



*Pring*

# The Jewish Labor Bund

Published by the

**WORLD COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE "BUND"  
AND AFFILIATED JEWISH SOCIALIST ORGANIZATIONS**

175 East Broadway

New York 2, N. Y.

ORchard 4-1587

# Bulletin

Vol. I, No. 1



October 1947

## Editors' Note

This is not only a first issue of a new periodical. It is also the first time that a newly formed Jewish Labor body—the World Coordinating Committee of the BUND and Affiliated Jewish Socialist Organizations—appears before the English speaking world.

There is no lack of publications on Jewish affairs. In starting this one we are not just adding one more to those already in existence. We are giving through it expression to a trend within the Jewish community which differs distinctively from other Jewish organizations. For, ours is a movement opposing the Zionist as well as the assimilationist answer to the Jewish question. We hold to the view that Jewish salvation lies not in an escape of a part of the Jews to the "promised land" of Palestine, nor in submerging of the Jews into the ocean of Gentile peoples. Jewish salvation is, in our opinion, an essential part of mankind's emancipation from oppression, from want, from fear,—an emancipation which can be achieved through the victory of freedom, democracy and socialism.

With this attitude, this Bulletin will be a diversion from the one-sided information which dominates the publications on Jewish affairs in this country.

We do not delude ourselves that this BULLETIN will stand against the flowing tide of the mighty propaganda of the Jewish trends and views which we deem wrong and harmful. However, we do hope, that telling the facts of and explaining the views pertaining to the BUND movement, we shall contribute to a better understanding and subsequently to a real solution of the Jewish problems.

## Contents

- Memorandum to the U. N. on D. P.
- The 1st World Conference of the BUND
- Statement on Jewish Problems
- Murder of H. Erlich and W. Alter
- Elimination of Antisemitism
- 50 Years of Jewish Labor
- BUND and the International

## 50th BUND ANNIVERSARY

The General Jewish Workers' Union, known under and referred to by its Yiddish name of the BUND will celebrate this year its 50th Anniversary. Founded in autumn 1897 as Jewish Socialist Party in the Great Empire of Tsarist Russia—the BUND soon became the most active and best known organization of the Jewish working people in Eastern Europe. It has greatly influenced Jewish workers outside of Eastern Europe and contributed considerably to

the development of the Jewish workers movement in this country.

At present celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the BUND are being planned and prepared in many countries of Europe and America, including the U. S. A.

The reader will find some details about the philosophy of the BUND and its aims on the following pages, especially in the Resolution on the 50th BUND Anniversary passed by the recent World Conference of the BUND.

# MEMORANDUM TO THE U. N. ON DISPLACED PERSONS

The following memorandum was submitted to the Secretary General of the United Nations on behalf of the World Coordinating Committee of the BUND and Affiliated Jewish Socialist Organizations with the respectful request that it be presented to the United Nations and, specifically, to the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, as well as to such other United Nations agencies as the Secretary General will deem necessary.

## I

The World Coordinating Committee of the BUND and Affiliated Jewish Socialist Organizations was established in May 1947, at the world conference in Brussels, Belgium, by participating BUND organizations and groups from the following countries: In Europe—Poland, France, Belgium, Great Britain, Germany (from D. P. camps), Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland; outside Europe—the United States, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Palestine, and China (Shanghai).

The organization which initiated this World Coordinating Committee, the General Jewish Workers Union, usually referred to by the name BUND, has behind it fifty years of struggle and activity in all fields of both the Jewish and general political life in the countries of Eastern Europe (Czarist Russia, Poland, Rumania and others). Under the czarist regime the BUND won fame for its outstanding part in the struggle for freedom waged by the peoples of Russia. In independent Poland the BUND attained a position of pre-eminent political strength among the upward of the three million Jews in the country, carrying shortly before the outbreak of the war the majority vote of the Jewish population in Warsaw and Lodz, Poland's largest cities.

The successful activities of the BUND in Poland, and previously in Russia, influenced Jewish life in communities in other countries as well. BUND organizations and groups were active in many countries outside Eastern Europe prior to September 1939. Following the war and its attending circumstances with regard to Jewish life, new BUND groups were formed in still other countries. These groups in the countries listed above established the World Coordinating Committee of the BUND and Affiliated Jewish Socialist Organizations.

The BUND Coordinating Committee represents, however, more than its affiliated organizations alone. It also speaks for an independent ideological school of thought among the Jewish people everywhere, a philosophy basically different from the Zionist, the

Orthodox, the assimilationist, and other orientations existing among the Jews all over the world.

We differ from all the various *Zionist* theories chiefly because our goal is not the principal aim of the Zionists—a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine. We hold that even the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine would not solve the Jewish problem and would fail to bring salvation to the millions of Jews, the majority of the Jewish people, those who live and will continue to live outside the Palestine borders.

We differ from the *Orthodox* orientation in about the same way that the democratic, progressive and Socialist elements of every nation differ from their respective religious and clerical movements and parties. In contradistinction from the Orthodox Jewish view; our movement aims at and fights to achieve the separation of religion—Jewish included—from politics and the strict observance of the principle that religion is a private matter of the individual. We also strive toward the modernization and secularization of Jewish culture and cultural creativeness.

We oppose the *assimilationist* trends among the Jews because we consider the Jews a national entity. As such, we believe, they have the right to and should be afforded the opportunity of developing their own national culture free from all interference, within the framework of democratic laws in every land, and in brotherly cooperation with the progressive forces of every nation.

We are a Jewish Socialist movement. With the Socialists the world over we strive for the realization of free, democratic socialism. We assert that the needs and aspirations of the Jewish people can be satisfied only by means of a struggle waged by them in the countries where they now live and carried on together with the peoples of those countries. Only thus can anti-semitism be combatted, only in that way can the conditions leading to the final solution of the Jewish problem be created.

Because of what we have stated about the nature of our movement as an independent and effective body of opinion among the Jewish population of the world, and acting on the premise that the United Nations should, can, and wish to avoid one-sidedness and partiality in the consideration of any problem before them, we ask that the existence and the views of the World Coordinating Committee of the BUND and Affiliated Jewish Socialist Organizations be taken into consideration in all instances involving action by any agency or commission of the United Nations in matters of immediate concern to the Jewish people.

# The First World Conference of the Jewish Labor BUND

## (Summarized Report)

The first World Conference of the Jewish labor organizations and groups generally known under the Yiddish name of BUND was organized through the efforts of the BUND Representation in the United States and held in Brussels, Belgium, during the week of May 4th to 11th, 1947.

Delegates from Poland, France, Belgium, England, the Netherlands, Sweden, Italy, as well as from the DP Camps in Germany and Austria, attended the Conference. Prof. L. Hersch, of the University of Geneva, participated actively in the plenary sessions and committee meetings. America's delegates came from New

York, Chicago and Canada. Australia was represented by a delegate from Melbourne, and delegates from Palestine and Shanghai, were also present. Altogether there were 56 delegates representing BUND organizations and groups in 18 countries of the Old and New Worlds.

Louis de Bruckere and Brocops, two of the most notable leaders of the Belgian Socialist Party, personally extended their greetings to the Conference. Among the congratulatory letters and cables were those from the British Labor Party, the Swiss, American, Swedish and Norwegian Socialist Parties, the Jewish Socialist

### II

In the hope that we shall soon have the opportunity of developing the detailed views of the BUND regarding the Jewish problem as a whole, we confine ourselves at this time to one matter which, we are convinced, is at present the most urgent, indeed burning core of the Jewish question at issue,—the matter of the uprooted Jews in the Displaced Persons Camps.

Next to the cold-blooded, premeditated slaughter of six million Jews by the Nazi beasts, the very existence of a Jewish D. P. problem at the present time is the outstanding tragedy of the Jewish people. This tragedy is emphasized by the essentially indifferent attitude so far displayed by the governments of the nations victorious in this war. After the lack of concern displayed by the world at the time of the Nazi mass-murders, this attitude is now manifested for the second time in the short span of some six years.

The authorities in command of the mighty anti-Hitler coalition failed from the outset to take effective steps toward halting the destruction of the Jews by the murder machine of the Third Reich. But if at that time an attempt could be made to justify inaction with the excuse that actual rescue work was practically impossible, such an excuse no longer has meaning today. The world is sufficiently large, and adequate means of solving the D. P. problem exist. But nothing has been done, and the surviving quarter of a million of those who suffered most from Nazi terror, the Jews, still languish in the D. P. Camps. This is a shattering blow to every concept of decent humanity, and it can only be explained in the light of an assumption that those who are now so callously indifferent to suffering were, in the first instance, not overly aroused by the Nazi slaughter of six million Jews.

As Jews vitally interested in the fate of their people and as Socialists and democrats placing all hope and expectations in the triumph of the ideals of the solidarity of all nations as well as of economic and political equality and freedom established for the welfare of all, we call for an end of the catastrophe and shame of the camps—the catastrophe for those suffering the iniquity of living there, and the shame to the nations who permit this condition to continue.

It is our opinion that the solution of the Jewish D. P. problem is not contingent upon the decisions reached with regard to the political status of Palestine. We resolutely reject the point of view advanced and cultivated by various groups and individuals claiming that Palestine is and can be the only place on earth where the Jewish D. P.'s can be satisfactorily domiciled. Such a position does harm to the interests of the uprooted Jews, is harmful to Palestine, and conflicts with the great ideals of international justice and fairness. The true interests of the Jewish displaced persons, considered outside of special and irrelevant factional and partisan aims, even as the proper realization of the principles of democracy and humanity, demand that

*the Jewish displaced persons at once be given the opportunity and the means of settling wherever they choose, in any free country of the world, including Palestine; or, if they so desire, to return to their native homelands.*

We consequently address the Secretary General and all the appropriate commissions and agencies of the United Nations urging the sole just and effective solution of the burning Jewish D. P. problem—the opening of the doors to all lands to those who have suffered most fearfully from the barbarous brutality of the Nazis.—(Submitted to the U. N. in August, 1947).

Farband and the Workmens' Circle of the United States (the largest fraternal organization of American Jewish Labor). B. Tabachinsky greeted the delegates on behalf of the American Jewish Labor Committee.

#### *Bund Activities in Various Countries*

The delegates listened attentively to the speakers depicting Jewish life at the present time, telling of its hardships and adverse conditions, reporting on the campaign for recognition of the Yiddish language and modern Yiddish culture, and describing the close relationship existing between the BUND organizations and groups and the Socialist and Labor Movements in their respective countries.

Applause greeted Michal Szuldenfrei, Chairman of the Jewish Labor BUND in Poland, who reported on the policy and activities of his Party in Poland. The tragic fate of the Jewish community there, the heroic Jewish reconstruction work, the untiring efforts of the BUND to insure the existence of the remainder of Polish Jewry—these issues were discussed at length as an essential part of the Conference agenda. Particular attention was devoted to the report of B. Calewicz, of Tel-Aviv, relating to the conditions of the Jewish community in Palestine. The reports from Sweden and Italy were of specific interest to the delegates, since new Jewish Labor BUND organizations had recently been installed in these countries for the first time.

The delegates accepted with great satisfaction the report on BUND activities in France, where the first Bundist daily newspaper issued since the termination of the war, "Our Voice", is being published in Yiddish, and where a numerous and thriving Jewish community exists. The delegates from Britain, Belgium, Australia, the United States and Canada reported on conditions in their respective countries. Many delegates expressed their hope and belief that the upward of 5 million Jews in the United States should and would achieve a distinguished place in the Jewish Socialist movement and activities as represented by the BUND.

The Conference was deeply moved by the reports of the representative from the DP Camps, a plea describing the life and suffering of all the Jews in the camps, echoing the needs and desires of these unfortunate people, and protesting against the Zionists attacks upon their fellow camp inmates, the Jewish Socialists, the Bundists, solely because the latter retained their anti-Zionist views and beliefs.

#### *Major Points of Discussions*

Two major points were considered by the Conference: the problems of Socialism and the subjects of post-war Jewish life. After the discussion on the first

point, led by E. Nowogrudsky and M. Wasser and its summation, it was unanimously agreed not to adopt any binding resolution on the controversial problems of Socialist tactics and policies.

All matters on the agenda which pertained to post-war Jewish life were considered of paramount importance. These included a discussion on the future of the Jewish people; a consideration of ways and means to expand Yiddish secular culture and language; the problem of the Jewish community in Palestine; methods of educating the coming generation of Jewish youth for the Jewish Socialist Movement, etc. The discussion on these and related topics, with more than 20 delegates participating, was opened and concluded by S. Mendelsohn and Prof. L. Hersch. Dr. Emanuel Scherer brought up for discussion the subject of anti-semitism and the methods of combatting this evil. The general exchange of opinions on the problems of Jewish life included a discussion on Dr. Scherer's report.

Among others, the following resolutions were accepted: A Manifesto to the Jewish masses; a resolution concerning the 50th BUND anniversary, which is to be celebrated in the autumn of 1947; a resolution on the problems of Jewish life; a resolution on anti-semitism; a resolution on the need for strengthening the Jewish community in Poland; a resolution on international Socialist conferences; a resolution protesting the execution of Victor Alter and Henryk Erlich; etc.

#### *BUND World Cooperation Established*

The last act of the conference was the creation of a body to coordinate the activities of the BUND organizations and groups as well as those of related Jewish Socialist organizations in various countries. It was decided to form a World Coordinating Committee of the BUND, whose work would be devoted to this task. The Coordinating Committee consists of delegations from all BUND organizations and groups represented at the Brussels World Conference. The following were elected to the Executive of this Committee: B. Ciechanowski, J. Fogel, Prof. L. Hersch, G. Jaszunski, S. Mendelsohn, A. Mintz, E. Nowogrudsky, L. Odes, R. Ryba, E. Scherer, F. Schragger, M. Szuldenfrei, and M. Wasser. The Coordinating Committee Headquarters is to be in New York. An European Secretariat,—housed in Paris—which is to cooperate with the American headquarters, was also elected.

The first session of the newly-elected Executive of the World Coordinating Committee of the BUND was held the morning after the closing of the Conference in Brussels and was continued a few days later in Paris.

## Statement on Jewish Problems

After the unprecedented annihilation of six million of our brethren in Europe, the historic responsibility of re-creating Jewish national life fell upon the shoulders of American Jewry. This is one of the major points propounded in the resolution on Jewish post-war problems which was adopted by the recently held World Conference of the BUND.

The resolution concerns itself with a great many problems vital to contemporary Jewish life. The most significant highlights of this important document are quoted below.

### *The Struggle against Fascism and Reaction*

The years of the Nazi occupation of Europe, where six million Jews—the most vigorous part of the Jewish people—have been exterminated in a manner never hitherto encountered in the annals of our civilization, caused drastic changes in the life and prospects of the Jews the world over. After stating this, the resolution calls upon the Jewish masses throughout the world to carry on relentlessly the fight against fascists and Nazi forces. To help in rebuilding a free, democratic world, the Jewish masses must combine efforts with all the free Socialist and democratic elements.

The Conference raises its voice in protest, the resolution continues, against all Allied countries whose ears were deaf to the pleas of those dying in the ghettos. Eternal guilt will continue to blemish the conscience of all those who, having been able to help the tortured victims of Nazi bestiality, glibly refused to do so.

Both Fascism and Nazism grew as a result of the dying capitalist order. The Jewish masses are aware of the fact that not only is capitalism the cause of human bondage, but that it also, in the last count, presents a grave danger to their physical existence. The Jewish people can attain security and an opportunity of free cultural and national development only within an order of social and economic equality, freedom, and democracy.

### *Responsibility for the Existence of the Jewish People*

The many millions of the Jews in Eastern Europe, who had once inspired their brethren all over the world, fell victim to the most tragic catastrophe. The responsibility for the future of the Jews must now rest with the remaining Jewish communities, wherever they may be.

It is gravely important that the Jewish community

in Poland be helped to reestablish itself. Jewish life in all of Eastern Europe must likewise be revived. At the same time the Jews of Western Europe, who are now struggling for a renaissance of Jewish cultural values are worthy of the warmest sympathy.

The so-called "exodus of the Jews from Europe" is a wrong and dangerous political catchword. The Brussels Conference calls upon all BUND organizations to continue fighting with all the means at their disposal against these irresponsible voices promulgating the mass emigration of Jews from European countries.

### *The Task of American Jewry*

Upon the shoulders of the upward of five million American Jews was placed an extremely grave responsibility. American Jewry must stop playing the part of merely an important source of aid for the Jewish communities outside the Western Hemisphere; it must develop on the spot, in America, into an active center of a Jewish cultural renaissance. It is the urgent task of the Jewish Socialist Movement of America to take steps toward implanting the ideals of Socialist emancipation in the minds of the Jewish workingmen, to prompt the awakening among the American Jews of their national consciousness, and to spur them on to greater activity.

The Yiddish language is a mighty weapon in the struggle for the existence of the Jewish people as a national and cultural entity. The BUND organizations and groups are expected to carry on the fight for a position for the Yiddish language which would make it a dominant factor in Jewish life.

### *Zionism Opposed*

Zionism cannot solve the problems of the great majority of the Jewish people, who live and will continue to live outside the boundaries of Palestine. On the other hand, the Zionist requests for Jewish statehood in Palestine exposes the Jews there to dangers and difficulties threatening the very existence of the Jewish settlement in that country.

Particularly dangerous and shameful was the part played by the Zionist Movement during and after the last war. By concentrating on their main aim, viz., the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine, the Zionists have, in effect, diminished the possibility of an all-out mobilization of the Jewish people for the all-important task—obtaining from the anti-Hitler forces the maximum of really effective help in saving the lives of Jews under Nazi domination. And by following since the conclusion of the war a similar

policy of restricting themselves to the cause of Palestine alone, the Zionists have done considerable damage to the future of the 250,000 Jews in the Displaced Persons Camps. Due to the Zionist attitude, every large-scale campaign for opening the gates of the world to these unfortunate victims of Nazi terror was paralyzed from the start. In view of the foregoing, the Brussels Conference resolves that the struggle against the theory and practices of Zionism must not be diminished.

#### *Solidarity with Labor Stressed*

In time like the present ones, it is particularly important that the comradeship and solidarity of the Jewish people with the non-Jewish working men of the world be stressed and actively followed. For Socialism remains the most lofty inspiration and most real hope for the hard-pressed Jewish masses. It is for this reason that only these Jewish elements which remain true to the emancipating ideals of Socialism, ideals embracing the whole of mankind, are, at the same time, the true carriers of the struggle for the continued existence of a Jewish people as a distinctive cultural entity.

#### *Practical Directives*

1. All BUND members should become actively affiliated with the Socialist Movement in their respective countries; it is desirable that they form autonomous units within the Socialist party of their countries.

2. The BUND members should attempt to transform the general Jewish bodies formed in some countries during the years of war (e. g. in France, Poland, et al.) into truly democratic institutions, representatives of which would be chosen by the Jewish inhabitants of the respective countries themselves. Where no such institutions exist, the BUND organization should consider it its duty to lead the fight for the establishment of a Jewish autonomous body democratically elected by the Jewish people.

Within the framework of these autonomous Jewish councils, the BUND is to assert its stand concerning all matters affecting Jewish life in general, resist all forces of Jewish reaction and assimilation, and struggle for the cause of a progressive, secular Jewish culture.

3. Those of the BUND members who are engaged in manual and other wage-earning work should take a keen interest in their respective trade unions.

4. The BUND organizations should strive to increase the Jewish masses' interest in the cooperative movement.

5. The social and welfare work, which has played such an important role in the BUND activities during

the war and which is still of considerable importance, should be continued and extended.

6. The Jewish children in Europe should be afforded special consideration.

7. Modern Jewish culture—literature, art, the sciences, etc.—should be energetically supported.

8. The BUND organizations are expected to do their utmost to create wherever possible a network of general, government-recognized Jewish schools, or, at least, supplementary schools on various educational levels. These schools should be conducted according to progressive educational principles; they should be lay schools, genuinely dedicated to the teaching of social justice, the brotherhood of all men, and the love of the Jewish people. The language of instruction in these schools should be Yiddish, and they should be organized in a manner similar to the former CISHO Schools in pre-war Poland.

9. Special attention should be given, and special measures employed, with regard to the problems of Jewish re-settlement and population, since these problems are an aftermath of the physical annihilation of the largest part of European Jewry during the years of war.

10. The BUND organizations are called upon to carry on systematically the fight for the abolishment of immigration barriers in all countries of the world; in particular, efforts should be made to expose and remove open or hidden limitations on immigration because of race, creed, nationality, and to fight other instances of discrimination against the would-be immigrants. The direct and indirect victims of Nazism and fascism especially deserve free immigration rights to the countries of their choosing.

### **Murder of Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter**

The following protest resolution was adopted by the Brussels conference of BUND groups and organizations:

"The First World Conference of the BUND Organizations and Groups raises its voice in boundless pain and burning protest against the murder committed on the great leaders of the Jewish Socialist Movement, Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter.

The memory of these great leaders will live as long as the Jewish Labor Movement will continue."

(Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter were executed by the Soviet Police in December 1941).

## Elimination of Anti-Semitism

(Resolution of the World-Conference of the BUND)

The murder of six million people—men, women and children—solely because of their Jewish ancestry is a crime which brands anti-semitism for all time and which demands that the world take action to stamp out, at last, this social evil.

### *New Significance of Anti-Semitism*

The World Conference of the BUND declares:

"Since the rise of Hitlerism, anti-semitism has acquired a new significance. Not only has it become more wide-spread, but it has also developed into an instrument for a real war of extermination against Jews, a war which is an excuse for, and a start of, a more universal, total crusade against everyone and everything that is free, progressive, democratic, and humane among the non-Jewish peoples.

The military destruction of Hitler Germany was a great blow to anti-semitism all over the world. It can be the beginning of its end; but to achieve that, it is imperative that a vigorous and systematic fight against all manifestations of Hitlerism and Fascism be carried on, and that all anti-semitic propaganda and policies be suppressed at their very roots.

This is the responsibility of the democratic and liberal elements of all countries and peoples, and, above all, of the international Socialist and Labor movement,—the movement that is historically destined to play a leading part in the fight against anti-semitism.

### *Proposals to the International Labor Movement*

The World Conference of the BUND presents the following proposals to the Socialist and Labor Movement:

1. The Socialist parties should establish permanent bodies for the purpose of preparing concrete methods of combatting anti-semitism;
2. The problem of anti-semitism and the fight against it, should be placed before an International Socialist Conference;
3. A permanent, international Socialist body should be formed to combat anti-semitism and racism. This body should function in cooperation with the International Socialist Liaison Office in London and with the Socialist International, after such an International is formed;
4. National and international trade-union organizations should also establish special bodies for the purpose of combatting all forms of racial and national discrimination;

5. It is particularly important and urgent that the Socialist Movement take the initiative in calling an International Labor Congress with the purpose of liquidating all traces and remains of racism, anti-semitism, etc.

### *Every-Day Struggle Against Anti-Semitism*

Taking into consideration that anti-semitism today has become essentially a *form of an aggressive and destructive war*, the World Conference of the BUND declares itself in favor of considering all anti-semitic activities and propaganda as *criminal acts* punishable in the same way as any other forms of aggressive war, already outlawed.

The World Conference of the BUND stresses that in the interest of a successful fight against anti-semitism it is also necessary:

1. To carry out a systematic, unceasing and active *educational program* against anti-semitism on all scholastic levels. The UNESCO is particularly suited to undertake this special task.
2. To *punish* all those who have in any way participated in the murder of six million Jews, and to confiscate the ill-gotten fruits of their anti-Jewish crimes so that this additional incentive for anti-semitism, attent in instances of impunity for murder of and robbery from Jews, may be removed once and forever.

Considering that poverty, economic insecurity, domination by the privileged, and oppression of man by man and peoples by peoples still create basis for transforming the anti-semitic poison accumulated in society throughout the ages into active instances of anti-semitism,—the Conference asserted that the fight to *raise the general welfare of the masses, to eliminate all forms of political and social-economic oppression*, to remove the submission of peoples and nations, and to secure and spread democratic freedoms in each country is, at the same time, both directly and indirectly, a fight and a measure of protection against anti-semitism.

### *The Final Elimination of Anti-Semitism*

Although anti-semitism has been liquidated in a number of countries as a government policy and is weak and without mass basis as a popular movement, the absolute elimination of anti-semitism is impossible within the framework of a social order that has not removed economic crises and other tensions inherent in the capitalistic system. Only through the rise of a new Socialist order establishing freedom, economic equality, security, wellbeing and culture for all, can conditions for the final liquidation of anti-semitism in all its forms be created.

## 50 Years of Jewish Labor

*The World Conference of the BUND passed a resolution on the 50th Anniversary of the BUND. The contents of the resolution follow:*

Half a century ago, in 1897, the "General Jewish Workers' Union of Lithuania, Poland and Russia" generally known under the Yiddish name of "BUND" was founded in Vilna, then a city in Tsarist Russia.

During these fifty years the BUND has led the Jewish masses in the struggle for their social and national emancipation. The fundamental idea of the BUND has been all the time the fight for freedom, equality and justice—a fight carried on in close co-operation with the working masses in the countries where Jews have lived and worked.

One of the main tasks of the BUND has been the fight against the Jewish clerical and nationalistic reaction and against the nationalistic policy of Zionism.

It is the BUND that has initiated and given a prominent place in the Jewish life to the struggle for the unfettered development of the national culture and for the awakening of the creative forces of the Jewish people.

The Resolution mentions then the main stages in the development of the BUND from the earliest beginnings of the heroic underground struggle against Tsarist Russia up to the last tragic moment of the fight against Nazism.

"Now"—the resolution continues—"after the military defeat of Hitler Germany, the BUND fights on in Poland and France, in Belgium and Britain, in the countries of North and South America. Wherever the Jewish workers live and toil, the "Bundist" activities are carried on.

In this momentous time when Socialism and Freedom have a chance of being put into effect, the BUND sees its main task in bringing encouragement to the surviving Jewish remnants on the continent of Europe, in helping the Jews all over the world to find the right way to achieve their final national and social emancipation, and in securing for them a decent place in the future socialistic family of free peoples.

The first World Conference of the BUND which takes place on the eve of the 50th Anniversary of the BUND, pays homage to the memory of 6 million Jews exterminated by the Nazi murderers. With hearts full of sorrow, with admiration for the immortal heroes of the Ghettos, and with unbroken faith in the ultimate victory of Freedom and Socialism, the followers of the BUND all over the world will celebrate this year the 50th Anniversary of their movement.

## Bund and the International

*Following is the summary of the resolution passed by the World Conference of the BUND.*

The World Conference of the BUND welcomes the steps undertaken at the international Socialist conferences aiming at the reconstruction of the Socialist International.

In the present period, when the working class is facing such tasks as building peace, removing Capitalism and establishing a new order of Freedom and Socialism, a new Socialist International capable of taking action and imbued with truly international spirit, is a necessary instrument in performing those tasks.

The resolution puts forward the demand that the BUND be admitted to the International Socialist Conferences and agencies, on the following grounds.

From its very beginnings the BUND has been an organic part of the international Labor movement, was a member of the Socialist International before the war, and participated in the Consultative International Socialist Committees which existed during the war in London.

The part played by the BUND in the resistance movements against the Nazi Occupation in Poland, France and other countries, the enormous price in blood paid by the Bundists in the heroic battles of Warsaw and other ghettos, the Bundist martyrs who fell among the 6 million murdered Jews—all that strengthens the inalienable right of the Bund to be represented in the great family of the international Socialist movement.

Moreover, it must be taken into account that the BUND represents a distinct trend within the Jewish community—one which links up the future of the Jewish people with that of Democracy and Socialism in the countries of Jewish residence. This trend must not be kept out from the International Socialist bodies if one-sided Jewish representation is to be avoided. It would be particularly unfair if the voice of the BUND remained unheard precisely at the time when the international Socialist bodies are to deal with such problems as the tragic fate of the D. P.'s, the persistence of anti-semitism, as well as the problem of Germany.

*The recently held International Socialist Conference in Zurich, pending further decision, admitted the World Coordinating Committee of the BUND to the Conference table as an observer.*

*Dr. Michal Szuldenfrei (Poland) and Rafal Ryba (France) represented the Bund at the Conference.*