

COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL
CENTRAL COMMITTEE
FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

11

Information Bulletin

IN THIS ISSUE:

S. MIKUNIS : PRESERVE THE QUIET ON THE BORDERS
CPI DELEGATIONS REPORT BACK ON TALKS WITH FRATERNAL PARTIES
M. SNEH, E. VILENSKA : DISCUSSIONS INSIDE MAPAM.
KS FOR COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST COOPERATION.
EAD ACTIVITIES OF ANTI NAZI FIGHTERS' ORGANISATIONS
IDENTS DEMONSTRATED IN JERUSALEM
EN FOR MEDICAL AID TO VIETNAM

HX
632
A1
W9
No. 1114

MAIN



NOVEMBER 1966

TEL AVIV, POB 1843



MORE THAN 8000 STUDENTS GATHERED ON NOV. 2nd in JERUSALEM AND VEHEMENTLY DEMONSTRATED AGAINST RAISING OF FEES, IN FRONT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S BUILDINGS THEY RAISED THEIR SLOGANS "WE SHALL NOT PAY MORE", "IF YOU WILL RAISE FEES - WE SHALL DEAL WITH POLITICS"

L I S T O F C O N T E N T S

Preserve the quiet on the borders! - S. Mikunis	4
12th Plenary session of CC CPI Israel	7
11th Plenary session of CC CPI Israel	9
"Tribuna Ludu" on visit of CPI delegation in Poland	10
"Scfnteia" on visit of CPI delegation in Rumania	11
"Nepszabadsag" on visit of CPI delegation in Hungary	11

ACTIVITIES :

Widespread activities of Anti-nazi fighters' organisations	12
Israeli students prepare for struggle, 8000 demonstrated in Jerusalem	14
Elections in the Israel engineers' union	15
Esther Vilenska meets workers at oil factory	16
Public struggle against the raise of rents	17
Israel Peace Committee starts campaign for medical aid to Vietnam	18
Impressive mass meeting of Israeli youth commemorates 30th anniversary of Spanish civil war	19
Israeli children return from "Artek" summer camp	20
Mass meeting in Tel Aviv on Rumania's liberation anniversary	21

EVENTS AND COMMENTS:

Eshkol's clarification after Rabbin's declaration did not clarify	22
Regret on cancellation of exchange visits by the Israeli and Moscow orchestra	24
Discussions inside MAPAM, CPI works for communist-socialist cooperation	25
The crisis of the right-wing party "Herut"	29

PRESERVE THE QUIET ON THE BORDERS ! STOP ANTI-SOVIET SLANDER!

Appeal of the C. P. of Israel, addressed to the Israeli Parliament by
S. Mikunis, General Secretary C. P. of Israel

Those who raised voices and attacked or accused the Soviet Union, should have known long ago that the USSR and the other socialist states conduct a principled policy in our region as in the world, a policy of independence of peoples - declared the General Secretary of the CPI, S. Mikunis, M. P., participating in the parliamentary debate on the political and security situation, held on 18th, October 1966.

He went on : "The USSR and the Socialist countries reject chauvinism... and side with a peaceful solution of international conflicts. This is being done without much noise and contributes considerably to induce the hotheads among the ruling circles in Arab states and in Israel to act with restraint".

The debate was held on the occasion of the opening of the Winter Session of the Israeli Parliament and it centred around the report delivered by Prime Minister L. Eshkol, which dealt mainly with the security policy in face of the recent border incidents.

The speakers of the various parliamentary groups attacked, in addition to the Syrian government, also the USSR and its UNO delegate N. Fedorenko because of the latter's intervention in the Security Council. Concerning this matter the General Secretary of the Communist Party said :

"This political debate concentrated on attacks against the Soviet Government. Prime Minister Eshkol himself had introduced this tone and at times one had the impression that it was not imperialism, or the terror gangs nor the Syrian rulers or official Israel policy, but the Soviet Union that should be "held responsible" for Israel's troubles, for the Israel-Arab conflict, for tension in the Middle East etc. This phenomenon is most regrettable. It was by no means unfounded to voice concern, lest American imperialism opens up a second front in the Middle East and makes use of certain regimes in the Middle East to liquidate the present government in Damascus. After all, things of this sort have happened already ten years ago in the Sinai war, with collusion to bring down Nasser's regime then.

"The anxiety concerning such wretched developments is also the serious concern of the Soviet Union, of all peoples including the people of Israel. The Communist Party of Israel is solidary with this concern of Soviet policy over such dangers. Therefore we have warned and we warn the Government of Israel not to be provoked and involved in such plots and military adventures which "good friends" abroad and at home keep clamouring for. This is the broad account, which carries international weight and significance in a wider

sense, as expressed by the Soviet delegate in the Security Council.

"It is true that the Soviet delegate in the Security Council did not dwell on one source of danger to peace in our region which results from mutual Israel-Arab hostility and chauvinist nationalism which presently finds expression in terror, murder military activities. It may be that from the broader international point of view this danger appears to be secondary, but it has already happened in our reality recently that such "secondary" threats become very much inflated and in a very concrete form, the more so since imperialism is interested in this so that it could be exploited for its criminal aims.

The CP of Israel does not ignore this source of danger to peace in our region, to peace concerning both Israel and the Arabs. The Israeli CP wishes the Arab peoples, the progressive and peace forces among these peoples, well. It has been struggling for many years, and will also continue to struggle in the future for Jewish-Arab understanding and for Israel-Arab cooperation. Our CP which has always been struggling for full equal rights of the Arab national minority in Israel, which struggles for a basic change of official Israeli policy in this matter, a change that should open the road to a peaceful liquidation of the Israel-Arab conflict on the basis of the mutual recognition of just national rights of both peoples, Jewish and Arab - our CP will never accept the attacks by ruling circles in the Arab states on the right of Israel to exist as an independent and sovereign state. We shall beat back this attack, whether it expresses itself in propaganda and incitement on a regional or international scale, or in acts of sabotage and murder under cover of the false slogan of "liberation of Palestine from Colonialism and Racism"... as much as we fight against all intentions by Israeli militarist circles to attack a neighbouring country, whichever it may be. We stand by peace, by independence of peoples, by human progress - this is the touchstone for our support, for our sympathy, for our solidarity".

The speaker of the CPI then spoke in condemnation of the "Fattah" murder and sabotage raids and of the backing their saboteurs receive from the Syrian government; he called on Israel to refrain from reprisal operations in which American imperialism is interested in its efforts to provoke an armed conflict in the Middle East as a "second front" to the Vietnam war, and continued :

"The concern for peace and security is the principle concern of the Israeli people in these weeks and days. It is also the main concern of the CPI. Many forces abroad join us in our worries because they fear the wor

sening of the regional situation and its reaching the brink of war.

"The acts of sabotage and murder of "Fattah" on Israeli territory which became recently more numerous, and which have the support of the Syrian ruling circles, have raised warlike tension to a climax. Provocative actions on part of the terrorists of El-Fattah, or on part of regular forces of Arab countries, as well as retaliatory actions, from time to time, of forces of the Israeli Army - create a danger to peace in the region. This situation works against the vital interests of the Israeli people and the Arab peoples, of the partisans of peace all over the world. It may serve the interests of one sole factor : Imperialism which does not hesitate to set ablaze a war, or to exploit any existing war-conflagration in order to assure its colonialist predatory positions.

"In this situation, and taking into consideration past experience, the CP of Israel holds, that no reprisal or military action should follow violent acts against our borders, but - as long as there is no basic change in government policy -

a) International political action, pressing on the Syrian rulers to refrain from support for acts of terror against Israel.

b) Improving security devices on those parts of the borders which are frequented by infiltrators and murderers, by applying means for guarding, blocking approaches and illuminating. We therefore considered, after the acts of sabotage in Romema and the blowing up of mines in Shear Hagolan, the government's decision to start political action and to appeal to the Security Council, as steps in the right direction. unless they are meant - as some newspapers hint - as tactical steps preceding military action".

Underlining the important task now facing the UN Security Council in the a. m. grave question, S. Mikunis said that the Security Council should now impose on Israel and Syria likewise to honour their commitments under the UN charter and the 1949 armistice agreements. But whatever the Security Council resolves "it must be clear that Israel military action or reprisal operations against Syria will not solve the problem but lead to chain reactions that will worsen the security situation and will bring us to the brink of war... In the present international political situation, every military action by Israel against Syria will be interpreted as being aimed at intervention in the internal Arab struggle on the side of Arab reaction, as serving the interests of imperialism.

"If the Prime Minister was sincere yesterday in stating, that Israel has no intention to mingle into the internal affairs of Syria and the inter - Arab relations, and that Israel takes no part in any collusion with Imperialism against Syria, that there are no troop concentrations on that border, - then the only logical conclusion must be : Refraining from any military action !

"In the given international and Middle Eastern situation, any Israeli military action against Syria will be interpreted as intentional intervention against the new order existing there, as intervention in the inter-Arab struggle by the side of Arab reaction, by the side of Imperialist interests. That might also create a united Arab front against Israel, and worsen to a serious extent its political and security situation."

In winding up his speech comrade Mikunis again called for concrete steps towards a policy of peace, towards an improvement of relations with the USSR. He said :

"No immediate successes can be assured to an Israeli Policy of peace. The same is true for the development of friendly relations with the Soviet Union. Anyhow, it is necessary to take practical steps both to develop relations of friendship with the USSR and to develop an Israeli policy for peace with the neighbours. In both these matters, the Eshkol Government has failed so far to take any practical steps, so that there cannot be any justification for the expressions of disillusionment and disappointment. After all, official Israeli policy has so far done nothing to show a line of non-identification with one of the main blocs. For Israel, peace with the Arabs and friendship with the USSR are a supreme national necessity and no sacrifice should be too great by those who want to achieve Israel's security and prosperity, to change Israel's policy in this direction, in order to bring about this national "must" in practice".

Kol Haam, the daily organ of the CP of Israel, reacted by two editorials in the same spirit immediately after the recent border incidents.

Public meetings of the CP on the theme "Preserve Quiet on the Borders." have been held in the main towns of the country and have drawn huge audiences.

12th PLENARY SESSION OF THE CC, CP OF ISRAEL (27-28 X 1966)

At the 12th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, attended also by members of the Central Control Commission - absent from the meeting was General Secretary S. Mikunis, for reasons of illness Cde. Moshe Sneh, member of the Polit. Bureau and Secretary of the CPI reported on talks conducted by representatives of the CP of Israel with representatives of fraternal parties in several socialist countries. Political Bureau member and Secretary E. Vilenska reported on the activities of the Secretariat and on the progress of the "Kol Haam" fund-drive. Political Bureau member Berl Balti reported on the political situation and on the tasks of the Party. CC member F. Herzberg was in the chair. 22 members of the CC participated in the debate about topical foreign and internal political developments. The debate was wound up by M. Sneh and the CC approved the reports and the conclusions.

The following are some of the resolutions adopted.

- 1) In view of the tension on the borders of Israel following the sabotage and terror activities by "Al Fattah" and other similar organisations, the CC of the CP of Israel appeals to the Government of Israel with the strong demand not to let itself be provoked by these acts; to refrain from steps that might further sharpen the tension on the border and to intensify the danger of outbreak of military violence; and to reject imperialist efforts that aim at exploiting the Syrian-Israel conflict to further the criminal aims of imperialist intervention and domination. The CC of the Communist Party of Israel calls upon the Government to give up the system of military retaliation and to adopt the following measures instead : to improve border security by means of a high standard of border control, that should make the frontier impenetrable to murderers and saboteurs; to observe the armistice agreement and to cooperate fully with the UN representatives in efforts to maintain border peace; to continue to take political action abroad to achieve the discontinuation of acts of terror and to further a peaceful solution of the Israel-Arab conflict on the basis of the recognition of just national rights of both the Jewish and the Arab peoples.

The CC of the CP of Israel in the same way as it comes out strongly against all expressions of anti-Arab militarism and chauvinism, also draws the attention of all the peaceloving elements in the world to the repeated declarations by representatives of the Syrian regime about a Vietnam-type of guerilla war and the liquidation of Israel as the "only solution of the Palestine problem". These endanger peace in the region and play into the hands of imperialist plots.

The CC of the CP of Israel expresses the hope that the Security Council, in its forthcoming resolutions, will help in calming the border and in lowering the tension between Israel and Syria.

- 2) The CC of the CP of Israel again stresses its solidarity with the just struggle of the Vietnam people and strongly condemns American imperialist aggression in Vietnam. Together with all peaceloving forces in the world and in Israel, the CC of the CP of Israel demands the immediate and unconditional discontinuation of the cruel bombing of the Vietnam Democratic Republic by the Americans, the end to armed intervention in South Vietnam, the liquidation of the American military bases, the withdrawal of the forces of the US and of the US satellites from Vietnam, the recognition of the National Liberation Front as the sole and real representative of the South Vietnam population, and granting the Vietnam people the right to solve its own internal problems.

The CC appeals to the masses in Israel to intensify their solidarity with the heroic Vietnam people, to extend medical help to fighting Vietnam and to intensify public attention to prevent the establishment of diplomatic or other relations between Israel and the Saigon puppet regime.

- 3) The Central Committee appeals to the Party organisations to continue strengthening the struggle for united action of the workers and the workers' parties in the fight against unemployment, the raising of norms, against lowering of wages, and against the other measures in the framework of the anti-workers economic policy of the government and against the violation of the freedom of strike, - in accordance with the resolutions of the last plenary session of the CC.
- 4) Finally, the CC appeals to Party members and supporters to intensify the fund-raising campaign and the campaign for wider circulation of the Party publications. Only the full success of the fund-and circulation raising campaign for this year will open up prospects for safeguarding the publication of "Kol Haam" as a daily paper also in 1967.

C. P. ISRAEL CENTRAL COMMITTEE CALLS FOR A STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAMME

The preceding 11th Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel was held on 20th and 21st of September 1966, attended also by members of the Central Control Commission. The session dealt with the "New Economic Programme" of the Israeli government and with the ways of struggle against it, while putting forth an alternative economic programme of the Communist Party of Israel for the recovery of Israel's economy and for the advance of economic independence, for the restraint of parasitic capital and the encouragement of productive labour. Com. Shmuel Litvak, member of the Political Bureau, reported on this subject. After the report a debate took place, attended by most members of the Central Committee, after which resolutions were adopted.

Comrades Esther Vilenska and Ya'aqov Silber, members of the Political Bureau, reported to the Central Committee on their conversations with representatives of the Central Committees of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party.

The Central Committee welcomed Com. Mordechai Caspi after his return to Israel, having served as "Kol Haam" correspondent in Moscow for the duration of two years, and expressed appreciation for his work.

The session was presided by Com. Avraham Berman, member of the Central Committee.

"TRIBUNA LUDU" on the visit of C. P. ISRAEL representatives in Poland

The central organ of the Polish United Workers Party as well as other Polish newspapers published an announcement on the visit of Com. Sh. Mikunis and M. Sneh in Poland. The report says that from the 27th till the 29th of September 1966, the representatives of the Communist Party of Israel, Sh. Mikunis and M. Sneh, during their visit in Warsaw, held conversations at the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party.

"Folks- Sztyme" also reports on the meeting between Jewish public and cultural activists and Sh. Mikunis and M. Sneh. During the meeting which lasted about 4 hours, essential problems of common interest were discussed in detail. The participants of the meeting wished the Communist Party and all progressive forces in Israel best successes.

TODOR ZHIVKOV RECEIVED S. MIKUNIS

"Rabotnichesko Delo", organ of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, published on the 7th of October 1966 on its frontpage a report headed :Comrade Todor Zhivkov received Com. Shmuel Mikunis. "

The report says : "Since a few days, the well-known leader of the Communist Party of Israel, Com. Sh. Mikunis, is our guest, on his way to his country. Yesterday he has been received by Com. Todor Zhivkov, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party. They held a frank and comradely conversation. Com. Sh. Mikunis laid a wreath of flowers at the Mausoleum of Georghi Dimitrov. "

On Oct. 5th, Sh. Mikunis has been received for a conversation at the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party. On the part of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the meeting was attended by Mitko Grigorov, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; Dimo Dichev, member of the Central Committee and director of the department for foreign relations; I. Gavrilova, member of the Central Committee.

The matters discussed included the international situation, the situation in the Middle East and the situation in the world Communist movement. The conversation passed in a comradely and friendly atmosphere.

DELEGATION OF THE CC, COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL CAME FOR TALKS WITH THE RUMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Under this heading published "Scnteia", organ of the CC RCP on the conversations which were held in Bucharest by comrades Shmuel Mikunis, General Secretary, and Moshe Sneh, member of the Political Bureau of CPIsr. The paper goes on to report : "In the conversations took part members of the Presidium and the Secretariat of the RCP, comrades Manea Manescu and Mihai Gere, as well as comrade Constantin Vasiliu, deputy head of department of the CC. The conversations were held in a hearty, comradely atmosphere".

"Meeting of comrade Nicolae Ceausescu with comrades Shmuel Mikunis and Moshe Sneh" is the heading of another report, published the other day on the frontpages of "Scnteia". The report says : "Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, General Secretary of the CC of the RCP, met comrades S. Mikunis, General Secretary of the CP of Israel, and Moshe Sneh, member of the Political Bureau, who are visiting our country. "

The paper again reported on the above mentioned representatives of the RCP, attending the second meeting too. "At this opportunity - Scnteia" goes on to say - views were exchanged on the relations between the two parties and regarding present-day problems on the international situation and of the communist and workers movement. The conversations were held in a hearty, fraternal atmosphere. On Tuesday, a dinner in honour of the guests was given by comrade Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife. "

"NEPSZABADSAG" ON THE VISIT OF E. VILENSKA AND Y. SILBER

The organ of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party published on Sept. 1, 1966 the following communique : Esther Vilenska and Ya'aqov Silber, members of the Political Bureau of the C.P. of Israel, visited the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and were received for a conversation by Dr. Mihaly Korom, Secretary of the Central Committee, and other staff-members of the Central Committee. The conversation was held in a friendly spirit and views were exchanged on problems affecting both parties." The report is headed : "Leaders of the Israel Communist Party in Budapest".

WIDESPREAD ACTIVITIES OF THE ANTI-NAZI FIGHTERS ORGANISATIONS

The first of September, anniversary of the outbreak of the second world war, was commemorated in Tel Aviv by a mass meeting organised by the organisations of partisans and anti-Nazi fighters in Israel.

The spokesmen of the organisations recalled the memory of the war, the victims and heroism of the Jewish people as part of the general war effort to liquidate Nazism, and the tremendous contribution of the Soviet Union to the victory over German fascism. The speakers proved that what happens today in Western Germany - the growing militarism, neo-Nazism and antisemitism - is a general repetition of the events of the second world war.

The meeting decided to issue a proclamation to the public, stressing: "We regard it as our human and national duty to warn of this Germany that wants to make us forget the past, the crimes of the murderous German Wehrmacht; that appeals against the present frontiers and threatens peace in Europe; that attempts to equip its army with nuclear weapons and to endanger world peace; that revives the same obscure forces - Nazis, enemies of the peoples and of the Jewish people."

Against closer ties with Bonn: On Aug. 1, 1966, the National Committee of the Organisations of Anti-Nazi Fighters in Israel discussed the extension of the activities against closer political, economic and cultural ties between Israel and the Bonn government. A proclamation was published in the spirit of the meeting.

Against Pauls and Török: On the first anniversary of the great demonstration against diplomatic relations with the German Federal Republic, the partisans and anti-Nazi fighters in Jerusalem issued a communique demanding also the removal from Israel of Wehrmacht officer Rolf Pauls, Bonn's Ambassador to Israel, and his assistant, the Hungarian fascist Alexander Török.

No forgiving, no dialogue! The initiative of Dr. Nachum Goldman, chairman of the World Jewish Congress, to hold a dialogue at the Congress in Brussels with West-Germany's Dr. Gerstenmayer last September, was followed by sharp protests among the Israeli public. The partisans and anti-Nazi organisations severely criticised this dialogue which is meant to forgive the Nazi crimes and to rehabilitate the German militarists for new actions against the peoples.

The sentences against the Auschwitz murderers at Frankfurt were followed by quick reactions of the anti-Nazi organisations published in the Israeli press and radio, emphasising that many of West Germany's present judges served Hitler's bloody persecutions.

Money is no rehabilitation. The contribution made by Axel Springer, West-German presslord, to the Israel Museum and the decision to call one of the Museum's reading rooms on his name, roused the anti-Nazis to various protests. They demanded that the directors of the Museum must not accept his contribution nor must Springer's name be recalled in the Israel Museum.

Renew the trial of the chief war criminals. With the release of the criminals Baldur von Schirach and Speer from the Spandau prison, the partisans' organisations demanded in a communique to re-examine the accusations of genocide against these two criminals, which were not yet based on sufficient proofs at the Nuremberg trials in 1946. The organisations protested against the attempt of the Western powers to set free the Nazi criminal Rudolf Hess for "humanitarian" reasons, and condemned the dispatch of flowers by Willy Brandt with the release of Speer and Schirach - a gesture intended to appease the Nazis.

The acquittal of Franz Novak, Austrian war criminal and Eichmann's assistant, by a Viennese court, roused a wave of protests in Israel on the part of organisations of anti-Nazis and immigrants from Hungary, Austria, Poland and others. A delegation of anti-Nazi organisations submitted a protest against this acquittal to the deputy chairman of the Austrian parliament who visited Jerusalem. Another delegation presented a sharp protest to the Austrian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

For close ties with the resistance organisations. The Organisations of Partisans and anti-Nazi Fighters in Israel welcomed in a special meeting the Jewish journalist from Poland Y. Korman, former underground fighter of Auschwitz. The meeting discussed the possibility of closer ties between the anti-Nazi organisations in Israel and the resistance movements all over Europe, with the aim of strengthening the struggle against the revival of Nazism and the danger of enacting the law according to which Nazi war crimes become "outdated" in the German Federal Republic.

GUESTS FROM POLAND

The guests from People's Poland, Yidl and Tashka Korman, members of the directorium of the Social and Cultural Association of Polish Jews, who visited Israel, were welcomed on the 27th of September by the Central Committee of the C. P. of Israel. The reception was attended by members of the Central Committee, of the "Koi Ha'am" editorial board and editors of "Frei Israel".

The guests visited various institutions in Israel, including Yad Vashem Memorial, Kibbutz Yad Chana and other kibbutzim, the Reuven Brainin medical center, the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

They held important meetings with the organisations of partisans and anti-Nazi fighters in Israel.

Comrade Tashka Korman, activist of Polish women's organisations and editor of a Polish women journal, was welcomed by the Organisation of Democratic Women at Tel Aviv.

The guests attended public meetings in clubs at Tel Aviv, Haifa, Kiriat Gat, Bat Yam, where they reported on Jewish life in Poland and answered questions of the audience. The meetings roused great interest and were well attended.

A farewell dinner in honour of the guests was given by the Central Committee of the C. P. of Israel.

ISRAELI STUDENTS PREPARE FOR STRUGGLE

The intention of the government to raise university fees by about 13% encounters fierce opposition on the part of the students. Presently, students pay about IL. 650. - (220 dollars) annually, not including books, copybooks, board, food, travelling expenses etc. There are almost no scholarships in Israel. The Students Union of the Haifa Technical College calculates that a student's living costs and expenses are not less than 400 Israel pounds per month. This fact compels the students to devote most of their time to making a living instead of studying. At the same time, unemployment hits the students in particular - as a result of the government's policy of "economic frustration". Because of unemployment many students are afraid to start or to continue their studies.

Nevertheless, the government intends to raise the students' fees up to IL. 1500 (\$500) annually. These intentions roused anger and fierce opposition among the students. The presidium of the Israel Students Association decided to organize demonstrations and strikes. The first of these strikes took place on Nov. 2nd - 8000 students from all Israeli universities went out in a huge demonstration in Jerusalem.

National convention of Communist students

In view of this situation, a national convention of Communist students met in Tel Aviv on Oct. 21-22, 1966, and discussed ideological, political and organisational questions; among others: the tasks of the Communist intelligentsia and students in the creative development of Marxist-Leninist theory, the struggle against the bourgeois ideology prevailing in the universities; the duties of the students in the Communist Party; the establishment of a left front in the universities to include all left-wing students, the aim of this front being to mobilise the students for political struggles and the protection of their rights. Another aim is to repel the onslaught of the right wing - Gakhhal-Rafi - among the students.

The convention discussed the students' fees in the faculties and the government's intention to raise the fees. Another item on the agenda was how to mobilize the students in support of the "Committee of Students, Lecturers and Humanists against the American aggression in Vietnam", which was recently set up with the active participation of Communist students.

Resolutions in all these matters were adopted in the spirit of the discussions held.

Last Year's Struggles

Last year we witnessed intensified activities on the part of the 26,000 students in Israel :

- * Protest meetings and demonstrations against the connections between the governments of Israel and Bonn,
- * Demonstrations against the government policy cancelling Charter flights for students,
- * Demonstrations against the appointment of the Hungarian fascist Török as advisor of the Bonn Embassy in Tel Aviv,
- * Demonstrations and clashes with the police during Adenauer's visit in Israel especially a mass demonstration of thousands of students in Jerusalem.

During the current year, a number of Communist students have been elected to the bodies of the students unions in the faculties. A Communist has been elected as national treasurer of the Israel Students Association.

ELECTIONS IN THE ISRAEL ENGINEERS' UNION

Israel's 6,500 organized engineers, architects and agronomists elected on Sept, 11, 1966 their national council. The election results are of a nationwide significance. Mapai, the chief ruling party in the government and the Histadruth (Israel's General Federation of Labour) suffered one of its hardest defeats since 1956. Election gains were marked by "Lakidum" (supported by Mapam) and the "Democratic List" backed by the Communist Party.

The election results reflect the opposition of the academic professionals employed by the government, municipalities and public institutions against the

government's economic policy. 70.5% of the members of the engineers' union who participated in the elections voted, in fact, against the government's policy of "economic frustration", and they thereby also showed a vote of non-confidence in the Histadruth leadership who backs the government in the execution of its anti-labour programmes.

"Lakidum" gathered 67.2% of the votes. The "Democratic List", too increased its voting power to 3.2% compared with 2.56% in 1962, and was represented at the engineers' congress by 4 delegates instead of 3. The "Democratic List" also marked an absolute and relative growth in the main branches of the engineers' union, especially in Haifa where it gathered 5.1% of the votes compared with 4% in 1962. Its percentage in Tel Aviv rose from 1.98% to 2.68% and in Jerusalem from 1.32% to 2.17%.

These achievements were made by the "Democratic List" despite all the difficulties of a comparatively small organisation, thanks to its militant whole-hearted support of all the campaigns led by the engineers and other academic professions. This list stressed the general economic and political background of their problems and struggles and pointed to the forces responsible for their hardships.

The "Democratic List" was the only faction that answered every one of the economic-political claims raised by the government and the leadership of the "Alignment" and thereby it succeeded in gaining the confidences of additional voters in the elections.

ESTHER VILENSKA MEETS WORKERS AT OIL FACTORY

E. Vilenska, member of the Political Bureau of the C. P. of Israel, and member of the Histadruth Executive Committee, (Israel's General Federation of Labour) addressed on Oct. 11, 1966 a meeting of the workers of "Yitzhar" Oil products Factory, one of Israel's biggest enterprises in this branch. The Communist spokesman analyzed the government's economic policy and its new programme. E. Vilenska proved that just as the united struggle of the workers succeeded in 1963 to "unfreeze" wages, the united struggle of the workers in 1966 is capable of defeating the anti-labour measures involved in the new economic programme of the government.

There Is an Alternative

The government and the employers who extend unemployment are interested in frightening the workers and in persuading them that unemployment lowering the workers' income and freezing social conditions mean a possible future for Israel's economy.

But it is most important that the working class recognizes that there is an alternative - not of closing down existing factories, but of establishing new enterprises owned by the state; not of worsening labour conditions, but of curbing the profits of the employers, the industrialists, bankers, exporters etc.

What is good for the worker is good for Israel

200 Israeli industrial companies made during 3 years a profit of 132 million Israel pounds. The government programme is not intended to cure the economy but to assist the capitalists to raise their profits. Unemployment that hits the working class cannot benefit our economy. The working class fully combines its class interests with the benefits of development and up-building.

The protection of the right to work, extension of production and raising of the living standard also promotes development, production, exports and extends the local market. Experience proves that what is good for the worker is always good for Israel, too.

Unity is the worker's atomic weapon

Powerful is the working class, if its power is used for united actions to defend the workers, raise the living standard and develop the country as well. The principle "all for one and one for all" is the atomic weapon of the working class - stressed Cde. Vilenska.

PUBLIC STRUGGLE AGAINST THE RAISE OF RENTS

A mass meeting against the raise of rents was held on Sept. 4 at "Achva" Hall, Tel Aviv, organised by the C.P. of Israel. It was announced at the meeting that advisory offices in these matters have been established in the clubs of the various Communist Party branches.

The united Committee for the defence of tenants, artisans and small merchants published a proclamation calling upon the public to refuse to pay any raised rent without the decision of a court. "The raise of rents at the present time of crisis is a grave crime against the whole public and we shall continue and intensify the struggle for the abrogation of the unjust regulations".

ISRAEL PEACE COMMITTEE STARTS CAMPAIGN FOR MEDICAL AID TO VIETNAM

The Peace Committee of Israel published an appeal, calling the public to make contributions to the campaign for medical aid to Vietnam. The call stresses the cruelty of the American war of intervention in Vietnam, that threatens peace not only in South East Asia but all over the world. American intervention has been condemned by many peoples in the east and west alike.

The Israeli Peace Committee mentions the grave criticism against the U. S. intervention in Vietnam voiced by General De Gaulle and U. N. General Secretary U. Thant. The American bombs kill children, women and old people - peaceful citizens are the main victims. A wound means often death because of the lack of medical aid.

Similarly to parallel institutions in many countries, The Israeli Peace Committee proclaimed a campaign for medical supplies to be put at the disposal of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam or its competent representatives.

Any money contributed will be used for bandages, vaccines, vital medicaments that are hard to be obtained. It may save the lives of many citizens, women and children in that far and small country, which similar to Israel, is part of Asia and strives for peace and freedom.

This is a human campaign of foremost importance and the citizens of Israel, who only 18 years ago stood in a heroic struggle for their independence and right of self-determination, will properly appreciate this campaign.

Contributions are accepted in the form of adequate medical material or money at the address : Campaign for Medical Aid to Vietnam, Peace Committee, Tel Aviv, 60 Rothschild Blvd"

YOUNG COMMUNISTS OPEN FUND COLLECTION

Following the call of the Israel Peace Committee, members of the Communist Youth League of Israel organised immediately a fund-raising drive for medical aid to Vietnam. They put up tables in the streets of Tel Aviv, carrying slogans : "Stop American aggression in Vietnam", "Contribute to the Campaign for Medical Aid to Vietnam" Many citizens responded to the call and contributions varied between ten and a half Israeli pounds.

IMPRESSIVE MASS MEETING OF ISRAELI YOUTH
COMMEMORATES THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

On a Sabbath eve in September, a huge crowd of young men and women assembled at the large hall of the Tel Aviv Chamber Theater. They came to honour the memory of the Spanish civil war heroes who fought fascism 30 years ago.

The sounds of a guitar played a sad Romancero while the large theater hall was darkened. Slowly, a ray of light made the three-colored flag of Republica Espana visible that ornated the front stage. Then in a second ray of light, a huge scroll appeared, opening slowly and showing Pablo Neruda's impressive words "This is the blood". Suddenly, a third ray of light was cast into the lower part of the stage - a white stone with a wreath of flowers and a black silk tie. The sad melody of the guitar continued while blood-red letters emerged from the background of the stage, reading : "Espana, Espana ! 30th Anniversary of the Spanish civil war".

The meeting was opened by Amikam Gurevitz who invited to the stage 42 veterans of the International Brigades. He read their names and they stepped up one after the other - men in their fifties, sixties and seventies, part of them disabled as a result of the war and other hardships. Three among the veterans were invited to form the presidium of the meeting : The well-known Communist poet Alexander Pen; Shimeon Avidan, former commander of the "German squad" of the Palmach and later one of the outstanding commanders in Israel's war of independence, member of a Mapam Kibbutz; Mr. C. Nogueras Saumel, representative of Republican Spain in Israel and Y. Chasson, representative of Israel's young generation, who set up the Committee for the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Spanish Civil War. This Committee has been formed after preparatory conversations between the Communist Youth League of Israel, the youth organisations of Mapam and Achdut Ha'avodah. These conversations started in the beginning of 1966 and were later joined by 6 youth organisations of other parties.

The final programme of the celebration was worked out in cooperation with the Union of Volunteers of the Spanish War 1936-39 in Israel.

"Franco's war against the Republic was a war of the dirty tripartite alliance of capital, cross and sword; or rather a quadruple alliance of the reactionary bourgeoisie, of backward nobles, of militaristic officers and inquisitionist clergy" - said the representative of Israel's youth, a member of the Independent Liberal Party.

"It is the dream of our life, that the time will come when we - all those from the International Brigades who are still alive - will be invited by the new Republican government to participate in the March of Republicans in the streets of unforgettable Madrid" - called the well-known stage director Peter Fry, member of the Lincoln Brigade.

"The Second World War has been started on the soil of Spain and this was the feeling of the progressive Jewish public in many countries, who foresaw the horrible threat of Nazism. This will explain how it happened that about 25% of the volunteers in the Brigades were Jews" - stated the Spanish war veteran S. Shiloni, a member of Mapam.

"The impressive lesson of the Spanish war and the testimony of all those who gave their lives in the heroic struggle for freedom and justice is obvious for our generation: "No more war ? No more oppression ! And these days its significance calls upon us : peace and freedom for Vietnam ! " - declared the Communist poet Alexander Pen who later roused the audience when he read his great poem "Spain is burning" written as far back as 1937.

And then started the march of artists who, one after the other, contributed of their talents. The well-known actress Batya Lanzet read the impressive speech of La Passionaria on the day when the International Brigades left Spain. The poetess Rina Shani read from poems by Lorca. The best singers and guitar-players performed songs of those days, the songs of freedom, songs of the Brigades. The meeting was closed by the film "To Die in Madrid".

The young people who came out of the theater hall into the streets of Tel Aviv in the early morning hours learned that night a great lesson of history, and the final call of the chairman of the meeting still echoes in their hearts : "Salud to the Republic ! Freedom for Spain ! Freedom for Vietnam ! Peace for the World "

ISRAELI CHILDREN RETURN FROM "ARTEK" SUMMER CAMP

The delegation of the children's movement, affiliated to the Communist Youth League of Israel (both PCI and NCL), returned to Israel on Sept. 21, 1966 after having spent a month in the international children's camp "Artek" in the Soviet Union, as guests of the Committee of Soviet Youth organisations.

The children from Israel met in the camp with children from various countries with whom they closed many ties of friendship. At a reception given on their return to Israel, the children told about their impressions and exciting experiences; how surprised they were when the children of "Artek" celebrated the Jewish New Year in honour of the children from Israel; how hundreds of children learnt and sang the Israeli song "Hava Nagila" in Hebrew;

how the "Israel evening" became a big success; and above all - the friendship that got there a deep and new significance, expressed by the tears shed during the last days before the children's departure from the camp.

The children were welcomed by the head of the previous delegation to "Artek", member of the national council of the workers' children organisation.

At the end of the celebration, slides were shown on a screen depicting the life in "Artek" and its inmates. Among the many children who filled the hall were also pupils from nearby schools, among whom invitations had been distributed before the meeting. Similar meetings were held in several cities from where children had participated in the Soviet summer camp.

MASS MEETING IN TEL AVIV ON RUMANIA'S LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY

A festive meeting on the 22nd anniversary of Rumania's liberation was held on Aug. 20, 1966 at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv, attended by a large audience.

The presidium of the meeting included the Rumanian Minister to Israel, Mr. Valeriu Georgescu, who submitted his greetings to the meeting, and Aluf Z. Ayalon, former Israel Ambassador in Rumania. On the significance of the celebration spoke Moshe Katz, President of the Israel-Rumanian Friendship League, and Meir Semo. Greetings to the meeting were also addressed by the Minister for Religious Affairs, Mr. Z. Wahrhaftig, and the director of the Department for Eastern Europe of the Israel Foreign Ministry, Mr. E. Doron.

The official part of the meeting was followed by performances by artists and screening of Rumanian films. The meeting passed in an enthusiastic atmosphere.

Meetings in honour of the Roumanian National Day were held also in other places.

On the occasion of the National Day of Bulgaria, public meetings were likewise held by the Friendship League Israel - Bulgaria.

The CC of CPI sent fraternal greetings, signed by its General Secretary S. Mikunis, to the brother parties of Roumania, Bulgaria, Vietnam and the German Democratic Republic on the occasion of their National Days. Cables of greetings and good wishes were also sent to Tudeh-Party, and to Cdes Corvalan, Ochab and Duclos.

ESHKOL'S CLARIFICATION AFTER RABBIN'S DECLARATION - DID NOT CLARIFY

by Esther Vilenska

The Prime Minister of Israel published a clarification to the words voiced by the chief of Staff, Rav-Aluf (Major General) Itzhak Rabin, referring to the reaction that the Chief of Staff thinks desirable, on the acts of sabotage at the Syrian border or against the deviation works of the Jordan water sources.

The Chief of Staff said that Israel's reaction, in view of the act of sabotage at the northern border, should be directed against the Syrian government as such. These words roused opposition and feelings of fear among various parts of the Israel public.

This declaration is most grave for several reasons : considering that the Chief of Staff was unauthorised to such declaration, considering its political significance, and considering that such a declaration contributes to the growing tension between Israel and her neighbours.

The attempts made by the heads of the army to put themselves above the Knesset and even above the government and to push towards military adventurism were one of the characteristic features of Ben Gurion's rule. The resignation of Ben Gurion was the outcome of wide public resistance, including his party, against his prohibitive methods, one of which was to put the heads of the army above the legislative body and above the executive body. The attempt of the Chief of Staff to exceed his range of competence is a matter that must not be under-estimated.

But the contents of the declarations made by the Chief of Staff is still graver than his formal breach of competence. Its political significance is a policy of adventurism, making it the task of Israel to intervene in the internal regime of Syria, with the aim to do harm to its present government, which is disliked by the American and British imperialists.

It is well known that various western powers make direct and indirect efforts to prevent anti-imperialistic changes in Syria, to prevent her development in the direction of independence and progress. The recent plot against the Syrian government, carried out by the government of Jordan and its foreign patrons, is one of the examples of these activities undermining the national independence and peace of the peoples of our region.

Most dangerous for Israel is the parallel drawn by the Chief of Staff I. Rabin between the situation in Syria in 1966 and that of Egypt in 1956.

In the history of our small country, the year 1956, the period of the Sinai-Suez war, is written as one of the most unhappy and tragic periods, when Ben Gurion's government involved our country in a war planned by the governments of England and France, with the aim of trying to prevent the anti-imperialistic development in Egypt (the nationalisation of the Suez Canal etc.)

The fact that the Prime Minister, L. Eshkol, found it necessary to clarify the words of the Chief of Staff, is an attempt to reassure democratic public opinion in Israel and abroad, that criticized the dangerous declaration made by Rav-Aluf Rabbin.

Levy Eshkol declared in his clarification that the state of Israel does not intervene in the internal affairs of other states and their regimes. This announcement is positive in itself. But the additional words voiced by the Prime Minister devoid much of the positive value contained in their beginning, because they mean getting involved in provocations instead of taking steps towards peace that our people strives for.

The objective significance of the Prime Minister's words is a justification of further military actions, whose main outcome is growing tension and the danger of war, although these actions are accompanied by comments on the preservation of peace.

Experience has proved that it is impossible to contribute to the pacification of our borders by using military force. The water conflict, too cannot be solved this way. The threat and use of force are not apt to add us a drop of water, but they might kindle flames on our fields and devour the dear lives of our youth.

While we are appreciating favourably the anti-imperialistic changes in Syria and while we are calling for Israel non-intervention in the internal affairs of this neighbouring country, we do not disregard the acts of sabotage perpetrated by "El Fatah" from Syrian territory, neither do we ignore the provocative and regrettable declarations made by Syrian governmental leaders against Israel. It is precisely because of the complicated character of the Israel-Arab relations and because imperialistic factors are interested in kindling the flames of the conflict between us and our neighbours, that we demand Israeli policy to be sensible, wise, restrained, carefully keeping the armistice agreements.

The Prime Minister wanted to "clarify" the words of the Chief of Staff, but it turned out that he achieved the contrary.

No doubt, the rulers of the United States and Britain are content with the aggressive declarations voiced on both sides of the Israel-Syrian border. Instead of getting involved in provocations in sensitive areas, wisdom demands careful fulfilment of the armistice agreements. Instead of the dangerous illusions of a military showdown between Israel and her neighbour, common sense for Israeli initiative to solve the questions under dispute by way of agreement and mutual recognition of the just rights of both peoples. Common sense demands no military actions but an initiative for peace.

(Kol Haam, 23. 9. 1966)

REGRET ON CANCELLATION OF EXCHANGE VISITS BY THE ISRAELI AND MOSCOW ORCHESTRAS

The cancellation of the exchange of visits by the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra in Moscow and the Moscow Orchestra in Israel - which should have taken place in November 1966 - by the Soviet Government has aroused understandable feelings of regret among the Israeli public in general and in particular among the circles of artists and culture who are interested in the development and tightening of cultural-artistic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union.

The Israeli public always gave the Soviet artists who visited our country a very friendly welcome. They enjoyed the hearty hospitality on the part of their Israeli hosts, such as the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra and other institutions. On the other hand, the Israeli artists who visited the Soviet Union were given friendly receptions on the part of the Soviet public.

The impressive and intuitive performances of the ensembles "Beriozka", "Armenia", "Omsk", of such outstanding Soviet artists as David Oistrach, Rostropovich, Flyer, Cogan, Igor Oistrach and other important first-class performers, made an important contribution to the development of the ties of friendship between our people and the Soviet peoples.

The impressive performances of the Soviet artists, cultural relations between S. U. and Israel never served the anti-Soviet circles in our country but in the contrary, encountered their hostile and unfounded propaganda.

We, the Communists, not once explained in our press, at the Knesset and from other public platforms, that the hostile political propaganda against the Soviet Union which is led by government circles, causes grave damage to the cause of friendship between Israel and the Soviet Union. We constantly pointed out that the provocative and hostile dealing with the subject called "the question of the Jews of the Soviet Union" is harmful to the normal relations between Israel and the S. U. and constitutes one of the important factors that prevent the improvement of these relations.

It is an open secret, that the circles in the United States who are most interested in anti-Soviet propaganda are those who are responsible for the discrimination of negroes, for the encouragement of anti-Semitism, for fostering the cold war, the intensification of international tension and conducting the dirty war against the people of Vietnam, we cannot have anything in common with these circles; in the contrary, the national interest of Israel calls for improved relations with the Soviet state, calls for the development of ties of friendship between Israel and the Soviet Union.

The majority of the Israeli public is not responsible for the provocative and hostile propaganda against the Soviet Union, it is not to be blamed for it as it is no partner to it.

Ever-growing circles understand that this false propaganda is detrimental to the vital interests of Israel.

We call the Israeli public who strives for cultural and friendly relations between Israel and the Soviet Union to work for putting an end to the hostile propaganda against the S. U., and to work for improving the relations between Israel and the great socialist state that stands on guard for the preservation of world peace.

(Kol Haam, 26. 9. 1966)

DISCUSSIONS INSIDE MAPAM : TO STAY IN THE GOVERNMENT ?

C. P. ISRAEL WORKS FOR COMMUNIST -SOCIALIST COOPERATION

During the discussions held in the Mapam (left wing socialist) party executive on the economic programme of the government in September this year, views were voiced firmly opposing the programme of the government to which Mapam is a partner. More than a third of the Mapam Central Committee members demanded the Mapam ministers in the government to vote against the programme and even to leave the government coalition. The final result was that the Mapam ministers at the government session abstained from voting on the economic programme with its outspoken anti-labour character.

Inside Mapam, however, the discussion continues with ever-growing vehemency on the question : Should Mapam, as a left-wing socialist party, remain in the government or abandon it ?

The Communist Party of Israel conducts a serious, though comradely discussion with some of the Mapam leaders who tried to justify their continued participation in the government claiming that they "succeeded" in deleting some grave clauses from the original economic programme of the Minister of Finance, Pinkhas Sapir.

Esther Vilenska, member of the C.P. Israel Political Bureau, criticised in Kol Haam of Sept. 30, 1966 certain Mapam leaders for having ceased to oppose the anti-labour economic programme of the government. Her criticism is directed in particular against Mapam general secretary Meir Ya'ari who has tried to embellish the economic programme. E. Vilenska writes :

"On the eve of the elections to the Sixth Knesset, Mapam rightly criticised the Alignment because it does not block the way before the right wing. Truly, the anti-labour trend of the economic programme disappoints the masses of employees who are shaken in their belief in the ideas of the labour movement and this prepares the ground for the extreme right wing. However, is it not obvious that if the Mapam ministers stop fighting the anti-labour programme of the government, they do not help blocking the way before the right wing danger ?

The united action of all workers, irrespective of party affiliation, and non-party workers, in the struggle against unemployment and misery, for a real alternative of full employment, social justice, development and peace - this is the economic, political and historical interest of the Israel labour movement.

We regard the members of Mapam as brothers in this great struggle. We hope that they will not be absent from this struggle.

Three wings inside Mapam

In another article, published in Kol Haam of Sept. 2, 1966, Moshe Sneh, member of the C.P. Israel Political Bureau, and the editor in chief of Kol Haam, analyzed the contradictions that have appeared inside Mapam between its left and its right wing, as well as the centrist attitude shared by the old leadership headed by Mapam general secretary Meir Ya'ari.

M. Sneh writes : "The joining by Mapam of the Alignment government coalition, after the elections to the Sixth Knesset, without any minimal programmatic guarantees, was a grave blunder of which we warned before and after it had been committed. Ya'ari claims that the Alignment of Mapai with Achdut Ha'evodah has no programmatic foundation - how can he claim at the same time that there exists a programmatic foundation for the partnership of Mapam with the Alignment and that he only wants to defend this programmatic foundation from being broken ? As there are no clear guarantees for a progressive policy of the government, Mapai turns the wheel more and more to the right. The economic programme of Sapir and Eshkol, that intends to lower the real wages of the workers by all kinds of manipulations (including the creation of unemployment and to raise the capital profits by all means (including means of the government) this programme increased in Mapam the trend to abandon the coalition.

Against this trend, another wing inside Mapam is more inclined to join the Alignment, claiming that inside the Alignment it will be easier to exert an effective influence on the decisions made there.

The two polar trends are to Meir Yaari's dislike. If Mapam abandons the coalition, it will be too hard to bear for the wing that strives to join the Alignment, and if Mapam changes from participation in the government coalition to direct participation in the Alignment, this will be too hard to bear for the left wing of Mapam."

The significance of Ben Gurion's downfall

The article analyzes the general background of the changes in Israel's political arena, when, after 15 years personal dictatorship, B. G. was ousted from the leadership and membership of Mapai, while his new party RAFI failed in the elections - all this removed an obstacle from the way towards Israel's democratic development, towards a renaissance of the Israeli labour movement.

Although these prospects have not yet become reality, we must not regard them as unfeasible. The struggle for and against Ben Gurionism still goes on inside Mapai and inside the Alignment, inside the government - in addition to the struggle fought against it by the left-wing, communist opposition. Ben-Gurionism has not been uprooted from the fundamental lines of ruling policy, and the supporters of Ben Gurionism have not yet been removed from key positions in the governmental, trade-union and public apparatus.

Pointing out the differences between Mapai with Ben Gurion and Mapai without Ben Gurion, M. Sneh writes :

"We communists who foresaw the process of liquidation of Ben Gurionism in its embryonic stage, who accompanied this process from its beginnings with sympathy and support, we surely do not underestimate the difference between Mapai headed by today's Rafi - and Mapai which outstayed Rafi and is allied with Achdut Ha'avodah. But a Mapam leader who idealises the Alignment is far from telling the social truth. Rafi is fundamentally an anti-socialist party, while Mapai without Rafi is an extreme right-wing social-democratic party. This difference must neither be underestimated nor overestimated. It is the merit of Levi Eshkol that he defeated Ben Gurion - of course, thanks to the mature political and public conditions. However, up till now Eshkol only used different style and tactics but he did not show a different way in foreign and home policy. The present government headed by Eshkol is in an unsolvable contradiction between its labour basis and its anti-labour policy. This contradiction is reflected in the differences of opinion between the two partners of the Alignment, in the embitterment felt by the left wing of Achdut Ha'avodah and the Kibbutz Hame'uchad; in the growing trend inside Mapam to leave the government."

How to set up a united workers' front

In the last part of his article, M. Sneh explains present-day tasks of the C. P. of Israel which is striving to set up a broad front for a change in Israel's policy.

"Under these circumstances, the Communist Party must carefully consider its way. Our strategic aim is clear : to change Israel's policy in its three main aspects - towards independence from imperialism, friendship with the Soviet Union and other socialist and peace-loving countries, non-identification with one bloc against the other; towards a consistent policy striving for peace with the Arab countries based on the mutual recognition of the rights of both peoples of Palestine, Jews and Arabs; towards a policy of full equality of civil and national rights for the Arab population, abolition of communal discrimination, deepening of democracy and progress in public and cultural life.

However, Communist tactics must be affected by the following four facts : a) the Israel labour movement, except for the Communists, constitutes the public basis of the present government; b) despite this structure, the government leads a policy that is detrimental to the interests and ideals of the working class; c) the government and the coalition parties abound in innumerable internal contradictions; d) presently, there is no foreseeable possibility of a more left-wing alternative government, but of a more right-wing government.

This means, that the Communist Party, in order to mobilize a massive force in support of its slogans, must find a common language with toilers who support the coalition parties; that when the Communist Party draws up its slogans it must take into consideration the upper limit of the social consciousness reached at the present time by the most progressive parts of the coalition labour parties; that in the near future not more than partial improvements, as a result of partial struggles, may be expected, which will accumulate to a qualitative change of the government policy - or will intensify the internal struggles in the camp of the government coalition and create a broader and stronger left-wing opposition. No need to say that each of these two possibilities brings us nearer to a united workers' front, to a broad national, democratic front."

Com. M. Sneh writes that this is the strategy and tactics of the C. P. of Israel on which the New Communist List (that split one year ago from the Communist Party) disagrees.

"The N. C. L. relies on the advent of a sudden and sharp change in Israel's policy, but they do not tell the people the secret which are the conditions that, in their opinion, will create such a sharp and sudden change, and where are the public forces in Israel that are prepared to fight together with the N. C. L. for a general change of policy or for the downfall of this government. Therefore, the policy of the N. C. L. is a policy of frustration

that is only capable of isolating the Communists from the masses of the people, i. e. to delay the achievement of the above objects of the Communist programme". On the other hand, "our Communist Party makes and will make uninterrupted efforts to cooperate with any labour body, with any democratic body, be it for the defence of peace against military adventures, be it to defend the workers against an attack on their vital rights and interests, be it to defend democracy against any enemy. Our first partner, of course, is Mapam, as a left-wing socialist party, be it in the coalition or in the opposition. There is nothing that can prevent a growing and deepening socialist-communist cooperation. This is not only an accumulation of quantities - this means creating a new quality. What the workers of Israel are lacking is such a left-wing Alignment. We have said so some time ago and now we are repeating it more strongly. In the inevitable struggle between the right and the left wing of the labour movement, its unity, too, will be forged," - concludes the article.

THE CRISIS OF THE EXTREME RIGHT-WING PARTY "HERUT"

Israel's extreme right-wing Herut party is shaken by a grave crisis. Having established towards the last elections to Israel's parliament, together with another outspoken bourgeois party - the Liberals - a right-wing bloc called Gakhal, in an attempt to create an alternative to the social-democratic government, the Herut party is at present on the verge of a split. The crisis has become public by severe mutual accusations voiced in the press between the old leadership and the opposition constituted of several young Herut leaders and the so-called "National Labour Organisation".

"Kol Haam" explained the reasons for this split in its editorial of Sept. 6, 1966 :

"The fundamental contradiction in this extreme right-wing party is that between its social basis, largely composed of toilers, and between the party leadership, which objectively serves the interests of big capital and supports capitalism. Although this contradiction has not yet come into the open, there is no doubt that this is the fundamental reason for the present crisis of "Herut". Party leader Menahem Begin and the old leadership tried to overcome this contradiction by extreme nationalistic propaganda, calling for "class-peace" at home and chauvinistic adventures outside. This leadership thought that raising war-slogans such as "return the lost parts of the homeland" will enable them to keep in the ranks of their party the capitalists and the workers alike, especially workers of the oriental communities. But such slogans ceased to rouse the enthusiasm even of those who have been educated along the lines of nationalistic-chauvinistic ideology," - writes "Kol Haam".

It must be pointed out that the followers of Ben Gurion, who established their separate Rafi party - after having split off Israel's social-democratic Mapai party - played with the idea of a tripartite alternative - right-wing, militaristic and clerical (to be constituted of Rafi, the Herut-Liberal bloc "Gakhal" and the religious parties) to substitute the Eshkol government.

"The shocks suffered at present by Herut are a blow to the plans of domination by the reactionary right-wing" - writes "Kol Haam"; nevertheless emphasizing that these developments still more stress the need of a turn to the left in Israel's policy, because the policy of the government that harms every day interests of the toilers and wide masses of the people and disappoints workers and middle-class - this policy paves the way for the reactionary right-wing. The growing cooperation between the left-wing forces, the setting up of a broad labour front to change Israel's policy to repel the onslaught of the government on the living standard of the people, are capable of creating the conditions for a left turn in Israel's policy and this is the more necessary in view of the crisis in the Herut Party and the aspirations of the right-wing forces to establish an alternative to the Eshkol government. "

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

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



HX 632 A1 W9 no.1114
World communism in the 20th
century.

0172047A MAIN

