

COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

XI

# Information Bulletin

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WITH FRATERNAL PARTIES

NG BETWEEN T. TOUBI AND D. BEN-GURION

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TEL AVIV, ISRAEL



NOVEMBER 1966



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REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE OF 17.10.1966  
ON PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT :  
"ON DEFENSE AND POLITICAL SITUATION"

Eshkol Threatens With Military Action Against Syria

The Communist Group warns against military adventures

(Reported by Zu Haderech. 19.10.1966)

On 17.10.1966, the Knesset's winter session was opened with Prime Minister Eshkol delivering a statement on the "Defense and Political situation..."

The Premier's speech, as well as those made by members of the Coalition and the Right — "Gahal" and "Rafi" — were marked by threats to use force against Syria and by irresponsible and unbridled attacks on the Soviet Union.

In contrast to this show of force and sabre-rattling, Cde. Emile Habibi of the Communist group made a plea for peace and political wisdom against any use of force to resolve the dispute between Israel and the Arab countries against the Israeli Government's falling into the abyss of a new military adventure. E. Habibi gave a rebuff to unrestrained anti-Soviet incitement.

From the Prime Minister's Speech :

The Premier began by accusing the Arab states of turning their backs on their obligations, of making a farce of their signatures on the Armistice agreements and of "turning the Middle East into a hearth of constant tension and setting off an unending arms race in the area ...."

In reviewing recent developments in the Arab countries, L. Eshkol said : "The openly declared goal of the Arab summit conferences was to settle inter-Arab problems so as to forge Arab unity, hostilely poised against Israel."

L. Eshkol then went on to attack the Egyptian President; he charged Nasser with upsetting Middle East stability and cherishing ambitions for its domination, adding that Nasser wanted to realize this "dream of his through aggression and attempts at intervention and subversion". The Premier thus joined his voice to the chorus of Arab reaction against those states that adhere to an anti-imperialist course.

As for the recent increased tension between Israel and Syria, the Prime Minister put the whole blame on Syria. When he proclaimed that "Israel does not interfere in the internal affairs of other states" he was interrupted from the Knesset floor by M.K. T. Toubi : "What about General Rabin's (the Chief of General Staff) statement ? Didn't he say the regime in Syria had to be overthrown?"

In reply to this the Premier resorted once again to an evasive position, namely defending the declaration of General Rabin.

L. Eshkol then launched a very sinister attack on the USSR. He claimed that the USSR was "giving international circulation to the slanderous accusation that Israel was planning an attack on Syria as part of an international plot against a regime described as progressive". He also charged the Soviet Union of "gross falsification in describing Jerusalem's policy vis-à-vis Damascus as a result of the nature of the new Syrian regime". He continued his attack claiming that the Soviet delegate at the Security Council had "joined those who distort the truth".

L. Eshkol called for "military preparedness" and "reinforcement of our deterrent power". He also remarked that direct (military) action is not beyond Israel's capability, as already shown in the past, and that "when the need arises Israel can perfectly well stand her ground, relying on her own forces only".

#### The Debate :

In a tense atmosphere a two-day debate was carried on during which spokesmen of the coalition parties and the right wing opposition (gahal and Rafi -- the Herut, General Zionists and Ben Gurion's group) competed in sabre-rattling, in calling for action against Syria and in inciting against the Soviet Union and its delegate at the Security Council. M.K. Golda Meir, the ex-Foreign Minister, attacking the Soviet Union said that its share of responsibility for what was liable to occur in the area was just as great as Syria's.... M.K. Moshe Dayan (the ex-Chief of Staff and now one of Ben Gurion's group, Rafi) noted that Israel must "act" in self-defense .... he assured those hesitating to act that there is no danger that the USSR will interfere nor Egypt will come to Syria's aid because it is not interested in a clash now ....

It was clear from the debate that the anti-Soviet venom poured was due to the fact that the clear position of the Soviet Union against any attack on Syria was binding the hands of the extremists and militarists.

M.K. S. Mikunis condemned "the acts of sabotage backed by the Syrian authorities", which — so he claimed — led to a rise in border tension. He called for a strengthening of security precautions on the borders and abstention from military action, which the world will interpret as participation in imperialist aggression against Syria; S. Mikunis mentioned in this connection the Sinai war and Israel's participation in that particular piece of imperialist aggression. Referring to the Soviet position M.K. Mikunis claimed that it ignored the other threat to peace, namely, mutual enmity between Israel and the Arab countries — a fact which his party cannot ignore.

Eshkol sums up the debate :

The Premier wound up the debate on 18.10.1966 with a speech justifying eventual military action against Syria: he stressed his agreement with the Right-wing opposition which pressed for immediate military action. He explained that the Government's diplomatic activity was in no way a substitute for military action and did not exclude it.

A call from the Communist benches by M.K. Tawfik Toubi, that Israel has no way out other than a just and peaceable settlement of the Israeli-Arab dispute and that the policy of enmity and military raids pursued 18 years on end had only multiplied bloodshed. L. Eshkol gave an insulting and provocative reply. His answer was that "these are words of incitement and we shall not argue with you. If we argue with U. Avneri it is because he is considered 'one of ours'.."

L. Eshkol also said threatening that if diplomatic activities would prove of no avail. we would be compelled to put into operation our right to self-defence; in his words, "there are times when a tooth for a tooth is not enough and several teeth have to be taken for a single one" and "if there will be no other way out there will be a battle" !

Eshkol then said that those "who invariably bring up the refugee problem should be reminded that Palestine has already been partitioned on two occasions (referring to the creation of Transjordan as a separate entity and to the 1948 partition — trans. ), not to speak of Biblical Palestine".

The Voting :

Four motions were put forward at the end of the debate. The first of these was jointly moved by the parties of the Coalition and of the Right-wing opposition ("Gahal" and "Rafi") as well as Mapam's

Arab bloc. It urges the Security Council to brand Syrian aggression and threatens the use of what the Government describes as the right of self-defence. It was obvious that "Gahal" and "Rafi" would support this government motion since it met their potentially adventurist demands for a policy of naked force. The motion was adopted by the votes of its initiators. The Communist group alone voted against this resolution. Members of Knesset S. Mikunis and U. Avneri abstained.

### Communist Motion

Another motion was presented by the Communist Group. It runs as follows : "Out of concern for peace and the future of Israel's relations with the Arab states the Knesset resolves that the Government is duty bound to strictly refrain from launching military operations across the Armistice lines with Syria or with any other Arab state and to work for the settlement of all outstanding disputes between Israel and her neighbours by peaceable means through the machinery of the Armistice Commissions or other U.N. bodies.

"The Knesset appeals to the Government to return to the Israel-Syria and the Israel-Egypt Mixed Armistice Commissions." This motion received the votes of the Communist group and of S. Mikunis. M.K. U. Avneri abstained.

U. Avneri's motion which embodied part of the Government motion, was voted for by himself and by S. Mikunis, with the Communist group abstaining. Supporting the call against military action by the Government contained in the motion moved by S. Mikunis, the Communist group voted for his motion which contained, inter alia, the Knesset's demand that the "Government desist from military reprisal raids as retaliation for acts of sabotage and provocation by members of 'El Fateh' or of other forces and instead to carefully devise effective means of protection and defence all along the trouble-ridden border". M.K. S. Mikunis' motion also addressed itself to "the Security Council with a proposal to impose on both the Syrian and Israeli Governments the duty of ceasing any activity disturbing border peace and strictly observing the Armistice agreements and the undertakings stemming from the U.N. Charter".

### A disturbing resolution — from our Political Correspondent

The resolution passed by the Knesset on 18.10.1966 (on the motion of the Coalition parties and those of the militaristic Right-wing opposition — "Gahal" and "Rafi") with its threat to employ force against



Syria on the pretext of exercising the right of self-defence, is a most disturbing decision that should arouse the concern of every partisan of peace in Israel.

The speeches made by the representatives of the Coalition and the Right-wing opposition who ganged up together in threatening the use of force and in anti-Soviet hate-mongering testify to the gravity of the situation and to the seriousness of the dangers facing peace in the area.

S. Mikunis' abstention (even though in his speech and in his motion he did call on the Government to refrain from the use of force) is at odds with the task of all Communists at this crucial time of test, whose supreme duty here and now is to warn Israeli public opinion against the dangerous path followed by the Government as evidenced by the above-mentioned Knesset resolution.

The Communist parliamentary group's vote against the decision of the renewed Sinai coalition is an exact expression of the Communist Party's sense of responsibility for the cause of peace, the cause of Israel's security and her future.

(Zu Haderech, 19.10.1966)

### AGAINST ANY MILITARY ACTION ACROSS THE BORDER!

(Full text of speech of Member of Knesset Emile Habibi in Knesset debate on 17.10.1966).

Honoured Speaker and Knesset!

We who were born in this country in the 20's have had no easy time of it. Ever since our youngest days we do not recall ever having a single quiet day. Parents have always warned their children against coming home late at night and our lives have always been blighted by bloodshed. Foreign colonial rule left us a bloody bequest — the Palestine problem, constantly complicating it and preventing its just solution, in order to exploit it for its predatory ends against peace and the socially progressive future of the area's peoples. In another 10 days we shall be commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Sinai war which is engraved in our consciousness together with the savage Kfar-Kassem massacre. Yet, in spite of all these

bitter experiences we now face the self-same dangers. The black clouds of war and of bellicose threats darken our world.

I realize that what we are discussing now is not the past but the present and the future, but those who forget the lessons of the past are unable to find the right way forward.

The gulf of hostility that lies between Israel and the Arab peoples has grown still deeper and wider. The idea which we Communists warned against, that the passage of time alone — without any effort being made to arrive at a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict — would consign legitimate rights to oblivion, has been proved erroneous and even dangerous. We note this fact with profound concern. Our view is that peace between Israel and the Arab countries is of supremely vital importance to all the peoples of the Middle East. We visualize an entirely different future for Israeli-Arab relations — one of brotherhood, friendship and cooperation.

We energetically condemn acts of sabotage and murder carried out by the organization that calls itself "El Fateh". We condemn any backing — direct or indirect — Syrian ruling circles may give to the provocative activities of this organization. These warnings of ours proceed from a profound understanding of the nature of the Israeli-Arab dispute, which imperialism tries to use with the aim of furthering its own aggressive designs against peace and peoples' independence. It is our opinion that all the forces of progress in our part of the world must resist any action that makes it easier for imperialism to indulge in its work of strifemongering and exploiting the Israeli-Arab dispute for its aggressive goals.

In Israel the demand is being voiced that it is up to Syria to change her attitude toward Israel. The argument goes as follows : if world public opinion, through the Security Council, succeeds in restraining Syria — so much the better. If not, there will be no choice but to make war. Military men call for military operations whose objective would be to change the regime in Syria. Doesn't it occur to anyone that a change of attitude has to take place in Israel?

The "Alignment" (the bloc of Mapai-Ahdut 'Avoda parties) did the public an important service in publishing the content of a lecture delivered by the late Moshe Sharett in 1957, in the wake of the Sinai war. The question Sharett then asked was : "Were the circumstances that made the Sinai war inevitable a predetermined necessity? This is certainly a moot point."

And we for our part ask : was this deterioration really necessary ? Is there not room for mental stock-taking ? The late Moshe Sharett wanted the shapers of Israeli foreign policy to avoid being one-sided and to see the justice of other peoples (the Arabs, more particularly those of Palestine — trans.). It is not enough to merely denounce the path of adventurism, that of military actions, championed by certain circles among the Palestinian Arab people — and we do condemn it — but what is really needed is to alter official Israeli policy with its callous disregard for the very existence and legitimate rights of that people, which was the main victim of imperialist machinations.

In a symposium organized by the "Alignment", the Prime Minister (L. Eshkol) said the following :

"It must be made perfectly clear to the whole world — including the Arabs — that there is one solution that can certainly not be entertained : it is quite impossible to settle the refugees in Israel. I said once to (Adlai) Stevenson : 'From me, you can expect to hear harsher words on the refugee issue — for us, 100,000 refugees would be like an atomic bomb!'"

I ask you : is this position a new one ? Certainly not ! Has it led to a solution of Israel's basic problem, that of an Israeli-Arab peace settlement ? Certainly not ! The damage, equivalent to that of an atomic bomb, that is done to Israel is not acknowledgement of the refugees' right to choose between return to their homeland, on the one hand, and financial compensation, on the other, but the present stiffnecked policy of ignoring the rights of the other party, a policy that feeds the fires of enmity and prevents the development, in the Arab countries, of a just and positive attitude with regard to the problem of the Israeli-Arab dispute.

Not only was there no need in the past for events to develop in such a way as to deepen hostility and envenom the conflict, but as regards the present and the future, too, there is the necessity and, in fact, every possibility, of events taking a different course and leading to a just and peaceful solution of the Israeli-Arab dispute.

We are convinced that Israel's true interest and security requirements dictate the need for unflagging efforts to settle the Israeli-Arab dispute by peaceful means, on the basis of reciprocal recognition for the national rights of both peoples concerned. A policy aimed at peace, entails Israeli recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, first and foremost, the refugees'

right to opt between returning to their homeland, on the one hand, and obtaining financial compensation, on the other; this would pave the way for a just peace settlement carrying with it recognition by the Arab states of Israel and its legitimate rights.

I may be giving the impression of sidestepping the dangers threatening peace here and now; this, however, is no evasion on my part but rather a correct view of the tremendous possibilities existing for the maintenance of peace. In the world at large and in the Middle East, too, there are powerful forces who are perfectly capable of stopping the downward trend towards war. The masses of the Israeli people do not wish to have any part in adventurist actions, their attention is focussed on problems of employment and daily bread. The unhappy experience of the Sinai war of 10 years ago was not in vain. The broad masses of our people remember that, in those days, too, our country's ruling circles stirred up public opinion and deceived our people. Later on, it transpired that the campaign in Sinai was the outcome of collusion with the imperialist powers and was meant to promote their aggressive schemes. Then, too, we were the object of incitement and people tried to deride our stand against the Sinai adventure. Then, too, there were those who denied collaboration with the imperialist powers. We have confidence in the political consciousness of the broad masses and we are sure it will not be easy to fool them once again.

An intense anti-Soviet slander campaign is under way; we demand the cessation of this incitement in the interest of peace and for Israel's own good.

The USSR's stand is based on discernment of the decisive aspect of the situation — the open efforts being made by imperialism, in concert with the area's reactionary forces, to topple the regime in Damascus. The Soviet Union throws all its huge power into the scales to foil this work of subversion and deter any hothead from carrying out any reckless act that would trigger off a terrible conflagration. The USSR's stand stays the hand of all those who still believe that, in our time, the use of armed force can pay off dividends.

In its account of Cabinet debates the (semi-official) newspaper "Davar" announces today that the "Premier underscored the fact that the Soviet Union's express support for the Syrian Government has created a political situation hampering any Israeli response on the military plane".

This, as far as partisans of peace are concerned, is an extremely positive development. Blocking the road to military action opens the way to solutions of a peaceable nature and to the preservation of peace.

Honoured Members of the Knesset!

The world does not view recent developments in Israeli-Syrian relations as an isolated phenomenon, as something apart from events taking place in the Arab world. It is now quite impossible to conceal the schemes hatched by imperialism and Arab reaction against the new progressive regime in Syria. The reactionary Jordanian regime openly declares its readiness to open the Syrian border by force. The world has before it the experience of the tripartite aggression against Egypt of 10 years ago. Then as now Israel has to make her choice : with whom will Israel march to her secure future in the Middle East? With the retreating forces of reaction or with the advancing forces of progress? We urge that the lessons of the past be learned correctly and that proper conclusions also be drawn from developments in Egypt, Algeria and the Yemen. The days of Arab reaction's rule are numbered. There is no future for colonialism in the Middle East. There is no force in the world that can prevent the forces of progress and national liberation from pursuing their victorious march. The way for Israel to follow is to side with the Arab peoples against imperialism and not with imperialism against the Arab peoples.

Our Party is against any military action, which — however it may be subjectively appraised — would, in fact, constitute participation in a reactionary imperialist plot against Syria. We are in favour of any diplomatic activity — including that carried out within the framework of the United Nations — intended to replace and avert military action. There is no point in being angry with other people when they accuse the Government of going to the Security Council with the intention of preparing public opinion for the eventuality of military action. Why get peeved at others when the Premier himself, in person, declared at the recent paratroopers' rally, that acts of sabotage and murder would encounter an "appropriate response. We ourselves shall determine the timing as well as the methods to be used", and when the October 14 issue of "Davar" proclaims : "If the Security Council lets this opportunity slip by, there will be no one to resort to its services before the right of self-defence is put into operation".

Israel certainly has the right to defend itself but military raids across the border do not fall into the category of legitimate self-defence. The policy of "a tooth for a tooth" — as the Premier called it — is an irresponsible one; it failed to consolidate our security in the past and it multiplies the dangers to our security in the future.

The prospects of safeguarding peace are very good indeed. We appeal to the Government to abandon, once and for all, the policy of naked force, reprisals and military actions across the border.

Let us fight to maintain peace and quiet on the frontiers and resolve by peaceable means all disputes with Syria or any other neighbouring country. Israel must return to the Israel-Syria Armistice Commission. An end to bellicose proclamations and anti-Soviet incitement! Let us work for a just and peaceable settlement of the Israeli-Arab dispute!

#### 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KAFR-KASSEM MASSACRE

On 29.10.1956, on the same day when Israeli forces attacked Egypt as part of the tripartite aggression, a unit of the Israel border police ordered curfew over the Arab village of Kafr-Kassem near the Israeli-Jordan armistice line without prior notice. Workers, young and old people, women and even children who returned to their village without knowing of the curfew imposed at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, were met at the entrance of the village by the border police force, brought down from vehicles which transported them, lined on the road and mowed to death by machine-gun fire. 47 innocent people were killed. The massacre was concealed from public opinion by force of military censorship. Communist members of Parliament Meir Vilner and Tawfiq Toubi, having heard of the crime, visited the village in spite of the blockade imposed and collected detailed information of the crime. By means of mass distributed memorandum the facts were brought to the Israeli public. The Government was compelled under public pressure to make a statement that the incident was a "regrettable error". Few months later a number of border police and an officer were brought to court and fined. The officer was fined by an "agora" (one tenth

of a lira) and perpetrators of the crime were sentenced to various short terms of imprisonment and were later released by special pardon.

The crime of Kafr-Kassem shocked public opinion in Israel, and raised in its wake a wave of public protest against the anti-Arab policy of the Government which was blamed as the source of the crime.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the crime, various actions by the Communist Party, by the Arab population, various sections of the population and democratic public opinion were undertaken to commemorate this day as a day of struggle for equality of rights, against national discrimination and for brotherhood and friendship between the Jewish and Arab people.

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The following appeal was published on this occasion by a public committee to mark the 10th anniversary of the Kafr-Kassem killings and signed by tens of public figures and well known personalities, Jews and Arabs.

Appeal of the Public Committee to mark the 10th anniversary of the  
Kafr-Kassem killings

October 29th 1966 was the tenth anniversary of the death of 47 human beings — children and women, men and old people, killed at the approaches to Kfar-Kassem. It was the very same day that Israeli forces crossed the border into Egypt. The victims were simple folk on their way back home from their places of work outside Kafr-Kassem, who were quite unaware (and, in fact, could not possibly know) of the fact that their village was under curfew. Members of the Border Police slew them in cold blood, without warning.

Children were orphaned, parents bereaved, women widowed, whole families wiped out. The crime profoundly shocked at the time the citizens of the State — Jews and Arabs — as well as world public opinion, which had never imagined Jews would be capable of such a shameful deed.

The Kafr-Kassem massacre does not only concern family relatives of the deceased or even the Arab population. It is just as much the concern of the Jewish people which in our own generation has had its own sons and daughters killed off.

On this, the 10th anniversary of that terrible massacre we wish to remember the murdered. This occasion must serve as a stern warning against the repetition of such tragedies. The Kfar-Kassem massacre was the result of a spirit which is still rampant — that of the hate fostered by certain circles against the Arab people.

We call on the authorities to desist from the practice of closing off Kfar-Kassem on its day of remembrance and to open the village to Jews and Arabs wishing to participate in the mourning.

On this, the 10th anniversary of the Kfar-Kassem killings we call for the abolition of Military Government and of all emergency laws in the State.

Signatories :

Scientists and members of the Medical Profession :

Dr. K. Altmann, Haifa Technion; Prof. H. Epstein, the Hebrew University, Jerusalem; Dr. Michael Levi, Tel Aviv University; Dr. Moshe Machover, Hebrew University, Jerusalem; Dr. Rashid Salim, Physician, Nazareth.

Theatre and film industry : Ili Gorlitzky; David Greenberg; Avner Hizkyahu; Amos Mokady; Gershon Plotkin; David Perlov; Itzko Rahmimov.

Painters : Michael Argov; Mitchell Beker; Yeshayahu Yariv; Shim'on Tsabar; Yigal Thomarkin.

Writers and Poets : Mordecai Avi-Shaul; Samih el-Kassem; Rachel Eytan; Ehud Ben-Ezer; Uri Bernstein; Salem Jubran; Mahmoud Dasouki; Tewfik Zayad; Yeivi; Didi Manoussi; Amos Kenan.

Architects : Arthur Goldreich; Zvi Heker; Eldad Sharon.

Journalists : Saliba Khamis, Editor of "Al Ittihad"; Shalom Cohen, head of "Ha'olam Haze" Editorial Board; Bo'az Evron, Literary Editor of "Yediot Ahronot".

Lawyers : Rayek Jarjura (Nazareth); Sabri Jaris (Haifa); Amnon Zikhroni (Tel Aviv); Dr. Ya'akov Yeridor (Tel Aviv); Ghazi Kfir (Ramleh); Yosefa Kafri, Fula Langer, A. Melamed, Shmuel Segal, A. Romano (Tel Aviv); Hanna Nakkara (Haifa).

Public figures : Yehoshua Irge, David Ehrenfeld, N. Yellin-Mor, Dr. A. Y. Yeros, Chairman League of the Rights of Man; Fuad Khouri; Ahmed Messarwi, Alex Massim, Odded Pilevsky.

Representatives of Kfar-Kassem : Abdulla Daoud Javrin, Saleh Khalil Isha, Omar Asfur.



MEMORIAL MEETING TO MARK THE 10th ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE KFAR-KASSEM MASSACRE

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Memorial meetings and ceremonies were held in Kfar-Kassem to mark the 10th anniversary of the shocking killings that took place in the village just 10 years ago (on 29.10.1956). On 29.10.1966 none of the inhabitants of Kfar-Kassem went out to work: a remembrance meeting was held for the murdered villagers and the inhabitants went to the victims' graves at the local cemetery. This year, too, the authorities decided against letting outsiders come to the village and on that day (October 29th) Military Government proclaimed the village of Kfar-Kassem a "restricted area". All demands for entry permits were turned down, including those made by members of the Knesset, various public figures, organizations and parties.

A memorial meeting convened by a broad public committee was held in Tel Aviv on 27.10.1966. The "Gil" Hall, the scene of the meeting, was capacity full: it was attended by a large number of young people.

The Communist Party of Israel organized memorial meetings in Haifa, Nazareth, Taibeh, Umm-El-Fahm and other towns and villages of Israel.

The Memorial Meeting in Tel Aviv

On 29.10.66, a meeting to mark the 10th anniversary of the Kfar-Kassem massacre was held at the call of a broad public committee.

The meeting was opened and chaired by David Ehrenfeld. He expressed his regret at the fact that many who had wanted to attend were unable to do so, while others who were supposed to take part were prevented from doing so, because other people decided for them that it should be so . . . . The scandalous Kfar-Kassem outrage was exposed at the time by people who wished for a different Israel. And there really does exist a second Israel, one that wants peace and peoples' brotherhood.

From the speech by Aharon Cohen

The orientalist Aharon Cohen, member of kibbutz Sha'ar Ha'amakim, said: "The Sinai war was the backdrop for the crime of Kfar-Kassem. Everybody admits that the Sinai war did nothing to bring peace any nearer and those who have courage know that it actually made it even more remote. Even Moshe Sharett said the Sinai war was not a preordained necessity but the fruit of a definite policy.

From S. Khamis' speech

The editor of the (Arabic language) newspaper "Al Ittihad", S. Khamis, stressed that the policy which bred the Kfar-Kassem massacre was still in force today. "The policy of vindictiveness and hatemongering toward the Arab population is still operative — as exemplified in the totally unjustified killing of several youths who tried to cross the border. Instead of killing them, they could perfectly well have been warned and punished for their reckless act."

"The two peoples of our country have been afflicted by suffering, tragedy and bloodshed. The Palestinian problem is a painful one and the imperialist continue to exploit it to the detriment of peace and people's independence. A genuine peace policy based on equal rights for Jews and Arabs would create the conditions necessary for peace."

From the Speech by N. Yellin-Mor

Lawyer Natan Yellin-Mor, editor of the "Etgar" weekly, said : "I belong to a generation of great hopes and happiness and one that knew unhappiness as well. I was born in a part of the world which many peoples fought over and shed their blood for. I saw how enslaved peoples won their independence and I too longed to live in an independent and free nation, but I never forgot the massacres and the horror I had seen. I thought I had escaped that forever until that night (of the massacre) in Kfar-Kassem."

Saleh 'Amer, representative of Kfar Kassem, said it would have been better if the meeting's participants had come to Kfar-Kassem to share its grief, but those who call themselves democrats have sealed the village off from the outside world. On his return to Kfar-Kassem he would tell his friends of the meeting in Tel Aviv and of the Jews who want peace and brotherhood with their Arab brothers.

Today there is already a new generation which knows nothing of the crime. All of them have the duty of going through this harrowing experience, at least in reading.

The last speaker was 'Oded Pilevsky who said many, but not nearly enough people were shocked by the crime but he was afraid many young people hadn't even heard of it. Oded Pilevsky went on to ask why, if the events of Kfar-Kassem were merely an episode, was not the trial followed by a campaign of information in

the Israel Defence Forces, the Border Police and schools against this kind of behaviour. The Arab population is just barely tolerated, and this attitude must change, from the roots — kindergarten, schools, etc.

REPLIES TO A POLL ORGANIZED BY "AL ITTIHAD"  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE KFAR-KASSEM MASSACRE

(On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Kfar-Kassem massacre, "Al Ittihad", Arabic organ of Communist Party of Israel, organized a poll amongst Jewish intellectuals. We publish following replies : )

Mordecai Avi-Shaul (Writer) :

Ten years have elapsed since the terrible massacre. Forty-seven peaceful men and women, old people and children, were killed with savage cruelty at the entrance to Kfar-Kassem, in addition to the victims who fell in other Arab villages.

It is true that there is no lack of dark pages in the annals of the State. All kinds of bloody crimes were the object of a declaration issued as early as November 1953 at the initiative of the League for the Rights of Man and signed by prominent Israeli intellectuals headed by the well-known philosopher Martin Buber. The above declaration contained, inter alia, the following statement :

"We resolutely condemn the acts of atrocity and violent reprisals committed by both sides, no matter who the perpetrators. We energetically protest against both murders and acts of vengeance, carried out indiscriminately against innocent Jews and Arabs..."

Yet in none of the instances previous to October 29th 1956, did we see a fully-armed military unit, constituting a component part of the State's defence establishment, take up position — in keeping with orders from a superior echelon — face to face with citizens of the State, with the aim of killing them in cold blood.

The killers ignored the desperate cries of a pregnant woman, the entreaties of small girls, and the abysmal fear reflected in the eyes of young babies.

Approximately two-and-a-half years after the murderers heard the verdict, it became known that the last of the condemned, the officer commanding the unit which actually carried out the killing, had been freed from jail "for reasons of health".

However, these men will not be the ones to be remembered! From their point of view, from the standpoint of their moral stature they "met their just punishment", or were even allegedly "innocent sufferers". What is more, they actually paid for the guilt of their superiors. The true culprits were never brought to trial — and that is all there is to it! Their maliciousness must not be the object of Christian pity nor a ground for kindling the bitter embers of the heart.

We will, on the other hand, certainly always remember the day on which a tremor of horror and rage passed through the heart of every single man in Israel whom nationalist hate had not blinded his eyes nor entirely emptied of the feeling of human brotherhood. The terrible secret was whispered from mouth to ear. The deafening cry of conscience went up to the skies together with that of the victims' blood.

The demands of justice were not then met. They were thwarted by cynical hypocrisy cloaked in lying, mealy-mouthed phrases; by the cowardice of those responsible for the policy of national oppression, systematically applied against the Arab population; by the short-sightedness of those who fostered chauvinistic education in the State.

The poisonous tree is still to be uprooted.

While the blood of the victims was still fresh, with widows and orphans still lamenting, mothers and fathers still mourning, the Government proclaimed its only concern had been to "safeguard the lives" of the villagers, i. e. the very victims of the outrage.

Since then, and to this very day, there has been a continuous succession of acts of discrimination, demolition of houses, unjust treatment and an attitude of contempt. The authorities have gone as far as to eliminate the very name of the people who are held in the fetters of Military Government: as far as they are concerned there are no more Arabs in Israel, just "minorities" who are barely put up with and whose right to live depends on the whim of the rulers.

It is therefore incumbent on us to remember the atrocious crime. The day of remembrance is also a day of warning, that must be sounded again and again and repeated until the abolition of the last of the illegal laws and regulations aimed at deforming the lives of the State's Arab citizens, dwarfing their stature and erasing their cultural image. We must educate our people in a spirit of respect for the Arabs, so that our nation may be penetrated with the con-

sciousness of the fact that the Arab's attachment to his native country and his right to that homeland are just as valid as our own attachment and our own right — and that the fulfilment of the Arabs' attachment and right is an indispensable condition for the well-being and prosperity of our own country. Our own survival imperiously dictates the need for a complete end to all discrimination : for the sake of our own future, Jewish-Arab brotherhood, and the happiness of our children — in this generation and in all generations to come !

\* \* \* \* \*

David Ehrenfeld (Industrialist) :

We shall atone for what occurred by pursuing a policy that will serve the interests of the State and nothing else !

Ten years have gone by since Israel took part in the Anglo-French conspiracy intended to strike a blow at Egypt and bring down its regime.

For many more years yet millions of people in this part of the world will be convinced Israel then served interests which were not hers.

The climax of that shameful operation was the totally unprovoked killing of 47 Kfar-Kassem villagers, when a cold-blooded pogrom of Arab women and children was carried out on the orders of Jewish officers. What has been done cannot be now undone and it is not enough to repeat that, true enough, we were to blame. We will atone for what occurred by pursuing a policy that will serve the interests of the State and nothing else; as for our arms, they will be used exclusively in its defence !

\* \* \* \* \*

Maxim Gillan (Writer) :

We must prevent the upsurge of such a wave of hate in our common homeland !

The name Kfar-Kassem must be forever engraved in our memory — just like Auschwitz, Babi-Yar and Maidanek.

Not as the sign of national exclusiveness specifically connected with a definite people, but as the expression of the wild beast that dwells within each people, within all peoples, as a token of what the reactionary, blindly hating and mentally-diseased elements of any people can do whenever they manage to seize power, even for just one brief moment.

Hebrews and Arabs — remember Kfar-Kassem! Not in order to flay a certain regime but to prevent the upsurge of such a wave ever happening in our common homeland.

\* \* \* \* \*

Yoseffa Kafri (Lawyer) :

I see today the Kfar-Kassem massacre in the very same light I saw it in at the time it occurred : as a highly scandalous outrage. I don't think it should be brought up among the Arab public, because it is not typical of Jewish-Arab relations. Among the Jewish public, on the other hand, it should be remembered year in and year out, that we may learn the lessons of the past.

(From "Al Ittihad", 28.10.1966)

### A SINGLE WEEK'S HARVEST

by Ze'ev Noor

The Israeli-Arab conflict is becoming more bitter than ever. Official Israeli spokesmen speak of their intention of doing battle, "if need be". The Soviet delegate at the Security Council brands Israel's complaint to that body as a stratagem designed to divert attention from the real causes of Middle East tension and military preparations against Syria, being carried out by Israeli militarists.

Under these circumstances, "Kol Ha'am" has a harder time of it trying to soften things and glossing over conflicting positions. The situation itself compels them either to clarify their stand and give it a clearer formulation or else precisely point out the difficulty they have in forming this stand of theirs. The following article contains some quotations from just one single week (17-25.10.66).

#### On the origins of the menace to peace in the area

The "Kol Ha'am" Editorial of 17.10, entitled "Two sources of danger", repeats that newspaper's well-known thesis that the threat to Middle East peace stems from two distinct sources : imperialism,

on the one hand, and chauvinistic nationalism, on the other. It is in this spirit, too, that Esther Vilenska defines the factors of tension in her "Kol Ha'am" article of 21.10 ("What is Israel to do?").

Three salient points emerge from these two articles : (a) the two above factors are treated as quite unconnected; (b) the imperialist factor is dealt with in a purely abstract way: it is not tied up with imperialist desire to topple the progressive Syrian regime and great care is taken not to mention Israeli Government participation in these designs; (c) when nationalism is referred to, mention is made of Syrian nationalism only. Through these three tricks "Kol Ha'am" manages to turn the Syrian side into the factor responsible for tension and the origin of the threat to peace.

The experience of our own time, however, points to imperialism as the source of the war danger. Israel could not possibly have attacked Egypt ten years ago were it not for previous coordination of plans with Anglo-French imperialism and Israel will be unable to attack Syria today unless she is assured imperialist backing. It can thus be seen that there is no truth in "Kol Ha'am's" assertion that the danger of war emanates from Syria — and this, despite adventurist declarations made by certain Syrian figures.

It is not "El Fateh" activities that constitute the real threat to peace, just as 10 years ago it was not the Feda'iyoun (Arabs who carried out terrorist activities within Israeli territory) activities that posed the real threat to peace and they were not the real reason for the Israeli attack on Egypt.

#### Covering up for the Israeli Government

"Kol Ha'am" does, on occasions, bring up its opposition to official policy, but does this with criticism of a very subdued tone. It is no mere accident that, in reporting Eshkol's Knesset speech (on the defence situation), "Kol Ha'am" splashed the headline : "Eshkol denies any collusion with a foreign power against Syria", while adding in a much smaller type : "Declares Israel will retaliate for any additional attack".

This line was given concrete expression when M. K. S. Mikunis abstained from the vote on the broad coalition motion — backed not only by the Government parties but also by the Rightist "Rafi" and "Gahal". As a result the Communist group was left alone in the Knesset in its opposition to those conclusions which, under the camouflage of pretty words about "self-defence" stated Israel's right

to launch military action against Syria, in answer to "El Fateh" and other sabotage activity. This abstention of S. Mikunis gave official circles a clean bill of good conduct or at least a doubt in their favour, that their loudly-proclaimed will for peace is really and truly a faithful expression of their true intentions.

This line runs like a red thread throughout all of the week's various articles : on 17.10, in the above-mentioned article, they wrote that the Eshkol government had not yet made "all the efforts" necessary to put into practice its declared wish for friendship with the USSR and abandonment of its one-sided pro-Western orientation.

On 21.10, Esther Vilenska put the following important question : What should Israel do? When talking of the members of Rafi, she did the correct and reasonable thing : quote from the words of Knesset members, but when she came to the Government's stand, she gave up this method and emphatically stated that it was a good thing to have gone to the Security Council. This statement is based on the premise that this was a diplomatic initiative taken as a substitute for military measures — an assumption rejected by spokesmen for the Government and for the various Coalition parties. This was done most ostentatiously by Knesset Defence and Foreign Affairs Commission Chairman David Hacohen, who has the habit of brutally pointing up facts that Eshkol himself is unable to do. In the "Davar" issue of 19.10, David Hacohen voiced support for the Government's stand and refuted rumours that Israel would rest content with diplomatic action. Actually, Eshkol himself fairly clearly expressed the same idea in his special Knesset report of 17.10.66 and, in particular, in his summing-up of the same debate, 18.10.66.

And when at a meeting in Holon (near Tel Aviv) Information Minister Galili declared "it was better for Israel to be condemned for carrying out a military action, rather than stand about with folded arms", "Kol Ha'am" wrote an article of condemnation, in which that paper's editors pretend to grasp the significance of the Security Council complaint better than the Minister himself : "Does it really have to be explained to the Minister of Information that this declaration of his is in contradiction with the very nature of the decision taken by the Government which, on this occasion, has chosen to make a response in the diplomatic sphere . . . ."

It is really very hard not to write a parody on all this . . . .



### S. Mikunis' hesitations

The duty of a politician — not to speak of a Communist — is to provide a lucid analysis of the situation and make his own position clear.

In his Knesset speech (reported in "Kol Ha'am" 19.10) Mikunis chose not only to abstain from the vote but also evade defining his own attitude toward the stand adopted by the Eshkol government. As far as the latter is concerned, I shall bring two examples only : The first of these : "We consider the Government's decision to apply to the Security Council a step in the right direction, unless (as hinted at in some newspapers) it was a mere stratagem planned in anticipation of armed action." Now, we would like to know Mikunis' own view on the Security Council complaint : Was it or was it not a pre-meditated tactical move? Mikunis leaves the question open — leaving open, too, the question of the correct attitude to take toward the resort to U. N. channels. The second example of S. Mikunis' failure to make his position clear is the following passage in his speech : "... if we can consider as bonafide yesterday's statement to the Knesset by the Premier, that Israel does not intend interfering in Syria's domestic affairs ... and that ... there is no collusion between Israel and imperialism aimed against Syria." Well, what does S. Mikunis think of Eshkol's statement : is it or is it not sincere? He again leaves the question open.

It thus transpires that Knesset speeches are made on a rather hesitant note whereas "Kol Ha'am" editorials come out with rather forceful statements (teaching the Government the import of its own decisions).

### The attitude toward the Soviet Union

"Kol Ha'am's" stand vis-à-vis the (Israeli-Syrian border) incident and the way it was dealt with by official Israeli circles, clearly conflicted with that of the USSR as defined by Soviet delegate to the Security Council, N. Federenko.

The "Kol Ha'am" editorial of 17.10 emphatically stated that "Federenko ignored this (Syria) source of danger and its concrete expressions", this being followed by the statement (underscored in content, style and print) that their own party, for its part, cannot ignore this source ....

E. Vilenska's article (21.10) repeated the same performance, only somewhat more delicately (Federenko "did not give his attention to

this additional factor... " after which E. Vilenska immediately repeats the above formula — that her own party cannot ignore, etc.

By mutually contrasting the Soviet position "with its disregard" and that of "Kol Ha'am" which just "cannot disregard", that newspaper has committed a political act of unmistakable nature : "Kol Ha'am" has an "all-round", "complete", "Marxist" approach to the question whereas the Soviet representative has a one-sided defective one.

The students of the Mikunis-Sneh group, however, left not the shadow of a doubt about their hostile attitude toward the Soviet position in the Middle East.

The "Kol Ha'am" issue of 25.10.66 told of a "rally of Communist students" held in Tel Aviv, whose debates were summed up by D. Peter, member of the Mikunis-Sneh group central committee. One of the resolutions adopted at the meeting and carried by "Kol Ha'am" runs as follows :

"in the course of the Security Council debate, the Soviet delegate ignored acts of aggression committed by the "El Fateh" organization as well as the support it enjoys on the part of Syrian ruling circles. This disregard is, in our view, at variance with the USSR's policy of peace in the Middle East and the world at large."

The same resolution then goes to speak of the need to fight anti-Soviet propaganda...

It only remains to be added that, in accordance with this same theory as to the source of danger, "Kol Ha'am" goes out of its way to stress the Soviet Union's influence on Syrian hotheads. It was in vain we searched the pages of "Kol Ha'am" for the highly edifying passage from "Davar", 17.10.66, which quoted the Prime Minister as saying : "The USSR's expressly proclaimed backing for Syria has created a political situation which makes difficult any Israeli response in the military sphere." So that even where "Kol Ha'am" praises the Soviet Union, it does this in a bid to adapt Soviet policy to its own line.

\* \* \* \*

The harvest of one single week shows how very far the Mikunis-Sneh group has moved away in that same space of time. Won't we hear voices of wisdom oppose this trend from within its ranks?

TALKS WITH FRATERNAL PARTIES

A MEETING BETWEEN T. ZHIVKOV AND M. VILNER

Unity of views on the problems discussed.

On Sunday, 30.10.66 the following item appeared in "Rabotnichsko Delo", central organ of the Bulgarian Communist Party :

Cde. Thodor Zhivkov meets with Meir Vilner

Cde. Thodor Zhivkov met with Meir Vilner, leader of the Communist Party of Israel, who is staying in our country at the invitation of the Bulgarian Communist Party's Central Committee, and they had a friendly talk showing complete identity of views on the topics raised.

The meeting was also attended by Cde. Dimo Dichev, head of the C. P. of Bulgaria Central Committee's Foreign Affairs and International Relations Department.

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News of M. Vilner's meeting with Cde. T. Zhivkov was carried by TASS news agency and broadcast on the same day in the news bulletin of "Kol Yisrael".

\* \* \* \*

M. Vilner confers with leaders of fraternal parties in Hungary and C. S. R.

Identity of views on problems raised.

The November 3rd issue of "Nepsabadshag", central organ of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, contained an item entitled :

"A representative of the Communist Party of Israel pays a visit to Budapest" with the following text : "On an invitation from the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party's Central Committee, Cde. Meir Vilner has just paid a visit to Budapest on behalf of the Central Committee, Communist Party of Israel.

"Cde. Meir Vilner exchanged views with Dr. Michael Korom, Secretary of the Central Committee and with other representatives of the Central Committee. Complete identity of views came to light on the problems raised, in the course of the talks which proceeded in a comradely atmosphere."

"Rude Pravo", central organ of the Communist Party of the C. S. R., published on November 4th an item under the following headline : "Cde. Meir Vilner received at the offices of the Central Committee, Czechoslovak Communist Party".

The item went as follows :

"On the invitation of the Czechoslovak Communist Party's Central Committee, Cde. Meir Vilner, Secretary of the Political Bureau Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, has just made a brief trip to Czechoslovakia.

During his stay in Prague, he met with Cde. Vladimir Koutsky, Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party's Central Committee, and with Cde. Uldrich Kaderka, head of the International Department, Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

The talks, held in a cordial atmosphere, confirmed the identity of views existing between the representatives of the two fraternal parties, with regard to the questions under discussion."

\* \* \* \*

#### Cde. M. Vilner holds talks with Secretary, Socialist Unity Party of Germany

The 10.11.66 issue of "Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, carried the following item :

#### "Hermann Axin receives Meir Vilner

Cde. Meir Vilner, Secretary of the Political Bureau, Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, who has been spending a few days in the German Democratic Republic, had talks with Cde. Hermann Axin, candidate-member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee.

The conversation, held in a comradely atmosphere, covered questions relating to the common fight against imperialism's bellicose policy, for the safeguard of peace, with an exchange of information on the struggle waged by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Communist Party of Israel.

The meeting showed complete identity of views on all the issues raised."

\* \* \* \*

#### Cde. M. Vilner attends Moscow celebrations

Cde. Meir Vilner attended the November 6th anniversary celebration rally, organized by the Moscow City Soviet and the Moscow Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Together with representatives of other fraternal parties, Cde. Meir Vilner was invited to the guests' stand, to view the November 7th parade on Red Square. He also attended a reception organized by the Soviet Government to mark the 49th anniversary of the October Revolution; it was held on the afternoon of the same day in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses.

\* \* \* \*

M. Vilner visits the editorial offices of  
"Problems of Peace and Socialism"

Cde. Meir Vilner paid a visit to the editorial offices of "Problems of Peace and Socialism", monthly organ of the international Communist movement. He had a friendly talk with the Chief Editor, Cde. Frantzev and with Secretary of the Editorial Board, Cde. Sobolev.

\* \* \* \*

C. P. of Israel resolutions in the "Information Bulletin"

The No. 19 issue of the "Information Bulletin", published by the editorial staff of the monthly "Problems of Peace and Socialism" has printed in full the resolution adopted by the Political Bureau, Communist Party of Israel, with respect to the stand of the Chinese Communist Party (the resolution was passed on September 4th 1966). It was also noted that the same resolution appeared in the 9.9.66 issue of "Al Ittihad". (The full text of the resolution was published in our bulletin No. 9.)

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE Y. C. L. OF ISRAEL  
DISCUSSES THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

On 25.10.66, the Central Committee, Young Communist League of Israel, held an enlarged plenary meeting, chaired by Cde. Yoram Guzhansky; he opened the session by noting the 10th anniversary of the Kafr-Kassem massacre.

Y. C. L. General Secretary Binyamin Gonen, delivered a political report and gave an account of Y. C. L. Secretariat work and presented the plan of activities for the next six months.

The majority of comrades present took part in the debate. Their speeches reflected the work carried out in the recent period by the movement's various districts; suggestions were put forward to improve the effectiveness of Y.C. L. work and endorsement was voted for the programme of activities to cover the coming period. Special mention was made of achievements registered by the different districts in increasing Y.C. L. membership and streamlining organization.

The comprehensive discussion was summed up by C. P. of I. Political Bureau member Cde. Sacha Henin. In his speech, Cde. Henin dwelt particularly on the threat of war facing Israel. the 10 years that have elapsed since the outbreak of the Sinai war and the Kafr-Kassem massacre, the international situation and the Government's economic policy, drawing the necessary conclusions with regard to Y.C. L. activities.

The Y.C. L. Central Committee approved the above-mentioned report and programme of activities, presented by Comrade Benjamin Gonen and unanimously adopted the following decisions :

#### 1. On the Y. C. L. Congress

The Central Committee approved the efforts made by the Central Committee Secretariat to bring about a postponement of the Y. C. L. Congress and that of the Mikunis-Sneh group's youth organization, as well as the letter it sent Yair Tsaban (representative of the above organization) in this connection, "with the conviction that the holding of separate congresses of our two movements will impede the efforts being made to restore unity to Communist ranks", as noted in the C. C. Secretariat's letter.

The Central Committee accordingly decided to postpone the Y. C. L. 9th Congress and not to convene it for 1966, solemnly proclaiming that "no body or organ, other than the lawful Y.C. L. Central Committee, elected at the previous Congress, has the right to call the 9th Congress of the Young Communist League of Israel. We formally declare : the holding of a congress by the splinter group which represented a minority of the entire movement and of its Central Committee will be an additional splitting step; such a congress can in no way be recognized as a legitimate congress of the Y. C. L. "

#### 2. On the danger to peace in the area

The Central Committee of the Y. C. L. of Israel voices its concern for peace in view of plots hatched by the imperialists and its stooges in the area, against the new Syrian anti-imperialist regime.

We are very disturbed at the dangers stemming from Israel's integration in imperialism's aggressive schemes against Syria, a trend in this direction coming to light in Eshkol's Knesset speech as well as in statements by Chief of General Staff Rabin.

The State of Israel is still suffering from the grave consequences of the hapless incursion into Sinai, carried out just 10 years ago. Now, too, just as at that time, Israel's rulers try to camouflage their aggressive designs in the service of imperialism by the argument that actions against Syria are in response to acts of sabotage and terror committed against Israel.

The Y. C. L.'s Central Committee strongly condemns acts of sabotage carried out by the "El Fateh" organization, which have nothing in common with the fulfilment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and which are in contradiction with the need for a peaceable solution of the problem.

We call on the youth of Israel who would be the first victim of an eventual war, to work against Israel getting involved in any military aggression against Syria. An armed conflagration seriously endangers Israel's safety, future and integration in the family of Middle East peoples.

\* \* \* \*

Other resolutions were passed concerning the Government's economic policy including increasing unemployment and rising prices, American aggression in Vietnam, the 10th anniversary of the Sinai campaign and of the Kafr-Kassem killings, elections to the Nazareth City Council and, in addition a greeting was sent Soviet youth on the occasion of October Revolution Day.

49TH ANNIVERSARY OCTOBER SOCIALIST REVOLUTION  
CELEBRATED IN ISRAEL

The C. C. of the C. P. of Israel sent a message of greetings to the C. C. of C. P. S. U. on the occasion of the 49th anniversary of the October Revolution.

To the Central Committee of the C. P. S. U. , Moscow.

Dear Comrades :

The Communist Party of Israel, Jewish and Arab Communists in Israel, as well as all the progressive forces of Israel, greet, on this the 49th anniversary of the October Revolution, Lenin's great Party, the Soviet people, and the Soviet Government. We wish you additional successes in building a Communist society, promoting the cause of peace and Socialism, strengthening the unity of the world Socialist camp, the international Communist movement and all anti-imperialist forces. We highly value the Soviet Union's decisive role in extending internationalist aid to the Vietnamese people to defeat American aggression, exposing imperialist designs for intervention in the Middle East and in defending peoples' independence and world peace.

Long live the Great October Socialist Revolution! Long live the Communist Party of the Soviet Union — vanguard of the international Communist movement.

Central Committee,  
Communist Party of Israel.

\* \* \* \*

### COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL HOLDS MEETINGS

The C. P. of Israel branches held all over the country public meetings and celebrations in honour of the 49th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution.

The party papers, "Zu Haderech" and "Al Ittihad" and other weekly papers in foreign languages appeared in special issues for the occasion.

\* In Tel Aviv : A mass celebration was held on 4.11.1966 in the local party club attended by hundreds of people. Comrade David Henin, member politbureau addressed the celebration. Representatives of Socialist diplomatic missions were present.

\* In Haifa : A central mass meeting was held in Cinema Miron on 11.11.1966 which was addressed by comrades Saliba Khamis, member politbureau, C. C. , C. P. of I. , Yeshua Irge, Secretary, C. C. , C. P. of I. , and Avraham Levenbraun, member C. C. , C. P. of I.



\* In Ramleh : A mass meeting was held on 11.11.66 and addressed by Comrade E. Habibi, member, Politbureau.

\* Other meetings were held in Natanya (10.11.66), Tira, Beersheba, Beni-Brak, Herzlia, Rehovot, on 11.11.1966, and in other places as well.

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### ISRAEL-USSR FRIENDSHIP MOVEMENT HOLDS CELEBRATIONS

The Israel-USSR Friendship Movement held mass meetings and celebrations in various towns and villages.

\* In Nazareth : A mass celebration attended by hundred of people was held at Grand New Hotel by the Friendship Movement on evening of 4.11. Ambassador of USSR in Israel, D.S. Tchuvakhin and other members USSR Embassy staff were present. Present also were members of Parliament, Tawfiq Toubi and Emil Habibi, and other prominent Nazareth Municipality members.

\* In Tel Aviv-Jaffa : A mass meeting was held on evening of 11.11 at Al-Hambra theatre hall in Jaffa, attended by over a thousand people organised by Israel-USSR Friendship Movement. Meeting was addressed by Tawfiq Toubi, M. K., and by Dr. Moshe Sneh. Misha Idelberg was in the chair. Soviet Ambassador D. S. Tchuvakhin greeted meeting.

Other meetings and celebrations were held by Friendship Movement in Haifa, Ramat Gan, Taibeh, Um-El-Fahm, Kufr-Yassif and other towns and villages.

COMRADE E. PAPAIOANNOU, GENERAL SECRETARY,  
AKEL PARTY OF CYPRUS, INTERVIEWED BY  
"ZU HADERECH" CORRESPONDENT

Late September 1966. Cde. Yosef Alghazi, correspondent of "Zu Haderech", Hebrew organ of the C. P. of I., made a trip to Cyprus, where he interviewed Cde. E. Papaioannou, General Secretary of the AKEL Party of Cyprus, on the situation in Cyprus and the position of the AKEL Party.

The questions and answers were published in full in the "Zu Haderech" issue of 19.10.66, and in "Al Itihad", Arabic organ of the Party.

"Zu Haderech" also carried feature articles on Cyprus, in three consecutive numbers.

RUTH LUBITSCH ATTENDS WOMEN'S SEMINAR ON  
WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE

Comrade Ruth Lubitsch, Chairman Central Control Commission of the C. P. of I., and Council Member of the World Federation of Democratic Women attended the International Seminar for work among women, held in Rome in the middle of October.

(From "Zu Haderech", 26.10.1966)

A MEETING BETWEEN KNESSET MEMBERS  
T. TOUBI AND D. BEN GURION

On Friday, 21.10 a four-hour meeting took place between M. K. Tawfiq Toubi and M. K. David Ben Gurion, on the latter's initiative. The conversation, held at Ben Gurion's Tel Aviv apartment, turned on the problem of Jewish-Arab and Israeli-Arab relations.

M. K. Ben Gurion said he was interested in an exchange of opinions of this kind, also in order to be able to present his own positions which he claimed had sometimes been presented in a false light, as well as to hear and clarify to himself the views of others.

M. K. Tawfiq Toubi dwelt at length on the question of Israeli-Arab relations, noting that a peace settlement based on recognition of the legitimate rights of Israel and of the Palestinian Arab people represented a vital interest and supreme national necessity for both peoples. He stressed that the policy pursued by M. K. D. Ben Gurion — for which he was responsible during his many years of office as Prime Minister and which is still being conducted today — placed many obstacles on the road to peace. This policy of collaboration with British and French — and now American — imperialism, against

the Arab peoples' movement for national liberation — as highlighted by the opposition voiced to the withdrawal of British forces from the Suez Canal Zone and to the Egyptian nationalization of the Canal, the tripartite Sinai-Suez aggression, the backing given the French colonialists in their war against Algerian independence, military operations across the border carried out in the past as in the present against the Arab states as a means of pressure geared to imperialist designs in the area, the blatant support given by Israeli policy to Arab reactionary forces, imperialism's supporters in the Middle East — this same policy placed Israel in a posture of hostility towards the Arab peoples' aspirations for freedom, independence and social progress. This was the policy that aroused the Arab peoples' suspicions as to Israel and its role in this part of the world. Israel's summary disregard for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people — above all, those of the refugees — made the prospects of peace even more remote, enabled the imperialists to sow strife and also strengthened the hands of those reactionary Arab elements who are opposed to the very idea of a peace settlement with Israel.

T. Toubi went on to point out that, in the past, Israeli policy had missed several opportunities to improve relations (with the Arabs). A different attitude on Israel's part would have eliminated suspicion and changed the Middle East atmosphere.

Today, as in the past, Israel's leaders have a very shortsighted attitude toward the Arab population in Israel, treating it as a hostile element and making it the object of discrimination and denial of rights. A different policy, one of equal rights for the Arab population, without Military Government and without land seizures, a policy founded on equal partnership in governing this country and shaping its future, would breed relations of a different nature and create a Jewish-Arab cooperation which could constitute a foundation for Israeli-Arab partnership and cooperation, as well as making of the Arab population a factor of assistance in advancing the cause of Israeli-Arab peace.

As for M. K. D. Ben Gurion, he justified the continued existence of Military Government and present policy toward the Arab population in Israel with the argument that Israel is a beleaguered country, threatened by states who wish to destroy her. He stressed that for him, the problem of security remained, as always, the top priority; he rejected any possibility of ever acknowledging the rights of the Arab refugees, who, he claimed had lost their right to return in 1948 when they left the country. Recognition for the refugees' rights could

not provide a basis for peace — emphasized Ben Gurion. He was also in doubt as to the possibility of Arabs in Israel serving as factors promoting the cause of peace. M.K. Ben Gurion said he would like to see a peace settlement between Israel and the Arabs, viewing Palestine as the homeland of both the Jewish peoples and of its Arab inhabitants.

The above conversation and the opinions voiced by the two Knesset Members at this meeting were, in point of fact, a repetition of a discussion that has been going on for the last 18 years, ever since the establishment of the State of Israel.

The meeting ended with M.K. Ben Gurion expressing his wish to pursue the exchange of opinions on some future occasion.

#### AN EVENING WITH M. AVI-SHAUL IN HAIFA

On Monday, 17.10, the Haifa Circle for Progressive Culture held an evening with the writer and poet Mordecai Avi-Shaul on the occasion of his being awarded the AKOUM (Israeli Composers and Musicologists Association - trans.) Prize for his work "Graves for me".

The "Wolman" Pension lobby, with its pleasant and cultured atmosphere, was filled to capacity by an extremely varied audience.

The evening was opened by the teacher Tzipora Sharoni, who congratulated the writer for being awarded the prize, noting his fruitful work over many years and his important contribution to Israel literature.

The poet was born in 1898 in Hungary, in which country, as a young man, he already published his first collection of verse. From 1917 onward he was engaged in teaching and in education.

He continued his educational activity in this country till 1948, forming a large number of pupils who remembered his educational theory with respect and high appreciation.

Together with his educational work he continued his literary creation — plays, poems, political articles and translations from the classics.

During all the years of his activity, the writer Mordecai Avi-Shaul has known how to dovetail his literary work with public activity for Jewish-Arab brotherhood, for friendship with the Soviet Union, for peace and happiness.

The poet Samih el-Kassem greeted the writer M. Avi-Shaul on behalf of the editorial boards of "Al Ittihad" (Arab language bi-weekly) and "Al Jadid" (Arab language literary monthly). He wished him continued literary and public activity for better understanding between Jews and Arabs.

The writer then read out a chapter from his work "Graves for me" dealing with a man who remembers his duty as a human being, even in the midst of the Nazi occupation of Hungary. The passage keenly followed by the audience made a strong impression on one and all.

The poet also recited his just published "Ballad on peace". M. Avi-Shaul gives in this ballad powerful expression to the Israeli people's protest at the barbaric U.S. aggression in Vietnam. Those who attended the evening bought the ballad booklet, with the proceeds going to buy medical aid for Vietnam.

#### COMMUNIST PARLIAMENTARY GROUP DEMANDS DEBATE ON MILITARY ACTION AGAINST JORDAN

Large military land and air forces of Israel raided Jordan territory on 13.11.1966. The forces attacked the village of Samou' and other neighbouring hamlets in Hebron district destroying 40 houses and 26 Jordanian soldiers and civilians killed (according to Jordanian sources), and one Israeli officer killed and ten soldiers wounded.

This raid was carried following upon the blowing-up of a mine underneath an Israeli patrol car on 12.11.1966 resulting in death of three Israeli soldiers.

The Communist Parliamentary group asked for urgent discussion of the raid. Comrade Tawfiq Toubi, M.K., addressed the parliament on this subject on 15.11.1966, condemning the resort to military action by the Israeli Government. Prime Minister L. Eshkol replied.

The full text of the speech will be published in the next issue of the Bulletin.



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