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20th Plenary Session of the CC, CP of Israel

Statement of Politbureau, CP of Israel on
Military Parade in Jerusalem

20th Anniversary of the State of Israel
Resolution of the CC, CP of Israel

National Congress of the YCL of Israel

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INFORMATION BULLETIN

COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

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COMMUNIQUE ON THE 20th PLENARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

.....

On April 11th, 1968, the 20th plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel was held with the members of the Central Control Committee participating.

At the beginning of the session Meir Vilner, the Secretary of the Political Bureau, eulogized Fuad Khouri, Secretary of the Party's Central Committee and of the Nazareth Party district, who passed away after the 19th plenary session. Furthermore he eulogized Moshe Zask, a comrade of old standing, but still young, who dedicated his whole life to the noble cause of communism and died on the same day of holding the plenary session.

The session was presided by Ramzi Khoury, member of the Central Committee.

David Khenin, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee, reported on "The consultative meeting of the Communist and Worker's Parties in Budapest".

Wolf Ehrlich, member of the Political Bureau, reported on "The changes in the international arena and in the Middle East and their reflections on Israel".

David Burstein, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee, reported on the work of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat, and particularly on the preparations for the forthcoming elections in various trade unions, which necessitate the full mobilization of all the Party's organizations and members.

The debate, in which most of the comrades present participated, was summed-up by comrade Meir Vilner, the three reports were endorsed and resolutions were passed.

The plenary session elected comrade Salim El-Kassem as Secretary of the Party's Central Committee.

The plenary session of the Central Committee appointed comrade Emil Touma as editor-in chief of "Al-Ittihad", the party organ in the Arabic language.

Resolutions of the 20th Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Israeli Communist Party, adopted on April 11th, 1968.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel endorses the report and activity of the party's delegation, composed of comrades David Khenin, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee, and Saliba Khamis, member of the Political Bureau, to the consultative meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties, that was held in Budapest from February 26th till March 5th, 1968.

The Central Committee values highly the great importance of the Budapest meeting and supports the final communique issued at the end of the meeting, which decided to convene an international consultative meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties in November=December 1968 in Moscow and laid down the practical way for preparing the consultation.

The Central Committee considers the consultative meeting in Budapest as an important step towards strengthening the unity of the international Communist movement and rallying all the anti-imperialist forces. The Budapest meeting proved that the decisive and dominating tendency within the international communist movement is towards fortifying the unity of the movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

At the Budapest meeting views were exchanged in an atmosphere of full freedom and equality of all the participating parties. The meeting demonstrated the firm decisiveness of the Communist and Workers' Parties to overcome the present difficulties, to rally all the forces in the fight against imperialism, the source of all aggressive wars and the main obstacle to social progress, and for the victory of peace, democracy, national independence and socialism throughout the world.

The Central Committee will work for strengthening and deepening the international cooperation and solidarity of the communist and Workers' Parties and of all anti-imperialist forces, and against manifestations of nationalism and nationalist seclusion. The strengthening of proletarian internationalism in our communist movement is bound to strengthen the struggle of the Communist parties in all countries.

The Central Committee decides to accept the invitation to take part in the preparatory committee in Budapest, whose task will be to prepare the consultation of the Communist and Workers' Parties to be held in Moscow at the end of November and the beginning of December, and decides to contribute actively to its success.

An important part of the global strategy of imperialism is the exploitation of local conflicts and the maintenance of centres of tension and war in various regions of the world. The

barbarian nature of U.S. imperialism has revealed itself most distinctly in the aggressive war in Vietnam.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel expresses its full support to the message of solidarity, addressed by the Budapest meeting to the heroic Vietnamese people, which is an expression of proletarian internationalism, accompanied by the decisive aid delivered to the Vietnamese people by the Soviet Union and all the socialist states, and by solidarity actions with the Vietnamese people, organized by all the Communist parties and all the progressive and peaceloving forces throughout the world.

In the Middle East U.S. imperialism aims at perpetuating the Israeli-Arab conflict, exploiting the ruling circles of Israel and other reactionary circles in the region to further its own predatory aims. The political, economic and military backing, that was extended by the Johnson administration to the June war and is still being extended to the continued occupation of Jordanian, Egyptian and Syrian territories is an integral part of the worldwide strategy of U.S. imperialism.

The military failures of the American aggressors in Vietnam, the financial-economic crisis of the U.S.A. as a result of the war adventure in Vietnam, the growing isolation of the U.S.A. rulers in the international arena - in Asia, Africa, Latin - America and in the States themselves, the strengthening of the anti-imperialist tendencies in the Arab countries, the failure of the plans of U.S. imperialism aimed at the overthrowing of the anti-imperialist regimes, the further strengthening of the ties between the Arab states and the Soviet Union - all these elements force U.S. imperialism to act more carefully and to examine again its possibilities and limitations. The weakening of U.S. imperialism has bewildered the Eshkol government and has sharpened its inner contradictions.

The Central Committee calls for the intensification of the struggle for a political solution through peaceful means of the crisis by implementing the Security Council's decision of November 22nd, 1967. The main obstacle to a political solution by peaceful means is the refusal of the Eshkol-Dayan-Begin government to accept the Security Council's decision without reservation, and the aggressive activities on Jordanian territory undertaken under the pretext of "liquidating the terrorists' nests". Experience proves that any such military action is only bound to increase the number of saboteurs, to broaden the activities of resistance to the occupation to undermine the possibilities of a peaceful settlement and to lead to a further isolation of Israel throughout the world.

The Central Committee calls on all party organizations and on all party members to do their very best towards rallying all the democratic and peaceloving forces in Israel in/struggle for putting an end to bloodshed, to the violation of human rights in the occupied territories, and for implementing the Security Council's decision of November 22nd, 1967.

The conquest is not strengthening Israel; on the contrary, it is weakening it. The military raids don't enhance security; on the contrary, they undermine it further.

For the good of Israel, for its peace and security let us fight for a political solution by peaceful means, for the implementation of the Security Council's decision calling for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied territories, the abolition of the state of war between Israel and the Arab states and the recognition of the right of all the states in the region to existence and security.

THE CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA AND IN
THE MIDDLE EAST AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES IN ISRAEL

Excerpts from the report delivered by comrade WOLF
EHRlich at the 20th Plenary Session of the Central
Committee, Communist Party of Israel (April 11, 1968)

(In the first part, the report analysed the announcement of President Johnson on the restriction of bombardment of the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; the unrest in the USA following the murder of Martin Luther King; the attempts at solving the dollar crisis, and concludes:)

Imperialism in general, and American imperialism in particular has much weakened in the last months. It has simultaneously suffered military-political, social and economic-financial defeats. These defeats have strengthened the chances to guard world peace, to prevent local wars and to arrive at political solutions of local conflicts and also to advance the class struggle for social progress and the anti-imperialist struggle for national liberation.

II. Developments in Israel

International development has important consequences for the Middle East. Already at the XIX Plenary Session of the Central Committee we stated that every weakening of the imperialist aggression in Vietnam diminishes the destructive and dissension-sowing influence of American imperialism in this area. False is the theory that the end of the Vietnam war will give the US free hand in the Middle East. The decisive factor is the political ability of the USA to intervene in the region. The weaker imperialist influence in the region will be, the more chance there will be for a political, peaceful solution of the present crisis and of the Israel-Arab conflict.

(Here follows a part on the positive development in the UAR with the establishment of the new government and the programme of the 30th of March.)

The developments in Israel and the position of her rulers are most alarming.

(a)

The Security Council resolution of November 22, 1967 and the sending of Gunnar Jarring to the Middle East have provided Israel with good chances. Israel has the possibility to evacuate occupied territories honourably, to return to the June 4th

lines, but not to the situation of that time. Israel has the possibility, by retreat to the armistice lines, to attain the ending of the state of warfare and the recognition of her existence and of the right to live peacefully within secure and agreed borders. She has the possibility of advancing from the liquidation of the concrete crisis to a solution of the whole Palestine problem, including pledges for free navigation, solution of the refugees problem and the fixation of secure and agreed borders.

The neighbouring Arab states, especially UAR and Jordan, are prepared to arrive at such a settlement. They have frequently announced the preparedness to implement the Security Council's resolution - and even the Israeli rulers have confirmed this.

The grave factor in the position of the Israeli government is that its obstinate demand for direct talks serves as screen for their not being ready to implement the Security Council's resolution.

On February 13, 1968, our parliamentary group proposed to sum up the discussion on the announcement of the Minister of Security on the eve of the raid of February 15 with the following resolution: "The State of Israel on its part is prepared to implement the Security Council resolution of 22.11.1967 fully, according to its letter and spirit." All the other groups of the House voted against the draft resolution.

Government's unwillingness to implement the Security Council resolution is expressed in various ways. Their position has, e.g. been defined in an article by Yehoshua Tadmor, political correspondent of "LAMERHAV" (April 9), saying: "Israel has repeatedly stated that the Council resolution has to be seen as an integral whole, including those sections speaking of the aiming for negotiation and peace". It has to be said that the Security Council resolution does not mention at all negotiation or the aiming for negotiation, and that the regarding it "as an integral whole" clearly contradicts the text of the resolution which divides between two stages - the first: retreat, liquidation of the state of warfare and the recognition of the right to existence and security, and the second: solution of the outstanding basic problems. The viewing of the resolution as an "integrated whole" makes, in fact, the retreat conditional on a peace settlement, on the fixing of borders, on the solution of the refugees problems etc. And as a discussion on the solution of basic problems is not realistic before the liquidation of the present concrete crisis, this approach, in fact, rejects the retreat and every settlement.

And this is exactly the aim of Israel's rulers. They regard the Council resolution as a "basis for negotiation" and not more. They live under the illusion that they can avoid retreating from

occupied territories, and strive for territorial gains as fruit of aggression, in contravention of the Council resolution.

(b)

The Eshkol-Dayan-Begin government does not only refrain from acting to solve the present crisis in the region, it even continuously sharpens it by additional aggressive actions.

Pretext for these acts are saboteurs' actions. According to the version now in vogue, these acts are not retaliatory to what has been done, but preventive of what will be done. Even without speaking here about the grave violation of international law and of the chances at a peaceful settlement with the neighbouring states, it is clear that these acts do not even serve the declared aims. These acts and especially the aggression on Karameh have only intensified the hatred for Israel, sharp as it is already, because of occupation and the oppressive regime in the occupied territories. The army operations have, in the eyes of the population, only raised the prestige of the forces fighting against occupation; they only encourage resistance. After the aggressions of February 15 and March 21, security has not increased, but, on the contrary, the border-line has become hotter and sabotage acts have increased both in the occupied territories and inside Israel.

One thing is clear: government is aware of this, and all their declarations do not correctly reflect their real aims.

Maybe that in concentrating fire on Jordan, the Israeli government served, or believed to serve, American interests in the region, and tried to influence inner development in Jordan - rendering Jordan more obedient towards the USA, preventing her drawing nearer to the Soviet Union and establishing an anti-imperialist government.

But the central aim of the Israeli government was to serve its own ends by applying pressure on Jordan, isolating her from the other Arab countries and compelling her to sit down for separate negotiation and to accept peace conditions dictated by Israel.

In the mean time, the Israeli army has three times crossed the cease-fire line and has not succeeded in inducing Hussein to come to the negotiation table and to accept the Israeli diktat. On the contrary, as confirmed by the recent visit of Hussein to Cairo, he more and more coordinates his actions and plans with the President of Egypt.

The recent aggression, and especially the biggest one, the aggression on Karameh, have proved to be failures. After the first "hurra!" to Karameh of the whole daily press, from "HAYOM" to "KOL HA'AM", the bitter truth has started to appear. The masses have been deeply affected by the great losses, the worsening of the security situation and the lack of perspective in

government policy.

The aggressive actions of the last two months are a special Israeli contribution to defeating Jarring's mission.

In the latest Security Council discussions, Israel was completely isolated, and no member of the Council supported the stand of the Israeli government. The unanimously accepted resolution stigmatizes the Israeli military action which constituted a crude violation of the UNO charter and of the cease-fire resolution; the resolution also speaks of the necessity to discuss additional, more effective means to prevent repetition of such actions.

Instead of listening to the voice of the nations of the world, a discussion started in the Israeli press, whether to continue with actions beyond the cease-fire line or go over to further escalation, to conquer Amman and liquidate the Kingdom of Jordan. This question was also discussed in the government meeting of April 8. Differences have become visible inside government regarding the escalation of aggression.

The Foreign Minister argued against the extremist view, propagating additional conquests, when he appeared in the Labour Party Secretariat ("Davar", April 10): "The policy of additional conquests beyond the cease-fire lines will still more spoil the atmosphere around us, falsifying our image."

Eshkol, on the other hand, included a threat of new conquests in the interview given to "Davar" (April 11): "We have no wish to conquer territories beyond the Jordan river; but the other side has to grasp the fact that we have come to stay and have a right to existence and security, and if they decide to make our life bitter to the end, there are such or other consequences."

The opposition of Abba Eban and some other ministers to additional conquests is positive. It is good that inside the government there are people with a realistic approach regarding the adventurist and irresponsible plans for additional conquests. It is deeply to be regretted that this realism refers to the question of escalation only, while regarding the question of implementing the Security Council resolution, Eban and the other ministers share the extremist view. It is to be hoped that the masses, learning of these differences in views, will draw conclusions regarding the problem in its entirety.

The latest developments confirm the correctness of the analysis and the warning of our Party. In the resolutions of the Central Committee and in the appearances in parliament and in meetings, in the press and in leaflets, we have warned that the continuation of occupation and additional aggressive acts will not bring peace nearer, but remove it still farther, will not better but

worsen the security situation, will not serve national interest, but be in contradiction to it.

(c)

(The report quotes press reports on divergencies between the US and Israeli governments on the background of the American decision to sustain Hussein.)

The divergencies between the US and Israeli rulers should not be exaggerated. The decisive question is not whether the US government changes its position, but how far its power is weakened. In any case it becomes clear that the Israeli government can not even rely on US support for its present line. The Israeli press reveals this also to the Israeli public, and this is bound to have its impact, raise doubts and promote thinking.

Johnson's declaration that he will not put up his candidature at the presidential elections, has worried many reactionary governments and especially the Israeli government. Only two days before this announcement, there appeared in the "New York Times" a big advertisement of Mr. Fineberg of the Bonds leaders calling on the Jews to support Johnson as presidential candidate "in the interest of Israel." It is not the question of this or that personality but of different interests of various sections inside the ruling circles of the USA. Latest developments weaken still more the chances of the Israeli government to rely on the full support of the United States.

On this background, one has to see the increased attempts of the Israeli government to come to closer ties with German imperialism. In February of this year, parallel bodies have been established in Western Germany and Israel, directed at this aim in the fields of economy and science and may be in other fields too. Most of the steel needed for the new oil pipeline connecting Eilat with Ashdod will be imported from Western Germany, and the enterprise will be financed mainly by the Deutsche Bank headed by Hermann Abbs who also finances the neo-nazi NDP. At the end of February, Bonn Ambassador Pauls spoke in Nahariya saying that the diplomatic relations between Israel and Bonn are based on mutual assistance - Israel supports Bonn on international forums and constitutes a market for Bonn's products, while Western Germany supports Israel in the question of the European Common Market, in the economic field and in the security fields...

But also Bonn is no "secure shelter for the rainy day." Bonn also has various interests in the Middle East, and its influence is weaker than that of the American and the British imperialism. German imperialism, like the American one, acts on its own interests.

(d)

In this situation, the government endeavours to mobilize the support of sections of big monopoly capital. This aim was served by the Millionaires' Conference which ended these days.

Just as a company, threatened by bankruptcy, sells its assets at every price, the Israeli government sells the assets of the country as far as they are not yet in the hands of foreign capital, to the monopolies. According to the resolution adopted at the Conference, a gigantic investment company will be founded with a capital of 100 million dollar. This company will lay its hands on the most profitable enterprises like the Electric Corporation, Chemicals & Phosphates and banks, by acquiring shares from government.

If already today foreign monopoly capital has a decisive influence in Israeli economy, the implementation of the Conference resolutions will constitute a new stage in the subjection of our economy, and the dependence of Israel on big capital will increase.

If already today Israel is, in the words of Labour Minister Allon, an "Investors' Paradise", additional facilities and additional government pledges will further enhance the profitability of investments in the country and will make the profit rate in Israel one of the highest and the most secure in the world.

The millionaires demanded measures to lower the wages of the workers and social achievements. Eshkol assured the Conference saying: "We have always seen in a fair profit to the owners of enterprises not only something permissible, but something desirable and necessary." Workers and other working people will face new assaults on their standard of living. But the capitalists and the government are not almighty, and the implementation of their schemes will be met by increased battles of the working people.

(e)

The situation is full of dangers to democracy in Israel. Already at the last plenary session of the CC, we spoke of the turn to the right expressing itself mainly in the unification of three parties in the Labour Party of Israel. In the mean time, the congresses of Mapam and of the Ha'olam Haze have taken place; in both congresses there was a turn to the right and elimination of the Left forces.

Government prepares new attacks on the workers, as evidenced by the draft law obliging the workers and their organizations to give warning of their intention to open a strike 15 days in advance.

Anti-democratic changes in the election law to the Knesset are under discussion.

The Histadrut leadership decided not to hold First-of-May demonstrations this year.

It is no accident that the adventurist and aggressive policy is accompanied by grave violations of democracy. It is no accident that with the liquidation of any independent oppositional factor, except the Communist Party, anti-democratic actions are concentrated against our Party.

In the climate prevailing in the country, the law-court has given a light sentence on the assailant on comrade Meir Vilner and explained that it understands his, (the assailant's), feelings.

In the Knesset an unprecedented attempt as been made to silence the voice of our parliamentary group, when at the discussion on Poland members of the Knesset from various groups, tried to prevent comrade Vilner even to open his speech. Anti-communist articles appear in the press, the worst of them being by Grodzenski in the journal of the Histadrut "Davar" (March 21). This article openly calls for fascist acts on the streets and by government machine.

This situation demands increased vigilance on the part of Party bodies and members. No threat and no pressure will change the principled stand of the Party or infringe on the unity of its ranks. The situation demands a greater effort at contact with the sympathizers, with all people to whom the cause of peace, independence and democracy is dear, with the toilers in every place.

The cause of democracy, peace, national independence is not the cause of our Party only. We hope that other public bodies in this country will analyze the situation, will see the dangers and will decide to give a hand to changing the anti-national line of the ruling circles.

*

Our Communist Party of Israel fulfils an important national and international role, by proving that there is another Israel that does not bow to the chauvinist spirit and struggles for a peaceful solution of the complex Israeli-Arab conflict and for an end to the dependence on imperialism.

In this period, we have chances of intensifying the struggle and of strengthening our influence. The achievements of the Young Communist League of Israel before their Congress, in widening their ranks, both among Jewish and among Arab young people, shows that together with the turn to the right inside the leadership

of the parties, there is at the base the opposite process, a start of a process, of rising understanding and consciousness. We shall be able to accelerate this process by the wisdom of our decisions, by the efficiency of our propaganda and agitation, by our organizational ability.

Let us struggle with all our force that also in Israel the balance of forces will change in favour of the anti-imperialist current, in favour of peace, independence, democracy and social progress.

* * *

STATEMENT OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL of April 23, 1968 ON THE MILITARY PARADE IN JERUSALEM

The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Israel discussed at its meeting on April 23, 1968, the Government's decision to hold this year's army parade, on the day of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, in Jerusalem, including the occupied, Arab part of the city.

The political Bureau considers this step of the Government as a political act, very dangerous to the State of Israel. This step is intended to demonstrate the annexation of East Jerusalem by Israel, an act of provocation against the Arab peoples, world public opinion and UNO which, in its General Assembly, had almost unanimously passed a resolution against the annexation of Eastern Jerusalem.

The Government's decision constitutes a serious blow to the efforts made for a peaceful solution of the crisis in our region, in accordance with the Security Council's resolution of November 22, 1967, and to the endeavours of the UNO envoy Dr. Gunnar Jarring directed towards the implementation of this resolution.

In line with its objection to the policy of territorial annexations, the Political Bureau decides that the members of the Communist Knesset group will not, this year, accept the Government's invitation to attend the military parade on Independence Day, passing also through the occupied part of Jerusalem.

* * *

THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL
.....

PROCLAMATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

To the Working Class,
To the Citizens of Israel,

The people of Israel celebrate these days the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the State of Israel. National Independence Day is a solemn holiday in the life of every people.

For everyone that cherishes the future of our country Independence Day symbolizes love of the homeland and the desire for its development, prosperity, peace and security.

We treasure the memory of the sons and daughters who fell in the battles for Israel's independence, so that the people of Israel will be independent from the imperialist powers, so that it will be free in its homeland.

The best sons of the Jewish and Arab peoples of Palestine fought against the foreign British rule, for the national liberation and independence of both peoples.

The Communist Party of our country stood in the foremost ranks of the anti-imperialist struggle. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the State of Israel we revere all the fighters against the colonial rule in our country, for freedom and national independence. The Communist Party of Israel stood in the forefront of Israel's struggle for independence, against the war which imperialism forced on the peoples of Palestine with the aid of its accomplices, with the object of annulling the UNO Decision of November 29, 1947 concerning the abolition of the British mandate over Palestine and the withdrawal of the British Forces therefrom, as well as the foundation in Palestine of two independent, democratic states - Jewish and Arab. Our Party, the Communist Party of Israel, participated in the struggle for the implementation of the UNO decision for the freedom of the Israeli people and the Palestine Arab people. The representative of our Party signed the State of Israel's "Declaration of Independence" and its members organized aid for the War of Independence.

The Soviet Union, People's Poland, People's Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries sided with the people of Israel in its struggle for national independence, sided with the independence of the two peoples of Palestine.

The policy of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries was and remains a principled, Leninist policy which recognizes the right of self-determination of each and every people.

The Soviet Prime Minister, A.N. Kossygin, declared in February this year, in an interview with the American "Life": "In the past we were among the sponsors of the foundation of the State of Israel and today too it is our opinion that Israel has to exist as a state." (Re-translated from the Hebrew.)

It was the US rulers that attempted to annul the UNO decision of 29th November, regarding the foundation of two independent states in Palestine.

We, the people of Israel, must not forget that on the eve of the declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel, the American imperialists made frantic efforts in UNO in order to leave Palestine in its colonial status, in order to inherit the British by putting up, on behalf of UNO, an international trusteeship, under US hegemony.

On the 19th of March, 1948, the US representative stated in the Security Council that this government had changed its position and now proposed the calling of a special session of the UNO General Assembly, in order to annul the November 29th decision, and in order to force upon Palestine an international trusteeship which would on May 15th take the place of the British mandate.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the State of Israel's foundation we remember and do not let it be forgotten that American imperialism made efforts to prevent the independence of the two peoples of Palestine, the Jewish as well as the Arab people. It was the Soviet Union which upset the American scheme.

American imperialism was then and is now the enemy of our two peoples. The Soviet Union was then and is now the loyal friend of the people of Israel and of the Arab peoples.

When the establishment of the State of Israel had become a fact, the government of the USA hurriedly recognized it de facto, and got active to exploit the State of Israel for the advancement of its own imperialist interests in the region. The first great power that recognized the State of Israel not just de facto, but de jure was the Soviet Union.

The rulers of Israel, after a very brief period of declarations about a policy of "non-alignment", quickly passed to a line of pro-imperialist policy, and mainly a distinctly pro-American one; they also started falsifying history.

Contrary to the national interests of Israel, the Ben-Gurion and Eshkol governments fixed as the base of their policy the alliance with the imperialist powers against the national liberation movement of the Arab peoples and against communism, the integration to the global array of the US in the international arena, directed against the peoples of Asia, Africa and

Latin America, and against the socialist countries.

The ruling circles of Israel, guided by the Zionist ideology of territorial expansionism, already during the course of the War of Independence, as re-affirmed these days by David Ben-Gurion, started fighting not just to secure the existence of Israel, but to expand its frontiers at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people, at the expense of the ruin of the Palestinian Arab people. Thus the Palestinian problem was complicated and there arose the grave problem of the Arab refugees, the principal victims of the imperialist policy of entanglement and intrigue, of the chauvinistic policy carried out by the Israeli rulers and of the bankrupt policy carried out by the Arab Higher Committee.

The alliance with imperialism and with the dark forces everywhere against the Arab peoples, against the Soviet Union and all progressive forces passes through the official policies of Israel like a scarlet thread.

This policy has thwarted any possibility of solving the fundamental problems of Israel, has missed many chances for achieving an Israeli-Arab peace, for strengthening the economic independence of the State of Israel, for the liberation from the dangerous dependence on the western powers, in particular the American imperialism.

On November 4, 1951, Moshe Sharet, the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Ben-Gurion cabinet, officially declared in the Knesset that Israel was joining the endeavors made by the imperialist powers to set up a militarist, anti-Soviet bloc in our region "for the defence of the free world". The Foreign Minister stated that Israel "is obliged to raise even higher its concern with the fate of the whole region in case of a world war... to conceive the problem of our security and future with greater perspicacity and wider scope. Proceeding from such a conception the government has set its mind upon the plans of global defence of the Middle East which have for a considerable time occupied the Western powers' circles".

This is the historical truth. It was not the Soviet Union which turned anti-Israeli, but Israel's rulers who, even when Israel made its first steps, passed overtly and officially to a course of an anti-Soviet policy, and decided to participate in the West's military plans for the "defence of the whole region in case of a third world war".

This is the root of all of Israel's troubles: the policy of serving imperialism against the socialist world and against the Arab movement for national and social liberation. This is a policy which is absolutely contradictory to the national interests of Israel.

In spite of the Israeli rulers' anti-Soviet policy, the Soviet Government conducted a policy intended to prove to the Israeli people that the Israeli rulers, by their stand against the neighbouring peoples, out of their aspiration to territorial expansion, and against the socialist world, out of their anti-communism, they first of all endanger Israel itself and move farther away the prospects of the Israeli-Arab peace; That there is another way, a way that will lead to peace and security.

The Soviet Union signed in 1954 and 1955 agreements with the State of Israel concerning supply of oil to the latter in exchange for citrus fruit.

At the congress held by the Asian and African peoples in April 1955 at Bandung, all the Arab states put their signature to the decision which calls for the solution of the Palestinian problem and of the Israeli-Arab conflict by peaceful means, based on the UNO decision. Thus the preparedness was demonstrated to recognize the right to existence of the State of Israel, on condition that the State of Israel would recognize the rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and first and foremost the rights of the Arab refugees.

But the Israeli rulers closed their ears and did not wish to hear and see Israel's true national interests. In every prospect of Israeli-Arab peace they saw a danger to their policy, which is based on the slogan "not one single refugee, and not one single handful of soil".

In 1956, when Abdul Nasser's anti-imperialist Egyptian Government nationalized the Anglo-French Suez Canal Company, the Ben-Gurion Government started intriguing with the French and British governments, started a war against Egypt, thereby deepening the trenches, moving farther away the prospects of an Israeli-Arab peace, and isolating Israel in the international arena.

The Suez-Sinai war caused the State of Israel incalculable damage, displayed it before world public opinion as a subservient state which carries out in our region the orders of the colonial powers, and which endangers the independence and freedom of the neighbouring peoples. On the other hand, this constituted the neglect of a historic opportunity to side with the Arab peoples in their struggles for liberation from foreign yoke, to create a basis for understanding, trust and accord.

The June 1967 war represents the direct continuation of the policy of serving the imperialist powers against the Arab peoples. This time the main factor in the war was the American imperialism, which, together with the British oil magnates and the West German rulers, had decided to put an end to the anti-imperialist development in Syria and Egypt, to detach these states from their policy of friendship with the

Soviet Union and to turn back the process of progressive social changes within these countries.

The Communist Party of Israel, taking a stand against a policy of war, solutions by military means, and in defence of peace, defends by this Israel's peace and honour, and carries aloft the banner of Israel's independence, the banner of peace and social progress. The communists wholeheartedly defend Israel's independence; they rejected and continue to reject any challenge to the right of existence of the State of Israel, to the just national rights of the Israeli people. The people of Israel are not to be put on a par with the government of Israel; one must not dispute the national rights of the people of Israel because of the anti-national, aggressive, pro-imperialist policy of the Israeli Government. The June war, which was organized with the American supply of arms, money and political backing, did not strengthen Israel, did not solve, but very much complicated all its problems. The June war did not strengthen Israel's security, but shook it to its foundation.

The June war demanded a high price of blood paid by young Jews and Arabs. The people of Israel and the Arab peoples are interested in putting an end to bloodshed. The policy of repression in the occupied areas, the collective punishments, the blowing-up of houses, and the encroachment on the elementary human rights only strengthen the resistance and aggravate the general situation.

The June war proved even more distinctly that it is impossible to solve the problems in dispute between Israel and the Arab states by military means, by means of war and diktat, but exclusively by political means, by peaceful ways.

For 20 years the working people of Israel, its toilers and builders in town and country, have proved their creativeness and courage to a great extent. The intellectuals, the scientific and cultural workers have shown their great capabilities in various domains. Economic development took place in manifold branches.

However, instead of developing economy and science for the good of the working people and the economic independence of our country, Israel's rulers turned this country into a domain and paradise for the foreign monopolies at the expense of the working people's standard of living and social achievements. The economic development has been accompanied by processes which have deepened Israel's economic dependence, distorted the economic structure (the growth of banking and services at the expense of the development of productive enterprises), and brought about unemployment, rising prices and the devaluation of the Israeli Lira. The monstrous military expenditure, the militarization of economy, the ever increasing

penetration by foreign capital have brought about the continuous growth of Israel's external national debt (in addition to the internal one), which now amounts to more than 1,5 milliard dollars and which per head of population is the biggest in the world. Israel's economic development on the USA is deepening; the USA is Israel's biggest creditor. Israel owes to the USA 88% of its external debt (excluding the "Independence and Development Loan").

The June war has badly shaken Israel's economy. The overt military budget, together with the "special reserves" contained in the budget, reaches already in the present budgetary year, the 20th year of the State of Israel, after the latest addition of another half milliard I.L., the monstrous figure of two milliard and 700 million I.L., i.e. 43,5% of the budget. The growing militarization of the economy "solves" if it were, temporarily, the misfortune of unemployment, but it carries within itself the danger of economic collapse - at longer sight.

The June war brought a wave of terror and limitations to free movement for all opponents of the war. The June war and the continued occupation endanger all democratic freedoms in our country.

Never before has the State of Israel been so fully dependent on the favours of an imperialist power as it is now, being most dangerously dependent on American imperialism.

The American imperialists and their allies, Hitler's heirs in West Germany, cannot be the allies of the people of Israel.

The American imperialists' hands are stained with the blood of the murderous war made on the heroic people of Vietnam which fights for the liberation of its homeland from the foreign intruder, and for its freedom and independence.

In the State of Bonn nazis are ruling, who aspire to a nuclear revanchist war. The president of West Germany is the nazi Heinrich Lübke, an architect of nazi concentration camps; Bonn's Prime Minister is the nazi Kurt Kiesinger. Numerous nazi war criminals are living freely in the State of Bonn.

Let us not be in one and the same camp with Hitler's West German heirs. Our natural friends are the Soviet Union and all the socialist states, which conduct a principled and consistent policy of friendship with all the peoples, a policy of defence of peace.

The Soviet Union is a friend of the people of Israel, just as she is a friend of the Arab peoples. The opposition of the Soviet Union to the policy of the Israeli Government, to the policy of aggression and territorial expansionism, is not an anti-Israeli policy, but a policy that is directed

toward securing the peoples' peace and independence, and towards saving Israel from the very grave dangers threatening her as a result of the continued policy of conquests, annexations and military adventurism.

The 20-year old official Israeli policy is bankrupt; it has brought to our people nothing but wars, suffering and lack of security in the future.

Instead of implementing the principles of the "Declaration of Independence" concerning the "full political and social equality of rights for all of its citizens regardless of their creed, race and sex" and "the development of the country for the good of all its inhabitants", Israel's rulers have conducted a policy of discrimination and repression against Israel's Arab population. Throughout the 20 years Israel's Arab inhabitants have lived in conditions of repression by the Military Government; they have been driven off most of their lands, and discriminated against in all domains of life.

Raising the banner of Israel's independence we struggle for a change of official Israeli policy, for a policy of peace, independence from the imperialist powers, democracy and social progress.

Raising the banner of Israel's independence we struggle for the implementation of the Security Council's decision of November 22, 1967, which calls for the Israeli Army's withdrawal from the occupied areas to the lines held on June 4; for the cancellation of the state of belligerency; for the recognition of the rights of all states in the region, Israel included, for the existence and security within recognized boundaries.

Raising the banner of Israel's independence we struggle for the cancellation of national discrimination directed against Israel's Arab population, for the implementation of the "Declaration of Independence" which calls for equality of rights for all of Israel's inhabitants.

Raising the banner of Israel's independence we struggle against the privileges of American and other millionaires, and for making Israel a home for the working people.

Raising the banner of Israel's independence we struggle for a policy of friendship with the Soviet Union and all socialist countries.

Raising the banner of Israel's independence we struggle for a new Israeli policy: Together with the Arab peoples against the imperialists.

Long live the united struggle of Israel's working people, Jews and Arabs, for the defence of their interests, for their

full national and social liberation, for a socialist future
for the State of Israel!

Long live the unity of all the forces of national res=
ponsibility in the struggle for a new Israeli policy, a policy
of independence, love of peace, neutrality and democracy, a
policy which will bring Israel security and economic prosperity!

Long live the 20th anniversary of independence of the
State of Israel!

Long live the brotherhood of the Jewish and Arab peoples!

Long live peace!

* * *

THE 9TH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST
LEAGUE OF ISRAEL - A DEMONSTRATION OF YOUTH
ENTHUSIASM, UNITY AND BROTHERHOOD

The 9th National Congress of the YCL of Israel was held in Tel-Aviv-Jaffa in Cinema Eilat from the 18th-20th April 1968.

233 delegates from 36 branches participated in the Congress, which was an important landmark in the history of the YCL of Israel.

An atmosphere of youth enthusiasm, optimism, feeling of responsibility and confidence in the future, prevailed in the Congress.

Three fraternal delegations participated as guests in the Congress: The WFDY was represented by Comrade ALEJANDRO GOMEZ. The COMMUNIST YOUTH UNION OF HUNGARY was represented by Comrade SANDOR KOVACS, member of the Central and Executive Committee of the YCL of Hungary, and Comrade CSABA KISS, member of the International Department of the YCL of Hungary. The YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF FRANCE was represented by Comrade SIMONE ANGEL, member of the CC of the YCL of France.

The Congress received messages of greetings from the LENINIST KOMSOMOL and many other fraternal youth organizations.

The Congress was opened by Comrade GEORGE TOUBI, Secretary of the YCL of Israel.

The opening session of the Congress strongly protested against the decision of the Israeli Government to refuse entry visa to Comrade ANATOLY AGARISHEV, deputy editor of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, who was delegated to attend the Congress.

Comrade BENJAMIN GONEN, General Secretary of the YCL of Israel delivered the report of the Central Committee to the Congress.

Comrade MEIR VILNER, Secretary of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Israel, addressed the Congress on behalf of the CP of Israel.

The Congress was a strong manifestation of Jewish-Arab unity and showed the great cohesion in the ranks of the young communists of Israel and their deep conviction and strong support to the policy of the Communist Party of Israel. This fact was explicitly and practically expressed by the delegates during the opening session and all through the work of the Congress.

The Congress reflected the progress, the scope and activities of the YCL of Israel since the 8th national congress which was held in December 1961.

DELIBERATIONS OF THE CONGRESS

In the deliberations of the 9th Congress of the YCL of Israel prevailed the spirit of Jewish-Arab brotherhood and confidence in the victory of the way of the party and the movement.

The friendship between the Jewish and Arab comrades was manifested both in the common sessions in the Congress Hall and in the interventions of the participants.

Condemnation was levelled more than once in the discussion against the war of June and a call was raised for the implementation of the Security Council's resolution for the solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict by peaceful methods, for the withdrawal of the forces of the Israeli Army from the occupied territories. In the words of the speakers were portrayed the conditions of life and the work of the youth. The cry of the Arab youth, deprived of his rights for work and education was voiced. All the participants in the discussion were united in support of the report of the Central Committee, which was delivered by comrade Benjamin Gonen in the preliminary session.

The following were elected members of the Central Committee of the Young Communist League of Israel:

Muhammed Abu-Etzbah, Dror Irge, Miryam Algazi, Nissim Brakha, Salim Joubran, Yoram Gozansky, Tamar Gozansky, Benjamin Gonen, George Graib, Ruth Gross, Ghassan Habib, George Toubi, Zipora Sharoni, Ibrahim Mograbi, Nimr Murkus, Odette Nimr, Wajee Seman, Efraim Qassab, Tawfiq Kna'na, Benjamin Schnitzer.

The following were elected candidates for the Central Committee: Simha Brakha, Iraqi Urabi, Omar Sa'adi, Muhammed Nafa'a.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE 9th NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE YCLI:

- 1) The Congress endorses the report of the Central Committee of the YCL of Israel delivered to the Congress by comrade Benjamin Gonen, General Secretary of the YCL of Israel.
- 2) A resolution of solidarity with the heroic struggle of the people and youth in Vietnam against US aggression.
- 3) A resolution of solidarity with the patriots in Greece against military dictatorship and for release of political prisoners.
- 4) A resolution in support of the 9th World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Sofia in the summer of 1968.

- 5) The Congress approved a message of greetings and respect to the Communist Party of Israel for its brave struggle for peace, independence and the vital interests of the masses and for the peaceful and prosperous future of youth in Israel.
- 6) The Congress adopted an appeal to the Israeli youth, Jews and Arabs, calling upon them to join the struggle for forcing a change in the pro-imperialist official policy of the Israeli ruling circles towards a policy of peace, independence and social progress.

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The following telegramme was sent by the General Secretary of the YCL of Israel to comrade Anatoly Agaryshev after the Israeli Foreign Ministry announced that no entry visa will be granted to Comrade Agaryshev, deputy editor of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, who was delegated to attend the 9th Congress of the YCL of Israel:

The decision of the Israeli Government to refuse to grant you an entry visa to Israel, has been received with indignation and protest by all communists and partisans of peace in Israel, who continue to protest against this shameful act of the Israeli Foreign Office.

We send you our heartiest wishes and greetings; we very much regret that we shall not be able to receive you as our guest here. The fact that the organ of the great Soviet youth decided to send you to our Congress, was a great honour to the young communists and the progressive youth of Israel.

Fraternally yours

Young Communist League of Israel
Central Committee
(-) Benjamin Gonen
General Secretary

COMRADE BENJAMIN GONEN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE YCL OF
ISRAEL DELIVERED THE REPORT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO
9TH CONGRESS OF THE YCL

PEACE - THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL (abridged report)

Comrades,

Our Congress is held in a period of the utmost importance for the world and for our country. Mighty struggles are waged in the world between the forces of peace and those of war, between progress and reaction, between anti-imperialism and imperialism.

Shortly, we shall commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel and here we are, Jewish and Arab comrades, who acted and struggled for the realization of the decision of the UNO of 29.11.1947 on the establishment of two independent and sovereign states. We well remember what were the strivings of the Israeli youth at the time of the War of Independence. We dreamed and fought for their liberty and ours, for a really independent Israel, democratic and peace-loving.

To our disgrace and national disaster the State of Israel is transformed into an occupying power. Youth and the masses of people in the occupied areas strive to get rid of occupation and for liberty. This is their right. Again, many young people Jews and Arabs, fell victims of the schemes of American oil and arms magnates and their supporters in the ruling circles of Israel. The war of June and its consequences not only did not solve the defence problems of Israel, but made them more acute.

The Young Communist League of Israel upheld and still upholds the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state and rejects any repeal of its existence, but we are convinced that the policy of the State of Israel is prejudicial to its interests. It supports foreign powers against the Arab peoples and feverishly strives for territorial aggrandizement.

Moreover, we cannot be indifferent to the acts of massacre and crimes perpetrated against the people of Vietnam. We solemnly declare from this rostrum our solidarity with the valiant people of Vietnam and express our indignation against the aggression of the United States there. We express our solidarity with the American youth who demonstrate against the criminal war waged by Johnson's government against the people of Vietnam, and our sympathy with the American Negroes who fight for equality of rights.

Another danger which threatens the peace of the world is the revival of militarism and neo-nazism in West Germany. The Government of Israel are doing their utmost to develop closer

ties just with the rulers of Western Germany. We express our repugnance at the attempt on the life of DUTSCHKE, leader of a student organization of West Germany, our protest on the arrest of hundreds of manifesting students, and our solidarity with the anti-fascist militants in Germany.

The government of Israel, instead of fighting against such dangerous policy, have attacked the People's Republic of Poland because of the alleged antisemitism rampant there.

One of the main principles of the Soviet policy is that every people has the right to establish an independent country of his own. We, therefore, refute the anti-Soviet and anti-communist campaign. We are convinced that the future belongs to the communist camp.

(Comrade Gonen's report contained an analysis of the situation of the working youth in Israel.)

He dwelt on the failure of the confederation of the working youth to protect the rights of the youth; ameliorate their condition and their professional training and ensure work for the unemployed.

(Comrade Gonen also analysed the system of education in the country.)

FROM CONGRESS TO CONGRESS

When we come to sum up the work of the YCL of Israel between the two congresses, we may state with satisfaction that our movement is leading its work, struggle and campaigns united politically and organizationally, with deep belief in the justice of the way of our Communist Party of Israel.

The ICL of Israel was the initiator of innumerable activities such as those for the ban of atomic weapon, against closer relation between Israel and Bonn, against martial court trials and for Jewish-Arab brotherhood.

We are looking forward to the 9th Festival which will be held this summer in Sofia. The first contacts point to encouraging possibilities for imparting our concepts to the Jewish and Arab youth and for a delegation which will worthily represent our youth.

Our movement took part in the solidarity manifestations with the people of Vietnam which took place in Tel-Aviv, Haifa and Nazareth. More than 12 thousand signatures on cards were collected and dispatched to the Embassy of the United States of America in Israel - protesting vigorously the crimes of the American aggressors in Vietnam. We collected contributions for medical aid to the people of Vietnam.

On 1967, the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, meetings were held, films and exhibitions were displayed which portrayed the real and prosperous life in the Soviet Union.

A movement of protest was also organized against the fascist camp in Greece.

Our movement took an active part in the election campaign of the Communist Party of Israel for Knesset and Histadrut.

In the middle of 1967 our movement did everything to prevent the war and when war broke out, it did its utmost to stop it and act for the withdrawal of the army to the armistice lines.

Comrades, we have to say some words on the blow of the split which befell our movement. At the time when in the ranks of our Party a split took place, a group within the Central Committee of the Communist Youth arose and tried to deviate the movement to the side of Mikunis-Sneh. This nationalist group tried to force on the movement not only political attitudes contrary to the policy of the Party but methods of dubious work. We have succeeded to isolate this group and minimize its influence. The overwhelming majority (80%) of the YCL of Israel remained loyal to the way of our movement and party and safeguarded the unity of the Jewish-Arab movement.

One of the important tasks fixed by our 8th Congress was the widening of the ranks of our movement. After that Congress a constant rise was observed in all the regions - until the split. In 1967 a change took place again for the better. Again the number of comrades constantly rose in all the regions.

We have always striven to tighten and strengthen the relations with the brother youth movements, and first and foremost with the Leninist Komsomol and the World Federation of Democratic Youth. Since the 8th Congress, a pronounced widening of solidarity and friendship took place between our movement and other brother movements in the world.

Since the 8th Congress many members of the movement joined the Party. We have to endeavour to transfer as many members as possible of the movement to the Communist Party of Israel which heads the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, brotherhood of peoples and social progress.

We, the young communists in Israel, Jews and Arabs, are imbued with belief and confidence that there is no other way for the solution of the problems of Israel but that outlined by the Communist Party of Israel.

We stretch out a brotherly hand to all the genuine young people in Israel and tell them: Let us act together for a radical

transformation of official Israeli policy.

Let us work together for the longed for peace - a just peace based on ensuring the just rights of the Israeli people and the Palestinian Arab people.

Let us act together for ensuring the rights of the youth for work, education and happy future.

Let us work together for friendship and brotherhood between the Jewish and Arab youth.

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MESSAGE OF GREETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL - Delivered by MEIR VILNER, Secretary of the Political Bureau of the Party at the 9th Congress of the YCL (abridged)

Comrade M. Vilner, when taking the rostrum was greeted enthusiastically by the assembled delegates and the public. M. Vilner said:

"We greet all those who came to attend this Congress, delegates and guests, Jews and Arabs, from town and countryside, who gathered at this impressive Congress in order to demonstrate that there exists a young force in Israel which fights for another Israel, an Israel reigned by peoples' brotherhood, and humanity, a peaceful Israel which shall be the homestead to youth and working people.

"All the honour to your courage, young comrades! All the honour to you, young men and young women, full of life and energy, you, who are permeated by belief and confidence in the victory of our path, in face of all difficulties and in spite of them. We wish wholeheartedly success to your Congress, which doubtlessly will be a cornerstone in the history of the YCL of Israel and will be a source of ideological and organizational upsurge in its future activities.

"The 9th Congress of the YCL of Israel is of outstanding importance not to your movement only, but to the youth and public in Israel, and even throughout the region and outside it. The importance of this Congress lies in the proof it renders, that the young communists are active and even gather strength."

Paying tribute to the courageous stand of the YCL during and after the June war, comrade Vilner continued: "You not only did not waver in your belief in communism, in anti-imperialist solidarity, in Jewish-Arab brotherhood, the Jewish-Arab unity in your ranks, but even strengthened it. This is to be a sign of honour to you. This is a sign that you are made of good material, that you are true communists, without awe and fear,

you fought for peace, for the true national interests of Israel, the rights of human beings and for life.

For that, dear comrades, receive the greetings and esteem of the Communist Party of Israel."---

"At a time, when the majority of the leaders of the labour-movement in Israel threw aside all socialist values and engage in anti-Soviet, anti-Polish, anti-socialist and anti-communist slander, you, together with the Communist Party of Israel, thrust back the filthy hatred and hold high the banner of proletarian internationalism, fight against chauvinism, whether of Jewish or Arab brand, fight against adventurism and cynicism, towards progressive ideals, morals and cultural values which the enemies of the working class and peace try to infuse into the youth.

"You repulsed the satanic propaganda in favour of the American aggressors in Vietnam, the lying propaganda trying to present the American imperialists, or the heads of the West German state, builders of nazi concentration-camps and veteran nazis, as if they were the friends of the Israeli people. You fought against the ties of friendship and partnership of the ruling circles with the revenge-seekers and Hitlerite generals of the West German Bundeswehr and against the ties of dependence with the American aggressors, murderers of the heroic Vietnamese people.

"Tell me who your friends are, and I shall tell you, who you are' - as the saying goes. The friends of our adversaries are the neo-nazis governing in Bonn, Kiesinger, Lübke and Springer, against whom the cream of the German youth is rising up.

"Let us never forget, that the banner of anti-communism, held up by Johnson, Kiesinger and the Eshkol-Dayan-Begin Government was the banner of Hitler too. In the name of 'War on Communism', the nazis started the second world war, annihilated tens of millions of people, among them six millions of Jews.

"On the other hand, who are our friends, the friends of the Communist Party and the Young Communists of Israel, of the fighters for peace and national independence of Israel? Our friends are the Soviet Union, the other socialist states, the communists, anti-imperialists and peace-loving peoples in our region and all over the world. Our friends are those, who at the present time already became the decisive force in the world and to whom belongs the future."

Comrade Vilner then protested against the government's refusal to issue a visa of entrance into Israel to the deputy editor-in-chief of the organ of the Leninist Komsomol of the Soviet Union, 'Komsomolskaya Pravda', comrade ANATOLY AGARISHEV, who was delegated to the 9th Congress of the YCL of Israel. He said, that while a military mission of the neo-nazi Bundeswehr

which came to study the results of the June war to its own ends was welcomed heartily by the Israeli Government and army, the ruling circles shamelessly close the doors of Israel in the face of representative of the Soviet youth, guarding the great cause of peace in the world.

The greeting of the CC of the CP of Israel then praised the cadres of the YCL for holding up the friendship with the Soviet Union which, as other peace-loving countries and peoples - even as many in Israel itself - opposes the aggressive, pro-imperialist and anti-national policy of the Israeli Government and by this helps to save Israel from the national disaster, at which the knights of war, conquest and annexation are driving.

Comrade Vilner pointed out that more and more voices, besides the communists are lately publicly opposing the official policy of the rulers of Israel and criticize their refusal to act in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council of November 22, 1967 and to withdraw from the occupied territories. Comrade M. Vilner gave as an example an interview of the religious Professor Yeshayahu LEIBOVITZ, published in the evening paper "Yediot Ahronot" on April 12th, 1968.

Prof. Leibovitz said: "Annexation? is a tragedy, destruction of the state, annihilation of the people, break-up of the social structure, and the demoralising of men. It will be a secret police state, it will formulate the whole atmosphere with severe influences on the basic freedoms, on the freedom of speech, expression, organization... corruption will rise high. After spiritual demoralisation there will come physical destruction. What is then the alternative? To get out from ruling one and the half million Arabs, to return to the status-quo of the 5th of June... I do not see in the territorial gains of the six days war any lever for positive development. Some speak about federation: Federation is imposing colonialism, imposing a rule of quislings, this is worse than annexation - this is occupation with hypocrisy.

Prof. Leibovitz said, among other things, that by continuing the occupation of Arab lands, Israel will become another Vietnam, and the final fate will be that of Napoleon or the Crusaders...

To this, Comrade Vilner said: "This is a hard sentence. But to this end the present government policy will lead. We, the communists did, do, and shall do everything in our power to prevent the fate of the Crusaders from Israel. This is the essence of our struggle against the government's policy. We accuse the government of a reckless and irresponsible game with the fate of the youth and people of Israel."

He stated, that Prof. Leibovitz is not a lonely voice,

more was already heard, and even others, who think like him, have not yet gathered strength and courage to appear in public.

"Therefore, our voice of opposition to the war and conquest was not 'a voice in the desert'. Life itself proves that we are right. Now, many Israelis start to appreciate, that by our opposing the filthy current of chauvinism - at first solely and isolated - we not did not stand against the interests of our people and our country, but on the contrary, that by our fight we defended these interests with all our power and vigilance, and saved the honour of Israel in the eyes of public opinion in the Arab countries and the whole world, we prevented the identification of the irresponsible policy of the government with the whole of the Israeli people and its national rights.

"We warned from morning-to-night that it is a crime to bind the security and existence of Israel to the mercy of the American millionaires. These have no interest whatsoever in the fate either of Jews or of Arabs and will be prepared to leave us to our fate any moment their oil-interests and profits ask for it.

"We warned from morn-to-nigh that it is a crime 'to tie our existence unto the thin thread which joins us with the White House' (as Prof. Leibovitz said). Do the White House people mind that young Jews and Arabs get killed daily? No, they do not mind at all.

"Comrades, today is Pessah (Passover), it is the 'Feast of Freedom' for the Jewish people. In the Haggadah (the Passover story and prayers in remembrance of the exodus from Egypt, read on the eve of Passover) is written: 'This year we are slaves, next year let us be free people'. And this is what we wish the Arab people of the occupied territories: To be free people, as quick as possible, in our days, possibly this year still.

"The Communist Party of Israel and with it the Young Communist League of Israel always defended, and will defend the right of existence of Israel as an independent state. We oppose and shall oppose any negation of this basic national right of our people. But the State of Israel has no right whatsoever to enslave other peoples, occupy territories of neighbouring states, negate the rights of the Arab people of Palestine and to dictate its terms by force of arms. The saying of Karl Marx 'A people who oppresses another people, never can be free himself', is most actual for the Israeli people. As long as we (Israel) continue with the occupation, with the oppression, the demolishing of houses and trampling upon human rights in the new colonies of the second half of the 20th century, as long as we (Israel) shall not withdraw from the occupied territories - we shall remain slaves to the American monopolies, we shall have neither economic nor political independence, we shall live

on a volcano which may erupt any day.

"You, the young communists, understand well this basic truth and together with the Party hold high the slogan which is the key to the future of Israel: 'Not with imperialism against the Arab peoples, but with the Arab peoples against imperialism.'

"Dear Comrades, for the time being we represent only a minority in our country. Meanwhile the government leans on the support of the majority. But the state of our representing a minority is a temporary one, as the state of their leaning on a majority is also a temporary one. The perspective, the future belongs to us. For them there is no perspective and no future. We are acting according to objective laws of social development side by side with all forces of peace, progress and socialism in the world. They, on the other hand, act against the current of our epoch, shoulder to shoulder with the dark forces of the world, upon whom the only judgment has been given and one only: Get down from the stage of history!

"We represent the interests of the youth, of the working people, the popular masses of Israel. They, the ruling circles, act against these interests. Sooner or later, the majority of the youth, the working people and the popular masses will appreciate that our path is the path to existence, security, well-being and happiness of the Israeli people in a Middle East liberated from the chains of imperialism and reaction, ours is the path to social freedom.

"Therefore, we are optimistic. We hold our head upright, our conscience is clean and our will is strong. We shall continue and even strengthen our struggle until there will rise another, new Israel, a free and independent one - and in time also a socialist Israel."

REETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE KOMSOMOL
AND COMMITTEE OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE USSR

To the Young Communist League of Israel
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Dear Comrades,

23 million Leninist Komsomol and entire Soviet youth congratulate you on occasion of big event in the life of your organization - the 9th National Congress, and extend to its participants, to the young communists of Israel, warm fraternal greetings.

We are closely following your courageous struggle under conditions of continued aggression of Israeli militarists and their allies US imperialism and international Zionism against neighbouring Arab states.

Soviet Youth is with Young Communist League of Israel coming out against aggression, for complete liquidation of its consequences, fighting for policy of justice and peace, ensuring work and bread and not bullets and bombs, policy of building schools and hospitals and not trenches and shelters.

Your demands that Israeli troops should be unconditionally withdrawn from occupied territories, that peaceful good neighbouring relations be established with Arab countries and that problems of Palestine refugees should be given just solution are the demands meeting above all the interests of Israeli people whose honour and dignity you uphold.

Soviet young men and women resolutely condemn repressions against Israeli communists and YCL members. We resolutely condemn discrimination of Arab population of Israel, mass repressions and brutalities on territories occupied by Israeli troops.

Leninist Young Communist League and Soviet Youth highly appreciate your contribution to cause of strengthening international democratic youth movement, your actions of solidarity with struggle of Vietnamese patriots against US aggression.

The Central Committee of the Komsomol, the Committee of Youth Organizations in the USSR, Komsomol and youth of Soviet Union wish you, dear comrades, big successes in your courageous struggle for peace in Middle East and throughout world.

Long live fraternal friendship between Young Communist League of Israel and Leninist Young Communist League of Soviet Union.

Long live proletarian internationalism.

GREETINGS OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH
TO THE 9TH CONGRESS OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF
ISRAEL, delivered by Comrade ALEJANDRO GOMEZ:

Dear Comrades,

This Congress is being held while imperialism, colonialism and other reactionary forces throughout the world are carrying out a policy of war and of provocative aggression in various regions, a policy aimed against the independence and sovereignty of the peoples. This policy finds its fullest expression in the criminal and cowardly war instigated by the North-American imperialism against the youth of Vietnam and its people.

As to the situation in the Middle East our position is entirely clear. We condemn Israel's aggression and its consequences. Together with all the progressive and democratic forces throughout the world we denounce the aggressive action of Israel, the occupation of Arab territories and the criminal actions against the Arab population. We demand the withdrawal of the armed forces from the occupied territories up to the armistice lines and the recognition of the Arab peoples' rights to build their future independently, according to their interests, so that they be able to live in peace and friendship with all the peoples of the world.

The restoration of peace and a normal situation in the Middle East depend upon the implementation of the decision of the Security Council according to the principles of sovereignty and independence.

We recognize Israel's full right to exist as an independent and sovereign state, but we also demand from her to fulfil her duties and the international principles, which are recognized by all the nations of the world and should not be denied to any people.

We are convinced that the present situation is advantageous only to imperialism and its henchmen, to the North-American oil magnates and to the enemies of peace.

We support the just, patriotic and internationalist position of your movement and are opposed to the persecutions you are exposed to because of your courageous defending peace, democracy, progress and friendship between all peoples of the world.

The World Federation of Democratic Youth reaffirms its solidarity with the Communist youth movement of Israel in its anti-imperialist and democratic struggles for a brighter future of the Israeli youth.

GREETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE CYU OF HUNGARY, DELIVERED
BY COMRADE SANDOR KOVACS, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION:

Dear Comrades,

Permit me on this solemn occasion to convey to you, members of the Young Communist League of Israel and participants of its 9th National Congress, the warmest fraternal greetings of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth Union of Hungary, permit me to forward to you the best wishes of the wide masses of Hungarian youth.

First of all, let me thank you for the honour of inviting our delegation to this significant political event which provides a due opportunity for us to express our friendship and solidarity with our Israeli comrades, our companions-at-arms against the common imperialist enemy.

We are fully aware of the extremely difficult situation your organization has to face, together with all progressive forces of the Middle East, in these days. Ever since the foundation of the Israeli State, the imperialists have been nourishing the flame of hatred between the Jewish and Arab peoples, to divert their attention from the struggle against their real enemy: world imperialism and the different forms of exploitation. The bourgeois governments and ruling circles of Israel have always served world imperialism and tried to overthrow the progressive systems of the Middle East.

The oppose this engagement of Israel on the imperialist side, to criticise and reveal chauvinist expansionism, to fight the evils created by a disastrous foreign and home policy in the social life of this country, active solidarity with the international working class movement and all progressive forces, to mobilize and educate the young people of this country in the spirit of socialism and Jewish-Arab brotherhood - these are the noble principles which constitute the political platform of the Young Communist League of Israel.

Your organization has shown remarkable courage and determination in realizing this political programme under especially unfavourable, sometimes dangerous conditions, deserving, by this, the sincere admiration of the progressive world.

The fact that there is a Communist Party and a Young Communist League in Israel, capable of a true Marxist analysis of the country's position and the recent events, is a great help in the struggle for the liquidation of the consequences of the aggressive war of 1967, for a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict, corresponding to the real interests of the peoples of this region.

Dear Comrades,

Our organization, the Communist Youth Union of Hungary, entrusted us to assure you of the deepest solidarity of the Hungarian youth, of its readiness to stand by you in your just struggle and help it in every possible way.

Permit us to wish fruitful work to your congress and to hand over a modest gift in the name of our organization, as a symbol of our warm friendship and solidarity.

Long live the Young Communist League of Israel!

Long live the unity of the international youth movement!

COMRADE SIMONE ANGEL, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE MOVEMENT OF FRENCH COMMUNIST YOUTH, greeted the Congress:

Dear Comrades,

I hereby bring to your 9th Congress warm fraternal greetings from the Communist Youth Movement of France. The young communists, the communist students of France do follow with great attention the struggle of the Israeli Young Communist League. We follow your struggle for the liquidation of the aggressive war waged by certain Israeli circles in coordination with American imperialism against Arab peoples and countries. We follow your struggle for peaceful and just settlement of this conflict - a settlement based on mutual recognition of the rights of the Arab peoples and of the right of existence of the State of Israel. We follow your struggle against unemployment and for better living conditions, for the right of work and education. We follow your activity for gaining additional young people for your revolutionary liberating struggle.

After informing the Congress delegates about the struggle of the French youth and the Communist Youth of France against the big monopolists served by the Gaule-ist rule, for the daily interests of the working and learning youth and against the dirty war in Vietnam, comrade Simone Angel said further:

The great victories achieved by the Vietnamese people, the ever growing aid of the socialist countries, especially that of the Soviet Union, and the tremendous international solidarity movement developing in the world and in the United States have all contributed to drive the Americans to the wall and push them to their last positions.

The events in the Middle East have also aroused in our country great excitement. There were many who, at the first moments, remembering the antisemitic atrocities, saw justice only in the place where the number of population was smaller. We communists, fighting for peace and for the respect of rights of peoples, have organized a wide-range political propagandist activity and pointed out that whatever were the motives of the Jewish new immigrants who settled in this region which was transformed into Israel, the government of Israel is used as a shock force against the movement of national liberation of the Arab peoples. Moreover, we stress the continuous support on the part of American imperialism, who inherited here the place of British imperialism as it inherited the place of French imperialism in Vietnam.

We pointed out that the real interest of all peoples in this region is to reach mutual understanding in order to make it bloom, leading a policy of national independence from imperialist powers by cooperating on the basis of equality between peoples. We pointed out and we confirm this more vigorously than ever that the crisis should be solved by political means - which entails the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied territories, the recognition of the national rights of the Arab peoples and of the right of existence of the State of Israel, the settlement of the problem of Palestinian refugees and of freedom of navigation in the Aqaba straits and Suez Canal.

On this occasion I wish to express our great admiration for your valiant struggle in difficult conditions for a just solution of the crisis in the Middle East. I wish to tell you again that in your struggle you can rely on the full solidarity of the French Communist Youth Movement.

Dear Comrades, deep friendly ties and solidarity weld out two peoples, our two parties and our two young communist leagues. Many of our fathers and your fathers waged shoulder to shoulder the struggle against nazism. Many of them sacrificed their life for the victory of freedom. The events which directly concern your country proved that both in theoretical and political spheres our two parties and movements have common positions. Undoubtedly, this genuine solidarity in the struggle will grow.

We wish you a fertile work in your congress which will contribute to achieve the aims which you put before you.

Long live the friendship between the French and Israeli peoples.

Long live the solidarity in the struggle between the Israeli Young Communist League and the Movement of French Communist Youth.

Long live communism.

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GREETINGS TO THE 9TH CONGRESS OF THE YCL of ISRAEL FROM
FRATERNAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS:

Australian Young Socialist League
Free Austrian Youth
Youth Department of the Communist Party of Brazil
Bulgarian Dimitrov Young Communist League
Youth Department of the Communist Party of Canada
United Democratic Youth Organization /EDON/ - Cyprus
Czechoslovak Union of Youth
Democratic Youth Movement in Dahomey
Free German Youth - German Democratic Republic
Communist Party of the Federal Republic of Germany
Lambrakis Youth - Greece
Liberation Front of Mozambique
Norway's Communist Youth League
Polish National Committee for Cooperation of Youth Organizations
Romanian Communist Youth
Young Left League of Sweden
Liberation Youth of Togo
Union of Yugoslav Youth

FIRST-OF-MAY DEMONSTRATIONS

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First-of-May demonstrations marched through the streets of Tel-Aviv and Nazareth on Saturday; April 27, 1968. The date had to be advanced as May 1 is this year devoted to the remembrance of war victims. The Tel-Aviv-Jaffa demonstration was called by the Communist Party of Israel, and the Nazareth demonstration by the First-of-May Committee of Nazareth Toilers.

The Tel-Aviv-Jaffa demonstration was composed of blocks of Jewish and Arab working people, veterans and activists of the Communist Party of Israel, and a large number of young people and children. At the head of the demonstration marched members of the Political Bureau, M. Vilner, T. Toubi, U. Burstein, D. Khenin, W. Ehrlich, members of the Central Committee and Central Control Commission, of the Tel-Aviv-Jaffa District Committee. The demonstration was in a festive and militant mood. At the end of the demonstration, an open-air meeting was held in Jaffa at a big open place, for years the traditional meeting place of the Party's First-of-May meeting. The meeting was opened by comrade Uzi Burstein, member of the Politbureau and of the CC Secretariat of the Party who stressed that this was the demonstration of Jewish and Arab toilers, of Jewish-Arab brotherhood; no arbitrary decision of the Histadrut leadership will be able to prevent the workers of Israel to demonstrate on the 1 of May.

Comrade David Khenin, member of the Politbureau and the CC Secretariat of the Party said that this year, when the First-of-May celebrations coincide with the 20th anniversary of the State of Israel, we have to point out that in these two decades none of the basic problems of our country has been solved, peace with the neighbouring countries has not been achieved, and that because of the adventurist and pro-imperialist policy of the rulers. The June war has greatly harmed the chances of peace and security. Comrade Khenin attacked the government's policy directed against the living standard of the working people and the official slander campaign against the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. He called for the implementation of the November 1967 resolution of the UN Security Council.

Comrade Tawfiq Toubi, member of the Politbureau and Secretary of the CC Secretariat of the Party, who spoke in Arabic and Hebrew, stressed the importance of the common demonstration of Jewish and Arab toilers in face of the wave of chauvinism and the nationalistic and militaristic incitement. The force that demonstrated today represents the future of Israel and the future of the Middle East.

The meeting closed with the "International".

In Nazareth, thousands of workers and felaheen demonstrated under the slogan "Retreat for Peace". Already an hour before the start, inhabitants of the town stood on the sides of the street and on roof-tops to greet the demonstration enthusiastically, when it arrived. At the head, in a forest of red flags and flags of the state, members of the Central Committee, the district and local branch committees of the Party marched, and with them delegations from the Haifa and Tel=Aviv-Jaffa district committees.

Nazareth women marched, shouting slogans for peace in the Middle East and in Vietnam.

A big block of YCL of Israel was very impressive.

At the end of the demonstration, a big open-air meeting took place. Comrade Emile Habibi, member of the Politbureau of the Party, said: "On this day of international solidarity of the working class, we stretch out our hand to the Jewish workers in the common homeland. War and occupation bring death and suffering to both peoples." He called for the retreat from the occupied territories in favour of peace.

Comrade Avraham Levenbraun, member of the Party Central Committee, said that the slogans of the demonstration in Tel=Aviv are the same as those in Nazareth, for the toilers in Tel=Aviv and Nazareth have the same interests.

Comrade Salim El-Kassem, member of the CC Secretariat and Nazareth district secretary, addressed the meeting.

Demonstration at Tira

Thousands of inhabitants of the Little Triangle villages, from Kufr Kassem to Um-El-Fahem, and delegations from Tel-Aviv, Petah Tiqa and other towns, took part, on 4.5, in the First-of-May demonstration at the Tira village, at the call of the CP of Israel. Special attention awoked the great block of Arab women from all villages of the Little Triangle, marching in the demonstration. Comrades Uzi Burstein and Emile Habibi, members of the Politbureau of the Party and Ghazi Shbeta, secretary of local branch addressed the demonstration.

May parades were also held at the Taibeh and Um-El-Fahem villages.

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MAPAM has this year bowed to the Histadrut leadership and not arranged for any demonstration.

The Mikunis-Sneh group organized a demonstration in Tel=Aviv, calling for international solidarity - with the war policy of the Israeli government.

25th Anniversary of Warsaw Ghetto Rising

Some hundreds of people took part in the "Aviv" cinema hall in Jaffa at a meeting in commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto rising 25 years ago. The meeting, held on April 6, was called by the Organization of Anti-Hitlerite Fighters and Victims of Nazism. The speaker of the meeting was the member of the secretariat of the Organization, A. Berland, who dwelt on the heroic struggle of the Ghetto fighters. He stigmatized the policy of the West German government and the friendly ties of the Israeli rulers with Bonn.

The chairman of the Organization, Dr. M. Perlman condemned the hatred campaign against socialist Poland and praised the personality of V. Gomułka who stood at the head of the anti-nazi underground.

At the meeting, a cable of greetings was read from Jean Toujaze, Secretary General of F.I.R.

Another public meeting on behalf of the Organization was held in Bet-Hahalutzot hall in Haifa at midst of April, and attended a large number of people.

98th Anniversary of the Birth of Lenin

The CP of Israel commemorated the 98th anniversary of the birth of V.I. Lenin with a public meeting at Petakh-Tiqva, with comrade M. Vilner, Secretary of the Politbureau as speaker. Comrade T. Toubi, member of the Politbureau and Secretary of the CC wrote an article for the party press on this occasion: "Under the Banner of Leninism - Under the Banner of Proletarian Internationalism.

150th Anniversary of the Birth of Marx

The CP of Israel celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx with a public meeting at Haifa, with comrade W. Ehrlich, member of the Politbureau, and comrade E. Touma, member of the CC as speakers. Comrade Ehrlich wrote an article for the party press, "Marxism Changes the Face of the World". The Central Department of Political-Ideological Education issues study material on the subject which will be studied at party branches.

Stormy Demonstration Before U.S. Embassy

Hundreds of people, mainly young people, demonstrated - in the framework of the week of solidarity with the people of Vietnam - on April 27 in front of the US Embassy in Tel-Aviv against

American aggression in Vietnam. The demonstration was organized by the "Israeli Committee for the Vietnam Week". The demonstrators carried the flags of the DRV and the NFL and transparents condemning US aggression in Vietnam and shouted "Ho-Ho-Ho Chi Min", "Yankee go home", "U.S. - S.S." and "Johnson - genocide". Organized groups of provocators, shouting "Johnson to power", gave the police the opportunity to disperse the demonstration which formed again a neighbouring busy thoroughfare.

Article of M. Vilner in "Problems of Peace and Socialism"

No. 4/1968 of "Problems of Peace and Socialism" (Marxist World Review) carries an article by comrade M. Vilner on the subject "The Communist Party of Israel in the Struggle Against Aggression, for Peace".

Moscow Correspondent

Comrade Hans Lebrecht, member of the Central Control Commission of the CP of Israel has left for Moscow where he will serve as correspondent of the communist press in Israel.

Letters and Cables

The CC of the CP sent a cable of condolences to the CC of the CPSU on the death of Yuri Gagarin and Vladimir Seryogin.

A cable of greetings was sent to the 12th Congress of the CP of Norway and to the 4th Congress of the CP of Guadeloupe.

A cable of greeting was sent to the CC of the CP of Czechoslovakia on the occasion of the national holiday of the CSSR.

A cable of greetings was sent to comrade Edgar Woog, General Secretary of the Swiss Party of Labour, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

A cable of greetings was sent to Georgi Traikov, President of the National Assembly of Bulgaria, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

The editor of "ZO HADEREKH", "AL ITTIHAD" and "DER WEG" sent a cable of greetings to the "Daily World", New York, wishing the new daily full success.

Naim El-Ashhab Released from Prison

The well-known Communist leader of the Jordanian Communist Party, Naim El-Ashhab was, on May 6, released from Ramleh prison where he was detained for more than 4 months on an administrative order. On his release, a restriction order was issued, forbidding him to leave East Jerusalem and imposing police supervision on his movements. He was also forbidden to leave his house from dusk to dawn.

As recalled, Naim El-Ashab was detained last January in Jerusalem, by the Israeli authorities. Democratic advocates obtained High Court order against his expulsion from the country immediately after his arrest. The Communist Faction in the Knesset pressed upon the Defense Minister for his release.

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