

# JEWISH AND ARAB COMMUNISTS UNITE

*On October 1, 1948, the Central Committee of the League for National Liberation, the organization of Arab communists, proposed to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel the unification of Arab and Jewish communists into one party. On October 14 a public announcement of the successful conclusion of negotiations was made, and on October 22, a great Jewish-Arab public meeting in Haifa celebrated this momentous event. Below are the statements of the Arab and Jewish parties stating their respective positions concerning unification.—Editors*

## STATEMENT OF THE LEAGUE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION

**B** RITISH imperialism, aided by the (Mufti) Arab League and Arab reaction, precipitated a war of intervention to thwart the independence of the peoples of Palestine as authorized by the United Nations on November 29, 1947.

Race hatred, nourished by British imperialism for the past 30 years with the help of Arab and Jewish reactionaries, is one of the main causes of the national antagonisms and disturbances in our countries.

Since its appearance five years ago, the Arab League for National Liberation has fought consistently and stubbornly against the traditional imperialist policy of "divide and rule" and against the policy of race hatred pursued by the Arab and Jewish reactionaries. . . .

### II

The struggle of the League against the plans of British imperialism (for example, the plan to divide Palestine by merging the Arab sector with the British colony of Transjordan, and to transform the Jewish sector into a British dominion), was always oriented on joint anti-imperialist cooperation between the Arab and Jewish masses. . . . However, the fact that Arab communists, organized in the League for National Liberation, and Jewish communists, organized in the Communist Party of Israel, were separated organizationally and politically, helped the Arab and Jewish reactionaries. This separation deprived the Jewish and Arab masses of a living example of that unity which both communist groups were urging the people to achieve. The League for National Liberation now recognizes very clearly the danger of organizing a communist movement on a separate national basis.

### III

The organization of the League for National Liberation on a separate national basis deprived it of the ability to estimate correctly the new conditions as they unfolded in Palestine.

During the last 30 years a new nation developed in Palestine—the Jewish nation, growing and maturing through the arrival of hundreds of thousands of immigrants

who were being welded into one nation despite different languages and origins. This nation is establishing its own industry, agriculture, language and culture.

The new nation began clearly to emerge even before the war, and even more so in the course of war. The growth of the new nation required a change in the method of struggle for a united Arab-Jewish front. It was the responsibility of the vanguard party, the party of the working class, to fight for the rights of both peoples for national independence and for statehood in accord with the Marxist principles of the right to self-determination, and to view this fight as an integral part of the struggle against imperialism. Failure of the League for National Liberation to carry on this fight had its effects upon the joint struggle of the Arab and Jewish workers in their mutual interest under communist leadership. . . .

The separation of national organizations in the communist movement of Palestine for the past five years explains why there were right deviations in the policies of the League for National Liberation. This separate national organization of Arabs, the League for National Liberation, created illusions among the Arab people in Palestine that they could alone free the country from the imperialists, without taking into consideration the revolutionary forces of the Jewish people. This mistake in orientation became very obvious in the policy of the League for National Liberation to create Arab "national unity" among the bourgeoisie, the neo-feudal leadership and the new people's forces. The victory of the forces of freedom in the Second World War changed the relationship of forces in the entire world and in the colonial countries as well. The local bourgeoisie of the colonies have attached themselves to the imperialist chariot. How, then, could imperialist agents participate in the front against imperialism?

Finally, this policy of the League for National Liberation led to a denial of the importance of exposing the bourgeois and neo-feudal leadership. Such exposure would have prevented this reactionary leadership from taking over the national liberation movement. Failure to undertake this exposure made it impossible to create a militant, fighting united front of Arabs and Jews. For such a front could

have been created only if the Arabs had engaged in a dual, simultaneous struggle against imperialism and against the attempt of the Arab and Jewish bourgeoisie to assume leadership of the masses.

#### IV

The League for National Liberation is proud of the fact that its central committee has courageously recognized and decisively acted upon the necessity of ridding the party of serious mistakes made in the recent past.

The League for National Liberation greeted the UN decisions of November 29, 1947, which provided for the liquidation of the British mandate, the evacuation of British troops and the creation of two independent states in Palestine bound together by economic unity. The League considered the UN decisions a real basis for achieving independence for Palestine and for liquidating antagonisms between Jews and Arabs and for insuring peace. It saw in the UN decision the means by which unity in Palestine could be realized by the recognition of the right of each people to self-determination and sovereignty.

Previously the League for National Liberation had felt that the best solution would be the creation of an independent Palestine, unified politically and economically. Such unity could only be realized through a free, democratic understanding between Arabs and Jews. But Arab and Jewish reaction, supported by Anglo-American imperialism, ingeniously and stubbornly obstructed the path to such understanding. The military adventure of the Arab League in Palestine since the UN decision meant continuation of its old racial policies, which serve the interests of imperialism. The results of this military adventure give the best proof of the correctness of our evaluation. Today it is clear beyond any doubt that fulfillment of the UN decision of November 29th is the only way to liquidate imperialist rule and to achieve peace. Consequently, the League for National Liberation accepted the UN decision and consistently carried on a struggle for peace and freedom in all of Palestine.

In the course of the heroic struggle carried on by the League for National Liberation against armed reaction and in defense of the interests of the common people under conditions of terror, persecution and arrest, all

differences between Jewish and Arab communists disappeared. . . .

In the Arab sector of Palestine, occupied by the invading armies of the Arab League, the League for National Liberation was declared illegal and was forced to go underground. We commend the Central Committee for its competence and skill in affecting this change rapidly and with minimum sacrifice of people. The League for National Liberation carefully preserved its organizational entity and continued its work and its mass activities. It even strengthened its organization and activity. Despite the outlawing by the Arab occupation armies of all organizations, the League for National Liberation continues to operate, although it is doing so under the most trying circumstances.

#### V

With full cognizance of all these facts, the League for National Liberation will fight for the achievement of the UN decision on the Palestine question. This is a fight for the establishment of an independent Arab state, free from foreign occupation within the borders fixed by the UN. This is a struggle for democracy in the proposed Arab state, for peace, friendship of peoples and for the establishment of economic unity between the Arab and Jewish states. This is a struggle to uphold the independence of the state of Israel and for a democratic order in Israel.

The League for National Liberation, in cooperation and full agreement with the democratic Jewish forces, voices its opposition to the policies of the present Israeli govern-

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*Speakers' platform of Haifa unification meeting. One of the slogans in Hebrew reads: "For the independence of Israel, for the safeguarding of democracy, for the unity of the peoples."*



ment with respect to the Arab population, a policy of oppression and racial discrimination. This policy creates hostility on the part of the Arab population in the state of Israel. By this policy the Israeli government gives aid and comfort to the Arab reactionaries, who are thus enabled to continue to mislead the Arab masses and to keep them saddled to the further continuation of the war. The League for National Liberation fights for the rights of the Arab refugees to return to their homes. This will fortify the struggle of those actively fighting for cooperation and understanding between the two peoples. When the League for National Liberation in Israel defends the interests of the Arab masses and fights against racial discrimination, it is actually fighting for democracy in Israel. This fight is not only in the interests of the Arab masses, but of the Jewish masses as well. The League for National Liberation struggles against the expansionist tendencies of certain ruling circles who are ready to sell out their independence to Anglo-American imperialism.

The efforts made by the present Israeli government to negotiate with the British imperialist agent, Abdullah, and the hostility thus engendered among Arab democratic circles who strive to create an independent and democratic Arab state in Palestine, will not help to bring the peace so greatly desired by the Arab and Jewish masses. This Israeli activity can only help strengthen the despised imperialist rule not only in the Arab sector of Palestine, but also in Israel itself.

The League for National Liberation affirms that its policies are identical with those of the Communist Party of Israel, which has proved by devoted struggle that it is the loyal defender of the rights of both the Arab and Jewish masses.

## VI

Since the policies of the League for National Liberation and of the Communist Party of Israel are in full accord, the communist movement of Palestine can be reconstituted on internationalist principles and on a territorial basis rather than one of national separatism. Nothing now stands in the way of reestablishing a united Communist Party, a

party which will stand in the forefront of the struggle for freedom, social justice, peace and full independence.

*Therefore, the Central Committee of the League for National Liberation proposes to the Communist Party of Israel the immediate reestablishment of a united Communist Party.* In the opinion of the Central Committee of the League for National Liberation, such a party in the Jewish state can be organized on the basis of the already existing institutions of the Communist Party of Israel. In the Arab sector of Palestine, a united party can be built on the basis of the organizations of the League for National Liberation that presently exist there. . . .

## VII

The League for National Liberation considers the historic decision for the reestablishment of a united Communist Party a blow against the Anglo-American imperialist plans in the Middle East. This decision confirms theoretically and practically that Arabs and Jews can work together in one united front against the common enemy—imperialism—and for their common aim—political and social independence.

This decision is witness to the strength, solidarity and correct policies of the anti-imperialist camp, the camp of freedom, democracy and world peace, the camp which is headed by the bastion of freedom—the Soviet Union, that great country which gave the world a stirring example of the way to solve the national question on a democratic basis. This is the camp which unites the forces of all freedom loving peoples, which creates everywhere, under the leadership of communist parties, the possibility for the achievement of peace and democracy. Our own decision will open up new horizons for our people, will free them from reactionary, imperialist tendencies, and will fill the hearts of the Arab people with hope and faith, as it will for thousands of Arab refugees, who are wandering about aimlessly in the Arab countries. It will reveal to the Arab people the true character of the Palestine problem, and will brand the shameful intrigues of imperialism and the ruling Arab reactionaries as hostile to the interests of the Arab peoples, their freedom and their future.

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## STATEMENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

### I

**T**HE Communist Party of Palestine was international in make-up from its inception until May 1943. As a result of weaknesses of party leaders at that time and of the absence of democratic centralism, a crisis arose in the party. The Arab comrades then organized themselves into a separate group known as the League for National Libera-

tion. The Jewish comrades continued their activities within the framework of the Communist Party of Palestine. In this way the genuinely international character of the party ceased to exist.

This organizational separation was in complete contradiction with Leninist-Stalinist principles of party organization and hampered greatly the struggle of the Communist Party



and all progressive forces in Palestine in the struggle against imperialism and Arab-Jewish reaction.

## II

The Communist Party of Palestine (and, after the establishment of the Jewish state, of Israel) never ceased to consider itself international in quality, ideology and policy, despite the fact that for the last five years it included only Jewish comrades. The Communist Party of Israel continued to develop its party cadres in this spirit and carried on a stubborn, unswerving struggle to reestablish organizational unity with the Arab comrades organized in the League for National Liberation.

At all three Communist Party conventions in the past five years this problem stood at the center of their deliberations. The party realized that the main source of strength of the anti-imperialist forces is political and organizational unity, even as the imperialists derived their main strength from their policy of divide and rule.

The Eighth Convention of the Communist Party of Palestine in May 1944, affirmed: "It is impossible to separate the struggle for the democratization and independence of Palestine from the struggle for the unity of the peoples. Similarly, it is impossible to separate the struggle for unity of the peoples from the struggle for democracy and independence."

The Ninth Convention of the party in September 1945 made the same affirmation.

Once again, the Tenth Convention of the party in December 1946, affirmed: "This Convention commends the Central Committee for its efforts between the Ninth and the Tenth Conventions to transform the party into a genuine international organization. The Convention reasserts that the success of the struggle against imperialism necessarily requires Arab-Jewish unity. . . . The cornerstone of Arab-Jewish unity must be a united Communist Party whose very existence will demonstrate the possibility of cooperation between Jews and Arabs in the country based on the social and national interests of both peoples."

### *A section of the Jewish-Arab unification meeting.*



## III

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel heartily greets, and expresses its full agreement with, the proposal for reuniting the Communist Party. In order to carry through this unification immediately, the Central Committee, in agreement with the League for National Liberation, has decided as follows:

1. To broaden the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel by coopting comrades from the Central Committee of the League for National Liberation who live in Israel; to accept into the ranks of the Communist Party of Israel all local organizations and comrades who are members of the League for National Liberation.

2. To convene a plenary session of the broadened Central Committee in Haifa on October 22, 1948.

The agenda of this plenary session shall be as follows:

1. The policies of the Communist Party of Israel.
2. Reconstitution of the united Communist Party of the state of Israel.
3. Agreement on a date for the Eleventh Convention of the Communist Party of Israel.

## IV

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel greets the changes in the political position of the League for National Liberation with respect to the national problem in Palestine. The old position of the League on this question prevented the unity of the Communist Party.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel sees in this change an important contribution to the achievement of unity.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel greets the decision of the League for National Liberation to organize a Communist Party in the Arab sector of Palestine, and expresses its firm belief that cooperation between the two communist parties will be strengthened.

In the area of the proposed Arab state, comrades of the Communist Party of Israel will join the Communist Party of the Arab states, which will be organized on an international basis.

## V

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel sees in this decision a tremendous victory for the forces of progress and independence in the state of Israel, in the Arab sector of Palestine and in the Middle East, and a blow to Anglo-American imperialism and its retainers in the state of Israel and in the Arab countries. The unification of the vanguard of the working class in the state of Israel is a great achievement that will advance the class struggle of the working class.

The principle of peoples' friendship thus celebrates its first important victory in the state of Israel. This marks the first step towards rooting out the consequences of the "divide and rule" policies of British imperialism over the past 30 years.