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# 11-12/69

8th Plenary Session of the Central Committee  
Communist Party of Israel.

The 50th Anniversary of the Foundation of the  
Country's Communist Party will be Celebrated.

M. Vilner - Excerpts from Speech at 8th  
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We will support a government that will work for  
for the implementation of the Security  
Resolution.

Important success of The New Communist List  
elections to the Municipal Councils in

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8th PLENARY SESSION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE  
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL  
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On November 14 and 15, 1969 the 8th plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel convened with the participation of members of the Central Control Commission.

Cde. Abraham Melamed, member of the C.C., chaired the session.

Cde. Meir Vilner, the Secretary General, lectured on the theme: "The results of the elections to the seventh term of the Knesset and to the municipal councils, and the political perspectives".

Cde. Tawfiq Toubi, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Secretariat, lectured on the theme: "Party work after the election campaign."

A debate ensued which was summed up by cde. Meir Vilner. Resolutions were adopted and the composition of the Party's representation in the Executive Committee of the Histadrut was decided upon.

The C.C. adopted a special resolution concerning the celebration of the 100th anniversary of V. I. LENIN's birthday.

The Resolutions of the 8th Plenary Session of the  
C.C. of the Communist Party of Israel

Results of the elections to the Knesset and the municipal  
councils, and the political situation

The elections to the seventh term of the Knesset were carried out under conditions of war and in a chauvinist, anti-communist, anti-Soviet, and anti-Arab atmosphere. The authorities, after the success of the Communist List in the Histadrut elections, started employing impressive means of terror against the Communist Party and against the Arab population with the intent to falsify the will of the voters in the elections to the Knesset and to prevent an increase of the representation of the Communist Party, which consistently combats the Government's policy, and fights for peace without annexations.

Despite the hundreds of restriction orders issued against activists of our Communist Party, despite the mass detentions of members and sympathizers of the Party on the eve of the elections, and despite the provocation of connecting the name of the New

Communist List with the criminal bomb explosions in Affule and Haifa, which had been condemned by our Party, despite the threats and pressures on the Arab population and on the supporters of the New Communist List among the Jewish population, despite the bribes and enticements, the falsifications and the destruction of ballots of New Communist List voters, our Communist Party had serious success in the elections to the 7th term of the Knesset and to the municipal councils: the New Communist List received more than 40% more votes than in the 1965 elections. Our Communist Party received increased support among the Jewish as well as among the Arab population.

The success of the Communist Party in the elections to the 7th term of the Knesset and to the municipal councils is a success for all forces of peace in Israel. Our Party struggles for the rallying of all these forces in the fateful battle for the cessation of the bloodshed, for prevention of a new war, for the establishment of a just and stable peace on the basis of implementing the Security Council Resolution of November 22, 1967.

The general results of the elections to the Knesset show that there has been no essential change in the political balance of forces in Israel. The loss of the absolute majority by the Alignment and a certain increase of the Gahal force prove that when the Alignment starts competing with the annexationist and chauvinist policy of Gahal, the latter gains the upper hand. Experience shows that the policy of war and territorial expansion causes a strengthening of the extreme bourgeois right and the strengthening of the extreme forces within the Alignment.

The political and military situation after the elections has aggravated. The bloodshed is increasing. Instead of waging a realistic policy and of striving for a true peace, there is an increased obstinacy on part of the ruling circles, who are encouraged by imperialist circles, particularly in the United States.

The decision of the Alignment to conduct negotiations with Gahal for the establishment of a governmental coalition with it, and the delineating of a common programme, which is politically, socially and economically still more extreme and reactionary, proves that the leaders of the Alignment have not learned anything and have not forgotten anything, despite the growing isolation of the official Israeli policy in the international arena, despite the ceaseless change in the balance of forces in the world and in the region in favour of the forces of peace, national independence and socialism, and to the detriment of the

forces of war and imperialism.

The C.C. reiterates its warning against the continuation of the adventurist policy of the Government which in collusion with imperialistic circles, curbs the advance towards peace and security.

The C.C. reiterates emphatically that there still exists a real opportunity to establish a stable and just peace between Israel and the Arab countries by implementing the Security Council Resolution, which guarantees Israel the recognition on part of the Arab countries of its right to sovereign existence within recognized and secure borders, and free navigation in the Tiran Strait and the Suez Canal. All this on condition that Israel will withdraw from all the territories occupied in the June War and will lend a hand to a just solution of the question of the Arab refugees, according to the Security Council Resolution.

The Communist Party of Israel will oppose any government, which will wage a policy of territorial annexations. The Party will determine its attitude towards the future government according to the latter's programme. Any government in the previous form, with the participation of Gahal, will be a war government, an anti-national and pro-imperialist government, an anti-democratic and anti-worker government.

The Communist Party of Israel will support any government which;

1. Will lend a hand to a peace without annexations, on the basis of implementing the Security Council Resolution; will conduct a policy of independence, neutrality and strengthening of national independence.
2. Will ensure the democratic freedoms of the people and the civil rights.
3. Will abolish the national discrimination and will guarantee the equality of civil and national rights of the Arab population of Israel, in economy, work, social and public life.
4. Will work for the interests of the workers and all toilers in town and country.

The C.C. considers as the most urgent and important task in the present period the rallying in one front of all forces of peace in Israel, irrespective of ideological or political views, for the struggle for saving Israel from a national disaster, for attaining peace and security by implementing the Security Council

Resolution.

An end to the barbaric "environment" punishments !

The C.C. points out with grave concern the dangerous escalation in the suppressive actions of the authorities in the occupied territories which is expressed by mass demolition of dwelling houses and complete streets belonging to innocent people in the occupied areas, as it happened especially in Halhoul and in Gaza; and by indiscriminate shooting at inhabitants. These criminal acts of infliction of brutal collective punishments on an entire population, have evoked protest and anger among broad circles of the Israeli public and even in the press.

The infliction of cruel collective punishments, which are called by the Defence Minister, Moshe Dayan, "environment" punishments, has evoked anger throughout the whole civilized world. These are the methods of oppression used by unrestrained colonial conquerors, methods which have been condemned by peace-loving mankind in the whole world.

The attempt to employ barbaric methods in order to force the Arab people in the occupied areas to collaborate with the occupation authorities, the threats of further blowing-up of tens of houses, of hundreds of houses, and even of entire villages and towns, prove that the government has failed in its attempts to subdue the occupied people and has caused its increased resistance to the occupation. The new methods too will fail; they will not suppress the resistance to the occupation, but will bring about its intensification.

The C.C. calls upon all forces of progress and peace in Israel to lift their voices against the brutal repressive measures in the occupied territories employed by the Defence Minister and his accomplices; for the cessation of the bloodshed, for peace without annexations, for the elimination of violence and war from the sphere of Israeli-Arab relations - by fully implementing the Security Council Resolution.

Sullam - a new stage in the intensification of oppression against the Arab population in Israel

The C.C. calls upon the progressive public in our country, upon the fighters for Jewish-Arab brotherhood and upon all who strive for normal relations between the Jewish and the Arab citizens of Israel, not to pass in silence over the severe and anxiety-arousing act carried out by the police, who since 10.11.69, have imposed a curfew upon the Israeli Arab village of Sullam near



Affule.

The police declared a general curfew in the village, prevented the workers from going out to their work, and the pupils from going to school. The police concentrated all males, the aged and the boys, in the village square, keeping them there for a whole day without food and water, and then detained more than 50 villagers. The police continues the nightly curfew in the village. All this under the pretext that the traces of the minelayer in Affule had led to the vicinity of the village.

The C.C. points out with concern that the blockade against the village of Sullam constitutes a dangerous precedent, which has justly evoked heavy anxieties in the hearts of the Arab inhabitants of Israel, as all of their towns and villages are liable to experience the same fate as the village of Sullam.

Lately the police have detained hundreds of Israeli Arab inhabitants in Galilee and Haifa under the pretext of false accusations and without any accusation at all, and subsequently found themselves compelled to set free all of these detainees.

We consider the blockade imposed on an entire Israeli village and the indiscriminate mass detentions, as a dangerous escalation in the official policy towards the Arab population, a policy of persecutions, restriction orders, mass detentions and terror. The authorities try to use the Arab population as a scapegoat for the failure of their own policy of force and annexation.

The Arab population has expressed in all possible forms, and first and foremost, by its supporting the Communist Party, its opposition to the adventurist and criminal deeds, such as the laying of mines in dwelling areas and public places. It has expressed its adherence to a political-public struggle, to a just peace without annexations, which will ensure the legitimate rights of both peoples.

The imposition of collective punishments upon an entire population in Israel is a grave step, against which all democratic forces must take their stand.

We call upon all the progressive public in Israel to act in order to curb the sliding down of the government's policy against the Arab population. Only adventurists, who belittle the future relations between the two peoples and democracy in Israel, will support the infliction of collective punishments against an entire population in Israel.

Remove the blockade from the Israeli Arab village of Sullam!

Set free all innocent detainees !

Stop the campaign of persecutions, detentions and incitement against the Arab population!

Against labour courts. For guaranteeing the workers' freedom to strike

The C.C. views with severity the increasing intervention of the government against the workers in their struggle for a rise in their wages, for the improvement of their working conditions, for the defense of their living standard. This intervention has been expressed by putting in force restriction orders against the postmen and workers of the Electrical Company, and by other measures.

Now the assault upon the freedom of strike has entered a new stage.

The order of the labour court which instructed the x-ray workers to stop their strike, constitutes a clear and drastic expression bringing into play the courts in workers' struggles. This is a perilous precedent constituting the gravest threat against the freedom of the workers to strike.

The C.C. calls upon the working class, upon the workers' committees and workers' assemblies, to express their protest against the intervention of the government and of the courts in the workers' struggle.

The C.C. calls upon the toilers of Israel to demand of the leadership of the Histadrut to act against the anti-worker intervention of the government and the courts and to take its stand at the side of the x-ray workers in their just struggle.

The C.C. calls for a struggle for the abolition of the labour courts and for the abolition of all other laws that limit the workers' freedom to strike.

Toward the 100th anniversary of V.I.Lenin's birthday

Together with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, with the world communist movement, with the entire progressive mankind, the forces of progress and peace in Israel will celebrate in April

1970 the 100th birthday of V.I.Lenin - the genius of revolutionary theory and practice, the leader and teacher of the workers of the whole world in their struggle for national and social emancipation, the founder of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and of the first socialist country in the world.

Toward this great historic date the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel resolves:

1. To organize meetings, rallies, celebrations and exhibitions to mark the 100th birthday of V.I.Lenin.
2. To publish in the Hebrew language the following books:
  - \* "The manifest of the Communist Party" by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.
  - \* "The proletarian revolution and the renegade Kautsky" by V.I.Lenin.
  - \* "'Left-wing' communism, an infantile disorder" by V.I.Lenin.
3. To arrange a study programme in the Party and among the sympathizers about Leninism, comprising lectures and seminars.
4. To publish regularly in the party press material about Lenin and his teachings.
5. To convene at the beginning of 1970 a special enlarged session of the Central Committee of the Party devoted to the centenary of the birth of V.I.Lenin.

THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE COUNTRY'S  
COMMUNIST PARTY WILL BE CELEBRATED

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Joint session of the Central Committee and the Central Control Commission of the Communist Party of Israel

On November 28, 1969 a joint session of the Central Committee and the Central Control Commission of the Communist Party of Israel was held.

The joint session was chaired by comrade Pnina Feinhaus, chairman of the Central Control Commission.

Comrade Meir Vilner, the Secretary General, of the C.P. of Israel spoke on the theme "50th years of the country's Communist Party". A debate took place, which was summed up by the speaker.

The Central Committee adopted a resolution to the effect that the jubilee of the country's Communist Party (1919 - 1969) will be celebrated. Important events which kept the Party busy in 1969 (the 16th Congress, the elections to the Histadrut Congress to the Knesset and the municipal councils) did not make it possible to celebrate this important anniversary in the history of the Party in 1969, the year of the jubilee. The Central Committee decided to convene on March 28, 1970 a solemn assembly in order to celebrate the jubilee of the country's Communist Party.

At the beginning of the session a resolution was adopted protesting against the authorities' preventing members of the C.C., comrades Othman Abu Ras from Taibe village and Samira Khouri from Nazareth from participating in the session of the Central Committee, by refusing to give them permits to leave their domiciles, to which they are confined.

FROM THE STRENGTHENING OF OUR FORCE IN THE ELECTIONS  
TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND  
DEMOCRACY

.....

(Excerpts from Comrade' Meir Vilner's speech in the 8th plenary session of Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, - 14.11.69.)

At the commencement of his speech, cde. M. Vilner pointed out the success of the Communist Party in the elections to the 7th term of the Knesset and municipal councils although it had been a difficult campaign. Conditions for us are this time harder than at the elections to the Histadrut, even though then too conditions had been not too easy and restriction orders and various pressures had been exerted against our comrades.

But after our success in the Histadrut elections the ruling circles, and particularly the headquarters of the Alignment, decided to take up even graver measures against us in order to "curb the New Communist List", as they said. The Alignment leaders immediately started a campaign of intimidations. The minister P. Sapir openly threatened the Arab population that their fate would be bitter if they voted for the New Communist List. A special headquarters of the Alignment was set up headed by the Deputy Prime Minister Y. Allon, assisted by two colonels, an auxiliary army of functionaries, and above all - the police and army services, all in order to "beat the New Communist List".

The authorities did not shirk from using any means. They exploited the criminal bomb explosions in Affule and Haifa for election purposes, detained many of our members and sympathizers, threw them into jail, and only set them free after the elections. The detentions hit us directly among the Arab population (the detainees could not be active in the election campaign and could not even vote). The detentions were exploited for incitement and for threats against our List, among the Jewish population, too. The Party organized many actions against the detentions and the terror, but the courts did not think it correct to protect the democratic legal rights and the Central Election Commission behaved shamefully, when it refused to take up the issue with the authorities. A substantial part of the party activists among the Arab population was confined to their domiciles and denied free movement.

In addition to this other means too were used : Immense amounts of money were devoted to bribes and buying of votes.

The outstanding fact in these elections was the fact that all other lists waged against us an unbridled propaganda.

Despite all this we attained important achievements in these elections. This time our word reached the broadest masses and our opponenets found it difficult to match themselves against us in relation to the actual issues. Hence the unprecedented terror, threats, and incitement.

### The election results

The election results do not radically alter the general political picture in Israel. The Alignment did indeed lose its majority, but it remained the chief political force and it tries to overcome its losses by adding the deputies elected on its Arab puppet lists to the Alignment group in the Knesset. Thus the Alignment will have 60 Knesset members. From among the lost seats of the Alignment, three went to the "Statehood List" (Ben-Gurion, had already been a member of the 6th term of the Knesset). The Mafdal (Religious-Nationalist Party) received an additional seat. Gahal got the same number of seats it had had at the beginning of the 6th term of the Knesset, but it has achieved an increase, when the two deputies of the "Free Centre" are taken into account.

Out of the new lists none passed the limiting percentage. The Community List (one of the Jewish communities) failed completely. The list of the fascist Eldad received 7,591 votes. This is a failure. But the mere appearance of such an extreme racist list is a sign of the times.

The Peace List, whose peace programme is also based upon the implementation of the Security Council Resolution succeeded in getting 5,138 votes. These were mainly the votes of the Left Union (secessionists from Mapam) who had appeared in the Histadrut elections. The head of this list, G. Yatziv, belittled the other peace forces and this fact did not prove helpful to his list. But summing up, one can say that the mere emergence of a peace list with such a programme, was a positive phenomenon.

"Ha'olam Haze" increased its representation to 2 seats, thanks to the votes of the soldiers. Instead of working for co-operation between the peace forces, this list was mainly active in making propaganda against the Communist Party and against the Peace List.

The list of the Mikunis-Sneh group this time too only with difficulty passed the limitation percentage and received 1,1% of the

votes, just as in 1965. But this time these were not Communist votes and even not votes of ex-communists. Their single deputy to the Knesset was elected in a large measure due to the votes of avowed anti-communists and reactionaries. Many rightist newspapers had published articles in their favour and had called for voting for them. In this respect S. Grudzensky's articles in "Davar" were characteristic. He declared that he was a professed anti-communist, but called for giving votes to Dr. Sneh...

In continuation of his speech, comrade M. Vilner said that the anti-Sovietism fulfilled a big task in the election campaign and that all the other 15 lists got infected with it. Their main accusation against our Party was that it "carries out Moscow's orders". The anti-Sovietism is a poisoned weapon directed towards dividing the forces of peace.

### Great increase of votes for the New Communist List

In the prevailing conditions the voting results for our list in these elections have to be considered as a success and a serious achievement.

The New Communist List in Israel received in the elections to the 7th term of the Knesset 38,827 votes, as compared with the 27,413 to the 6th term of the Knesset. This is an increase by 41,6%. No other party increased by such a high percentage in these elections. Measured in general percentage, the New Communist List received this time 2,84% of the total electorate, as against 2,27% received in 1965. This is an increase of 0,57%. We point out with satisfaction that our force increased in the Jewish as well as in the Arab population. The representation of the Communist Party increased in a number of municipal councils, and in some, we succeeded for the first time in acquiring a representation.

Further, the speaker pointed out the devotion of the members and sympathizers of our Communist party and of the Communist Youth, who spared no effort and did all in their power for our success in the elections. To all of them the Central Committee extends its thanks and greetings.

In view of the election results it will be the task of our Party to work for the consolidation of all peace forces in Israel, those who base themselves on the implementation of the Security Council Resolution of November 22, 1967, on the basis of a peace without annexations, those who oppose the policy of the government.

The government describes the situation as one which allegedly does leave no option between the continuation of the present situation and the annihilation of Israel, and as though Israel had no alternative but to live in a perpetual military confrontation with the Arab peoples, and to hang on to the present front. We have to continue trying to convince the public that our policy constitutes an alternative to the policy of annexations of the government, and that there exists a realistic opportunity for a peace without annexations.

The forces of peace, anti-imperialism and socialism are growing stronger

In the international arena the initiative along the whole length of the front lies in the hands of the forces of peace, the socialist camp and the anti-imperialist forces. Imperialism is on the retreat. The Soviet Union occupies the foremost rank in this development.

The international situation is characterized by the stormy advance of the forces of progress and socialism. The most important fields in which this development is brought to expression are:

1. The continuation of the increase of the economic, scientific and military power of the Soviet Union and its advance in the conquest of the space. The other socialist countries too have great successes.
2. The talks between the Soviet Union and China, which have brought about a relaxation of the tension between the two socialist powers and which contribute to the improvement of the international situation.
3. The development in Czechoslovakia, where the Communist Party has defeated the anti-socialist forces and has, with the assistance of the Soviet Union, foiled the imperialist designs directed against the entire socialist camp.
4. The shaking of the hinterland of imperialism inside the United States which is chiefly expressed by the mighty demonstrations against the continuation of war in Vietnam.
5. The sharpening of the contradictions within the imperialist camp in economic-financial, political and military questions (including matters relating to the war in Vietnam and in the Middle East too).



6. The strike wave, extraordinary in its might, which is sweeping the capitalist world, especially in West Europe.

7. The progressive changes that have occurred in two Latin American countries: Peru and Bolivia (nationalization of the oil companies etc.), which can be defined as steps of an anti-imperialist revolution. American imperialism is not any longer almighty on the American continent.

8. The big changes in a number of additional Arab countries, which have brought the Arab anti-imperialist movement to a higher stage and to a considerable change in the balance of forces in the Arab world in favour of the anti-imperialist forces.

In continuation cde. M. Vilner analyzed the changes in West Germany, the struggle in India and the American-Soviet talks about the restriction of strategical weapons, which are shortly to be held in Helsinki, and the impact of all these on the international situation. The speaker dwelled in particular on the developments in the Arab world.

### The great developments in the Arab world

On the background of the aforementioned international development one has to see the fundamental changes which are occurring in the Arab world. This is a new stage in the struggle of the Arab peoples for national and social liberation. This development is of utmost importance.

The anti-imperialist and progressive revolution has received further impetus.

The following are the most important changes which have recently occurred in the Arab countries:

Sudan. The visit of the Sudanese premier in the Soviet Union ended with the strengthening of the links between the two countries, as testified to by the publication of the joint declaration. From the point of view of our region one has to point out with satisfaction that the present Sudanese government supports the Security Council Resolution.

Lyvbia. The revolution in that country is in a process of deepening. The government demands the abolition of the foreign bases, nationalizes the foreign banks and other foreign enterprises.

South Yemen. Has lately broken off its diplomatic relations with the USA.

Lebanon. The struggle which is being waged in that country is extraordinarily important, as this is a "traditionally" pro-western country. President Hillou is isolated from the people. One has to see that the main struggle is within Lebanon itself, between the anti-imperialist and the pro-imperialist forces (and not between Palestinians and Lebanese, as the West wishes to present the situation). The most important fact is that American imperialism which had planned a direct intervention in Lebanon (and had also planned an alternative plan with the Israeli rulers - Allon's declaration!) was unable to implement its designs because of the resolute warning on part of the Soviet Union. The Prime Minister designate of Lebanon, Karame, has thanked the Soviet Union for this stand. The development in Lebanon caused the weakening of the pro-imperialist regime in that country, and also the weakening of the US position in the region. And the more weakened become the imperialism and its henchmen in our region, the stronger become the perspectives of peace.

On the basis of these developments in the Arab countries and of the changes in the balance of forces in the Arab world it became possible to decide upon convening a further Arab summit conference, under anti-imperialist slogans, when even the Saudi state was compelled to consent to this. The status of the USA in the region has reached an all-time low.

### The talks between the powers

At the same time it has to be noted that the talks between the great powers concerning our region have not advanced as expected, for which the government of the USA is to be blamed. The actions of the USA in the region absolutely contradict its declarations about its alleged wish for peace in the region.

The obdurate policy of the Israeli government, which continues to reject any peace programme that does not include territorial annexations, is possible thanks to the support on part of American imperialism, in spite of some friction between them. Were it not for the sabotage on part of the rulers of Washington and their Israeli henchmen, we should long ago have arrived at the cessation of the bloodshed, at a stable and just peace. In spite of their tremendous losses, the American imperialists do not yet cease undermining the perspectives for peace in our region, are still designing plots against the peoples. But an

analysis of the developments in the world and in the region brings one to the conclusion that the imperialist designs are bound to fail. Meantime, however, the situation is aggravating, the number of victims is increasingly growing, and immense economic resources are being wasted. The progressive forces in Israel have no more important task than to struggle for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution.

In view of the insufficient progress of the inter-power contacts, the sharpening of the military situation along the lines, the continuation of the Israeli occupation and the creation of faits accomplis in the occupied territories, the increase of oppression of the population in the occupied territories together with the increasing resistance to the occupation, a number of Arab countries have reached the conclusion that there is hardly a perspective for a political solution. This is also expressed in the reasons given in the declaration for convening the summit conference of the Arab countries next month, in Morocco. There it is said that the USA and Israel have blocked the path to any political solution, by the obstinate refusal to evacuate the occupied areas, within the framework of a peace settlement.

The latest speech of the Egyptian President, Nasser, too contained such undertones, though he pointed out that Egypt has left the doors open for a political settlement. It must be emphasized that the official Israeli press has concocted a report according to which Nasser is alleged to have spoken about the annihilation of Israel. In the speech itself it was said that even if the Arab peoples should see themselves obliged to act not in a political form, then too the object would be the liberation of the territories occupied by Israel in the June 67 War, and nothing more.

Our Communist Party does not agree with the view as if the perspectives for a political solution have come to an end. The balance of forces in the world and in the region is continually changing to the detriment of imperialism, which is not any longer almighty. This development is strengthening the perspectives for imposing upon imperialism and its henchmen a political settlement, the establishment of a stable peace between Israel and the Arab countries on the basis of the Security Council Resolution.

#### Towards the establishment of the new government

In this situation a new government is going to be established in Israel. The struggle waged around the composition of the new government is a struggle between two currents, both of which are,

fundamentally, against peace.

The first current is that of Gahal, which is demanding the annexation of all the occupied territories to Israel.

The second current is that of the Alignment with all its inherent internal contradictions. The Alignment knows that without the USA there is no political, material or military basis at all for the obdurate policy of the government, and that the hour is drawing near, when it will not be able to content itself with the evasive formulae brewed jointly with Gahal.

This is the fundamental background of the rushing to and from accompanying the establishment of the government. The Alignment has made a serious step toward Gahal by consenting to negotiate common basic lines and not only in the field of foreign and security policy. Mapam too has agreed to the renewing of the government of "national unity" with Gahal, but opposes the establishment of a coalition government with Gahal, that is to say to determine together with Gahal an all-including joint programme. Dayan, inside the Alignment, is pulling the strings in direction of concessions to Gahal.

The legs of the Alignment are impeded by the weight of Dayan, who is waiting for a propitious moment. At the same time, Dayan too, as the other sectors of the Alignment, builds his policies on an "understanding" with the USA, whilst "struggling" with the latter.

Our delegation, when it appeared before the President of the State, proclaimed that: "we will support any government that will work for peace, on the basis of the Security Council Resolution, and we will oppose any government that will continue to conduct a policy of territorial annexations. It is clear that we will not support any government that will be established on the basis of the present fundamental lines, with Gahal or without it. We will also vote against any government which incorporates Gahal".

The struggle before us will be mainly a political one, but it will be not only a political one for the establishment of peace and for guaranteeing the democratic freedoms. This will also be a sharp class struggle in the economic and social field. For financing the ever-increasing military expenditures, the government intends to impose new taxes, to raise the prices of many goods of consumption, among them the most vital ones. This struggle has already begun and will become stronger.

We shall have to intensify the struggle against the persecutions and the terror which the authorities wage against our party and

our comrades, particularly among the Arab sector.

We shall have to increase the struggle against the collective punishments and the brutal oppression in the occupied territories, against the policy of "environment punishment" of Dayan, in the form of demolition of entire streets and encroachment upon entire towns and villages. The cruel method of mass collective punishments has been lately copied from the occupied areas to the area of Israel, to the village of Sullam near Affule. (Imposition of a prolonged curfew, mass detentions etc.).

Our Party, which has emerged strengthened from the recent electoral battles, will work for the rallying of the broadest public circles in the struggle for peace, democracy, against the national oppression and for the interests of the toilers. Thereby we shall best serve the interests of our peoples, the national interests of Israel, the cause of peace and progress.

Many difficulties lie ahead of us, but in the end we shall overcome them all and our way will be victorious. All the development in the world, in the region and in our country itself will, earlier or later, bring about the complete defeat of the enemies of peace and national independence. Today it is our task to prevent a further sliding down, to put an end as soon as possible to the crazy bloodshed, increase of dear victims, orphans, widows and bereaved parents, to bring nearer the establishment of a stable and just peace, the implementation of the Security Council Resolution, which is for the benefit of all the peoples, their life in peace and security.

THE DELEGATION OF THE NEW COMMUNIST LIST TO PRESIDENT OF STATE:  
WE WILL SUPPORT A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL WORK FOR PEACE, FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

After the publication of the official results of the Knesset elections the President of the State, Zalman Shazar, invited the representatives of the parliamentary groups, to consultations concerning the establishment of the new government. The consultations ended, the President entrusted Golda Meir with the task of forming the new government.

On Sunday, 9.11.69., the President received, in the course of the consultations, the delegation of the New Communist List in Israel. The members of the delegation Meir Vilner, Member of Knesset, and Tawfiq Toubi, M.K., conveyed to the President the following declaration:

Mister President,  
Before bringing before you our considerations concerning the future government, permit us to express our feelings regarding the campaign of elections to the Knesset, which was held under conditions of grave violations of the freedom of voting and of pressure upon the voters. Especially conspicuous were the open threats against the Arab population, if they should vote for our Communist List. The elections were held under conditions of grave persecutions on part of the authorities against our Communist Party and its activists.

The majority of our activists among the Arab population was deprived of the freedom of movement according to restriction orders which oblige those receiving them not to leave their place of domicile. On the eve of the elections more than one hundred members and sympathizers of our Party, among them well-known poets, journalists and candidates of our election list, were detained and thrown into prison, under the pretext of "needs of investigation" in connexion with the criminal explosions which had occurred in Affule and Haifa. After the election all these detainees were set free... Comments are superfluous. Government ministers openly threatened the Arab voters, saying: their fate would be bitter if they voted for the New Communist List. Among the Jewish population a campaign of incitement and intimidations was conducted against our Party.

Despite all this, and despite the fact that votes given to our List in a number of polling booths, where no representatives of our List were able to be present, were thrown away or transferred

to other lists, and despite the system of mass bribe carried out in these elections, our List gained a serious success among the Jewish voters as well as among the Arab voters. Our List received in the final counting approximately 39 thousand votes, an increase of more than 40% compared with the elections to the sixth term of the Knesset, in 1965. We received 3 Knesset deputies; we were actually robbed of the fourth.

Our members and sympathizers, who were detained for the duration of the elections, were not only deprived of the possibility to carry out their activities and propaganda work, but also their right to vote. Just the votes of these persons would have ensured the fourth deputy to our List. Hence our representation in the Knesset does not reflect our whole strength in the population.

Mister President,

With regard to the establishment of the new government: What is the situation? What has the new government to solve? The political and security situation is extremely grave. The bloodshed continues without a break for the third year now. The danger of a new war looms over the horizon. Thousands of millions of liras and dollars are dedicated to military expenditures, instead of being dedicated to development, to health and education services, and to the raising of the standard of the toilers.

On the other hand a real opportunity has been created to establish a stable peace between Israel and the Arab countries. It is, in our opinion the most urgent and important task of the new government, to make use of this historical opportunity. We are convinced that to miss this historical opportunity created for the establishment of peace would be a national irresponsibility.

The fact is that Arab countries, such as Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, are prepared to establish a stable and just peace with Israel on the basis of the Security Council Resolution of November 22, 1967; are accordingly prepared to recognize the right to sovereign existence of the State of Israel within recognized and secure borders, to enable Israel to navigate freely in the Tiran Straits and the Suez Canal, to establish a lasting peace, if Israel will be prepared to evacuate the territories it occupied in the June War and to lend a hand to a just solution of the question of the Arab refugees.

In the international arena many countries, and first and foremost the Soviet Union, are working for finding a solution of

the crisis in our region by political means and for establishing a stable and just peace by implementing the Security Council Resolution. Within the framework of the peace settlement guarantees will be given for the security and the territorial integrity of all countries in our region, by the Security Council and the four big powers.

We are prepared to support any government that will work for peace and which will be ready to implement the Security Council Resolution. It is obvious that such a government cannot be established in the form of the previous government, the so-called government of "national rally". As against this, we will oppose any government that will demand territorial annexations. Annexations and peace contradict each other. The security of Israel does not depend on the size of its territory; this is daily proved by the bitter reality. Now the territory is big, but security is shaken much more than ever before. Security will only be ensured by the establishment of peace with the Arab countries. And the establishment of a stable peace is today realistic, if the new Israeli Government will lend a hand to the implementation of the Security Council Resolution.

Summing up, our position vis-avis the government will be determined by its programme. We are prepared to support any government which -

1. Will lend a hand to a peace without annexations, on the basis of full implementation of the Security Council Resolution; will conduct a policy of independence, neutrality and strengthening of national independence.
2. Will ensure the democratic freedoms of the people and the civil rights.
3. Will abolish all national discrimination and will ensure the Arab population in Israel equality of civil and national rights, in economy, work, and in social and public life.
4. Will work for the interests of the workers and all toilers of town and country.



WHY DID THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NEW COMMUNIST LIST NOT SIGN  
THE ELECTION PROTOCOL ?

At the session of the Central Commission of Elections to the 7th Term of the Knesset, the representative of the New Communist List, Dr. Wolf Ehrlich, declared that he is unable to sign the final protocol of the commission. Substantiating his stand, he brought the following reasons:

1. The Board was unable or unwilling to intervene in the gross violations on part of the security organs and the police against the freedom of elections and against the principle of equality in the elections.
2. During the last weeks before election day tens of activists of our List were detained and imprisoned, among them even candidates to municipal councils in the districts of Nazareth, Haifa and the Triangle, an act which very much hindered the activity of our Party in the election campaign. These same activists were also deprived of their right to vote.

The majority of the detainees were not at all interrogated by the police concerning their participation in any alleged crimes against security, but only concerning their party affiliations and their world outlook.

The majority of the detainees were set free immediately after election day. The judge, responding to the request by the police, cancelled the order of arrest, even before the date of termination of the official order of arrest...

The suspects were set free after the police representatives claimed in court that the investigation material had not brought up any proofs that could connect these suspects with the explosions that had occurred in some quarters of Haifa" ("Ha'aretz" - 2.11.69.)

Also the article of Arye Arad ("Davar" - 2.11.69.) confirms: "At the moment more than 100 Israeli Arabs are in prison, and it is not assumed that the perpetrators of the crimes are among them. For example, it looks as if none at all of those detained at the end of last week and the beginning of this week belong to the perpetrators of those crimes".

These facts strengthen my claim that the arrests were carried out not for needs of investigating crimes, but for political purposes.

3. Upon the Arab activists of the Party restriction orders and limitation orders were imposed en'masse, especially in the period between the elections to the Histadrut Congress and the elections to the Knesset. The Central Election Commission resolved by majority of votes not to intervene in this matter. The main claim was that one cannot intervene in matters of security. Member of Knesset Meir Vilner addressed a letter of protest to the Ministry of Defence and received a reply from the Defence Minister, on 19.10.69., in which was said:

"With reference to your request that permits for movement be issued to those limited (in their movement), so as to enable them to carry out their public activity towards the elections - I suggest you address your request to the Central Election Commission for clarification, so that they will seek a realistic way to deal with this matter".

The meaning of the reply is that the Defence Minister did not consider the arrangement of permits for the activists of the Party, enabling them to carry out their public activity towards the elections, as something violating matters of security, or as intervention in matters of security. The exploitation of this argument is exposed as a violation of the freedom and equality of elections.

4. A restriction order was imposed upon my deputy, Dr. Emile Touma. The police refused to give him a permit to come to Jerusalem, to the sessions of the Commission as well as for election day and the days following it. The Commission refused to intervene in this matter.
5. The candidate of the New Communist List, Tawfiq Zaiad, upon whom a restriction order had been imposed, did not receive a permit to come to Jerusalem for recording there his electoral speech for the Israel Broadcasting Service. The Chairman of the Commission refused to intervene in his favour. In the end, the Defence Minister Mr. Moshe Dayan, agreed to give him the permit, which proves that even according to the evaluations of the security organs, his travel to Jerusalem did not violate the security of the state.
6. What is worst and gives rise to greatest concern, is the combination of party and state appartuses. After the results of the elections to the Histadrut Congress became known, the Secretary General of the Israeli Labour Party, Mr. Pinhas Sapir, who is also a government minister, declared: "At the first stage towards the elections to the Knesset one has to concentrate the best forces and to conduct

a businesslike and aggressive propaganda campaign. Instead of standing as defenders against the offensives of the opponents of the state, we have to be the aggressors who will prove to those parts in the Arab sector how great will be the disaster they will bring upon themselves if they support the New Communist List" ("Ha'aretz" - 18.9.69.)

These words do not only slander ("opponents of the state"), but also threatens with governmental sanctions, the Arab population, in case a big part of it would vote for our List.

The Chairman of the Commission refused to intervene in this matter. In accordance with these instructions of Mr. Sapir, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Yigal Allon, conducted on behalf of the "Alignment" a campaign of incitement and intimidation against our list, among the Arab population. With the threat of sanctions against the Arab voters, if they would vote for the list of our Party, appeared also the Prime Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir, the Police Minister, Mr. Sasson, and other ministers, in the election meeting in the Cinerama hall.

7. In the election campaign the leading organs of the Alignment as well as those of Mafdal (National-Religious Party) used the state apparatus for creating an atmosphere of pressure and enticement.

Prisoners who had been sentenced for security crimes in villages of the Triangle (Ara, Um-el-Fahem and other villages) were set free a few weeks before the elections and sent on leave, with the promise to receive amnesty, if they and their relatives rallied in support of the Alignment. The leadership of the Mafdal was assisted by the Ministry for Internal Affairs (which is headed by a minister belonging to this party -transl.) bringing into play the pressure and enticement of "unification of families" (that is the granting of permission for members of their families from the occupied territories or even the East Bank of the Jordan to re-join their families here- transl.), and forced many to vote for their party.

8. In the Central Commission for the Elections of the 7th Term of the Knesset the process of concentrating most of the decisions rested with the Chairman and his deputies, a procedure which empties the plenum of the Commission of its content and deprives the parliamentary groups which have no representation among the deputies, of the right to decision, and in many cases even from the right to information. I consider this an anti-democratic process.

9. Our List had no opportunity whatsoever to know the rules of classification and counting of the votes of the soldiers and the seamen (of the merchant navy transl.) and it was not given any opportunity to examine the carrying out of the classification and counting. In these elections, when also civilians in the occupied territories and in employ of the army voted in military polling booths, this matter affects a substantial percentage of the entire voting mass.
10. After the transfer of the protocols from the district election commissions, the results reached the press, but almost every possibility to receive the results for purposes of control of the computer's action was denied to the members of the Central Commission.

It seems to me, therefore, that there has been no serious public supervision of this activity and of the nation-wide summing-up of the results.

Because of all these reasons I cannot take upon myself the responsibility for confirming the purity of the elections and the correctness of the election results. Therefore I will not sign the protocol.

The Mikunis - Sneh group in the  
bog of nationalism and anti-Communism  
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The results of the elections to the Knesset in Israel were rather a heavy blow to the Mikunis-Sneh group which had split from the Communist Party of Israel. Despite the help they received from the official circles in the Radio and press, they hardly received a sole Knesset member - M. Sneh.

A glance at the election material issued by this group provides another evidence to the fact that this group has gone very far and reached the bog of nationalism and anti-communism.

We herewith publish a verbal translation from some typical propaganda material issued by this group during the election campaign.

In the leaflet headed : "Ask yourself but one question" the group explains its "loyalty to the class" (that is the actual subtitle) as follows:

"Maki (the Mikunis-Sneh group -transl.) waged during these years heavy campaigns in defense of the rights of Israel. It stood up against the policy of the Soviet Union in our region, paid the heavy price of the split, when it separated from the supporters of Arab nationalism - the Communist Party of Israel, acted in order to explain the justified defensive character of the six-day war..."

In the leaflet headed: "Danger! The Histadrut sinks to the right!" the group says: "If you are in favour of defining the six-day war as an aggressive war; in favour of a retreat to the lines of June 4, 1967 without peace, in accordance with an outside dictation; in favour of presenting the Arab countries as striving for peace and Israel as an aggressor; in favour of the Soviet invasion of Chechoslovakia and in general in favour of imitating anything said by the Soviet leadership -

it is obvious that you are a supporter of the COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL"

In the leaflet headed "Maki (the Mikunis-Sneh group - transl.) combines loyalty to the nation with loyalty to the class and struggle for peace", the group says in point 3 that it is for:

"a stand on the cease-fire lines as long as there is no peace agreement";

in point 4 it says that the group is in favour of "settling Arab refugees in the retained territories". (Please pay attention to the occupationist vocabulary: not occupationist, but "retained" territories!)

In the leaflet headed "Those disappointed with the Alignment where to ?" the group explains :

"The truth is that Maki (the group) has raised in the communist movement the banner of revolt against Soviet hegemonism or any other hegemonism.

In an interview given by Moshe Sneh and published in the "Yediot Ahronot" on 15.10.69. the interlocutor asked M. Sneh:

"In which way is Maki (the Mikunis-Snih group -transl.) different from other lists for peace?"

Sneh replied: "The 'Ha'olam Haze' stands for peace, but declares that it is not a force of the left and not socialist. Avneri is in favour of a retreat from all territories up to the line of June 4, but we, as against this, will agree to a retreat under conditions of peace, to borders which will be determined in the settlement with us".

The interviewer adds: "These are some of the differences enumerated by Sneh as existing between himself and Uri Avneri, M.K."

## X-RAY TECHNICIANS IN THEIR STRUGGLE

By Judith Solidor

("Zo Haderekh" - 19.11.69.)

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In an atmosphere of tension and preparedness for struggle 400 x-ray technicians assembled on 11.11.69. and held their third emergency meeting within one month. The Bnei-Brith hall in Tel-Aviv was full to capacity. The daily work of this sector of toilers consists in extending service to the sick. Because of their close contact with suffering humans, not much is heard in the chronicles of strikes about the x-ray workers. But now they have left the hospitals and clinics - and are on strike.

What has moved these serious and responsible workers who carry on their selfless work year after year in dark or semi-dark rooms to come out into the fresh air of a sunny winter day? What has stirred these people to come out en masse ?

It is clear: the water has reached their chin.

Commissions of "experts" have brought proofs...

Even at the time of signing the last collective agreement, the employers and the Histadrut functionaries verbally promised that kinks in questions of additional pay would be straightened within a year or two years. The x-ray technicians demanded during three years that these promises be fulfilled but their demands were not fulfilled. The only matter the Histadrut functionaries acceded to, was to permanently establishing "commissions" of all sorts of experts and non-experts who "proved" with untiring expertness the "incorrectness" of the demands put forward by the technicians.

Finally, when the year of 1970 and with it the time of renewal of the work agreements are drawing near the patience of the x-ray technicians ended and they demanded the immediate fulfilling of the promises. Then the Histadrut functionaries were not ashamed to deny all their promises, and took position against the technicians and even refused to let them use for their meeting the halls of the Histadrut Executive Council - the property of the working class.

Thus the x-ray technicians found themselves compelled to start a campaign for raising an emergency fund, to rent a hall at their expense, and to declare strike, thus opposing the immense apparatus of the employers - the government, the Workers' Sick Fund, "Hadassa", "Malben", while the Histadrut leadership is taking up a position against them.

The x-ray technicians played fair. Before declaring the strike, upon which was decided in the general meeting of 400 workers, they waited for 14 days, in accordance with the law of "strike freeze". Only when this term ended without the employers having used it in order to meet the workers half-way, the latter opened on 4.11. a general strike. But even in the days of strike they did not abandon the sick, and dealt with all urgent cases.

### The courts are brought into action

Then, as the elections are over, the mask fell off the face of the establishment, and its true face, its brutal face, was revealed. They decided that the x-ray workers would be the guinea-pigs of the most modern institution in our country - the court for labour conflicts, which has no precedent throughout Europe.

The complaint was preferred by the employers on 10.11.69. and on the very same day the court proceedings started. Thus the national committee of the workers was not even given time to study the charge and get legal advise. Because of this the x-ray technicians were called to meet in general assembly on 11.11. The chairman of the national committee, Menahem Mazin, reported on the developments. He expressed his protest against the road taken by the employers and the Histadrut, and called upon the x-ray technicians to rally. "We are holding a legitimate strike for our just demands", he said, "we have not hurt anyone, have not committed any criminal act, and therefore we have nothing to fear".

One after the other, participants in the meeting mounted the rostrum and protested against the trial, which is really not only directed against them, but against all the working class. The speakers called upon the assembled not to surrender in face of any intimidation.

### The strikers are united

Itzhak Beck from the "Assaf" Hospital in Tsriffin, said: The indictment consists of two parts - a prevention order, intended to bring the technicians back to work until the end of the legal proceeding; second, an interpretation of the last collective agreement (which has already expired two years ago - ago - J.S.) How is it possible that at a time when there exists a trade union, and after an arbitration, a parity commission etc., a court should have authority to decide on work conditions?



An x-ray technician from the Zamenhof clinic said: We are a responsible sector, we do not strike for our pleasure. They try to intimidate us in various ways, but in this they will not succeed, just as they did not succeed in breaking the postmen, who defied the restriction orders.

Judith Ernst from the Beilinson Hospital in Petah-Tikva, said: This court is a new institution, whose purpose is intervention in labour conflicts - in favour of the employers and against the workers. It is evident that we are the guinea-pigs, and therefore it is important that we stand fast, so that no precedent might be created to the detriment of the entire working class. As the employers are using aggressive methods in their struggle against us and do not show any sign of preparedness to come toward us, we have to pay with the same coin: we have to sharpen the strike and to call upon the whole working class and especially upon the doctors, and call them to act in solidarity with us. We have to establish teams who will call on works committees and will explain matters.

Itzhak Talmon from the Meir Hospital in Kfar-Saba, said: The labour court is determining its own inauguration, just as the unions determine their right to strike. We have to fight back.

David Seidel, from the Hadassa Hospital in Tel-Aviv said: When the strike is brought before a court, the trade union organization is hit, and this is a matter for the whole working class. The hostile position of the press in relation to us is directed from above. In this trial we have to appear as accusers and not as accused.

Meir Kor, from the Zamenhof Clinic in Tel-Aviv said: It is said about us that we are against the sick, when really we are ourselves become ill in consequence of the work conditions, being exposed to irradiation. If we lose this strike, we lose all.

Yocheved Gonen, from the Rambam Hospital in Haifa said: One has to see who is against us. We are working people standing up against an immense apparatus. Therefore we have to increase our power by turning to the local workers' councils, to the national and local workers' committees.

After the speeches were summed up, it was resolved not to disperse but to wait for the decision of the labour court. After two hours of expectation it was indeed brought: In an atmosphere of tension the prevention order was read, an order which demands of the national committee to direct the members

of the union to return to work immediately after the legal proceedings. The chairman called on the assembled to obey the order.

The committee is removed and an action committee is elected

The assembled remained as if nailed to the floor. One of the technicians mounted the rostrum and declared:

"In view of this situation, I propose to remove the committee". A vote was taken and the proposal adopted. The members of the committee descended from the rostrum. An action committee of 5 members was elected - Leon Bizerner, Itzhak Talmon, Yocheved Gonnen, Polly Alima and Ya'akov Horovitz.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

1. Work is not resumed without a decision by the general assembly of the x-ray technicians.
2. Elections to an authorized national committee are to be prepared till 24.11.69.
3. The Histadrut institutions are severely condemned for their shameful attitude toward the x-ray technicians, and they are called upon to change their attitude and to meet the workers half-way.

The x-ray technicians dispersed with a feeling of confidence, knowing that their struggle will be successful because they are united.

N.B. While in press - 12.12.1969 - the x-ray technicians are still on strike.

DAYAN THREATENS TO DESTROY THE TOWN OF GAZA,

by Joseph Algazi

("Zo Haderekh" - 12.11.69.)

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Last Saturday the two of us, journalists, went to Gaza. At the check-post leading to the Gaza Strip we met with difficulties not previously encountered.

The foreign journalist who was with me had been told at the government press office that he need not any confirmation in writing in order to reach most of the occupied territories, including the Gaza Strip. However, when we arrived at the check-post, one of the policemen demanded an entry permit. When we told him we had none, he asked us to wait, as he had to get a confirmation from the Military Governor. After waiting for a few minutes, an other policeman told us to enter the post and see the sergeant in charge. The latter interrogated us as to who we are and where we wish to go. Finally he wished to know if we had a camera with us. He said: You know you are not allowed to take photos in Gaza. We replied that we did not know about that, but that it did not affect us as we had no camera with us. The sergeant painstakingly searched the car and suitcases of the foreign pressman. The search over, we were allowed to proceed.

It is clear why the occupation forces fear cameras in Gaza. They do not wish for the ruins of the eight buildings, some of them 3-and 4- storeyed ones, which had been blown up a week before, to be preserved on celluloid.

Gaza resembles a ghost town. I know this town, but now it is hardly recognizable. Since my last visit there, about half a year ago, the situation has very much aggravated. We were met with angry, hostile looks by the passers-by, who oppose the occupation and do not wish to see us in their streets.

We visited the town hall. At that moment the notables of the Gaza Strip, who had been summoned by order of the occupation authorities, were listening to a report about the threatening speech made by the minister of defense, M. Dayan, before the members of the town council.

We spoke with several persons till the meeting was over and where then received by the mayor, Rageb al-Alami, in presence of some notables and sheikhs from among the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip.

The Mayor told us that the minister of defense had threatened the members of the Gaza town council with the aggravation of the

method of blowing up houses, if actions of military resistance were continued. They told us that Dayan had said to them: If necessary, we will blow up the houses of one street, if the situation will sharpen, we will blow up the houses of two streets, if it continues thus, we will blow up the houses of three streets and even of a whole quarter. I don't care, if the town of Gaza will be turned into a desert. Dayan also said - according to their report - If you think that by such actions you will throw us out of Gaza, know that in the end you will be thrown out of Gaza.

When the minister Dayan was asked by the mayor, according to what kind of morals innocent as well as culpable people were detained and punished, he replied: Morals is one thing, and policy is another.

The notables of Gaza explained to the defense minister, that they resolutely reject the system of collective punishments, which contradicts all international laws. The Gaza notables, who had been bidden by Dayan to prevent military activity on part of Palestinian organizations, explained to the minister that they have no connexion with those organization, and they cannot do anything at all in that matter. They told him that this belongs to his sphere of activity. We, they said, deal with matters of our town. The resistance to the occupation is not a secret for you, and it is a political matter.

The meeting of the Gaza notables protested against the system of collective punishments and resolved that the mayor should bring this to the notice of the minister Dayan.

The mayor also told us that one of the biggest scools of the town of Gaza, "Falastine" ("Palestine"), where 1,200 pupils study, had been closed down. He added : There is an Arab proverb which says, "Open a school and close down a prison". The mayor continued, that the occupation authorities act conversely; they close down schools, send thousands of pupils on the streets and then they are astonished when these boys hurl bottles at them.

I asked the mayor why the occupation authorities are undermining his position. He replied: They are not happy about my telling them the truth.

I asked him, what in his opinion, is the solution for the situation created in consequence of the war. He replied with one word: RETREAT.

After saying good-bye to the mayor and the notables, we spoke with various people in the lobby of the town hall. It was approximately 12.30 when suddenly an explosion was heard from nearby, and following upon it, long bursts of fire. We hastened to a window affording a view of the main street and saw children, men and women running to cover, while the salvos continued. One of the persons present remarked: Some of those not wounded by the grenade might get wounded by these shots. As it turned out later, one of the buildings hid from our eyes the place where the explosion had occurred.

A Red Cross ambulance was seen approaching the place. People closed their shops; the street became empty. Little girls, wearing school aprons, were walking frightened, their school bags in their hands.

We remained in the town hall. After half an hour, life returned to normal, at least on the surface. We strolled through the streets before leaving the town. At 2 p.m. the town was almost empty. Then I remembered the words of one of the notables who had said in our meeting: We are living in a sort of self-imposed curfew.

Soldiers marched through the town, rifles held at their hips, at 4 p.m. I heard at my home the radio announcement: 10 inhabitants of Gaza were wounded today at noon by the explosion of a hand grenade hurled at a military vehicle. The majority of the wounded are pupils; one of them is seriously wounded.

THE MOST LIBERAL OCCUPATION IN HISTORY

by Miriam Galili

("Zo Haderekh" - 12.11.69.)

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My friend,

Do you remember ? After the six-day-war you asked for a special vacation to leave your work and visit the "territories". You returned with bright eyes, loaded with baskets, a colourful carpet, coffee utensils and what-not. When I told you that I was unable to visit there, you opened your eyes wide: "What do you mean by occupation?" you said. "We have liberated them from the obscurantist Jordan and Egyptian rule, and now they make fantastic business with the Jews. We shall bring them real culture, we shall teach them the most modern methods of agricultural cultivation, mechanization, collectivization... you will see. We have torn down the artificial barriers between us; now we shall be able to live in peace and quiet. And this you call occupation?!"

Different days have come. You do not any longer visit the "territories". You even preferred not to go to the kibbutz Ashdod-Ya'akov for a family reunion. Let us admit the truth: You did not allow your daughter to make a trip to Eilat.

In our last talk you spoke no more about "liberated territories", but you did mention that at any event this is the most liberal occupation known to human history, and that as a matter of fact we cannot permit ourselves such liberalism.

I reminded you of Dayan's words in his interview to "Ma'ariv" on the Jewish New Year's eve: "Can anyone explain to me, how we have acted softly towards terrorism -with the exception that we did not hang?... Anyone who gives them water - we blow up his house".

Truly, Dayan knows what he is talking about.

Look here:

Beit Sahour

In Beit Sahour, just as in other villages, there live cultivators of the land; in Beit Sahour, just as in other villages, there live human beings - elderly and old people, youngsters, women, children, babies. On August 29, a curfew was imposed on the eastern quarter of the village, where a thousand people live, lasting all hours of the day and the night, except for

two hours daily.. Why? Because in the vicinity of that quarter an attempt had been made to shell Jerusalem with a Katyusha. And what happened to the people? - Certainly their crops withered; probably a woman was in birth pangs and no midwife was near her; probably a child fell ill and no medical assistance could be rushed to him; and what is known for certain, and not just to be guessed, is the fact that all inhabitants were forbidden to go into their court yard, where in most cases toilets and water are situated.

At the beginning representatives of the Bethlehem municipal council were permitted to bring the inhabitants of the village food and donations, but the wave of solidarity of the surrounding population frightened the occupation authorities and they forbade any "stranger" to enter the quarter. Only the representatives of the "local" military government were permitted to distribute food from trucks during the two hours exempted from curfew.

For 20 days and nights the people lived in such a manner in Beit Sahour. You might say that this is an extreme example, that it is not typical. Well, I will remind you of an other landmark of occupation:

### H a l h o u l

A small village, without history, in the proximity of Hebron. I know you will interpolate that the inhabitants of this environment do not nicely receive the occupant, that it is not pleasant for a man in uniform to stroll about in this area. This signifies that for some reason or the other they are not enchanted by the most liberal occupation in history. But the logic of occupation states: Anyone that walks not on the path of hypocrisy, ingratiating, informing and full collaboration with the occupant - is against him.

And thus it happened that after an Israeli officer was shot from a window of a house in this village, an entire quarter was blown up. And does it really matter, if the exact number of these houses is 18, as reported by Israel, or 60 as reported by the "Times" correspondent? It is the system that matters. All males from the age of 14 up, were concentrated together, the women were concentrated separately with the children clinging to

long dresses, and all were stood, strongly guarded to watch their homes being blown up into the air,

no, do not shake your head in negation, as if they had been allowed to take all their belongings. For "honourable" newspapers in Israel whose reporters had been permitted to witness the "operation", wrote about how the people went in the days after the demolition to dig in the ruins, in order to save what was possible to.

In one matter you were correct: These demolitions too did not stop the actions of resistance. A few days after this a grenade was thrown in the town of

### Hebron

Two young soldiers, whose combined ages did not exceed 36, were killed in an explosion and another boy-soldier was wounded. The occupation authorities seized 26 shops in the quarter in which the grenade had been thrown. 26 families were deprived of their livelihood. The fact that in the whole region of Hebron there is a curfew in force from 5 in the afternoon till 5 in the morning, does not any longer excite anyone. What do the inhabitants do in urgent cases of sudden illness, of injuries, of birth, in all cases that might occur between five in the afternoon and five in the morning to a human being? What about the children, the youngsters, who sit closed in, shut in, without any opportunity to meet their friends? All these measures are employed under cover of the sanctified word "security". With two "security" arguments they acted also in the town of

### Gaza

In reaction to the murder of a Jewish shopkeeper by robbers, the houses of an entire street were blown up - two-and three-storeyed houses. Here the occupation authorities did not any longer allege that the "inhabitants knew". This time the argumentation is most prosaic: because of "security reasons"

In the very same week the military government threatened the owners of citrus orchards in the Gaza Strip that from now on orchards would be uprooted, in which arms caches are found, or from which a shot is fired. And if the military government threatens, it means the threat will be carried out.

Please pay attention to the fact how the "most liberal occupation" is retreating toward dark barbarity: At first a house here,



a house there were blown up; following public criticism, every demolition was given a detailed explication (you certainly remember the case of the Toukan house in Nablus?) Now an entire street is eliminated; an entire quarter; orchards will be uprooted; and then entire regions and entire villages will be razed to the ground...

By the way; have you once thought what lies hidden underneath these dry reports in the press? How many refugee families are born here every week, after every "security operation"? How many persons join the resistance movements?

I wish to remind you that I spoke only about one aspect of the occupation. I did not mention villages whose inhabitants were deported

and not about tortures in prisons, not about administrative detentions without trial; not about deportations in the dark of night without opportunity to say good-bye to one's family and without opportunity to take any clothing in addition to what one wears on his body; not about the oppression of pupils and not about the seizure of entire schools. Only a few shameful landmarks of the occupation have I mentioned: Beit-Sahour, Halhul, Hebron, Gaza.

What is your conclusion ?

S T O P   P R E S S  
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ATTEMPT ON LIFE OF COMRADE GAZI SHBEITEH  
BY AGENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT ("Zo Haderekh" - 17.12.69.)

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On the evening of 16.12 an attempt was made to murder comrade Gazi Shbeiteh, secretary of the Communist Party of Israel local branch in Tireh village and representative of the Party in the Tireh municipal council. He was attacked from behind, whilst walking along a lane to his home. Obviously, his attackers ambushed him, knowing that this was the way he usually took to his home. The attackers hit him with a nailed wooden plank. In consequence of the attack cde. Gazi Shbeiteh was wounded in his head, his jaw was broken and an ear was injured. For some length of time he lay unconscious until discovered by passers-by. They rushed to the head of the municipal council who brought him to the Kfar-Saba hospital and reported the incident to the police.

It is not yet known if the police have opened investigation. When the criminal attack became known, hundreds of villagers crowded around the hospital entrance.

This gangster attack came subsequent to the activity of the government henchmen in the village, who had failed in seizing the local government in Tireh thanks to the activity and position of the representative of the Communist Party of Israel in the local council. The inhabitants are convinced that the attack was planned in order to stir up provocations and bloody conflicts in the village. But this does not deter the inhabitants from siding with the Communist Party, which received in the Knesset elections more than 50% of votes of the villagers.

This criminal attack has evoked great anger and the villagers are demanding the revelation and immediate arrest of the culprits. The head of the municipal council published a statement condemning the criminal deed.

When the attack became known, a delegation of the Central Committee visited in the hospital. Also comrade Tawfiq Toubi, M.K., arrived there directly from the Knesset.

The parliamentary group of the Communist Party of Israel tabled a proposal urgently to be put on the agenda, demanding a debate on the matter of the gangster attack on comrade Gazi Shbeiteh. The parliamentary group also sent a cable to the police minister demanding speedy investigation in order to discover the attacker.

## THE ROSE AND THE SUN OF MAHMUD DERWISH

Abridged from the poet's interview with Joseph Algazi  
("Zo Haderekh" - 19.11.69.)

.....

I remember myself since the age of six. I lived in a beautiful quiet village, Birwa, which sprawled on the slope of a green hill overlooking the Acre valley. I had a well-to-do family which lived by cultivating the land.

My childish plays came to an abrupt end when I was seven. I remember distinctly how it happened. It was one of those summer nights, when one slept on the flat rooftop, as customary in the villages. Suddenly my mother woke me up and I found myself among hundreds of villagers who were running through the copse. Bullets were whistling above our heads. I did not understand what was happening. After a night of running and wandering about I arrived together with a member of the family, which had dispersed in different directions, at another village with other children. Innocently I asked, where we were. For the first time I heard the word Lebanon.

It seems to me that that night put a drastic end to my childhood. Carefree childhood was over. All of a sudden I felt I was one of the grown-ups. My demands ceased and duties were imposed upon me. Of my days in Lebanon I have not forgotten and will never forget the yellow cheese, which reminds me of the word homeland. For the first time, without any previous preparation, I stood there with my relatives, in the queue to receive food distributed by the UN Relief Agency. The main course was - yellow cheese.

There I heard for the first time new words which opened before me vistas of a new world. I learned: homeland, war, news, refugees, army, frontier. By means of these notions I commenced learning, comprehending, coming to know a new world, a new situation which deprived me of my childhood.

After more than a year of living as a refugee, I was told one night that on the next day we should return home. I clearly remember that I did not fall asleep, being so filled with joy. Returning home meant to me: an end to the yellow cheese, an end to the childish wrestling with the Lebanese youngsters who called me and my friends - "refugees", which implied something disgraceful.

It was night when we set out for home. Everything was covered in darkness. We were three: My uncle, myself and a guide,

who knew secret paths in the mountains and gullies. I distinctly recall how part of the way we made crawling, in order not to be discovered. At dawn, after a hard journey, I found myself in a village. But how great was my disappointment: We had arrived at Dir al-Assad, which was not my village, not my home, not our alley. I asked my parents who were already there, when we would go back to our village, to our home. They gave me replies which did not satisfy me. I did not grasp the meaning of the words when I was told that our village had been destroyed. I did not comprehend how it was that my world did not any longer exist. I did not understand why it had been destroyed, and who had destroyed my home.

Slowly I adjusted myself to the world of the adults, to the problems of the adults. To my great disappointment it became clear to me that I had not returned to the source of my dreams, to the alley of my childhood. The refugee had changed his address. Till then I had been a refugee in Lebanon; now I was a refugee in my homeland. Now, as I am talking to you, and being 28 years old, I am able to evaluate that period. Comparing the life of a refugee in exile with the life of a refugee in his homeland, and I have experienced both, I find that to be a refugee in one's homeland is rather crueller. The suffering in exile, the yearning after the homeland, the expectation of the day of longed-for return, are justified, are natural. However to live in one's homeland as a refugee, there is no justification for this, no logical reason. Growing up a bit, one frees himself of the distress, one arrives at the feeling that after all it is more justified to live here. Then there appears the factor of challenge, the factor of consciousness and the search for a solution. The solution I found at a later age, when boyhood ended and when I understood that there exists a need for belonging, not only passive belonging, but also active, real and political belonging. It is natural that politics remove superfluous sentimentality and prolonged adhesion to the remnants of memory. I have the right to say to you now that my present situation is more comfortable. But the internal conflict awakens when I sit down to write poetry. Then a dialogue starts between the artist's feeling and the political consciousness. An artist has to be naked before himself.

\* \* \*

When I came to Dir al-Assad village, I learned in the third form. The headmaster was a kind man. I remember that when the inspector of the Ministry of Education came to our school, the teacher hid me in a small room. In the eyes of the authorities I was a so-called "infiltrator", and the teachers wished to protect me.

This incident added yet another word to my special dictionary, the dictionary of life: the word "infiltrator". From time to time, when the police came to the village, people used to conceal me in some wardrobe or some corner, for I was forbidden to be here, in my homeland. How many times was I severely warned never to tell that I had been in Lebanon. And I was also taught to say that I had lived among a Beduin tribe in the north. This I said when a census was taken and till this day I am deprived of citizenship in my homeland.

I was considered as a distinguished pupil. I read a good deal of Arab literature. I began imitating the ancient Arab poetry from "Al-Jehiliya" period (the period of illiteracy, preceding the appearance of the prophet Mohammed).

Today it may seem strange to recall it: at that time I had some talent for painting. Perhaps under other circumstances I should have become a painter, not a poet. Perhaps you will laugh when you hear why I gave up painting. There was a simple reason: father had no money to buy paper and other means for painting which I desired very much to get. He could hardly afford to supply me with exercisebooks. This pained me very much, I wept - and stopped painting. Then I tried my hand at writing; writing poetry does not entail any outlay of money.

\* \* \*

A few weeks ago, we, members of editorial boards of the Communist press in the Arab language, convened a press conference. Some journalists from among the participants acted with a lack of understanding, to put it mildly, toward our feelings and our problems. In the excitement of the polylogue I told one of the newspapermen that on the very same day a news item was prominently displayed in the "Al Hamishmar", spread over three columns, reporting the celebrations held on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of foundation of the kibbutz Yassur. The reportage said that the joy had been unprecedented. I said to one of the journalists: I am sorry to say, but it is the truth, that though I do understand their joy, I cannot share it. Why? This joy has sprung up from the ruins of my village. The kibbutz Yassur and the co-operative village of Ahihud were established on the ruins of the village of Birwa, on the grave of my alley and my home. This belongs to the past, but it's deeply inscribed in my heart.

When we returned from Lebanon, my parents, on hearing that I wished to see our village and home, intimidated me by telling me that if I were found there, I should be deported to Lebanon. Therefore I visited the place for the first time only in 1963.

I did it stealthily, as the terrain belongs to what is called "area 9", which is closed to me. Of the entire village there remained only the church building, which had been turned into a cow-house. Imagining what my eyes saw, and what I felt, one will understand why this was my first visit, but also my last one. In the church building, which had been turned into a cow-house, I saw a cow and manure. I looked for our home among the thorns, but there was no house, I found nothing. I can promise you that I will never again set foot in that place. It was a sort of pilgrimage. We undertook it jointly, a number of friends of mine, sons of our village. Throughout the whole visit we were silent, and afterwards too we were silent. My own feelings I expressed in an essay called "Ala tariq al-hadj" (Pilgrimage). At that visit I met a shepherd of Jewish-Yemenite origin, who lives in the village of Ahihud. I told him that we are sons of one and the same village. He did not understand me, nor had I any desire to explain it to him.

\* \* \*

I do understand the lack of understanding on part of the shepherd, a simple person. But I find it more difficult to comprehend the majority of the Jewish creative intellectuals living in Israel, who themselves are susceptible to any injury wrought upon any Jewish intellectual throughout the world. Yet, unfortunately, they do not make any attempt to find any contact of understanding with their Arab colleagues in Israel. I remember the feelings of embarrassment that overcame me when I visited Europe and was asked by writers from all parts of the world what was the mutual influence of Arab and Hebrew poetry in Israel. Also, those who had heard about the persecutions of Arab progressive poets, wished to know what was the common front between these persecuted and the majority of their Hebrew colleagues. I have to point out that that was the first time that such a question, a serious and substantial question, was posed to me, a question which, unfortunately had never been raised in Israel. My miserable reply to those writers was - "nothing". Unfortunately there are only few like the militant writer Mordecai Avi-Shaul. Following this question I wrote an editorial in the literary journal "Al-Jedid", in which I raised this problem that demands an answer. And I believe there will be one. I do not ask for full identification and comprehension on part of our colleagues, the Hebrew poets and writers. I simply invite them to make our acquaintance. I call for making one another's acquaintance. I call for an attentive ear. I do not ask for consent in advance. To the shame of both sides, who live in a small and interesting country, in a country on which the searchlights of international curiosity are converging, we do not know anything about each other. The incidence which..

occurred at the writers' conference in Italy, between the official Israeli delegation (Haim Guri) and Aron Megeed) and the Lebanese writer who distributed an open letter in which he protested against the persecutions of Arab poets in Israel, constitutes a renewed and insistent invitation to refer to the question of relations between the Hebrew and Arab writers in Israel. Here I have to warn against easy solutions, such as proposed by a section of the Israeli press. In their tendency to find any names, even insignificant ones, of writers who would allegedly represent the Arab literature in Israel, these pressmen choose unknown representatives, such as are not important in the literary respect either, and try to make them prominent as expressing the Arab literature. On the other hand I want to warn against another phenomenon, that is the form in which they try to introduce to the Hebrew reader the true representatives of Arab poetry and literature as "bearers of slogans", as "Jewhatters". This is a disservice to the cause of rapprochement between the two peoples.

The lack of knowledge about Arab literature in Israel originates in political considerations, though it is not customary to utter politics and poetry in one breath. Those who hold in their hands the instruments of propaganda and publicity do not wish and are not interested in presenting to the Hebrew-reading public the Arab literature of this country. This is certainly not due to literary considerations. They fear the content of this literature. They understand that if this literature reaches the Jewish public, barriers will be destroyed and the ground will be dug away from under those who put up those barriers. The Arab literature in Israel is a literature of protest against an unjust situation, just as any other protest literature in the world. If I may choose an example from the international protest literature, I'd mention James Baldwin, the author of the interesting book "Nobody knows my name". One must say, also if this sounds not nice, that in the Israeli reality, only few know our names and our problems. At the same time I should like to assume that among the Hebrew writers who excel in respect of both content and form, there arises now for the first time a preparedness to understand people like us. As I see the perplexedness of such poets, I receive an injection of hope, that there are in this country persons who have preserved some measure of understanding their neighbours.

One has to add that besides all the troubles and obstacles there also exists the problem of language. It is clear to me why many Jewish writers have wrong impressions of us: They do not know us. They do not read us in the original. In face of this question of language I stand powerless. How shall we arrive at least

at becoming acquainted? I am not speaking about appreciation, as the pre-condition to appreciation is acquaintance. The question of contact between Jewish and Arab writers agitates me. I persistently invite my colleagues, the Hebrew authors, in order to become acquainted. On this occasion I should like to call to the attention of the Hebrew reader - not out of any criticism - to the fact that many in Israel know the name of the woman-poet Fadwa Tukan from Nablus, a town which is under Israeli occupation just over two years, whereas they do not know Arab poets who live in Israel more than 21 years. This is a serious and painful question, I admit, but please understand me. I come with this friendly complaint to those writers who wish to be called progressive. From them I demand - let's become acquainted and then we may argue.

\* \* \*

When studying at high school, I came to know Communist literature. I read the "Al-Ittihad" and the "Al-Jedid", Gorky, Lenin. I began to find my way. A ray of light appeared before my eyes. In the last years of my high school studies I entered seriously into the precincts of literary complexity. I am a young man who belongs to a certain nationality, which has certain problems. And I am living in the State of Israel. I want to find a solution to the question "Is it a predestination that there must be a contradiction between these two nexus?" I do not hide from you that this question looks on the surface a very easy one, but is a very weighty one for youth. It was not easy for me to find an answer. There is no essential contradiction between peoples, if the relations between them are put on a basis of equality. Now you are invited to become, psychically, a hero, to overcome this problem under the conditions of our country, yet not because you seek heroism or the pretension to be a hero, but because out of consciousness and quite naturally. I tell you I have found the solution. I am sure that the contradiction is imaginary and does not exist in reality, though one has to understand those who allege that it exists. I try, in spite of all the pain and suffering stemming from the sense of injustice, to preserve the most important fundament of a human being: to be a human being; to overcome the superficial nationalist conflict. And I will tell you this, of course not in order to flatter you, and not because I am conversing with you, and by that means with the Hebrew readers. Let's state this simple fact: I am not against Jews - and this has to be said in fullest and sincerest consciousness: the human being, irrespective of his colour and his nationality, is my treasure.

Lately we have witnessed in the Arab world a very serious pursuit of Israeli Arab poetry, particularly after the June war. True



many are the Israelis who look at this with suspicion and see in this a proof of the negative attitude of the Arabs in Israel. I look upon it differently. This is a signal marking the positive changes occurring in the Arab soul. They see the Israeli Arab poetry as a symbol of a firm stand, a symbol of non-surrender, a symbol of hope. In the past serious criticism was levelled more than once against the Palestinian Arab literature written in Arab countries, and it was said that it excelled in raising nationalist slogans and presenting nationalist sentiments. It was claimed that it did not find a channel to the European humanist heart and to the humanist sense of justice. Those critics found a solution in the Israeli Arab poetry. They saw it as a humanist poetry, that overcomes any attachment to vindictiveness and primitive instincts. Besides, its tendencies and positions were expressed in excellent artistic form. I, as an Arab poet, who preserves Arab and humanist character, consider this as an achievement of commonsense, a victory for humanism. That does not mean that I have turned into a nihilist, that I have become a person who reconciles himself to all sort of iniquity and pillage, but that I succeed in distinguishing between people and policies.

In the Arab countries the writers, poets and critics were perplexed and did not know how to define the Arab poetry of Israel, the most important representatives of which are Samih al-Kassem, Tawfiq Ziad, Salem Jubran and M. Derwish. Some proposed: poetry of resistance. A well-known Egyptian critic, Gali Shukri, said: One may define them thus, but we have to remember that the point of departure of these poets is the recognition of the right of the Jews and the Arabs to live in Palestine; they recognize the right to existence of Israel; therefore it will be correct to call them: poets of protest and opposition.

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Here I must point out that I do not consider myself a mature poet. I am not content. I believe in the theory which claims that an artist who attains satisfaction loses the justification for continuing. True, I have succeeded in improving my artistic tools. I have succeeded in overcoming the contradictions which I encountered, but I am not feeling any full artistic satisfaction. What troubles me in all my literary experiments, is the question of justice and truth in our lives. This is a question which becomes more and more complex in our modern times. But I take hold of any ray of light and happiness, in my search for things that would justify the capability of man to stand against suffering.

I do not permit myself to say that I am happy. It would be ridiculous to say that I am happy. But my pursuit of happiness gives me happiness. This, in my view, is a justification for the existence of every poet, since man has succeeded in expressing himself. I try, and this is not easy, to combine my national relationship with my universal, human relationship. I also try to implant my present in the positive fundamentals of the past and in the better aspects which I envisage in the future.

\* \* \*

Many of my friends feel pain because of the persecutions inflicted upon me. The detentions, the confinement orders which restrict the freedom of my movement in my homeland, have become part of my daily life. I refer to all this with scorn, almost with cynicism. I am not surprised. I am not tensioned. I sit every evening in my room and it is pleasant for me to be connected with the sun, as I am compelled to be in my room after sunset. I was given an honour of which I never dreamt, when they turned my time-table into part of the sun. I sit in my room, read books, listen to music, play host to friends, and wait for the police. I report every day to the police with a serious, not always cynical smile. I look upon all this from a poetical point of view. They have divided the 24 hours of the day between themselves and myself: the night is theirs and the day is mine. I am forbidden to go out in the night, and they roam about in the night. Everybody knows that day is more beautiful than night, that sunshine is better than dark. But night is their time-table...

I am confined to Haifa and am forbidden to visit my parents who live in Judeida village, as I constitute a danger to public security. Every day I have to present myself to the police. From sunset to sunrise I am forbidden to pass my door-step. I have already "succeeded" in being four times imprisoned. The first time was in 1961, just like that, for no reason. The second time was in 1965, when I was imprisoned for going to Jerusalem without permit, in order to participate in an evening of poetry reading. On the day the June war broke out, I was put for 20 days in "preventive detention". This week I have been set free after having been imprisoned for 15 days because of the "suspicion" that I had a hand in the mine detonations in Haifa. The policemen themselves did not believe in this accusation. With me some tens of communists were detained, who were set free after election day... The entire affair of the detentions was intended to hit the election campaign of the Party. They are short-sighted and harm their own people.

\* \* \*

I never go to sleep without hearing some of the tunes of Mikis Theodorakis. This love has created something about which I have to tell you. Three weeks ago, I read on Monday that Mikis Theodorakis had been arrested. That night, under the impact of that event, I wrote a poem, entitled "Rita, love me". On the morrow I gave the poem to the printers. In the preface I said that the pretext of the militarist junta in Greece for imprisoning Mikis Theodorakis had been that he endangers public security. I laughed in particular when I saw the entire Israeli press had put that sentence between inverted commas, wishing to express their scorn of the phrase "danger to public security". I laughed because they referred to this as if it were a matter far removed from our borders. I wrote in the preface to the poem that I had been looking for the name of Mikis Theodorakis in Athens, but no one had dared utter his name, as that constitutes a crime against security. Every evening I listen to the records of Mikis Theodorakis and every evening I feel that we become closer friends. After all, I just like him, am "dangerous to public security". I did not dream that the fate of Mikis Theodorakis would befall me too. When my poem saw the light of day, I was sitting in prison for being "dangerous to public security".

MATERIALS AND DOCUMENTS  
\*\*\*\*\*  
ON THE DEATH OF COMRADE VOROSHILOV

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel sent to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union a telegram in which it says:

The Israeli communists, Jews and Arabs, deeply mourn the death of Klementi Yefremovich Voroshilov, veteran bolshevik and comrade in - arms of Lenin, the great commander and legendary figure of the Soviet people.

\* \* \*

GREETINGS TO THE 31st CONGRESS OF THE C.P. OF GREAT BRITAIN

A letter of greeting was sent by comrade Meir Vilner in the name of C.C. of the C.P. of Israel to the Executive Committee of C.P. of Great Britain, in which the C.P. of Israel expresses its thanks for being invited to the Congress.

The letter goes on to say :

"We wish your Congress fruitful work that will advance the struggle of the working class and people of your country for peace, democracy, peoples' friendship and socialism and strengthen the unity of the international communist movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

We are glad to know that the views of our two parties coincide, as regards causes and character of the present Middle East crisis, as regards the possibility and necessity for the full implementation of the November 22, 1967 Security Council resolution that will bring about a just and stable peace settlement between Israel and the Arab states.

We Israeli communists, Jews and Arabs, are doing everything in our power to convince our people that this is the alternative to continued bloodshed and to the danger of further escalation of hostilities, that here lies the hope for a happy future of our people.

Our success in the Trade Union, parliamentary and municipal elections will serve us as a further stepping-stone to intensify our struggle.

Dear Comrades,

We hope your congress will make an important contribution to your work and are much looking forward to receiving the record of its deliberations and resolutions."

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#### REPLY OF THE C.P. OF GREAT BRITAIN

Cde. John Gollan, in the name of the Executive Committee of the C.P. of Great Britain, sent the following reply to the letter of greetings:

On behalf of our Party, I want to thank you for your fraternal greetings to our 31st National Congress, which were warmly received.

Our Congress represented an important stage in the development of the struggle to unite the working people of Britain against monopoly capitalism and imperialist aggression. It expressed the determination of our Party to do everything possible to help bring about the defeat of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam, to struggle for an All-European Security Conference, to assist the peoples of the Middle East and Southern Africa in their struggle for national liberation, and the peoples of Greece, Portugal and other countries ruled by fascism in their efforts to win democracy. But more than anything else, it showed the desire in our ranks for the closest unity of Communist and all other anti-imperialist forces in pursuit of the great ideals and aims we have in common.

On behalf of our Congress I send your Party and the working people of your country its warm greetings and best wishes for the future success of your work.

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#### REPLY OF THE C.C. OF THE VIETNAM WORKERS PARTY

The Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party sent a telegram to the C.C. of the C.P. of Israel in which it thanks for the telegram of condolence on the death of President Ho Chi Minh.

The telegram sent by the C.C. of the Vietnam Workers Party says:

"We are deeply moved by your sorrowful condolences expressed on passing away of our venerated president Ho Chi Minh.

The telegram sent by the C.C. of the Vietnam Workers Party says: We are deeply moved by your sorrowful condolences expressed on passing away of our venerated president Ho Chi Minh.

On behalf of the Vietnam Workers Party, the working class and the people of Vietnam, we sincerely thank you.

May solidarity and friendship between our two parties and peoples further consolidate and develop day by day!

REPLY OF THE C.C. OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY  
OF DENMARK

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Cde. Ib Norlund, in the name of the C.C. of the Communist Party of Denmark, sent the following letter to the C.C. of the Communist Party of Israel:

We thank you most heartily for your greetings to the 50th anniversary of our party. They have been published in our newspaper Land of Folk.

The celebrations of our 50th anniversary were a grand success to which also your solidarity was an important contribution.

## News in brief

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\* On Saturday 15.11.1969 a stormy demonstration was held in Tel-Aviv in front of the U.S.A. Embassy against U.S. aggression in Vietnam.

Hundreds of demonstrators mainly young people among them well known public figures in Israel held posters which read: "Peace... Now!" "Down with US aggression in Vietnam!"

A strong police force blocked the way in front of the US Embassy.

The demonstration aroused wide echo in the press and the public.

\* Comrade Abraham Noiman member of the Central Control Commission of the Communist Party of Israel and secretary of the "Front of the anti-Hitlerite Fighters and Victims of Nazism in Israel" took part in the Congress of the - International Resistance Federation- which was held last month in Venice - Italy.

Comrade Abraham Noiman was elected to the Bureau of the Federation.

\* Comrades Wolf Ehrlich and Saliba Khamis, members of the political Bureau of the Communist Party of Israel, participated in the International Symposium on 19-21/11/1969 which was held in Prague CSSR and organised by the Editorial Board of the Magazine "Problems of Peace and Socialism" devoted to Lenin's birth Centenary.

\* On Tuesday 25.11.1969 a protest demonstration was held in front of the Knesset building against the policy of "collective punishments" in the occupied territories.

The demonstration was organised by diverse political elements who are against collective punishments. More than 500 workers, students and lecturers took part in the demonstration. They held posters which read: "Demolishing of houses = Demolishing our future!" "Collective punishments deepen hatred!" "Collective punishments will not strengthen our security!".

\* A National Conference of the Communist Party of Israel was held on Saturday 29.11.1969 to sum up the election campaign to the 7th Knesset and local councils.

Member of the Political Bureau of the C.P. of Israel, Comrade Tawfiq Toubi lectured about "the elections results and the tasks of the Party".

A lively discussion followed the lecture and was summed up by General Secretary of the C.P. of Israel Comrade Meir Vilner.

Many delegates were not able to participate in the conference due to military restriction orders.

The Conference adopted resolutions supporting the x-Ray workers who are on strike, and condemning the arbitrary restriction orders.

\* On Saturday 29.11.1969 a meeting was held between Jewish and Arab writers and poets in Israel. Hundreds of students and intellectuals attended the meeting which was held in Miron Cinema hall in Haifa.

A frank and open discussion was held about the role of the poet and the writer in Society.

Despite political differences and sometimes hot arguments a friendly atmosphere prevailed all through the meeting.

The meeting adopted the following resolution:

" We the Jewish intellectuals who gathered in this meeting of understanding condemn the restriction orders exerted against Arab intellectuals and condemn all kinds of oppression against freedom of movement, expression and thought .

" We call upon the Jewish intellectuals to express their solidarity with the Arab writers who suffer suppression from the side of the authorities.

" We cannot sit with arms folded in face of such a situation, we believe that the interest of the future relations between Jews and Arabs demands the abolishment of such kinds of suppression, we call for organizing additional such meetings in order to know and understand better the Arab writers who are living amidst us.

" The Jewish and Arab intellectuals call for action in order to develop the feelings of friendship and to uproot hatred and terror from both sides".



An Important success of  
The New Communist List  
in the elections to the Municipal  
Councils in ISRAEL  
.....

Elections to the Municipal Councils in Israel took place on Oct. 28, 1969, the day of the Knesset elections.

Despite the fact that grave acts of repression, arrests and provocations were carried out against our Party, its members and supporters, the Communist list succeeded in acquiring thousands of additional new voters and increasing its representation in many Municipal Councils as well as gaining representations in new ones.

As a result of these elections our Party now has 35 representatives in 17 Municipal Councils in different parts of the country.

It is worthwhile mentioning that the Nationalist Mikunis - Sneh group has not succeeded in obtaining representation even in one single Municipal Council.

No doubt that this important achievement of the Communist List will enable our Party to intensify still further its struggle for defending the vital daily interests of the population.



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