

Volume
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JEWISH AFFAIRS

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Inside:

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**Outlaw Anti-Semitic
and Racist Acts!**
— an editorial

SPECIAL FEATURE

**U.S. Peace Forces
Greet
Israeli Communists**

Jewish Presence in Poland
SOL FLAPAN

books

poetry

satire

The Jewish Tradition by Gil Green

JEWISH AFFAIRS

Vol. 6, No. 6

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Editorial Board:

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About the authors:

Sol Flapan is a regular contributor to *Jewish Affairs* and to *Folks Shtimme*, in Warsaw, Poland, where he lives.

Gil Green's latest book is *What's Happening to Labor?*

Samih al-Kassim is a leading Palestinian poet and a member of the Communist Party of Israel.

Felicia Langer is a prominent Israeli attorney.

Jean Lerner is a writer and contributor to the *Daily World*.

After the Elections . . .

November 2 has come and gone. But the problems remain, and even while the confetti is swept up and the slogan-covered, hot-air filled balloons shrink and shrivel, the unemployment lines grow longer and prices continue to climb. Voices rise from the depths of the crisis like distant thunder before the storm.

It was not an ordinary election. Not when 47 percent of the eligible voters refused to show up at the polls. More than ever before, the two-party system was exposed as the Venus flytrap of big business--it looks nice on the outside, but is deadly if you get caught up in it. The 75 million no-votes and the more than one million votes for independent candidates expressed the deepest feeling of working people: it is time for a change, it is time for an antimonopoly peoples' party to champion our interests.

The elections were clear proof that Jewish Americans voted on the economic and social issues, because there was no difference between Ford and Carter on U.S. policy in the Middle East. Both supported reactionary, aggressive policies whose effect would be to stifle the peace process. Hyman Bookbinder, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, and David Brody, director of the Anti-Defamation League's Washington office, agreed that Israel was not an issue. Joseph Ben Samuel, writing in the November 5, 1976 issue of Intermountain Jewish News, pointed out:

Jews therefore faced the entire panoply [sic] of issues when they went into the voting booths. Traditionally liberal and ardently supportive of trade unions, Jews in metropolitan areas considered the problems of unemployment, urban blight, racism, public education, poverty, personal social security and health care. But a sizable fraction saw inflation as a principal scourge in the country and favored conservative methods to com-

bat rising costs, crime, increasing taxation, and a growing bureaucracy swelling "big government."

Summarizing the circumstances, therefore, Jewish observers felt that Jewish voters acted as citizens like all other Americans interested in the welfare of their family, community and, conditioned by their local environment, voted mainly in accordance with these interests.

An integral aspect of the elections, and one that made a lot of "important" people sit up and take notice, was the unprecedented reception among working people of all races and nationalities to the electoral program of the Communist Party, U.S.A. Garnering 60,000 presidential votes, and well over 100,000 votes for all candidates, the CPUSA emerged as an independent factor of increasing importance. Local candidates of the Communist Party established themselves as leaders of struggles in their areas (Herbert Aptheker, running for U.S. Senator against Moynihan and Buckley, received over 25,000 votes; Amadeo Richardson, running for N.Y. Assembly, won 5.9 percent of the votes; running for City Council in Oakland, California, Mark Allen stacked up 39 percent of the returns).

Many millions of those who voted for Carter did so not out of belief in a "lesser evil," but out of disgust with an established evil--Gerald Ford. It is now time for the people to hand in their IOU's to Carter, to make him live up to those honey-coated sugar words he spouted so easily and in such quantity. Already we see signs of backtracking. But the problems of unemployment, military spending, cutbacks in education, racism, anti-Semitism, etc., are getting worse, and we can't wait for a time with "more favorable conditions."

A foreign policy question of immediate

concern is the situation in the Middle East, where the danger of war increases

because of Washington's and Tel Aviv's stalling tactics.

. . . A New Chance for Peace

Even the State Department and the architects of "step-by-step" diplomacy now admit the failure of this policy. "It," they pronounce solemnly, "has run its course." Doomed from the beginning--because it attempted to skirt the issues--it succeeded only in delaying for a short while the inevitable overall settlement. The UN General Assembly on December 9, 1976 resolved by a vote of 122-2: the Geneva Conference, with the full involvement of the Palestine Liberation Organization, must be reconvened; there is no doubt that this accurately reflected world public opinion.

Signals of a tactical shift in U.S. Middle East policy have surfaced in recent months. On two occasions, the U.S. delegation to the UN has voted in favor of resolutions condemning Israeli policy in the occupied territories. During the recent General Assembly debate on the above-mentioned resolution, the U.S. delegate explained his negative vote by stating that the U.S. is not opposed to reconvening the Geneva Conference, but that it would be incorrect to tie the incoming Carter administration to a particular line of action. Israel, thus, was alone in opposing a full Geneva Conference.

Basic U.S. policy remains the same--pursue the interests of imperialism. Only the method for realizing this policy has changed slightly. Pressure must be brought to bear on the Carter administration to bring about a more fundamental change: recognition of the PLO, pressure on Tel Aviv to give up the occupied territories, and reconvening a full Geneva Conference.

The position of the PLO in regard to an overall settlement has been clear for some time now. Repeatedly over the past year, PLO leaders have insisted on full



representation at Geneva, in effect de facto recognition of Israel. Spokesmen such as Said Hammami and Shafiq el-Hout have called for a two-state solution, a position that reflects the feelings of the overwhelming majority of Palestinians. There is a good possibility that this position will become the official platform of the PLO at its next National Council meeting in early 1977.

Within Israel, the peace movement is gathering momentum. The pressure on Rabin to negotiate with the PLO and the Arab states at Geneva forced Israel to introduce its first UN General Assembly resolution, which called for resumption of the Geneva talks. Although the resolution omitted any reference to the PLO, it was an indication that Tel Aviv is backed into a corner and feels obligated to put on a facade of willingness to achieve peace. Recent meetings between Israeli Communists and progressives (including members of Knesset) and PLO representatives have been the subject of Cabinet and Knesset debate. The convening of the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of Israel in December 1976 proved to be one of the most important events in the development of a powerful

peace movement.

Rabin's resignation at this particular time is most opportune for a government under heavy internal and foreign pressure. The New York Times (December 22, 1976) put it succinctly: "Rabin's Resignation Seen Slowing Steps For a Peace Parley." With elections scheduled for May, Tel Aviv claims inability to enter into the peace process "without a mandate." But this is no reason to let Washington or Tel Aviv "off the hook"; the people of Israel have made it clear that, no matter who succeeds as prime minister in May, peace is the first priority now.

On our shores, too, the movement for a just and lasting peace gains new adherents daily. This is nowhere more evident than within the Jewish community, where dissension from the Zionist establishment is no longer considered blasphemous. Jewish organizations, and organizations with Jewish members, are increasingly vocal. Breira, one of the more consistent (and therefore an organization under severe attack from the mainstream Zionist movement), is now looking toward its first national convention in Washington, D.C. in February 1977. The American Friends Service Committee, in cooperation with SANE, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Fellowship of Reconciliation and others, is sponsoring a "learning and organizing" conference on "The New

Imperative for Israeli-Palestinian Peace" in February. Recent tours by Tawfiq Zayyad, Emile Touma and Felicia Langer (all from the CPI), David Shaham (editor of New Outlook who spoke at 81 meetings around the country), Mattityahu Peled, Arie Eliav and others, are in sharp contrast to the almost total absence of dissenting voices reaching here from Israel even a few years ago. A sharp debate within the Jewish community here has unfolded over the effect of meetings between Jewish leaders and Arab and PLO representatives.

*

It is no longer novel to predict basic changes in the situation in the Mideast in 1977. But unless mass pressure is intensified on both Washington and Tel Aviv (who are clearly exposed now as the main obstacles on the road to Geneva), those changes may not materialize.

Clearly, if a just settlement, based on a full Geneva Conference, is not achieved, a new war, with all its global implications, will be increasingly likely. Forces favoring peace in the Mideast face an especially crucial period in 1977. With sufficient organization and pressure, such forces in the U.S. can play a decisive role in at last bringing justice to the Mideast, and with justice will come peace.

Outlaw Anti-Semitic and Racist Acts!

The flash fire of outrage kindled at the news of the several hundred Nazi war criminals living in our country, is in danger of dying. Newspapers which only weeks ago found it profitable to print a story on war criminals on page one, now relegate such items to the back pages. The New York Times does not consider this vile news "fit to print."

These war criminals continue to live in comfort, courtesy of the U.S. government. No steps have been taken to deport

them, and the few cases brought to trial because of pressure on the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) have been postponed to later in 1977, in the hope, presumably, that the storm will blow over and the cases can be dropped.

Pressure on the government must continue till all of these fascist killers are deported to stand trial in those countries in which their crimes were committed. One step in this regard was HR 11300, a bill introduced into the last

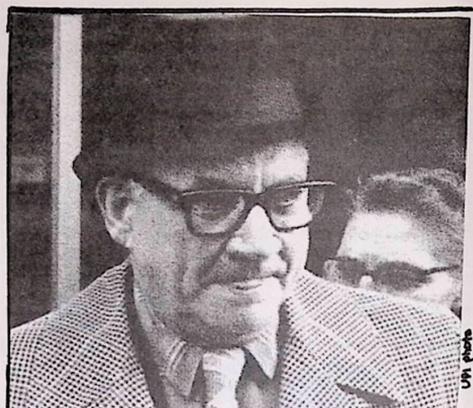
Congress by Representative Holtzman from New York, that would require the INS to screen all immigrants, to ensure that no more war criminals enter the U.S. If the bill is reintroduced into Congress in January, 1977, it should be given the fullest support.

It is possible for Hitler's henchmen to find asylum here because anti-Semitism and racism reflect dominant policy, because the government, ever the faithful servant of monopoly, has generated an atmosphere of anti-Semitism and racism. This explains the fact that several of Carter's choices for Cabinet posts belonged to "exclusive" clubs (i.e., clubs that bar membership to Blacks and Jews), as did Carter himself. This is reason enough to reject not only Carter's choices, but Carter himself.

Just as a mass and legal fight to deport the Nazi killers and expose government complicity in this area is needed, a mass and legal fight is needed to outlaw the political and ideological underpinnings of domestic reaction--racism and anti-Semitism. Imported fascists and domestic fascists drink from the same cup.

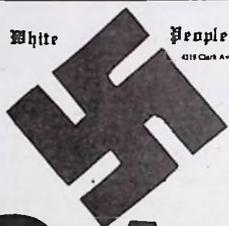
Although not publicized or taught in school, there are legal precedents in our country for outlawing anti-Semitic acts. On June 27, 1946, for example, a bill was introduced into Congress that would have made it illegal to import, mail, ship, receive or distribute anti-Semitic material, or material that subjected any group to injury or ridicule because of race, creed, color or religion. The bill provided a maximum penalty of \$5,000 and five years at hard labor. Numerous City Councils passed legislation in the 1940s that at least curtailed anti-Semitic and racist acts.

But we need not look back 30 years to see what can be done. Just recently, the Chicago City Council passed a resolution, introduced by Alderman Sol Gutstein, that outlaws any material "which intentionally promotes mayhem, incites racial or religious prejudice or hatred against any group, or which advocates injuring any person or property." This was in response to attacks by the Nazi Party in Chicago on Blacks and Jews.



Karlís Detlavs, Nazi war criminal...

United White People's Party
 4111 Clark Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44109



GAS
GUS HALL
 A COMMUNIST
JEW

WHITE POWER MESSAGE - CALL 631-8448

... his disciples

Such legislation should be introduced in every City Council. But what is needed most of all is a movement of all people who are opposed to both imported and domestic reaction and fascism, a movement that will utilize the legal and political arenas to effectively combat anti-Semitism and racism, the foul offspring of monopoly capitalism.

The Jewish Tradition

by Gil Green

For more than two generations the Jewish workers in the United States were in the forefront of the struggle for militant trade unionism and for revolutionary socialism. From their ranks came many leaders of the Communist Party and scores of outstanding organizers and leaders of the new industrial unions that formed the CIO in the 1930s.

The overwhelming number of Jewish immigrants who flocked to this country from Eastern Europe at the turn of the century were wage workers who brought with them traditions of militant struggle against czarist oppression and class exploitation. Many also came imbued with socialist convictions.

A glance at New York City in the year 1910 gives an indication of the preponderance of wage workers in the Jewish immigrant population. One fourth of the city's total population was Jewish, yet they made up nearly one half of the industrial labor force.

"...deep in the consciousness of the Jewish people are progressive, radical and socialist traditions that have surfaced and found a multitude of expressions in unity with other progressive people of the U.S."

Jewish workers were among the first to seek trade union organization. In 1925, they made up more than one third of New York's trade union membership. A majority of them were employed in the needle trades, the city's number one industry, with the lowest wages and the most horrible sweatshop conditions. Jewish workers in large numbers were also found in other industries and unions. Only in communication and transportation was their proportion low--some eight percent. But Jewish workers comprised over one sixth of those in printing, nearly one fourth of those in building, and over one third of those in jewelry, ornament and amusement. More than half of the organized workers in the leather trades and just about all the members of the retail clerks' union were Jewish.

Some of the most militant and bitter class battles were waged by Jewish workers in the mens' and ladies' garment and fur trades. The fur union, under Left-wing leadership and headed by the Communist Ben Gold, was the first in the country to win the 40 hour, five-day week in a bitterly fought strike



BEN GOLD AND IRVING POTASH -- Fur and Leather Workers

in 1926. This was a full decade before the 40-hour week was won nationally.

The Jewish workers, however, were not all united in support of class struggle policies and socialist goals. Among them were those who chose class collaboration and Right-wing social-democratic policies. The very industries in which Jewish workers predominated, especially the garment trades, lent themselves to divisions over policies and goals.

Most of the shops in the garment industry were small and owned by Jewish bosses. The nature of the industry at the time also made it possible to do some of the work at home--to "take home a bundle," as the saying went. Thus, families with enough savings to rent or buy one or more sewing machines could set themselves up into tiny, home-based sub-contract shops working for larger firms. In time, if they didn't go broke, they could aspire even to hire one or two "girls" to work for them.

This led to a certain commixture of class views, a dilution of working class outlooks with petty-bourgeois attitudes. In turn this was reinforced by a common "Jewishness" expressed in language, culture and fear of, and opposition to, all forms of anti-Semitism.

There was a contrary tendency as well. The very ruthlessness of Jewish shopowners seeking to extract every last drop of profit from the sweat and toil of (mainly Jewish) workers was an antidote to tendencies to submerge class divisions in the so-called common interests of "Jewishness." This ruthlessness was not a matter of greed alone; it was an expression of the law of the capitalist jungle: each capitalist, big or small, must aim to attain the very highest rate of worker exploitation if he is to survive in business.

Hence, side by side with the class collaboration tendency, the class struggle continuously reasserted itself in ever more virulent forms. The struggles were organized and led by class conscious workers who recognized that workers, no matter their race, religion or nationality, have more in common with each other than with the employers of their own given nationality, religion or racial group.

*

As the immigrant generation began to be replaced with that of a second and third generation, the class and social composition of the Jewish people changed considerably from mainly industrial wage workers to white collar workers, professionals and small businessmen. With this alteration in social and class composition, the conditions which produced the class militancy among the immigrant generation began to change.

This was further reinforced by the traumatic shock of what happened under Nazi rule. German Jews previously had been considered the most assimilated, wealthiest and most secure of all Jewish communities. The Hitler holocaust that murdered some six million European Jews was a major factor in influencing many Jews to seek protection from the threat of anti-Semitism in an all-class Jewish unity. This tendency became further buttressed with the emergence of Israel as a separate state.

Jewish unity had a progressive essence while it was directed at extirpating Hitler fascism and sought a homeland for the dispossessed and dispersed Jewish victims of fascism. It then merged with the worldwide struggle against fascism and saw in the Soviet Union the heroic, most uncompromising foe of fascism and the savior of East European Jewry.

But with the emergence of the cold war and Zionism in Israel, this turned into its opposite. The call for Jewish unity then took on another meaning: support for the expansionist policies of Israel and for its view that Jews everywhere should recognize it as their real homeland--if not in actual residence, at least in material support and spiritual kinship. As Israel became more and more the bridgehead of imperialist designs in the Middle East and Africa, allied closely with U.S. imperialism and large financed and armed by it, a considerable portion of the Jewish people became openly chauvinistic and joined in support of some of the most reactionary U.S. foreign policies.

In this way something of a metamorphosis took place in the ideology and policies of much of the Jewish community. This expresses itself in support for anti-Soviet and anti-Arab policies abroad, and in jingoist and racist policies at home. Epitomizing this change is the support given the racist Albert Shanker by many Jewish school teachers, and the considerable Jewish vote cast in New York for the blatant warmonger and racist, Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Yet deep in the consciousness of the Jewish people are progressive, radical and socialist traditions that have surfaced and found a multitude of expressions in unity with other progressive Americans. This was seen in the struggle against the Vietnam War, against racism, and for peace and social justice. Although Jews are no longer mainly industrial wage earners, they face the same problems that all sectors of working people face. With the



ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN - ILWU



LOUIS GOLDBLATT
Sec'y - Treas., ILWU



ABRAHAM FEINGLASS, VICE-PRES.
ANNOUNCING MEATCUTTERS AND BUTCHER WORKMEN

growing crisis of the system, and with white collar and professional employees no longer finding the insular protection they once had, their feeling of kinship with manual wage workers is growing. These workers today face mass layoffs, salary cuts and wage freezes. They therefore need to move toward unity with other workers in determined struggle to prevent a further deterioration in their living standards and conditions of work.

It would be wrong to believe that all Jews are now white collar workers and professionals, and relatively better off. There are still too many "Jews without money." One spokesperson of the Jewish community has even charged that "we have swept the Jewish poor out of sight and acted as though they didn't exist." Ac-

ording to a report of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies in January 1973, 15.1 percent of the Jewish population of New York City "are poor or near poor." And close to another ten percent "are between the near poverty level and what the Bureau of Labor Statistics calls a moderate level of living. This is almost one quarter of New York City's Jewish population, and constitutes the Jewish working class." Thus the Jewish people are by no means all well-to-do and affluent.

As for foreign policy, it is also easier today for Jewish people to see that the only hope for the continued existence and security of Israel lies in an opposite direction than that followed by the Israeli government and its Zionist policies. Security lies only in ending aggression and expansionism and seeking a concord with the Arab and African peoples. Also, a continued increase in U.S. military expenditures can only feed more inflation and joblessness, more cuts in public services and increased poverty.

Only a tiny fraction of the Jewish people belong to the monopolist upper crust of society. The rest, the overwhelming majority, are victims of monopoly power and rule. In this lies the basis for a broad peoples' democratic alliance that can embrace the bulk of the Jewish people in common struggle with the rest of the American people for peace, equality and social progress.

* * *

**BEST WISHES TO OUR READERS
FOR THE NEW YEAR**



TAWFIQ ZAYYAD

U.S. Peace Forces

Greet Israeli Communists

Tawfiq Zayyad: Mayor of Nazareth; Member of Knesset; member, Central Committee, Communist Party of Israel.

Emile Touma: member, Political Bureau, CPI; editor, Al-Ittihad; member, Executive Committee, Committee for a Just Peace Between Israel and the Arab States.

Felicia Langer: member, CPI; internationally known defense attorney for political prisoners in Israel.

Even a few years ago, no one would think of seeing these names in the headlines of the Chicago Sun-Times, the Brooklyn Jewish Journal and Jewish Week. And yet, from October 5-20, these three Communists from Israel, not only were covered by major newspapers, but also appeared on TV and radio and spoke at countless meetings to thousands of people around the country.

For this opportunity, we must extend our appreciation to the Arab-American University Graduates Association, which was responsible for arranging the visit. Zayyad, Touma and Langer were invited to attend and speak at the National Convention of the AAUG. All three addressed enthusiastic, capacity crowds: Zayyad on "The Arabs in Israel"; Touma, who shared the platform with Shafiq el-Hout from the Palestine Liberation Organization, delivered a keynote address on "Palestine Arabs and Israeli Jews: What Future?"; and Langer on political prisoners in Israel.



FELICIA LANGER

Following the Convention, the three travelled to Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and California, addressing meetings sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, Palestine Solidarity Committees, the Committee for a Just Peace in the Middle East, the National Lawyers Guild, the CPUSA, and others. Universities around the country opened their doors to them, and leaders of the peace movement sought audiences with them. They were received by mayors, members of city councils, and other officials.



EMILE TOUMA

Due to wide interest, the AAUG is publishing a book that includes their speeches. We are making arrangements to help distribute the book when it is published in February 1977. Future issues of Jewish Affairs will contain more news about the visit to this country of these three heroes from Israel.

Parley of Arab Graduates in U.S. to hear Israel, Israeli Communist may

By TOM FOLEY

NEW YORK, Oct. 1 — Three prominent citizens are scheduled to speak at the ninth convention of the Association of Arab-American University Graduates which opened here today. The theme of the convention is "Development in the Arab World."

SAN FRANCISCO—While the U.S. media is once again predicting the demise of the Palestine liberation movement

government has now confiscated the right to protest the confiscation of land."

He was referring to the brutal repression of the massive "Day of the Land" demonstrations held in March to protest continued Israeli confiscation of Arab lands. Six people were killed, 18 wounded, and more than 500 arrested.

denouncing the new U.S. policy for more

Felicia Langer Press Conference

By David R. Love

The image the west has of Israel as a "democratic" country and its occupation of Arab lands as "among the most benevolent" is totally false, according to Felicia Langer, noted Israeli lawyer and civil rights activist, who has a two hour press conference Oct. 11 at the Sheraton-Chicago hotel. In this country as a guest of the Association of Arab-American

Two Israeli Communist WITHIN THE

Jewish woman loudest as Israeli Arabs vent dissatisfaction in N.Y

Three Israeli Communist Party members concluded a visit to the United Association of Arab-Americans (AAUG). They are Dr. Emile Touma, National Bureau and head of the Foreign Relations Committee, Felicia Langer, attorney

Israeli Communist U.S.

By RICHARD YAFFE

Other speakers include Sen. James Buckley, Clovis Maksoud of Al-Nahar, ambassadors from Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait



Left to right: Alex Kolkin, Chairman, Jewish Comm., CPUSA; Jill Furillo, editor, Young Worker; Helen Winter, International Sec., CPUSA; Arnold Johnson, Public Relations Dir., CPUSA; Emile Touma; Felicia Langer; Henry Winston, National Chairman, CPUSA; James Jackson, National Education Dir., CPUSA; Tawfiq Zayyad

Three CPI members in the U.S. at the invitation of the Association of Arab-American University Graduates to the AAUG convention earlier this month in New York. At the end of the convention, they made a nationwide tour, explaining the struggle in Israel and the past. In introducing Tourist Director said: "We express our gratitude to the AAUG for making this possible. The graduates got unprecedented news coverage and they hoped to dispel much misunderstanding among the American public."

Discrimination in Israel: Policy, Practice & Reality

... members of the Bay Area Arab community at the Arab Club in San Francisco.

Raymond G. Hanania suffering from national and national ion." This was the essence

... conducted in that these arms be viewed as merely a bribe for the Jewish vote. The United States is providing arms which are vital to the security of a democratic ally. The issue is there must be no partisan debate.

...less Communist Smears It is regrettable that National Public Radio has broadcast an interview with Yehia Langer, publicizing malicious and



Emile Touma, Tawfiq Zayyad and Ayoub (Photo by Raymond Hanania)

ists speak from THE CRISIS

C Organizes 3-Day Bay Area Tour for

AWFIQ ZAYYAD — LANGER — TOUMA

... had the honor of sponsoring a 3-day tour in the Bay Area for three of the most prominent Israeli spokespersons on the Arab rights in Israel and the Occupied Territories - Mayor Tawfiq Zayyad of Nazareth, Mrs. Yehia Langer, and Dr. Emile Touma. All three are members of the Israeli Communist Party (RAKAH) and are on a nationwide speaking tour during the first two days of the annual convention.

Nazareth Arab Mayor Doesn't Wholly Agree With PLO 'Covenant'

NEW YORK (JCNS)—Tawfiq Zayyad, the Communist Mayor of Nazareth, regards the Palestine Liberation Organization as the "sole representative of the Palestinian people," but he does not agree with all the articles of its "Covenant," particularly the making of Palestine into a "democratic, secular state" and the conse-

... the occupied territories but all Israeli lands which would have gone to the Arabs in the original partition plan be evacuated and handed over to the PLO.

Both Zayyad and Dr. Tour were critical of the "Kor Document," the report by Yisrael Koenig, the Israeli Ministry's representative



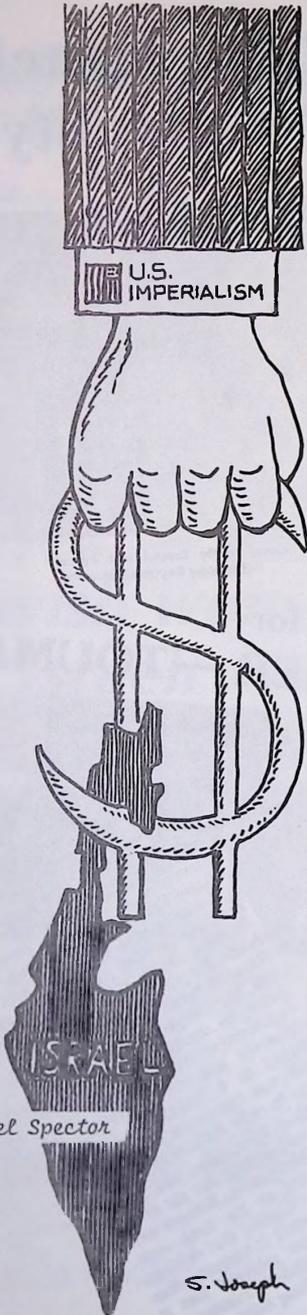
Communist Fundraisers Barely Raise Enough To Cover Fare The delegation of Israeli Communists which traveled to Nazareth in an effort to raise funds for the development of Nazareth barely succeeded in putting together enough money to cover its travel expenses. The Communist Arab mayor of Nazareth and his deputy embarked on a fundraising effort which was trumpeted as a campaign to raise millions of dollars so that Nazareth could be developed without the aid of the Israel Government. Rumors were indeed rife in the Arab community in Galilee that millions had been raised. It was only when the delegation returned that it was realized that the mission had been a devastating failure.

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by Daniel Spector



S. Joseph

It takes a lot to excite *The New York Times*, whose editorial flair for placid understatement must rank as one of the alltime achievements of bourgeois journalism, next to William Randolph Hearst and Walter Cronkite. In the midst of the worst economic crisis in Israel's history--70,000 jobless, an annual inflation rate of 40 percent, a currency devaluation of 107 percent since 1973, the consumer price index up 140 percent in the last three years, severe cut-backs in social services, increased military spending--in the midst of all this we are told, "Price Increases in Israel, 20 percent for Food and 11 percent for Fuel, Add to Sense of Economic Strain". (November 4, 1976)

One may imagine an Israeli reporter interviewing a citizen coming out of the supermarket:

- "Reporter: Excuse me, do you sense economic strain?
 Citizen: Y'know, come to think of it, I do.
 Reporter: Is it because prices increased from 11 to 20 percent?
 Citizen: Yeah, and I have this feeling of being unemployed, too.

Not so with the *Baltimore Jewish Times*, which on November 19, 1976 in an article by "Staff Report" declared, "Israel Losing Economic War." No placidity, no bland understatement here.

The October 1973 war sparked the crisis in Israel, whose economy had been on the verge of igniting for some time, because of ever-increasing military spending and pro-business government policy. In turn, the crisis moved masses of working people into struggle for their economic survival.

Over the last three years, labor has been increasingly vocal in defense of its rights. The *Jewish Press* signaled this rumbling of discontent when it reported on August 16, 1974, "Israel Facing Labor Troubles." The fightback has exploded with such an intensity, however, that the *Chicago Jewish Sentinel* (November 18, 1976) felt it necessary to issue this dire prediction: "Warning: If strikes keep on Israel could be

destroyed." Paraphrasing Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz, the *Sentinel* proclaimed "...that no amount of heroism on the battlefield would help save Israel from destruction if strikes continued, and the economy was destroyed."

It seems to be a law of bourgeois journalism that if the boss sneezes, blame it on the worker. According to the *Sentinel*, the economic crisis is the fault of the workers; if they would just stop striking and raising all kinds of demands (for catchup raises, better working conditions and no layoffs) everything would be all right. The Brooklyn *Jewish Journal* of November 19, 1976 proclaimed: "Airline Strike Would Have Crippled Israel's Wellbeing." Sound familiar?

Who is responsible for the economic straitjacket? Who is the victim of the straitjacket, and who is tightening the straps?

Last November, the U.S. and Israel signed a tax treaty that "...protects U.S. investors from double taxation, limits withholding taxes on profits to 12.5% and guarantees that grants given to U.S. investors by the Israeli government will not be considered income." (*Jewish People*, September 13, 1976.)

A recently enacted amendment to the "Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investments" places the Israeli economy even more at the mercy of the multinationals. The Communist Party of Israel condemned it as "an expression of the complete dependency of Israel on foreign capital, which dictates her

"Peace can create the conditions for the working people of Israel to move ahead, to demand a basic reorientation of policy, from the Zionist position of racist discrimination against the Arab population, expansion, annexation and aggression, to a policy of peaceful relations, equality and social progress."

conditions for capital investments and, generally, the economic policy" and as a measure that will add "to the already extremely heavy burden on the shoulders of the wage earners and popular masses." (Abraham Levenbraun, in *Information Bulletin, Communist Party of Israel*, 6/76, page 22.)

The provisions of the new law give favored, or "Approved Enterprise Status" to foreign capital and companies. In effect, this means increased government subsidization and decreased taxes. With a straight face, *Israel Digest* (April 23, 1976) enthusiastically reports: "These measures enable industrial entrepreneurs to take full advantage of the human potential and of the modern infrastructure in the country. They help make Israel an especially attractive country in which to do business."

As if to twist the knife after being stabbed, the U.S. government gives higher tax credits to U.S. firms investing in Israel than to those investing in European countries because Washington has listed Israel as a "developing country." The victims are both the working people in Israel, who suffer from the exploitation by these foreign corporations, and workers here,

whose tax money is channeled into the coffers of these robber barons.*

Because of cheaper labor costs, tax loopholes and Israel's agreement with the Common Market (which reduces tariffs on Israeli exports to Western Europe), many U.S. firms with large markets on the other side of the Atlantic find it more profitable to set up shop in Israel.

In the last three years alone, Washington has shelled out \$15 billion of our money in (mostly military) aid to the Israeli government. This has contributed to an Israeli foreign debt of almost \$10 billion, 80 percent of which is owed to the U.S. government. Paying off this debt eats up 20 percent of Israel's annual budget.

*

Again, Finance Minister Rabinowitz:

...our security situation since the Yom Kippur (October 1973) war is the main cause of our economic difficulties. It imposes a heavy burden on the state budget and bears an inflationary character par excellence. (As quoted in *Information Bulletin, Communist Party of Israel, 2-3/75.*)

The war's price tag was \$7.2 billion. Since then, direct military spending has increased from IL (Israeli pound) 14.6 billion to IL 33 billion, or 226 percent. Add to this the cost of maintaining the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, Sinai and the Golan Heights, as well as repayment of the foreign debt (which is the result of military purchases abroad), and it turns out that 65 percent of the government budget is sucked up by foreign and domestic armaments profiteers.

This is a war economy, with the biggest relative military budget in the world. Its effect not only on the economic, but on the political and social life of the nation has been disastrous. It has brought about what Neil McInnes, writing in *Barron's* (May 17, 1976), terms a "monetary collapse," forcing a devaluation of the pound by 107 percent in three years, and is responsible for a tax rate of 71 percent on the income of Israel's working people.

The war economy is a cancer eating away at the quality of life. Housing construction has slowed to a trickle, condemning thousands of families to indecent living conditions. Education costs have risen, sometimes by as much as 100 percent, thereby excluding the children of the poor from knowledge and opportunity. Government spending on health, education and welfare has dropped precipitously, especially when the effects of inflation are taken into account. Real wages have fallen nearly 10 percent in the last three years. Each year more factories are forced to close.

* U.S. monopoly corporations, whose investments in Israel total \$1 billion, include: Ford, Chrysler, Monsanto Chemicals, Motorola, International Business Systems, Holiday Inns, American Can, Control Data, General Telephone and Electronics, Xerox Data Systems, National Cash Register, Miles Laboratories, United Merchants and Manufacturers, Hilton International, Globe-Union, Mica Corporation, Vishay Intertechnology and Teldyne.

Arabs in Israel and in the occupied territories, whose average income is only 64 percent that of Israeli Jews, have seen the bottom drop out of their living standards. Government services to Arab communities have been cut even more severely than those to Jewish communities. But corporate bosses have cashed in on the situation, bleeding the occupied territories of \$140 million in superprofits this year, not to speak of the extra profits from the lower wages of Arabs in Israel.

*

From the hallowed chambers of the corporate magnates come calls for "tightening the belt" and "sacrifice." The response has been an unprecedented, massive outcry from labor. Some government spokesmen have admitted that Israel is in the throes of "the worst labor unrest in its history." (*Baltimore Jewish Times*, November 21, 1976.)

In the face of condemnation and open attempts at strikebreaking by the leadership of the Histadrut trade union center (which declared 80 percent of the strikes "wildcats"), the number of job actions has increased sharply in the last three years. During 1975, more than 132,000 workers took some form of strike action. This year bore witness to strikes, slowdowns and "work-to-rule" actions involving 150,000 workers, more than 10 percent of the working class. Those on strike included seamen, transport workers, nurses, doctors, engineers, government workers, firemen, social workers, gas employees, X-ray technicians, driving test examiners, lawyers, El-Al airline workers, teachers, customs officials, harbor pilots, food processors, and maritime officers. One of every four workers in the public sector is involved in an "industrial dispute."

Dry Bones



The recent wave of strikes was sparked by a government decree in November that slashed government subsidies for basic food items and caused an overnight price jump of 20 percent.

It is in this context that the role of the Communist Party of Israel must be viewed. The CPI is the only political party that has championed consistently the interests and demands of the working class.

Our party invariably backs these demands in the Knesset and Histadrut bodies. It tries to unite the workers and bring more of them into united action committees grouping working people from various enterprises irrespective of political allegiance. Through various publications and public meetings, it tells the workers about the causes of the crisis. Its activity has already borne tangible fruits. CPI representation on the building workers' union bodies has increased from 4.5 to 9 percent. Workers on united

action committees often operate under our Party slogans. (Salim El-Qassem, "Discrimination: a bankrupt policy", *World Marxist Review*, October 1976, page 113.)

The CPI is now the second largest grouping after the Alignment* in the Congress of Building workers.

*

All indicators point to a continuation of the government's economic policy. The 1977-78 budget is more of the same, only worse. Rabin is buying weapons now, for which the working people will be paying in the year 2000.

Much has been written in recent months on Israel's dependence on the U.S. Any illusion of Israel and the U.S. as allies should be dispelled, for Tel Aviv is a client of Washington, and this relationship will continue as long as it is profitable for Rockefeller and his buddies, or until the working people of Israel take things into their own hands.



It is clear that a peace settlement can change all that. Peace can release the massive amounts of money, labor power, resources and creativity now channeled into military spending. Peace can break imperialism's vise-like grip on every aspect of Israeli life. Peace can undermine the blatant and vicious anti-Arab chauvinism spawned by Zionist ideology and the Israeli ruling class. Peace can release the full potential and creativity of the Israeli working class--Jewish and Arab.

Peace will make it easier for the people of our country to pressure the government to support such a policy, and to cut down on arms production here, using that money for our needs.

Reconvening the Geneva conference, with all parties involved, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, is the key to justice, equality and economic wellbeing for all peoples in the Middle East.

* * *

**Greetings to Jewish Affairs Dinner
will appear in the next issue**

* The Alignment is the ruling coalition of the Labor Party and Mapam.

With My Own Eyes

by Felicia Langer

Major Yehoshua Ben Zion

The prisoner's name: Faruq Abd al-Shani Ahram, a graduate from Amman University. He is in East Jerusalem, only a few months after finishing his studies.

His father and mother come to my office; they are middleclass people. They have many children. They have had the satisfaction of seeing their son return home with a university degree; they are proud of him, and hope he will be able to help support the family, which has made all possible efforts

"Faruq sat petrified in the dock. His father and mother, and Zalman David, could not believe their ears. 'Faruq got the maximum?' Someone, 'Felicia, the sentence is actually against you!'"

to see him through his career.

"What could he have done against the law? He has just returned home," said his father.

I read the police notice: "He was recruited for the political branch of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and he was a member of it for a short time, during which he also talked with two other people about the Front." I was relieved; in general, the sentences passed in Hebron for membership in that organization in similar circumstances were from six to twelve months. True, in Lydda the sentences were stiffer, so I assumed that Faruq would get up to one and a half years.

When I was told the president of the court would be Major Yehoshua Ben Zion, I knew that I would have to fight hard to get the result I wanted. This judge was known for the death sentences he had imposed "voluntarily," without being asked to do so by the prosecutor. But I thought that, in a case

* Excerpted from *With My Own Eyes*, by Felicia Langer, Ithaca Pub. Co., London 1975, pp. 124-126, 140-143.

like this one, the judge and his colleagues could use other scales and not be very severe. Faruq pleaded guilty and in my summing-up I made many points in his favor. Even the army prosecutor was not too severe in his attitude towards the defendant. But the highlight of the trial was a character witness for the defense: a man named Zalman David, an ex-member of the Irgun Zeva'i Le'umi (IZL*). He showed the judges his IZL membership card, and in answer to my questions he said that the defendant's family was to be counted with the just among the Gentiles for having helped him and his family as they had during the British Mandate. He said that he was ready to guarantee the defendant's behavior in the future and to be responsible for him, including finding him a job. "These are friends of our people," said the witness to the court.

After hearing such a witness, who made such a deep impression on everyone in the courtroom, many thought that Faruq would even be released that day.

But in the sentence read after a long recess it was said: The man went to Amman, but he did not devote himself fully to his studies; instead he enlisted into one of the most extreme terrorist organizations. It must be kept in mind that, even more than within Israel, this was a very daring step taken by the defendant, for we know that this organization is illegal in Jordan and is strongly persecuted there. There can be no doubt that the defendant as an educated man was well aware of the position taken by the Front whose aim is the annihilation of the State of Israel both here and abroad, by murder and pitiless attacks.

Everyone was dumbfounded upon hearing these words against the defendant, who had merely joined the organization orally, with no intention of violence either in the present or in the future.

As for the testimony given by Zalman David and the merits of the defendant's family, as well as Mr. David's readiness to be his guarantor, the court said that this was no ground for alleviating the sentence. "As for his family, we are not entitled to judge the defendant in that regard; that is a matter for the Holy One."

Regarding Faruq's brief membership in the organization, the judge said: "Had he not been caught he would surely have committed nefarious acts. But he should not be rewarded for getting caught. Therefore, we sentence the defendant to ten years' imprisonment."

The sentence shocked even the prosecutor, for that was the maximum punishment for membership of an illegal organization, generally given to people who had carried out operations, or to long-standing and important members of the organization, people considered as its leaders.

Faruq sat petrified in the dock. His father and mother, and Zalman David, could not believe their ears. "Faruq got the maximum?" Someone: "Felicia,

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* The Irgun Zeva'i Le'umi ("The Irgun") was the military arm of the Zionist Revisionist Party (Herut). Its indiscriminate terrorist tactics against the British Mandate and the Arab population included the blowing up of the King David hotel in Jerusalem and the Deir Yasin massacre.

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the sentence is against you!" Before the judges had time to leave the courtroom I gave vent to my anger, saying that there was no need for defense witnesses, no need to plead guilty, which was considered an alleviating circumstance and, moreover, that there was no need for defense lawyers at all!

We appealed against the sentence. Faruq's parents were desperate. Faruq himself told me when I visited him in jail: "Don't worry, you've done everything you could. I'm sorry for my parents, but what can be done?"

I expressed my bitterness in the hearing of the appeal. The Appeals Military Court reduced Faruq's sentence from ten to five years. That was still a stiff sentence. The arguments for accepting the appeal expressed open criticism of the Lydda Military Court and of the sentence which had been read by its president, Yuhoshua Ben-Zion.

As far as I know, he is a member of the Greater Israel movement. In all his sentences (and this I criticized in the appeal) the world "Israel" never appears. It is always "the Land of Israel."

On 8 January 1975 Mr. Ben-Zion was convicted in the Tel-Aviv District Court for embezzling about 20 million pounds. Mr. Ben-Zion had been joint managing director of the Israeli-British Bank, which collapsed in July 1974 with debts of 46.6 million pounds owing to British investors.

*

Conscientious Objectors

A refusal to oppress the people in the occupied territories was expressed by hundreds of young Israelis. Their demonstrations against the expropriation of the farmers of the Aqraba village, near Nablus, for which they were arrested and tried in a military court, are well remembered by the local population. The region around the village was sprayed with poison from the air and later prepared for a Jewish settlement there. This caused waves of protest among the progressive sections of the Israeli public.

Also, the refusal to serve in the army as active reservists in the occupied territory grew and developed. Two young members of the New Israeli Left, Yossi Kotan and Yitzhak Laor, were arrested because of their refusal. Yossi Kotan declared that he would not serve in the population centers of the occupied territories since he recognized their right to use arms in their fight against the occupation, and he did not want to oppose them with his own. After a thirty-three-day arrest he was released and transferred to another unit, inside the Green Line. Laor was arrested and held for fourteen days, for refusing to serve in the occupied territories; after his release he was also transferred to another unit.

Two other young men who refused to serve in the occupied territories were Yossi Chen and Gadi Gideon. In a statement to the press, published by the Communist Youth Alliance (Rakah), to which Yossi Chen belonged, it was said:

Yossi Chen, who is twenty-two and comes from Bat-Yam, was summoned on 4 April to report for active reservist service. Upon arriving at his unit he was told to go

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We Shall

by Samih

*It is a thousand times easier
For you
To pass an elephant through a
needle's eye
To catch fried fish in the
Milky Way
To plow the sea
To teach the alligator speech,
A thousand times easier
Than to smother with your
oppression
The spark of an idea
Or force us to deviate
A single step
From our chosen March.
Like twenty impossibles
We shall remain in Ramleh,
Al-Lid and Galilee.*

*Here upon your chests
We shall remain
Like the glass and the cactus
In your throats
A fiery whirlwind
In your eyes.*

*Here, we shall remain
A wall on your chests.
We wash dishes in the hotels
And serve drinks to the
Masters.
We mop the floors in dark
kitchens
To extract a piece of bread
From between your teeth
For the little ones.*

*Here, we shall remain
A wall on your chests.
We starve,
Go naked,
Sing songs
And fill the streets
With demonstrations*



Remain

Al-Kassim



And the jails with pride.
 We breed rebellions
 One after another.
 Like twenty impossibles we
 remain
 In Ramleh, Al-Lid and Galilee.

Here, we shall remain.
 You may drink the sea,
 We shall guard the shade
 Of the olive tree and the fig,
 Planting ideas
 Like yeast in dough.
 The coldness of ice is in our
 nerves
 And a burning hell in our
 hearts.

We squeeze the rock
 To quench the thirst
 And if we starve
 We eat the dirt
 And never depart
 Or grudge our blood.

Here, we have a past
 a present
 and a future.

Our roots are entrenched
 Deep in the earth.
 Like twenty impossibles
 We shall remain.
 Let the oppressor review his
 account
 Before the turn of the wheel.
 For every action there is a
 reaction:
 Read what is written in the
 Book.
 Like twenty impossibles
 We shall remain--in Ramleh,
 Al-Lid and Galilee.

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in operational service to one of the cities of the occupied territories. Yossi Chen declared to the liaison officer that for reasons of conscience he objected to serving in the occupied territories and that, nevertheless, he was ready to serve in the region that was Israel's before June 1967.

The liaison officer answered that a *Chief of Staff circular stated that a soldier objecting to service in the occupied territories for reasons of conscience was to be tried immediately and put in jail and then transferred to a unit within the frontiers of the Green Line.* The officer went out to consult about this case, and upon returning ordered the issuing of a summons in Yossi's name for 17 May 1973, and called him for a talk. On the day of the talk Yossi Chen was told in the afternoon that he was to be tried on 11 April 1973.

On 5 April Yossi Chen sent an express letter to the Head of the Manpower Branch, stating: "I have been called to reservist active service from 4 April



Israeli soldiers attack Arab youth on West Bank during recent demonstration

to 3 May this year. The service was to be carried out in the territories beyond the Green Line, but I refused for reasons of conscience to serve beyond the frontiers of the Green Line.

"I would like to ask you, in the light of similar cases, to transfer me to a unit whose service is carried out solely within the frontiers of the Green Line, and to revoke the trial, since putting me in jail will not change my views and will not prevent me from repeating my refusal. I would also like to have a conversation with you, in order as much as possible to clarify my position regarding the question, no later than 11 April, the date of the trial."

Instead of an answer Yossi Chen received a notice on the evening of 5 April that he had to report on 6 April at eight a.m. for his trial. The judging officer sentenced him to thirty-five days in prison, starting on that day.

As Yossi Chen's attorney I asked the Head of the Manpower Branch to receive me for a conversation on the subject of my client. The Rakah MPs sent a telegram to the Defence Minister and protested at Yossi Chen's trial. A group of artists and writers on 9 April published the following note in *Ha'aretz*:

FREE YOSSIE CHEN

The undersigned protest at the imprisonment of the civilian Yossi Chen, who for conscientious reasons objected to service as a reservist in the occupied territories, and we demand that his request be heard and that he be released.

Signing the note were: M. Avi-Shaul, D. Ben Amotz, A. Goldreich, Hanoeh Levin, Dr. Yehudah (Jad) Ne'eman, Oded Kotler, Nissim Azikri, Danny Caravan, Yebi, G. Basser, S. Yariv. *Ma'ariv* on that day said that it had been informed that conscientious objectors like Yossi Chen were allowed to present a request of transfer, and that these requests would be viewed in a positive light. But once they were called to report, they could not choose the region in which they wanted to serve. In the reserve framework of the army, there were several examples of this type of "objector."

On 11 April I met the Head of the Manpower Branch, Brigadier Herzl Shafir. His office had been enlarged and had acquired an air of luxury since my vis-

"He told me that his arrest did not bother him and that it could not influence his decision. 'In the past I served in the occupied territories; it shocked me deeply. I was taking part in something which I opposed and rebel against --the oppression in the occupied territories.'"

it in connection with the Giorah Neuman affair, which he had treated with more ability and flexibility than his predecessor.

He showed me Yossi's letter, and said that it had arrived too late. "Had he written to me earlier, things would have been arranged by now," he said. I quoted to him from *Ma'ariv* and asked him to view this case in a positive light.

But since Yossi had already been sentenced, only a pardon could release him from jail. And that is what we finally got, with the assistance of the prison's commander, Major Weinstein, who did much to help us. Two days later Yossi Chen was released and transferred to civil-defense service.

I was invited to a party to celebrate his release. At the party a young man came up to me. He had a few years ago ended his regular service in a combat unit. His name was Gadi Gideon. "I won't serve any more as a reservist in the occupied territories," he said. "But you haven't refused up to now, and that certainly won't help you," I explained to him. "I'm sorry

that I didn't refuse before, but now I've come to a decision and I'll stick to it." Gadi, born in Kefar Salamah, and now a youth instructor, looked serious and resolute. He sent a letter about his service, following the guidelines I suggested to him, to the Head of the Manpower Branch and to the Deputy Commanding Officer of his unit, whose answer was: "This unit has no business that does not go beyond the Green Line. Even in the North, on the Lebanese frontier, we have crossed (or sometimes cross) the Green Line drawn on the map. Anyway, you will serve according to the orders you have received."

On 8 May, Gadi Gideon was sentenced to thirty-five days in prison for refusing to serve as a reservist in the occupied territories. On 9 May he again wrote a letter to the Head of the Manpower Branch, quoting the Deputy Commanding Officer's answer.

At that time I had trials almost every day, and I had no time for Gadi's case, although it troubled me. It was difficult to understand the army's logic, when there were clear guidelines on the matter. Experienced after Giorah Neuman's case, the authorities had decided to settle the cases of conscientious objectors quietly.

On 19 May I visited Gadi in jail. He was in good spirits. He was glad that I had visited him. I promised I would intervene if he were not released before his term ran out. He told me that his arrest did not bother him and that it could not influence his decision. "In the past I served in the occupied territories; it shocked me deeply. I was taking part in something which I oppose and rebel against--the oppression in the occupied territories."

Gadi was released and transferred to civil-defense service. The circle of objectors to repression is growing constantly. Young Arabs of the Druze community are to be counted amongst its members.

* * *

Preserving the Jewish Presence in Poland

by Sol Flapan

Evidence of a Jewish presence in Poland is an "inseparable element of the Polish landscape," the General Curator of Historic Relics has told *Folks Shtimme*, the Jewish weekly here. In an exclusive statement for the bilingual organ of the Social and Cultural Society of Jews in Poland, Dr. Bohdan Rymaszewski further explained that "our attitude to objects of Judaic culture... is determined by our attitude to Polish culture in general."

The government official's remarks comprise one feature in an ongoing cycle in the Yiddish- and Polish-language columns of the 12-page weekly, highlighting the restoration and the conservation of Jewish memorabilia throughout the country. The series began in the spring with a report on what had already been done on the Remuh Cemetery in the southern city of Krakow. It has since included extensive stories on the reconstruction of synagogues and other material evidence of the Jewish presence.

The cycle serves a dual purpose, observed *Folks Shtimme* in its introduction to Dr. Rymaszewski's statement. Firstly, "to broadcast knowledge of the priceless historical and artistic values of Judaic objects in Poland which were so ruthlessly destroyed by the Hitler occupants just as those of Polish national culture were devastated." Introducing the Jewish public to the "individuals and institutions whose veneration and monumental efforts and costs" are contributing "to assuring the restoration and conservation of these historic momentos," is the second aim.

Settling down here back in the Middle Ages and onward, Jews were favorably received, recalled Dr. Rymaszewski, expanding his opening remarks. He cited the Kaliski Statute of 1264 and subsequent legislation that set the legal conditions enabling the Jews to live in Poland as the most luminous example of this sentiment. All of which, he added, "created in the realm of synagogical architecture, and the arts generally, values which have entered permanently the treasury of Poland's culture."

Interestingly, Polish history is free of state and church orchestrated inquisitions--the mass witch hunts, the public burnings at the stake of those accused of religious heresy, establishment-enforced ghettos, or expulsions of Jews--which stain the past of a number of West European countries (from Spain to Germany and from Italy to Britain).

The Polish scholar also emphasized the bonds between Polish and Jewish culture and art. Religious differences "were marked only by visual traditions which did not, however, sever their mutual ties...The architecture of the synagogue differed only in function from that of the objects of other religious cults in Poland...In the towns and settlements the synagogue, as the church or the town hall, etc., became an inseparable element of the Polish landscape."

Desirous of saving from oblivion, restoring and maintaining the beauty of this landscape, People's Poland is continuing its longstanding labors at renovating the remains of Judaic culture, averred Dr. Rymaszewski, who is also Director of the Board of Museums and the Protection of Historical Relics at the Ministry of Culture and Art. In this, socialist Poland is carrying on the sterling traditions of prewar enlightened Polish and Jewish scholars. Here special mention is due Professor Oscar Sosnowski (1880-1939), founder and head of the Department of Polish Architecture at the Warsaw Politechnic. This initiator of research into the various fields of the history of Polish art and architecture was particularly interested in and committed to Jewish art, architecture and artistic handicrafts.

Rediscovering, sheltering and restoring Judaica (art and architecture, literature and culture generally) has assumed special significance in post-war Poland. This country and its people were top priority targets in the

Nazi's policy of physical and cultural genocide. Dr. Rymaszewski cited the over 90 percent destruction of the 150 prewar municipal history study centers and the wiping out of all Judaic centers as just one fragment of this fascist holocaust.

Hence, Polish and Jewish historians and research workers on the Jewish past here face what Dr. Rymaszewski called the "uniqueness of Judaica" resulting from the "policy of the Hitlerites on Polish soil."

All told, some 2000 historic relics, including objects of Jewish culture, are covered annually by the national conservation program. Ranging from churches and synagogues, former royal palaces, gentry manors (now being adapted to serve the public) and cemeteries, to works of art and handicrafts, this effort represents an ongoing time- and labor-consuming process.

It is being carried out with patience and skill, pride and "veneration."

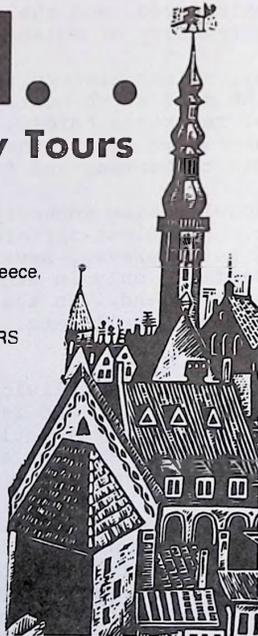
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A Story Bursting with Life and Humor

by Jean Lerner (from the Daily World, December 14, 1976)

Once in a while a book comes along that defies classification, which only adds to its chances of being ignored by reviewers in the commercial press. Samuel Brandwin: One of Earth's Children, would probably be given the silent treatment anyway; it is frankly and unequivocally class conscious, the autobiography (only slightly fictionalized, one would guess) of a trade unionist headed straight for a lifelong position on the political Left.

Schenck's language is not polished, but he writes with a spontaneity that is heartwarming and that deserves to be cherished. No one ever seems to have told him how he should see the world, and so, much as a primitive painter does, he sees it with his own unblurred eyes. He doesn't seem to write for effect--he is full of his subject and eager to share experiences with anyone who will listen. This is the main charm of his book. It also explains why, via the earthy humor, it packs a considerable wallop.

Samuel Brandwin starts out with a childhood in a Galician village, where seven Jewish families made a life for themselves among a population of Polish, hence Catholic, peasants. And from the first chapter on, the book stands all our preconceived notions about Jewish settlements in Poland squarely on their heads.

Not for young Sammy Brandwein the laughter-through-tears of the world of Sholem Aleichem. This boy is no hungrier

Samuel Brandwin: One of Earth's Children, by Abraham Schenck. Blue Dome Press, PO Box 351, Baychester Sta., Bx., N.Y. 10469. \$6.95, hardcover.

than his "Goy" neighbors; he is not helpless but a born fighter; he is bursting with the joy of life and instinctive appreciation of the beauty and poetry of nature (something, by the way, he knows how to communicate to the reader without--at least seemingly--more than half trying). And although he is almost as old as our century, as he writes about those pre-World War I days he manages to evoke the pleasure of biting into a juicy stolen apple or watching young green buds leaf out a tree in the spring.

On a more serious level--and, again, unlike most East European Jewish reminiscences--here is a book totally lacking in either sentimentality or self pity. This is how things were, the narrator tells us; this is what we had to contend with: a mother left to fend for her five children while her husband goes off to try his luck in America and virtually deserts the family; a frail older brother, with, if he were to survive, a stronger claim than the others on the mother's attention; the fierce sibling rivalries this generates, unresolved even after the frail one's death; the war laying waste the village orchards, both sides pillaging and raping with supreme impartiality, and Sammy's mother outwitting the momentary conquerors and so saving herself and her young daughters from the ultimate indignity.

This is how things were, and the family survives, only to learn in the United

States, where the streets are not paved with gold, what the ultimate in ghetto poverty and degradation can mean if one ever stops fighting back. So Sammy fights, becoming more aggressive than his aggressive mother. He gets jobs on the basis of no experience and much chutzpah, loses them, finally settles down with a trade, discovers trade unionism and finds out all about fake labor leaders, sweetheart contracts and being blacklisted for militancy. And is able to tell his mother, who wishes he weren't always getting into trouble, why it is that he has to be the way he is.

The relationship between these two, which builds not only into a deep and adult love but into a profound understanding, is the strong emotional spine of the book.

Other characters--the handsome, corrupt union leader, Sammy's various lady loves, casual friends--come through as line drawings done in color crayons, sketchy but true.

What really carries the story is the author's lust for life, his sometimes ribald gusto, his humor, his warmth.

* * *

With her many friends, we mourn the untimely death of

Florence Pasternak

a founder and dedicated builder of Jewish Affairs and a tireless fighter for a just peace in the Middle East and in the world.

To her husband Morris, and family, our sincerest condolence--the Eds.

Jewish Affairs honors the memory of

Irving Potash & Jack Schneider

Valiant sons of the working class, they dedicated their lives to the struggle for peace, freedom and socialism--the Eds.

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