slums".

What was the fate of these plans ? The organisation of the Slums Committees was not enthusiastic about the four years programme adopted by the Tel Aviv Municipality. The organisation certainly welcomed the decision as such to solve the problem of the slums within four years, but similar previous plans had brought no final solution, because since 1961 only 5,000 families had been settled in alternative domiciles, and these were the economically better situated. The remaining 25,000 families have no financial means at all.

Justified is, therefore, the demand of the organisation, that persons with low income should be given flats at a low rent. These families should not be forced to purchase the flat. But the main complaint of the organisation is and was, that according to the "Ofer Plan" some of the slum-dwellers will have to wait 25 years and more until their housing problem would be settled. Even Tel Aviv's Deputy Mayor, Ofer, admitted once that "the Four Year Plan is a drop in the sea". The question is : Can anybody in the government or in the Tel Aviv Municipality imagine that tens of thousands of families who are living in shaky buildings, terribly crowded and lacking proper hygienic facilities - in conditions that are a grave calamity to these inhabitants and especially to their children - is it thinkable that these residents can wait any longer ?

Letters of warning do not solve the danger

I have before me a letter that has been sent some time ago to Malka Binetzky signed by Deputy Mayor Y. Rabinovitz, reading as follows :

" Re. : Dangerous building in Shabazi Street No. 24.

On the 21.4.67, the Town Engineer has certified that the above building is in a condition constituting an immediate danger to the inhabitants of the house and to the public. I therefore give order, with the approval of the District Officer, to close the area immediately."

There are many such dangerous buildings and the Tel Aviv Municipality's duty is not to be satisfied by dispatching warning letters to the dwellers and charging them with the responsibility. The responsibility rests with the Municipality which must transfer these dwellers immediately to alternative flats. The Municipality must know that the citizens residing in dangerous buildings are not doing so for pleasure, but for lack of means.

The Organisation of Slum Committees has called upon the government and the Municipality to take urgent steps so as to solve the problem of human living conditions and resettlement of the slum-dwellers. This human appeal must be complied with ! "

WHO WILL DEFEND THE ARTISANS ?

An instructive article on the situation of Israel's artisans and their problems was published by N. Pariser in "Kol Ha'am" of 22. 9. 67.

"Speaking about the problems of artisans in Israel, it must be remembered that there exist 40,000 workshops in the country, employing over hundred thousand persons, including the wage-earners.

Orders - the big unknown

The artisans have two main problems. Firstly, orders. The economic recession has severely hit the artisans, whose products are almost solely destined for the local market. The tens of thousands of fully and partially unemployed are forced to restrict their spendings to a bare minimum, which excludes, in the first instance, items manufactured by the small workshops.

There is no owner of a workshop whose daily earnings are certain and secured. Visiting at the end of the summer season the workshops belonging to small manufacturers, it was evident, that those dependent on orders from big factories - which are a great many of Israel's artisans - were still eagerly waiting for the "seasonal work". An owner of a workshop in the tricotage line, whose only help is his wife, told me : "Every year, at this time of the season we used to have many orders, not only the normal work, but shops were already bringing in their orders for the winter season. Today, it is not yet known what will be needed. " A similar situation exists also in the shoe branch and in other branches of industry.

Slips in all colors

If you start talking with any artisan on the subject of taxes, he will present before you at once a volumous parcel of papers in various colors. It is known, that the tax offices use to dispatch notes in colors culminating in the "red slips" warning that your property is "before requisition". This means that in another few days they will come to requisition the goods' or the machine in your workshop. . .

But the most important problem is the manner how the tax payable to the artisan is calculated by the tax office. This reflects the policy of taxation employed against the small manufacturers.

Sometimes you find a craftsman who has worked in his trade when he was still in Poland. He will tell you, that despite the reactionary and anti-Jewish policy of taxation of the pro-war Polish government, there was some criterion. The tax payable by the artisan was not "estimated" by the arbitrary opinion of this or that official. There was a so-called "method of patents" according to categories, especially when the craftsman was working alone or with a member of his family, in which case he was almost exempted from taxation. When I was talking recently with the artisan Z., who is working alone - with no help at all, not even his wife - he showed me that they demand him to pay 7.000 IL. taxes for the last three years. When he received the "red slip" he was afraid of requisition and therefore brought to the tax office several hundred pounds he had borrowed, as an advance payment. He was told by the tax officer: "This amount is not even the interest we charge you. These few hundred pounds will not solve the question. . ." "That is why I do not pay at all - says the artisan - let them do what they like."

So it appears, that the artisan is dependent on the goodwill of the tax officer, and the worst and most deplorable fact is that nobody defends him.

Every artisan will tell you how the representatives of the "Association of Artisans" are "protecting" the small, the poor or the medium craftsman. If he wants to protect himself against excessive taxation, the only choice he has is the court a procedure which involves lawyers' fees and many expenses. Finally, many dozens of artisans were forced to liquidate their workshops as a result of the government's taxation policy. If we add to this municipal taxes, business tax and other heavy taxes, in addition to the high tenancy fees which the artisan is forced to pay, we can imagine how hard is the burden resting on the average craftsman in Israel.

No doubt, as in the past the artisans will find the ways of organised struggle against the policy that is the source of their hardships. It is obvious that only through an alliance with the working class fighting for human living conditions, leads the way of the artisans who want a necessary change in their working and living standards.

ACTIVITIES :

MASS MEETING OF THE YOUNG GENERATION

Hundreds of youth took part in excursions, sport competitions, games and a picnic in the woods of Ben-Shemen, organised by the young generation of the C. P. of Israel.

The first speaker in this mass meeting was Dani Peter, member of the Secretariat of the Communist Youth League of Israel and member of the C. P. I. Central Committee, who said, i. a. :

"The Six Day War - however justified it was - did not abolish the fundamental contradictions of Israeli society - the contradictions of a capitalist society with its national and class antagonisms. On the other hand, the mistakes made by leaders of socialist countries - however grave they be - can not abolish the fundamental features of our time, of our century - the world-wide transition from capitalism to socialism".

Analyzing the balance of forces in Israel, he said :

"The right-wing in Israeli society is now pulling strongly and when the rope is pulled to the right, a left-hand pag is needed that must halt and stand fast, must outline a programme of peace in our region and must stand in the struggle for bread, for the democratic-moral character of Israel and of Palestine - for the Jews and the Arabs who live here. "

Com. M. Sneh, Politbureau member, who brought the message of the C. P. I. Central Committee to the young generation, analyzed Israel's struggles on the home front and outside. :

"In the 20th year after the establishment of the State, our national aim is to conquer peace; and the question of territory is subject to the cause of peace - and not vice versa. "

..." Our historical truth says : A persecuted and bereaved people is building its home in its renewed homeland and is reviving here its national life - and not a conquering people oppressing other peoples. Our history calls for faithful aspiration for peace with the Arab peoples, and moreover - for Jewish-Arab equality, Jewish-Arab brotherhood, for Israel-Arab cooperation and mutual aid. Not superiority and domination, nor nihilism and assimilation - but Jewish national independence and a peaceful alliance with the neighbouring peoples.

Hence also our approach to the present-day problems. We are against the simplified and frivolous answers from both poles. We are against the version "No liberated territory must be returned", because the aspiration, for annexations is incompatible with our aspirations for peace. We also reject the opposite version demanding "immediate evacuation of all territories held by Israel", because a withdrawal without peace invites the renewal of the siege, the blockade and the threat of destruction, and it might bring a new war. Our own version is not intended to please anybody, neither in Israel nor abroad, but to show the correct way to a solution : In a mutual peace treaty permanent borders will be fixed, the temporary conquests of war will be annulled and the retreat to agreed peaceful borders is no retreat at all, but an advance, Israel-Arab peace will serve as a stimulating factor to promote the peoples of the region toward development and prosperity, to economic and cultural welfare, to independence of imperialism, to socialist changes."

ISRAEL ANTI-NAZI FIGHTERS DEMAND BAN ON NEO-NAZI ACTIVITIES

After the success achieved by the neo-Nazi Party in the elections in the State of Bremen and in view of the danger of the revival of neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism in the Bonn Republic, the Organisation of anti-Nazi Fighters in Israel published on the 10th of Oct. 1967 a communiqué analyzing the significance of the N. P. D. victory in the Bremen elections. The communiqué concludes :

"In our opinion, the opinion of anti-Nazi fighters and victims of Nazism in Israel, we must not cease to demand that the government of the German Federal Republic ban completely the legal activity of the N. P. D., of the many dozens of S. S. - , Nazi - and militaristic organisations acting in West Germany in West Germany, and their organs. Humanity must prevent in time the danger of the revival of Nazism and anti-Semitism and of a return to the age of Hitler's Third Reich. This is our duty - the duty of the fighters and victims in Israel, whose blood and that of millions of our people and other peoples has been shed on the altar of nazi-fascist rule. This is the duty of all peaceful and freedom-loving peoples in the world" - concludes the communiqué.

The C. P. I. organ "Kol Ha'am" wrote on 3. 10. 67 an editorial on the same subject, pointing out :

"This is a grave danger and a source of concern first of all to the Jewish people, the first victim of the Nazi monster that has exterminated six millions of our brothers and sisters. It is forbidden to belittle the danger. The German people must make all efforts to raise from its ranks the healthy forces that are to set up a barrier against the growing Nazi threat and to bar its way. The democratic and peace-loving forces must keep constant vigilance to curb this danger. The people of Israel and the Jewish people must close its ranks and voice its demand and warning : Nazism shall not pass and shall not threaten again the peace of our people and of the whole world. It is the duty of the Israeli government to cease the appeasement with the Reich of Bonn and to give an expression to the will and the anti-Nazi struggle of the people."

VETERANS OF THE MOVEMENT SUPPORT C. P. I.

"The attitude of the Communist Party of Israel (C. P. I.) is correct and deserves to be supported by all and especially by those who have devoted all their strength in the struggle over a period of many years for the ideas of Marx, Engels and Lenin" - was stated in the resolutions adopted by a conference of active veterans of the Communist Movement, which took place in the middle of October in Tel Aviv.

The conference, which was attended by about 50 past active members, residing in Tel Aviv and its surroundings, and who originate from Poland, was addressed by Berl Balti, member of the Political Bureau of C. P. I., on the political situation in the country and on the perspectives and tasks which confront the people in finding a peaceful solution to the problems of the Middle East.

The lecture was followed by an extensive discussion in which 12 members took part, amongst them well-known leaders, past political prisoners, fighters in the Spanish war and partisans. All the participants expressed their support of the correct position of C. P. I.

On the conclusion of the discussion and after a summary by the lecturers a number of resolutions were adopted in which mention was made of the establishment of the State of Israel, its just War of Liberation in 1948 and its war of defence in June 1967.

Those who assembled have also resolved to organize themselves alongside the C. P. I. and to offer it every assistance in its activities. They have undertaken especially to organize activities amongst Yiddish speaking persons and to explain widely the C. P. I. line in its struggle for peace amongst the peoples of the area and against the inconsistent line of the Israel government in this respect. The conference ended by electing a committee of action numbering nine members.

INTERESTING FACTS

- ★ The total expenses for housing amount in Israel to 25% of the annual income of a family - a higher rate than the general world average. This figure is based on resarches on mortgage credits in Israel carried out for the Ministry of Housing by S. Zarhi and Dr. A. Sheskin. The maximum expenses on rented flats amount to 16% of the family budget.
- ★ The achievements of Israel in the social integration of immigrants and the establishment of well developed social services, have gained much appreciation and roused interest at the first regional congress for social services in the Asian countries, held in Bangkok. Following these impressive achievements attained by Israel, the second regional congress will probably take place in our country.
- ★ 12,000 students will study this year at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem; 8,000 at the University of Tel Aviv; 2,000 at the Haifa University and 7000 at the Haifa Technical College.

B. BALTI ON THE MILANO SYMPOSIUM ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Comrade B. Balti, member of the Political Bureau of C. P. I., participated at the end of October in a symposium which was held in Milano, Italy, on the subject : "Problems and Prospects of the Left in the Middle East in face of the Arab-Israeli conflict".

On his return to Israel Comrade Balti told us :

The symposium was organized by the "Culture House" in Milano in cooperation with the Jewish membership and members of Left parties in Italy. The object of the symposium was to determine what left parties should do in order to alleviate tension and establish peace in the Middle East.

The deliberations were opened by Professor Gianpaolo Calchi Novati of the Pavia University; Doctor Luca Pavolini, Editor of "Rinascita", and Engineer Enrico Tedeschi, representative of the Jewish community, members of left parties.

Scores of people participated in the symposium, amongst them representatives from abroad, members of Parliament, journalists and public personalities. Hundreds of visitors from Milan, Torino, Rome and other Italian cities attended the discussions. A group of Syrian students, who study in Italy, also participated.

In answer to a question on the importance of the symposium, Comrade Balti stated :

It was a democratic debate on a painful problem in which various and even opposed points of view were expressed. The Italian public heard, for the first time, the programs of the Israeli Left Parties for a solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Great importance should be ascribed to the active role of the Jewish members of left parties in Italy, who appeared in support of the left forces in Israel in their struggle for the right of Israel's existence and for a just peace solution of the conflict. This grouping, which is made up of Communists, Socialists and Left Socialists, succeeded in overcoming differences of opinion and to draft a common position in the light of the fundamental problems of the conflict. It is significant that members of the grouping are consistent in their position - a position of solidarity with the progressive forces in Israel.

The participation of the Syrian student representation was also of a certain importance. In their extreme nationalist attitude they made clear the depth of the Israeli-Arab conflict, as well as the role of the Arab side of the conflict. Participants of the Symposium did not accept the opinions voiced by the Syrian representative who sees Israel as "a foreign body" in the Middle East and demands of Israeli Jews to emigrate from their country.

Italian journalists who have visited Israel and who took part in the discussions generally gave a faithful picture of events and of the general problems in Israel.

The deliberations at the "House of Culture" contributed towards more authoritative and more objective information on what is happening in our area, prevailing amongst important circles of Italian public opinion.

With regard to the participation of representatives from Israel at the symposium, Comrade Balti said :

The address of the Left Socialist Party (Mapam) representative, S. Flapan, outlining the peace-program of his Party, was attentively received. Various speakers including members of the "Jewish grouping" questioned the participation of Mapam in the Israel Government.

The address of M. Barzilai - Nof, N. C. L. representative, aroused astonishment and feelings of indignation. He expressed agreement with the Syrian representative, he slandered Israel making the allegation that there are in existence in the country emergency Nazi laws and Nazi concentration camps. . . In his opinion, there is absolutely no left in Israel except his Party; C. P. I. is "a criminal band" and the Left Socialist Party (Mapam) is not a Left Party for it. . . was the initiator of the attack on Syria.

His speech caused the chairman, summarising the discussion on behalf of the grouping, to describe his speech as unsuitable for public discussion.

Comrade Balti adds, that in his opinion the appearance of the N. C. L. representative helped make clear to those present and to the public in general the differences of opinion and attitude which exist between the C. P. I. and the N. C. L.

In reply to another question Comrade Balti said :

In my own speech I stressed the following main points : the causes of the present crisis in the Middle East; the facts and the falsehoods about the Six Day War; the steps taken by CPI to prevent the war; the repugnant attitude of the C. P. of China to the Israeli-Arab conflict and the necessity of a peaceful solution. I dwelt on the anti-imperialist perspective in the area and in this respect I said :

We are convinced that Israel can play an important role in the anti-imperialist struggle, but in order to secure the participation of the people of Israel in this struggle, it is necessary to give them an anti-imperialist perspective. But if in the name of such a perspective, one refuses to recognize the rights of existence of Israel and if in the name of such a perspective one puts forward definite intentions of destroying Israel - all of which is indeed a fundamental distortion - is it a wonder that the anti-imperialist forces in Israel are weak ?

Our Party holds that it is the supreme duty of the anti-imperialist camp to work out an Israeli-Arab peace plan, based on the right of existence of the nations, Arab and Jewish. Only through such a perspective, by adopting a clear-cut position in this respect, can conditions be created for true understanding between the two sides.

The hoped - for negotiations must be of a kind that will put an end to the conflict and result in the June War being the last war between Israel and the Arab-countries. Towards this end we ask the assistance of all democratic forces in the world and we solemnly declare our determination to continue our political struggle in order that a permanent and a just peace shall prevail in the Middle East.

Comrade Balti summarized his talk saying : It was announced in Milan that the round table talks are to be continued : I consider this both necessary and positive for the left forces both in Israel and in the Arab countries and in other countries as well.

The progressive public in Israel welcomed as its guest the editor of the progressive American Yiddish-language paper "Morgen Freiheit", Comrade P. Novik.

On his arrival in Israel, the distinguished guest declared to the journalists :

"Since 20 years we have declared at every opportunity that the State of Israel was born to live and to exist. This slogan has guided us also during the Six Day War in June 1967. We are fighting against every racism and against anti-Semitism, against chauvinistic revelations from any side whatsoever. We are against national nihilism and we are fighting for the national interests of the Jewish people and appreciate its progressive tradition. We are against the war in Vietnam, against the discrimination of negroes. I am bringing to the masses of the people in Israel the greetings of the readers of our newspaper and of the simple Jews in America. We have a high opinion and admire your magnificent construction work, your immense achievements in the 20 years of the state's existence - and wish you and us a year of peace in the Near and the Far East alike."

P. Novik toured the country, met with many people, leading figures of public life as well as rank-and-file, and started sending reports to his paper. On Vietnam Solidarity Day, he addressed a meeting at "Achva" Club, Tel Aviv, in support of the legitimate rights of the people of Vietnam and the American negroes, as well as the cause of peace in Vietnam, in the Middle East and in world scale. P. Novik also addressed a meeting in "Zavta" Club.

The guest held several meetings with the leadership of the Communist Party of Israel.

"Dogmatism is the greatest enemy"

A farewell party held on the eve of his departure, at the "Ahvah" Culture Club in Tel Aviv, was attended by members of the C. P. I. Central Committee, editors of the Communist press in Israel and writers, artists and public personalities. At this occasion, the distinguished guest said, i. a. :

"I am leaving Israel with a feeling of unrest and concern and also with a feeling of encouragement. Unrest and concern - following the tragedy involved in the drowning of the battleship "Eilat". Again, so many people, young people have died. Again funerals, mass funerals. In those days, certain sections of the population were in despair. Sometimes they sighed, and they worried. "Where will my helper come from?" When will peace come? At the same time, the tragedy of "Eilat" was helpful, in a way - so it seems to me and not only to me - to those nationalistic elements who are preaching territorial annexations that delay the achievement of peace.

Together with unrest and concern, my present visit in Israel brought me much encouragement. I felt - more than this can be felt from a distance, in New-York - that here, in this country, there are positive forces which are striving for a real solution - for security, peace and good neighbourhood. Truly, I felt, in a way, more strikingly the presence of the negative forces of chauvinism and annexations. But them one can hear well from a distance, too; while being far away, we hear less about the positive forces.

I was deeply impressed by the marks the Six Day War left on many of its participants whom I had the opportunity to meet. The war was a shock to many of them. They did not want that war from the outset. I became aware that they do not want to be confronted again by those nightmares, they do not want another war. I met workers, students, artists and common people who had been called to the people's army to defend the country or who volunteered. For many reasons it is important to emphasise that they are no militarists, that they are shocked when they hear the word "war". They set out to defend - not to attack.

As I see it, here is the widest unity needed, mainly among the workers, irrespective of differences of opinion, as well as of intellectuals, petty bourgeois, religious elements and even part of the bourgeoisie - similar to the struggle led in America, in a broad front against the war in Vietnam. Dogmatism is the greatest enemy in both cases, here and there. I was encouraged to find out, that this is the attitude of the positive forces in this country, and above all of the Communists who are organised in the C. P. I. (Maki). In meetings, in factories, I have seen and heard how attentively people are listening to their words. This, the mobilisation of the positive forces, is the source of hope. Obviously: the main force in the campaign against the chauvinists-annexationists is not outside, but among the people of Israel itself. And I was strengthened when I found out how serious are the efforts made for the mobilisation

of this force.

For peace, as for war, two sides are needed. Much depends on the Arab side. The key here is co-existence, recognition of the right to exist of all the states of the Middle East, and under no circumstances Israel can be an exception. This recognition is, in my opinion, the key to peace and to the evacuation of the conquered territories. But Israel, as the victor in the Six Day War, bears a great responsibility as to the manner how the Arabs in the Israel-held territories and the Arabs of Israel are treated; as to the manner how one is going to solve the problem of the refugees and the problem of the Palestine Arabs in general. And on the other hand : Every step intended to confront somebody with an accomplished fact, to do one-sided things or do things with a heavy hand - is undermining the vital interests of Israel and is making difficult the position of those who are struggling, in the U. S. A. and in other countries, for the rights of Israel.

There is no contradiction whatsoever between national interests and national pride and proletarian internationalism. The contrary is true : the real internationalist is the real defender of the national interest of his people. Everyone who loves his own people respects other peoples, and here I am adding : He who does not love his own people has no respect for other peoples !

A hard struggle is facing now the positive forces in Israel, a struggle for their important positions, and it may be said, on a world-wide scale. Have strength and courage ! And it seems to me that this means sticking to the present progressive attitudes and no return and repetition of old fashioned slogans that are sounding empty today. And certainly one must beware of the empty "revolutionary" slogan, and must - in a truly Leninist manner - take into consideration the processes of the era and its course, analysing the complicated situations."

To the Communist Party of Great Britain, which will convene its 30th Congress on Nov. 25-28, 1967, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel sent the following letter of greetings :

Dear Comrades,

It is with great pleasure that we comply with your request to send our greetings to the 30th Congress of your Party.

We wish your Congress a fruitful work and further successes in your endeavours to gain more and more influence in your country, to intensify the struggle of your Party for "the British Road to Socialism".

Differences of opinion that have lately arisen between your Party and ours in connection with the present Middle-East crisis cannot and should not disturb the bonds of solidarity existing between us in the struggle for aims and aspirations common to both of us : peace, democracy, national independence, socialism.

Our Party is fighting now, just as it did in the past, against imperialist manoeuvres, against the attitude of the Israeli Government concerning the legitimate rights of the Palestine Arab people which it disregards, against the anti-Israeli chauvinism evinced by the rulers of the Arab countries, for withdrawal from the conquered territories upon a peace-agreement between Israel and her Arab neighbours, based on the mutual recognition of the national legitimate rights of all the peoples involved.

In view of the Israeli-Arab conflict, we deem that the task of communists has been and remains to promote a just peace and not to take sides with one or the other of the conflicting parties. An unbiased approach to the problem would frustrate any attempt of imperialism to exploit the conflict and draw profit from it.

Long live the 30th Congress of the Communist Party of Great Britain !
Long live the friendship between the people of Israel and the people of Great Britain, and the fraternal solidarity between our two parties !

Long live the unity of the World Communist Movement based on Marxism-Leninism and Proletarian Internationalism, and may its strength increase !

Long live Peace ! Long live Communism !

The Communist Party of Israel, The Central Committee
(-) S. Mikunis, Secretary General

ISM-IN-THE-20TH-CENTURY---<0172047A---

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



HX 632 A1 W9 no.1105
World communism in the 20th
century.

0172047A MAIN

