The occupation of Palestine by Israel has led Zionism to the perpetration of the worst crimes against the Palestinian people and the Arab homeland, of which one of the latest is the burning down of the Al Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem on August 21, 1969, a fire which the Israeli authorities delayed in putting out and prevented the Arab people from fighting, by shooting at them when they were trying to save the mosque.

The perpetration of this serious act by the Israeli authorities is only one in a series of actions and plans aimed at turning the city of Jerusalem into a Zionist center and wiping out all Arab and Islamic traces. All of this is carried out in violation of international law and agreements, particularly the Geneva Convention and other agreements on the preservation of antiquities.

To this end, the Israeli authorities recently enacted a law requiring every cooperative association or society, every lawyer, every doctor, every employer in occupied Jerusalem to re-register in the Israeli service within a period of six months, in accordance with Israeli rules, and also seizing the property of Arabs who are away.

Israel's Minister of Justice stated on May 7, 1969 that the Ministry, the Israeli High Court and the Jerusalem Tribunal, as well as the police headquarters, would be moved to the Arab sector of the occupied city of Jerusalem. Likewise, there are daily reports on the Israeli military raids and revengeful persecutions, all of them aimed at forcing the Arab population to an exodus, by destroying their homes, confiscating their property and wealth and by various other means of coercion. It is a known fact that the Israeli authorities demolished the Al Magharibeh district, in the neighborhood of the Al Aksa Mosque, forcing its residents to evacuate.

In the face of these horrible crimes, the Palestinian people have been compelled to intensify the armed struggle more than ever, to recover their legitimate rights usurped by the Zionist invader.
of imperialism headed by the United States.

The Executive Secretariat of OSPAAAL considers that the Israeli authorities are responsible for the fire, for this criminal act is a result of their systematic attitude of ignoring and trampling on every Arab right in Jerusalem. The Israeli authorities have repeatedly expressed their intention to rebuild the so-called Temple of Solomon on the very site of the Al Aqsa Mosque. They have expressed, on several occasions, their determination to turn the Arab city of Jerusalem into the capital of Zionism.

The Executive Secretariat of OSPAAAL condemns this crime which is an expression of the permanent Zionist aggressiveness against the Arab people and their millenarian civilization, and reasserts the legitimate historic rights of the Arab people in Jerusalem.

The Executive Secretariat of OSPAAAL reiterates on this occasion its militant support of the Palestinian people in their struggle for the liberation of their occupied homeland, and exhorts all the member organizations to extend full support to this just struggle.

Peoples' War:

Decisive Path for the Palestinians

The Arab-Israeli conflict has taken on a new aspect. Because of the development of the people's resistance, clashes with the Israeli armed forces have increased and have acquired a basic dimension: that of the struggle for the national liberation of the Palestinian people against the expansionist State of Israel which is organically tied to imperialism and whose existence has been imposed on Palestine by force.

In our country, a unilaterally pro-Israeli report distorts the essence of that struggle. We must reestablish historic truth. This does not mean, as it is sometimes believed, that a population is to be wiped off the face of the earth, nor is it an action directed against Jews. In effect, Zionism could not have been conceived and brought into being except within the framework of the process of European colonialism, taken over by US imperialism which has used the problem of the persecuted Jews to set up a colonial state based on the violation of the rights of an entire people: the Palestinians.

It is the duty of all those who support the oppressed people in their struggle against imperialism to offer their active solidarity to the Palestinian struggle. With this end in view, the National Palestine Committee has