

Mapam's Peace Program

DECISIONS OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE - AUGUST 24, 1967.

The State of Israel didn't embark on a war of conquest. The victory in the war that was forced upon us preserved our existence and foiled the machinations of Israel's enemies to destroy her. Now we must struggle for the abolition of the State of Arab belligerency and the exchange of the armistice agreements for lasting peace agreements that will guarantee Israel borders of peace and security.

Mapam supports the policy of the Israeli government that until a peace agreement with the Arab states is concluded the Israeli army will continue to hold the occupied territories. Israel will be willing to negotiate with all her neighbors or with any one of them individually irregardless of its regime and without interfering in their internal affairs in any way.

The following suggestions will serve as guidelines for the peace negotiations:

A) The first thing on the agenda - is a peace agreement with Jordan since Israel and Jordan constitute the total area of Eretz Yisrael. Israel must strive for a peace settlement with the State of Jordan that will be based on economic and cultural cooperation and a non-aggression pact. This settlement will make possible the return of the West Bank to Jordan with certain border changes necessary to insure Israel's security.

Cooperation between Israel and Jordan will help solve the refugee problem. Most of the refugees will be rehabilitated in Jordan. Concentrated efforts by the two states to mobilize international sources will be made to develop investment and industrial projects and to develop the Dead Sea resources together. Jordan will be granted an outlet to the Mediterranean Sea in the form of a free port. The development projects and the curtailment of the armament budget will help decrease the economic and political dependence of Jordan on foreign powers and strengthen its ties with the State of Israel.

B) The entire city of Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel. The possibility of self administration of religions in respect to the preservation and care of the holy places will be provided.

C) The Egyptian threat on the southern borders of Israel should be removed once and for all by the de-militarization of the Sinai Desert. The Gaza Strip that never belonged to Egypt will be included in the boundaries of Israel together with its inhabitants and Israel will accept the responsibility for the rehabilitation of the refugees who live there.

D) Israel will be guaranteed freedom of navigation in the Straits of Tiran and the Suez Canal.

E) In order to guarantee the peace and security of the settlements in the Galilee and the Jordan Valley a secure frontier and defense positions on and through the Golan Heights must be determined.

F) The State of Israel will do everything in its power to make the agreed upon peace a permanent one that will advance Israel and her neighbors toward disarmament, neutralization of the region and greater political and economic cooperation including the possibility of establishing federative ties between the independent, sovereign countries of the region.

G) In the occupied areas the State of Israel will be concerned first of all to maintain security, law and order.

In the intermediate period - as long as a permanent peace settlement hasn't been reached - Israel will strengthen the economy of the occupied areas in agriculture, industry and building, guarantee employment for the maintenance and development of the health, education and welfare vices and the smooth operation of the municipal authorities.

In this intermediary period the State of Israel must take serious steps toward the solution of the problem of the refugees and their rehabilitation. Although the complete solution of this problem will only be

possible with the coming of peace and the help of international funds, there is already a possibility of absorbing part of the refugees in the economic life of the occupied territories now.

A constructive program to improve living conditions will help create mutual understanding and cooperation with the population in the occupied territories, vanquish prejudice and hatred that distorted the image of Israel in the eyes of the Arabs and prepare the ground for the approach of Arab-Israel peace.

In the preparation for any peace agreement Israel should grant its Arab citizens complete equality by completely abolishing the vestiges of military government. The unification of the Arab families of the country should also continue.

At the same time it is necessary to provide for the peace and security of the Jewish communities that still remained in the Arab countries immediately and insure their speedy immigration in order to join their families and countrymen in Israel.