

## Toward a New Israel

# The Jewish-Arab Democratic Front for Peace and Equality

The 18th congress of the Communist Party of Israel, recently concluded, called for unity of all progressive forces in Israel for the national elections of May 17. This unity would be "based on Jewish-Arab unity and a sound platform of struggle for a just and stable peace, for defense of the interests of the working masses, against national and ethnic discrimination, and for the defense of democratic freedoms and equal rights."

In March of this year, the Jewish-Arab Democratic Front for Peace and Equality was formed, which includes the CPI, the Black Panther Organization (a group representing the Sephardic Jews), elected officials in Arab towns and villages, the Israeli Left Socialists, members of kibbutzim, and Daniel Amit and other academicians. The list of adherents is growing.

We present below the full text of the Declaration of the Democratic Front. —The Editors

## Declaration of the Front

Out of historical responsibility for the fate of our people, out of the superior necessity to unite all forces of peace, democracy and social progress in Israel, we resolve to unite our forces and efforts toward the elections to the Ninth Knesset (Israeli Parliament) and to set up a Jewish-Arab Democratic Front for Peace and Equality.

In the presence of the political, economic, social, and moral crisis gripping Israel as a result of the policy of the government, as well as of the extreme rightist parties;

In the presence of the acute danger of another, the fifth, Israeli-Arab war, certainly even more destructive than all former ones, if the present ruling policy of Israel continues—while, on the other hand, there exists the real possibility of establishing a just and stable peace, if there is a fundamental change in the official policy of Israel;

In the presence of the serious economic crisis, the lowering of the real wages of the workers and the living standard of the majority of the popular masses, as a consequence of the tremendous military expenditures in order to maintain the occupation of Arab territories, and as a consequence of the privileges and superprofits granted foreign and domestic big capitalists;

In the presence of the growing threat to democratic freedoms, the danger of fascist dictatorship, in this or another form, by extremist rightwing forces seizing power;

In the presence of the aggravation of the policy of national discrimination against, and oppression of, the Arab population of Israel;

In the presence of social polarization, of spreading poverty, and aggravation of the (ethnic) communal discrimination (against oriental Jews);

In the presence of continued policy of discrimination against women and the existence (in Israel) of obscurantist marital legislation;

We—Parties, organizations, circles, and personalities, Jews and Arabs, adherents to different ideological outlooks—decided to set up a Democratic Front for Peace and Equality with an electoral list towards the elections to the 9th Knesset. The (electoral) sign of the list will be the (Hebrew) letter "VAV."

The front is based on agreeing to the principles of the following common platform of this list.

### THE FRONT WILL FIGHT FOR:

1. *A just and stable peace between the State of Israel and the Arab states.*

Peace will be based upon respect for all peoples and states in our region, including those of Israel and the Palestinian Arab people.

Israel has to withdraw from all territories occupied during the June 1967 war. The lines of June 4, 1976, will become the recognized and secure

borders between the State of Israel and the Arab states.

The right of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination and to establish their independent state alongside the sovereign State of Israel has to be recognized.

The Geneva Peace Conference has to be convened without further delay, with the participation of all sides involved in the conflict, including the PLO as the agreed upon and recognized representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

2. *Defense of the interests of the workers* in production, as well as in the services, in town and village; defense of the interests of the slum dwellers in poverty-stricken neighborhoods.

3. *Elimination of the policy of national discrimination against, and oppression of, the Arab population of Israel* in all spheres.

Cancellation of all legislation and measures which discriminate against the Arab population.

Recognition of the Arab population of Israel as a national minority and the securing of equal and national rights, by rule and by practice.

4. *Elimination of ethnic communal discrimination in all spheres.*

Allocation of special funds for raising to an equal level (with other strata) the members of the oriental Jewish communities in all spheres of economic, social, cultural and political life.

5. *Defense of the democratic freedoms and widening their scope.*

Against the seizure of power by rightist and fascist forces.

6. *Securing equal rights for women in all spheres.*

Cancellation of all legislation discriminating against women. Introduction of legislation which guarantees equal rights to women.

Prevention of religious coercion of any kind; the securing of freedom of opinion and faith.

According to these principles the detailed platform of the front will be prepared.

For the management of the election campaign and for securing the continued cooperation between the partners to the front, a central directing board will be set up which will represent all component parts of the front.

The electoral list of the front will be based upon the (parliamentary) faction of the Communist Party (RAKAH) in the Knesset. The CP faction will ap-

peal for the change of its denomination into "Democratic Front for Peace and Equality—The Communist Party of Israel (RAKAH), The Black Panther Organization, Jewish and Arab public circles."

The front will be open for further join-ups of political bodies, circles and personalities on the basis of the above platform.

We call, herewith, upon all forces of peace, democracy, and progress in Israel, Jews and Arab alike, to join the front and to lend their hands toward its success in the elections to the Ninth Knesset.

We call, herewith, to set up local branches of the front with the aim of mobilizing and uniting the widest possible popular forces for the success of the lofty struggle of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality.

The establishment of the Jewish-Arab Democratic Front for Peace and Equality is a new and outstanding feature in the political and social life of Israel.

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on campus might have provoked, and the facts of Samarin's activities in Oriol were never clearly presented to the Yale community. However, even with these factors in mind, it is still frightening that so many students seemed undisturbed by Samarin's prolonged employment at Yale. This indicates what is a universal fact in the United States: the youth have not been taught the actual meaning of fascism and the horrors of Nazism. The absence of such instruction reflects the vicious anticommunism of those in control of education in this country. ■