

Communist Party Gets Strong Support From West Bank Palestinians

JERUSALEM (WNS) Peace. — A Communist faction apparently favored by Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat has scored a significant success in its drive for support among West bank Palestinians against a more moderate rival, the newly formed Progressive List for

Peace. The latter, a coalition of Israeli Arab nationalists and Jewish leftists is appealing to Israeli Arabs who traditionally have voted for the Communist list in Knesset elections. For that reason, it seeks support from West Bank Palestinian leaders who are

believed to have considerable influence in Israel's Arab community. It suffered a setback this week when the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (DFPE), which is Communist, won the endorsement of 25 West Bank notables. Most are known Communists and leftists. But the signatories of a statement of support for the DFPE include such strong Palestinian nationalists as the deposed mayors of Nablus, Ramallah and El Bireh — Bassam Shaka, Karim Khallaf and Ibrahim A-Tawil, respectively. These men are neither Communist nor necessarily of leftwing persuasion.

The statement they signed maintains that the DFPE has always taken "patriotic and brave" positions in support of the Palestinian people's struggle for an independent state.

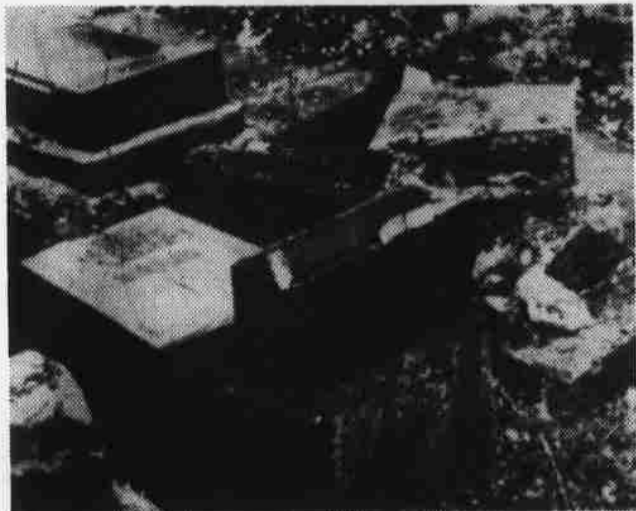
Both the DFPE and the Progressive List for Peace claim to have the

support of the PLO leadership. Arafat, in a recent interview, made no statements in favor of either list but one of his deputies urged Israeli Arabs to vote Communist.

The Progressive List for Peace was initially

banned from the July 23 Knesset elections because of its advocacy of a Palestinian state and Israel's withdrawal to its pre-June, 1967 borders. But the Supreme Court overruled the Central Election Committee's ban. It also overruled the ban against Rabbi Meir Kahane's extreme right-wing Kach Party which the Central Elections Committee considered a menace to democratic institutions.

Grave Offense



Tombstones in the Kaunas (Kovno) Jewish cemetery lie broken and vandalized, in a photo obtained by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. This is yet another effort by the Kremlin to destroy the Jewish past to try to prevent a Jewish future in the USSR.



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