

Prop



# The Jewish Labor Bund

Published by the

**World - Coordinating Committee of Bundist and Affiliated Jewish Socialist Organizations.**

25 East 78th Street New York 21, N. Y.  
LEhigh 5-0850

# Bulletin

Vol. V, No. 18-24 (51-57)



June-December, 1952

## DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER — PRESIDENT-ELECT

On November 4, 1952, the American people elected Dwight D. Eisenhower to the presidency of the United States by an overwhelming plurality of 7,000,000 votes out of a record 60,000,000 total vote. For the first time in twenty years, the Republican Party has obtained a president in the White House.

Despite Eisenhower's plurality, the Republicans did not do so well proportionately in the Congressional elections. The successful presidential candidate did not sweep into victory all his party's candidates hanging on to his coat tails. This failure of the Republican Party to win undisputed control of both houses confirms general estimates that Eisenhower's election represented a personal rather than a party victory. Certainly the fact that a household name was running against one of the darkest horses ever nominated affected the outcome of the election. Nevertheless, Adlai E. Stevenson, the Democratic Party's dark horse, proved himself to be of presidential stature who won the nation's respect and admiration, if not enough of its votes. (Because of the record turnout, Stevenson received more votes in this election than President Truman, the winning candidate, did in 1948.)

All observers are agreed that the defection of certain groups traditionally Democratic helped ensure the Republican victory. How much labor contributed to the Eisenhower victory is not as apparent as the total switch of the farm vote which had gone to Truman in 1948. The role of labor in the election is still disputed, but it should be clear that without the tremendous pro-Stevenson vote in the big cities — labor's strongholds, the Democratic candidate could not have rolled up over 26,000,000 votes. Undoubtedly organized

### Contents:

1. Dwight D. Eisenhower — President-Elect.
2. Anti-Semitism in the Prague "Trial."
3. Israel's Arab Neighbors — I. Artuski.
4. Bund Archives of the Jewish Labor Movement.
5. We Shall Never Forget Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter.
6. Congress of the Socialist International in Milan.
7. Chaim Weizmann.
8. John Mill: In Memoriam.
9. Labor Loses William Green and Philip Murray.
10. 19th Congress of the Russian Communist Party.
11. News of Our Movement.

labor is a major force to be reckoned with in the United States, as was seen in the wooing of labor by both major party candidates. Furthermore, all observers agree that the Eisenhower victory cannot in any way be interpreted as a mandate for wiping out the twenty-year gains of the country toward economic and social security.

This election reveals even more sharply the nation's need for a third party, one that will truly represent the interests of labor and working people. Only when organized labor will rally to such a cause and pool its strength and influence with the forward-looking people in America, only then will the working men and women of America find a candidate whom they can support, not in "basic conflict," but in full confidence and mutual trust in the future of the country and its people.

## ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE PRAGUE "TRIAL"

Fourteen leaders of the Czech communists have "confessed" to all sorts of crimes against the People's Democracy of Czechoslovakia. Their "trial" had all the earmarks of the Moscow trials of the old Bolsheviks in the thirties, which first disclosed to the whole world the hollow mockery of Communist "justice." The Prague trial of Rudolph Slansky, Vladimir Clementis and twelve other prominent Czech Communist leaders follows the same pattern as the Moscow purges, in which the old guard of devoted Communists was liquidated. In Prague, too, all of the defendants were found guilty of high treason, sabotage and espionage. Eleven were sentenced to death by hanging; three were given life sentences.

According to the unique system of Soviet justice, all the defendants "confessed" prior to their trial. The only role for their defense attorneys was to admit their clients' guilt. There was no appeal. But this is an old act, even though we are shocked each time we witness the performance.

But there was something new in the Prague trials. Eleven of the fourteen defendants were Jews and charges of "Zionism" and "international Jewish conspiracy" played as great a role as charges of "Trotzkism" and "Titoism." This tendency of the Prague trial is the clear culmination of the creeping anti-Semitic policies of the Soviet Union, which began after the second World War, with the attacks on "cosmopolitanism" and "rootlessness," words serving as euphemisms for Jewishness.

Had Slansky and Clementis been the winning faction in the Czech communists' fight for power (which Moscow obviously decided), they would have conducted the same kind of ruthless purge trial against Gottwald, Zapotocky and the others. According to the system of Soviet punishment and justice meted out in Prague, we need have not pity for the "innocent" victims. But surely they were innocent of these charges brought against them. It is preposterous even to suggest that Slansky was a Zionist. He and his Jewish co-defendants were devoted Communists, many of them with Moscow training.

It is clear, therefore, that the charges involving "Jewish conspiracy" were obviously trumped up to serve some Soviet purposes. Foreign observers believe that the chief purpose is to let the Jews serve as a scapegoat for all that has gone wrong in Czechoslovakia. The unabashed injection of anti-Semitic arguments in the Prague trial is evidence that anti-Semitism became an ingredient of the official Communist policy.

The World Coordinating Committee of the Bund issued the following statement on the Prague trial:

To the long line of Communist assaults on peoples and countries, on democracy and freedom, which endanger the peace of the world, a new outrage has been added.

The inquisition trial of the fourteen Communist leaders of Czechoslovakia, held in Prague, has once more revealed to the world the baseness of the Communist movement by now mobilizing for its criminal purposes the worst anti-Semitic instincts of backward masses.

The new purge trial, initiated and conducted at the command of the Moscow bosses of raped Czechoslovakia, differs from the earlier tragically renowned Moscow trials only in one respect: *its consistent anti-Semitic nature*. The trial was a means to divert the wrath of the exploited and enslaved Czech masses from their Communist rulers and to incite them against the Jews.

The moral degeneration and debasement of the Communist movement reached a new low when the Stalinists begin to use the same poisonous methods which, until now, were characteristic only of the policies of the blackest reaction.

After the Soviet Union liquidated all traces of Jewish culture, even in its distorted Communist form, after the Jewish writers of the Soviet Union disappeared and the Stalin regime deported masses of Jews who had survived the Hitler extermination, after the so-called struggle against "cosmopolitanism" and "homelessness" aimed primarily against the Jews — after all this, Communism now openly uses man-devouring anti-Semitism to enforce its terrorist rule.

Anti-Semitism, so clearly revealed at the Prague trial, spells danger not only for the several million Jews behind the Iron Curtain. The new wave of anti-Semitism, originating in the Kremlin, is a danger also for the Jews in the democratic countries. The charges made in Prague against Zionism and the State of Israel were only covers for Soviet imperialism and for an anti-Semitic attack against all Jews.

The World Coordinating Committee of the Bund sharply protests against Soviet anti-Semitism and calls the attention of the whole democratic world to this new danger. All democratic forces, all progressive elements, must conduct a decisive struggle against the new anti-Semitic danger which comes from the Soviet East.

The labor movement, and first of all its Socialist avant-garde, which was always in the forefront in the fight against racism and anti-Semitism, must with the same decisiveness now fight not only Communism as such, but also its new, poisonous anti-Semitic outgrowth.

## ISRAEL'S ARAB NEIGHBORS

By I. ARTUSKI, *Tel Aviv*

**Excerpts from an article published in the October, 1952, issue of UNZER TSAIT, Yiddish monthly of the World Coordinating Committee of the Bund.**

The recent developments in the Arab countries have considerably shaken our indifference and calmness. King Farouk's abdication and the other political and social upheavals in the Arab countries have awakened a feeling of unrest.

There is no doubt that the military defeat during the war with Israel was one of the important reasons for the upheavals in the Arab countries. Though General Naguib found it expedient to state that he does not seek revenge against Israel, the real problem is whether his proposed army, with modern equipment, does not in itself constitute a threat to the State of Israel. Certainly, Shishekly, the dictator of Syria frequently threatened that there is no place in the Middle East for Jews and Arabs.

It is true that Israel's military power is far stronger today than it was four years ago. But who can evaluate the present and potential might of the Arab countries? The figures show: one and a half million Jews compared with forty-five million Arabs. And what about Israel's geo-political location? The state is encircled by Arabs. It is a small country with more than a thousand miles of boundaries to defend, with a frontier only twenty-five miles from Tel Aviv, with a frontier in the very heart of Jerusalem. Besides, there are no natural barriers, thus making it almost impossible to guard the frontiers.

We cannot overlook the fact that in many other vital respects besides the military, the situation is not to Israel's advantage. The patriotic fervor of the Israelis has declined in the last four years, as against an upsurge of Arab nationalism. The almost one million Arab refugees, beleaguering Israel's boundaries are nursing their hatred and hoping to avenge their four-year exile.

Today we hear how hollow rings the Zionist assurance of yesteryear that only in Israel can the Jews be secure. Responsible parties in Israel are aware of their tragic geo-political situation and they are using all their means to prevent a "second round."

The chief means is the building of a strong and well-equipped army as a threat against the aggressive intentions of the Arab countries. But the trouble with this means lies in the fact that it exhausts the energies of Israel. The greater part of relief funds is being used up for defense. The military expenditures are

an important reason for the catastrophic economic conditions of the country.

Also the campaign for the "Ingathering of the Exiles" is considered as a factor of military significance. The "Ingathering of the Exiles" has been evaluated not only as the realization of a national goal, but as a means eliminating the numerical disproportion between the Jews in Israel and the Arabs in the neighboring states. But today, the "ingathering" plan has been abandoned since the government of Israel has had to reduce immigration because of Israel's economic conditions. Even the annual quota of 120,000 reduced from 200,00 cannot be met — simply because Jews from countries permitting free emigration have no desire to settle in Israel.

Little wonder that *Herut* of August 22, 1952, poses this question: "Cut off from the millions of Jews outside of Israel, what chances have we against our enemies, even if we fight like heroes, so long as the present static immigration situation persists for the next five or ten years?"

What about peace?

After three years since the conclusion of the armistice agreements between Israel and the Arab countries, there has been no improvement in their relations. The Arab countries are not yet reconciled to the existence of Israel. They still consider Israel an alien occupying body that must be eliminated sooner or later. What about Israel's peace aspirations? Some people may consider this question absurd. Of course, the government of Israel is against war; of course it wants to avoid war with the Arab countries. *But the question is: does Israel now want a stable peace with the Arab countries?* The *Jerusalem Post*, a pro-government newspaper, on September 15, 1952, wrote:

"Some foreign observers, as well as some Israelis, believe that Israel does not actually want peace with the Arabs. It is probably more correct to say, that Israel has never believed in a peace with the Arabs. Israel was so busy keeping its powder dry, that now possibly its policy has also become dry."

But the problem is much more complex. Peace with the Arabs, at present at least, would mean at best, acceptance by Israel of its present boundaries. But will Israel relinquish the other half of Jerusalem? Is Israel willing to remain enclosed within its unnaturally long and twisting boundaries?

(Continued on Page 7)

## BUND ARCHIVES OF THE JEWISH LABOR MOVEMENT

The Bund Archives of the Jewish labor movement, named in honor of Franz Kurski, are now settled in the Atran Center for Jewish Culture in New York. The Archives Trustee Committee consists of Dr. B. Hoffman (Tsivien), chairman; Ephim Jeshurin and David Meyer, vice-chairmen; Emanuel Nowogrudsky, secretary; B. Tabachinsky, treasurer; I. Levin-Shatzkes, executive member and A. Kahan, director.

The Bund Archives of the Jewish labor movement were founded by Franz Kurski at the end of the 19th century, when Kurski was the head of the Bund's foreign committee, whose headquarters were in Geneva. Kurski dedicated his life to the task of preserving the authentic material and documents of the Jewish labor movement throughout the world, particularly in Russia.

These archives escaped destruction in the course of two world wars by what seemed miracles. After

World War I, when the foreign committee of the Bund in Geneva was dissolved, the archives were transferred to Berlin. The German Social-Democratic Party agreed to house the archives in its building where its daily, *Forward*, was published. Franz Kurski emigrated from Geneva to Berlin to supervise the treasures he had so carefully gathered. Funds were provided by the Central Committee of the Bund in Poland to maintain the archives. When it became clear that National Socialism was going to rule Germany, and when the German streets became the scenes of book burnings, rescue of the Bund Archives from Germany became imminent. The Central Committee of the Bund in Poland sent Comrade H. Pizyc to Berlin to help Franz Kurski in the daring undertaking of removing the archives, under the very eyes of the Nazi police who had already occupied the *Forward* building. The Bund Archives were safely brought to Paris in 1933. Franz Kurski escaped from the Nazi clutches and also came to Paris.

In 1940, when the motorized columns of the German Army occupied Paris, Franz Kurski was summoned to New York by the American Representation of the Jewish Labor Bund in Poland. Before his departure, he concealed the Bund Archives. Before long, the Nazi police found the hiding place and confiscated the archives. It seemed then that the Bund Archives, which had already become the most precious collection of materials about revolutionary movements for almost a century, were lost forever.

A few days after the liberation of Paris by the Allies in 1945, Rafal Ryba, the representative of the Bund in Paris, received word that piles of documents bearing the stamp "Archives of the Bund" had been seen in a warehouse in which the German authorities had stored library and archival materials for subsequent destruction. But the Germans had fled Paris before completing their task. The archives were once again rescued from destruction. Packed in 50 large wooden crates, the priceless documents were preserved in Paris up to 1951. Franz Kurski, who had prepared to leave New York for Paris, died before he was able to return to his beloved archives.

Thanks to the generosity of the late Frank Z. Atran, the Bund Archives were brought to New York City in the summer of 1951. Today they are housed in their own quarters and cared for by a staff of devoted members and friends of the Bund, engaged in sorting and classifying the materials, so that the archives will once more be available for students and scholars of the labor and revolutionary movements.

### We Shall Never Forget

#### HENRYK ERLICH and VICTOR ALTER

This month we mark the eleventh anniversary of the death of Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter, our two comrades secretly murdered by the Soviet Union in December, 1941.

With each year that passes, the loss the Bund suffered by the murder of Erlich and Alter becomes more acute and the shock at their brutal murder does not abate. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of their death, the Bund commemorated these two unforgettable leaders of the Jewish labor and Socialist movement throughout the world. A year ago we wrote:

"Erlich and Alter, leaders of the Bund, had devoted their lives to the ideals of freedom and to the welfare of workers everywhere. That was their death warrant when they fell into Stalin's hands. They are the symbols of the vast army of martyrs who have gone to their graves on orders from the Kremlin murder machine.

"Today, in reverence and devotion, we salute the memory of Erlich and Alter. In their names we reaffirm our undying pledge to continue our crusade side by side with all democratic forces until the evil menace of Communist tyranny and every other kind of totalitarianism will perish, and the victory of democracy, freedom and justice is finally assured."

On the eleventh anniversary of their murder, we renew our pledge to keep green the memory of Erlich and Alter and to continue their life's work through the medium of the Bund.

## CONGRESS OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL IN MILAN

The annual congress of the Socialist International, held in Milan, October 17-21, 1952, took place exactly thirty years after Mussolini's blackshirts established their bloody reign of fascism in Italy. This congress was a symbolic victory of the spirit of Matteoti, murdered by Mussolini. Delegates from 36 socialist parties throughout the world, representing almost 10,000,000 members and 65,000,000 voters, gathered together in Milan. Never before in its long history had the Socialist International such a numerous following. In spite of thirty-five years of the destructive activities of communism and fascism, democratic socialism has never been as influential as now.

Though the concepts of modern socialism were formed in Europe, the ideals of libertarian socialism have caught the imagination of people throughout the world and socialism has become a world-wide movement. The Socialist congress in Milan represented not only the socialist movement in Europe, but also the socialists in Asia, the Americas and other continents. The socialists from India and Japan who represent considerable influence in their countries and who received 25,000,000 votes in their last popular elections, also took part in the congress.

The agenda in Milan reflected the deep anxiety of the Socialist movement for the dangers of the cold war and the aggrandizement policies of the Soviet Union in Europe and Asia. All member parties, as well as the Socialist International as a whole, unanimously recognized the need to defend our liberties against threats posed by the U.S.S.R. At the same time, the Socialist International expressed its conviction that armed defense of the democratic world should be complemented by a policy of a new world order based on social justice, economic and political equality, freedom and democracy — a new and better way of life in contrast to totalitarian communism.

This unanimity on the general outlook of the world situation did not preclude differences of opinion among the socialist parties as to the actual solutions of various problems, such as the rearming of Germany or its unification, the federation of European nations. In the discussions of these and other problems, there were diverse expressions of views.

The World Coordinating Committee of the Bund, a long-established member of the Socialist International, took part in the discussions at the Executive Committee and at the plenary sessions of the congress. The

Bund delegates were: Professor Libman Hersch, of Geneva, and Rafal Ryba, of Paris.

Rafal Ryba addressed the congress in the name of the Bund on the problems of European unity. He made it clear that the Bund opposes the rearmament of Germany which, under the present circumstances, will endanger democracy in Europe and the development of a democratic Germany. He pointed to the signs of the revival of Nazism in Germany and warned against neglect and indifference toward this insidious development. He stressed that the German Social-Democratic Party itself objected for a time to the rearmament of Germany. Debating with Mr. Ryba, F. Heine, the delegate of the German socialist movement, insisted on Germany's right to arm "under certain conditions." During the discussion on the "Socialist International and the United Nations," Rafal Ryba underlined the necessity of establishing close relations between the Socialist International and the U. S. labor movement.

Professor Hersch had been scheduled to address the congress in the name of the Bund on the subject, "A Socialist Program for the Underdeveloped Nations." Because he had to leave Milan before this point on the agenda was reached, the secretary of the Socialist International, Julius Braunthal, agreed to publish the address.

## CHAIM WEIZMANN

After a prolonged illness, Chaim Weizmann, first President of the State of Israel, died in Rehovoth on November 9, 1952.

Weizmann was born in the town of Motol, near Pinsk, in White Russia, on November 27, 1874. He belonged to that generation of Eastern European Jews that organized the modern Zionist movement during the same period that the Jewish labor movement became organized under the banner of the Bund. As a leader of the General Zionist movement, Chaim Weizmann's election to Israel's presidency represented recognition by the new state's Mapai leadership of Weizmann's personal contributions to the growth and development of Israel.

Weizmann's long illness precluded him from making full use of these talents during his presidency. But his very name was a symbol of high-level diplomacy, of Israel's association with the Western world, and particularly of conciliation with Great Britain.

For these reasons, Weizmann's death is a severe blow to Israel, which now maintains a precarious existence between war and peace. Weizmann's personal connections with the political leaders of the Western world will be sorely missed by Israel.

## JOHN MILL: IN MEMORIAM

At the age of 82, John Mill, one of the most revered and distinguished leaders of the Bund, died on October 1, in Miami Beach, Florida.

John Mill was the last living member of the legendary thirteen founders of the Jewish labor movement in Czarist Russia, one of the initiators of the conference in 1897, which proclaimed the Bund's establishment.

John Mill was born in 1870, in the town of Ponievyesz, in Lithuania. Still a high school student he was active in the revolutionary, semi-educational youth groups, and when his parents emigrated to the United States in the nineties, he had already become a convinced socialist. Alone and without any means, he eked out an existence as a private tutor. His unusual energy and all his gifts of character and intelligence he devoted to the cause of liberty and freedom through socialism. After the outbreak of the first World War in 1915, he emigrated to the United States and joined the ranks of the Socialist movement in his new homeland. Until his last day, he was a leading member of the Jewish socialist movement and the honorary chairman of the Bund World Coordinating Committee.

John Mill belonged to a remarkable generation who distinguished themselves in Jewish history at the end of the 19th century. It was a generation that struggled under the impact of the capitalist way of life which had invaded the Russian Empire and smashed long established social and moral values. It was a generation that organized the Jewish labor movement, through the Bund, and the Zionist movement. John Mill was one of those pioneers who paved the way for the Socialist movement in Czarist Russia, who brought enlightenment and the vision of a socialist way of life to the poverty-stricken and persecuted Jewish population in Russia, Lithuania and Poland.

During his long life, John Mill witnessed the magnificent results of his pioneer endeavors and the development of a powerful Jewish labor movement. But he also witnessed its complete destruction by the Nazis during the second World War. But John Mill never lost faith in the final victory of his ideals. At 82, he was as active and devoted to the cause as he had been more than 60 years ago, when he first dedicated his life to our movement. He was a born fighter and he died as a soldier of socialism. John Mill started as a pioneer of the Bund and he died an active member of the Bund movement after the second World War. He was a torch-bearer who will always remain in the memory of the Jewish socialist movement.

## LABOR LOSES

WILLIAM GREEN (1870-1952) and  
PHILIP MURRAY (1886-1952)

On November 9, 1952, Philip Murray died suddenly of a heart attack. Less than two weeks later, on November 21, William Green died of the same ailment. Two of America's most outstanding labor leaders passed away within a brief space of time. Despite their antagonisms and the rivalry between the organizations they led, both men were strikingly similar in their devotion to the cause of labor and the working man, in their crusade for social justice, democracy, and freedom, for the rights of all oppressed peoples, and in their common struggle against all tyranny, Nazism and Communism. Labor has lost two notable leaders and their loss is most felt at a time when the strength and influence of labor are most needed. Let us hope that George Meany and Walter Reuther, the two new leaders of the major labor organizations in this country will find a way of uniting for common action on behalf of labor's needs and interests in the difficult times ahead.

The Bund sent messages of condolence to both the AFL and the CIO.

November 24, 1952

American Federation of Labor  
901 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

The Jewish labor movement under the banner of the Bund mourns the death of one of the most outstanding leaders of American labor, a courageous fighter for social justice, democracy and the rights of the oppressed people. We shall never forget the help he gave us during the years of Nazi annihilation of the Jewish people and the leading role he played in arousing public opinion against the Soviet murder of Erlich and Alter. William Green will live forever in our memory.

World Coordinating Committee of the Bund,  
Emanuel Nowogrudsky, Emanuel Scherer.

November 10, 1952

James Carey,  
C.I.O.  
718 Jackson Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

We are grief-stricken over the untimely death of Philip Murray, the outstanding leader of organized labor, a devoted fighter against race hatred and anti-Semitism, a crusader for social justice, liberty and democracy.

Jewish Labor Bund,  
Emanuel Nowogrudsky, Emanuel Scherer

## 19th CONGRESS OF THE RUSSIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

From October 5 to October 16, 1952, the 19th congress of the Russian Communist Party was convened in Moscow. The 18th congress had been held in 1939. During these thirteen intervening years, the Hitler-Stalin pact had been signed, a catastrophic world war took place, the Soviet Union "liberated" and then promptly enslaved a number of European countries, several federated Soviet republics were liquidated and their populations deported or killed outright. During these thirteen years, six million Jews were killed by the Germans and in the Soviet Union almost all traces of organized Jewish life were erased and a strange policy of anti-Semitism (against "cosmopolitanism" and "rootlessness") began to take shape. Finally, we have witnessed, after the end of World War II, Russia's aggrandizement drive, the ensuing cold war, and Korea.

During this same period, the Russian Communist Party had, in 1942, also dissolved what was, at least technically, its parent body, the Communist International (Comintern) a rather strange procedure in which one section of an alleged international body usurps the "right" to discard the entire organization. While no one shed any tears for the demise of the Comintern, it was, to say the least, rather odd that no delegate at the 19th party congress asked any questions about the fate of the Comintern, or, for that matter, about any of the historic events that transpired since the previous congress.

But perhaps this is only carping criticism. After all, the 19th congress of the Russian Communist Party had a peculiar array of delegates: not only were there delegates from the Russian party and from the parties of the federated Soviet republics, but even from the parties in the People's Democracies. Delegates to the Russian party congress also included representatives of the British, French, Italian, Indian, and other Communist parties throughout the world. In fact, almost fifty countries were represented at the Russian party congress. Formally, they were "fraternal" delegates. Actually, they came to get their new orders. And this is also a strange picture: the foreign delegates were addressed by no less a figure than Stalin himself. Whereas Stalin had delegated most communication and directives to the Russian party to his henchmen, he considered it his paramount duty to give the line directly to his foreign agents.

What was the new line?

Nothing less than the old dishonorable "Popular Front," with the Communists as the defenders of

"bourgeois democratic rights" and as crusaders for "national rights" and "independence of countries," endangered by the imperialism of Wall Street! The shamelessness of resurrecting the "united" or, as it now is sometimes called, the "national" front is perhaps not so simple-minded as many political sophisticates may believe. In countries, where the populations are only beginning to awaken to political realities, as for instance in the Middle or Far East, the experience of the Western world with the "united front" in the thirties has but little meaning.

The proceedings and declarations of the 19th congress of the Russian Communist Party should be studied by Socialists and liberals throughout the world. The better we understand the implications of the Communist program and directives, the more adequately we can help defend the free world against Communism.

---

### ISRAEL'S ARAB NEIGHBORS

*(Continued from Page 3)*

No Zionist organization in the country from Herut to Mapam has abandoned its striving for all of Palestine and all of Jerusalem.

The truth is that both the Israelis and the Arabs, for different reasons, do not want peace now. Both are speculating on better times. Both are interested in staving off both the war and the peace.

The present no-peace, no-war status carries the danger of war. It undermines the economic and the financial situation of the state. It is obnoxious to the Western powers, who are concerned with the total defense of the Middle East.

Time may bring a change of values to both sides. The Arabs may eventually understand that the Israelis will refuse to be pushed into the sea, and that there must be a place in the Middle East for both Israelis and Arabs. But the Arab countries can reach such a conclusion only when they will be assured that Israel has no aggressive intentions. Can such assurance be given by a Zionist state that has as its goal the "ingathering" of at least the majority of the Jewish people and that must therefore think in terms of territorial expansion?

We believe that the best way to secure real peace between the Arabs and Israel would be the establishment of a federative union of Israel and the Arab states. Such a federative union permitting complete internal autonomy would annul the division of Jerusalem and make up for the lack of natural frontiers. It would disclose new possibilities for the economic development of all the countries. It would eliminate the need for oversized armies, the funds for which could be used for productive purposes. It would also lead to a cultural understanding between the Israelis and Arabs, and to a true fraternity of peoples.

## NEWS OF OUR MOVEMENT

### World Coordinating Committee of the Bund

At the last meeting of the steering committee, it was decided to refer to all executive members of the World Coordinating Committee the question about convening the third Bund world conference in October, 1953. Several decisions were also taken in connection with the forthcoming tenth anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, April 19, 1953.

### 55th Bund Anniversary Celebrated

The 55th anniversary of the founding of the Bund was commemorated by all Bundist organizations throughout the world.

*New York:* The celebration was held on October 10, 1952, at the McAlpin Hotel, and was attended by over 600 persons. The meeting also served to pay tribute to Comrade Leibetchke Berman, on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Speakers included: B. Tabachinsky, Emanuel Scherer, L. Berman, and Emanuel Nowogrudski. Greetings to the Bund were extended by N. Chanin for the Jewish Social-Democratic Federation and the Workmen's Circle. Robin Myers, general secretary of the Socialist Party, spoke on its behalf. The meeting also served to raise funds for the World Coordinating Committee. Over \$11,000 was collected.

David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, was unable to attend but sent the following message:

"I am very sorry that because of pressing business I cannot participate personally in celebrating the 55th anniversary of the Bund and the 70th birthday of Leibetchke Berman.

"I value both very highly. Both are near and dear to me. The Bund is my alma mater, the school which led me into the labor movement. Leibetchke Berman was my first teacher in this school, who helped me make my first steps. That is why today's celebration is not only an organizational holiday, but also a personal one for me.

"To this double celebration I send you my heartiest congratulations. To my friend, comrade and teacher, I send my sincerest wishes for many more years of fruitful activity."

Other meetings were held in Chicago and Los Angeles; in Montreal and Winnipeg; in Buenos Aires and Melbourne; in Paris and Brussels; in Mexico and Brazil.

### Bund Activities in France

During the month of October, a fund-raising campaign for the Bund daily *Undzer Shtime* was conducted. Over two million francs were collected and the funds are not yet all in. A campaign for new subscribers was also undertaken.

In November, a celebration of the 55th anniversary of the Bund and 50 years since the death of Hirsh Lekert was announced. A special issue of *Undzer Shtime* is being published.

### The Bund in Mexico

After Comrade Emanuel Nowogrudski's visit to Mexico last spring, the group of Bundists in Mexico have reorganized along the lines of basic post-war Bund principles (against Zionism, for continuation of Jewish life wherever Jews live; against assimilationism and Hebraization; for democratically elected Jewish community organizations; for the defense of democracy against Communism and fascism). It was also decided to maintain closer organizational ties with the World Coordinating Committee of the Bund. The Mexican Organization of the Bund, as it will now be known, has also urged the World Coordinating Committee to convene a conference of Bund organizations in Latin America for the discussion of common problems.

The Shloyme Mendelson Publishers recently celebrated the Yiddish publication of Sophia Dubnow Erlich's book, *Dos lebn un shafn fun shymen dubnow*.

### Norman Thomas Speaks at Bund Meeting

On October 16, 1952, Norman Thomas spoke before an enthusiastic Bundist meeting about his experiences in the Far East. Emanuel Nowogrudski chaired the meeting and there was a question period after Comrade Thomas's presentation. Afterwards, about \$200 was raised as a contribution to the Socialist Party's election campaign.

### Bund Work in Israel

After many difficulties, the Bund was able to obtain a one-story building of its

own in Tel Aviv. The building has a meeting hall with a seating capacity of 200 and office space.

Following the Bund conference in Israel, there has been renewed Bundist activity. Contact has been established with several new areas and the membership is growing.

### Prof. Hersch's Bund Tour

Professor Libman Hersch, of Geneva, visited Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and the Union of South Africa on behalf of the World Coordinating Committee of the Bund. The tour was successful organizationally and financially and Professor Hersch was welcomed wherever he went as a Jewish scholar, a unique personality, and a Bundist. He spoke very frequently not only under Bundist auspices, but also for non-partisan Jewish cultural groups. In Buenos Aires, Professor Hersch was invited to deliver a lecture at the State University.

### Session of Bund's Central Bureau

A closed conference called by the Central Bureau of the Bund in the United States and Canada was held June 21-22, 1952, in which representatives of Bund groups from New York, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Boston, Philadelphia, Montreal and Toronto participated.

The conference heard organizational reports from the delegates. The chief business of the meeting was devoted to reports and discussion on the problems of socialism in America, theoretical and practical, including union of the Jewish and general socialist movement and socialist strategy in election campaigns. The role of Jews and the Jewish labor movement in America was also intensively discussed.

### Fund Campaign in Los Angeles

An intensive fund-raising campaign for the Bund was conducted in Los Angeles recently, highlighted by Emanuel Scherer's visit to that city. During his three week stay in Los Angeles, Comrade Scherer spoke at many meetings, including a Workmen's Circle conference. Over \$3,000 was raised for the Bund. Dr. Scherer also visited Oakland, Petaluma, and San Francisco.