

sions and seriously seek mid-way compromises acceptable to all and reflecting the views of all parties of the coalition without reflecting any real position.»

There is, indeed, some truth in what *Al Hamishmar* says, but it lacks accuracy. «The full coach», boarded by the unity government, will move from where it stands to wherever Likud and its right-wing allies want it to, because time will work in their favour. The independent *Ha Aretz* wrote, «The major winner of the national unity government is Likud. For in a normal state, Likud would be in the opposition. But now we see Likud leaders sharing the government with Labour. Also Labour will be responsible for the outcome of the new economic measures. It hopes to remedy the economy which is in ruins as a result of Likud's disastrous economic measures over the last seven years».

Likud's strength and Labour's weakness in the new government were exhibited on two more occasions: the first when Peres had to accept giving the important Ministry of Industry and Trade to General Ariel Sharon. This showed Sharon to be a stronger figure in his party than Moshe Arens, now minister without portofolio. Sharon's new position has special significance owing to its close connection with settlement. Sharon is well known to have played a major role in «agricultural settlement», when he was the Minister of Agriculture. Now his job will, no doubt, be to promote «industrial and commercial settlement», which will affect the entire economical situation.

The second occasion was when Likud succeeded in barring Jad Yakobi, of Labour, from the Ministry of Finance and having it given to Yitzhak Moda, a liberal and an ally to Likud.

Ha Aretz says Likud will strive to patch up the shattered economy. If it succeeds, its position will be strengthened. If it fails, then Labour will be blamed. Furthermore, Labour will have to put up with all complaints against any austerity measures that Moda manages to have the government approve, no matter whether they turn a success or a failure.

In his speech at the Knesset confidence session, Shamir summed up Likud's policy saying that «the land of Israel should never be the object of any bargaining», and that any settlement with Jordan should be approved only by a plebiscite and that whatever they would do «will strengthen our power to ensure our line».

Peres may sound clever when, playing with words, he calls his present government one of «nonagreement», but this will never make it more competent than if he calls it a government of national paralysis, as he actually did before the elections. Furthermore, the Likud is now powerful enough to kill the government at any moment if it so wishes. One can, therefore, say with confidence that the present government will be unable to provide any real solution even for the issues Peres said he had agreed upon with Likud, i.e. those of the economy, Lebanon and «the Middle East peace process».

Of all this however, we are concerned with what the existence in office of such a government with no option in prospect other than the line dictated by Likud, with seven generals, all of whom at one time or another, were involved in wars against the Arab countries; a state of near paralysis where power of the extremist terrorists is escalating, such a government is capable of one, and only one thing: launching or threatening a war. The «friendly» US will make use of the Israeli government's weakness to extort further Arab concessions for the benefit of both Zionism and US

imperialism. Also, the US will try to persuade its friends in the region that although a strong Israeli government is certainly dangerous, a weak one is indeed more dangerous. Therefore, the US calls on all the Arab reaction to cooperate with Peres under the pretext of his «good intentions» and «willingness» to facilitate the «ME peace settlement». This Arab position, as US would claim, is needed to confront Likud's pressure on Peres and lessen the threats of dissolving the existing government.

At no time have we had any illusions about Labour or any other Zionist party. At no time have we believed that a Zionist assuming power in the Zionist entity could be preoccupied with the question of peace in the region. We have always believed, and still do, that all Zionists are «hawks», war criminals, and incapable of understanding any language other than that of guns and combat. And today recalling the Israeli «national unity government» that was formed on the eve of the 5th of June war of 1967, we declare that the present Peres-Shamir «national unity government» is worse than that one and capable only of more aggression and crimes.

Resistance to I.P.O. Tour in Australia

Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra (I.P.O.) had a tour in Australia arranged by the A.B.C. (Australian Broadcasting Commission). From July 17th to July the 21st they had a series of concerts in Melbourne, while on July the 22nd they played in Hobart of Tasmania. These tours were resisted by the Palestine Solidarity Committee (P.S.C.), the General Union of Palestinian Workers (G.U.P.W.) and the Australian-Palestinian Democratic Organization through several types of action.

In Melbourne these groups had issued a press release condemning the visit and explaining what was behind it, drawing a parallel with South African sporting policy, and issuing facts about the Israeli aggression at the same time talking about Palestinian rights, and hence demanding people to oppose the visit and the A.B.C. to cease its anti-Palestinian bias.

In Hobart, Tasmania, the P.S.C. of Hobart took two separate types of action. The first was an unauthorized demonstration outside the A.B.C.'s Odeon theatre building, the venue for

the concert. Several P.S.C. members occupied the area on the foot path outside the theatre and held up two large banners, one saying «Israel is Occupied Palestine», and the other one saying «Smash Zionism-Free Palestine», while other P.S.C. members handed out leaflets against the visit explaining the Palestinian cause to people entering the theatre and other people passing by.

The second part of the protest was a more direct and fierce challenge to the orchestra, where P.S.C. members entered the theatre and briefly disrupted the concert by shouting out that the I.P.O. represents a fascist settler state, and that «Israel» has committed massacres in Palestine and Lebanon and are responsible for the Sabra and Shatila massacres. Therefore, as an orchestra representing a country, they should explain these actions. At the same time leaflets explaining the reasons for the disruption were distributed. A Palestinian flag was raised. Police then flooded the theatre and forced all the P.S.C. members out, who on their way shouted: «PLO not I.P.O.».