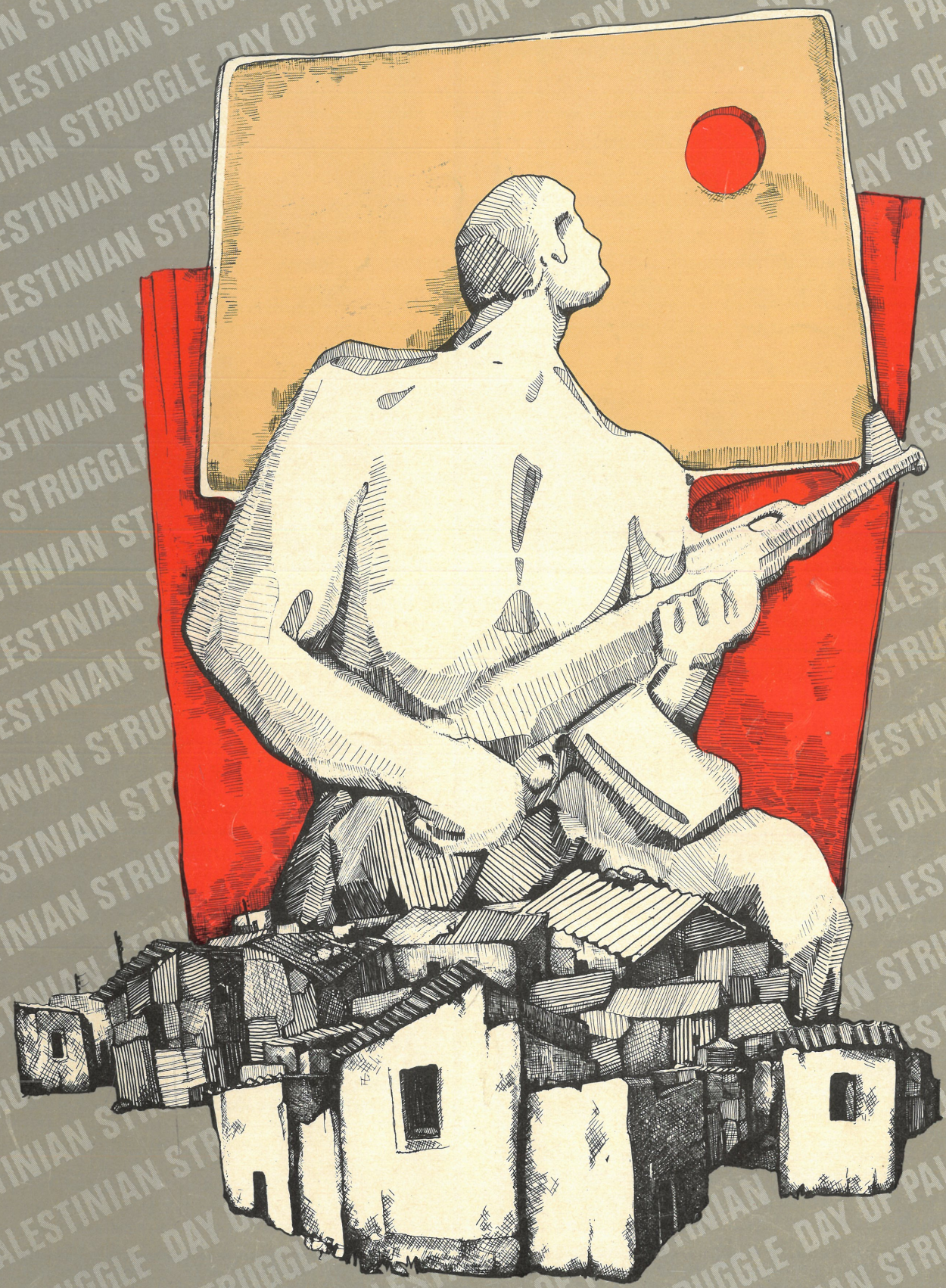


**P.L.O.
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Palestine

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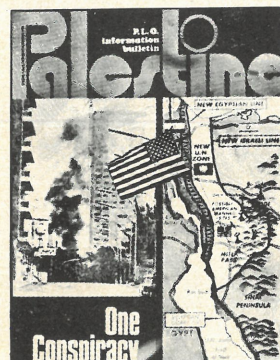


ABU IYAD:
**Syrian Tutelage will
Never Return at Any Price**

**THE BATTLE
OF BHAMDOUN**
**a Land mark on the Way
of Struggle**

OCCUPIED PALESTINE
**MORE REPRESSION MORE
RESISTANCE**

ZIONIST SEA-PIRACY
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TO OUR FRIENDS

There is no doubt that the Israeli-isolationist aggressions in South Lebanon are aimed at hindering the re-establishment of peace in Lebanon. Nevertheless, a clear tendency towards normalization of the situation in general is noticeable. This optimism, which we wish to be well founded, in the ultimate interest of Palestine and Lebanon, has made us decide to resume the publication of the "Palestine" bulletin in its usual form. The reader, however, will find certain modifications concerning the form of presentation.

Furthermore we would like to inform our readers abroad that the quasi-total blockade imposed on the areas controlled by the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian Revolution during the last few months has naturally affected the functioning of information. We have done everything possible to improve these conditions, and made great efforts to ensure the delivery of the six supplement numbers of "Palestine", essentially dedicated to the events in Lebanon, to all our readers. But there surely have been inconveniences for which we apologize.

Editorial

PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON IS TEMPORARY

The battle of Bhamdoun between the Syrian and Palestinian forces marked a turning point in the crisis. The heroic resistance of the joint Palestinian and patriotic Lebanese forces against the Syrian attackers evoked intense political and diplomatic activity in Arab capitals.

Unexpectedly, on the fourth day of the fierce battle and due to Saudi Arabian intervention, a ceasefire was declared and a six-party summit conference (comprising the belligerents Syria, Lebanon and the PLO, together with Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait) was convened in Riyadh. The six-party summit accepted the Lebanese-Palestinian working paper which was the basis of the Shtaura deliberations on 9 and 11 October. This paper included, besides other provisions, the implementation of the Cairo agreement between the PLO and the Lebanese state.

After the summit, Chairman Yasser Arafat went to Damascus and held talks with the Syrian President Hafez Assad. These talks can be considered "the beginning of a new era of comprehension between both parties."

On 25 October the first extraordinary Arab summit took place in Cairo. The Arab heads of state ratified the resolutions of the six-party Riyadh summit and discussed the composition of the Arab peace-keeping force which will act as a deterrent force, and Syrian participation in it. An important point which remains to be discussed is the size of the Syrian contingent which would participate in this Arab deterrent force.

After this diplomatic activity, the tense situation in Lebanon relaxed and an evident amelioration of the situation took place. The Palestinian forces started to withdraw from their front-line positions in the mountains towards the South. On the other side, the Syrians started thinning out their troops on the front lines.

It is obvious now that a new situation is starting to develop in Lebanon. Freezing the inter-Arab contradictions is a great victory for the Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian peoples. It is now the main task of the Palestinian Revolution to concentrate its efforts on its main enemy, the Zionist occupation.

It has always been the genuine desire of the Palestinian Revolution to see peace prevail in Lebanon, and to foil all attempts at the liquidation and extermination of the Palestinian people and their just cause. Once again it has to be stressed that the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is a temporary presence.

Palestine

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Syrian Bombardment at Bhamdoun.

The Battle Of Bhamdoun

Abu Jihad



On 13 October, the Syrian forces launched a massive offensive against joint forces (Palestinian Revolution and Lebanese National Movement) positions in Bhamdoun, the Lebanese resort 20 miles east of Beirut, and the neighbouring area.

This surprise assault came despite several earlier meetings between the warring factions under the auspices of the Arab League special envoy Hassan S. El-Kholi which were held in the Syrian-controlled town of Shtaura on 9 and then on 11 October. It was expected to find a solution before the scheduled Summit meeting on 18 October.

The new drive was seen as a part of a Syrian power tactic, using alternately military and political pressures to break the leadership of the PLO under comrade Yasser Arafat and force it to accept a settlement in Lebanon on Syrian terms. The Syrian objective was to press the Palestinians militarily to the point where political and logistical support from friendly Arab governments could no longer help them defy Syria's wishes that the Palestinians should recognize Syria in the role of an enforcer of law and order in Lebanon.

Although the Palestinian Revolution was able to reach a mutual understanding with the Lebanese authorities represented by Lebanese President Sarkis, it was aware that Syria would not allow any agreement concerning the Lebanese conflict to pass without the acceptance of Syria and its allies the Lebanese isolationists. In this course Syria's acceptance of the

Comrade Mas'oud a fighter who participated in the battle of Bhamdoun said: "We were not surprised by the Syrian offensive, the odds against us were 25-1 but in spite of that we were prepared and had taken our military measures, and we were able to inflict heavy losses on the invaders' ranks."

Regarding the fortifications in Bhamdoun, Comrade Mahmoud, the engineer who was responsible for the military fortifications, said: "In some areas we could establish good fortifications, and tried to establish others but the Syrians were preventing us from doing so;...In fact the fortifications proved to be good enough to prevent the Syrian troops from achieving their aim within the time they hoped, the barricades prevented the Syrian tanks from advancing; that is why they pushed hundreds of infantry soldiers forward to secure the road. I say that our fighters were up to their responsibilities...They held their positions in spite of the fact that the Syrians were answering each bullet with a shell."

The battle of Bhamdoun and Baaleshmey shook the conscience of the Arabs and prompted their leaders to take the initiative of putting an end to the strife going on in Lebanon. It also convinced the Syrians that coercing the Palestinian Revolution was going to be a costly thing to do. In this context the Mini-Summit Conference was held in Riyadh in which the Palestinian Revolution was able to achieve:

a- Containing the Lebanese strife and the Syrian military intervention in Lebanon.

b- Foiling and stalemating the Syrian project aimed at checkmating the Palestinian Revolution or controlling it.

c- Emphasizing the leadership of the PLO under Comrade Yasser Arafat as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, thus maintaining that the Palestinian Revolution should never be subservient to or directed by anyone except the free will of the Palestinian people.

d- Blocking the way of the Syrian intervention by carrying out the Cairo Agreement under Arab guarantees.

In fact the battle of Bhamdoun was a victory for Palestinian independence and a defeat for those who discredit the abilities of armed people's movements. Shtaura talks was a sign that it did not, for the time being at least, intend to launch another offensive, despite the persistent claims of its fascist isolationist allies, who alone are not likely to make significant progress.

But the Syrian regime intended to go it alone in Lebanon along with the Lebanese rightists. In order to count on the Arab League role in Lebanon, the periodical target of the Syrian offensive was to force the cancellation of cease-fires between the Syrians, Palestinians and Lebanese.

At 9.30 a.m. on 13 October the Syrian forces positioned in Ruwaisat Sofar-Sofar Mdeirej and the neighbouring area opened fire with rockets, tank guns

and 130 mm heavy artillery on:

a- Bhamdoun-Bhamdoun Village, Shanay, Aley, and Kayfoun axes.

b- Sofar-Bhamdoun axis.

c- Qbeiy'a-the village-Bhamdoun axis.

On all of these axes the Syrians, in their attempts to advance, used tanks and infantry moving under cover of an intense rocket and artillery bombardment. The joint forces were subjected to vicious assaults. Heroically they confronted the attackers and retaliated with all types of weapons, inflicting heavy losses among the ranks of the invaders.

The Syrians thought that manpower can determine a battle. They underestimated the consequences of the first mountain battle on 28 September. They were overconfident with their first "victory" and thought that joint forces would retreat again, opening the main road to Aley and Beirut. But to occupy Bhamdoun was not an easy mission, it was a house-to house battle where the fierce and heroic resistance of our fighters forced the Syrian regime to stop its attack due to its heavy losses, and to accept participation in the Riyadh mini-Summit conference without King Hussain of Jordan attending and with the presence of Comrade Yasser Arafat as head of the PLO.

Testimonials from Bhamdoun

Comrade Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee and Commander of the joint forces in the mountain area, commenting on the battle of Bhamdoun, said: "The scorched-earth policy which was followed by the Syrian troops clearly shows the Syrian regime's determination to carry on with the conspiracy against the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. The Syrian offensive was aimed at crushing everything; they destroyed and robbed the houses, they shelled hospitals and welfare institutions including the school for Palestinian Martyrs' Sons in Souq Al-Gharb. Our fighters firm stand was aimed confronting the conspiracy and letting the conspirators know well that it will cost them much if they insist on going ahead with their conspiracy."

Joint Forces retaliating Syrian shelling.





Interview

Abu Iyad: Syrian Tutelage will never Return at any Price

After the heroic resistance in Bhamdoun which prompted the convening of the Riyad and Cairo summit conferences, Abu Iyad (member of Fatah Central Committee) for the first time gave "Palestine" this interview clarifying the current situation and the future tasks of the Palestinian Revolution.

Q: Comrade Abu Iyad, can you give us an idea about the isolationist role in South Lebanon, particularly since the battle of the mountain is now over?

A: South Lebanon may be considered the central issue of the whole conflict which emerged 18 months ago, since the conflict is aimed at depriving the Palestinian Revolution of its main basis. While the Palestinian Revolution was busy

defending its very existence against Syrian and isolationist assaults in the mountain, the isolationist forces grasped the opportunity to infiltrate some Southern Lebanese villages and were able to score a few successes. We on our side believe that the battle of the South is enough to make the whole Arab nation shoulder its responsibilities, despite the fact that we and the Lebanese state, which has to apply

the Cairo Agreement with us, are primarily responsible. Otherwise, the Cairo Agreement would be meaningless as long as the Israeli-isolationist alliance is trying to establish a security belt on the South Lebanese border.

We have a plan for returning to the South, and I believe that the plan will prove fruitful. We understand the situation in the South, especially that Israel cannot occupy the South directly, or the Golan Agreement and other agreements will collapse.

On this basis we are now carrying out a full assessment of the situation in the South specifically, bearing in mind that the internal battles are not yet over. But the battle of the South is extremely serious for our entity, and I believe that in the days to come the South will receive great attention.

Q: There is no doubt that the battle of Bhamdoun prompted the Riyad and Cairo summit conferences. How do you evaluate the Arab situation after these two conferences?

A: Frankly, resolutions are not important. Plenty of resolutions have been published or broadcast, this is not important. One can recognise the PLO and recognise routine matters that we have become used to in our conferences. The important thing is the essence of the conferences. My viewpoint is that they were not in the form we had expected, especially with regard to the Arab peacekeeping forces. Why have Algeria, Morocco and Egypt so far not taken part? It is the duty of all Arab states which have capable armies to take part in the Arab forces. The size of the Syrian forces remains almost the same. All that happened was that apparently the Syrian initiative was transformed into an Arab initiative but in practice the Syrian role remained as it is.

Q: After the battle of the mountain and the two summit conferences, is there any change in the Syrian position? Or is it still as

it was, after Comrade Arafat's meetings with Hafiz Al Assad?

A: With regard to the people and history of Syria, no ruler can continue to take a hostile position, particularly if he claims to support the Palestinian Revolution. But the truth we must always state is that *Syrian tutelage over the Palestinian Revolution has ended, irrevocably and for ever*. Also, it is the blood of our martyrs that has broken the chains of this tutelage that will never return at any price. As for our relationship with the Syrian regime, that depends on the extent to which the Syrian regime's attitude to the Palestinian Revolution is positive.

Q: To change the subject, Comrade Abu Iyad, regarding Geneva, particularly at the summit conference, and since the Soviet Union sent a letter to Comrade Yasser Arafat reportedly on this matter, do you think that the question of Geneva has become more vital than before?

A: According to my information, Dr. Mahmoud Riad did not raise the question of Geneva or a ceasefire. However, every matter can be raised, notably our assessment of the Lebanese war, and from time to time they raise a new subject. The fact is that the Geneva conference is linked to the settlement.

Now it seems to me that what is going on is an attempt to restrict the Resistance, which is still standing firmly on its feet. Through this assessment, which is being carried out by more than one quarter, American, Israeli, and of course Soviet and Arab, and in this phase of assessing the situation of the Resistance and how it will be after the battle of the South which we are about to wage, after these battles, they will assess what happened and see where the Palestinian Revolution is and what it has become. Whether it is in a phase where it lacks weight, or a balanced phase, or whether it has emerged stronger from the ordeal. Afterwards, the Geneva conference

and the role of the settlement we are still confronting will appear on the margin, as well as Israel's relationship with the Middle East.

It is difficult for us to reply further about the Geneva conference. In fact, the Soviet Union has no knowledge of an invitation to Geneva or anywhere else. But the Soviet Union has its conception of the Geneva conference and proposed points for its agenda, and it conveyed these through a letter to one of the Arab member states of the Geneva conference, but not to us directly. However, we were shown some of the points, or the Syrian viewpoint regarding Geneva.

My opinion now is that we are still at the stage of halting the conspiracy and establishing ourselves firmly. After that, we have an attitude to the Geneva conference which we will declare in the way we normally express our views.

Q: You have often spoken to newspapers about the Soviet role towards the Lebanese crisis, of which you were in fact somewhat critical. Could you tell the reader what the Soviet Union is, or was, required to do?

A: In fact, a person has a viewpoint on his relationships with his friends, and in times of crisis the friend should strengthen his friends' role



according to his capabilities as he sees them, or as the Soviet Union sees them. I think the Soviet Union went through phases regarding the Lebanese crisis. *In the first phase*, the Soviets did not understand what was going on in Lebanon, according to what they said. Or they did not know what they wanted, that is what they gave us to understand.

In the second phase, the Soviet Union began to understand the Lebanese crisis, but after this understanding it acted in a normal and routine manner, not in a way appropriate to the conspiracy that had been planned.

The third phase was when the Syrian intervention occurred, and the Soviet action was confined to a protest. We did not ask the Soviet Union to intervene militarily in our favour, but we knew that the Soviet Union was able to pressure the United States, which had given the green light for the Lebanese war and could pressure the isolationist forces. It was within the Soviet Union's power to apply more pressure. It could have lifted the naval blockade which Israel imposed on us. All that was within the power of the Soviet Union to offer us, but I think it did not offer us what it should have done.

This was our view on raising the naval blockade, whether by pressure or by active determination. I repeatedly declared that the Soviet Union could send us a ship carrying foodstuffs for our children and the Lebanese people, flying the Soviet flag so as to tell Israel that it was here. There are other problems, hence our open criticism of the Soviet Union in its attitude to the Lebanese crisis, particularly since, if the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement are hit in Lebanon, *I believe the Soviet Union will lose a strong ally that will be hard to replace in the region*. Then the Soviet Union has had experience of regimes in the Arab World, but not with progressive movements there, and it should benefit from this experience. It is

true that in the Soviet Union the state is ruled by a party, and the party itself can establish relationships without any embarrassment with these revolutionary movements, of which we consider include the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement a part. Hence our criticism of the Soviet friends. Events established that there was no such pressure, and this enabled the American axis to appear on the screen, as if it and no one else would solve the crisis, but this was not at all true.

Q: According to what is said, there is no doubt that the Lebanese crisis has more or less entered its last phases. Can we ask about the Palestinian Revolution's future tasks?

A: It is in fact hard to say definitely that it is in its last phases, but nevertheless it is certain there will be a solution, if not today, then in future. I think the most important thing is to rebuild our own structure, a structure based on new foundations, benefiting from the positive and negative aspects of the past war, and to try to give the movement back its vitality after it emerges from these long battles, and to reorganise our military forces and our organisational strength on sound and firm foundations. We must also think of explaining what has happened to the world, since some people have an unclear picture of the war, particularly since the isolationists have tried to distort this picture. So we must set out once more to regain some positions where the picture may have become distorted, such as saying that the war is sectarian, or between Christian and Muslims or right and left, or other theories that the isolationists have circulated, relying on their (emigrant) communities and also US and Israeli intelligence. Also I believe we must give attention to the occupied homeland and our people there, with more unity and more cohesion with this determined people who have not allowed



themselves or their struggle to be affected by the events in Lebanon. They remained cohesive and were able to organise uprisings that were a direct support for us in the battle, since they showed the world that this people, oppressed by the occupation and in the shadow of the conspiracies to which the revolution was exposed abroad, could stand on their own feet. Then, beyond the three factors I have mentioned, we must also look forward to escalating our military action inside the occupied homeland, since this is our weapon. Likewise we must reassess other things inside the revolution. What is important in my opinion now is three urgent matters in addition to what I have stated: the strengthening of the movement's position internally in every situation, a unified Palestinian position that will not be allowed to differ from the Lebanese National Movement's position, united so as not to allow any disagreements to find their way into it; a position of greater cohesiveness with the Arab masses, particularly with the revolutionary movements among them; and then, of course, to have good relations with all progressive movements in the world that have supported us and stood by us much more than the Arab regimes. *Everyone knows that demonstrations were held in Paris and Rome to help Tal al-Zaatar and those uprooted from it and to help and support our revolution, while in the Arab World, regrettably, only one demonstration was organised.* We must consolidate ties with these

people who stood by us. I think these things will be the tasks of the next phase.

Q: After all these events, particularly since the Palestinian Revolution internally has lost many activists while gaining or establishing its capability on the world political level, are you optimistic?

A: A revolutionary is defeated when he loses his optimism. In spite of crises and hardships, we never for a moment lost our optimism. We may be pessimistic about the Arab regimes and the Arab and international situations but our internal situation was always and continuously good, as was our people's ability to defy obstacles. In the end our people will be victorious. I believe our revolution is one of the most difficult revolutions in modern history, since it is facing many enemies. We have been hit by rockets and artillery mercilessly, and so we say that the great conspiracy in Lebanon, and before that in Amman and in Jarash and Ajloun, every time we would emerge from it strong. This fact makes us optimistic, since the revolution is continuing from generation to generation until it achieves its aims through victory.

Q: Our magazine *Palestine* is circulated abroad, so could you give a statement to our foreign readers?

A: In fact, in the course of my replies I described how proud one feels of all the demonstrations that were held in both Eastern and Western Europe, as well as the parties that supported our Palestinian Revolution and organised marches. I send greetings to all these comrades and friends and pledge to them that our revolution will continue so that we shall continue supporting them and they supporting us until the achievement of their aims and ours for a free life for humanity under a just peace in all regions, particularly in Palestine. □

THE RIYAD AGREEMENT



The fierce resistance of the Joint Forces in the Lebanese mountains has led to the immediate result of inducing the Arab states to use their influence to settle the Lebanese crisis, and to attempt to halt the plot aiming at the liquidation of the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. The fear of letting the Lebanese events have a snowball effect in the Arab world has no doubt a connection with the "mini-summit" of Riyadh, that was convened from 17 to 18 October. It was attended by Yasser Arafat, President of the P.L.O. Executive Committee, Elias Sarkis, President of the Republic of Lebanon, Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat, Emir Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah of Kuwait, and King Khaled of Saudi Arabia.

This restricted summit in the first place endeavoured to prepare the ground for a platform of common understanding between the Arab regimes subjected to

various contradictions. Moreover the summit attempted to even out the divergencies existing between certain parties to the Lebanese conflict and those which arose in general over the modalities supposed to serve as a basis for a settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

Those obstacles regarding Lebanon could be overcome. The points of dispute concerning the supreme command of the Arab "deterrent force" to be sent to Lebanon to supervise the application of the Riyadh resolutions were settled in favour of the Lebanese president, who was given command of the force.

The settlement of the Lebanese crisis therefore involves the principal Arab powers. It envisages a general cease-fire and the creation of an Arab intervention force, starting with a core of 2,300 men, to be increased to a total of 30,000 men, and the retreat of all fighting elements to the positions which they occupied before the outbreak

of the Lebanese war, on 13 April 1975. The "green berets" will also be in charge of watching the application of the Cairo Agreement of 1969, which among other things gives the Palestinian Revolution the right to keep "operational bases" in Lebanon to pursue its liberation struggle.

The following is the text of the agreement, which was read out at the closing session of the meeting in the night of 18 October:

1) Final and definite end of the fighting on the whole Lebanese territory starting on Thursday, October 21 at 6 a.m., and strict respect of the ceasefire by all parties involved.

2) Reinforcement of the Arab security forces in Lebanon in order to transform them into an operational deterrent force under the orders of the President of the Republic of Lebanon. This force will be brought up to 30,000 men whose mission will be:

- to impose the cease-fire, the end of the fighting, the separation of all the fighting elements and the suppression of any party violating the cease-fire;

- to see to the application of the 1969 Cairo agreement and its annexes;

- to maintain security;
- to supervise the return of the fighters to the positions they occupied before 13 April 1975 (date of outbreak of the Lebanese civil war) and the dismantling of the military installations in conformity with the timetable annexed to the agreement;

- to supervise the collection of all heavy arms: artillery, mortars, missile batteries, armoured cars, on the responsibility of the interested parties;

- to help the Lebanese authorities to reactivate the public services and national institutions, to reconstruct them and to protect civilian and

military establishments.

3) Return to normality inside the Lebanese State, i.e. to the situation previous to 13 April 1975, as a first stage according to the timetable annexed to the agreement.

4) Application of the Cairo agreement and its annexes exactly to the letter, under the guarantee of all Arab countries. A Saudi Arabian-Egyptian-Kuwaiti-Syrian committee will be in charge of coordinating the application of the Cairo agreement and its annexes with the President of the Republic of Lebanon. The mandate of this committee will last for ninety days beginning with the proclamation of the cease-fire.

5) The Palestine Liberation Organization pledges to respect the sovereignty and integrity of Lebanon and not to interfere in Lebanese internal affairs, in accordance with its responsibilities regarding the Palestinian national cause, while the Lebanese legal authority guarantees the safety and existence of the P.L.O. and its action on Lebanese territory in the framework of the Cairo agreement and its annexes.

6) The Arab countries pledge to respect the sovereignty and integrity of Lebanon and the unity of its people and territory.

7) All Arab countries reconfirm their pledge in accordance with the summits of Algiers and Rabat, to support the Palestinian Resistance represented by the P.L.O., and to respect the right of the Palestinian people to struggle by all means in order to regain their national rights.

8) The end of information and propaganda campaigns as well as the radio war by all parties.

9) The annexed timetable (not published) is considered to be an integral part of this agreement. It envisages the withdrawal of the armed elements and the abolition of any military manifestation.



ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE TO ARAB HEADS OF STATE

Comrade Yasser Arafat on 12 October sent a message to Arab Heads of State calling on them to shoulder their full responsibility in the face of the new Syrian offensive against the positions of the Joint Forces in South Lebanon.

The message said:

"This morning, the Syrian forces positioned in South Lebanon launched an armoured and infantry attack from Jezzín against our forces along two axes, the first towards 'Azour-Roum in the West, and the second towards al Homsiya-Haytoura in the South. This surprise attack was preceded by a heavy artillery and rocket bombardment of our positions. Fighting is still going on fiercely in that region on the above-mentioned axes.

"This surprise attack by the Syrian troops coincides with the Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian meetings under Arab League supervision in Shtaura, the last of which took place on Monday, when agreement was reached over the holding of a final meeting to sign an accord tomorrow morning (i.e. Wednesday 13 October). This is in

PALESTINE NOTES

spite of the positive spirit which prevailed during these meetings and of our honest desire effectively to solve the Lebanese crisis, whose fire is burning both the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, and which affects the whole Arab nation in its depth, particularly since this attack precedes the forthcoming Arab Summit Conference in order to place this conference before a fait accompli, making it impossible to find a solution to the Lebanese situation.

"I address you once again so that you may exert your efforts by all ways and means to stop this new military operation launched by the Syrian forces against our forces and people, for which we find no justification or cause in view of our positive attitude and the positive attitude of Lebanese official circles in the quadripartite and two-sided meetings.

"I call upon you from a position of responsibility to put an end to this dangerous action which is aimed against the cause and revolution of our people, and which puts our Arab nation before the most dangerous obstacles, threatening its future and existence in the face of the Arab-Zionist struggle of destiny."

ARAFAT ADDRESSES APPEAL TO ARAB NATION

On 14 October, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, addressed the following appeal to the masses of the Arab Nation:

"I address you, the Arab masses, from amidst the flames of the fierce battles waged by our heroic forces confronting the Syrian military offensive against the mountain region in Bhamdoun, and against the South of Lebanon in addition to the other side-battles in which

our forces are engaged against the isolationists, and in which Israeli forces are taking part in order to besiege us by air and sea, and fighting us on land in Qlái'a, Ain Ebel and other places together with the isolationists.

"In the midst of all this, our revolutionaries and fighters stand side by side with the Lebanese heroes, defending this glorious revolution against the perfidious invasion which aims to liquidate the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement, and to strike at both the Palestinian and the Lebanese peoples.

"This is the third day of the new vicious Syrian military offensive against the positions of the Joint Forces, in which these heroic forces are bearing for you, the masses of the Arab Nation, this burden and this historic responsibility, not only in self defence, but in defence of all the holy sites and values of our Arab Nation, holding off the attackers in a narrow defile to prevent this nation from being forced to submit to the plots of US imperialism and Zionism.

"This courageous and historic stand of our fighters and revolutionaries of the Joint Forces is a stand of self sacrifice, with the aim of redeeming our Arab Nation both in body and spirit through a baptism of our blood, in order that our nation may live dignified and proud, free from the oppression and slavery of colonialism, imperialism, Zionism and their agents in the region.

"From my position here in the field of this difficult and vicious battle facing these many-sided fronts, I call upon my Arab Nation and its masses, its history, civilization, values and principles, its present and future, to stand with this group, small in number but rich in belief, in generosity and in self-sacrifice. I call upon it to take the correct stand, for history observes and records.

"I call upon the Arab nation from a position of national and patriotic responsibility to rise to the level of events, before this huge

conspiracy against our Revolution, our people and nation, and to bear its full responsibilities in these fateful circumstances of our contemporary history, not only in defence of the Palestinian Revolution, but in defence of its right to live in freedom and dignity.

"In the name of all the fighters, and in defence of the honour and future of the Arab nation, I pledge to you that we will remain loyal to the principles and aims for which the martyrs of the Arab nation have fallen, and we will continue to hold on to our positions until this great nation rises, imposes its will and foils the conspiracy."

OFFICIAL PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN:- INCIDENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON PLACE ARAB NATION BEFORE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES

An official Palestinian spokesman on 22 October declared the following:-

"What has been taking place in South Lebanon places the entire Arab nation before its national responsibilities to confront these overt Israeli moves. The Israeli enemy is hiding behind a fig leaf of fascist agents, behind which it is trying to expand its control over new areas of South Lebanon.

"The Palestinian Revolution calls upon all to shoulder their responsibilities in this dangerous situation which the Zionist enemy has brought about by moving directly and overtly following the Riyadh meetings, thus challenging the entire Arab nation."

ABU LUTF MEETS WITH BOUMEDIENNE, ALGERIAN OFFICIALS

Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Section on 24 October met with Algerian President Houari Boumedienne whom he briefed on the dimensions of the situation in Lebanon following the six party

Arab Summit in Riyadh. Abu Lutf reaffirmed to the Algerian President the Palestinian Revolution's concern for the security and independence of Lebanon and for the Revolution's freedom of action against the Zionist enemy.

Abu Lutf meanwhile declared that the Palestinian Revolution is a political and military force which cannot be overlooked, and that it is an active force in confronting the Zionist enemy. He added that the Lebanese incidents have shown the correct nationalist position of the Resistance in its defence of both the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, and that the heroic steadfastness of these two peoples was directly responsible for foiling all plots aimed against the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. He also referred to the fact that the battle of Bhamdoun has become a symbol of the heroism of the Joint Forces.

Abu Lutf, who had arrived in Algiers earlier for talks with Algerian officials regarding the latest developments in the Middle East said upon his arrival at Algiers Airport, that the Riyadh Summit meeting represents a positive step on the road to peace in Lebanon, and that it has consolidated the position of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Abu Lutf added that Zionist forces have in fact trained around 700 Lebanese isolationists, particularly in the use of armoured vehicles. He also stated that over the past few weeks, certain southern Lebanese villages had been occupied by Israeli troops, and he asked the Arab States to shoulder their responsibilities during the forthcoming Summit in Cairo, in order to restore peace to Lebanon, secure its safety, and safeguard the Palestinian Revolution. Abu Lutf finally asked the Arab states to form an Arab Security force able to realize the common aspirations of all.

More repression More resistance

"During the past ten years of struggle thousands of Palestinians were martyred, others were wounded, mutilated and imprisoned. They sacrificed themselves resisting the threat of disappearance and to regain our rights to self-determination and return to our homeland.

"The Palestinians living under Zionist occupation are resisting and struggling against oppression, tyranny and terrorism. Those living in the great prison that the occupied land has become are struggling so that their homeland shall remain Arab. They are struggling for their proper existence and to preserve the Arab character of their lands..."

(Abu Ammar, speech delivered at the U.N. General Assembly on 13 November 1974)

The conflict which for a century has opposed the Arab Palestinian people to the Zionist colonizers is in its essence a conflict concerning the land of Palestine itself and its ownership.

While the Arab Palestinian people have been and still are struggling to remain on their land and to preserve their relations with the land not only as a means of production but mainly as a homeland ("Here there is no Israel, here there is Palestine,") proclaimed our masses in Galilee, occupied since 1948, during the Day of the Land on 30 March last), the Zionist colonisers, using all means, are pursuing their attempts to expatriate this people, to cut all relations between this people and their land in order to establish there a new kind of relations.

Our masses have understood, during this long often bloody, struggle, the meaning of "Judaization," "development," "need for security" in the Zionist

dictionary. These terms are synonyms for "uprooting," "expulsion" and "rejection." It is in this context that we have to see the latest uprising that has lasted for a year in occupied Palestine, especially the latest events that occurred in al-Khalil (Hebron).

The confiscation of new lands and the establishment of new colonies do not respond to an actual need of the Zionist enemy. "The problem is not to establish new colonies, but to find the colonizers to dwell there," declared the Zionist Housing Minister (Haaretz, 7 February 1975). Thus there are colonies which are practically deprived of population (for example Eilat, Kfarmoun).

Why then this never satisfied thirst for more land? It is simply because the colonization by population which leads to the expulsion of the Arab inhabitants is one of the foundations of Zionist ideology: "A land without a people to a people without a land."

Thus a new project of colonization put forth by the Jewish Agency was announced on 19 October 1976 by the Zionist television. According to this project the Zionist entity has in mind during the coming five years to establish 55 new colonies, 13 in the region between Gaza and al-Arish, 8 in the West Bank, and 6 in the Golan Heights, as well as 14 colonies and Kibbutzim in Galilee and 14 in the Negev and the region of the Dead Sea and Eilat port.

The periodical of the Vatican, *Il Christianita*, on the other hand reported on 20 October that the occupation authorities have undertaken the levelling of the vestiges of the non-Jewish holy places around the lake of Tiberias by means of tractors in order to establish a colony there.

Moreover, the director general of U.N.R.W.A. in his annual report to the U.N.O. General Assembly on 22 October denounced the measures taken by the Zionist authorities against the Arab population: arrests, demolition of houses, and



A Palestinian student suspected of inciting demonstrations.

confiscation of their land and property.

Again following the aim of consolidating his occupation, the Zionist enemy is trying in vain to "stalemate" our masses in occupied Palestine by means of terror and massive arrests of the Arab citizens who are being arbitrarily sentenced to prolonged detention or exorbitant fines. The enemy has lately launched a vast campaign of arrests in the cities of the West Bank.

On 11 October the occupation authorities arrested 8 students in Nablus, among them Ismat Khalil al-Atir (17 years), accused of having incited demonstrations. In Gaza the number of people arrested amounted to 100, under the accusation of belonging to Fateh.

On 24 October Abdel Samih Othman Najjar was condemned to three years' and Ali Khalil Najjar to 12 years' imprisonment. They were declared "guilty" of belonging to the Palestinian Revolution.

In Jenin on 11 October, 12 students appeared in court accused of participation in demonstrations. The students Ghassan Kassem Rheib and Mohammed Khaled were condemned to 9 months' imprisonment and a fine amendment of 5,000 Israeli Pounds each for

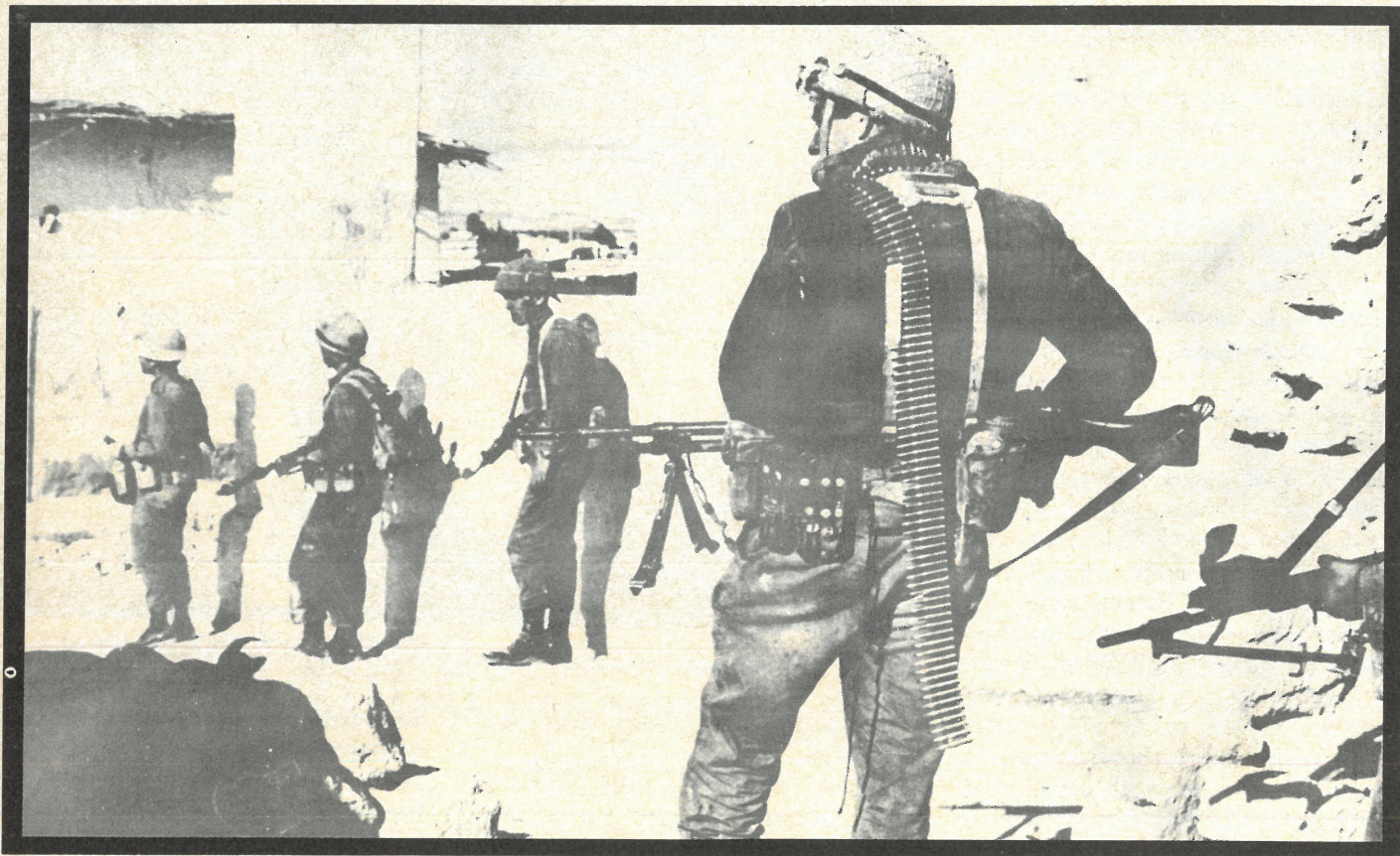
participation in demonstrations as an expression of protest against the Arab reactionary attempts to liquidate the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement.

During this century of conflict, it is true that the enemy has developed its means of repression and terror: massacres (Deir Yassin, Kafar Kassem), attempts to annihilate Arab culture and civilisation (Judaization), uprooting of the Arab population under the pretext of development (colonies by population), but through the years of struggle and their long political and military experience our masses have, on their side, developed their means of resistance. In addition to the forms of passive resistance (petitions, sit-ins, demonstrations) one year ago a real war of attrition and armed confrontations developed. The burned tires, the barricades and the stones have become real arms in the hands of our people. Thus, on 16 October, the Palestinians of the city of Nablus demonstrating against tax increase confronted the enemy police and armed elements of the army by throwing stones.

Today the resistance against the occupation is no longer limited to students, but it includes all



Practices of Israeli occupation.



Israeli soldiers on alert

categories of the population: students, craftsmen, farmers, and small merchants etc. On 15 October, the merchants of Nablus launched a general strike against the tax imposed on surplus value by the Zionist authorities.

The resistance also is no longer limited to our masses in the occupied territories of 1967, but has extended as well to those of Palestine occupied in 1948. The Day of the Land on March 30 gives the proof, and today our masses are preparing themselves to respond to the appeal launched on 14 October by the Arab popular committee (in Palestine of 1948) to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Kafar Kassen massacre committed by the Zionist enemy.

Another important fact is that our masses no longer give the enemy the opportunity to concentrate his forces against one particular town. Thus, when the state of emergency imposed on al-Khalil (Hebron) reached its 18th consecutive day, and the Zionist

authorities arrested 74 inhabitants of that town and the neighbouring village of Halhoul on 20 October, the mayors, the merchants' representatives and the women's unions in all the towns of the West Bank were in permanent contact with the mayor of al-Khalil, Fahed Kawassmeh, in order to provide the inhabitants of this besieged town with the necessary provisions. Likewise the mayors of the West Bank threatened to take measures which they considered adequate if the Zionist authorities did not put an end to the repression to which the population of al-Khalil was subjected.

In the town of Tulkarim, the students demonstrated on 11 October in protest against the state of emergency imposed on al-Khalil and confronted the enemy forces who proceeded to arrest a number of them.

Thus, after 11 years of armed struggle, the Palestinian people, in spite of their dispersion, have regained their unity of action. The

Palestinian masses in the diaspora, and those under occupation since 1948 and 1967, are united in the same struggle against the imperialist-reactionary projects aimed at liquidating them as a people, for the liberation of their land and the establishment of a Palestinian secular democratic State, the only viable solution to the conflict -- under one leadership, the P.L.O. Karim Khalaf, in a message addressed on 25 October to the Arab kings and presidents meeting in Cairo, clearly explained the aspirations of our people:

"This is the opinion of our Palestinian masses in occupied Palestine: we are telling you, Arab presidents and kings, in these simple and frank words, we the Palestinian people, we want to live on our Palestinian soil, we want to be united on our Palestinian soil. We accept only Palestine as a homeland and the P.L.O. as our representative."

THE PROLONGATION OF THE OPEN DOOR POLICY

While, with the Riyadh agreement signed on 19 October 1976, real chances for a restoration of peace in Lebanon are taking shape, and while the so-called traditional front lines are experiencing a certain calm (particularly due to respect by the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese National Movement for the ceasefire as part of the resolutions of the Riyadh summit) the situation is suddenly becoming explosive in South Lebanon. The appearance of the Zionist state on the Lebanese scene can no longer be denied, minimised or doubted.

It no longer confines itself to material aid for the isolationists, which has been eyewitnessed, above all, by journalists who have toured South Lebanon, and which has even been confirmed by information coming from Tel Aviv, apart from all those arms stamped with the star of David and captured by the Joint Forces, as well as the "Super Sherman" tanks patrolling day by day in the regions controlled by the isolationist forces. The Zionist state has passed on to another phase in the role assigned to it within the plots directed against the Palestinian Revolution.

After the open door policy, which was nothing but a psychological and military preparation for the realization of its objectives, when the time came, the Zionist state is now participating side by side with the isolationists in the acts of aggression against the positions of the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese

National Movement in South Lebanon.

These new developments aim at torpedoing the Riyadh agreement, while at the same time they show the Lebanese crisis in its real dimensions. They are also an implementation of the threats of direct intervention by Tel Aviv in the Lebanese conflict in the event of a solution to the crisis which would preserve the achievements of the Palestinian Revolution. Remember the declaration of Yigal Allon, on 14 June, 1976: "Israel will not allow a reorganisation of the Palestinian forces in Lebanon."

The Israeli intervention becomes

clearer as the Riyadh summit reaffirms the Arab countries' adherence to the Cairo agreement of 1969, stipulating particularly the right of the Palestinian people to conduct their struggle from Lebanese territory, specifically from the Arkoub region, in order to regain their occupied homeland.

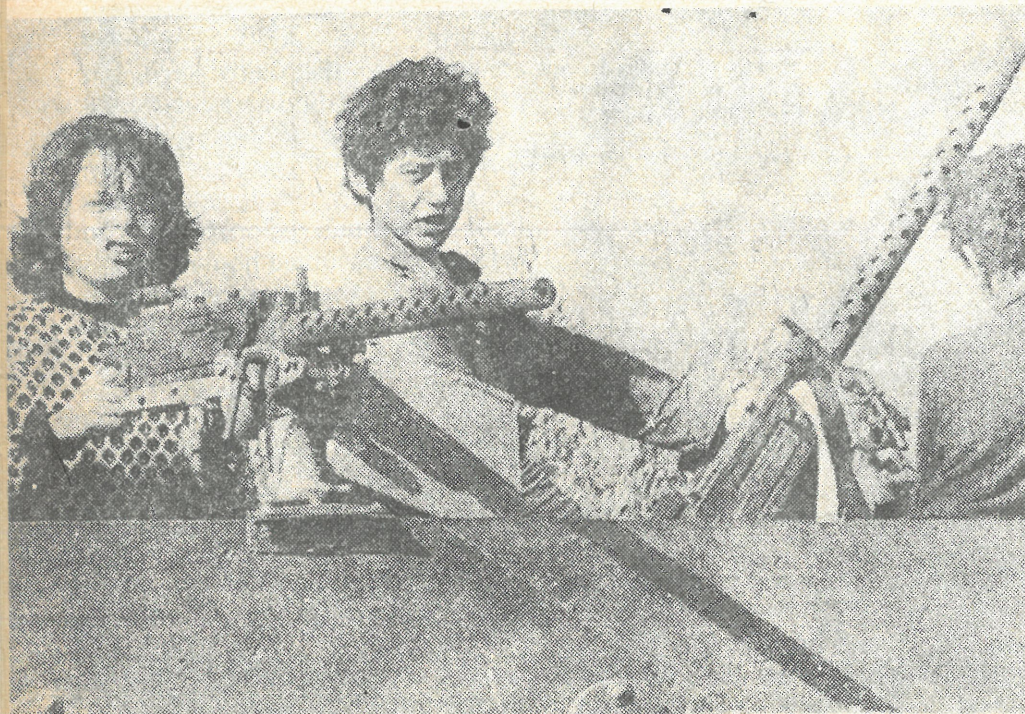
Reviewing the situation in South Lebanon, Agence France Presse stated on 22 October, 1976: "Timidly at the beginning, then openly, a chain of conservative strongholds has been established in the course of some months, based on Christian villages in the border area, and with the help of Israel all along the Lebanese-Israeli frontier."

"For Israel, its interest is evident: These positions established on the other side of the border in Lebanon play the role of advanced outposts prohibiting the passage of the Fedayeen and thus protecting the Kibutzim of Upper Galilee against Palestinian operations."

The Israeli-isolationist coalition, profiting from the fact of the Joint Forces finding themselves attacked on all fronts, is engaged in establishing a security belt for Israel along the Lebanese borders in order



A wounded Phalangist at an Israeli border - gate.



Rightist - Lebanese militia manning U. S. machineguns offered by Israel.

to prevent the return of the Palestinians to the Arkoub region.

After the occupation of the important locality of Marjayoun, where the main barracks of the South are situated, and of several surrounding villages the Israeli-isolationist forces have taken as their target the town of Bint-Jbeil, which has been subjected to intensive bombardment which has so far killed and wounded dozens among the civilian population. The fight is raging all over South Lebanon. The Israeli and isolationist forces are pursuing their offensive against all the villages and localities which have so far refused their tutelage, that is to say, even those that had observed strictest neutrality in the course of the events shaking this area of Lebanon.

On 22 October 1976, journalists reported Israeli tanks moving towards the villages of Hanine and the nearby Qlayaa (both under Israeli-Zionist occupation). They mentioned also that the inhabitants of several villages were forced to flee from their homes as a result of Israeli-isolationist bombardment, and after being threatened with extermination, to take refuge in the

progressive town of Saida.

At the village of Aishieh, the Joint Forces of the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement found themselves compelled to take the initiative. A PLO Unified Information official, in the course of a press conference on 21 October 1976, revealed the reasons which forced the Joint Forces to undertake an offensive against the village the day before.

"Aishieh had become a place for the recruitment of isolationist gunmen who were trained in Israel as well as an important hiding place for arms.

"As a consequence of the known incident causing two dead and five wounded, the Joint Forces have occupied Aishieh and wiped out the isolationists there," added the spokesman of the Palestinian Revolution, subsequently displaying shells and arms bearing Hebrew inscriptions which were seized in the village.

Finally, three isolationist militiamen taken prisoner in Aishieh admitted to journalists that "150 Israeli soldiers were in the village at the moment when the Joint Forces attacked it."

The Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement find themselves once again confronted with a strong coordination of the reactionary and fascist forces, and, with regard to South Lebanon, of Zionist militarism depending on Lebanese agents and intervening openly on their side, if the circumstances allow or require it. The Zionist leaders have abandoned their relative reserve, and Shimon Peres, on 23 October 1976, affirmed that Israel wants to turn its frontier with Lebanon into "a place of free passage and circulation."

The Israeli Defense Minister also declared: "We have common interests with the inhabitants of that region," and added that if the inhabitants of South Lebanon -- he means the fascist forces of the Kfour Front -- "are in need of help from Israel, we will grant it to them." This help is already "granted." The remarks of Shimon Peres simply foresee an intensified Israeli intervention in South Lebanon.

The Zionist state calculates on using its isolationist allies to achieve two aims with one blow: above all, to implant its military presence in Lebanon by establishing, with the help of its allies, a stranglehold over the whole Arkoub and a buffer zone along the frontier which would amount to annulment of the Riyadh resolutions concerning the military activities of the Palestinian Resistance, as well as to secure a de facto control of the water sources of South Lebanon.

In a communiqué on 21 October 1976, the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese National Movement strongly denounced this Zionist plan and pledged to fight it by all means. It is of prime importance that world opinion pays attention to this new attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon, with the complicity and collaboration of the same people who claim to be their great defenders.



THE ZIONIST SEA-PIRACY

The Israeli involvement in the Lebanese civil war is largely unknown to the public. The Israelis are not only supplying their Lebanese isolationist allies with arms and ammunition, they are also imposing a sea blockade against Southern Lebanese ports.

The imperialist-Zionist conspiracy aims to liquidate the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement, and any progressive liberation movements in the area. Therefore, besides its agent that is playing the major military role, in actually attacking the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement militarily and on a large scale, there are other

agents who include the Lebanese fascists and the Zionist enemy, who are imposing a piracy-style land and sea blockade on any supply shipments heading for the national ports of Sidon and Tyre.

The ports of Sidon and Tyre are the only supply routes left available for the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement, due to the attacks that they have been subjected to for the past 18 months.

The conspirators earlier were able to limit the supply routes of the national areas to the ports of Sidon and Tyre. The fascist forces shelled Beirut International Airport continually to force it to close to air-traffic, which used to supply the

national areas with medical and food supplies. The airport was forced to close to air-traffic, when fascist shells in June 76 hit a Middle East Airlines Boeing 707 plane, setting it on fire and causing the death of its crew.

On the other hand, the Syrians practised an undeclared land blockade on the national areas, in Beirut and South Lebanon, and a sea blockade on the national port of Tripoli, in North Lebanon.

The conspirators have thus been able to cut off the air and land supply routes, not mentioning their seizure of food, medical, and arms supplies that have been either bought by the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement, or given to them as an expression of solidarity by friendly countries or organizations.

The sort of piracy that the Zionist enemy is carrying out competes that of the 17th. century, when piracy was at its peak. It also competes with the Nazi sea blockade on Europe during the Second World War.

The Zionist enemy is intercepting ships, looting their contents and cargo, no matter what they are: foodstuffs, medical



An Israeli, gunboat intercepting a Cypriot vessel heading to Sidon Port.



Israeli on patrol for a sea - blockade on Lebanese National Ports.

supplies, arms, even kidnapping its passengers. The Zionist enemy is not doing this only for its own direct gain, but to supply the Lebanese fascists, and strengthen them to fight against the Palestinian and Lebanese masses. At the same time this piracy also subsidises imperialist-Zionist costs in the upkeep of the Lebanese fascists and their forces, apart from trying to cut off supplies and means of resistance to the national areas, hoping to cause a split between the Lebanese and Palestinian masses due to the lack of necessities and hoping to achieve the 100 percent sea and land blockade on the national areas.

Zionist piracy is a part of the Lebanese fascist-Zionist cooperation, which includes the Zionist direct supply of arms to the fascist forces through the port of Jounieh, and the supply of arms, military vehicles, tanks, and often Zionist soldiers and supporting artillery in South Lebanon, and the transportation of fascist forces by the Zionist Navy from the port of Jounieh to the south of Lebanon via ports in occupied Palestine.

The geographical locality of the

ports of Sidon and Tyre, their nearness to occupied Palestine, makes it easier for the Zionist enemy to succeed in its acts of piracy. While this piracy serves the Zionist enemy, it constitutes a direct help to the Lebanese fascists.

EXAMPLES OF ZIONIST PIRACY

The acts of piracy carried out by the Zionist Navy have drastically increased lately. A Zionist naval vessel, on 1 October 1976, intercepted a Lebanese ship sailing in international waters and forced it to dock at the port of Haifa, in occupied Palestine, where the ship was searched.

A Zionist naval vessel, on 6 October 1976, intercepted the Cypriot ship "Phoenicia" while it was on its way to the Lebanese port of Sidon. The same ship has been harassed by Zionist naval vessels several times during its trips between Sidon and Limassol and it was harassed, rammed and fired at when it was carrying Mr. Kamal Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese National Movement, at the end of September.

A ship coming from Turkey on 8 October 1976, carrying sheep, was subjected to a joint Lebanese fascist-Zionist act of piracy while heading for the port of Sidon in South Lebanon. The ship was intercepted by Zionist and Lebanese fascist naval vessels and led to the port of Jounieh, where the captain of the ship was interrogated. The captain denied that he was going to the port of Sidon, and was then given a visa for entering and leaving Jounieh. The ship continued its journey and arrived in Sidon with its full cargo.

On the same day, Zionist naval vessels intercepted two ships coming from Cyprus to Sidon, one of them a fully loaded Greek cargo ship which was forced to sail to a port in occupied Palestine, while the other ship, "Peacemaker", was forced to sail to the port of Jounieh.

The captain of "Peacemaker" held a press conference on 9 October in Sidon, in which he revealed details of the joint Zionist-Lebanese fascist act of piracy against his ship. The captain said that the ship was intercepted inside Lebanese territorial waters, when a Zionist vessel stopped it, asked for the nationalities and identities of all those on board, and then sailed away. A little later, another Zionist vessel, accompanied by a Lebanese fascist one, began to harass the ship, thereafter taking it in tow and dragging it to the port of Jounieh. The captain added that as soon as his vessel reached Jounieh, Lebanese fascist elements surrounded it, climbed aboard, collected the passengers' passports and began to interrogate them, at the same time beating, humiliating and even torturing them. He said that those who were kidnapped from aboard the ship include 4 Lebanese, 3 Jordanians, one Yemeni and a Palestinian sailor, and that the Lebanese fascists ransacked the contents of the ship, down to the food supplies.

Zionist naval vessels, on 7 October 1976, intercepted the small ship "Niyazi" carrying the Lebanese flag and heading from Sidon to Limassol port in Cyprus. The ship was forced to sail to the port of Haifa, in occupied Palestine, carrying 22 passengers, among them some political personalities and a Dutch citizen by the name of Mr. Gerd Dasen, who was arrested by the Zionist authorities and was later released, after the intervention of the Dutch government, who issued a statement about him being arrested by the Zionist authorities, and asked for his release.

These acts of piracy carried out by the Zionist Navy, in and outside Lebanese territorial waters, include the kidnapping of innocent civilians that were passengers aboard the intercepted ships, arresting them to be kept in prisons in occupied Palestine, or to hand them over to the Lebanese fascists, to do with them what they chose.

Many of the ships that the Zionist enemy intercepted have been forced to sail to the port of Haifa, in occupied Palestine, where their cargoes have been unloaded, to be re-routed to the Lebanese fascists' ports. Their sailors, the majority of them Cypriots, Greeks and Turks, have been subjected to arrests and interrogation, then allowed to leave after their governments intervened, openly or otherwise. Others been forced to sail to the fascists' port of Jounieh, where their cargoes have been unloaded and their passengers arrested and sometimes liquidated by fascist elements. The ships that were lucky enough to escape the Zionist piracy, by not stopping, or being near a national port, have been fired at, endangering their passengers' and crew's lives.

Meanwhile, a European diplomatic source told the Beirut reporter of "The Toronto Star" (29 October) that Israeli naval vessels intercepting ships on the Lebanon-Cyprus routes had National Liberal Party militiamen on board. The source added that Israel has given the National Liberals eight gunboats and one submarine.

Zionist terrorism: A defiance of world public opinion

The acts of piracy carried out by the Zionist Navy show the Zionist hypocrisy, which claims always that it is against terrorism, calls on the world to combat it, and in the meantime practises it daily and openly for everybody to see.

Commenting on the subject of Zionist piracy, the Cypriot Member of Parliament, Dr. Lyssarides, says: "The American communications center in Cyprus plays a sly role in the present war in Lebanon, it supplies the Zionist Command with special information about the ships carrying food, medical and arms supplies that are heading for the Lebanese national ports. According to this information, the Zionist gunboats race to intercept these ships. In the meantime, escort and

guard ships head for the Lebanese fascist ports of Jounieh, and Aqua Marina."

The blockade Zionist warships are imposing on the ports of Sidon and Tyre is not only piracy directed against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. It is also a blatant defiance of International Law and the world, which every day further develops the rules for organizing international navigation and safeguarding goods and travellers moving by sea.

This overt Zionist piracy has to be opposed by effective deterrent measures. While speaking about these measures, we must point out that the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement cannot provide the required deterrent force to prevent Zionist piracy. This task must be shouldered by friends and allies of the Palestinian and Lebanese people, who for more than 18 months have been engaged in a savage war against conspirators and agents, and are still holding out bravely in the face of attempts at extermination, starvation and blockade.

Lifting the Zionist blockade -- which is a strong support for the conspirators in Lebanon -- is a critical test for these friends of the Lebanese and Palestinian people. For the issue now is not only a blatant defiance of both peoples, but also of all democratic and peace-loving forces in the world.

No public opinion in the imperialist countries has denounced Zionist piracy, even when the Lebanese progressive leader Mr. Kamal Jumblatt made it known during his visit to France in October, when the rightist newspapers there tried to minimize it or deny it.

It makes one wonder if the Zionist Navy would intercept these ships heading for the ports of Sidon and Tyre, if they were not flying small countries' flags.

Would the Zionist Navy intercept ships heading for the abovementioned ports if they were carrying major powers' flags?

ENEMY NEWS

IF THE BALANCE OF POWER SHOULD CHANGE, ISRAEL ENVISAGES DIRECT INTERVENTION IN LEBANON

In a report from Jerusalem on 23 October, a foreign news agency referring to the advance of the isolationists in South Lebanon indicated that Israeli circles are, nevertheless, considering the question of what would happen if the Palestinians reversed the situation in their favour, and if the Arab summit decided on their return to that area according to the terms of the Cairo agreement of 1969.

Israeli military spokesmen affirm that the Zionist state will not allow such a development. The agency reports, however, that the question arises in Israel what form the aid for the "Christians" could be adopted, if the latter were simply outnumbered and crushed.

In Israel it is not excluded that Israeli support for the Lebanese isolationists would become even more important and direct than up to now.

Referring to "foreign sources and not to Israeli sources" in Tel Aviv, the agency indicated that "the Rightist militias fighting in South Lebanon against the Palestinian-progressive coalition seem to be quite well trained and armed."

According to the same sources, the training of certain units has taken place in Galilee, and they now have Belgian-designed F.N. rifles, machine-guns and light mortars, which are, or have been, part of the equipment of the Israeli army.

ENEMY NEWS

According to the same sources, these militias are also in possession of a certain number of tanks, the figures of which vary between a dozen and 30. However, more numerous are the armoured troop carriers they have at their disposal, often Soviet-made BTR-tanks captured by the Israeli forces during the June War 1967.

A non-official Israeli source confirms information published abroad according to which this equipment is occasionally repaired by technicians of the Israeli forces in Galilee.

Besides, in Israel the obvious similarity is noted between the uniforms worn by Israeli soldiers and those worn by the Lebanese militias, whose wounded are also treated in Israeli hospitals in the north of the country.

According to foreign sources, the artillery based on the Israeli side of the border has also been intervening repeatedly against the Palestinian-progressive positions and has thus supported the isolationist forces.

Foreign sources have also reported that communication lines have been established between the Israeli border posts and certain isolationist-held villages in the region, and that Israeli patrols, searching for Fedayeen, frequently cross the borders.

"JEWISH CITIZENS OF SYRIA PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE"

Jerusalem 8-10-76 (HA'ARETZ)

The Israeli daily *Haaretz* on 8 October said that the Syrian authorities have permitted the emigration of Jewish citizens of

Syria to Europe and then to occupied Palestine. Ha'aretz added that this decision is a sign of an amelioration of relations between Damascus and Tel Aviv during the past few months.

In related news informed French circles denied any French intervention in this issue, affirming that this Syrian step is a spontaneous one.

"OUR HANDS REACH INTO LEBANON"

Rumeish, Lebanon 7-10-76 (NYT)

The "NYT" correspondent in Lebanon Mr. Henry Tanner visited the Lebanese-Israeli border and sent the following report:

Israel is establishing a rapidly growing military security zone inside Lebanese territory by organizing and arming Lebanese Christian rightists' militias (isolationists in the border region).

The Lebanese Christian rightists' militias seen here today and yesterday by U.S. newsmen carried hand grenades, heavy automatic rifles and other weapons with Hebrew markings. In some cases the markings had been painted over. In most cases they were clearly visible. Uniform items and other equipment, down to the canteen were standard Israeli gear.

After dark a Lebanese ambulance from one of the Christian villages crossed to the Israeli side. It came back half an hour later, loaded with arms and ammunition for the Christian militia.

Israeli soldiers standing on the Lebanese side of the border confiscated at gunpoint a film from a U.S. broadcasting company crew led by correspondent Jerry King. The film had been taken from Lebanese ground earlier in the day. The Israeli order to return to the gate with the film reached Mr. King at the Lebanese Christian command post in Rmeish.

"Our hands reach into Lebanon... I have orders to get the film," an Israeli soldier explained.

A few months ago there were

virtually no rightist Christian militias in this area. Now there are about 1,800 of them, according to a local politician.

THOSE REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENTS IN HEBRON ARE THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

The Israeli newspapers delved into the causes of the mass uprising in Hebron and other parts of the occupied West Bank by uncovering various Zionist violations and the unstable state of the Zionist authorities following the incident. The Israeli newspapers on 6 October said that these incidents and the mass uprising had shaken the Israeli authorities in a dangerous manner. *Yediot Ahronot* declared that those really responsible for the incidents are the Israeli government.

The Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* meanwhile said that the Israeli authorities are not satisfied to encourage the Israeli settlers in Qiryat Arba in their criminal acts, but also give them help, and added that the government must stop this help to the Qiryat Arba settlers.

ZIONIST AUTHORITIES CONFISCATE FILM TAKEN BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN BORDER AREA

"A number of films carried by foreign journalists in the Lebanese-Israeli frontier area have been confiscated," a Zionist military spokesman said on 7-10-76. He added that "these journalists were shooting a film of certain Israeli maneuvers along the frontiers with Lebanon."

On their part, the journalists declared that they were filming the crossing of Lebanese right-wing (isolationist) forces into Israel, and said they got permission from the Israeli military authorities to take pictures, but that they were

arrested and had their films confiscated later. According to these journalists, Israeli soldiers said "the reason for the confiscation was that the Israeli authorities want to keep the identity of some persons appearing in these films secret."

A JEWISH MAJORITY IN GALILEE IS A LEGITIMATE GOAL

(TIME, 11-10-76)

Haim Kubersky, Director-General of the Israeli Interior Ministry, came out in support of Koenig's report, saying: "a Jewish majority in Galilee is a legitimate goal."

Koenig in his report suggested various ways of controlling the Arabs and of "thinning out" Arab concentrations in Israel. The government, he urged, should set up a political party for the Arabs that could be infiltrated by agents who would keep track of Arab aims. Emigration restrictions on Arab students ought to be eased, he said, and re-entry made next to impossible. Arab families, since they produce more children than Jewish families, ought to be stripped of government grants. In Galilee, where Arab workers constitute half the labor force in some Jewish-owned business, there should be an Arab job ceiling of 20 percent. That way, Koenig argued, economic insecurity would keep Arab minds off "thoughts of a so-called cultural-nationalistic nature." Koenig also suggested that Arab youths be encouraged to study technical subjects, since "these studies leave students less time for dabbling in nationalism and also the dropout rate is fairly high."

NEW ZIONIST SETTLEMENTS IN NEXT FIVE YEARS

TEL AVIV, 19-10-76
(ZIONIST TELEVISION)

The Zionist authorities have decided to establish 55 new settlements in the coming 5 years. This settlement project was made public by the Zionist agency and was revealed on Israeli Television on 19 October.

13 settlements are to be established in the region lying between Gaza and al-Arish, 8 settlements in the West Bank, 6 settlements in the Golan Heights, 14 settlements in Galilee and 14 others in the Nagev and the remaining areas of occupied Palestine, particularly in the areas close to the Jordan River between the Dead Sea and the port of Eilat.

U.S. STUDY: ARABS TO OUTNUMBER ISRAEL JEWS

Without massive Jewish immigration to Israel in the future, Arabs will outnumber Jews in pre-1967 borders of Israel in about 100 years and will outnumber Jews in about 65 years if Israel holds on to the areas captured during the 1967 Six Days War, according to a U.S. Library of Congress study.

The study, made available by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-NY) to the Jerusalem Post on 16 October, said that the Arabs would outnumber the Jews in Israel because of their higher birth rate.

Meanwhile, on 18 October, the deputy director of the Jewish Agency's northern office Ya'acov Drori said in "Carmi," a local paper published in Carmiel, that unless a strenuous effort is made to increase the Jewish population there, it will stand at only 87,000 compared to 270,000 Arabs in 1990. Drori said he based these figures on demographic forecasts prepared by experts.

FILM ON ISRAELI TV REVEALS ZIONIST-ISOLATIONIST COLLABORATION

Jerusalem, 12-10-76

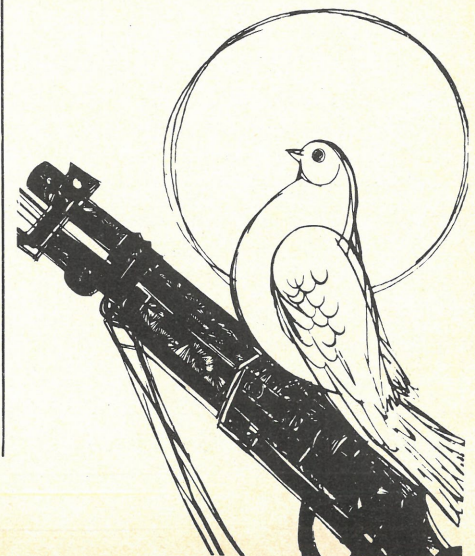
Israeli Television admitted on 12 October that right-wing forces are being provided with Israeli weapons when it televised a film shot by a CBS film crew showing the crew of a rightist Lebanese armored personnel carrier wearing Israeli uniforms and carrying Israeli rifles standing with Zionist soldiers in the village of Qlei'a.

It is worth noting that the Zionist authorities have recently lifted the military censorship imposed on journalists regarding reports of Zionist military support of the fascist forces. Observers see the lifting of censorship at this time as indicating that the Zionists are willing to reveal their alliance with the fascist forces, because it has become obvious.

ISRAELI PAPER REVEALS SYRIAN AIMS IN LEBANON

TEL AVIV

Commenting on the Syrian offensive in Lebanon, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz said on 12 October that "while Damascus is insisting on subduing Palestinian guerrilla organizations, the latter will continue to ask for bases in Lebanon from which to operate freely against Israel. But Syria," the paper continued "strongly opposes such operations, because it does not want to be dragged into an undesirable war with Israel."



SOLIDARITY NEWS

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE TO SUBMIT MEMO TO ARAB SUMMIT

ALGERIA

At the end of its meeting in Algeria, the permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference of Solidarity with the Palestinian Revolution decided on 16 October to submit a memorandum to the Arab summit which opened on 25 October to discuss the grave situation in Lebanon in the wake of the new Syrian offensive. The memorandum stresses the importance of stepping up all kinds of moral and material aid to the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. A similar memorandum will be dispatched to the International Conference on Zionism and Racism which is to be held in the GDR.

The Arab People's Conference also decided, in coordination with the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organizations (APSO) to prepare an international conference of solidarity with the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. It moreover called on all progressive Arab forces and organizations to implement the resolutions of the Tripoli conference regarding the withdrawal of all Arab ambassadors from Damascus and the boycott of Syrian ships and planes at Arab harbours and airports.

SICILY

Following the visit of a PLO delegation to Sicily and its meeting with the Sicilian Governor recently, the local Government Secretariat issued a communiqué on 12 October affirming the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and the importance of offering all types of aid to the Palestinian Resistance in Lebanon.

SAN FRANCISCO

On 8 October, Arab students and

members of the Arab community in the San Francisco Bay area occupied the Arab Information Center where they staged a sit-in, expressing their protest against the Syrian intervention in Lebanon, and condemning the passive attitude of the Arab League as regards this intervention.

THE SOVIET UNION

NOVOSTI: HANDS OFF PALESTINIAN MILITANTS

On 13 October the Soviet news agency, Novosti, attacked the conspiratorial regime in Damascus and the reactionary Arab forces which are seriously seeking to liquidate the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement.

Under the title "Hands off Palestinian Militants," Novosti said that the revolutionary program adopted by the Palestinian Revolution does not suit certain political forces in the Arab World. It added that Arab reaction, which verbally supports the struggle of the Palestinians, is in fact seeking to use it as a winning card either in its Arab relations or for the sake of unprincipled bargaining with imperialism behind the backs of the masses.

Novosti went on to say that the goal of Zionism, imperialism and Arab reaction in the Lebanese tragedy is physically to exterminate the Palestinians or at least to wear down the Palestinian Revolution and its ally the Lebanese National and progressive movement in a war of attrition.

Novosti concluded its analytical article by saying that the friends of the Arab people are confident that the Revolution will stand firm against the consecutive blows dealt by the reactionary and Zionist forces, because it relies on a

popular base and struggles for a just cause.

After 5 days, on 18 October, the Soviet Communist Party organ, Pravda, published an important article, in which the USSR for the first time unequivocally denounced the Syrian stand vis-à-vis the Lebanese problem, and called for a political settlement to the conflict. The article, signed by "Observer," which implies a senior party official, put the Syrian regime on an equal footing with Israel and the right-wing forces in Lebanon.

Pravda said: "Syrian forces are currently launching an offensive against the Palestinian Revolution on the outskirts of Beirut and the port of Sidon, at the same time as the Lebanese right-wing forces backed by Israel are carrying out military operations against South Lebanon."

Pravda noted that while talks were being held in Shtaura, Syrian forces were foiling the efforts for peace and augmenting the bloodshed. The Soviet newspaper finally warned against attempts by the Syrian forces to use the current negotiations as a cover for new strikes at the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement.

APPEAL BY THE "PEACE MOVEMENT"

The "Peace Movement" launched an appeal on 18 October to the UN General Assembly, to the governments, and "in the first place to the French government" that all efforts should be made to obtain an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon.

In a communiqué published in Paris the national council of the "Peace Movement" demanded "the withdrawal of Syrian troops, protection of the Palestinian population, and negotiations to allow for a return of peace respecting the right of the Lebanese

people to self-determination." The "Peace Movement" recalled that the World Peace Council had decided last September to send a "ship of peace for Lebanon." It announced that the ship will be in Marseille soon, and launched an appeal for an exceptional collection campaign in France during the next few days "so that France could send the expression of a whole people" to support Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the International Trade Union Conference for support of the struggle of the Palestinian Workers and People opens on 25 October in the German Democratic Republic. The three day conference is being attended by 53 delegations from several countries, liberation movements and trade union organizations.

SOVIET CP AND SYRIAN CP AFFIRM NECESSITY OF WITHDRAWAL OF ARMED FORCES FROM LEBANON,

During a meeting held on 23 October in the headquarters of the Soviet CP Central Committee, the Soviet CP and the Syrian CP stressed the necessity of the withdrawal of all armed forces which became involved in the conflict in Lebanon. The two sides were represented by Mikhael Suslov, member of the Soviet Communist Party Politburo and Secretary of the Central Committee, and Boris Ponamarev, substitute member of the Politburo, and by Khaled Bagdash, Secretary-General of the Syrian CP, affirmed the necessity of settling the conflict in Lebanon through political means, of immediately halting the internecine killing, of safeguarding Lebanon's unity, independence and sovereignty and of preventing imperialist intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs. Both sides affirmed the guaranteeing of the PLO's interests on the basis of previous agreements.

MONGOLIA

The Conference for Peace in Asia which was held between 16 and 21 October in the Mongolian capital, Ulan Bator, addressed a special message to Yasser Arafat, expressing the solidarity of the peace movement and the conferees with the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and their support for Palestinian legitimate national rights, including the rights of return and of exercising self-determination.

The message also called for the immediate withdrawal of Syrian troops as a step towards solving the Lebanese crisis.

CYPRUS

The Cypriot Communist Party on 19 October held a mass rally in Limassol in solidarity with the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. The PLO representative, and the Secretary for Foreign Relations in the Cypriot Communist Party spoke, stressing the importance of reinforcing relations between the Lebanese, Palestinian and Cypriot peoples.

Meanwhile, on 22 October, the Speaker of the Cypriot Parliament reaffirmed his support as well as that of the Cypriot people for the Palestinian Revolution and people, during a meeting with the PLO representative in Cyprus.

VATICAN MAGAZINE CONDEMNS ISRAEL VIOLATIONS OF CHRISTIAN HOLY SITES

ROME

The magazine *Christianita*, issued by the Vatican, on 22 October condemned the action by the Israeli authorities to take over by force and destroy Christian holy sites around Lake Tiberias. The magazine reported that Israeli bulldozers had flattened the ruins of a shrine near Tiberias, in preparation for the building of a new colony on the site.

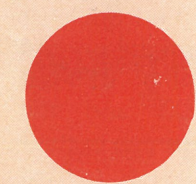
FRANCE

Following its national conference lately the French Unified Socialist Party issued a communiqué on 14 October, reaffirming its full support for the PLO and the Lebanese progressive forces in their struggle against the Syrian-rightist offensive in Lebanon. It added that the Party will go on helping the French-Palestinian Medical League and the international initiative to send a peace ship to Lebanon in which 25 French leftist organizations are participating.

On 14 October, *L'Humanité*, the official daily of the French Communist Party, called upon the French Government to ask the Syrian regime to withdraw its forces from Lebanon immediately, noting that the new Syrian offensive had jeopardized the Shtaura talks.

After 3 days, on 17 October, the World Peace Movement issued a communiqué demanding the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon and the implementation of an immediate ceasefire. It appealed to the UN and all governments to accept the Lebanese people's right to self-determination in working out a settlement of the Lebanese crisis. The communiqué finally called upon the French people to collect funds for the victims of war in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, "The National Rally for Palestine" being held in Paris issued a communiqué on 18/10 denouncing the campaign launched by some pro-Zionist French intellectuals against UNESCO for its condemnation of Zionist practices against the Palestinian people. The National Rally also denounced the treacherous Syrian-isolationist alliance in Lebanon to strike at the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement.



THE ARCHBISHOP OF SOUTH LEBANON WARNS THE PUBLIC AGAINST ISRAELI EXPANSIONISM

Mgr. Boulos al-Khoury, Greek Orthodox Archbishop of South Lebanon and the West Bekaa, delivered a statement on 22 October 1976 calling upon the inhabitants in the South to unify their ranks in order to confront the Zionist enemy.

The declaration stressed in particular "that the enemy has now unveiled the intentions and objectives he has pursued while practising the "open-door-policy" on the Lebanese borders, a policy, against which we have warned the Lebanese people, calling upon them to face it by all means."

Mgr. al-Khoury continued: "It is today our task to present a unified front in order to face the enemy which lusts after South Lebanon, and to thwart his malicious projects, particularly after we have reached a peace agreement in Lebanon."

The Archbishop also invited the "Front for the support of the South" to convene as soon as possible and to study the situation in that region which is aggravating every day.

Finally, Mgr. al-Khoury addressed dispatches to the Arab heads of state, directing their attention to the situation in the South and asking them to occupy themselves with the matter so as to rescue this part of Lebanon from the Israeli threat.

BBC (BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION) CORRESPONDENT FROM TEL AVIV REPORTS ISRAELI MATERIAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT FOR "CHRISTIANS" IN SOUTH LEBANON

The BBC Israel correspondent Michael Elkins, in a dispatch broadcast by BBC Radio on 21 October 1976, at 9.10 a.m., affirmed that the foreign correspondents in Tel Aviv have known for some time of the existence of total Israeli material and military support for the "inhabitants of the Christian villages" of South Lebanon, not to mention the training of these "villagers" with all kinds of arms and military equipment. The correspondents were not able to report these facts, Elkins underlined, because of the censorship imposed on their dispatches by the Israeli government.

The BBC correspondent mentioned an Israeli quasi-occupation in these villages, accompanied by the military training of Rightist party members. This policy, he added, was started some time ago, and Israel refuses any return to the status quo ante and to the presence of Palestinians on its northern border.

In this context it is worth noting that Israeli soldiers have joined the isolationist forces in fighting during their attack against Hanine, Yaroum, Aishieh and Marjayoun.

In another development, Reuters news agency reported that -- although some Israeli leaders doubt the possibility of the establishment of an Arab peace keeping force, "because of the dissensions dividing the Arab world," -- there is fear in the political circles of the Zionist state that the formation of such a force could end what the Israelis call "the relative neutrality of Lebanon" in the Middle East conflict.

JAMES ABOUREZK ACCUSES THE U.S.A. OF HELPING THE ISOLATIONISTS VIA ISRAEL

The U.S. Senator of Lebanese origin, James Abourezk (Democrat, South Dakota), in a statement on 22 October 1976, accused the U.S.A. of channelling arms to the Lebanese isolationists with Israel as go-between.

The State Department spokesman has denied this accusation in terms, however, which have not removed all suspicions.

"As far as we can know," Robert Funseth declared prudently, "no country receiving American arms is violating the interdiction imposed by the U.S.A. not to transfer these arms to a third party."

He affirmed that the U.S.A. is not *directly* arming any Lebanese faction.

Asked about persisting information that the Zionist state is arming the Phalangists, the spokesman declared he did not know about the matter apart from what had been published in the press.

He acknowledged, anyhow, that the isolationists had been able to provide themselves with American weapons on the international market.

For his part, James Abourezk, the only U.S. Senator of Lebanese origin, made it clear that he had written a letter to Dr. Kissinger last August, demanding the opening of an inquiry into the eventual transfer of American arms from Israel to Lebanon. The Secretary of State had never answered him, he stressed, and he had decided now to address himself to President Ford.

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Palestine

ABU LUTF: INTERVIEW

Koenig Report

Israeli Ambitions In South Lebanon

A Settlement For The LEBANESE CRISIS