

THE STRANGE WORLD OF DR. SNEH *

By Phil Honor

The disruptive activities of the Israeli revisionist group--Maki--have a twofold aim.** The leaders of the splinter-group viciously attack the international Communist movement which has rejected them. Determined to provoke dissension in Communist ranks, they align themselves with and support renegade cliques wherever they come to the surface. The Communist parties which are in the forefront of the struggle against the aggressive, expansionist policies of the Israeli rulers, and which call upon the people of Israel to repudiate the reactionary concepts of Zionism and to reach a just and secure peace with their Arab neighbors, are being maligned by Dr. Sneh and his collaborators as "anti-Semites."

The extent of Sneh's chauvinism is evident in an article by him in the September 1970 Information Bulletin of Maki, entitled "When Will Rakah Rejoice?" While the main thrust of this virulent writing is aimed at the Communist Party of Israel, Dr. Sneh cannot miss his "golden opportunity" to attack the Soviet Union and direct his poisonous arrows at some other parties, among them the Communist Party, U.S.A. and the Communist Party of France.

On the Soviet Union we find in his article the following gem: "The bacilli of pan-Arab chauvinism which were adopted by the huge laboratory of Soviet propaganda, out of considerations of power-domination, for the purpose of fermentation and dissemination, have brought the epidemic of hatred of Israel to both shores of the Atlantic Ocean."

In his attack on the CPUSA Sneh quotes single sentences and cut-off passages out of context in order to distort their meaning. He quotes a sentence from a statement on the Middle East issued by the CPUSA on April 9, 1970, and draws conclusions which are a direct opposite of the position of the U.S. Party in relation to Israel and the question of peace in the Middle East and Asia.

*The following is an excerpt, in English translation, from a pamphlet in Yiddish now in preparation.

**In 1965 a split occurred in the Communist Party of Israel. Rakah, which adheres to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and is leading the struggle against the Zionist imperialistic policies of the Israeli ruling circles, is recognized by the international Communist movement as the Communist Party of Israel. Its leaders are Meir Vilner and Tawfiq Toubi.

The revisionist-chauvinist grouping, Maki, gives its full support to the aggression of the Israeli government. The chairman and principal spokesman of this group is Dr. Moshe Sneh. Its general secretary is S. Mikunis.

Sneh writes: "So Israel is threatened with ruin and the Jewish members are threatened with expulsion from the CPUSA if they won't join the holy ideological struggle against the materialistic--Zionist--Israeli aggression." This accusation is a wanton distortion of the truth. The statement of the CPUSA emphasizes:

Our Party approaches the conflict in the Middle East from the Marxist-Leninist standpoint of proletarian internationalism. We stand for the rights of all states in the Middle East, including Israel, to exist in peace, security and freedom. This has always been our position. By the same token, we stand for the right of self-determination of the Palestinian Arab people, whose exercise demands in the first place, a just solution of the refugee question.

As we see, the statement stresses Israel's right to exist as a sovereign state. At the same time the Jewish comrades are called upon to intensify their fight against bourgeois nationalism, urging them in the name of Communist discipline, to place themselves in the forefront of this struggle. The "threat of expulsion" of which Dr. Sneh speaks is purely a product of his imagination.

Unabashed, Sneh proceeds from one fabrication to another. He quotes another sentence from the statement, distorts its meaning completely and accuses the CPUSA of fostering the concept that the state of Israel has been established as a "racist-Zionist" state. He quotes the following excerpt: "An end to equation of the concept of the State of Israel with the racist Zionist concept of a Jewish state." Dr. Sneh is enraged by this sentence. He states:

And I was not aware that a Jewish state is a "racist Zionist conception." I recall the resolution of the U.N. General Assembly of November 29, 1947, stating that a Jewish state is to be established in Palestine and, relying on this resolution, a Jewish state was proclaimed on May 15, 1948. . . . I recall that the Soviet Union. . . was one of the members of the United Nations that supported the establishment of a Jewish state. . . .

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A careful reading of the full passage of the CPUSA statement, from which the sentence that enraged Dr. Sneh has been maliciously extracted, will show that the "theoretician" of Maki is guilty of a monstrous lie. The truth is that the CPUSA calls upon its Jewish members to conduct an educational campaign against the imperialistic ideology of Zionism and to intensify the struggle against the aggression of the Israeli government, which has adopted the reactionary, racist program of international Zionism--a program which is against the best interests of the people of Israel and could endanger the very existence of the Jewish state. We read in the statement of the CPUSA:

"Communists must be in the forefront of all these struggles. Jewish Communists in particular are called on to lead the fight against the policy of making Israel a tool of imperialism, against the aggressive actions of Israel's rulers. It is necessary to work among the Jewish people in this country and among the people of the U.S. generally, to achieve the following ends:

"1. Reversal of present Israeli foreign policy; abandonment of annexationism; acceptance of the U.N. resolution in its entirety (which means agreement to withdraw from the occupied territories), thereby opening the doors to implementing the resolution.

"2. Exposure of the poisonous ideology of Zionism in the eyes of the Jewish masses and destruction of its influence among them. An end to equation of the concept of the State of Israel with the racist Zionist concept of a Jewish state.

"3. Development of an all-out fight against the slanderous attacks on the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

"4. A struggle against the Zionist-rooted policy of soft-peddling the fight against anti-Semitism in the United States and the launching of an all-out militant campaign against anti-Semitism. Condemnation of the so-called Jewish Defense League and a fight to end its fascist-like hoodlum activities.

"5. A campaign against the rise of racism and chauvinism among sections of the Jewish people."

As can easily be seen we do not find in the statement a shred of evidence to substantiate Dr. Sneh's calumnious accusations that the CPUSA identifies the state of Israel with a "racist-Zionist state." The fact is that the Party urges the Jewish masses to resist the rulers of Israel who seek to impose their Zionist-racist ideology on the Israeli people. It is they who equate Israel to a Zionist-racist state.

Sneh goes still further in his falsifications. He states, "The leadership of the CPUSA demands that its Jewish members start an active struggle against their conception of the State of Israel as a Jewish state because this is a racist-Zionist idea, God forbid." This accusation is just as fallacious as are his previous slanders. From the quotations presented here in full, without distortions, it is obvious that the CPUSA fully supports the existence of Israel as an independent state in the Middle East, with secure borders. This approach is based on the principle of the right of self-determination for the Jewish people as well as to the Palestinian Arab people. In line with this position, the CPUSA opposes, as do all other Communist parties, the aggressive policies of the Israeli ruling circles, which can only bring disaster to the people of Israel.

Sneh has bogged down so deeply in the quagmire of chauvinism that he considers every opposing viewpoint to the annexationist-reactionary political line of the Israeli rulers as an expression of anti-Semitism. He has brazenly retreated from positions of class struggle to bourgeois class lines and he has lost long ago his ability to differentiate the Israeli rulers from the masses of Israel.

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Dr. Sneh follows up his irresponsible attack on the CPUSA with an equally ignoble assault on the Communist Party of France. He applies the same technique. For example, he quotes a sentence from a speech by the French Communist leader Roland Leroy and mutilates its meaning.

Addressing a conference of Jewish Communists in Paris in May 1970, Leroy said: "For the benefit of the French people, for the benefit of the Israeli people itself, for the benefit of world peace, and naturally for the benefit of Jews all over the world, it is imperative to fight against Israel's reactionary policy." Clearly, Leroy is calling upon the Jewish comrades to fight the aggression and annexationism of the Israeli ruling circles as being contrary to the best interests of the broad masses of Israel as well as the Jewish people throughout the world.

Dr. Sneh, however, turns this sentence topsy turvy and reaches an amazing conclusion. He states: "This means that there is no connection between the Jews in the diaspora and the state of Israel but it is the duty of the Jews to lead in their country an anti-Israeli struggle."

We are faced with the same chauvinistic approach, in which Dr. Sneh tries to imbue all progressive Jews with the idea that the struggle against the imperialistic ruling clique of Israel is tantamount to a "betrayal" of the Jewish state. He can see only the interests of the Jewish bourgeoisie; the interests of the toiling masses of Israel have ceased to exist for him. However, this does not stop the leaders of Maki from mouthing "class struggle" slogans in order to keep their hold on some misguided followers.

As was mentioned before, Sneh, Mikunis and their disciples are exerting every effort to establish closer ties with renegade groups outside Israel, as well as to create friction and dissent within the international Communist movement. Let us take a closer look at these schemes. In the November 1970 issue of the Maki Information Bulletin we find an interview with S. Mikunis in which he reported on a trip to Rumania and Sweden that he had just completed.

The interview was given in an optimistic tone; reading behind the lines, however, it becomes obvious that the results of Mikunis' travels were very meager. His attempt to hide the revisionism of Maki from the Communist leaders whom he encountered was also a miserable failure. He had to admit that they were utterly opposed to the expansionist policies of the Israel ruling circles and to the concept that the June 1967 war was a war of self-defense. This was

especially evident in Mikunis' talk with the leader of the Norwegian youth movement. The interviewer had to divulge some revealing information on this matter. He stated:

Regarding the boycott imposed upon Maki by the world Communist movement, Comrade Mikunis pointed out:

"I met only the representatives of the Rumanian and Swedish Communist parties. At some occasion I met also the secretary of the Norwegian Communist youth. I felt that he is influenced by the idea that the Six Day War was no defensive war."

Apparently in order to enhance the morale of his followers Mikunis also said:

This conversation convinced me again that it is worthwhile to meet as often as possible representatives of various Communist parties. Not everybody is prepared to go into the depth of the Middle East problem. I have become aware that a number of Communist parties that have started to think independently are beginning to re-examine also their approach to the Middle East in the spirit of Maki.

This assertion must be discounted as wishful thinking which the general secretary of Maki was unable to substantiate with a shred of evidence. He named a few splinter groups of the same ilk and said: "The general demand is that every Communist party must be invited to congresses and conferences...." Not surprisingly, Mikunis fails to inform us where this "general demand" is coming from. For it is well known that a general demand to invite renegade groups to international conferences is nowhere to be found except in their own publications. These groups are, just as Maki is, excluded by the international Communist movement.

Mikunis' real intentions become obvious in this pronouncement:

So it is possible to speak about foreseeable changes in Communist parties in various parts of the world in a shorter range. This is important not only for the Communist movement but also for Israel. The understanding for the patriotic, internationalist conceptions of Maki becomes also an understanding for Israel's problems and legitimate rights."

It hardly needs saying that his prophecy of "foreseeable changes in Communist Parties" has nothing to do with reality, but is mostly intended to lift the sagging spirit of what remains of the rank-and-file membership of Maki. More important is his indirect admission that the purpose of the "patriotic" program of Maki is to whitewash and justify before the international Communist movement the expansionist policies of the Israeli government. Mikunis deludes himself

with false hopes, waiting in vain for divisive splits in Communist ranks. Such splits will not be forthcoming. He says:

I am not taking, of course, any pleasure in splits in Communist parties; but it is a fact that there are today many splitting parties, more parties in the position of Maki. On the one hand, this is deplorable. But on the other hand it creates a chance for the strengthening of the elements that are taking a stand against the policy of boycott, taking the road of recovery from the old - towards the new.

It is quite clear what "from the old - towards the new" means to Mikunis. Maki and the other renegade cliques are placing their hopes on a change-over from Marxism-Leninism to revisionism; from class struggle to class collaboration. The "new" means to them a further spreading of cold-war propaganda. It means to pave a way for CIA intrigues against the socialist sector of the world, to undermine the ideological struggle in the socialist countries against counter-revolutionary diversionism.

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FOLKS-SHTIMME'S 25TH BIRTHDAY

by Sol Flapan

WARSAW, Nov. 15 - "We are here!" are the concluding words of the Ghetto resistance song. Born in the anti-Nazi struggle during the German occupation of Poland, "We are here" has become the unofficial anthem of Jews in this part of the world.

And "We are here" is the headline and theme of the lead story in this week's edition of the Yiddish-language newspaper Folks-Shtimme which has just marked its 25th anniversary.

The birthday party for the journal of the Social and Cultural Society of Jews in Poland was held in Srodborow, a cozy rest center in a pine woods sixty minutes by commuter train from Warsaw, report's Folks-Shtimme. There, the Society has its own vacation home which is also used for conventions, conferences, formal dinners like the Folks-Shtimme anniversary, seminars for Jewish community house counselors and other events.

"Folks-Shtimme never was, nor is it today just another Jewish newspaper," declared editor Samuel Tenenblatt in his keynote address. "It was and remains a paper with a socialist outlook. It's a tribune for everything which serves progress and peace. It's a tribune for the expanding and developing values of our national culture," he said.

"If in any way we can help in spreading the glory and in defending our coun-