

WORLD CONFERENCE FOR PEACE III: ISRAELI UNITED FRONT

The Communist Party, the United Workers Party (Mapam) and independent intellectuals and artists in Israel joined in an important united front action in support of the World Congress for Peace held in Paris in April. They issued the following call to the people of Israel to support the Congress. Of the 52 signers of the call, 17 were the Communist and Mapam members of the Knesset (Assembly), two were former members of the Provisional Government cabinet (Bentov, Zisling), one was a Jewish Agency executive member (Zerubavel), two were former commanders-in-chief of the Haganah (Sneh, Galil), one was the creator of the Palmach (Sadeh), five were Arabs, and many were leading poets, musicians and scholars of Israel.—Eds.

Citizens of Israel:

In a few days the World Congress for Peace will open in Paris. Delegates from all parts of the world, representing millions from many nations, religions and races, will gather at this conference. World famous cultural workers and scientists, writers and artists, thinkers and leaders, representatives of labor and farmers, of women's and youth organizations, of demobilized and disabled veterans will participate. This gathering will be representative of all democratic and progressive forces of the world.

The congress meets while the horizon is again clouded by the threat of a third world war. This threat evokes fear from mankind striving for peace. Feverish rearmament, establishment of military bases, signing of aggressive pacts like the North Atlantic Pact, hysterical attacks and incitations against the Soviet Union and the new people's democracies are the signs of preparations for a new war.

The Jewish people, having lost six millions in World

War II, recognizes in this new war a threat to its very existence. The young Jewish State of Israel needs peace and international cooperation and friendship of nations in order to consolidate and strengthen its independence and integrity, in order to turn its deserts into flowering gardens, to become capable of receiving the masses of Jews. A world war will place in grave danger all that we have achieved, as well as our very existence.

It is therefore the duty of every Jew, as of every citizen in the State of Israel, to stand in the front ranks of the struggle to insure peace and to oppose the warmongers.

In this struggle Jews and Arabs will march side by side. The Arab peoples have begun to see that the warmongers throughout the world are the same as those who lighted the fires of war in our own country, who brought tragedy and despair to the Arab masses. The struggle for peace is therefore of vital national interest both to the Jewish and to the Arab people. We call upon all social organizations, all trade unions, organizations of intellectuals, the press, institutions of science, culture, literature and art, and all progressive parties in the Knesset, on all who are active in the cultural and social life of our country to affiliate to the Congress for Peace with us, in order to demonstrate our devotion to the cause of peace, our readiness to stand on guard, our categorical decision to prevent our land from being drawn into the net of the warmakers.

Let us send out the great call of the prophet Isaiah: "A people shall not raise up the sword against another and they shall learn war no more."

**THE SPONSORING COMMITTEE OF THE
WORLD CONGRESS FOR PEACE**