

Sneh's Defection from Mapam

THE General Council of the Mapam Party in Israel on January 28, 1953 decided to expel Moshe Sneh and his associates, Pinkas Tubin and Avram Berman from the Party because of their fundamental opposition to the Socialist Zionist principles of the Party and because they had attempted to undermine the institutions of the Party. The resolutions were voted by roll call and were passed 228 against 22, with eight abstentions. Representatives of branches in the Arab section of the Party made a declaration announcing their support of the Council action.

This Council meeting was the final stage in Mapam's discussions on the Prague trial. After an editorial in *Al Hamishmar* (Mapam daily newspaper) and the Mapam declaration in the Knesset, the Council of Mapam met on December 26, 1952, and passed a number of resolutions 232 votes against 49, with 18 abstentions. Sneh held the most extreme position of the minority of 49, formed his own "Left Faction" and demanded that Mapam leave the Zionist Executive. His group voted, during the debates in the Knesset on the Moscow charges, with *Maki* (Communist Party) and not with Mapam. The responsible committees of the Party relieved Sneh and his supporters of their representative offices in the name of the Party, demanded the dissolution of the "Left Faction" and called for the resignation of their Knesset seats. Elections in Israel are by proportional representation throughout the entire country and according to central parties' lists. It is not members of the electorate who are elected to the Knesset in Israel, but the program of the party. Because Sneh repudiated the policy of Mapam, he was called upon to resign.

However, Sneh refused to disband his group or resign his Knesset seat and, instead, formed a dissident party. The leading bodies of Mapam decided that the Sneh group made an attempt to create a body within the Party which would endanger its goals and its unity. All the motives of this group proved that they intended to turn their backs on the basic fundamentals of the Party. The manifesto of the Sneh group demands, precisely after denunciation of all forms of Zionism at the Prague trial, that Mapam should leave the Zionist Executive. This

group dropped the concept of Zionism and adopted a justification of the Prague verdict on Zionism and the demand for a full united front with the Israel Maki Party (communist), which would include not only the present cooperation of Mapam in the international organizations for peace, but also for a united front on all issues of the Jewish community in Israel even those in direct contradiction to the Mapam program. This happened at a time when the Israel Communist Party followed in the path of the Prague trial of incitement against Zionism, against Mapam and against Mapam's accused leader, Mordehai Oren.

The leading bodies of Mapam found the Sneh group to be a serious deviation from the synthesis of pioneering Zionism and revolutionary socialism. It was likely to invalidate the position of Mapam with the people and with the working class.

In an article in *Al Hamishmar* on January 27, 1953, Meier Yaari summed up the latest developments in connection with the ideological discussion with Sneh:

"I have seen Sneh standing at the crossroads. I have warned him against denying the Zionist Movement and against the total justification of the verdict against the Zionist Organization and the State of Israel, as put forward at the Prague trial. He went even further by adopting such an approach to the Jewish National Liberation Movement as if it were possible to support or oppose it, both from within and without, with everything depending on the changing government of this country. And what was Sneh's reaction to this call? He simply fled. In great haste he announced the formation of the "Left Faction." This whole operation bares the precise character of a political adventure by a man who knows that his contacts with Mapam have come to an end. This haste gives the impression that in the face of things that may happen, Sneh and his fellows passionately desire it to be recorded in a certain place, that in these times he has nothing to do with us and that he washes his hands of us.

"Sneh and his supporters hurried to erase from their hastily constructed platform the concept of Zionism. Seemingly they content

(Continued on Page 28)

AN article
Logic Of
Hador (Mapa
From
Merhavia
itorial Board of
newspaper) for
found its way
mentioned news
by Sneh to put
of the Editorial
Central Commi

Moshe Sneh
Jewish aspect of
criticism. He at
there was no
like himself, bu
and those of b
Sneh, it was the
ism which was
worthy of the
identify himself
to use his langu
every other peo
terests as the g
tries to drag th
tionary 'nationa
solidarity of the
ternationalism."
quotes from Ma
quotations are al
right time, and
examine the argu
what happened a

Was it so no
Czechoslovakia a
spies connected
from abroad, to e
assimilated Jewi
trayed their own
ism even before
and their State?
Jewish origin wh
the treachery of S
who have ears ar
tion and will und
Pravo (Czech Co

Reasons for expecting the Messiah immediately? He said not; but he thought it was high time for him to come. He added that if all Nations were in War and universal Tumult and Confusion, then he should expect him immediately, but this not being more the case now than in every current Age . . ."

The reply of the distinguished Palestinian messenger, true to the thousand years' tradition on the world upheaval preceeding the coming of the Messiah, reflected at once the impatience of contemporary Jewry in expectation of deliverance. At the time the two theologians held their conversation, the American Revolution was already brewing; two years later, the open war of the American colonies for independence broke out. American Jews were the first in the history of diaspora Jewry to take up arms voluntarily in solidarity with their neighbors for their common liberation. That great historical event in which they were active participants necessarily actuated their hopes for the speedy coming of the Messiah.

Another chapter entitled *The Jews in the American Revolution*, will appear in an early issue.

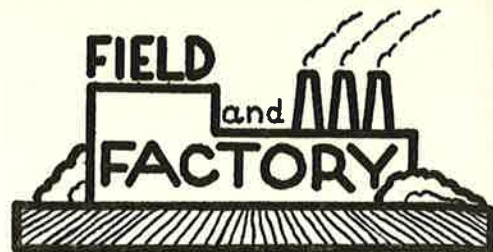
Sneh's Defection from Mapam

(Continued from Page 10)

themselves 'only' with leaving the Zionist Executive, but there is no doubt whatsoever that their accumulation of accusations against the Zionist Executive, together with negating its progressive and constructive task, does not refer to the Zionist Executive only, but besmirches the national cooperation between us and the Zionist movement.

"This group has been consistently undermining our attachment to the Zionist Organization and the unity of the Party and has its face turned toward a common front with Maki on all international, local and class matters, in a common front which is only one step short of being one party. Sneh has started on a journey from which there is no return. Sneh would not remain somewhere in the middle between Mapam and Maki but will soon find himself with Maki in a transition from half betrayal to full betrayal."

Yaari called for an end to the division of Mapam into factions and demanded reform of the organizational structure of Mapam on the basis of democratic freedom of discussion, unity and central discipline in action.



The Harvest of the New Economic Policy

UNEMPLOYMENT in Israel increased steadily in the past four months. The official figures give a total of 19,000 unemployed but they do not reveal the whole picture since they do not include youngsters and adults over 50 who are not registered by the Labor Exchange nor the unemployed in immigrant camps and Arab settlements. But even this official figure itself hints that unemployment increased 3% in the past year. The real picture of unemployment is approximately 40,000 or about 8% of the wage-earning population.

These unemployment figures cover a period when there was practically no immigration. In December, 1952, fewer than 1,000 persons came to Israel. Therefore, all arguments that immigration keeps Israel from full employment are baseless.

One of the main reasons for this unemployment is the complete closing down of many factories. Countless others are working at only 30% of capacity. For instance, the Phillips Radio Factory, the Phoenicia Glass Works, the Vulca Iron Foundry and the Jerusalem Shoe Factory are closed, or working only part-time.

The cost of living is rising 3.9 points per month. During the past month it is estimated that the standard of living declined by nearly 20%. The following table gives an idea of the increase of prices during 1952: bread up 82%; flour, 80%; fish, 157%; potatoes, 110%; tea, 230%; sugar, 100%; margarine, 50%; cheese, 80%. And as prices went up, the standard of living went down. Since the introduction by the Government of the New Economic Policy, the average expenditure on food per family has increased from 36 to 45 percent and income taxes from 4 to 7 percent. While expenditures for clothing and furniture remained stable, spending for culture and services declined from 24 to 16 percent.

Controls on trade, on prices of basic neces-

sities
ished
tion
twee
Zion
insta
hand
plant
the
caus
egg
so-cal
heigh
and
Zioni
on po
The
cy wo
they c
ers w
only
credit
The
higher
past y
increa
These
The
tablish
Genera
ers the
was ha
ernmen
impose
than o
subsidie
were d
tion of
loan of
erty, hi
as it w
after he
What
"free en
than in
of the
small li
icy, onl