

# Self-Stalinization of the Palestine MAPAM Reaches Alarming Proportions

By ED FINDLEY

The voluntary, self-Stalinization of Mapam (United Workers Party), Israel's second largest party, is assuming alarming proportions.

Operating with naive and dangerous illusions about the political role of Stalinism and Russia in the Near East, the representatives of this party in the Israeli government are working hard to bring the Stalinist Arab League for National Liberation to power in the Arab areas of Palestine.

Shortly after the Israeli capture of Nazareth, the Arab League for National Liberation—pseudonym of the Arab Communist Party—emerged

from underground and assumed the direction of the town's Employment Bureau in conjunction with the Israeli Ministry of Labor. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, July 26, 1948.)

The initiative in this grant of authority to the Arab Stalinists belonged to the Ministry of Labor headed by Mordecai Bentov, a leading member of the Mapam, and was engineered without the approval of the Arab Department of the General Federation of Labor or the Ministry for Minorities.

Under the present war circumstances, in which the Israeli government is the major, if not the sole source of employment for Arabs in Israeli occupied territory, the transfer of the Employment Bureau's management to the Arab League for National Liberation is tantamount to placing the Arab workers under the thumb of Arab Stalinists.

Amazingly enough, this appears to be the planned objective of the Mapam. Open avowal of this line was formulated as early as July 30, 1948 in a policy article by J. Israeli, in the Yiddish organ of the Mapam—*Nywelt*, Tel Aviv, No. 49.

In laying down the new line this writer informs his readers that there exists a "healthy nucleus for Arab democracy," namely the Arab League for National Liberation. After specifying whom he considers to be the progressive democratic Arabs he concludes, "It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that we take the initiative that

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## LABOR ACTION

A Paper in the Interest of Socialism

Published Weekly by the

Labor Action Publishing Co.

114 West 14th Street, New York 11, N. Y.

General Offices: 4 Court Square

Long Island City 1, N. Y. Tel.: IRonsides 6-5117

Vol. 12, No. 40 Oct. 4, 1948

Emanuel Garrett Geltman,  
Editor

Editorial Board:

Hal Draper, Henry Judd

Business Manager: Paul Bern

Subscription Rate: \$1.00 a year; 50¢ for 6 Mos.

(\$1.25 and 65¢ for Canada and Foreign)

Re-entered as Second-Class Matter, May 24,

1940, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y.,

under the Act of March 3, 1874



# The Mapam - -

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the truly progressive Arabs should become *the organizing center* for their peaceful brothers." (My emphasis—E. F.)

Entirely consistent with this orientation is the report current in New York Labor Zionist circles that the Mapam introduced an amendment to the political resolution of the Zionist Action Committee, which recently had a plenary session in Jerusalem, that would, in effect, commit the Zionist movement and the Israeli government to help the Arab League for National Liberation to come to power in the Arab part of Palestine. Unfortunately, the resolutions have not, as yet, been published and this correspondent has not, therefore, been able to establish the wording of the Mapam amendment which, parenthetically, was overwhelmingly rejected by this top committee of world Zionism.

It is the Mapam's delusion that Russia is, for ideological reasons, *permanently* committed to support of Israel. This leads it to back up Russian attempts to throw up hedgehogs of power in the Near East as energetically as, but more effectively than, the CP of Palestine.

It leads paradoxically enough to political sponsorship of a party, like the Arab League for National Liberation, which only yesterday accepted the anti-Israeli discipline of the Mufti-controlled Arab Higher Committee, opposed Jewish immigration to Palestine and backed the anti-Jewish boycott.

It is hard to escape the conclusion that the Mapam's insistence upon an exclusive pro-Russian orientation engenders reckless and disloyal gambling with the national independence and social freedom of the Jewish and Arab peoples of Palestine.