

II: WE ARE NOT ALONE

By Meyer Yaari

APPEARING on this platform as spokesman for the united delegation of the Israeli progressive forces, which represent the broad masses of the people and the intellectuals of our country who are so eager for peace, I am deeply cognizant of the historic nature of our mission.

After the collapse of fascism and nazism at the end of the war, few of us could have anticipated that three or four years later a barrier would separate those who signed the Yalta and Potsdam agreements. Yet one must add that even at that time it was necessary correctly to estimate the acts of those who delayed the opening of the Second Front at a most critical phase of the war. The same forces are today turning away from the policies of Yalta and Potsdam and are returning to the Munich policies. They are preparing aggression against the forces of progress and peace. Imperialism is unmasking itself in all its ugliness: it is resuming the political policy which goes back to 1920, to the days of intervention against the Soviet Union. The appeasement of Hitler has been brought up to date with the North Atlantic Pact.

The progressive forces of Israel are aware of the great peril facing the peace of mankind. We know very well that the forces that menace peace throughout the world are the same ones that endanger the independence and sovereignty of our people.

When Chamberlain went to Munich to meet Hitler, he posed before his people and before world public opinion as one bringing "peace in our time." Once again today the imperialists are trying to camouflage their aggressive plans. They would have us believe that the Atlantic Pact and similar activities serve the cause of peace. The terrible experiences of the past war, however, are still fresh in our memory. We are only too familiar with the camouflage and methods used by the warmongers.

Those who are rebuilding the military and the industrial potential of Germany do this in the face of six million Jewish graves and tens of millions of human victims of the Hitlerite aggression. The imperialists thereby show clearly enough in what direction they are moving. Since the sufferings of the last world war have sharpened the awareness of the people, the warmongers try to mask their devilish plans. For they know that all their war machines will avail them little if they do not succeed in conquering the spirit of the people. If we separate the masses from them, even the atomic bomb will be valueless.

The Jewish masses of Israel and the entire Jewish people stand in special danger from the menace that stalks the world. The tragic lessons of the last world war and the

bitter struggles that we in Israel carried on after the war to gain our independence, has sharpened our consciousness and militancy. The recent experiences help us greatly to determine who are our friends and who our enemies.

Menace to Israel and all Jews

When the Jews of Europe were sentenced to mass extermination during the war, they looked for any means to escape. But British imperialism imposed a blockade on Palestine and by means of their notorious "white papers" they shut the doors of our country on these refugees. It will suffice to recall the death ship, the *Struma*, which bore hundreds of Jews to Palestine, only to be sunk because the British high commissioner refused to heed their call for help and forced the immigrants to remain on shipboard in the stormy waters.

But we broke that blockade. Illegal immigration was the historic act of our resistance against the mighty Empire. The sealing off in Cyprus of tens of thousands of men and women did not frighten us. A mighty army was mobilized against us, much of it brought directly from Germany to the Palestine front. But the resistance of the Palestinian Jews was not broken. Our struggle was crowned with the historic decision of the 29th of November 1947, which recognized the right of the Jews to immigration, to the independence of their homeland and their right to a sovereign state.

I feel it necessary to emphasize that the UN decision was achieved as a result of anti-imperialist struggle and of the aid that we received in the UN from the Soviet Union and the people's democracies. The Jewish people will never forget the historic declaration of Gromyko in the UN and the help given by Poland and Czechoslovakia. . . .

British imperialism did not wish to recognize the UN decision. When we decided to go on to establish our independence, imperialist reaction mobilized its vassals against us. Seven invading armies entered our country, armies commanded and led by the agents of imperialism. We resisted and broke the aggression.

I feel it my duty to point out that a large part of those who defended our country belonged to the progressive camp. They never forgot that the war was not against the Arab peoples but rather a defense against imperialist aggression. We fought for a just cause. And the glorious example of Stalingrad taught us that a people which fights for a just cause cannot be defeated even by mighty forces.

The imperialist aggressors and their Arab feudal lords only brought tragedy upon the Arab masses. And it was no accident that progressive Arab and Jewish forces were

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organized in Israel in the political front against domestic and foreign reaction. Nor is it an accident that our delegation, which stands for peace and progress in Israel, should be a united delegation of Jews and Arabs.

Toward a World Front for Peace

The sympathy shown us by the Soviet Union and the people's democracies assured us that we did not stand alone in our struggle. To the degree that we continue to fight for real independence, we shall remain an integral part of the world front for progress and peace. Our people will never forget, nor will we ever permit it to forget, who freed us from the nazi yoke and saved the remnants of European Jewry. Our people will never forget that the same forces who consistently supported our cause, did not allow the leaders of America to betray the UN decisions.

We belong to a people that does not yet know peace, though the war has formally ended. Experience teaches us that the imperialism which menaces the peace of all peoples, endangers also our security and independence and

the very existence of the whole Jewish people. We need peace and strong ties with the progressive forces of the world if we are to build our state on the basis of independence and progress, if we are to bring in hundreds of thousands of our brothers.

Our delegation represents a united front of the forces of progress and peace in Israel. We feel that our delegation expresses the basic interest of the Israeli masses and of all the Jewish people. We come here not with declarations alone but with assurances that we will defend the peace with all our devotion and with all our energy. We are resolved to fight against the intrigues that seek to draw us into the imperialist conspiracy that menaces the peoples of the Middle East. We will mobilize all of our forces to see to it that our country will not serve as a base for imperialist aggression against the Soviet Union and the democratic forces of the world. We will do everything in our power to create in our country brotherly understanding between the Jewish and the Arab peoples, so as to establish a united front in our struggle for independence to join in the closest ties with the world forces of progress and peace.

WORLD CONFERENCE FOR PEACE III: ISRAELI UNITED FRONT

The Communist Party, the United Workers Party (Mapam) and independent intellectuals and artists in Israel joined in an important united front action in support of the World Congress for Peace held in Paris in April. They issued the following call to the people of Israel to support the Congress. Of the 52 signers of the call, 17 were the Communist and Mapam members of the Knesset (Assembly), two were former members of the Provisional Government cabinet (Bentov, Zisling), one was a Jewish Agency executive member (Zerubavel), two were former commanders-in-chief of the Haganah (Sneh, Galil), one was the creator of the Palmach (Sadeh), five were Arabs, and many were leading poets, musicians and scholars of Israel.—Eds.

Citizens of Israel:

In a few days the World Congress for Peace will open in Paris. Delegates from all parts of the world, representing millions from many nations, religions and races, will gather at this conference. World famous cultural workers and scientists, writers and artists, thinkers and leaders, representatives of labor and farmers, of women's and youth organizations, of demobilized and disabled veterans will participate. This gathering will be representative of all democratic and progressive forces of the world.

The congress meets while the horizon is again clouded by the threat of a third world war. This threat evokes fear from mankind striving for peace. Feverish rearmament, establishment of military bases, signing of aggressive pacts like the North Atlantic Pact, hysterical attacks and incitations against the Soviet Union and the new people's democracies are the signs of preparations for a new war.

The Jewish people, having lost six millions in World

War II, recognizes in this new war a threat to its very existence. The young Jewish State of Israel needs peace and international cooperation and friendship of nations in order to consolidate and strengthen its independence and integrity, in order to turn its deserts into flowering gardens, to become capable of receiving the masses of Jews. A world war will place in grave danger all that we have achieved, as well as our very existence.

It is therefore the duty of every Jew, as of every citizen in the State of Israel, to stand in the front ranks of the struggle to insure peace and to oppose the warmongers.

In this struggle Jews and Arabs will march side by side. The Arab peoples have begun to see that the warmongers throughout the world are the same as those who lighted the fires of war in our own country, who brought tragedy and despair to the Arab masses. The struggle for peace is therefore of vital national interest both to the Jewish and to the Arab people. We call upon all social organizations, all trade unions, organizations of intellectuals, the press, institutions of science, culture, literature and art, and all progressive parties in the Knesset, on all who are active in the cultural and social life of our country to affiliate to the Congress for Peace with us, in order to demonstrate our devotion to the cause of peace, our readiness to stand on guard, our categorical decision to prevent our land from being drawn into the net of the warmakers.

Let us send out the great call of the prophet Isaiah: "A people shall not raise up the sword against another and they shall learn war no more."

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