

# HEROES OF THE WAR

*We pay tribute to the heroism of the members of the Communist Party of Israel (Rakah) – both Jew and Arab, who stood against the tide of Israeli war-time chauvinism to proclaim once again that a just and stable peace can be won, but only by way of Israeli withdrawal from all conquered lands and restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people.*

*For their courage they have been vilified and persecuted inside their own country. Their members have been arrested illegally for pasting up posters, their propaganda material has been illegally seized by the police, and their M.P.'s have been physically assaulted inside the Knesset (parliament).*

*The statement below, written by Party M.P. Meir Vilner was issued by the Central Committee on the 15th October, while the war was still in progress.*

## WHAT ARE OUR BOYS DYING FOR?

Rivers of blood are flowing. The blood of Jewish and Arab youngsters is being shed like water. Widows, orphans, bereft parents are mourning the death of their dear ones. Again the lives of many people are cut off in the bloom of their youth. A great number will be invalids for ever. The nation has already been asked to pay the milliards of pounds lost through the expenditure stemming from the renewal of war.

*The first question posed by many is: Was it possible to prevent the disaster of the renewal of war? To this we reply: Definitely yes!*

The powerful propaganda apparatus and the mass media of communication of the government, indeed all government parties as well as the parties of the extreme right, are engaged day and night in brain-washing. They want the toilers, the youth and the whole public to forget the facts; they want them not to know the truth.

But the facts cannot be eradicated by the propaganda of the radio, the TV, the press and the government ministers. And the facts prove that it was possible to prevent the renewal of war, that it was possible long ago to put an end to the danger of an outbreak of battles and to establish a stable and just peace between Israel and the Arab states.

There have been numerous peace initiatives, but the Israel government frustrated all of them.

Egypt and other Arab states were prepared to turn a new page in their relations with Israel, to recognize the right to sovereign existence of the State of Israel, to arrive at a peace agreement with her on the basis of justice for all the peoples concerned, including the Palestine Arab people, and without territorial annexations.

The Golda Meir government rejected all these proposals, just as it rejected all peace initiatives of UNO and of other international factors.

The Israeli government did not only reject all peace initiatives, but has carried out frantic activities of colonialization in the occupied Arab territories.

The so-called "Galili Document" which was adopted by the ruling Alignment (bloc of Labour Party and Mapam – ed.) as its official platform, was defined by well-known functionaries of the Alignment as closing doors to peace.

In addition, the government has systematically carried out premeditated aggressive military operations against Syria and Lebanon (the

Israeli air force's raid on Syria, the hijacking of a Lebanese civilian air plane, the raids and assaults on Beirut), and did everything in order to intensify the tension and provocation.

Hence it is obvious that the Golda Meir government prevented any progress towards peace, in furtherance of its aspiration of annexation of the occupied Arab territories to the State of Israel.

### THE USA SHARES THE BLAME

However one cannot understand the renewal of the war if one does not take into account the American imperialist factor. Without the arms, the money and political backing of Washington, the Israeli government would not have been able to prevent peace, would not have been able to provoke public opinion in the whole world, to treat with contempt the repeated resolutions of UNO, to be indifferent to the intensifying political isolation, as a growing number of states is severing diplomatic relations with the State of Israel.

*American imperialism has not abandoned its fundamental objective in the Middle East and in the Arab world as a whole, for which it organized, together with the Israeli government, the June 1967 war. Its objective was and remains: To overthrow the anti-imperialist regimes in Egypt, Syria and other Arab countries.*

On October 10th 1973, General (in reserve) Matityahu Peled published a venomous anti-Arab and anti-Soviet article in MA'ARIV under the heading: "The political objective". What is the political objective of the war, according to him?

"The military defeat (of Syria and Egypt - M.V.), even if not accompanied by any additional consequence, will lead to far-reaching changes in the structure of the regimes in Syria and Egypt, and to a different relationship between them and the whole world, as well as between themselves."

This is indeed the original objective of those who initiated the June 1967 war: to bring about a change in the foreign and internal policy of the anti-imperialist Arab states.

For these global objectives of the American milliardaires and for the sake of territorial expansion and the liquidation of the national rights of the Palestine Arab people, the Israeli youth has been called to sacrifice

their lives. This is not a war for the existence and security of Israel. All countries of the world, including the neighbouring Arab states, are not questioning the right of the State of Israel to sovereign existence.

Thus, the war is not being waged for defending the security or the existence of Israel, but only for the aims of territorial expansion, for Israel's domination over the Syrian Heights and the Egyptian Sinai peninsula, and for the global objectives of American imperialism.

### AGGRESSION AND SECURITY

The government talks about aggression. Who is the aggressor in this war, which is the continuation of the June 1967 war?

*The aggressor is the occupant of the lands of other states. A struggle against foreign occupation is no aggression. Defence of the occupation of territories of other states is not a war of national defence, but an anti-national aggressive war of occupation.*

Let us, for the purpose of clarification of a principle, assume that the situation was inverted, namely that Syria and Egypt had occupied part of the sovereign territory of Israel, and the Israeli people would — justly — fight for the liberation of their territories! Would such a war be termed an aggressive war on the part of Israel against Syria and Egypt?

According to the distorted notions of the government's propagandists and their supporters of the extreme right "LIKUD", the struggles of the peoples of Asia and Africa against foreign colonialist rule should be defined as . . . aggressive war. This is absurd. It is an antiquated colonialist demagogy and not an original Israeli innovation.

The foreign minister Aba Eban in UNO and all the propaganda organs of the government attempt to draw annexationist conclusions from the renewal of the war. They say: Now it has been proved that Israel needs wide-flung security borders for her defence. But the logical conclusion from the development of the events is precisely the opposite. For it is Israel which now controls a gigantic territory of three Arab states from the Suez to the Jordan, and it has been proved now that these expanded lines do not provide security. The opposite is true: the renewal of the war occurred because the Israeli government is keeping the occupied Arab territories and prevents a just peace without annexations.

It is precisely the renewal of the war which proves that there is no security for Israel — and there can be none — as long as the occupation of the Arab territories is continued and as long as the rights of the Palestine Arab people are trampled underfoot. It has been clearly proved that only borders of peace can be secure borders, and not the occupation of territories, which must continuously generate new wars.

It has also been proved that the government's claim that the Arab peoples would eventually reconcile themselves to the occupation of their territories and the negation of the rights of the Palestine Arab people, is a dangerous reactionary delusion. We have repeatedly warned that a people under occupation will never be reconciled to foreign occupation, that only a just peace will be a stable peace and that only this would give security to Israel.

We have warned repeatedly that the continuation of occupation carries the seeds of the renewal of war.

#### WE CALL THE PEOPLE

Before the outbreak of the battles, the Central Committee of our Communist Party of Israel published the Party's platform to the elections of the Knesset. The platform opens with the following words: "The citizens of Israel go to the elections of the 8th Knesset in a situation of danger of a renewal of war . . ."

And further it is stated in the platform: "We accuse the parties of the government coalition (the Alignment, the National-Religious Party and the Independent Liberals) and Gahal and their partners, that their policy dooms Israel to the permanent danger of war and bloodshed . . ."

Indeed, what we feared, has come to pass. The Israeli government, being divorced from the true balance of forces in the Middle East, has continued to proceed with their adventurist, nationally irresponsible policy.

We Communists call upon all persons of political understanding and historical responsibility for the fate of the Israeli people to erect a wall against the militarist, annexationist ravings.

The government's policy is doomed eventually to suffer a crushing defeat. It can only bring disaster upon the Israeli people. It can only lead to unceasing wars and to the loss of the lives of young Jews and

Arabs every few years.

There is talk about madness. If there is any madness, it is the craze of those who speak of the conquest of Damascus and Cairo, of the annihilation of the military power of the Arab states "once and for all", and of dictating to them an Israeli occupation. In 1967 there was an Israeli military victory. Was it "once and for all?" Did it solve anything? Did it bring any security?

We, Israeli Communists, out of national responsibility and with sincere apprehension at the fate of the people and the homeland, with deep grief at every Jewish or Arab victim falling in this cruel slaughter, say to the people of Israel:

"There is still a way out. The bloodshed must be stopped. An end must be put to the occupation and the policy of annexation. A just and stable peace must be established.

*"There still exists the possibility for peace, if a change will occur in the Israeli policy. There is only one solution and this is the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and the other UNO resolutions that followed it, which demand the establishment of a just and stable peace on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967, the recognition of the right to sovereign existence of the State of Israel and the national rights of the Palestine Arab people.*

"Every boy who falls is a grave and sad loss. LET US STOP THE BLOODSHED, LET US MAKE PEACE!"

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