

# SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

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~~IN ENGLISH ONLY~~

To Bureau members

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December 7, 1973.

## THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Statements by members parties and I.C.S.D.W.

Attached please find texts of statements adopted by the Danish Social Democratic Party, the French Socialist Party and the German Social Democratic Party on the war in the Middle East. I am also sending you the statement adopted by the ICSDW.

In addition, please find copies of messages dated October 10 and October 20, received from Aharon Yadlin, M.K., Secretary General of the Israel Labour Party.

*Hans Janitschek*

Hans Janitschek  
General Secretary

I. STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF DENMARK

14 OCTOBER, 1973.

The Social Democratic Party presents a greeting of solidarity to our brother Party in Israel and its leader Mrs. Golda Meir.

The Social Democratic Party is anxious to point out that it is the responsibility both of the belligerents and the world community as a whole - and primarily of the Great Powers - to halt the current acts of war which are inflicting such great losses and immense human suffering.

The Social Democratic Party has always been in favour of solving international conflicts by political means. A lasting and equitable peace in the Middle East must be firmly rooted in the right of all states in the area to existence and security in conformity with the Resolution adopted in 1967 by the Security Council of the United Nations.

The Social Democratic Party trusts that Israel's future may very soon rest on a solid foundation with peace and progress for its sorely tried people.

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II. STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF THE  
SOCIALIST PARTY OF FRANCE

10 OCTOBER, 1973.

War is once again tearing apart the peoples in the Middle East. The Socialist Party appeals to all those concerned. Everything must be done to reach a cease-fire and immediate negotiations. It warns against the risks of a widening of the conflict which must inevitably result from its prolongation and condemns any call or incitement to such a widening, in particular by the provision of arms.

At the same time it expresses the hope that a halt to hostilities will make it possible to resume at last the search for an in-depth solution to the problems involved, and that this

will be done in accordance with the principles stated in the Socialist Party's programme :

- recognition of Israel's right to existence and security, as well as of all other nations in the Middle East, including the Arab nation of Palestine;
- the fixing of final frontiers by negotiations between the interested parties and evacuation of the occupied territories.

These principles refer to the U.N. Resolution of 1947 which sanctioned the creation of the State of Israel among the States in that sector of the world, as well as to the Resolution of 1967 which provided terms for negotiation. By reason of present circumstances and the conflict that is taking place, one cannot disregard the disproportion of the stakes, since the State of Israel is staking its own survival. It is clear, all the same, that its right to existence would be illusory if it did not hold secure frontiers. To be sure, condemnation of the war in the Middle East could not amount to a search for the aggressor, but it is necessary to state that no military solution can establish a lasting balance in the Middle East.

In this connection, the Socialist Party takes exception to the statement made by M. JOBERT. One can hesitate over the kind of negotiation to be undertaken. One cannot hesitate between negotiation and war.

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III. STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF THE  
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

13 OCTOBER, 1973.

Social Democrats have always emphasized that a peaceful solution of the unsettled problems of the Middle East would be possible only if it were accepted by those directly concerned. In view of the renewed military confrontation, the Social Democrats re-affirm their conviction that conflicts of that character can be permanently settled only by political means. There is only one basis for the attainment of durable peace in the Middle East : the recognition of, respect for the right to live and the security of all States in this area on the basis of the Security Council Resolution of November 22, 1967. This Resolution must, however, be reinforced by concrete, binding and reliable guarantees for the existence of Israel, mainly by the Great Powers.

Large-scale international efforts were unable to prevent military confrontation in the Middle East. Today the decisive demand is for a cessation of hostilities. Not only those directly concerned in the Middle East but likewise the Great Powers and other states of this world carry a great responsibility which they cannot escape. We must likewise make our contribution in order that the combatants find the strength to come to a peaceful settlement, to a peace which must bring about the recognition of, respect for the right to live and the security of all states.

The Social Democratic Party of Germany sends in this hour, imbued with the spirit of solidarity, their greetings to their social democratic friends in Israel, with Golda Meir at the helm. The SPD hopes that the Israeli Socialists will be able to achieve peace in the Middle East on the basis of the principles formulated in this declaration.

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IV. STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

7 OCTOBER, 1973.

The Working Committee of the International Council of Social Democratic Women learned with great distress of the present news of the outbreak of fighting in the Middle East.

We should like to express our deep concern for all women, children and men who are the victims of this latest development. At the same time we appeal to all political forces to take immediate action in order to ensure a speedy ending of the present fighting and to try to find a political solution for the problems of the Middle East.

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V. a)

# ISRAEL LABOUR PARTY

BUREAU OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Tel-Aviv October 10th, 1973.  
P. O. B. 36, Telephone: 241351

Dear Comrade,

On "Yom Kipur", the Day of Atonement, Israel was attacked by Egypt and Syria.

Huge forces of these two countries, equipped with the most modern weapons supplied in unlimited quantities by the Soviet Union, attacked Israel by surprise. Our reserves were mobilized and the whole nation is now fighting for the survival and security of our State.

We do not know how long this war will last, but we do know that the very existence of Israel is at stake and this time we will not content ourselves to repel the aggression - the Arab dictators have to be taught that war does not pay.

The choice of starting this war on the Day of Atonement, cannot but recall the fact that the SS preferred to conduct their razzias against Jews on the Sabbath, not only for the pleasure of its desecration, but as much for convenience - since this was a time when you expected to find the Jews gathered in synagogues or in their homes. The falling upon the state of the survivors on such a day justifies the suspicion that some of our neighbour potentates do really intend to continue where the Nazis left off - despite their professed reason and moderation over tea with Western Socialists and other visitors whom they want to win over.

Out of our striving for peaceful co-existence regardless of the nature of the regime of other States, we have hitherto abstained, even in private deliberation with our Comrades in the world, from making reference to the pro-nazi past of the President of Egypt. But his most recent tactics do call to mind the document signed by him as late as 1954, a letter to "my dear Hitler", of whom Anwar Saadat admits that he made "some mistakes", which were however in the nature of "too many battlefronts and the short-sightedness of Ribbentrop", all of which did not prevent that "You may be proud of having become the immortal leader of Germany".

# ISRAEL LABOUR PARTY

Bureau of the Secretary-General

Tel-Aviv October 10th, 1973.

P.O. B. 36, Telephone: 241351

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The nature of the Egyptian and Syrian regimes is evident from the oft-repeated statement of their readiness to sacrifice millions of Arabs in the effort to wipe Israel off the map. There is no evidence of any readiness for this on the part of these millions. But the attitude is characteristic of the presumed care of these "Socialists" for the interest and welfare of the masses.

Egypt and Syria have instigated this new war at a time when everybody expected that a few weeks hence, after our forthcoming elections, renewed and meaningful attempts at a settlement might be undertaken, based on a territorial compromise.

In an era when negotiations have been and are being conducted by parties to conflicts of every level, with and without formal recognition, those dictators who are so cynical about their own peoples, demand for themselves the monopolistic right to refuse negotiation and to put their own peoples and us before the dilemma between surrender to dictated terms or hecatombs of sacrificed human beings. The US and China negotiated; all involved in the Viet Nam War negotiated; India, Bengal-Desh and Pakistan negotiated; the German Federal Republic and Eastern Germany negotiated; Sadat and Assad will not negotiate with us and prefer a deluge of bloodshed, and well-meaning seekers of peace encourage them.

With little pleasure, we note how right was our contention that we ought not to give up the former Cease-Fire Lines without a negotiated settlement. Without these lines, the present vile attack might well have led to an incomparably worse tragedy. This war against us is a war of extermination - whilst our fighting is for survival and in order to impose on them a peaceful negotiated settlement.

We are grateful for the expressions of solidarity that have been voiced from leaders of sister Parties. We think that their implication goes beyond the internationalist solidarity on which we all mutually rely. We think that it contains an element of enlightened self-interest, since the precedent would be fatal to our movement all over the world, were a small Social Democratic country permitted to be subdued or worse by vast forces who stand for everything opposed to Humane and Democratic Socialism.

With cordial fraternal greetings,

Yours,

Aharon Yadlin  
Aharon Yadlin, I.L.P.  
Secretary-General.

v. b)

**ISRAEL LABOUR PARTY**

Bureau of the Secretary General

Tel-Aviv ... 20 October, 1973  
P. O. B. 36, Telephone 241351

30 OCT 1973

Dear Comrade,

Further to my letter of October 10th, by which I informed you of the situation at the beginning of this new war which was forced upon us, I would like to continue keeping you informed of what is going on and first and foremost to tell you that unfortunately the war is still going on.

The invaders are fighting according to the Soviet doctrines, in huge military masses equipped with enormous quantities of sophisticated Soviet weapons.

As you know our reserve forces were mobilized from their homes and synagogues on the day when we were attacked and have succeeded in repulsing the attack from the Golan Heights and to enter into Syrian territory. On the Southern front we succeeded to build a bridgehead on the western side of the Suez Canal.

At the moment of writing this letter we do not yet know for how long this war will go on but we are very much afraid of the eventuality that the Arabs will not agree to a cease-fire before we do not smash their armed forces.

I must admit that we are very disappointed by the political stand taken by certain European countries in this conflict, namely that they avoid admitting that there was a clear aggression on the part of the Arab countries against us on Yom Kippur. These policies of European governments are prompted by the Arab oil blackmail and I have no doubt whatsoever that the fruits they will reap by

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Bureau of the Secretary General

Tel-Aviv 20 October, 1973  
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by surrendering to this blackmail will not meet their expectation. Surrender to blackmail is especially tragic in the European context and the Jewish people - who was the greatest victim of nazism - cannot forget that in Munich, in 1938, Chamberlain and Deladier sacrificed Czechoslovakia, in vain. This policy of contentment by which some governments think that they save their countries by sacrificing others is not realistic, because blackmailers do not stop after the first payment.

Some European countries have declared an arms embargo to the Middle East - actually this works only against Israel because shipments of weapons are still flowing from Marseille and London to the Arab countries.

Every proposal for a cease-fire - except an Arab dictate for our surrender - will be taken very seriously into consideration by us and beyond any doubt we will do everything possible to achieve peace. If the Arab countries will be realistic and will give up their cherished dream of destroying Israel - nothing will stand in the way of Peace.

We, as Socialists, are expecting that Socialists from all over the world should press and work for the aim of creating an atmosphere that should bring the Arab Governments to the Peace Table.

With fraternal greetings,

Yours,  
*Aharon Yadlin*  
Aharon Yadlin, M.X.  
Secretary General