

"SIACH" PRINCIPLES

(as approved by the third national conference, July 1972)

THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT CLAIM TO BE THE BASIS OF A PROGRAMME, OR ANY KIND OF IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM. IT REFLECTS THE DECISIONS OF A WIDE-RANGING POLITICAL DEBATE HELD DURING THE SUMMER OF 1972.

Siach (Israel New Left) is an Israeli movement of Left Socialists who have agreed on the following points:

THE NATIONAL CONFLICT AND THE RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION IN ERETZ YISRAEL/PALESTINE. (further sections are to be discussed and resolved at the forthcoming conference).

Eretz Yisrael/Palestine is the territorial basis for the self-determination of two peoples:

- a) The Jewish people living there, and those parts of it who, living outside and possessing national consciousness, regard the state of Israel as their homeland and aspire to achieve their national aspirations by immigration (aliya).
- b) Equally - the Palestine Arab people living there, and those parts of it abroad possessing national consciousness who wish to return.

The right to self-determination of the Jewish people living in the country was realised with the creation of the State of Israel.

The Palestine Arab people was deprived of this right. Today the Israeli policy of continuing the occupation (of Arab territory) is responsible for the further denial of this right.

The origin of the Israel-Arab conflict is in the clash of two national movements: Jewish and Palestine-Arab. The conflict is now being waged on two planes: the dispute between Israel and the Arab states, and that between the Jewish people living in the country and the Palestinians. This national conflict is exploited for imperialist and Great Power intervention.

The main conditions for peace between Israel and the Arab states are an Israel-Arab peace treaty based on the evacuation of the territories conquered in the Six Day War, and the recognition of Israel by the Arab states - as set out in Security Council resolution 242.

A solution of the Jewish-Palestinian conflict depends on the mutual recognition, by Jews and Palestinians, of each others' rights. This will permit them to struggle together for independence of any kind of Great Power politics, towards the creation of a future Mideast Socialist Union.

The basic contents of such recognition are the following:

- 1) Israeli recognition of the right of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination within Eretz Yisrael/Palestine - beside the state of Israel - on the basis of the June 4 boundaries. Any plan for realising this right must be based on the recognition in principle of the right of the Palestinian refugees to choose between return or compensation, this right to be achieved in the framework of a peace agreement. At the same time, the Arab national minority within the state of Israel must be assured of its full national and social rights.

2) Palestinian recognition of the right of the State of Israel to exist as a sovereign Jewish state, within borders to be agreed upon, which are to be based on the June 4 borders.

Recognition of the rights of the Palestinian refugees, and of the right of Jewish immigration into the country, do not contradict each other. Similarly, the mutual links between Israel and Jewish communities in the world, and those between the Palestinian Arab people and the other Arab peoples - do not conflict.

The main problem facing Israeli society today, its chief obstacle to progress and development, is the absence of peace between Israel and her neighbours.

For its part, the Israeli government bears responsibility for the absence of peace and the continued occupation (of Arab territories) but Siach cannot overlook the responsibility of Arab chauvinism in the history of the conflict.

The occupation (of Arab territories) is characterised by annexation in practice, colonialist settlement accompanied by systematic expropriation of the Arab population, increased exploitation of cheap Arab labour in the Israeli economy, war profiteering, extension of social and inter-communal gaps (in Israeli society), militarisation of education and culture in Israel, increasing blows at the democratic freedoms of oppositional groups, religious and secular chauvinism, and a dangerous erosion of the moral values of the individual in Israel.

By its policy, the Israeli government is sowing the seeds of the next war. Such a war, should it in fact break out as a result of this policy, will be in defence of conquests, and for the continued oppression of the Palestinian Arab people.

On this background, while standing by the role of the Israeli Defence Forces as an army of defence and being prepared to serve in it as such - we consider that the continued occupation (of Arab territories) and the role of the IDF in maintaining it, creates a moral and conscientious dilemma concerning army service in the conquered territories.

Accordingly, Siach wages its struggle for ending this conquest, with all its destructive manifestations, as part of an Israel-Arab and Israel-Palestinian peace treaty, based on the principle of mutual recognition.

Siach favours steps and initiatives for peace which bring the achievement of this aim nearer, even if only partially.

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