

Proclamation of the Party Congress

The second session of Mapam's 5th Convention is meeting during days of emergency. Peace and war lie precariously on the balance. Peace initiatives on the part of Israel are rejected by the Arab states, who continue to proclaim the decisions of the Chartoum Conference: No peace, no recognition, and no negotiations with Israel. But the positive approach of settlement and understanding between nations will in the end overcome the uncompromising Arab hatred. Peace between Israel and its neighbours is an absolute necessity for the prosperity and future of all of the nations of the region.

The terrorist organizations, with the open encouragement of the Arab States and their armies, continue to defy the cease-fire lines. Israeli borders and settlements are constantly attacked. Sabotage and criminal murder against civilians continue. Once again Tzahal (the Israeli Defence Forces) is forced to activate its strength to hit the bases of the saboteurs and murderers. On the defence front, young victims are falling. The convention is united in remembering the fallen, and praises the dedication and willingness to sacrifice on the part of the soldiers of Tzahal in the struggle for Israel's peace and security. The convention extends its greetings to the border settlements, who are standing in the front line of fire.

Because of the dangers confronting Israel and the region as a whole, we call upon the U.N. to persistently initiate efforts to bring about peace between Israel and the Arab states. We demand that the major powers remove the Middle-East from their global power rivalries.

While being constantly alert, maintaining a state of security readiness, and while increasing the Israeli army's strength and skills, the government should constantly make peace initiatives, and should aid any honest effort for peace, no matter what its source.

The convention notes its concern about the propaganda campaign for the annexation of the occupied territories, which finds expression in the appearances of various individuals and circles, appearances which damage the image of Israel, and its position in the eyes of world public opinion, as a country which is striving for peace and understanding with its neighbours. We call upon the government of Israel to stand up against this campaign and to clearly declare its policy which is aimed towards a peaceful settlement with secure and agreed upon borders.

Today too, a year and a half after the victory in the 6 Day War, aliyah (immigration) is being carried on at a very slow pace, and it in no way meets the historical and daily needs of the state. Only an increase in the ingathering of the exiles and the development of the pioneering youth movements both in Israel and in the Diaspora, will enable us to move forward in this area. The need for immigration and its productive absorption is of primary national and security importance. The convention calls upon the masses of the Jewish people in the Diaspora to come to Israel and join its builders and defenders.

The security needs are a great burden on the citizens of the state, and a just distribution of this burden is not only a requirement for social justice, but also a national-moral requirement for a nation which is fighting for its existence. The concern for the healthy structure of our society and for the rooting of the masses in productive work, emphasize the need for a fair standard of living for the worker, and the lessening of the social gaps between the various sectors of the nation. Encouragement of the productive and pioneering forces and the cultivation of class consciousness, are guarantees for the maintenance of the labour hegemony over the state.

The Soviet Union is continuing its great power policies in our area, which are accompanied by the encouragement of Arab hatred towards Israel, and an anti-Israel and anti-Zionist campaign, which is an anti-Jewish campaign, being carried on by the Soviet Union and some of its allies. The invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Pact armies has deepened the crisis of confidence in the socialist movements in the world and in Israel. Being loyal to the Socialist vision, we will struggle against distortions and we will deepen our belief in the victory of socialism, which is indivisible with humanism, democracy and the freedom of man.

The convention calls for the strengthening of the unity of the party. While preserving our organizational and ideological independence, we will increase our activity for the sake of our mission among the people, the state, and the working class.

(Unanimously adopted by the II. Session of the Fifth Party Congress, Tel Aviv, Nov. 1968).