

A New Deal For Israel

Israel politics was given a new dimension this year when the powerful Herut-Liberal Bloc (Gahal) was established with the primary objective of wresting power from Mapai, which has ruled the country for 17 years.

In the preamble to the agreement the two Parties declared:

“This unity of the two Parties, which already represent hundreds of thousands of citizens, in all walks of life, is capable of bringing about a turning point in the life of the State. When the citizens of Israel are called upon, to choose their representatives in the Knesset and determine the constitution of the Government and its path, they will have before them, and they will be given, an unequivocal choice between two forces, two outlooks, two programmes and ways. This time the choice will be: between the Socialist-Marxist alignment and the National-Liberal Bloc.

“By our free agreement we establish an alternative, in its political essence and public force, to the ruling party. The supreme national interest, the future of the State and the freedom of its citizens make it essential, and demand, that the lengthy and dangerous rule of this party be stopped.

The creation of the Herut-Liberal Bloc will make possible, through the free decision of the electorate, the constitution of a new Government and the implementation of a new policy, or the establishment of a most representative and powerful Opposition with practical prospects of establishing a Government.”

What follows are the main points of the New Deal programme, which the Herut-Liberal Bloc has presented to the citizens of Israel for the election on November 2.

The Agreement

1. – The Herut Movement and the Liberal Party in Israel have decided to establish a joint parliamentary bloc to constitute a National-Liberal regime in Israel in place of the present regime.
2. – The Herut Movement will continue to bear aloft in the midst of the nation the principle of integrity of the Homeland: viz: The Jewish People’s right to Eretz Israel in its historic integrity is an eternal right which admits of no denial.

The State and its Mission

1. – The State of Israel was established through the efforts and sacrifices of the Jewish people. It is destined to fulfill the vision of the return to Zion, both from the lands of distress and those of plenty, so that the majority of the Jewish people will return and be concentrated in the Motherland.
2. – The cultivation of fraternity and the national-social consolidation of the immigrants from the different countries, the removal of communal partitions, the consolidation of one nation creating cultural values bearing spiritual, national and human values.
3. – Recognition of the joint fate of all Jews, whether they are in the Motherland or the Diaspora.
4. – Man was not created for the State. The State was created for man – for the maintenance of his natural rights, his freedom, his security and his progress. It is this great axiom of liberalism that obliges every free man to be loyal to his nation and to his country and ready for sacrifices for them.
5. – War against all manifestations of totalitarianism in spiritual, social and economic life.
6. – The supremacy of the joint national interest over that of all strata and stations of the people, and the advancement of their welfare by means of mutual understanding, without class strife.
7. – The assurance of true national independence by the establishment of a creative society maintained by its own labour and not dependent on outside aid.
8. – The social framework will be founded on the freedom of the individual and social justice in a welfare State – and the maintenance of every man’s right, and the right of every member of his family, to a decent living standard, especially in the matter of sustenance, housing, clothing, health and education.
9. – The State of Israel will maintain full equality of rights for all its citizens and inhabitants, without distinction of their race, origin, sex, nationality, religion or grouping.

Foreign Policy

1. – The safeguarding of Israel's sovereignty and security.
2. – Israel's foreign policy will be laid down on the basis of the national interest, without any consideration for social doctrines.
3. The State of Israel is part of the Free World. It will contribute, to the best of its ability, to the peace efforts of nations and States, without consideration of their regimes.
4. – The maintenance of understanding relations with the nations of the world. The cultivation of strong ties with friendly nations. A striving for mutual agreements on the basis of joint interests.
5. – Continuous striving for peace with the Arab peoples.
6. – In view of the state of war which Israel's enemies maintain against her and the hostile military and economic activities they carry out against her, together with their declarations of their intent to annihilate Israel – and their continuous preparations to carry out this threat – Israel is obliged to reserve to itself the full right to self-defence which is recognised in International Law and especially in the Charter of the United Nations.
7. – World-wide counter-action to nullify the Arab boycott.
8. – The rejection of all pressure for the return of the Arab refugees to the territory of Israel. The sole solution for their problem is their settlement in the Arab states.
9. – There can be no prescription, just as there can be no forgetting and explanation for the sins of the German people under the Hitler regime against the Jewish people. There can be no fraternisation with them.
10. – Unremitting political campaign for the removal from Egypt of the German scientists who are producing weapons of mass destruction for her and thereby helping her ruler to carry out a new crime of genocide.
11. – The activation of the moral influence of the Jews of the Diaspora in the people's struggles.

Security and the Civilian Authority

1. – In Israel's special circumstances, its army is vital, not only to assure its independence, but the very existence of the nation. Its maintenance and constant strengthening in spirit and military equipment, is a number one national priority.
2. – The maintenance of the democratic principle of the supremacy of the elected civilian authority over the State's armed forces. Practical parliamentary overseeing of the security arrangements.
3. – It will be affirmed in law that the President of the State is the head of its armed forces.

Basic Constitution and Maintenance of Democratic Regime

1. – The drawing up of a basic constitution that will reinforce the democratic regime, assure the freedom of the individual and establish the political and social rights of the citizen, differentiate between the State authorities and define their rights, guarantee freedom of conscience and expression, and equality for every citizen before the law, without distinction of race, sex, nationality, faith, group, outlook or status and will establish the supremacy of justice. The constitution shall not be altered except by a special majority of Knesset members that will be determined in it. No law shall override the constitution.
2. – The Israel Press will be independent, without prior censorship.
3. – The abrogation of the Emergency Regulations introduced during the period of the British Mandate, regarding which the Knesset has decided that they are "contrary to the basis of a democratic State." Since, from a security point of view, there is no further benefit to be derived from the Military Administration, there can be no justification in its continuance. It will be abrogated after the acceptance of a law determining security measures in border areas.
4. – Freedom of land settlement will be affirmed for every citizen, without its being dependent on membership of any organization or party. Party organizations shall not participate in the organization of immigration, settlement, housing, or farming undertaken with the funds of the State or the Jewish people. The immigrant being housed and settled will be protected from economic pressure by political-economic factors. The law will prevent the eviction of a tenant from his home or of a settler from his land on account of his views or his membership or non-membership of a party or organisation.

Religion and Freedom of Conscience

1. – The State will assure freedom of conscience for every inhabitant unconditionally, and full liberty for every form of worship.
2. – The entrenchment of the eternal values of Israel's heritage in the life of the nation and in education
3. – The cultivation of understanding and mutual respect among all sections of the people without differentiation because of their attitude to religion and faith.

Economic Policy

1. – The purpose of the economic policy is to establish a national visible economy. The economy will be based on private enterprise, of individuals and economic organizations, and decent competition. State economic projects will be restricted to those areas in which private initiative cannot, or is not competent to, act.
2. – The liberation of the economy from its constant dependence on authority; the abrogation or restrictive supervision and bureaucratic brakes and the creation of conditions for the development of free initiative in industry and agriculture, in labor and trade, in building and communications and in all spheres of creative economy.
3. – The liberation of the economy from its partition into economic-political sectors, which are the basis for the determining of preferences and the granting of advantages.
4. – The encouragement of free co-operation; co-operatives must not be forced to depend on political or party factors.
5. – The encouragement of economic activity and an economic basis for undertakings in rebates for women and border areas that will assure firm employment to the population.
6. – The creation of conditions conducive to capital investment from local and foreign sources and their direction, without bureaucratic formulation, to projects advancing economic independence.
7. – The expansion of export and the increase of the capacity to compete in foreign markets without artificial stimulation will be achieved by efficiency, new mechanization, improved productivity and improvement in the product and a regime of competition in the economy of the State.
8. – Improving the capacity and abilities of the man in the street – Israel's basic treasure – as the foundation for the basis and development of the economy.
9. – The encouragement of the modernization of the economy, the mobilization of theoretical and practical science for its service, and determined and constant effort to raise the standard of technology in Israel.
10. – The stabilization of the currency, the curbing of inflation, the discontinuance of the inflation of the budgets of the State and its authorities will prevent the diminution of the purchasing power of the Israel lira and will encourage saving in all strata of the population.
11. – Consideration for the existence and social consolidation of the various sections of the middle class vis-à-vis the forces affecting them. Encouragement for the economic activities of independent producers and the healthy economic development of medium and small undertakings.
12. – The creation of conditions for the freely-undertaken immigration of Jews of all classes, for the investment of their capital, their initiative and their ability in the national upbuilding.
13. – Discrimination against an immigrant, who brings his goods with him to Israel, as against an investor who does not settle in Israel, will be prevented.
14. – Special attention will be devoted to the grave and injurious phenomenon of emigration. Constant effort to abrogate the causes of such emigration is vital to the State.
15. – The assurance of the professional rights of members of free professions, whether independent or salaried.
16. – The economy will not allow any monopolies or cartels – public, private or co-operative – likely to create concentrations of capital preventing free and desirable economic activities.

Taxation System

1. – A taxation system will be maintained that ensures the citizen a just portion of the fruits of his labours, his initiative, and his capital, and encourages effort and desire to save and invest.
The sectoral-political discrimination in the imposition of taxation will be abrogated.
These just principles of taxation will elevate public morality in the matter of paying taxes.
2. – The rates of taxation imposed on the broad masses, workers and professionals, the middle classes and academic and administrative workers are among the highest in the world. The

rates must be reduced to ensure to these classes a standard of living on a par with their contribution to society and the economy, as is the case in States intent on their own progress and welfare.

3. – An increase in income tax rebates for families with many children.
4. – A reduction of taxation (which has been imposed in the form of luxury tax) on essential products needed by the masses.

Labour and Workers

1. – Professional unions to represent workers and defend their interests are a factor in social advancement. The freedom of professional association will be guaranteed to the hired worker and the independent man, without any compulsion of membership in any organisation.
2. – The task of a workers' professional organisation makes a separation between it and ownership of business projects imperative. Such a separation will make it possible for the worker to free himself of political dependence – and will make it possible for the professional union to fulfill its true task, which is solely that of a representative of workers, and will prevent a situation in which representatives of employers may also appear as workers representatives.
3. – It is the duty of the State to create conditions for the worker in which everyone capable of working will find employment, with the assurance of the there being a legally determined minimum wage.
4. – The improvement of the ethics and standard of work.
5. – The right to strike is a fundamental right of the worker in a free society.
6. – A law will be drafted to introduce arbitration – for a limited interim period – in all labour conflicts, in order to make possible a systematic attempt at settling conflicts before any strike.
7. – In essential services for the public and the State, which will be defined in the law, compulsory arbitration will be introduced.

Social Policy

1. – The Health, Education, Labour Exchange and Welfare Departments will be State Departments without any political or organisation tendencies.
2. – A law will be prepared to introduce State Healthinsurance to embrace the whole population, and it will be put into effect by the State. This insurance will mak possible the citizen's obtaining an efficient service of high standard and will free the citizen of dependence on a party or organisation.

Education

1. – Education in Israel is an undertaking of the highest importance, and it is te duty of the State to devote all the means at its disposal to it.
2. – A law for compulsory, free education will be put into effect. There will be no imposition of fees of any type.
3. – Capable pupils of small means must be provided with the opportunity for free education in high schools and trade schools.
4. – There will be a gradual introduction of free education in higher institutions of education.
5. – Capable pupils of small means in secondary schools will be granted bursaries and loans to enable them to obtain higher education.
6. – Special attention will be paid to the dissemination of knowledge among those who were deprived of it before their arrival in Israel.
7. – The State nature of education will be maintained against any attempt to restore, however indirectly, the former "trends" in education.

Published in The Jewish Herald
September 21 1965