

# IV: THE MIDDLE EASTERN CRISIS

*Solidarity of Israeli people with struggles of people of Egypt and Iran is a barrier to Middle Eastern pact and a force for peace*

*By Meyer Vilner*

## *Jerusalem*

**T**HE war preparations of the Western powers are running into energetic opposition from the people of the Middle East. In the lead of the fight for peace and national liberation in each country stands the working class. This people's fight compels the governments of these countries to oppose the plans of the imperialistic powers. But the peoples of the Middle East are not only directing their struggle against their main enemy, the imperialists of the United States, Britain and France, who work against the wishes of the people and are united in a scheme to subjugate the people and lead them into an anti-Soviet war. The people are also directing their opposition against their own local agents of the aggressors and their local governments, which are betraying national interests and peace in the Middle East and in the world.

The struggles of the Middle Eastern peoples for economic liberation and for the expulsion of foreign armies are strong factors in the defense of peace in the Middle East and in the world. Therefore, the current struggles of the Egyptian and Iranian peoples are vital contributions to the independence and security of Israel. No insulting words of Israeli reactionaries can alter this fact.

In Israel itself there are also powerful forces who oppose the policies of the Ben Gurion government that lead to starvation. Even elements which are intensely hostile to socialism and to the Soviet Union are beginning to understand that the policies of Ben Gurion and Moshe Sharret are involving Israel in great danger to peace and that adventuristic policies lead to the destruction of Israel.

This sentiment was expressed by Meyer Grossman in *Haboker*, right wing General Zionist daily, on November 16, 1951. "We favor absolute neutrality," he wrote, "not only toward the wrangling of the two blocs, but also in the event of a military conflict. . . . We draw the logical conclusion that we cannot participate in the high command of the [Western] bloc and we cannot make any military commitments to this bloc. . . . Our geographical position and our economic situation forbid our endorsement of such moves."

The strongest proponents of an anti-Soviet policy are the leaders of Mapai. Consequently, these leaders are the bitterest enemies of peace and of the working class. For their policies lead to an agreement with the reactionary elements of the Arab countries and elsewhere in the world. It is no

accident that these "socialist" leaders of Mapai are meeting with nazis in Western Germany who are trying to rebuild the Wehrmacht for a war of revenge.

The ultimate consequences of the Ben Gurion policy were stated by M. Medzini, Paris UN correspondent for the conservative daily, *Haaretz* (November 13, 1951): "The present proceedings are designed in the near future to unite [West] Germany with Israel in the same camp and should be protested." This policy also unites Israel with the most reactionary forces of the Arab world.

The Ben Gurion government is spreading lying propaganda against the peace forces of Israel and the Communist Party in order to hide from the people the truth about the regime's aim to negotiate a pact with Farouk, the Mufti, Nuri Said and King Talal. The mass demonstration organized by the Communist Party to express solidarity with the heroic fight of the people of Egypt and Iran were misinterpreted by those who endorse Farouk as ideological demonstrations in favor of Farouk. The Israeli reactionaries are really frightened by these manifestations of solidarity and friendship of the peace forces of Israel with the just struggle of the workers, students and peasants of Egypt to force the evacuation of British soldiery. No wonder Farouk and Naham Pasha are not happy about the struggle of the masses and are trying to suppress the protest movement of the Egyptian people. It is foolish to try to identify the struggle of the Egyptian masses with Farouk and his government, who are always prepared to collaborate with imperialism at the expense of the national interests and peace sentiments of the Egyptian people.

The Israeli reactionaries and the Ben Gurion government are coming to realize that their crusade of lies will make no converts and that other means must be used to stifle the will of the people for peace and national liberation. To combat the people's opposition to American rule and the conversion of Israel into a colonial war base, the Ben Gurion government has given greater power to the police and the military. Peace fighters are being thrown into prison and given long prison terms. The police are treating political prisoners like criminals. But arrests and police brutality will not persuade the people to allow themselves to join the camp of nazis. Increasing use of police and military is not a sign of strength but of weakness. It shows the people that the Ben Gurion regime is one of national betrayal and one which is leading the state to disaster. It proves to the people that the peace movement works for national defense against the forces of disaster.

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