

PROCLAMATION ON THE 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF OCTOBER - 7/11/1967

The fiftieth anniversary of the October Revolution comes at a time of severe crisis in the relations between the Soviet Union and Israel. Multitudes of agitated and engaged socialists in Israel and the rest of the world are struggling against the hostile policy of the Soviet Union - a policy that encourages the enmity toward Israel of the Arab states whose revealed and proclaimed goal is - the destruction of Israel.

The responsibility of the U.S.S.R. in the Near East crisis for fanning the raging blaze by supplying enormous quantities of arms to the Arab states; her refusal to encourage negotiations between the two sides to settle the dispute peacefully, breaking off relations with Israel and the unbridled propaganda that attempts to label Israel and the Israeli army with the awful tag of "Nazism" which necessarily encourages manifestations of anti-semitism - all these things essentially contradict the original spirit of the October Revolution.

The principle of the equality of all nations large and small, a socialist foreign policy of recognizing the right of every nation to exist free and sovereign; a constant striving for peace - these were the basic principles of the revolution. Gromyko's proclamation that recognised the right of the Jewish people to establish its state in its historic homeland and the part played by the U.S.S.R. in the struggle to establish Israel were faithful expressions of these principles but the anti-Israel campaign that is being conducted now by Soviet policy and its stooges is horribly opposed to them.

The revolution sinned an ancient sin against the Jewish people by favouring assimilation of the Jews and for the Jews alone. The wonderful Jewish community which was one of the main supports and sources of manpower for the movement and national development in the years before the war was cut off from the Jewish people and the project of its renaissance by the Soviet government. In the course of the Stalinist campaign the Zionist and pioneering movement was persecuted and immigration to Israel was forbidden; Jewish culture in all its manifestations - was doomed to destruction; writers and spokesmen were executed; the doctors' trial was

staged and the discrimination against the Jews and their national status which reached its climax in the days of Stalin hasn't stopped now either.

The United Workers' Party, the faithful representative of tens of thousands of Israeli workers that wrote pages of brave and constant struggle for socialism and the brotherhood of peoples, will not reconcile itself to the grave distortion of the principles of the revolution.

We shall not cease protesting against the distortion of principles but at the same time we shall not ignore the historic significance of the October revolution.

The October Revolution was a turning point in world history. It opened the way for the transition from a class regime to a classless society, from national oppression to the equality of peoples, from imperialist wars to a struggle for liberation from the yoke of imperialism and the aspiration to peace and the brotherhood of peoples.

In the Soviet Union the foundations were laid for the building of socialism. The means of production were nationalized and as a result mighty forces of production were developed. On the ruins of the essentially backward, primitive, agricultural economy a modern economy arose. Brilliant achievements were made in science, education and enlightenment.

In the Second World War the U.S.S.R. made a decisive contribution to the victory over German Nazism, the enemy of mankind. As a result of this victory peoples' democracies arose; with its help the revolution was victorious in China and other countries.

The October Revolution originated in the flames of the First World War, in the suffering and unimaginably heroic efforts of masses of soldiers, workers and farmers. In conditions of the intervention of foreign forces, civil war, destruction and hunger the Bolsheviks established the dictatorship of the proletariat without which the revolution would not have won or maintained its existence at the beginning of its road. But the fact of

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the isolation of the U.S.S.R., the attempt to establish a socialist economy in a backward country and introduce collectivization in agriculture were factors that left serious marks in the development of the regime. The manifestations of distortion increased, the inner struggle within the party was suppressed and the dictatorship of one party in the hands of the leadership and from it the rule of a minority over the party and the state developed. The Moscow trials on the eve of the Second World War shocked the world and the socialist movement.

When Hitlerite armies invaded the U.S.S.R. and the danger of a fascist victory and the enslavement of the world became terribly real, the criticism of the distortions of the regime were silenced in the expectation of a change to come. When the Soviet Union entered the war against Hitler, the U.S.S.R. was a mighty source of strength to the world. Stalingrad was the grave of Nazism and the Soviet army stood at the head of the liberators of Europe in which there was also the saved Jewish remnant. A broad road was opened to socialist victory in the world and the advancement of the project of the development of the U.S.S.R. from stage to stage. In those days the Soviet Union extended a hand to the establishment of the State of Israel and provided her with arms during the Arab attack and supported her in the international arena.

But when the war ended the desired change didn't come. Threats of Stalinist oppression, the forceful intervention in the peoples' democracies, and bureaucratic rule continued and even became worse. The Twentieth Convention of the Communist Party in the U.S.S.R. and its revelations aroused hopes for the speeding up of the process of democratization in the Soviet Union, for relations between peoples based on equality and respect for each other's independence and the recognition of different roads to socialism and co-existence and peace in the world.

But on the contrary the internal process of liberalization slowed down. Individual and general freedoms are still subject to the shackles of bureaucratic centralism and the shift to humanism and socialist democracy tarried. Instead of the socialist foreign policy which

the victorious October Revolution proclaimed, the opportunistic policy that overshadows the appearance of the Soviet Union in the international arena continues - which found its most severe expression in the policy that adversely affects peace in our area.

The experience of fifty years since the October Revolution shows that the preservation of democratic principles and the increase of social freedom and equality are indispensable conditions for the progress of socialism. Socialism is impossible without respecting the national identity and the right of self determination of every people, without constant striving for true peace.

Our faith in socialism is firm. At the present time decisive battles are being waged in the U.S.S.R. to establish a socialist society. Positive and negative, impressive achievements and the gravest failures are mixed together in this panorama of fifty years of struggle and construction since October 1917. An essential and obvious lesson is the fact that the struggle for national and social liberation is an integrated struggle and every nation must march to socialism on its own road according to its conditions and the conditions of its country.

The workers of Israel established an exemplary progressive project in our country that renews itself by the labour, sweat and blood of their defenders. The kibbutzim, the moshavim, the workers' economy, the cooperatives and the Histadrut are a wonderful socialist sector - light to the workers of all the peoples. The workers of all the nations including those of the U.S.S.R. and other socialist countries are called upon to recognize this project and the brotherhood of peoples. We demand that the government of the U.S.S.R. permit the existence of national life to its Jewish community and open the gates of emigration to the Jews who desire it. Let the hostile attitude cease and may friendly relations with the State of Israel be renewed.

On the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution the workers of Israel call for the return to the source of liberating socialist vision.

On the day of the October Revolution we'll recall both the negative and the positive aspects - and march on our road to the realization of Zionist socialism and the brotherhood of peoples in our country and the victory of socialism in the world.