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Israel Delegation at 30th Congress of British Communist Party.


COMMITTEE,
PARTY OF

P.O. BOX 26205
TEL AVIV, ISRAEL



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STATEMENT OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL
ON THE CONSULTATION OF THE COMMUNIST AND
WORKERS PARTIES

.....

At its session on December 3rd, 1967, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel discussed the announcement of the 18 fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties, which was published at the end of November, containing the call for a consultation of the Communist and Workers' Parties in Budapest during February 1968, in order "to exchange collective views concerning the convention of an international meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties".

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel welcomes this announcement and states that it expressed in different ways during the last time the need of convening such an international consultative meeting.

The Communist Party of Israel, therefore, supports the initiative taken by 18 fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties to convene in Budapest during the February 1968 an international consultative meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties, for a collective exchange of views towards an international convention of the Communist and Workers' Parties with the aim of strengthening the unity of the Communist movement and of uniting all socialist and democratic forces in the struggle against imperialism, for the peoples' national and social liberation and for peace in the world.

The Communist Party of Israel will participate in the consultative meeting, which will be held in Budapest at February next and will extend all help for its success.

* * *

JORDANIAN COMMUNIST LEADER EXPELLED FROM WESTBANK

.....

After having been imprisoned for two days, comrade FAIO WARRAD, a leading figure of the fraternal Communist Party of Jordan, was expelled to the Eastern Bank of Jordan by the Israeli occupation forces at the beginning of December, 1967.

Comrade Warrad was elected to the Jordanian Parliament in 1957 and after the fall of the Nabulsi-Government he was arrested and was imprisoned in Jordan for eight years. The Israeli occupation forces expelled him now from his hometown, Ramallah, though his family, his wife and daughter are living there. He was expelled on the false pretext of having returned to his hometown after the occupation in June. The truth is, that he even registered during the registration of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, made by the Israeli forces immediately after the conquest.

His detention was followed by a widespread wave of protest and mayors of several towns on the Western Bank turned to the occupation power and demanded his release. But after two days he was expelled.

Faiq Warrad is the second public figure expelled by the occupation forces from the Western Bank. Several months ago Sheikh ABDEL HAMID ESSAYEH from Jordanian Jerusalem was expelled.

Public figures in the Western Bank, with whom our correspondent talked, explained their misunderstanding and disappointment of the expulsion of F. Warrad. They told, that this case, as a matter of fact, annuls the efforts for common talks with public figures of the Western Bank, made by the Prime Minister's adviser for affairs within the occupied territories, Minister Sasson. It seems very surprising, that the Israeli Government is acting against Communists while it is common knowledge, that they are for a peaceful and just solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The Communist faction raised the matter in the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament).

* * *

FULFILMENT OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

- IMPERATIVE FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT

.....
(Speech of Comrade TAWFIQ TOUBI in the Knesset
Debate on Foreign Minister Statement on 5.12.67)

Many people in this country and abroad, even among friends of the Israeli Government wonder nowadays and ask themselves, what are the aims of the official Israeli policy, what does the Government of Israel want, what is it aiming at.

One of his last words in his latest speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs held at UNO-headquarter, were, that there are two possibilities only - "peace or war".

The official circles want of course to create the impression - as they did before the war already - that their aims are peace. The Government even started the war in June last with high phrases, like the aims of Israel are never territorial conquest but peace. But some Ministers of the Government declare openly that the annexation of the occupied territories is a commandment put before anything else, and they do this under the pretext of "historical rights" and of "security" for the State. Such declarations as well as drastic steps taken by the Government and its policy inside the occupied territories with the aim of perpetuating the occupation, together with a further sharpening of the refugee-question - all these facts prove that this Government does not lead the State towards a just and durable peace, but into a new deadlock and even into something more dangerous.

When at least, after long discussions, the Security Council reached an unanimous decision on the Middle East crisis - though one of a compromise but nevertheless containing all the necessary elements for the settlement of the crisis and a basis for reaching a just and durable peace - what was the Israeli Government's attitude towards this decision? At its session on the 28th of November, with the decision of the Security Council and the Government's attitude towards the special UNO envoy on the agenda, it was decided, that the Government will act according to the resolution of the Knesset, endorsed at November 13th. And what does that resolution say? - that the Government has to continue and even fortify in full the present situation. This means: It will keep the occupied territories, erect there new settlements, destroy villages, encourage the exodus from their homeland of the population and do everything to put off any just settlement of the crisis under the "magic slogan: "The one and only solution is direct negotiations".

The speakers of the Government, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs in his announcement in the Knesset today too, try to interpret the decision of the Security Council in an acrobatic manner as if it conforms with the principles of the Government's policy. But at the same time they avoid to undertake the obligation of support and cooperation for the execution of the decision. The Prime Minister, in his speech on November 29, in his traditional press conference, said that "Israel will cooperate with the envoy of the General Secretary of UNO so far as he will see his only task to bring the different sides to the common conference-table".

Such rethoric utterances or one-sided obstinacies relating to the character of the decision or the task of the special envoy of the UNO General Secretary, which are not in accordance with its contents, are not able to camouflage the true policy of evading cooperation in the execution of the Security Council's resolution.

Several Ministers were more outspoken, when they stated, that the special UNO envoy shall be met as any tourist, or that he may receive technical help only for his mission. Speakers of the Government, using sophistic and evading talk and obstructing the commandments of a peace policy, tell us - and the Minister of Foreign Affairs repeated it today - that the Government of Israel will bring into the open its plans for peace at the conference table when direct negotiations will be held. This is a way of gaming poker and stands in contrast to the interests of peace and real negotiations for peace. Because by the game the Government is playing we never shall reach the conference-table nor peace. Because, as long as the Israeli Government does not declare itself clearly to be willing to carry out an overall and just solution, the foremost step being the withdrawal from the territories occupied during the latest war, and its readiness to honour the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including those of the Arab refugees, also the readiness of the Arab states to honour the independence, sovereignty and rights of Israel to recognized borders and freedom of navigation, as long as the Israeli Government does not declare itself willing to stand on principles of such a just and overall solution, as presently wanted by all nations of the world, then all those beautiful words about negotiations and peace turn into false utterances and camouflage for a policy which never was meant to bring peace but perpetual territorial expansion and the annihilation of the just rights of an other people, the Palestine Arab people. The truth is, that the Ministers who talk so much, bring to the surface the real plans of the Government. If you read the article in the monthly "OT" by Minister of Labour, Yigal ALLON, or if you listened today to the speech of MK TZUR, then you realize that they declare openly, that Israel will never surrender "the historical and natural borders of Western Pales-

tine (Eretz Israel)" - as put in their words. Even the Syrian heights they included into those "natural" and "historical borders" of theirs.

About the Western Bank (of Jordan) and the Ghaza-strip, there is nothing to negotiate about with Jordan or Egypt, says Minister Allon. He tells us, that we have to win the understanding to the new situation by the population of those areas. E.g.: They should understand the perpetuation of the occupation. What concerns the refugees, he declares, that they are to be settled in the wide and empty areas situated in the Arab countries.

This is the true policy of the Government, which the Minister of Foreign Affairs tries to beautify by utterances about peaceful aims. If such are the Government's plans, what have the Arab States to discuss with Israel at a conference-table? In order to give their seal to the consequences of war and conquest under military pressure and conditions of occupation?

Such a position is an adventurous one which lacks any perspective and realism, which stands in contrast to the interest of peace and its tragic meaning is: another war and still another war and new dangers to Israel and the whole region.

The approval of the Security Council's resolution and the participation in its execution to the full extent by all governments in the region, by Israel and the Arab states, even if the resolution does not seem to be complete at this or another point, is under present conditions in our region the foremost commandment in the interest of peace and security for all peoples of this region.

It is quite encouraging that most of the Arab States announced, this way or another, to be willing to participate in the efforts of the special UNO envoy towards the execution of the Security Council's resolution, quite contrary to what the Israeli propaganda says in order to create a false impression, and in order to justify the refusal of the Israeli Government to cooperate for fulfilment of the resolution. The non-conformist position taken by the heads of the El-Bath-Government of Syria, who are against the decision of the Security Council and refuse to act in common with the UNO envoy, is an irresponsible position. We criticize and oppose it and hope that it will not last long inside the Arab world.

The direction this region will take and on which paths the Israeli-Arab relations will develop, is quite dependent on the way the Israeli Government will behave. In order that the development will be in the direction of peace and security, our Communist Party will continue its struggle for the withdrawal

of the Israeli armed forces from all territories conquered during the latest war, in order to make possible to reach a just and peaceful solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict and the Palestine problem, a solution on the basis of recognition by both sides of the rights of the Palestine Arab people, including those of the refugees and the rights of Israel to sovereignty, independence, recognized borders and free navigation. We are convinced that there will be no other way to bring peace and the national rights of the peoples.

The latest speech by the President of France, General De Gaulle, confirms most important facts and conclusions for the Israeli policy. The absolute turning its back on the official Israeli policy, the French policy, the same France which was once the most incessant and sure partner of the Israeli Government and its regional policy...

GOLDA MEIR (former Minister of Foreign Affairs): What have you said before?

TAWFIO TOUBI: These were your words, my lady!

...That speech of General De Gaulle proves what we warned of always: Israel will not find its place in this region by leaning on the support of imperialist powers which give their support for their own global, strategic, economic and political reasons only. Those interests of theirs change and change again, as did the Algerian affair for instance. Therefore, the support of the imperialist powers given to the official Israeli policy for temporary reasons, will not be forever. Now it is with France. Tomorrow it will be so with the USA. This is a signal which the vital interest of Israel, the interest of its integration in the region has to reckon with and therefore to take to another road, the building of another policy, non-dependent on imperialism, and independent one. Not by leaning on the imperialist powers, which always had been and always will be a leaning on a broken support, will Israel find its secure place in the region, but by leaning on a policy which will lead to partnership, friendship, and peace with the Arab peoples. This is the policy which our Party calls for.

There can be no better guarantee for the security and peace of Israel other than a policy of mutual recognition of national rights, of common fate with the Arab peoples in this region, which will advance the fitting-in of Israel into the region and good-neighbourly relations with the Arab peoples and friendly relations with the socialist countries, the Soviet Union in the first place, and with all nations in the world.

The unwise slanders of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other speakers of the Government against the policy of peace of the Soviet Union, stand in utter contrast to the real interests of Israel. The people of Israel will still learn, that the socialist Soviet Union is the power which leads a consistent policy of supporting the independence of all the peoples of the region, and a true peaceful policy, is the strongest support to all peoples of this region and in the Soviet Union the peoples of Israel will find, like all other peoples, the most trueful friend for the aims of independence and peace.

An Israeli sovereign policy, a policy of independence and disassociation from the imperialist intrigues in this region, a policy of consideration to the interests of others - this lays in the interest of life of Israel. For such a policy we shall continue to fight and struggle, for the sake of the wellbeing and secure future of Israel.

* * *

COALITION MAJORITY REJECT PROPOSAL TO SUPPORT
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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At the conclusion of the Parliamentary debate on 11.12. 1967, on the Foreign Minister's statement, the Knesset adopted by coalition votes a resolution confirming the Foreign Minister's statement and his concluding speech.

Comrade T. TOUBI, in the name of the Communist faction submitted to the Knesset the following draft resolution:

- 1) The Knesset expresses its agreement with the resolution of the Security Council on the Middle East crisis on the 22.11.67 and calls upon the Government to act for its full implementation.
- 2) The Knesset decides that the Government should cooperate with the special envoy of the General Secretary of the UNO for the full implementation of the above UN Security Council resolution.

The coalition majority votes in the Knesset rejected the above Communist proposal.

* * *

COMRADE EMILE HABIBI IN THE KNESSET ON:

THE DEVALUATION OF THE ISRAELI LIRA
.....

On the 19th of November 1967, the very next day after the devaluation of the Pound Sterling, the Government of Israel decided to devalue the Israeli Lira by 16% from IL 3 to IL 3.50 to the USA Dollar.

In his statement before the Knesset (November 20th), Minister of Finance, PINHAS SAPIR, declared, that the devaluation of the Israeli Lira was necessary after the step taken by the British Government, in order not to damage the export to the Sterling-Block-Countries, and in order to better the conditions of export to the Dollar-market.

Sapir promised, that the Government would take measures, so that the internal market will suffer as little as possible and in order to keep the rise of retail-prices in the wake of the devaluation as low as possible.

EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH OF COMRADE EMILE HABIBI MK
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"The devaluation of the Israeli Lira is justly met by the public with much concern. We are already quite experienced on the bad influence which former devaluations had on the standard of living of the masses" - Comrade Emile Habibi said in the debate in the Knesset following Sapir's announcement.

"Listening to the promises given by the Minister of Finance, concerning the measures to be taken in order to keep prices stable, we remember the very same promises given by the former Minister of Finance (today's Prime Minister Levy Eshkol) at the occasion of the last devaluation of the Lira in 1962.

"We all remember very well, that these promises were never intended to be kept, we remember the deluge of rise in prices in the wake of the last devaluation and the great suffering of the working people caused by it. There never can be a devaluation of the money without a rise in prices. The one who tells otherwise, either is mislead himself or he misleads the people.

"The devaluation of the Israeli Lira was an outcome of the progressive devaluation of its real value and as a fact has nothing to do with the devaluation of the Pound-Sterling. This, the devaluation of the Sterling, came to the Government of

Israel as a welcomed occasion to accomplish the act of devaluation of the Israeli Lira. As a matter of fact, the act of devaluation is an administrative step only, to endorse formally the devaluation of the real value of the Israeli currency. This devaluation was caused by the inflation brought about by the Government's policy.

"The inflation was caused by the deficit-budget of the State which was met by the Government by printing of more bank-notes and by stepping up of capital-import.

"The economic depression in Israel and the policy of "curtailment" (the economic policy of the last two years - the translator), brought about inflatory pressures. There is a great liquidity of money in the banks, a large amount of unused money, since there is no trend for investments.

"The large capital-import even pressed forward the inflation. On the 16th of November, the Minister of Finance told a welcome-party at the Hilton Hotel in Tel-Aviv, that the funds and "Development-loans" raised abroad this year will be five times the amount reached last year. Under conditions of economic depression the larger import of capital increases the inflatory pressures and causes a lowering of the money's value. The foreign state debts, to be paid in USA currency, which amounted to more than 3 billion Israeli Liras (1 billion dollar) on March 31st last, rose yesterday with one stroke by more than IL 500 millions!

"The preparations to the latest war and its price added much to the inflationary trend of the State-budget of 1967/68, which was already planned to be with deficit - the original budget as well as the two additional budgets in wake of the June war.

"At the same welcome-party at the Hilton Hotel the Minister of Finance declared, that 'the expenditures of the Six-Day-War amounted to a sum of 10 digits, the first one not being that of "one".' From this statement we may conclude, that the war-costs amounted to more than two billions!

"These are the main factors which caused the devaluation. The timing of it with the devaluation of the Pound Sterling is only incidently.

"This recent devaluation of the Israeli Lira will cause prices to rise and a further lowering of the standard of living of the working people. It will cause a new division of the national income to the detriment of the working people and the advantage of the Israeli and foreign big capitalists.

The official policy of the Government is to freeze basic wages until 1970 and reckoning with the cost-of-living-allowances once a year only. This means, that while prices are rising, the Government tries by all kinds of tricks, to rob, or at least decrease the rise of wages in relation to the rise of prices.

"Facing this situation and this policy, the working people will have no other choice, but to increase their struggle in defence of their living-standard, for a change of the policy which caused inflation and devaluation. We shall support the struggle of the masses for a peace policy, which will make unnecessary the costly arms-race. We shall support the struggle for an independent economic policy for the sake of the people, which will end the fattening the foreign investors and bring to an end the policy of deficit state-budgets.

"The struggle for bread and full employment will show the people the path to the struggle for peace."

* * *

LEAFLET OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL:

"LETS DEFEND THE WORKING PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARD!
.....

Immediately after the announcement of the devaluation of the Israeli Lira, the trade-union department of the Communist Party of Israel published a leaflet, which was distributed by Party-activists amongst the workers in factories, working-places and industrial centres all over the country.

After a short explanation of how the economic policy of the Government is made to benefit the profits of the banks, foreign investors and other capitalists and directed against the living-standard of the working people, the leaflet calls for the workers, to defend their rights and living standard, to organize workers meetings at factories and shops, to demand from the Trade-Unions to organize the struggle.

* * *

OPPOSING ANTI-SOVIET SLANDERS

.....

Side by side with the failure of the aggressive policy of the ruling circles of Israel, they increase their campaign of slanders against the Soviet Union, using the old lie of so-called oppression of Jews and official anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

During the month of November the instigators of these slanders organized, among other things, a mass-rally of students of secondary schools in Tel-Aviv. One of the organizers, the advocate Bermann told the rally, that "it is insufficient, that some students in the USA or Canada demonstrate before the Embassy of the USSR; we have to do much more."

The Rabbi W.J. Frenkel said: "The Russian authorities do in the spiritual field the same what did the Nazis to the Jews physically..."

The daily press of the reactionary brand is full of articles about activities of Zionist circles in the USA, Canada and elsewhere in the West, in protest against, what they invent themselves. They firstly infuse into the press some "news" about, what some tourist of the Soviet Union allegedly told about rumours he heard during his visit. Then they start a "protest campaign" and so on...

As part of the campaign and for stepping it up, the extreme rightwing Knesset-Member Haim LANDAU (Herut), proposed on 27.11.67 to place "the fate of Jews in the Soviet Union" on the agenda of the Knesset. In his speech he went so far as to equal the fate of the Jews there with the fate of Jews under Nazi rule and asked the Government to take steps to organize a campaign to save those 3 million Jews from alleged annihilation.

Prime Minister Levy Eshkol, in his reply, added his contribution to the slander-campaign. Eshkol agreed to transfer Landau's proposal to the Knesset-Committee of Foreign Affairs.

COMRADE TAWFIQ TOUBI M.K. OPPOSES THE SLANDEROUS ANTI-SOVIET MOTION

.....

The Communist deputy, Comrade Tawfiq Toubi, took the floor and proposed to reject M.K. Landau's proposal accusing him and the Prime Minister of carrying out a slanderous anti-Soviet performance. Hardly starting his speech, when some deputies of the Alignment and extreme rightwing GAHAL- benches

started a row with interruptions such as:

"This is none of your affairs! What have you to do with the Jewish question" - etc.

But Tawfiq Toubi replied:

"If the Soviet Union is attacked in this ugly manner from this rostrum, I have the right to defend it. As a Member of the Israeli Parliament, and as a citizen of Israel, the policy of this state is my affair not less than anybody else's in this House!"

When the shouts against the Communist deputy calmed down, Comrade T. Toubi went on:

"Knesset-Member Landau's proposal and speech, as well as those of the Prime Minister do not stem from the care for the real interests of Soviet Jewry. The real aim is to inflate the wild and hysteric slandering campaign, waged against the Soviet Union and its peace policy.

"The Jews in the Soviet Union enjoy the economic, cultural and social amenities exercised by all Soviet citizens, equal in rights in all walks of life, including freedom of religion. The Soviet Jews are interwoven in the political, economic and social life of the Soviet Union and are in no need whatsoever neither of the care of the Israeli Government nor of outside intervention into their affairs."

Comrade T. Toubi then pointed out the policy of peace and friendship among peoples waged by the Soviet Union the world over and in the Middle East too. Comrade T. Toubi, who returned from the Soviet Union only a few days ago, said, that the Soviet Union is never against the people of Israel, but against the pro-imperialist and aggressive policy of Israel's ruling circles.

"On the other hand" - he went on - "the slanders and instigations against the Soviet Union are pointed against the true interests of Israel and its people. They destroy the bridges to the great socialist power, without which no international problem can be solved in our days. What is needed by Israel's interests is not increased anti-Soviet propaganda, but a policy of peace and doing away with all plans of prolonged occupation and annexation of its neighbours' territories; Israel does not need an increase of dependence on the imperialist powers but freedom from all ties of such dependence."

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MIKUNIS - DISAPPEARS!!

.....

It was noted by most of the Knesset-Members and by the next days press, that the former Communist deputy, S. Mikunis, did not enter the Knesset Hall during all this debate, though he was present in the building. In this way he evaded taking part in the vote on this issue!

At the end of the debate, all but the two present members of the Communist faction voted for the Landau-Eshkol proposal, to continue the debate in the committee of foreign affairs. The Communist proposal, to strike the item off the agenda was supported only by the two Communist votes.

* * *

A NEW LAW RESTRICTING FREEDOM OF TRADE-UNION STRUGGLE
.....

The Government of Israel tabled a new law in the Knesset, whose aim is to restrict the freedom of trade-union struggle and strikes.

In spite of the fact, that in the proposed law there is not one paragraph, which openly speaks about such a restriction, it is worded in such a manner, that it is clear to what means it will be used. The law is called "The Bill for Courts of Labour and National Insurance" and according to it these courts erected will judge all problems arising from disputes over labour contracts, accusations concerning the trade-union laws and claims arising from the National Insurance Bill.

Minister of Labour, Yigal ALLON, when introducing the law for its first reading in the Knesset, was quite outspoken over its intentions, when he said, that certainly it will be improper and against public ethics, should one side of a dispute put pressure on the court proceedings by trade-union struggle or even strike, while the matter is before the court.

EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH BY COMRADE EMILE HABIBI
IN THE KNESSET
.....

During the debate on the proposed "Bill for Courts of Labour and National Insurance", Comrade Emile HABIBI, the speaker for the Communist faction in the Knesset, proposed to return the law to the Government and said:

"We see in the law proposed by the Minister of Labour, another most severe step in the procedure of the ruling circles' intervention into labour disputes. We do not look upon the present regime in Israel as a neutral regime, being above the classes. Life itself proved the working people, that this regime, even in times of so-called severe national-emergency does not renounce a single one of the egoist interests of the big capitalists, but calls on the workers to sacrifice their rights for the sake of "Defence of the Fatherland".

"The proposed law, even according to the commentator in the daily DAVAR (the organ of the trade-unions - Histadrut - which supports the Government - transl.), is a stubborn continuation on the path the Minister of Labour is trodding while aiming at - and sometimes quite outspokenly - limiting to a minimum the trade-union struggle, even onto the prevention of strikes.

"Instead of so-called "agreed arbitration", which we are opposed to too, comes now the proposed law of courts of labour, whose verdicts will bind the workers. According to it, workers who will not give in to verdicts passed by these courts, will be liable to prison and fines.

"For instance, at some place, workers will oppose dismissals of some of their fellow-workers. The boss goes to the court of labour. The court will forbid to strike. The workers then have to abstain from waging struggle against the dismissals, until the court has passed a verdict. And when this verdict is against them, as it will be most probable, e.g. it does not recall the dismissals, then the workers, in case they will fight for their rights, will get entangled with the paragraph of contempt of court. The dismissed workers will suffer hunger, and if they oppose hunger, they will be imprisoned or have to pay fines! Where, then, are the ethics, the Minister of Labour talked about?

"We are living through a long period of inflation. The Israeli Lira was devaluated again, and there is nobody who can promise for sure, that there will not be another devaluation. The prices are rising and the real-value of wages decreases steadily. The workers are struggling - and will go on struggling - in order to retain their standard of living. The old labour contracts cease to fulfill their just demands. There have been lots of cases, when workers attained, by way of struggle, better conditions, as foreseen by the contracts (which most of them are signed from above, and on a country-wide scale, without even asking the workers - the transl.). The official and declared policy of the Government is to freeze wages until 1970. Pressure is put on the working class to agree to contracts including wage-freezing and to renounce cost-of-living-allowances or at least part of it.

"The court of labour, being briefed to arbitrate in all cases of disputes on labour contracts, will also in this case prevent the just struggle of the workers for retaining the real-value of their wages. This is an open intervention of the regime into labour disputes and a clear intention to punish workers whom the situation obliges to defend their standard of living."

* * *

TALKS BETWEEN COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION
AND COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL
.....

PRAVDA of November 25th, 1967 and TASS on the same day reported, that representatives of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Communist Party of Israel met in Moscow.

At the meeting took part, on the Soviet side MICHAEL SUSLOV, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee and BORIS PONOMAREV, Secretary, Central Committee, CPSU. The Communist Party of Israel was represented by MEIR VILNER, Secretary of the Political Bureau and TAWFIQ TOUBI, Secretary of the Secretariat of the Central Committee.

The exchange of views on questions concerning the political situation, especially in the Middle East, proved the identity of views in all questions raised. The talks were held in a hearty and comradely atmosphere.

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JOINT STATEMENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES
OF FINLAND AND ISRAEL
.....

The following joint statement was released by the Communist Party of Finland and the Communist Party of Israel:

"Delegations of the Communist Parties of Finland and Israel, which attended in Moscow the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, met at the 8th of November, 1967. At the meeting were present: On the side of the Communist Party of Israel - the Secretary of the Politbureau, Comrade MEIR VILNER, and Secretary of the CC, Comrade TAWFIQ TOUBI; on the side of the Communist Party of Finland - the General Secretary V. PESSI, representative of the C.P. of Finland Comrade A. SAARINEN, and the member of the Politbureau, Comrade I. LICHTINEN.

The representatives of the CP of Israel reported on the situation in their country and on the Communists' struggle in the interests of the working people of Israel. The representatives of the CP of Finland expressed their solidarity with the fraternal Party in Israel and wished success in its activities. The representatives of the CP of Finland on their part reported on the situation in their country and on the activity of the Party, on whose successes. The representatives of the CP of Israel expressed their high estimation. The talks were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere and showed full identity of views of the representatives of both Parties in all questions raised.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF THE
UNITED STATES, CANADA AND ISRAEL

.....

On the 9th of November, 1967m on the occasion of their presence in Moscow in honour of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the representatives of the Communist Party of the USA: Comrades HENRY WINSTON, Chairman; GUS HALL, General Secretary; JAMES JACKSON, Secretary and ALBERT J. LIMA, Executive Board Member of the National Committee of the CPUSA; the representatives of the Communist Party of Canada: TIM BUCK, Chairman; WILLIAM KASHTAN, General Secretary; BRUCE MAGNUSON and SAM WALSH, members of the Central Executive Committee; and the representatives of the Communist Party of Israel: MEIR VILNER, Secretary of the Politbureau of the Central Committee and TAWFIQ TOUBI, member of the Politbureau and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, met together; exchanged information on the situation in their countries and on the work of their parties and discussed questions of common interest.

The talks between the representatives of the three fraternal parties were held in a warm and comradely atmosphere and reflected full identity of views on all questions discussed.

The representatives of the Communist Parties of the USA, Canada and Israel warned against the grave danger to peace in the Middle East and in the world in consequence of the continuing Middle East crisis emanating from the war of aggression launched by the Israeli government against the Arab countries. This war was conducted by the Israeli ruling circles in collusion with the USA imperialists and supported by British and West German imperialists, with the aim of overthrowing the anti-imperialist regimes in Egypt and Syria, of striking a blow against the whole anti-imperialist Arab national liberation movement, and of serving the expansionist designs of the Israeli ruling circles which now express themselves in the continued Israel occupation of Arab territories.

The representatives of the Communist Parties of the USA, Canada and Israel call for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops to the positions prior to the 5th of June last, as a necessary step for preventing further deterioration of the situation and for creating suitable conditions for a peaceful and just settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict and the Palestine question. This settlement should be based on the recognition by Israel of the just rights of the Palestine Arab people including the right of the Palestine Arab refugees to choose between repatriation and compensation as decided upon by the

United Nations Organization and on the recognition by the Arab countries of the State of Israel and its rights including free navigation on the same basis as all other states.

The pro-imperialist and aggressive policy of the Israeli ruling circles is a serious obstacle in the way of peace and security between Israel and the Arab countries.

The representatives of the three parties denounce declarations which deny the right of the State of Israel to existence and consider such declarations harmful to the interests of both the Israeli and Arab peoples.

The representatives of the Communist Parties of the USA and Canada expressed their full support and solidarity with the Communist Party of Israel and its struggles, inspired by internationalist and patriotic principles in the interest of peace, cooperation and friendship between the Israeli and Arab peoples, and the real national interests of the Israeli people.

The representatives of the two parties condemned the criminal attempt on the life of Comrade Meir Vilner, Secretary of the Politbureau of the Communist Party of Israel, demand full investigation and appropriate punishment for the crime, and call for the stopping of all repressive measures taken against Israel Communists in consequence of their opposition to the aggressive war and fight for peace.

The representatives of the Communist Parties of the USA, Canada and Israel condemned the USA imperialist war of aggression in Vietnam, which endangers world peace, and expressed their full solidarity with the heroic struggles of the Vietnamese people for freedom.

The representatives of the Communist Parties of Canada and Israel expressed their full solidarity with the Communist Party of the USA and with all peace and progressive forces of the people of the United States in their courageous struggle to bring about the withdrawal of all USA troops from Vietnam.

The representatives of the Communist Parties of USA, Canada and Israel warn against the growing threat to peace emanating from the rapid growth of neo-Nazi revanchist and militarist forces in the Federal Republic of Germany, and the danger of their being armed with atomic weapons. The representatives of the three parties call for greater struggle against this resurgence of neo-Nazism which is a grave threat to the cause of world peace.

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FRATERNAL DELEGATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF
ISRAEL PARTICIPATES IN 30TH CONGRESS OF THE
BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY
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Upon the invitation of the Central Committee of the British Communist Party, a fraternal delegation representing the Communist Party of Israel, and composed of Comrades DAVID KHENIN, member of the Politbureau and EMILE TOUMA, member of the Central Committee, took part in the 30th Congress of the British Communist Party held in London 25-28th November, 1967.

Comrade D. Khenin brought to the Congress, in the name of the delegation, the following message of greetings:

GREETINGS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL:

Dear Comrades,

In the name of our Central Committee and in the name of all the Jewish and Arab communists in Israel, our delegation expresses our Party's thanks for your fraternal invitation to attend the 30th Congress which we hope will mark a turning point in the great struggle for a socialist Britain.

We have followed with admiration the consistent and principled fight of the British Communist Party for an alternative policy which would put Britain on the road to socialism and wish the Party success in its efforts to mobilise the working class and unite the Left forces capable of effecting the change of the anti-people policy of the present Government.

Dear comrades; Though we are living in different objective conditions and have each its own specific circumstances, both our parties are moving in the same stream and belong to the great international communist movement which has become the most decisive single force of our world able to carry out the basic transformation required by the peoples of the world. Living in the historic era of the transition from capitalism to socialism, initiated by the great October Socialist Revolution, which progressive mankind has celebrated on the occasion of the 50th anniversary, our parties, like all the Communist Parties in the world, are fighting against aggressive adventurist imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism, for peace, the independence of peoples, democracy and socialism.

That is why our two parties, like all the other communist parties and progressive mankind, condemn the U.S. imperialist aggressive war on the people of Vietnam and demand the imme-

diate cessation of the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Vietnam.

That is why our parties, like the other Communist Parties in the world, took the same stand on the crisis in the Middle East which endangered world peace and still threatens the security of the region and the world.

Dear comrades; Our Party, the Communist Party of Israel, which has always called for a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict and the Palestine question on the basis of the mutual recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Israeli and Arab peoples, warned constantly against the pro-imperialist policy of the Israeli ruling circles which drove Israel upon the adventurist path.

The war of aggression launched by the Israeli Government against the Arab countries, in collusion with U.S. imperialism and supported by British and West German imperialists, was not launched in defence of Israel, neither could it have served the interests of the Israeli people, who live in the Middle East, nor achieve rapprochement and cooperation with the Arab people. This aggressive war aimed at overthrowing the anti-imperialist regimes in Egypt and Syria; striking a blow against the Arab National Liberation Movement; strengthening the position of the imperialists and their oil empire, and serving the expansionist designs of the Israeli ruling circles.

Events since the 5th of June war have shown that Israel has not achieved security neither has it secured peace. Instead of the peace which the Israeli reactionary ruling circles promised, militarists are now talking of a new round. Moreover, the fact that tension continues in the area emphasises the danger of a new conflagration.

Our Party therefore, defending the best interests of our country, calls for the immediate withdrawal of the Israel forces from all the occupied Arab territories to the positions prior to the 5th June war and considers this as a necessary step for preventing further deterioration of the situation and for creating suitable conditions for a peaceful and just settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict and the Palestine question. This settlement must be based on the recognition by Israel of the just rights of the Palestine Arab people including the right of the Palestine Arab refugees to choose between repatriation and compensation as decided upon by the United Nations Organisation, and on the recognition by the Arab countries of the State of Israel and its rights including free navigation.

Our Party recognises that the pro-imperialist and aggressive policy of the Israeli ruling circles is a serious obstacle in the way of peace between Israel and the Arab countries.

Further, our Party denounces declarations of certain Arab circles which deny the right of the State of Israel to exist and considers such declarations harmful to the interests of both the Israeli and Arab peoples.

Comrades! Though the reactionary ruling circles in our country have exerted every effort to slander our Party and falsify its stand by working up a chauvinist nationalist hysteria, though it tried to isolate our comrades by repressive methods, our Party has been able to reach the people and strives to shatter reactionary illusions born out of the military victory but harmful to the interests of Israel.

The fact that our Party unites Jews and Arabs in its ranks symbolises the identity of interests between our two peoples and their future relations, and contributes to the success of our Party's struggle.

It is a fact that the number of people who are becoming critical of the pro-imperialist anti-Arab policy of the Israeli ruling circles is growing. Our political line popularly phrased: Not with the imperialists against the Arab peoples but with the Arab peoples against imperialism, is receiving more attention.

Our Party therefore will continue to work energetically to mobilise all forces capable of achieving a change of policy in Israel, from a policy of adherence to imperialism to a policy independent of imperialism, a policy of peace and friendship among peoples.

Our working class, despite nationalist hysteria which the monopolists and big bourgeoisie utilise to increase their exploitation and blunt the class struggle, is waging a fight for better conditions, higher pay and against unemployment. Their sufferings have increased by the recent devaluation of the Lira, and consequently their struggle will intensify.

This struggle will merge with the general struggle for a change of existing policy to a policy of peace and social progress.

Like you comrades, like all the communists of the world, we are confident of the future.

Long live the 30th Congress of the British Communist Party. Long live the International Communist Movement strongly united on Marxism-Leninism. Long live peace. Long live Communism.

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