

Editorial

Ariel Sharon's 'Weimar Israel'

Israel is precisely repeating the process that led to the collapse of the Weimar Republic and the installation of a Nazi regime in Germany in 1933. As occurred with Germany, outside forces, in this instance the U.S. State Department, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Soviet regime, are consciously pushing to bring a fascist regime to power.

Until very recently, no one would think that such a thing could happen in Israel, but as the recent rise in popularity of Meir Kahane, the Nazi head of the Jewish Defense League and the Kach Party, indicates, the process is far advanced. For Weimar Israel, Kahane is merely the "Julius Strasser"—the chief of the leftist stormtroopers who paved the way for Hitler. The Hitler in this case is ex-Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, now Minister of Trade and Industry. He is using the Arabs as Hitler used the Jews—as an object of hatred, a scapegoat.

The continual Syrian-backed terrorist attacks against Israelis, have frightened the Israeli people, a fear fed by the vacillation of Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Kahane's racist message to these frightened people is unambiguous: Our problem is the Arabs, he declares. He proposes a final solution: "I don't say we have to do something about the Arabs. I say we have a problem, and here's my answer—throw them out."

Kahane's support is no longer limited to the fringe elements. An April poll by the Dahaf Research Institute, of 600 students aged 15-18, found 42% supporting him. Eleven percent said they would vote for him. A recent study by the Likud-oriented newspaper *Yediot Ahronot*, found that Kahane is drawing from a broad base, including the constituency of the Likud and Tahiya parties, the established right wing.

In one West Bank settlement, the Likud members of the city council formed a coalition with two members of Kahane's Kach Party, and signed an accord on July 19, agreeing to "dismiss all Arab labor employed by the local council." Although on July 30 the Israeli At-

torney General declared the agreement null and void, because of its racist content, the coalition vowed to carry it out. Then on Aug. 4 the Israeli Cabinet decided to reinstate administrative detention without trial, and deportation of persons considered security risks, measures that target the Arabs in Israel and the West Bank. The Cabinet is also considering making it illegal for an Israeli to meet with a PLO representative.

This looming catastrophe was set up by the intervention into Israel made by the State Department and IMF, to force them to carry out a brutal austerity policy, allegedly to cut their 1,000% inflation rate, and their over-\$25-billion budget deficit. The measures, modeled on those of Hitler's Economics Minister Hjalmar Schacht, were a condition for release of \$1.5 billion in U.S. aid.

The result was a drastic cut in public service spending, especially in health and education, causing 6-10,000 layoffs. A wage freeze, and, after a rise in prices, a price freeze, were enacted, sharply raising the cost of living. The Histadrut (Israel's labor federation) forecasts an official unemployment rate of 10% within the next month—an unprecedented figure. Highly skilled engineers and other professionals are fleeing the country in droves.

Ariel Sharon has recently returned to the political spotlight, calling for military strikes against PLO centers in Jordan and Tunisia. Behind his comeback is a secret pact among his faction in Israel, the Soviets, and the Syrians. They have agreed that only through creating a Greater Israel and a Greater Syria can their respective situations be shored up. If this means exterminating the Palestinians, and destroying the Kingdom of Jordan, with the territory to be divided between Israel and Syria, then so be it, Sharon's faction thinks. If this means a fascist, racist government in Israel, under Sharon's dictatorial control, then so be it.

If Israel is to survive, it must free itself from the State Department and IMF policies now.