

## Stalinist Expansionism Is Fatal to Israel

# Open Letter to Hashomer Hatzair

To the Members of  
Progressive Zionist League (Hashomer Hatzair)  
Achduth Avodah-Paale Zion

We address this letter to you who, despite important political differences, we consider to be fellow fighters in the struggle for the socialist liberation of mankind.

**We are concerned with the voluntary political self-Stalinization of the Mapam (United Workers Party) in Israel, which in recent months has assumed alarming proportions.**

Operating with dangerously naive illusions about the progressive role of Stalinism and Russia, the leaders of the Mapam are campaigning insistently for the adoption by the Israeli government and labor movement of an *exclusive* pro-Russian orientation. Their support of Russian foreign policy is uncritical, and as total as that of the most loyal and monolithic Stalinist party. As a matter of fact, their Stalinist orthodoxy is so thorough that El Hamishmar (Mapam daily) endorsed the Cominform denunciation of Tito.

### POLICY AIDS RUSSIAN EXPANSIONISM

What is worse is that Mapam leaders are actively aiding Russia in her attempts to build centers of power in the Near East in general and in Palestine in particular. It is sponsoring the Arab League for National Liberation—pseudonym of the Arab Communist Party—as the rulers of Arab Palestine. The Arab League for National Liberation only yesterday, before Russia switched to partition, swore loyalty to and accepted the anti-Jewish discipline of the Mufti's Higher Committee. The League also backed the Mufti's anti-Jewish boycott and opposed Jewish immigration.

This policy is based on the Mapam leaders' delusions that Russia is *permanently* committed to support of Israel's struggle for independence, not as a means of advancing her imperialist interests, but for progressive and ideological considerations.

This approach is a far cry from a realistic recognition of existing inter-imperialist rivalries and attempts to exploit these rivalries for the benefit of Israel. The Mapam leaders seek open and active alliance with the Russian imperialist bloc and denounce all attempts to march along the road of neutrality and non-involvement.

**How else can sense be made of the efforts of the Mapam representatives in the Israeli government to sponsor the Arab League for National Liberation and help it become "the organizing center" (government) for the Arab areas of Palestine? How else account for the fact that the Israeli Ministry of Labor, headed by Mordecai Bentov, a leader of the Mapam, without the approval of the Arab Department of Histadruth, or the Ministry for Minorities, transferred the direction of the employment bureau to the Stalinist Arab League for National Liberation? (JTA July 26)**

In the present circumstances, with the employment bureau having a near-monopoly on jobs for Arabs in Israeli territory, this amounts to placing the Arab workers under the domination of Arab Stalinists. The Stalinists are past masters in the

art of using control of the means of livelihood as a whip to corral workers into their camp.

### RECKLESS AND DISLOYAL GAMBLE

This is a reckless and disloyal gamble with the independence and social freedom of both peoples in Palestine.

At best, the exclusive pro-Russian orientation will have the effect of turning Palestine into a hotly contested battleground of the cold war between Western imperialism and Russia. Only the imperialists girding for a new world war can gain from this development.

**On the other hand, if the Mapam's Nennis and Fierlingers are successful in allying Israel with the Russian imperialist bloc, can tiny Israel or the small Arab state in Palestine be expected to maintain their national independence?**

But what guarantees are there that Russia, having once gained a foothold in Palestine, will not swing back to its traditional pro-Arab, anti-Jewish policy? Only those blind to the anti-democratic and anti-socialist character of the Russian state can naively expect a Russian sense of "gratitude" to prevent a betrayal of the Jewish cause, when Stalin and his henchmen decide that a return to the policy of catering to the feudal anti-Jewish Arab ambitions may be helpful to Russian interests.

**There are signs that Russia's pro-Israeli policy may be reversed sooner than many of us expect. The Yiddish and English press in the United States has recently been carrying reports from well-informed correspondents that Russia is laying the groundwork for a rapprochement with the feudal Arab League governments.**

I. Itzhaki, Palestinian correspondent of the Jewish Morning Journal, reports that the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in possession of information that the Kremlin is preparing to support the new government of Arab Palestine, headed by the Mufti, in order to thwart Britain's puppet, Abdullah.

### MUST BLOCK REACTIONARY POLICY

The reactionary and suicidal policy of support to Russian totalitarianism by the leaders of the Mapam constitutes a direct challenge to the thousands of honest militants in the Hashomer Hatzair and Achduth Avodah movements who are devoted to the cause of a free, democratic, revolutionary socialism.

**This leadership, which is aiding and abetting Stalinist expansionism, must be called to account. An end must be put to the policy of stooging for the anti-working class, anti-socialist force that is Stalinist Russia.**

The socialist militants in the Hashomer Hatzair and Achduth Avodah in the United States of America owe it to themselves and the cause they are fighting for to assume the initiative and leadership in reorienting their movement toward a democratic, revolutionary, socialist policy. We are confident they will measure up to their responsibilities.

N. Y. City Committee  
Workers Party