

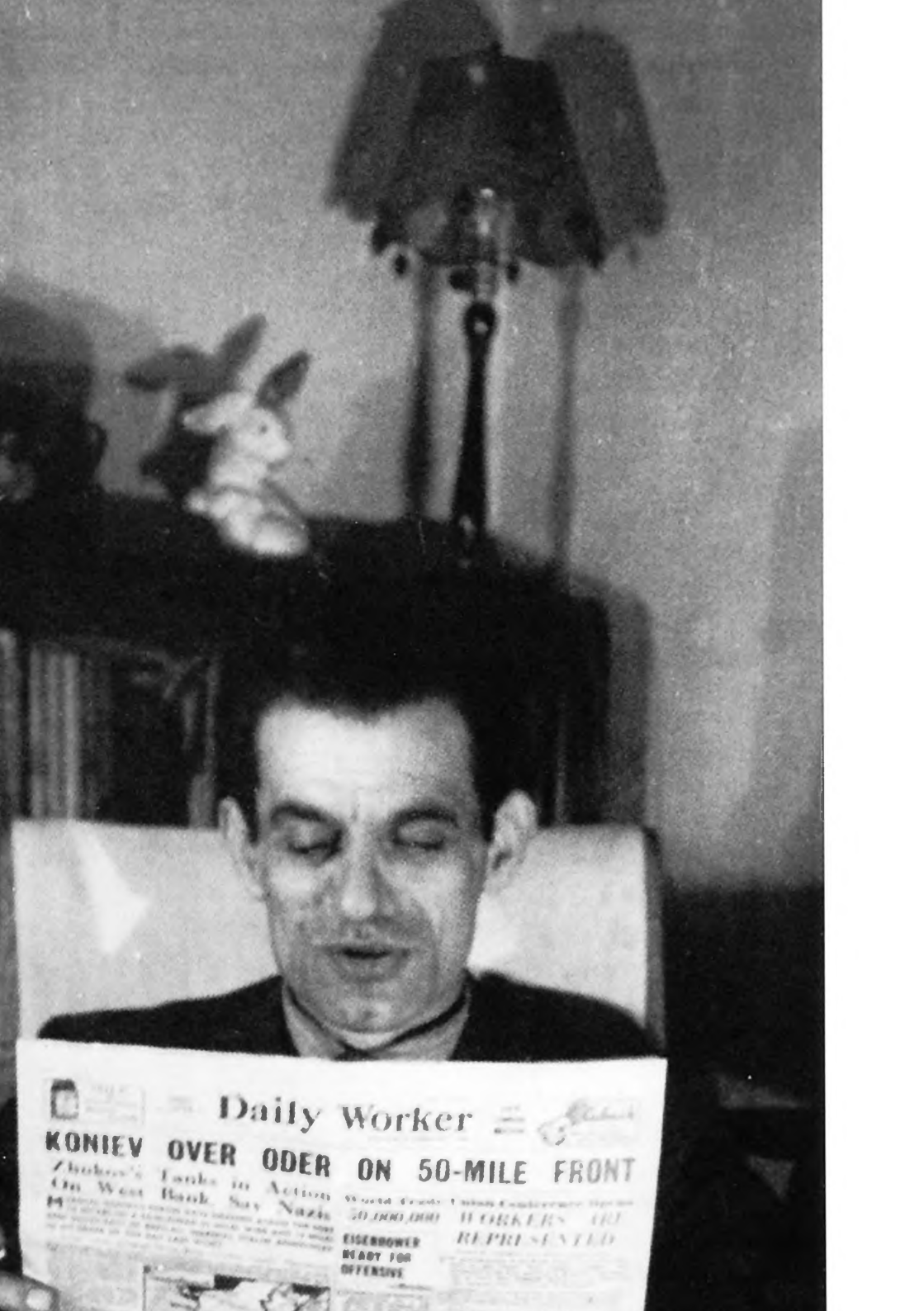
A veteran activist,

I would sometimes hear the name of Bulus Farah mentioned as an old-time Communist and founding member of the League for National Liberation. In recent years, during visits to my former political partner, the late Daud Turki, in Wadi Nisnas, I saw on his table the autobiography of Bulus Farah *Min al- 'uthmaniya ila al-dawla al- 'ibriya* (*From Ottoman Times to the Hebrew State*), published in Nazareth in 1985. I was curious to read this book, to know more about this man.

About a year ago, during one of my visits, we discussed with my friend Akiva Or Farah's book, and I said that I would like to try to translate it into Hebrew. I thought that it wouldn't be too difficult because of my familiarity with Marxist discourse in both Hebrew and Arabic. Yet, once engaged in the translation, it turned out to be less easy than I'd thought. In effect, it has taken more than a year to finish.

The autobiography begins in Nazareth in 1910. Farah's father had died when he was a little boy. The book opens with a portrayal of the family's poverty, and of how his mother coped with five small children in Nazareth during the years following First World War and the beginning of the British Mandate period. Economic necessity, by the age of 14, made him leave Nazareth for Haifa where his mother's family lived. He relates in detail the seven-hour coach journey from Nazareth and his first impression of Haifa, the burgeoning industrial and administrative centre of northern Palestine.

Shortly after reaching Haifa, he started working in the printing house of *Al-Nafir*, one of two daily Arabic newspapers in Haifa at the time. He describes the harsh conditions in the big grimy windowless warehouse of *Al-Nafir*. Its only benefit, he claims, was that it had become a meeting place for Arab and Jewish communists. There he first heard about radical political ideas of modernity, about nationalism, secularism and socialism. Then, in 1925, at the age of 15 and after a nasty quarrel with Ilya Zakka, the owner of *Al-Nafir*, he leaves the paper to go to work as an apprentice in the workshops of the railway service. As portrayed by Farah, these huge workshops were the hotbed and the vanguard of the Palestinian workers' movement during the Mandate period, and it was there that he was to become one of the leaders of the Palestinian labour movement and of the Communist Party.



Daily Worker

KONIEV OVER ODER ON 50-MILE FRONT

Zhukov's Tanks in Action On West Bank, Say Nazis

MERKEL, GERMAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, SAID TODAY THAT THE SOVIET ARMY HAS TAKEN 20,000 PRISONERS AND TAKEN 50,000 PRISONERS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CAMPAIGN. HE SAID THE SOVIETS HAVE TAKEN 10,000 PRISONERS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CAMPAIGN. HE SAID THE SOVIETS HAVE TAKEN 10,000 PRISONERS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CAMPAIGN.

WORKERS ARE REPRESENTED

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