Israeli Freedom Party
Reply Made to Recent Letter. Aims of Party Detailed

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Most of the names signed to a letter which appeared in THE TIMES of Dec. 4 attacking Menachem Begin and the Israeli Freedom party are unknown to us. We are sure that Sidney Hook will be astonished to learn that the contents of the letter to which his name was appended are a compilation of the irresponsible fulminations which appear at intervals in The Daily Worker.

We think that Professor Hook would be as interested as we to receive some evidence in support of the charges made in the letter you published, which are strangely similar to a column in The Worker of Nov. 30. We who have championed the cause of Hebrew liberation for a number of years have, of course, been subjected to this barrage in the past. Our most thorough investigations have failed to produce any support for them. Those who have made them to us have remained strangely unresponsive to our requests for substantiation.

The assertion in the letter's opening paragraph that the Freedom party is "closely akin in its organization, methods, political philosophy and social appeal to the Nazi and Fascist party" is a blatant falsehood. The assertion that "until recently they (Mr. Begin's party) openly preached the doctrine of the Fascist state" is another lie, equally unsupportable of any proof.

Excerpts From Platform

The party, which was formed only a few months ago, cannot already have established a record of such inferiority as is attributed to it. Quoted below are a few necessarily brief and disjointed excerpts from the party's platform:

"A free democracy in which the people are the source of authority. The people, and the people alone, have the right of decision with regard to all problems of their national existence."

"In this democracy all citizens will be guaranteed full and unconditional enjoyment of civil liberties and human rights and equality of opportunity, regardless of origin, race, religion, political affiliation or sex."

The Irgun and Strikes

The falsehood that the Irgun has been used to "break strikes" was somewhat more particularized in The Daily Worker article. There it was stated that "in 1946 Irgun members made a violent assault on textile strikers in Petach Tikvah." Careful investigation discloses that in 1948 at Petach Tikvah there was jurisdictional strife between independent unions and the trade union monopoly of the Mapai. The Irgun was in no way involved in this and no one else has ever alleged that it was.

The allegation in the letter that the Irgun or the Freedom party preached racism was also made in The Daily Worker. The best refutation of this information just received that Arab Moslems and Christians, Circassians, and Druses in northern Palestine have joined the Freedom party.

In view of all this, it seems superfluous to deal with the other vilifications contained in the rest of the Dec. 4 letter. It may be significant that the letter finally complains that "the top leadership of American Zionism has refused to campaign against Begin's efforts."


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