

FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM OF ISRAEL

D A I L Y   P R E S S   B U L L E T I N

No. 44

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1) TRUMPED UP CHARGES. ("Mivrak", 15.9.48.)

Bernadotte is not very particular in his choice of means. In a desire to create an atmosphere unfriendly to Israel and to represent it as an aggressor and law-breaker at the forthcoming session of the U. N. Assembly, he completely disregards Arab breaches and records our retaliatory measures as violations of the truce.

In fabricating charges he has reached a new high when, entirely oblivious of the fact that the police action against the three Arab villages in the vicinity of Haifa was taken with the full knowledge and permission of the U. N. Observers, he has presented the Government of Israel with the demand to allow the refugees from those villages to return and to rebuild for them their houses, destroyed during the operations.

The Government's reply will probably be made public in a few hours. We expect it to give vent to its indignation. There is already a false charge of burning 28 Arabs and to-morrow we may be saddled with another atrocity charge, perhaps with raping of infants.

We fully share in the Government's dissatisfaction with the "impartial Mediator". Neither hate nor desire to cause political damage can justify false accusations and trumped-up charges.

But even while expressing our sympathy with the Government, we cannot for a moment forget either Ramath-Yair or the Tel-Aviv courtroom. The Government, so loudly protesting against the iniquities of Bernadotte, is using similar methods in domestic affairs. There is similarity in representing a certain movement as law-breaking and resorting to trumped up charges.

The only difference lies in that, that Bernadotte must, to his regret, content himself with making complaints to the Security

Council, while the Government of Israel has at its disposal wide powers and effective means of execution. Bernadotte cannot imprison anyone, but the Government of Israel has many prisons and does not hesitate to make full use of them. To make charges appear grave, scores of people are kept in detention for a period needed by the prosecution in order to complete its case. The indictments will be ready probably by the election time.

Well, the Government is sovereign. It is within its power to break promises and make exhibition searches. Under the inherited Emergency Regulations there is nothing it cannot "lawfully" do; nevertheless it cannot force decent and sensible people to believe that its actions are prompted by considerations of public security. Judges refuse to believe in the criminality of accused, and the public opinion knows very well for what purpose does the Government resort to exhibition purposes and staged trials.

So far the Provisional Government has had little success in this respect, but one would be wrong in expecting it to be discouraged: failure only spurs it to renewed efforts in the hope of making a better job of it next time. Experience has taught us that the men occupying the key positions in the Government, though extremely tractable and yielding in their relations with foreign factors, are adamant in domestic affairs.

The public opinion is called upon to be on the alert. We must be watchful to prevent any attempt to set up here a new "Reichstag Fire" regime.

2) LANTERN TO SOUL.

("Mivrak", 10.9.48.)

After Ramath-Hakovesh and Giveath-Hayin, after Yagur, Ruhama and Doroth we said: this is the way of Imperialism in its final stages of decline; these are results of anti-Semitism.

We had a key to all the secret locks of the foreign rulers and a lantern to shed light into the innermost recesses of their souls.

We are now after the Sheikh-Mowannis operation. Again there were use of rifle-butts, destruction, looting. All these acts were again followed by an official communique framed on familiar - much too familiar - lines, reminiscent of the not so distant past.

This time our old keys do not fit the lock: neither the key of Imperialism nor the key of anti-Semitism, for this time not a foreign but a Jewish administration has been responsible for all that.

- 3 -

There was a bright spot though, that should not be left unmentioned. We cannot compare the behaviour of Jewish soldiers and policemen with that of Bevin's brutes. The men in uniform brought to Sheikh-Mowannis evidently did not relish their job. They were discontented, grumbled and felt humiliated. Many of them openly expressed their disapproval of the operation, though not in the presence of their superiors. The Ministry of Security cannot boast that its orders were carried out fully and enthusiastically.

But we are not discussing plain soldiers and policemen. We are looking for a lantern to shed light on the secrets of the soul of the present rulers of Hakirya, of those who work out operation plans and give instructions to their subordinates.

There must be some keys that would open the secret locks of the present Government. There are also lanterns that produce strong light.

A government desirous to enjoy the benefits of the Marshall Plan must of necessity cut its domestic policy in accordance with the pattern approved by the sponsors of the plan. In the West, in France and Italy, an exclusion from the government of all extremist elements is sufficient to qualify for the dole, but further east terms become gradually harder and means hotter. In Greece, for instance, it is not enough to have all freedom-loving elements expelled from the government: their physical destruction is demanded too. Eretz-Israel also lies in the East. Here too an inoffensive coalition of moderate elements is deemed insufficient; something more is expected here.

The situation in Eretz-Israel has not yet reached the grave stage of Greece. Jewish scaffolds are yet unknown; the state is still too young for that; the process is still in the initial stages of its development. But we have already political prisoners and staged trials, so there should be no surprize if the pace is accelerated. There is scaffold hidden in the present regime exactly as there is chicken hidden in every egg. The egg of the Government of Israel has been fertilized by the cock Marshall: there should be no illusions as to what will be hatched.

This is no exaggeration. In the circumstances this is the only possible course of events, unless the circumstances change.

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The political keys, however, cannot provide an over all solution. There is something sinister in the nature of present regime that calls for an additional explanation of psychological nature.

One cannot escape the impression that all those manifestations, abhorrent to a free man, are an outcome not only of political sins, but also of some psychic disorder. This Provisional Government is suffering from deep-rooted psychic complexes. The soul of the men that control the Government is torn and lacerated. They can find no cure for their condition, nor rest.

If there is somewhere something that is called conscience, then theirs must torture them. But bad conscience does not always make the sinner penitent. More often than not it produces outbursts of cruelty, prompted by the desire to get rid once for all of the object causing pangs of conscience.

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The Prime Minister has made repeated attempts to distort the history of our recent past. He wants to convince the public that he is indebted for his present exalted position to nothing except his own "struggle". He has repeated his distortions so many times that some people may have been misled by them. But so far he has completely failed to deceive himself.

When the Prime Minister remains alone and has no need to lie, there rise before him visions of the past, and not only of his distant Sejera past. He is probably visited by ghosts of a more recent past, of the last few years, ghosts from detention camps and prisons. Ghosts of young men that fell in house and street clashes with British forces, that faced proud and erect British courts and ascended the scaffold with song on their lips. Their questioning looks bore into him: "What about our share?". The Prime Minister has no hope of winning in a dispute with these. He cannot lie in the presence of these searching eyes.

The Prime Minister feels himself helpless against them. His natural reaction is therefore hate - unbounded hate of them and of the movement that produced these strong-willed young men, who give him no rest and spoil his work of misrepresentation and deceit.

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Oddly enough, the guilty men themselves provide, though indirectly corroboration to above.

- 5 -

During the last conference of Mapai, the leader of the party, who is also the Prime Minister, confessed that he had had two dreams in his life: that of the Jewish state and of the workers' unity. As to the first he "never hoped to see its realization, but felt sure of the realization of the second one. However, the contrary has happened". ("Davar", 15.8.48.)

From the same stage the Foreign Minister made an even clearer admission: "The new regime has taken us completely by surprise. Those who have been sitting here for many years are still dazed by the dizzy rush of changes, likely to take one's breath away and muddle the senses. We still have to make great psychological and mental efforts to overtake the pace of events, and it seems that we have not yet wholly adapted ourselves to it". (Ibid.)

So they never expected to see the realization of the dream and lost their senses. They are still dazed by the great honour that befell them. In the confusion of their senses they are seized with the blind hate of those who offer them their dream on the golden salver of their own torture, suffering and blood.

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We hope that the Vice-Minister of Security will not accuse us of revealing military secrets by making public a certain minor incident that took place during one of our meetings with him, meetings the purpose of which was to make things clear, explain misunderstandings and find common language.

The Vice-Minister is endowed with the gift of free flow of words, though not always to the point, and an inclination of showing firmness and snapping a decisive "No" to any proposal that does not exactly conform with his views. These two propensities make negotiations with him rather unpleasant, even to a person of a patient and even disposition.

During the interview, after our representative had heard many "No's" from the Vice-Minister, he said to him: "Unless you are absolutely prejudiced, you must admit that you owe your present position partly to us. We ask for no reward, we want only mutual understanding. You, however, treat us with all the arbitrariness of a diaspora townlet community bosses. Are you really so much prejudiced and lacking in understanding?"

The Vice-Minister gave no reply to this, though he obviously was impressed. This was evident in his attempt to soften his tone and to dam his flow of words.

The Vice-Minister must have remembered those words, and that was probably the reason why he refused to see us during the raid on Sheikh Mowannis, for it is rather unpleasant to hear the truth without being able to give an adequate reply. It is easier to stop one's ears and order the "liquidation" of the truth sayers.

Is there a cure for psychic disorders and confusion of senses? Some say there is.

However, national affairs cannot remain in the hands of people afflicted with complexes.

The nation must entrust its affairs to sane people.