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# **Bulletin**

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## **THE UNITED NATIONS**

The sixth plenary session of the United Nations, soon to open in Paris, may well expose to the world the critical position of the highest international body.

On the surface no great changes are discernible. As the United Nations authorities are assembling in Paris, as the personal and technical staffs arrive at the site of the plenary session, the public utterances are full of the usual optimistic expectations as to the results of the meetings to be held and the role of the United Nations in general.

Yet it is hardly possible to disregard the ominous shift in international events since the Soviet representative, at the previous United Nations assembly gathering in New York, dangled the prospect of a cease-fire in Korea before the eyes of the peace-loving nations of the world. In the interim period between the two sessions the swelling nationalistic wave in Iran as well as in Egypt caused a one-sided disavowal of their treaties with Britain thus bypassing the offices of the United Nations; the peace treaty with Japan was formally signed in San Francisco, under Soviet threats to unleash a new world conflagration; Turkey and Greece were invited to join the North Atlantic Defense Alliance by the Ottawa Conference; and even conditions for the rearmament of Germany were all but decided upon. The San Francisco and Ottawa conferences, undoubtedly important milestones in post-war internation-

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al relations, serve to emphasize the tendency of bypassing the United Nations for the settlement of major issues of the post-war political scene. As such, these gatherings have already had the effect of diminishing the importance of the United Nations as the clearing house for the differences existing among its member states. After the inclusion of the Mediterranean basin into the North Atlantic defense area and the attempt at a settlement of the Pacific area problems, both accomplished outside the framework of the United Nations, one cannot help but wonder as to what the United Nations assembly may be called upon to decide.

The trend thus appears to be a return to the old pattern of bilateral defense agreements. And it is of little import to emphasize again that it is the aggran-

dizement policy of the Soviet Union which is mainly responsible for this trend and which jeopardized the hope of mankind to embark—through the United Nations—upon a new era in international relations. The deplorable trend in international politics to circumvent the United Nations increases war tension throughout

the world and destroys the outlook for a peaceful advancement toward an economy of plenty and socialist democracy. A radical change of heart by the bosses of the Kremlin can play a major part in enhancing again the importance of the United Nations as an instrument of international politics.

## A NATIONALIST IMPASSE

The resolution passed recently by the United Nations Security Council calling upon Egypt to end her three-year-old blockade of strategic materials passing through the Suez Canal en route to Israel was flatly rejected by the whole Arab world. Declaring that the security of the Middle East was threatened by the rearmament of Israel coupled with the continuance of unlimited immigration, Egypt, fully supported by the League, called again on all the League members to intensify the boycott of Israel and, in particular, to prevent any oil from reaching the Haifa refineries.

Almost simultaneously, representatives of the State of Israel, at the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission in Paris, declared again in no uncertain terms that Israel could not conform to the resolution of the United Nations Assembly of December 11, 1948, which recognized the right of the Arab refugees to return to their homes, or to receive compensation if they did not choose to return. In contrast, the Israeli representatives categorically refused the admission of the Arab refugees on the ground that the Arabs would constitute unmanagable security problems in Israel. In

addition, Israel has denied responsibility for the Arab refugees' plight, which she holds to be a direct result of the Arabs' actions designed to crush Israel at her birth. The Arabs' real claim should be against the Arab governments that had sent armies against Israel, the representatives maintained.

Thus the impasse reached by the adversaries is complete. As is customary in our times, when nationalist forces are predominant, the clash of their adverse interests leads into a blind alley from which there is no way out.

The realities of life both in Israel and in the Arab states demand a just reconciliation, an end to the state of war still existing between them, and the beginning of a new era of common development and peaceful advancement toward economic security and social well-being. A common Israel-Arab state—the ultimate aim of a similar understanding between the belligerents—is, of course, still but a remote dream, as long as nationalist instincts and chauvinistic emotions eclipse the sober arguments of reason, justice, and economy.

## VICTOR SHULMAN IN MEMORIAM



Lazar Sadovsky, best known under his pseudonym of Victor Shulman as one of the most revered figures in the Jewish Labor BUND movement in czarist Russia, Poland, and Lithuania, died quietly on August 4 in a Canadian summer resort. Born in 1875 in Vilkomir, Lithuania, he was well known to generations of Jewish Socialists and prominent in Jewish literary circles.

As secretary of the Bundist daily FOLKSTSAITUNG in Warsaw, Shulman continued to publish the newspaper under the German siege of the Polish capital in 1939. He fled Warsaw after the occupation of the city by the Germans, reached Vilna, and came to the United States in 1941.

While in New York, Shulman continued his literary and historical work. He specialized in the literature on

the tragic annihilation of Polish Jewry by the Germans and wrote several monographs on the subject. He also edited and prepared for publication Bernard Goldstein's reminiscences of life in the Warsaw ghetto, published by UNSER TSAIT.

Victor Shulman belonged to the generation of Bundist pioneers. In the course of his work and his

countless prison terms and exile in czarist Russia, he came in contact with scores of personalities prominent in the revolutionary movement and took part in historic events. Only a very few of these experiences did he set down in print.

Another old Bundist is dead: One who symbolized so well the glorious development of the movement.

## SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL REESTABLISHED

At the end of June and at the beginning of July, 1951, an international Socialist conference held in Frankfort, Germany, re-established the Socialist International. Even in its present state the international Socialist body is twice as strong as was its predecessor, the Socialist and Labor International, which Hitler and his allies meant to have destroyed forever. Symbolically enough, the new Socialist International was established on the very soil where only a few years ago the criminal Hitler gangs eradicated all signs and symbols of Free Socialism.

The new Socialist International has 34 affiliated parties representing a membership of 10 million and a voting power of nearly 50 million people. These figures pertain only to Socialist strength in the free world. In the countries behind the Iron Curtain, as well as in countries such as Spain and Argentina still under the fascist yoke, Socialist influence doubtless likewise exists, even though it cannot be accurately evaluated.

The significance of the revival of the Socialist International was enhanced even more by the important declarations adopted at the Frankfort gathering. The unanimously adopted Declaration on Aims and Tasks of Democratic Socialism is an impressive document against totalitarianism, whether of the Communist or the Fascist brand. "Socialism seeks to replace capitalism by a system in which the public interests transcend the interests of private profit . . . The guiding principle of capitalism is private profit, the guiding principle of Socialism is the satisfaction of human needs," proclaims the declaration.

Americans will notice with particular interest that the declaration echoes Abraham Lincoln's words in stating that "Democracy means the government of the people, by the people, for the people." It is the striving toward the fullest measure of a complete political, social, economic and international democracy that motivates the Declaration and permeates its provisions.

Bund members all over the world should particularly welcome among the many provisions of a democratic society specified by the declaration in question, "the right to cultural autonomy for groups with their own language," envisaged in this important document of the revived Socialist International.

The struggle for the preservation of peace and freedom was reported to the delegates of the international Socialist conference by Morgan Phillips, General Secretary of the British Labor Party. He declared that "Socialists have a special duty to take all the steps required to prevent the catastrophe of a third world war. The catastrophe can be prevented only by re-arming up to a level high enough to deter the rulers in the Kremlin from repeating the Korean gamble somewhere else".

The statement adopted in Frankfort further declares: "Peace cannot be secured without arms. But arms alone are not enough. It is vital for the free democracies to have a constructive social and economic policy, aiming at full employment and a high standard of living."

The Bund delegates to the Conference were Professor Libman Hersch of Geneva, Switzerland, Rafal Ryba of Paris, and Dr. Emanuel Scherer of New York. They participated in the debates of the Conference and also worked on the special committees appointed by the Conference. Professor Libman Hersch, in an impressive address, gave way to the emotions of the Jewish labor movement, under the banner of the Bund, which caused it to decide, in spite of the unparalleled crime committed by Nazi Germany against the Jewish population, to participate in an international Socialist gathering even though it was held on German soil.

## BUND WORLD COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Executive Session of the Bund World Coordinating Committee recently met in Paris, France. The agenda of the meetings included activity reports of the Executive Bureau, reports from various Bund organizations, a report on the work of the Committee's European Secretariat, and a discussion of basic policy problems on the post-war program of the Bund movement. The session also appointed Bund delegates to the International Socialist Congress in Frankfurt, Germany, and debated the main points on the agenda of this Congress as well as the Bund delegation's attitude toward holding a meeting of the Socialist International on German soil in general.

### REARMAMENT and PEACE

The workers and the masses of the populace are invariably those who suffer most as a result of any war, any violent clash between nations. Not only the hostilities on the battlefields, but also the war atmosphere accompanying them are a fertile ground for all reactionary forces, all those attempting forcibly, by the application of physical violence, to slow the advance of humanity toward an order of equality, justice, and righteousness.

Yet the one that suffered particular hardships during the course of every war was the Jewish population. More than any other group of humanity, the Jews paid the highest toll for every war craze that shook the world. During World War II six million Jewish children, men, and women were slaughtered by Nazi Germany before the very eyes of the world. The very existence of the Jewish people—its majority, living among other peoples as well as its minority, established in Israel — depends upon the preservation of peace in the world.

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Following World War II, as Nazism and Fascism lay shattered, humanity enjoyed an opportunity unique in history to rid itself of the danger of war and of the heavy burden of constant re-armament.

The session resolved to initiate within the Bund movement a basic discussion on the role and the activities of the Bund in present-day Jewish life. The session also adopted statements on the plight of the Jews behind the Iron Curtain; on the persecution of the Yiddish language in the State of Israel; on the developments in Franco Spain; and on the tasks of the Socialist movement regarding the crusade for a lasting peace.

The text of the *Statement on re-armament and peace* will be found below:

But the aggressive, imperialist policies of the Soviet Union, which conquered a number of European nations by force of its armed fist, which terrorizes through imposed Communist minority governments the enslaved peoples and threatens other European countries as well, destroyed this unique opportunity.

It is now more than a year that the "localized" world war is in progress: The Communist camp on one side, and the democracies under the flag of the United Nations on the other, are actively engaged on the battlefields of Korea.

The Korean war served as a danger signal for the democratic world and caused it to resume the course of constantly increasing armaments as a means of stopping further imperialist expansion of the Soviet Union and as a means of preventing a third world war. Thus it came about that we entered a period of mounting arms production, which threatens the well-being of the population and which could be utilized by those military and industrial circles that sense in the defense production a chance for greater profits, to further reactionary policies in the political and social sphere and to augment the influence of the military upon the entire public life of the community. This new period places special tasks before the Socialist movement.

Aware that a further spread of Communist rule would bring about, for the laborers and working masses in the democratic nations, the destruction of their democratic rights and freedoms and a lowering of their standard of living, the Socialist movement realizes the necessity of armed resistance against Communist aggression. Simultaneously, however, the Socialist movement must not lose sight of the dangers created owing to the armament race.

First of all, the dangerous notion that re-armament is the *only* possible way of combating the danger of a new war must be rejected. A systematic and incessant struggle must be waged against the two-faced, supposedly "peace-loving" policies of the Communists, which in reality are but a phase of their aggressive, imperialist designs. A struggle must likewise be waged against the egoistic class policies of the capitalists which, through unjust taxation, through high prices and inflation, aim to burden the popular masses with an unjust part of the swollen armament budgets. All attacks on the part of reactionary forces against the political and social achievements of the workers must be unequivocally combated. The struggle against Communism must not cause the Socialist movement to cease its struggle against the evils of capitalism and for the transformation of human society on socialist principles.

All attempts to include fascist governments—like the Franco regime in Spain—in the democratic camp should be resisted with the utmost stubbornness. Similar attempts strengthen the rotten Franco regime at a time when the anti-fascist forces in Spain are constantly growing. The military advantages of similar alliances, even when such advantages can be demonstrated, are outweighed by far by the danger of disgracing the entire democratic camp and its ideals in the eyes of millions of workers.

The Socialist camp should strongly oppose the re-armament of both parts of Germany. Such a move in-

creases the danger of a renaissance of Nazism or of old German militarism. The Jewish Socialist movement, a movement of the people that suffered most from the bestial crimes of Nazi Germany, voices its most outspoken protest against the arming of Germany, as long as the danger exists that the Nazi generals and military figures in the manner of Hitler will be in positions of authority in the German army. The past Soviet attempts to militarize Eastern Germany, which will ultimately result in the re-armament of Western Germany as well, are one more example of the dangers humanity is made to suffer owing to the aggressive policies of the Soviet Union.

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The Socialist camp rejects categorically the idea of a preventive war against the Soviet Union. Re-armament of the democratic camp is justified insofar as it is designed as a means to deter the threatening aggressor, as a means of preventing a new world war which now, due to the existence of atomic weapons, would be even more terrifying and even more destructive than previous world struggles. A preventive war, however, is the very opposite of this aim.

The democratic camp should follow a plan of its own designed to free the peoples still suffering under colonial or semi-colonial rule, to raise their well-being, their culture, and their self esteem, and to impose radical agrarian reforms—a plan which would appeal to hundreds of millions of people in Asia and Africa and which would transform them into inspired fighters against Communist slavery and for the ideals of a liberated democratic world.

To develop the economic and social well-being in its own nations, to raise the defense potential against possible aggression, as long as international disarmament under an effective control is not established, to conduct a responsible policy of peace on the international forum, and to attempt to bring a just end to the local war in Korea—these are the only directives for the Socialist movement to follow if it is to complete successfully its historic mission.

## ABRAHAM CAHAN (1860 - 1951)

On September 1, 1951, Abraham Cahan, Editor-in-Chief of the Jewish daily Forward for more than half a century, died in New York. He personified the virtues and the shortcomings of his generation.

Abraham Cahan left his native Russia before the Russian Socialist movement crystallized into a modern political force; he left Jewish life in Russia before the emergence there of the two modern political trends among the Jews; the Bund and the Zionist movement. Cahan could not find his proper place between these two poles of Jewish political thought and struggle; he oscillated between them. Though pro-Israel, he did

not become a Zionist. Though a Socialist conscious of specific problems of Jewish Socialism, he did not become a Bundist. At times he sympathized with the Bund, at times he stubbornly opposed its ideology. He possessed the qualities of a skilled prizefighter, and this skill added power and directness to the blows he delivered to his enemies and opponents. It also made him somewhat inflexible in his dealings with problems of modern Jewish life, particularly in his appraisal of the role and aspirations of the Bund.

Political differences notwithstanding, the Bund pays homage to the memory of a great man and a great Socialist warrior.

## FROM OUR MOVEMENT

### New York

The Bund Organization of New York held a memorial meeting on October 6, 1951, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the death of the two Bund pioneers, Noah Portnoy and Vladimir Kosovsky, as well as to honor the recently deceased Victor Shulman.

The speakers at the meeting were Dr. B. Hoffman (Zivien), Emanuel Nowogrudsky, Emanuel Scherer, B. Shefner, and C. Wasser. Chaim Grade, renowned Jewish poet, recited some of his works. Oscar Rabinowitz gave a violin recital.

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This year's Bund anniversary gathering was held on October 6 in the McAlpin Hotel, New York, and was particularly impressive. The sum of \$5,000 was raised for the Bund World Coordinating Committee at the meeting.

### E.. Nowogrudsky in South America

Emanuel Nowogrudsky, Secretary General of the Bund World Coordinating Committee, spent several weeks in South America, visiting Bund groups in Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro, and Sao Paulo, and raising funds for the World Coordinating Committee. During countless visits, talks, lectures, and debates, Mr. Nowogrudsky sought to acquaint the Jewish communities in South America with the aims and activities of the Bund Coordinating Committee. His fund-raising campaign netted 96,555.00 pesos in Ar-

gentina; 4,465 pesos in Uruguay; and \$2,115 and 80,220 cruzeros in Brazil.

### H. Himelfarb in Los Angeles

H. Himelfarb, during his visit in Los Angeles in the spring of 1951, raised \$2,240.50 for the Bund World Coordinating Committee. The campaign was aided by the Friends of the Bund group in Los Angeles, the Workmen's Circle District Committee, and leaders of the Jewish Labor Committee and the Jewish Socialist Farband.

### Dr. Emanuel Scherer in Europe

Dr. Emanuel Scherer was delegated by the Bund World Coordinating Committee to take part in the Committee's Executive Session in Paris. He was elected by that meeting to represent the Bund at the Frankfurt congress of the Socialist International. He also visited the Bund organizations in London, Brussels, and Paris, as well as the small Bund groups still in existence in Germany. In addition, Mr. Scherer addressed the Fifth Conference of the Jewish Socialist Bund in France on behalf of the World Coordinating Committee, after having taken an active part in the preparations for this conference.

Despite the financial difficulties plaguing the Bund organizations in Europe, the Bund groups responded readily to Dr. Scherer's appeal for funds for the Coordinating committee. The campaign in London is not yet completed; the Brussels group contributed \$500; while more than \$700 was raised in Paris.



## Bund Week in Chicago

The annual Bund Week in Chicago was highly successful this year, thanks to the efforts of the Friends of the Bund group and its Chairman, Mr. M. L. Polin. Dr. Emanuel Scherer visited Chicago in the course of the Bund Week and reported on his recent trip to Europe on behalf of the Coordinating Committee. He also took part in the open forum on Socialism and Zionism held at the Workmen's Circle camp and presided over by H. Shneider.

Contributions totaling more than \$2,000 were made during the Bund Week for the Coordinating Committee.

## Montevideo

A S. Mendelsohn Cultural League was established in Montevideo to honor the memory of the late warrior for Jewish culture. A Yiddish library is being established by the League, and plans for a play workshop, vocal ensemble, lecture course, and rest camp are under way.

## Victor Shulman in Memoriam

In honor of Victor Shulman were held memorial meetings in various countries where Bund Organizations are established, in New York, Toronto, Montreal, Paris, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Sao Paulo, Santos, Bruxelles, Stockholm, Melbourne and Tel-Aviv.

## In Honor of Leon Finkelstein

On the first anniversary of the death of Leon Finkelstein, the outstanding Yiddish man of letters, lecturer and historian, the ceremonies of unveiling his tombstone on the cemetery of the Workmen's Circle, New York, took place on October 7, 1951.

Addresses were delivered by David Meyer, M. Mandelman and M. Moses, Chairman of the club "Tlomazke 13."

## Bund in France

The largest Bund Organization on the European continent held its fifth national convention on July, 1951, in Paris, France. Dr. Emanuel Scherer, on behalf of the World Coordinating Committee of the Bund, addressed the convention.

L. Sztern's report about the activities of the Bund in France was well illustrated with various data and facts. He emphasized, that during the last year the Bund in France managed to occupy the attention of the Jewish working population and to serve their needs. UNSER SHTIME, the daily newspaper of the Bund in France, did its utmost to call attention to the sore spots of Jewish life in France.

Twenty delegates to the national convention participated in the debates. Professor L. Hersch delivered an address on the post-war problems of Jewish life. The adopted statements and the resolutions established the policies of the Bund in France.

After the national convention, the Bund in France proclaimed a campaign to raise money for its daily newspaper UNSER SHTIME. Almost 1,000,000 francs was collected in the first month after the appeal was issued.

## Bund in Israel

Excerpts from a letter:

"It is almost a year since the Bund organization in Israel was established. Our organizational work must overcome tremendous difficulties. The Zionists are influential not only because of their ideology. They have built many auxiliary institutions which operate with large budgets and possess all kinds of facilities to influence the populace. Bundists encounter malice everywhere. We cannot even hold rallies because there seems to be a plot not to rent public halls to the Bund. We even lack a decent hall for our regular party meetings.

"All the difficulties notwithstanding, our monthly LEBNS FRAGEN is printed regularly. We have already published six issues. Its circulation grows steadily.

"We have established a Jewish library that bears the name of Franz Kursky. From the U.S.A. as well as from other countries this library is steadily receiving many hundreds of volumes of precious Jewish books and publications. The Franz Kursky Library has already gained acclaim and is revered as a bastion of Jewish culture."

## TO OUR READERS

*It is now three years that we are trying to present in the BULLETIN the views and policies of the BUND organizations and groups throughout the world—organizations which constitute a distinct factor in Jewish political life and Jewish public opinion. We feel certain the material to be found in the BULLETIN pages is not available elsewhere, and we also believe we are meeting a definite need of the English readers who are intent upon acquainting themselves with the various trends in Jewish life.*

*In these troubled days in Jewish history, when Zionism engulfs the Jewish press and Jewish public opinion in general, and when Zionist spokesmen attempt to present their movement not as ONE of the shades of Jewish political thought but as THE one and only political faith of all Jews; today, when all those daring to raise an independent voice and to follow an independent thought are castigated as traitors to the Jewish national cause; now, we believe, it is of utmost importance that the other side of the Jewish political picture be presented to the Jewish as well as to the non-Jewish world. Within its limited possibilities and its meager resources, our BULLETIN attempts this tremendous task by bringing the views of the Jewish Socialist groups the world over.*

*We have never set a subscription rate to the BULLETIN, believing it to be a public service rather than a financial venture. The numerous reprints from our articles and news were our only reward. We still believe that was right, and we do not intend to charge our readers for the BULLETIN.*

*However, the cost of publishing and distributing the BULLETIN has been considerable, and we are forced to appeal to you, our readers, for voluntary contributions to ensure its further existence. We are confident you will recognize the importance of maintaining our publication and will respond quickly and effectively to our appeal for financial aid.*

*You are urged to contribute at once. Please make your contributions payable to:*

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