

throw a US-supported dictator, but further towards socialism, raising the society out of backwardness and at the same time extending internationalist support to other struggling peoples. For these reasons, we find of special interest the section of the congress' main report, which deals with Cuba's position in the socialist community:

«Our party has played a decisive role in the development and strengthening of ties that bind us to the communist parties throughout the world, particularly those of the socialist community to which we belong. It is our position that the cohesiveness of the communist movement, which fully respects the independent opinions of each of its members, is an important factor in the struggle for the advancement of socialism and the implementation of a joint strategy for peace and development. The role of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in this historic task is



well known. As the world's first socialist country and because of its enormous economic potential, its unquestionable military might, and its loyalty to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, the Soviet Union is a decisive part of contemporary histori-

cal forces. The CPSU, its guide and leader, is our closest friend and our best political ally, although each party, whether great or small in this important movement, will always be deserving of our greatest esteem and consideration.»

Special Relationship 'Israel' and West Germany

Attention is most often focused on the massive political, military and economic support the US gives the Zionist state. Yet one should keep in mind that consolidation of the Zionist state is a concern shared by all the imperialist countries. It is no coincidence that West Germany, the bulwark of capitalism and NATO in Europe, is second only to the US in terms of strategic support to 'Israel'.

Economic aid from West Germany was the single most crucial factor in the original Israeli program for economic growth and industrialization. West Germany and the US are the only countries to have provided the Zionist state with direct capital infusions. In the years 1967-78, German investment in 'Israel' ranked second only to that of the US. After the US, West Germany is the Israelis' most important trading partner.

When Israeli Prime Minister Peres visited Bonn in January, the media focused on his talks on the Middle East 'peace' process and his commemoration of Jews who died in Nazi concentration camps. However, the crux of Peres's talks with West German officials was economic issues - trade, scientific cooperation and setting up a German-Israeli venture capital company. *Jerusalem Post* had preceded the visit with an article entitled «German-Israeli cooperation in the third world?» (January 23). The article quoted the chairman of the West German parliament's Foreign Committee as saying: «West German experts and investments can play an important role in promoting Israeli knowhow in third world countries.» While it is not known what was concretely agreed upon in this respect, Peres and Chancellor Kohl did announce plans for a joint scientific institute in 'Israel'. Bonn has pledged \$31 million for the project. Peres named the research fields as medical, biological, plant and water. Yet one notes that this further consolidation of West German-Israeli scientific cooperation comes at a time when both states have expressed willingness

to join in the research for the Reagan administration's Strategic Defense Initiative - Star Wars.

The Special Relationship Between West Germany and Israel

Above is the title of a book written by Lily Gardner Feldman and published in 1984, in London and Sydney. It gives a detailed, well-documented, historical account of West German-Israeli relations, which we have used as the basis for the rest of this article. (All facts and quotes are from the book, although we take responsibility for the analysis which is not identical to Feldman's.)

In defining the special relationship between 'Israel' and West Germany, Feldman relies on the methodology of bourgeois political science, which is descriptive rather than analytical. This leads to superficial conclusions. For example, Feldman attributes this special relationship to the Germans' bad conscience about Nazi persecution of the Jews, rather than to imperialism's strategic interests in the Middle East. However, facts speak for themselves. An objective reading of the book gives insight into Israeli and West German motives for their mutual political, economic and military relations. Though not stressed by the author, the facts show that Israeli-West German relations stem from the two states' respective positions in the imperialist camp and its strategy for controlling the peoples and resources of the Middle East.