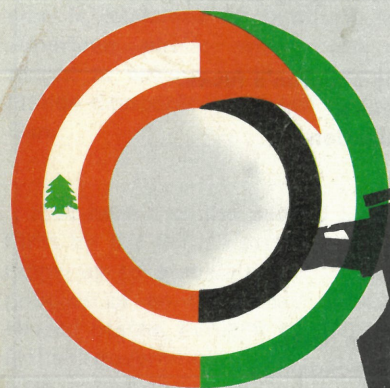


Palestinians & Lebanese



One People One Struggle

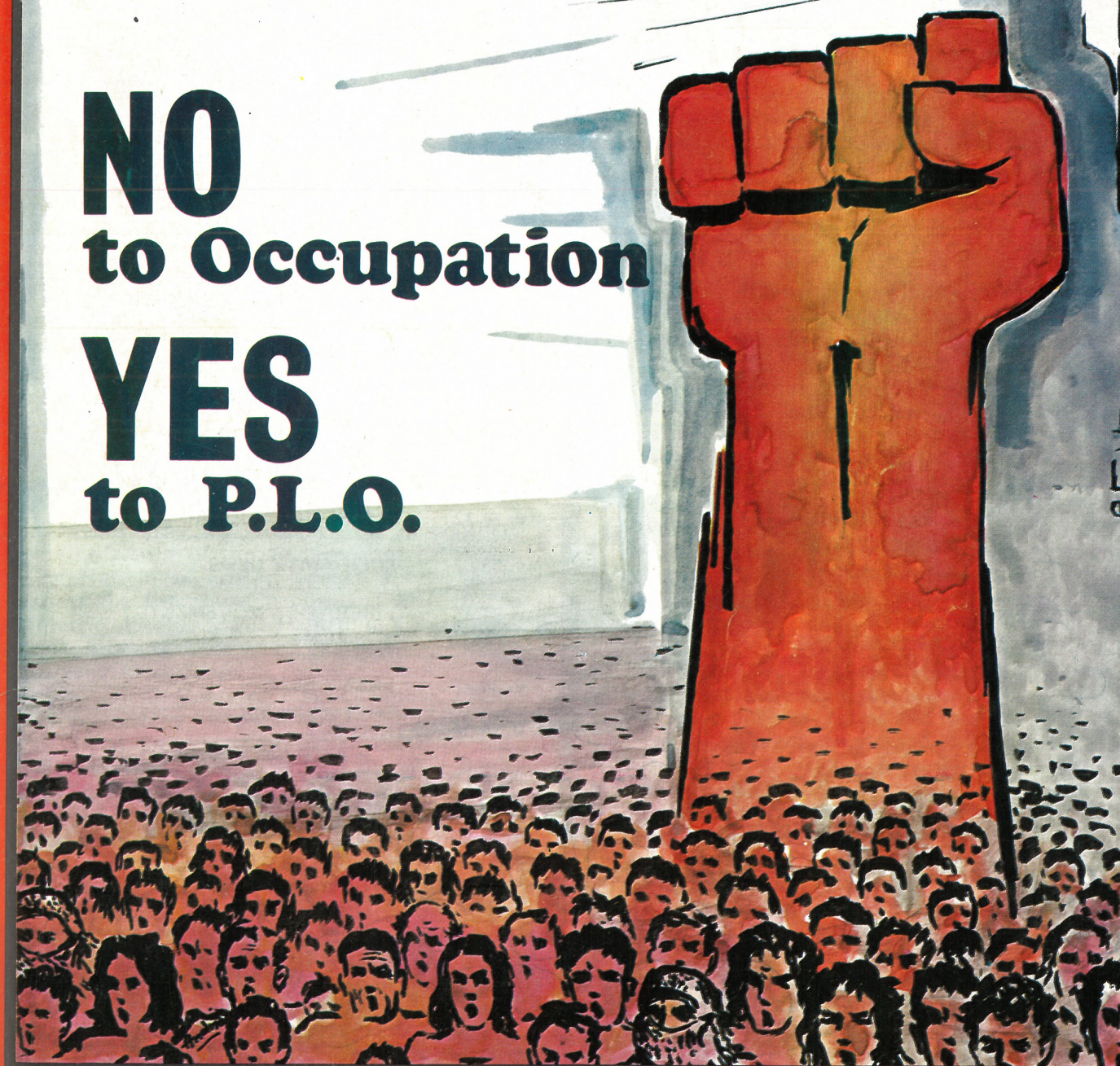
Volume 2, No.10, March 1976

**P.L.O.
information
bulletin**

PER. SEC.
MAR 29 1978

NYPL

**NO
to Occupation
YES
to P.L.O.**



TO OUR FRIENDS

The mass uprising against the Zionist occupation in Palestine is the most important event during the month of February. Our masses under the Zionist yoke are getting more and more self-confident to face the occupant's tanks and soldiers, even with their bare hands.

The « Palestine » team tried to present in this issue an approximate idea of the mass uprising — which was blacked out by most of the Western news media — and which reflects the genuine sentiment of a people under alien occupation.

NOTICE our change of address :
« **PALESTINE BULLETIN** »,
P.O. BOX 195168
Beirut, Lebanon.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Africa, Asia, Latin America: 10 US \$
Europe, USA, Canada and Australia: 12 US \$

All cheques should be made payable to
«**PALESTINE BULLETIN**».

All copies of «**PALESTINE BULLETIN**» will be
sent by air mail.

CONTENTS

P. 3 :	« PALESTINE » OPINION.
P. 4-8 :	FEATURES : — Maslakh and Quaranteena.
P. 9-10 :	PALESTINE NOTES.
P. 11-19 :	OCCUPATION DIARY. — Mass Uprising.
P. 20-21 :	THE HASHEMITE CONSPIRACY.
P. 22-23 :	AL-KARAMEH.
P. 24-25 :	STRUGGLE GOES ON.
P. 26-27 :	ZIONISM : — Jewish Defence League.
P. 28-32 :	PLO INTERNATIONAL VICTORY.
P. 33 :	SOLIDARITY NEWS.
P. 34-35 :	LIBERATION MOVEMENTS : — Angola.
P. 36-37 :	ENEMY NEWS.
P. 38-39 :	HISTORY : — Abdel-Rahim Mahmoud.
P. 40-43 :	CULTURE : — Palestinian Cinema.

Palestine
P.L.O.
information
bulletin

MONTHLY INFORMATION BULLETIN
published in English & French, by
THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION
UNIFIED INFORMATION
P.O. Box 195168 — Tel. 317442-304584 —
BEIRUT — LEBANON

Partial or total
reproduction is freely
permitted by
«**PALESTINE**» bulletin

“PALESTINE” OPINION

JOINT HASHEMITE-ZIONIST PLOT

The Lebanese crisis, which lasted more than ten months, resulted in a defeat for the imperialist and reactionary conspiracy, and a victory for the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese national and progressive movement.

Directly after the settlement of the conflict and the return of life to normal in Lebanon, King Hussein of Jordan opened a new front against the Palestinian people and their representative, the PLO. The Hashemite King reconvened his Parliament which had previously been dissolved in response to the resolutions of the Rabat Summit Conference in September, 1974, thus reaffirming his old dream to represent the Palestinian people. The old Parliament had included delegates from among the West Bank Palestinians.

This new Hashemite manoeuvre is not an isolated step. It comes in accordance with Israeli declarations to bring the King more and more into the forefront of Middle East events. The Israelis are speculating on the possibilities of a disengagement agreement on the Jordanian front and the hand-over of the West Bank to the King. It is also connected with the Israeli move to hold municipal elections in the occupied territories, elections which aim at appointing a new leader-

ship of the Palestinian people acceptable to both the Hashemite regime and the Zionist occupation, to replace the PLO leadership.

Our people inside the occupied territories, who have been waging a massive continuous protest since the US-Veto on 27 January, have understood the significance of this Hashemite manoeuvre. In all cities and most villages, the masses have expressed their dissatisfaction at this treacherous conspiracy through street demonstrations and barricades. With their bare hands and stones they faced the tanks of the occupiers. The inhabitants of Jerusalem took to the streets in protest against a Zionist rule to allow Jews to pray in Al-Aqsa Mosque, the second holy place of Islam.

People of different ages participated in these demonstrations for the first time. They were chanting slogans such as : — « Yes to PLO », « Long live Yasser Arafat » and « No to King Hussein », etc....

These demonstrations, the most violent since the occupation in June 1967, illustrated the will and determination of our people to throw off the yoke of Zionism.

The growing self-confidence of our population under Israeli occupation is due to many factors :

- 1) The incessant military operations of Palestinian Fedayin against Israeli targets.
- 2) The growing international recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
- 3) Deteriorating morale of the occupation forces.
- 4) The defeat of the latest imperialist conspiracy against the Palestinian Revolution in Lebanon.

The conspiracy against the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights to self-determination may take different forms and may be executed through different means and different agents, but they are undivided. All conspiracies have a common master — US Imperialism — and a common aim, to liquidate the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Through their awareness of all imperialist conspiracies and manoeuvres, the Palestinian people and their vanguard, the Palestinian Revolution, are determined to continue the struggle for a just and durable peace in the Middle East and for the establishment of a secular democratic state in Palestine for all religious communities — Jews, Christians and Moslems.



FEATURES

MASLAKH & QUARANTEENA A WILL TO RETURN

Maslakh and Quaranteena quarters — now known throughout the world as the site of Phalangist atrocities in January of this year — housed some 40,000 people. These slums were home to people of different nationalities united by a common factor: poverty. There lived Kurds, Armenians, Syrians, as well as some Palestinians, and Lebanese villagers who had come to Beirut to avoid the barbaric and habitual Zionist attacks on South Lebanon.

Situated to the north-east of Beirut, and bounded to the north by the sea and to the north-west by the port, the area was further given the character of being sealed off by a high wall which formed its southern boundary. The wall, built a few years ago, protected the traffic passing on the busy road out of the capital to the mountains from seeing the squalor which lay behind it. Thousands used the road in summer as their way of escape from a sweltering humid city, and it was also the tourist route to some of the beauties of Lebanon. Behind this wall, however, was the reverse side of Beirut's golden coin of prosperity.

Home for the people of Maslakh and Quaranteena meant the simplest of slum dwellings, one-storey shacks for the most part, built with planks of wood, tin, corrugated metal and any other primitive materials to hand. This, the typical housing of the urban poor, provided scant shelter against the heat of the long summer months and the rains and storms of winter.

Those who were lucky enough to have work were mainly employed in the nearby factories, which took advantage of their extreme poverty to use them as cheap labour, paying them low rates which could scarcely cover their family needs. Employed as daily labourers with no social security whatsoever to protect them, the workers lived in constant fear of arbitrary dismissal. This fear and the difficulties of obtaining employment made sure that the workers accepted the long hours and the low wages. Vulnerable in their work situation, most workers also had the added burden of several people — may be as many as eight or ten — dependent on one income for their survival. Annual per capita income was some 800 Lebanese pounds (\$ 250) which, though not low when compared with other Third World countries, is a very low figure in a city where prices are as high as in many European capitals, and where food prices have soared over the past months of crisis. The price of one kilo of meat rose to 20 Lebanese pounds, while



New factories mushroomed to exploit the cheap labour at hand.



The fascists' traces in Maslakh and Quaranteena.

bread — one of the basic foods of the poor — was frequently unavailable.

Like slum-dwellers all over the world, the people of Maslakh and Quaranteena suffered from the lack of most basic facilities. Water had to be fetched daily from common water taps, no small task for a woman caring for a family of several children and adult members. The journey through the unmade paths of the area — in winter churned into mud by the passing feet and winter rains, in summer, hot and dusty — was a daily chore carried out stoically by the inhabitants who had little hope of anything better.

Health conditions, already unfavourable due to poverty, overcrowding, the lack of sanitation or running water, and the impossibility of ensuring a healthy diet with the slight financial means at

the people's disposal, were further aggravated by the fact that the area was without a single hospital, infirmary or clinic. Medical treatment had to be sought outside the area, sometimes far away, and distance alone could mean the difference between life and death in emergency cases. To add to this, medical treatment is expensive and social medicine virtually inexistent. Such deficiencies are dramatic for any social group, but particularly grave when they exist in conjunction with the health hazards already caused by poverty and ill-housing.

Educationally, the area was served by only one public and two private schools, which could not hope to cope with the large numbers of children. Many of the adult population were illiterate, and their children seemed likely to follow in their footsteps, both because of the lack of schools and because poverty created the need for child labour.

Children as young as six years old worked as street-sellers or shoe-cleaners.

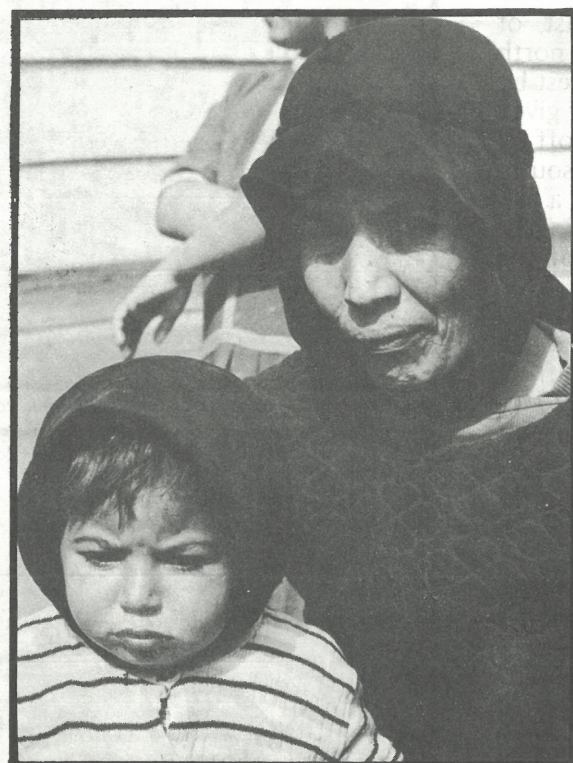
The people of Maslakh and Quaranteena, ignored for so long by prosperous Lebanon, might well have remained so for years. But this was not to be, and for primarily economic reasons: the thousands of slum dwellings stood on land owned by members of the ruling capitalist faction. The rapid expansion of Beirut and the recent mushrooming of expensive residential buildings erected by speculators meant that the price of land — for housing construction or industrialization — had sky-rocketed. And there, in Beirut itself, was a piece of valuable land inhabited by thousands of people whose very existence prevented developers from reaping the profits they wanted.

Not only was the land owned by rightists, it was also situated in the heart of a rightist area. To empty Maslakh and Quaranteena of their population would enable the rightists to control the whole area in view of future partition, an objective which also motivated the fascists' attempt to control Tel al-Zaatar.

Economically and politically, therefore, the fascists had good reasons to wish to take over the Maslakh and Quaranteena quarters. Militarily also, as events in Lebanon developed, the Phalangists and their allies became increasingly determined to maintain full control over the areas they considered as theirs, and to eliminate any resisting progressive spots which remained in those areas. This again was in view of the possible future partition of Lebanon which was one of their final strategic aims.

Tactically, it was important for the fascists at that time to achieve some military victories, because their previous military setbacks would not allow them to negotiate from a strong position in any political settlement. Thus they chose to attack the weakest areas, such as Dbayeh, Quaranteena and Maslakh.

In order to achieve their aims, the fascists adopted different means. Firstly, using the pretext of



The Phalangists killed her husband and left her with an orphan.

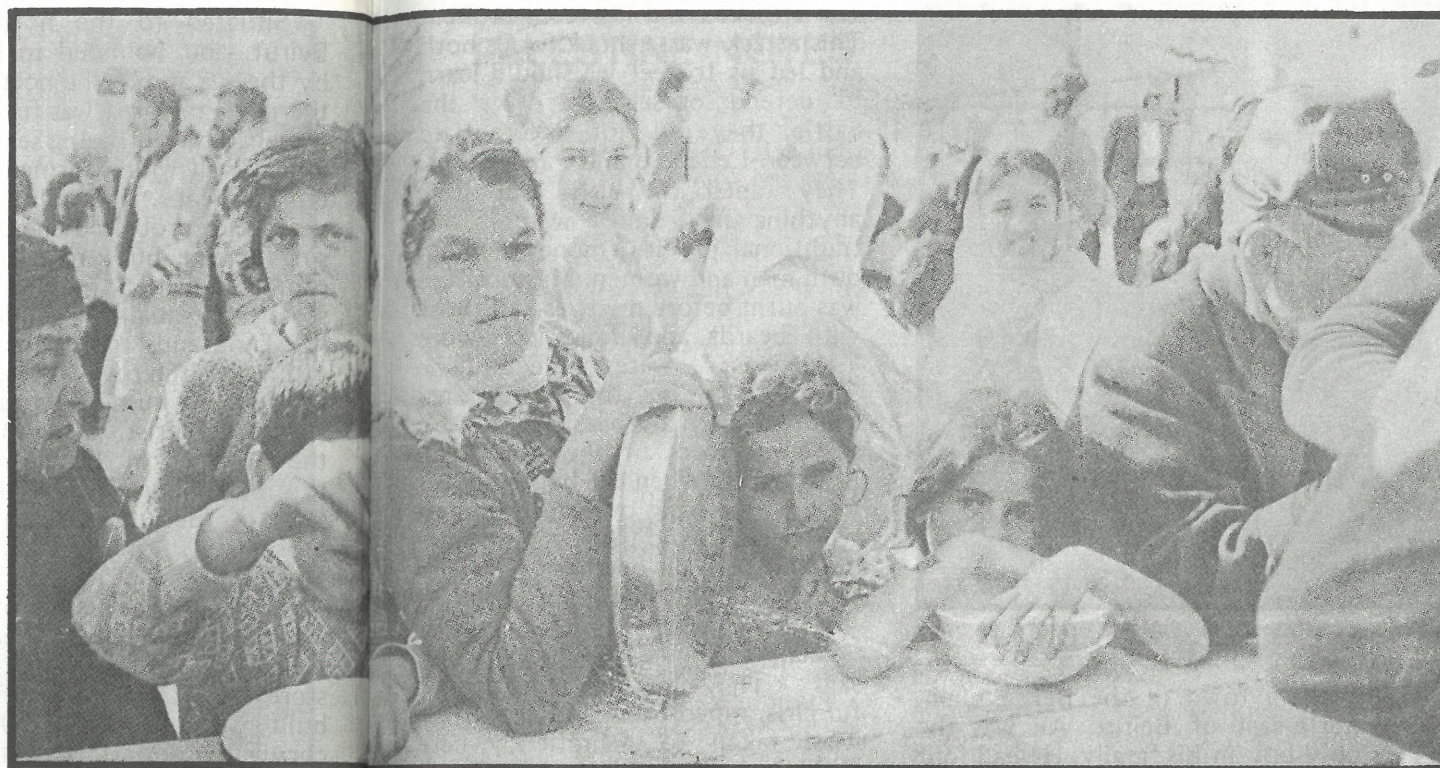
preserving « security » and maintaining national « sovereignty », they tried to turn the Christian masses against those whom they called « strangers ». Behind this attempt lay blatantly racist objectives. For one of the rightists' stated objections (concealing other equally base motivations) to the population of Maslakh and Quaranteena was their non-Christian status. Thus the fascists appealed to the religious fanaticism of their supporters to carry out an act which was far removed from having religious motives. Appointing themselves as the deity's chosen inheritors of Lebanon, as the Zionists have appointed themselves the deity's chosen inheritors of Palestine, they used the argument of religious « superiority » to justify their inhumanity to their fellow men.

Secondly, the Phalangists and their allies, like the Zionists, depended on assembling important armed forces to attack the weakest military points in order to achieve a clear military victory. This was the tactic already practiced in Dbayeh camp, Hai al-Ghawarneh, Sibnaye and other areas. All of these places are isolated by their situation from the protection and support of the progressive forces, and thus eventually fell under Phalangist do-

mination. In these areas, too, the Phalangists used savage tactics in order to gain control over them. Adopting the policy of terrorism and forced evacuation of civilians and poor masses, introduced into the modern history of the Middle East by the Zionists in Palestine, the fascist troops showed that they had learnt the Zionist lessons well.

*
* *

On 19 January, 1976, the armed militias of the Phalangist and National Liberal parties attacked Maslakh and Quaranteena, supported by some sections of the Lebanese army and police forces. In order to cut off the people's escape from their barbaric attack, they blocked the road leading to the sea. The only way out, therefore, lay through rightist areas. The people bravely resisted for five days, but were finally overcome by the superior number of the attacking forces, by their own lack of ammunition and by the geographical disadvantages of their site. The attackers finally could no longer be prevented from entering the area. Before the eyes of the population, their small houses were pillaged, burnt, torn down and flattened by bulldozers.



Receiving their rations at St. Michel Beach.

Much worse than the brutal destruction of homes, however, were the savage atrocities which the attacking forces committed against the people of Maslakh and Quaranteena. Wanton murder of helpless people, as well as rape and other acts of violence were the crimes committed on that terrible day. Women and children begged for mercy from the invaders, but none was shown.

The savage acts committed by the fascists against civilians illustrated their particular brand of « civilization », similar in type to the « civilization » carried to Vietnam and Palestine by the imperialists and Zionists. It is a « civilization » which shows no respect for human life — whether the life is that of a fighter, or a civilian man, woman or child — a « civilization » in which the conqueror celebrates in the most barbaric manner and with savage rites his transitory victory over his brothers.

As the destruction of Maslakh and Quaranteena began, the Palestinian Revolution together with the National and progressive forces, set to work to help the people. Thousands of destitute families were transported to the safety of

the western areas of Beirut, where the Revolution installed them in the beach chalets which normally serve some of Beirut's most expensive beach clubs. There on the beaches which they are now seeing for the first time in their lives, the people are living, waiting each day to know what will become of them. Some 8,000 families are now dependent on the Palestinian Revolution and the National Progressive Movement for their survival.

The Revolution's Committee for Support (see **Palestine** No. 8) has the massive responsibility of housing and feeding the new refugees. The refugees have been given shelter in some five or six beach clubs, all in the same area. As well as providing an ordinary everyday diet for the people, a special feeding programme has been set up by the Committee for babies and very young children. The Revolution and the National Progressive Movement have together provided the people with food-stuffs, clothes, sheets, blankets and medicine. Clinics have been set up to provide medical treatment and advice, particularly important in order to prevent the outbreak of epidemics which typically follow the movement of such a large num-



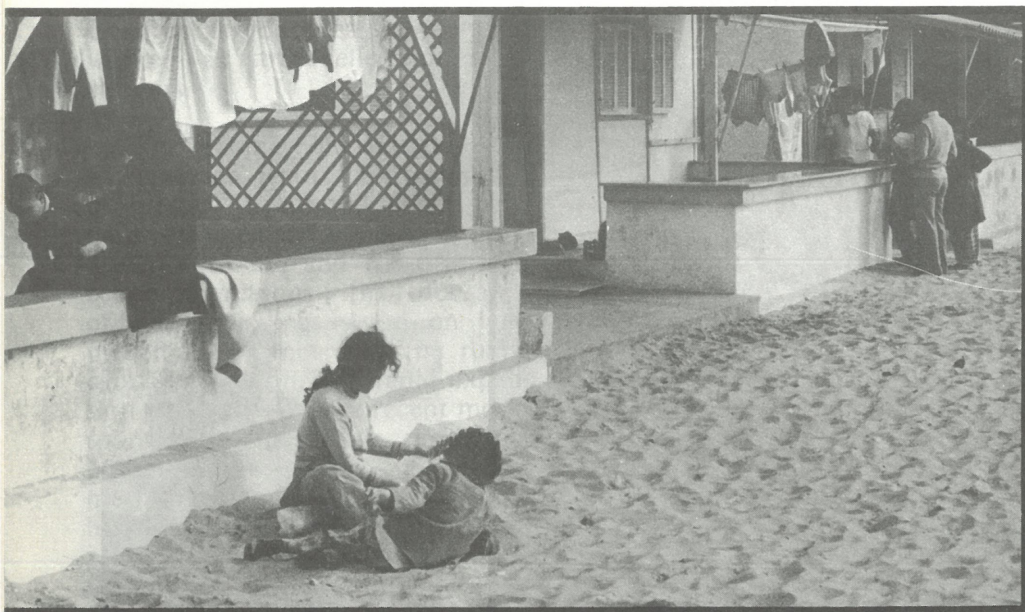
ber of people, now completely destitute.

The people retain the memory of their terrifying experience at the hands of the fascist forces. What images surge into their minds as darkness falls, only they can tell. Many of them will be marked by fear for the rest of their lives. No one can erase the dreadful impressions they have absorbed, but it is possible to make sure that the people's lives remain protected in their present situation. This is the task of the men of the Palestinian Armed Struggle Command who are on constant alert to police the beach clubs and ensure that the people entrusted to their care do not suffer again the nightmare from which they have just emerged.

THE NEW REFUGEES

The new refugees from Maslakh and Quaranteena are being temporarily housed in the chalets of what used to be the most exclusive beach-clubs of west Beirut.

« Will they return those kidnapped ? » asked Khalid Ibrahim, a 13-year-old refugee from Maslakh. Khalid came to Saint-Simon



The leisure bourgeois chalets turned into popular housings.

Beach with his father and two brothers. He lost his mother, his two other brothers, his four uncles and his grand-father while they were fleeing for their lives.

Suad Muhammad is a Lebanese woman from Maslakh. She said : « They killed my uncle and his three sons, my second uncle, two of my brothers-in-law and my aunt, al-Hajja Dibeh, aged fifty, who was driven to the wall and shot. Her « crime » was her belief that the Palestinians are fighting the Israelis and not the Lebanese.»

Suad continued : « Some of them were carrying weapons and some were just waiting until the end of the fighting. They picked out all the strong men and killed them, then they burned down the buildings, hit me and stole my bracelet.»

Khaled Abdallah said that he was not a fighter. After he left Maslakh and reached Saint-Simon Beach with his wife and three children, he searched for his brothers but could not find them. He said : « There are seven of them and one has seven children. We lost our house and now we are wearing clothes from charity.» His beautiful wife said : « I dirtied my face so as not to be subjected to what the other women endured.»

The family of 19-year-old Ali Mahdi came originally from Baal-

beck, a town in the Bekaa plain, north-east of Beirut. Ali was the only boy in his family. He had four sisters. Two years ago, his father became ill and, while attending secondary school classes at night, Ali sold refreshments during the day in order to support his family who had been living in Quaranteena for 23 years.

Ali's father, who saw his son killed before his eyes, broke down and wept as he spoke of him : « We are not members of any party, and my son did not carry arms. In spite of this, we were led away in a line like cattle, and forbidden to look back. I was the only one in the family to know that our only son and bread-winner had been killed. Later, his mother asked to see her son, but the killers refused. They took us to Ashrafieh (an area controlled by the Phalangist party), where they gathered some of our girls in a building and started « interrogating » them until morning. Few escaped without being raped. My daughter Fatima was one of the few.»

Zeinab Na'mat Sabah, a Lebanese woman who lived with her nine children — aged from 1 to seventeen years — in Maslakh, said : « My husband is a Palestinian and I don't know where he is now. Before the war, my eldest son Qasim used to study in the Ashrafieh secondary school, where he was one

day attacked and his teeth broken. This attack was a shock for us both and led us to feel we should learn to defend ourselves... After the battle, they did not differentiate between Lebanese and Palestinians. They raped the girls, and stole anything they could — watches, our traditional jewelry, money — from both men and women. My furniture was burnt before my eyes. All those with beards and those who wore « Kuffiyas » were killed. (The « Kuffiya » is the traditional headress worn by peasants, and by some members of the Palestinian Resistance). When the battle ended, we were walking over dead bodies. We tried to avoid them but we were ordered to walk on them... I swear that I will fight them.»

Hajja Hamda, 60 years old, said : « They chose the most beautiful girls, raped them and then they were taken to Ashrafieh, where they exposed their naked bodies to their men. They know that we are traditional and that we care for our traditions and for protecting our girls. As in Jordan, here the fascists carried out massive massacres, killing the best of our men. We were not allowed to see or bury them ; they forced us to walk on their bodies... We are Arabs and proud of our Lebanese identity. We will never give up. I am 60 years old, yet, I will resist these murderous traitors and return to my home. I was born in Maslakh ; I cannot leave it. We support the Palestinian Revolution because we know that the Palestinians have a just cause. They are not fighting the Lebanese. Israel is their enemy.»



Hajja Hamda.

PALESTINE NOTES

ARAFAT CONGRATULATES CPSU LEADERSHIP ON 25th CONGRESS

Yasser Arafat sent a letter to the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party, on 24 February, congratulating them on their 25th Congress. The text of the letter follows :

Comrades, President and Members of the 25th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Revolutionary and militant greetings.

« It is my pleasure to congratulate you and the great Soviet people under the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party, in my own name, in the name of the P.L.O. Executive Committee, of the militant Palestinian people and their vanguard, the Palestinian Revolution, on the occasion of your 25th Congress, which our Palestinian people and all peoples of the world aspiring for liberation and independence are watching with great interest.

« The Palestinian Revolution, under the leadership of the P.L.O., takes pride in the strong and increasing relations which bind it to your people, Government and Party and works constantly to strengthen and consolidate this relationship. It values the support which your great country has offered and still offers to the Arab Nation — this support which has helped it to realize its victories against imperialism and Zionism. It also values your support for our Palestinian people in their just struggle, and to all peoples and liberation movements of the world — support which helped our Nation and people to continue their struggle against imperialism.

« We always look towards the consolidation of our mutual relations and towards your support and assistance, in order that we may be able to establish our independent national



Abu Ammar greets Leonid Brezhnev.

authority over the land of Palestine.

« The success of your Congress and the flourishing of your friendly country represent a consolidation of our struggle and a support to all liberation movements in the world ; and we hope, dear comrades, that the world liberation movements will always be able to achieve further victories against the enemies of humanity, thanks to your aid and your constant stand by the side of justice and peace in the world .»

ARAFAT SENDS CABLE TO ANGOLAN PRESIDENT

On 4 February, Yasser Arafat sent a cable to Dr. Agostinho Neto on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the launching of the Angolan Revolution. In his cable Arafat saluted the heroic struggle of the Angolan people — headed by its vanguard revolutionary movement the MPLA — against US imperialism.

After expressing his faith in the inevitable victory of the Angolan people, Comrade Arafat concluded by reaffirming « the deep solidarity of our

Palestinian people, who are struggling from the same position and for the same objectives against our common enemies .»

STATISTICS OF ZIONIST AGGRESSION AGAINST LEBANON

The monthly report made by United Nations observers said that Israeli planes violated Lebanese air space 17 times during the month of January. The same report added that Israeli forces infiltrated Lebanese territory several times, firing heavy artillery, mortars and automatic weapons 56 times at Southern Lebanese border villages.

PLO CABLE TO WALDHEIM

Following the brutal Zionist suppression of the demonstrations which took place in occupied Palestine, the PLO Executive Committee Office of the Occupied Homeland sent the following cable to the UN Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim :—

« We denounce the terrorist measures of the Israeli author-

ities against our people in the occupied territories, and the imprisonment and fining of hundreds of students. We ask you to intervene to put an end to such terrorist measures .»

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS CONDEMNING ZIONIST OCCUPATION

The General Union of Palestinian Workers has received from the regional Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and ILO representative to the Arab Labour Organization, a number of important documents that condemn the Zionist occupation authorities for practicing racial discrimination against Palestinian workers and masses in occupied Palestine, for violating union freedoms and for depriving workers of union rights.

The ILO representative, Dr. al-Maraghi, will present these documents to the special administrative council of the ILO and its committees, in preparation for their presentation to the 61st Congress of the ILO which is to be held next June in Geneva.

Dr. Aziz al-Maraghi arrived in Damascus recently at the invitation of the Secretariat General of the General Union of Palestinian Workers in order to hand them these important documents.

MAKARIOS: ON PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

The Cypriot President, Archbishop Makarios, received the Palestinian delegation to the 5th Engineering Conference of Balkan States held in Nicosia, Cyprus, in February 1976.

In his speech at the closing session of the Conference on 6 February, President Makarios said that the struggle of the Palestinian people is the struggle of all freedom-loving peoples in the world.



President Souphanavong

ARAFAT CABLES THANKS TO LAOTIAN PRESIDENT

Yasser Arafat sent a cable to the Laotian President, Comrade Souphanavong, on 25 February, thanking him for his Government's decision to break diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity. Arafat said that this militant step « will consolidate even more the relations of struggle between our two peoples, and between the Democratic Popular Republic of Laos and the P.L.O., on the course of struggle against imperialism and Zionism and for liberation and progress. »

Arafat added that this step expresses the awareness of the Government and people of Laos of the dangerous role which is being played by the Zionist state as a bridgehead for world imperialism and colonialism in the Arab region, and as a tool of continuous aggression against the Arab Nation and the Palestinian people.

Arafat concluded by hoping that this step taken by the Laotian Government will be a new stepping stone in the construction of revolutionary solidarity and eternal friendship between the two peoples.

PLO INVITED TO ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY FESTIVITIES

The Zionist Labour Party has refused to take part in the Italian Socialist Party festivities, originally scheduled to take place in February, 1976, because the PLO has been invited to the festival.

In an attempt to have the invitation to the PLO withdrawn, the Socialist International, a grouping of Social Democratic Parties of which Israel is a member, intervened urging the Italian Socialist Party to reconsider its invitation to the PLO.

The Italian Socialist Party, describing the Zionist Labour Party's move as illogical, announced its determination to maintain its invitation to the PLO.

The Party's festivities have now been postponed until March due to the current political crisis in Italy.

PLO OFFICE TO BE OPENED IN JAPAN

On 2 February, a Japanese Government source in Tokyo announced that the Japanese Government has decided to examine the possibility of opening a PLO office of semi-diplomatic nature, as a result of the consolidation of the Organization's Status on the international level. The source added that the Japanese Foreign Minister will announce the opening of the PLO office at an official press conference.

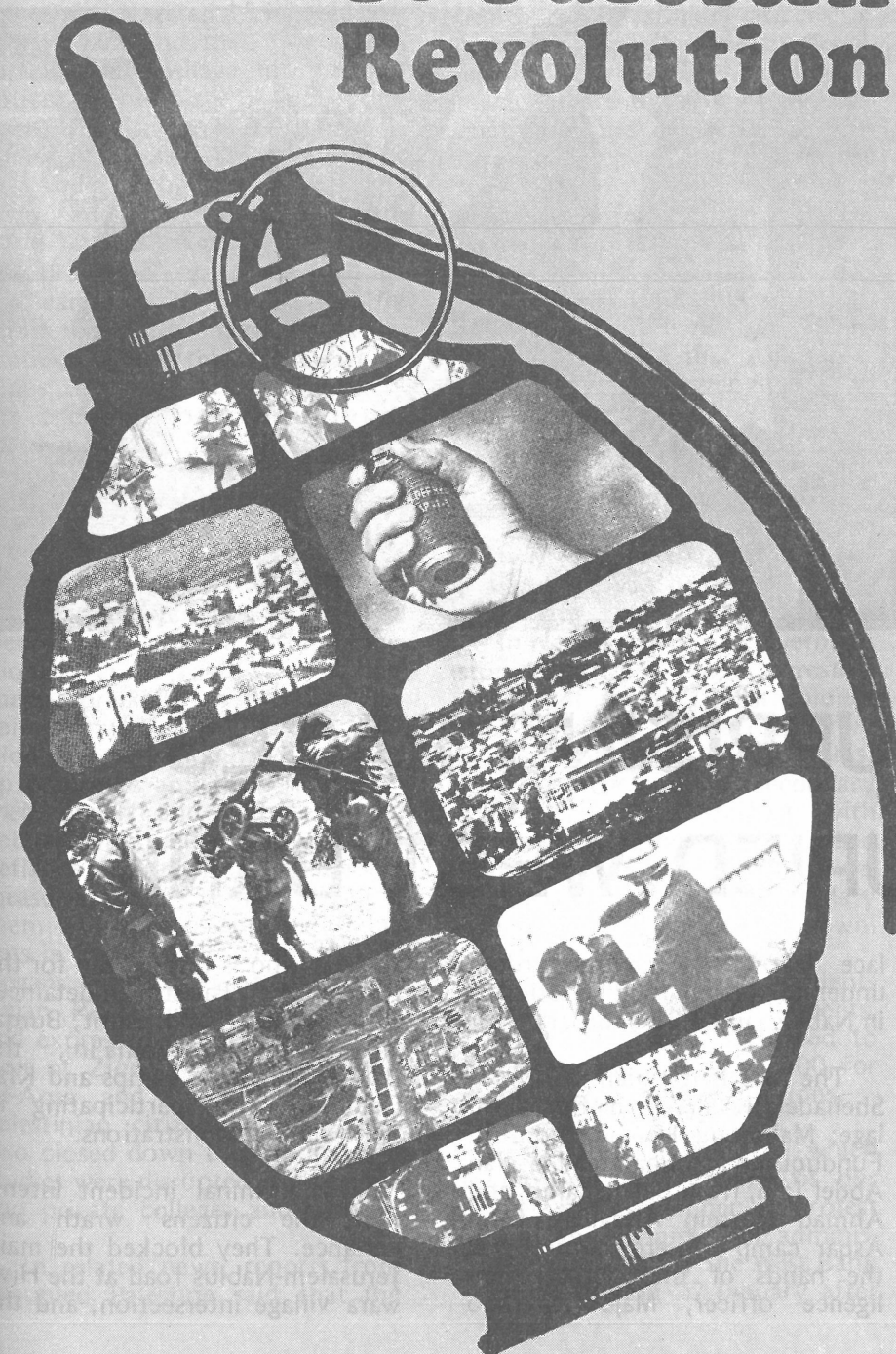
PLO TO OPEN OFFICE IN SPAIN

Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Section, announced on 4 February that in the course of his visit to Spain, the Spanish Government had agreed to the PLO's request to open an office in the Spanish capital, Madrid.

In an interview with the Spanish evening newspaper, *Pueblo*, Abu Lutf stressed the importance of a firm Spanish stand against the racist Zionist entity, and of solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

OCCUPATION DIARY

NO To Occupation! YES To Palestinian Revolution



In another new Zionist provocation to the Palestinian population of the West Bank, the Israeli occupation authorities have passed a court ruling allowing Jews to pray in the Al-Aqsa Mosque. This is not the first attempt at desecrating Muslim and Christian holy sites undertaken by the Zionists, showing complete disrespect for the religious feelings of the Palestinians. Previously, excavations around the Mosque were conducted in order to uncover Solomon's Temple, which, the Zionists claim, lies under Al-Aqsa. This is considered as the second most sacred place of Islam — after Mecca — from where religion says the Prophet Mohammad ascended to heaven. After the '67 war, there were robberies in Christian churches, as well as destruction of images. It is to be recalled that the attempts on Al-Aqsa started few years ago when the mosque was tried to be burnt by an individual who was later considered to be « psychologically ill » by the Zionist authorities, in order to cover any possible connection he could have had with the Zionists, and to answer the Arab population's anger and that of the whole Islamic world.

Christian and Muslim men of religion expressed their denunciation of the court ruling. The Head of the Islamic Scientific Body, Sheikh Helmi al Muhtasib described the decision as a humiliating affront to Muslims. The Latin Archbishop Nehmeh condemned Zionist violations of Palestinian Arab holy sites, saying that they only emphasize the racist character of Zionism. The General Islamic Conference for Jerusalem warned both

Arabs and Muslims against the danger of being indifferent towards Zionist projects to Judaize Al-Aqsa Mosque.

With this type of measures the Israeli occupiers can only step up the contradictions existing between them and the masses under occupation. Their policies aimed at perpetuating their domination of Arab land, such as the new settlements drive specially on the West

Bank lands (Sebastia, Jerusalem, etc.), their civil administration projects and plots in conjunction with Jordan and the US are being the fire reigniting our people's will to resist the occupiers and the imperialists till the liberation of their rightfully owned lands.

The wave of popular demonstrations once again covering all of the West Bank is a concrete proof of this.

Nablus-Jenin, and Nablus-Qalqilya roads at the Kfar Qaddoum village intersections. The citizens then attacked two cars of the Israeli Frontier Guards near the Hiwwara village, killing four soldiers and setting the two cars on fire. Immediately, enemy army forces supported by vehicles, tanks and helicopters, rushed to the scene, arbitrarily shelling the inhabitants of the two villages of Hiwwara and Burqa and killing Aicha Hamdan, a 65-year old Palestinian woman and Said Rabah, a 6-year old child, and blowing up a coffee shop owned by Ayesha Younis, and the home of Abdel Halim Zahir. The enemy forces also arrested 15 inhabitants of Hiwwara and then imposed a curfew on the village until further notice. In the village of Burqa, the fascist Zionist forces blew up the homes of Hassan Afana and Khaled Abdel Rehim after arresting them, and imposed a 6 PM to 6 AM curfew on the village until further notice.

Meanwhile, demonstrations in Jenin and Tulkarem continued in protest against this crime, while shops closed down. This infuriated the enemy who prohibited the entry and exit of all citizens to the two villages. A 6 PM to 6 AM curfew was imposed on the cities and villages of the region.

Demonstrations also broke out in Jerusalem, Jericho, Al-Bira and Hebron in protest against the Zionist crime and the savage enemy practices in Nablus. The demonstrators condemned the Zionist occupation, the blowing up of homes and the dispersal of their owners; and expressed their determination to continue their defiance of enemy suppressive measures and methods against them and against detained militants in Zionist jails. They chanted slogans in support of the Palestinian Revolution and the PLO, and expressed their absolute rejection of Zionist violations of the Al-Aqsa and Ibrahimi Mosques. Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem also closed down their shops, and studies were disrupted in all public and private colleges and schools.

In related news, reports from occupied Palestine said that the



health of Palestinian citizens in occupation jails has greatly deteriorated as a result of their ill-treatment, torture and solitary confinement and the denial of medical care. The reports confirmed that the militant Abdel Hafez Abu Omar is suffering from multiple fractures in his right arm as a result of the savage torture to which he is still being subjected, and that his life is now in danger. It is to be noted that Abu Omar has already spent over 8 years in Hashemite jails.

In Jerusalem, the sit-in staged by hundreds of Arab citizens in Al-Aqsa Mosque continued, while occupation forces encircled the Mosque.

In Nablus, the enemy overnight stormed citizens' homes, arresting dozens of them. Zionist soldiers even pursued a 10-year old girl for throwing stones at them. Zionist forces also stormed secondary schools and beat students with sticks and rifle-butts and released police dogs on female students. In Nablus also, the Carmel Secondary School for Girls was closed down.

In Tulkarem, many students were arrested, while 12 students, all under 16, were sentenced to pay fines of IL 4,000 to 5,000, for participating in demonstrations.

The latest uprising — which follows on the uprising of our masses last November in protest against the Zionist civil administration projects for the West Bank — broke out on 27 January after

the US veto at the Security Council of the non-aligned countries' resolution supporting the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, and their sole representative, the PLO.

Unanimously — and with the participation of all sectors of the population — the Palestinian masses expressed their protest against the determination of the US imperialists to continue their aggressive policy and maintain their traditional line of full support for the Zionist entity, spearhead of US imperialism in the Middle East. Relying on their support, Israel continues its repressive policies against the Palestinian masses. In defiance of the world, Israel continues to implement new Zionist settlement projects; passes new rulings allowing the desecration of the holy sites of Islam, and attempts to perpetuate its colonial rule in the West Bank.

In conjunction with the Jordanian regime and US imperialism, Zionism is trying to strike at the Rabat resolutions — which recognize the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people — and restore Hussein's old dream of representing the Palestinian people. The aim is to promote Hussein as « legitimate » ruler over a state, half of which he handed over to the Zionist occupation, the other half of which he transformed into a cemetery for Palestinian martyrs. The Hashemite regime is rushing to play its own part in the imperialist conspiracy aimed at weakening the Palestinian Revolution



MASS UPRISING RAGES IN OCCUPIED WEST BANK

A new mass uprising is currently raging in all cities, towns and villages of the occupied West Bank. The uprising which, at the time of going to press, had entered its 29th consecutive day, is the most violent witnessed since the Zionist occupation in 1967.

The clashes between demonstrators and Israeli soldiers and police grew in intensity throughout the West Bank, after the popu-

lace learnt of the martyrdom under torture of four Palestinians in Nablus jail on 22 February.

The four Palestinian martyrs — Shehadeh Khalil, from Burqa village; Mahmoud Hamad, from al-Funduqumiya; Muhammad Hassan Abdel Jalil, from Balata camp, and Ahmad Hussein Abdallah, from Asqar camp — were murdered at the hands of the Zionist intelligence officer, Major Shlomo

Aharon who is responsible for the torture of all Palestinian detainees from Nablus, Jenin, Salfit, Burqa, al-Funduqumiya, Jama'in, the Balata and Asqar camps and Kfar Qaddoum, for participating in West Bank demonstrations.

This criminal incident intensified the citizens' wrath and defiance. They blocked the main Jerusalem-Nablus road at the Hiwwara village intersection; and the

after the failure of the Lebanese experiment.

The demonstrations of the masses in protest against the Zionist occupation and its latest conspiracies have reached peaks of violence never expected by the Zionist occupiers. Mass demonstrations, strikes, student sit-ins and protest meetings, during which the masses used stones, Molotov cocktails and other primitive home-made weapons of defence, have shown once more to the enemy the unrelenting fervour and determination of the Palestinian masses to reject the occupation and continue struggling until victory. The vitality of the Palestinian masses at this particular time affirms the extent of the constant interaction of our masses in the occupied homeland with political events.

The slogans raised during the demonstrations reaffirm the political consciousness of our people in the occupied homeland. They recognize the USA as the principal enemy of the forces fighting for liberation and progress in the world, an enemy which stands in the frontline trenches against their just struggle, and which understands nothing but this attitude of confrontation and force. They renew their rejection of the imperialist conspiracy represented in the reconvening of the Jordanian Parliament which aims at by-passing our people's gains won through their struggle and sacrifices, and officially consecrated by the Rabat Summit Conference. Our masses also are determined to preserve the Arabism of Jerusalem and its holy sites through the reaffirmation of their refusal to allow Jews to pray in the Al-Aqsa Mosque. They reject any protectorate and subjugation, and stress that the PLO is and will remain the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, wherever they are.

The protests of our masses were, from the outset, particularly vigorous in Nablus and Jerusalem.

NABLUS

In Nablus, where strict security

measures had been adopted by the occupation authorities to stop the spreading demonstrations, the fierce clashes resulted in dozens of wounded on both sides. In answer to the Zionist soldiers positioned in streets and on rooftops, their use of tear gas and waterhoses and hundreds of repressive arrests, the demonstrators answered by setting up barricades in the centre of the town, where tyres were set alight, Molotov cocktails thrown at enemy troops, and oil poured on the streets and set on fire to prevent the advance of enemy tanks and half-tracks.

JERUSALEM

In Jerusalem, clashes erupted in the wake of the big protests which had already spread to nearby towns (Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, etc.). Hundreds of Palestinian students and other citizens clashed with Israeli police and frontier guards, and several of them were wounded. The enemy command therefore sent in reserves equipped with military vehicles in an attempt to gain control of the situation and subdue the demonstrators. Enemy forces then carried out massive arrests and occupied various school buildings. Meanwhile,

shops remained closed in most parts of Jerusalem.

The fiercest clashes in Jerusalem, however, took place on 20 February after the Friday prayers, between Palestinian citizens and Zionist forces which had been occupying the Al-Aqsa Mosque ever since the beginning of the current mass uprising. Tens of thousands of citizens staged an enormous demonstration chanting slogans hostile to the Zionist occupation and to Zionist measures against the Mosque and other Moslem and Christian holy sites in occupied Palestine. They raised the Palestinian flag and cheered for the Palestinian Revolution and the PLO. The demonstrators also condemned the savage repressive measures practiced by the occupation authorities against the Palestinian people, and demanded the release of all detainees and the annulment of fines imposed on thousands of citizens who had taken part in the demonstrations. In their slogans they also attacked the continuing Zionist settlement projects in the West Bank and the constant US support for the Zionist entity. The Zionist forces, supported by tanks and armoured vehicles, savagely confronted the demonstrators. They beat the citi-

zens they managed to catch with rifle-butts and whips, while the demonstrators answered with rocks and sticks. The confrontation developed into the most serious clashes ever witnessed in Jerusalem, with Zionist forces firing shots at the demonstrators, wounding a large number who had to be taken to hospital for treatment.

Paralyzed before this Palestinian popular wrath, the Zionist police commander of Jerusalem had to call for reinforcements in a desperate attempt to suppress the uprising. Furthermore, thousands of Palestinians flocked to Jerusalem that day from cities and villages of the West Bank to attend the Friday prayers in the Mosque, in defiance of the occupation authorities. Meanwhile, Arab women staged a sit-in and presented a memorandum to local and international institutions, condemning this Zionist challenge to the feelings of both Moslems and Christians in occupied Palestine.

Simultaneous with the mass arrests and other vicious repressive measures against the Palestinian people, the Zionist military occupation authorities expelled to Jordan on 22 February, 300 Arab students who took part in the mass uprising against the Zionist

occupation, which began in protest at the violation of holy sites.

In spite of the massive arrests of adolescent students, the curfews, shellings and other punitive measures taken by the enemy, the demonstrations continue and have even been admitted by the Zionists, notwithstanding their attempts to veil the uprising in secrecy.

Our masses are aware that the language of resistance is the only one understood by the racist Zionist settlers. The mass uprising in the occupied homeland has foiled the conspiratorial projects aimed at striking at the rights of the Palestinian people to continue their armed struggle to liberate their land and to achieve self-determination. The Palestinian people are neither an easy prey for the Zionist occupation, nor for its agents in the Arab arena.

Jordan, in an action aimed at containing the mass uprising, has recently established a permanent bureau for occupied homeland affairs in Amman. All members of the bureau are members of the Jordanian Parliament **supposedly** representing the occupied West Bank, and under the direction of the Jordanian regime.

Through the opening of such an office, the Jordanian regime also aims to support its candidates in the municipal elections which are due to take place in the occupied West Bank next April, and which have been planned by the Zionist military occupation authorities in order to create an agent civilian local administration in the West Bank within the framework of the « United Arab Kingdom » : The Sisco-Allon-Husseini project.

The Jordanian regime has moreover allocated a sum of one million Jordanian Dinars for the expenses of the office and to support its collaborators in the West Bank running in the municipal elections.

The King's decision to establish this advisory bureau comes within the framework of the latest open conspiratorial Jordanian steps, which reveal that Hussein stands

in fact and in practice within the ranks of the occupation and of US imperialism, and uncover his long-held wishes to implement the United Arab Kingdom project.

Political observers at the United Nations state that a secret agreement was reached between Yitzhak Rabin, President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger, concerning the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The agreement is to undertake no negotiations with the PLO directly, except under the auspices of King Hussein.

UN observers note that « Israel » has organized what it calls « elections » in the West Bank, to prepare for the possibility of adding prominent « elected » Palestinians to a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to Geneva. King Hussein's reconvening of his Parliament led the Israeli weekly *Ha'olam Haze* (February 11) to comment that the representatives from the West Bank raised their hands as the King ordered, then came back home. They were received with blessings and enthusiasm by the Israeli Military Governor. With them came the money. Rivers of dinars are flowing now from Amman to the West Bank in an attempt to bribe a whole people through the King's agents.

The weekly continues. « Israel also supported the re-emergence of Jordan as leader of the Palestinians in the West Bank ». But such American pressure on Rabin can bring about his political death. « The result is zero », says *Ha'olam Haze*. « Rabin and Ford agreed between themselves on several exploratory moves, empty diplomatic manoeuvres aimed at creating the impression that there is political progress, while the freeze, in fact, still prevails. »

But the revolutionary steadfastness which foiled the conspiracy in Lebanon, and the revolutionary uprising in the occupied homeland are two strong arms with which our people strike at the conspiratorial heads wherever they appear.

□ □



ARAFAT ADDRESSES MASSES IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE



Yasser Arafat addressed a special message on 18 February to the revolutionary Palestinian masses in the occupied homeland through the 'Voice of Palestine' broadcasting service.

Arafat first saluted the Palestinian masses under occupation and their brave and firm stand in the face of imperialist-Zionist plots and conspiracies aimed against the Palestinian people their cause, their homeland and holy sites.

Arafat said: « In these glorious and difficult times through which the Palestine question and our Arab Nation are passing, you, our people in occupied Palestine, stand steadfast and strong, with the great pride of our Arab Nation in your souls.

« You confront the arrogance of the Zionist occupation, and the Zionist instruments of war and destruction, with your unshakeable faith that increases day after day, emphasizing that this

land is Arab and will remain Arab.

Arafat went on: « In my name and in the name of the Palestinian Revolution everywhere, both inside and outside occupied Palestine; in the name of the patient and perseverant Palestinian people: in the name of our Arab Nation; in the name of our struggle; I say that we stand side by side with you, we are together with you, we are in front of you and behind you in this long and hard struggle. And we are certainly moving towards victory, accompanied by the spirits of our heroic martyrs.»

« In spite of the hardships that our brothers are facing in Zionist jails, they still proudly confront their torturers inside the prisons, as you are now facing your enemy inside the huge prison which our dear occupied homeland has become.

« This is the fate of our people who have offered so much, the fate of the Palestinian Arab people in occupied Palestine. Our Palestinian people in the occupied homeland are working miracles every day and doing heroic deeds. Hence emerges the epic greatness of this continual struggle going on everywhere, in the factories, houses, streets, plains and mountains, inside the occupied land and outside it ».

Arafat noted in his message to the masses of our people in occupied Palestine

that many had thought that this revolution would not live more than a few weeks or months, while we now are entering our 12th year. He added: dear brothers, we know that the way is long and hard.»

Arafat then ended his message by saying: « In the name of these holy sites, these ideals and that honourable mission which push us to increase our struggle with all ways and means, what you have achieved in the occupied homeland are wonderful initiatives that will go down in history. You have proved to the whole world that you are a genuine Arab people, that you are free men and heroes. More of this steadfastness, more struggle, more pride, and more greatness, our generous and heroic people every where.

« We are with you, fighting from this position as you fight from your position. This struggle means that our people creates its own future, its own history and engages in a heroic and fierce battle that will constitute the great Victory in the history of our Arab nation. And as our militant comrade gen. Giap, the victorious Vietnamese leader said: a series of small victories together will constitute the great one. Thus your great victories and ours will constitute the great victory. We are side by side till liberation and victory.

Revolution until victory.

ARRESTS AND SENTENCES

To the 6,000 Palestinians the Zionists have admitted arresting in 1975 in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on charges of resisting the occupation, the military authorities will this year certainly add

hundreds more names of patriots who fight against the oppression and discrimination of the military occupation. The enemy claimed the discovery last year of 28 commando cells, the members of which executed a large number of operations in different parts of occupied Palestine. At the same time, the

enemy admitted that several attempts had taken place to assassinate the municipal election candidates who were imposed on Palestinian citizens by the Israeli authorities.

Already this year we can report hundreds of arrests and arbitrary detentions, to which our masses in the West Bank

have answered by escalating their popular resistance in combative spirit, which will also maintain the morale of those, who are enduring long-term prison sentences.

It is difficult, within the scope of the Bulletin, to name all those who have been arrested or sentenced by the Zionist military authorities even since the beginning of the year, because the occupation authorities carry out arrests on such a wide scale. The few names cited each month out of the hundreds give an indication of the kind of treatment meted out to Palestinian citizens by the military authorities. The suffering undergone by those mentioned is but a symbol of the total suffering of the Palestinian people under Zionist, occupation.

Zionist military tribunals have recently passed sentence on a number of Palestinian citizens of Nablus, Hebron and the Gaza Strip, on charges of membership of the Palestinian Revolution, the possession of weapons and explosives, and having actively resisted the occupation forces.

More jail sentences have been handed out in the West Bank town of Nablus, where, according to the enemy's own admission in a Hebrew-language broadcast on 19 January of this year, 800 Palestinians were arrested in 1975 for suspected membership of the Palestinian Revolution. Two Palestinian girl students, Ferial Khalifa and Nariman al-Ratrout, have just received one-year prison sentences from a Zionist military tribunal, and have been transferred to the women's prison in Ramleh. The same tribunal passed sentences ranging from six to eight months on four other Palestinian citizens of Nablus: Abdel Rahim Issa, Jamil Shtiya, Sari Muhammad Jabbour and Akram Ahmad al-Sayed.

In Hebron, sentence was finally passed on Naim Youssef Hassan al-Zmayra, who has been awaiting sentence in an Israeli jail for almost a year, since his arrest on 10 May,



1975, on charges of harbouring and helping Palestinian commandos. The long period between arrest and trial is typical of the fascist methods used by the Zionist authorities. Naim, who comes from the village of Halhoul, was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment by a Zionist military court.

Ata Dahasan, also from the village of Halhoul, received a seven month sentence from the same court on charges of helping Palestinian commandos, while another of our comrades, Hassan Suleiman Muhammad al-Daher, from the village of Yata, was handed out a fifteen-month jail sentence on the same charge.

In the Gaza Strip, where resistance to the Israeli occupiers has always been fierce in spite of the occupation authorities' harsh attempts to subjugate the population, more sentences have been handed out to our courageous comrades.

In January, 1976, Bilal Abdel Mohsen Karim was sentenced by a Zionist military tribunal in Gaza to twenty-two years' imprisonment. The same court sentenced Ziyad Shamieh and Khairi Faker al-Abidy to seven and three years' imprisonment respectively. All three were accused of membership of the Palestinian Revolution and of possessing arms.

Also in Gaza, four other Palestinian militants were sentenced after being charged with possessing arms and attacking enemy military patrols. Rashid Murtaja and Naser Hussein Salem were each given seven-

year jail sentences, while Gazi Ataya and Mustafa Hamdiya were each sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

In Jerusalem, the Zionist occupation authorities arrested four Palestinian citizens aged from sixteen to twenty-two years, on charges of resisting the occupation and carrying out military operations against the Zionist forces.

STUDENT'S LIFE IN DANGER

Reports from occupied Palestine indicate that the life of the student, Wajida Ayyash — at present detained in Ramleh Women's Prison — is in danger due to the torture to which she is being subjected by her Zionist interrogators. Wajida was arrested by the Zionist authorities on 16 December, 1975, while she was visiting Jenin, and charged with involvement with the Palestinian student and women's movements at the Jordanian University and in occupied Palestine. Wajida is a student in the science Faculty at the University of Jordan.

ISRAELIS CALL FOR RELEASE OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

The Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights recently published an advertisement in the Israeli press calling for the release of administrative detainees. The advertisement stated that, since April 1974 and up to its publication date in February 1976, hundreds of Palestinians have been imprisoned, in accordance with administrative orders under the military defence regulations. Scores of them have been tortured in prison and are being held without charge, and without trial. Their crime is resisting occupation and yearning for peace.

The League called upon every Israeli and the peoples of the world to support its request for the release of the administrative detainees.

It is well-known that the Zionist authorities are holding thousands of Palestinian patriots in arbitrary detention in their fascist jails. International organizations have repeatedly denounced the infringement of human rights in Israel and the use of torture as a widespread method of interrogation. Not only are Palestinians treated as second class citizens by racist Zionism; they are imprisoned and abused whenever they demand their rights in their own land.

But with its fascist tactics, Zionism is digging its own grave. The appeal of the League for Human Rights is but one more indication of the growing contradictions inside Israeli society.



HEALTH SERIOUSLY DETERIORATING

The health of Archbishop Hilarion Capucci has seriously deteriorated as a result of the hunger-strike he is staging in protest against his ill-treatment at the hands of the Zionist authorities. Capucci was recently visited, at the Pope's request, by the Assistant to the Papal Nuncio in Jerusalem, who declared that Capucci is now being force-fed, and expressed deep anxiety over Capucci's state of health.

Archbishop Capucci was arrested by the Israeli authorities in the Old City of Jerusalem in August 1974, accused of smuggling arms to «illegal organizations», and sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment by the Zionist court. In spite of his serious heart condition and recurrent attacks of migraine and vertigo, he was placed in solitary confinement and treated very harshly by the Israeli authorities.

Since his imprisonment, Capucci has complained more than once of the Zionists' ill-treatment and lack of proper

medical attention. He already staged a hunger-strike last year in order to draw attention to his case. But all his complaints fell on deaf ears, such treatment being official policy in Israeli jails.

Capucci's fervent belief in Palestine pushed him to action. As a true man of religion, he confronted the occupation and fought to restore his usurped homeland. Since his imprisonment began, the Palestinian people have shown their solidarity with Capucci and with his courageous stand. They have made protests, staged demonstrations on his behalf, and sent telegrams to the authorities calling for his release. Many commando operations have been carried out demanding his release as well as that of other detainees. The Palestinian people stand with Capucci and his belief that Jerusalem «is an Arab place», and the Israelis conquerors and oppressors.

Capucci's view of the Israeli occupation as the enemy of God and man led him, during his trial, to refuse to address the Israeli court. Instead, he addressed his speech to God. «Here I am a prisoner of the conquerors and a victim of their power. We are the sons of man, and our land is eternal. We will remain stronger than their power...» «Jerusalem», he said, «is the birthplace of Christianity and it will remain free despite their deeds...»

«If the three Magi from the East», he continued, «now journeyed to Bethlehem on Christmas Day, they would certainly be stopped by Israeli soldiers wanting to check whether they were members of Fateh.» Capucci's forthright words before the Israeli court expressed his determination and his conviction of the justness of the Palestinian cause.

The militant Capucci is still in jail, but even from his prison he defies the Israeli occupiers. His voice is a reminder to the people of Palestine that neither arrests, torture, deportation nor bombs can halt their just and legal struggle for their homeland, Palestine.

The Israeli authorities have taken a new step which aims at removing the semi-diplomatic immunity which applied to men of religion. Maariv reported on 10 February, 1976, that the head of the Anglican church in Jerusalem will no longer have the privilege of immunity he used to have. From now on, when crossing the Jordan River, his car and his belongings will be searched.

ARAB NEWSPAPER CLOSED BY ZIONIST CENSORSHIP

The Arab newspaper, Al-Shaab, which has been appearing in Jerusalem since 1972, has been shut down by the military occupation authorities. The measure, adopted by the military censor on 20 February, 1976 suspends publication of the newspaper for 18 days under the pretext that it published «an article which contradicts the information of the censorship department and endangers the security of the state.»

The decision to close the paper followed its publication of pictures of the mass uprising taking place in occupied Palestine and its transmission abroad of reports of the uprising, in addition to its nationalist role in calling upon Palestinian citizens to

resist the Zionist occupation. Al-Shaab has furthermore been exposing US-Zionist-Jordanian projects, including Zionist-Jordanian contacts on the fate of the West Bank which by-pass the Rabat, the Arab Summit and the UN resolutions recognizing the PLO as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The military censorship imposed on all newspapers published in occupied Palestine applies to reports of military, security and emigration matters, Israeli-Jordanian meetings, and the financial crisis in the country. Al-Shaab and another Arab daily, Al Fajr, appear from time to time with white spaces on their editorial pages, showing where the military censor has been at work.

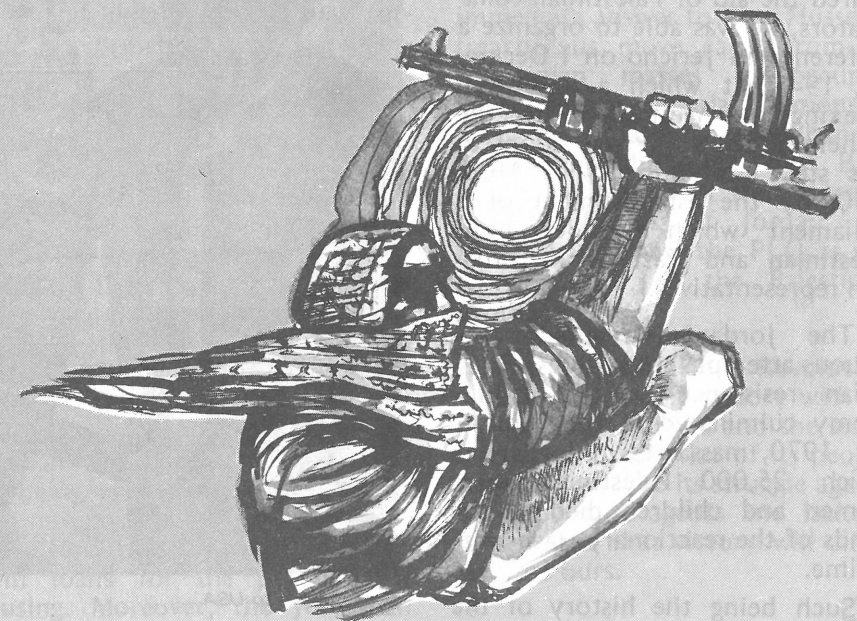
This measure, which is but one more in the long chain of repressive measures adopted by the Zionist occupation authorities will not, however, silence the voice of the Palestinian masses under occupation. On the contrary, they will continue fighting with all their means against the Zionist occupation and for the recovery of their legitimate, inalienable rights.

ENEMY THREATENS TO CLOSE BIR ZEIT COLLEGE

In another move to implement their aim of creating in Israel a second class of Palestinian citizens and as part of their policy of educational deprivation implemented against Palestinian students, the Zionist authorities have warned the Bir Zeit College administration not to accept Arab students from the regions of Palestine occupied in 1948. The warning came in February when the administration was threatened with closure of the College if the orders were not obeyed.

After the Hebrew, Haifa and Bar Ilan universities escalated their open and underground campaigns of harassment of Palestinian students, many of them applied to study at Bir Zeit, which is located in the West Bank. The Zionist authorities are trying to prevent contacts between students from the areas occupied in 1948 and those occupied in 1967.

Harassment, constant interrogation about political beliefs and national feelings, high fees and taxes are but some of the repressive measures which are the Palestinian students' lot at the hands of the occupation authorities.



FROM ABDULLAH TO HUSSEIN...

The Jordanian regime has, since its establishment in 1921, consistently acted as a repressive force against the Palestinian Resistance. Already at the time of the partition of Palestine, the Jordanian regime — under the leadership of King Abdullah — was plotting against the Palestinian people through the intended annexation of the West Bank. Palestinian militants, though aware of the conspiracy, were insufficiently organized at that time to prevent it. King Abdullah thus continued his machinations and having secured the aid of Palestinian collaborators, he was able to organize a conference in Jericho on 1 December, 1948, at which a resolution annexing the West Bank to the Hashemite Kingdom was adopted. This step was followed in April, 1950, by the establishment of a Parliament which included both Palestinian and East Bank Jordanian representatives.

The Jordanian regime's continuous attempts to suppress Palestinian resistance to the Zionist enemy culminated in the September, 1970, massacres in Jordan, in which 25,000 Palestinian men, women and children died at the hands of the reactionary Hashemite regime.

Such being the history of the

regime's relationship with the Palestinian people, the new Jordanian attempt to revive the Parliament in its old form, including West Bank representatives, comes as no surprise to the Palestinians. The regime's recent step comes as a continuation of the imperialist-Zionist

conspiracies to liquidate the Palestinian Revolution and strip the PLO of the victories it has achieved as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. The move is thus in line with the current US policy in the region, and directed against Palestinian interests.



From Britain to USA.....

The timing of Jordan's move is significant. It coincides with the bloody clashes in Lebanon, initiated by reactionary imperialist agents aiming to strike at the Palestinian Revolution and its allies, the Lebanese national and progressive forces. It also follows the US veto at the Security Council debate, which came as America's response to its failure to gain the Security Council vote in favour of US policy. To the disappointment of US imperialism and Zionism, however, the Palestinian Revolution has emerged from all these conspiracies with additional gains on both the national and international levels.

JORDANIAN-ZIONIST COLLABORATION

Immediately after the Security Council debate, Rabin flew to the US in order to co-ordinate future Zionist-US policy in the region. The discussions between Rabin and Ford culminated in a new Zionist-US agreement which, besides assuring more weapons and increased financial aid for "Israel", stressed the importance of concluding a Middle East peace settlement through direct negotiations with



..... the connection is kept.

Jordan, and with some representatives of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Speaking as if the Palestinians do not exist as a people, Rabin — in customary Zionist fashion — appointed himself as arbiter, saying: « We have offered to negotiate with Jordan, and the Jordanian delegation will include representatives of the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Their fate will be decided in these negotiations. We have nothing against that. » The New York correspondent for Israel radio revealed further points which Rabin and Ford had discussed. He reported: « Rabin's talks with US officials resulted in a joint stand which entails removing the PLO from the picture and putting Jordan in its stead. » He concluded that, « any political achievement by the PLO today harms the status of the USA in the Middle East. »

Against this background, the reactionary Jordanian regime once again took up its role in the imperialist-Zionist manoeuvres to absorb the Palestinians into the Arab states and to suppress both the Palestinian presence and identity. The Jordanian King Hussein, in an attempt to implement the US imperialist solution, took the new political step which entailed re-assembling the Jordanian Parliament which was dissolved on 23 November, 1974, following the Rabat Summit. The Jordanian authorities aim through this manoeuvre to resume their former activity of by-passing the PLO and putting themselves forward as representatives of the Palestinian people.

In a further attempt to negate the Palestinian identity, the Jordanian authorities have removed all signs indicating the Palestinian nature of Wahdat refugee camp in Amman. They have also begun to grant huge loans and easy conditions for the construction of new houses, with the object of giving the Palestinian camps a municipal character as part of the capital, Amman. Poor people in the camps are being encouraged to move out into new towns in the Jordan River valley, and are being offered easy-term loans for the purchase of housing. Moreover, the Jordanian

authorities have, over the past six months, sent some 15 million dollars in subsidies to their collaborators inside the occupied West Bank.

On the Zionist level, reports indicate that talks between « Israel » and Jordan have taken place concerning the re-opening of Jordanian banks in the West Bank in order to carry out official monetary transfers from Amman to aid the development of the West Bank economy. Reports also indicate that « Israel » will officially acknowledge all Jordanian loans and subsidies made to these territories, as well as the wages paid by the Jordanian Government to civil servants in the West Bank. The Israeli-Jordanian collaboration illustrates how « Israel » is facilitating the accomplishment of the Jordanian moves as they serve its colonialist interests, and are directed at destroying the Arab front and undermining the recent victories of the Palestinian Revolution.

The Palestinian Revolution, however, is strong enough to face the latest Jordanian conspiracy. Supported by the Palestinian masses, the PLO has consolidated its legitimate representation of the Palestinian people on both the Arab and the international levels. Both at the Rabat Summit and at the UN, the PLO has been unanimously recognized as the sole representative of the Palestinian people wherever they are.

The Palestinian Revolution's immediate answer to King Hussein's treacherous move came from the Palestinian masses in occupied Palestine. In popular demonstrations, our masses carried banners denouncing the local West Bank leaders who support the return of the West Bank of Jordan, and emphasizing anew the PLO as sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian Revolution, which has achieved victory with the blood of its martyrs and the steadfastness and sacrifice of its people, vows to continue its struggle against all imperialist agents and lackeys. We are sure that victory will ultimately be ours.



AL-KARAMEH



The heroic battle of Al-Karameh (March 1968), marked a turning point in the history of the Palestinian Revolution. It was the first Palestinian victory against the Zionist aggressors after the June war of 1967.

After the Zionist Blitzkrieg of 1967 and the defeat of the Arab armies, the morale of the Arab masses was depressingly low. At that time General Dayan, the then Israeli Defense Minister, boasted: « I am expecting at any moment a telephone call from the Arab Governments to surrender ».

Meanwhile, Palestinian guerillas of Fateh increased their military resistance inside the occupied territories and built up their bases on the eastern valley of the Jordan. At that time, the Palestinian Resistance Movement was still operating underground, but its military operations were nevertheless effective. When ques-

tioned about the Palestinian Resistance after the June war, Dayan arrogantly replied. « The Palestinian resistance is like an egg in my hand, I can crush it when I want to .»

With their arrogant mentality of victors, the Israeli troops planned to teach the Palestinian Revolution an unforgettable lesson. In the early dawn of 21 March, 1968, some 15.000 Israeli soldiers crossed the Jordan valley with their tanks and armoured cars to the edges of the refugee camp of Al-Karameh, near which Palestinian Commandos had built their bases on the rocky hillsides. After a battle of 15 hours between the attacking forces and some 250 Palestinian guerillas, in which uncontrolled elements of the Jordanian army participated with their artillery in favour of the Fedayin, the invading troops were forced to retreat, abandoning their wrecked tanks and their dead.

The heroic resistance of the Palestinian guerillas and their Jordanian comrades is a landmark in the recent history of the Palestinian Revolution. From this time the Palestinian Revolution passed from its underground status as an elite movement to become a mass-movement. Inspired by this victory over the Israeli military machine, Palestinian and Arab masses from the different Arab countries came to join the Fedayin Movement in Jordan.

The Battle of Al-Karameh became a symbol of the heroic Palestinian resistance to the Zionists. It broke through the legend of Israeli invincibility, which the Zionists and their allies in the western hemisphere had tried to propagate. In addition, this Palestinian victory raised the morale of the Arab masses which had sunk as a consequence of the June war a year before.

Since the battle of Al-Karameh, the Palestinian Revolution has passed through different stages. In spite of the loss — in 1970 and 1971 — of Jordan as a base from which to fight the Israeli occupation, the Palestinian Revolution has been able to carry on its heroic struggle with all means. Since then, many victories on all levels have been achieved and many conspiracies defeated. The latest conspiracy was the attempts to involve the Palestinian Revolution in Lebanon in side battles, to distract it from its main aim, namely, the struggle against Zionist occupation and expansion.

The battle of Al-Karameh remains an example to all Palestinian militants firing them to carry on the struggle until the liberation of their homeland and the establishment of a just and durable peace in the region.

STRUGGLE GOES ON

Simultaneous Answer to New Conspiracies

The struggle of our Palestinian people has continued on three main lines: defending the Palestinian Revolution's existence in Lebanon; exposing the Zionist-imperialist enemy to world opinion through the U.N. bodies; resisting the Zionist occupation forces in occupied Palestine. Mass resistance and armed resistance have worked side by side against the Zionist enemy, consolidating each other and threatening the Zionist war machine.

During the period 21 January — 21 February, our commandos operating inside the occupied homeland directed hard blows against the enemy through a series of successful military operations, while our masses confronted the occupiers in violent demonstrations.

On 25 January, our unit 'B' planted a number of explosive charges around the Jaffa Gate area in Jerusalem. One of the charges exploded causing several casualties among Zionist settlers. Three days later, violent mass demonstrations of our people erupted in towns all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Simultaneous with these renewed expressions of popular protest, three military operations took place. In the first, our commandos exploded an anti-vehicular mine under a military vehicle on the main road to the Neot Hakikar settlement south of the Dead Sea. The second was executed on the main road between Dimona and Bir Sabe', where one of our combat units made a surprise attack with automatic weapons and handgrenades on a military bus transporting enemy soldiers.

The third operation took place on 31 January, when one of our units set off timed explosive charges in the Bil Hotel in the port of Eilat in southern Palestine. The

explosion set fire to the hotel and a nearby garage. The Zionist military occupation authorities subsequently arrested several Palestinians for interrogation, and the enemy radio admitted the fire, claiming that it was due to a « short circuit ».

On 6 February, as mass demonstrations in the occupied West Bank continued in spite of brutal repressive measures on the part of the Zionist occupation forces, violent clashes broke out between Palestinian demonstrators and Zionist police and Frontier Guards. A number of Zionists were wounded and many Palestinians arrested. Between 6-9 February, Palestinian fighters executed four military operations in Jaffa, Jerusalem, and Haifa. Two of these operations were executed in Jerusalem, in one of which our commandos detonated explosive charges placed under cars belonging to the Israeli presidential guards, which were parked in al-Shalom street near the Presidential Palace. In the second Jerusalem operation, our commandos placed timed explosive charges inside a shop and a library in the Qatamoun district of Jerusalem. In Jaffa, one of our commando units placed timed explosive charges in the central market. The charges exploded setting fire to several shops and damaging a nearby commercial building. In

Haifa, one of our units killed an enemy army officer.

On 9 February, West Bank cities — mainly Jerusalem, Ramallah, al-Bireh and Nablus — were the scene of violent demonstrations by Palestinian teachers, professionals, students, and workers in protest against the latest U.S. veto at the U.N. Security Council, the Zionist local administration plan, as well as the Hashemite conspiracy of reviving the Jordanian Parliament. At the same time, demonstrators protested against the ruling of the Zionist court allowing Jews to pray in al-Aqsa Mosque.

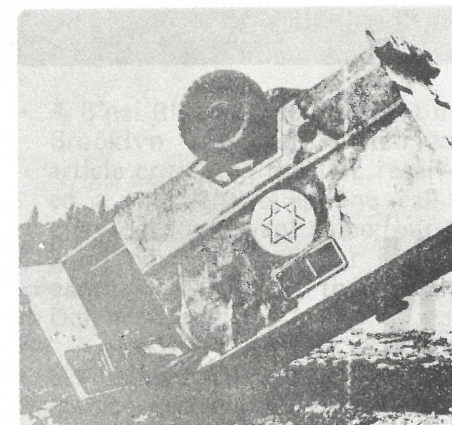
Reinforcing our people's resistance in the occupied homeland, our revolutionaries carried out two military operations on 9 February. The first operation began at dawn when one of our units prepared an ambush for enemy military vehicles on the main road to the West Bank town of Jenin. At 11.30 a.m., as a bus carrying enemy soldiers was passing on that road, our fighters attacked it with automatic weapons and handgrenades. They completely destroyed the bus, and killed or wounded all its occupants. At 11.45 a.m., the same unit stopped a second bus, this one belonging to the Zionist Egged Company, and set fire to it. At 11.55 a.m., fighters from the same unit carried out an attack, using automatic weapons

and bazookas, on a third bus transporting Zionist technicians.

The second of these operations took place in al-Shati camp in Gaza when, at 7.15 p.m., our fighters made a surprise attack on a mobile military patrol. Using automatic weapons and handgrenades, our fighters damaged a personnel carrier, killing or wounding all its occupants.

The Zionist occupation forces, in an attempt to contain the mass uprising of our people in the occupied territories, employ a variety of means. These include the imposition of heavy fines on Palestinians arrested for their participation in the demonstrations (for example, Flora Lahham, a teacher, was not only fired from her job, but was also fined IL 2,500); the imposition of curfews on West Bank cities; the arrest of hundreds of Palestinians. In spite of these measures, our masses continued their uprising. On 13 February, the demonstrations of our masses in the West Bank were still continuing, demonstrations of such violence that they were described in foreign news agency despatches from occupied Palestine on 14 February as the most violent witnessed since the Zionist occupation in 1967.

While our masses were confronting the enemy in the streets of Palestine, our commandos persisted in their armed resistance. On 13 February, one of our fighters detonated an explosive charge under a Zionist military supply vehicle parked on the Tel-Aviv, Lydd road and returned safely to his base. Another unit, on 14 February, attacked the 'Belouab' night club in Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv, using automatic weapons. Thirty-five minutes later, the unit reached another target in the same area, the « Hareh Hadom » night-club. They stormed it inflicting a number of casualties among the enemy personnel present. On 15 February, the enemy discovered timed explosive charges planted by our revolutionaries in a fuel station in the Petah Tikva area, east of Tel-Aviv. The charges, however, exploded while an enemy explosives expert was trying to dismantle them, killing him outright



and wounding a number of Zionist policemen. On the same day, one of our units destroyed with timed explosive charges the main telephone cable in the Migan Mikhael settlement between the cities of Jaffa and Natanya.

Four days later, one of our special units operating inside occupied Palestine placed explosive charges inside the library of a Zionist institution in the Hatikvah quarter of Tel-Aviv. At 8 p.m. the same day the charges exploded, inflicting material losses and causing panic in the quarter.

On 20 February, our commandos carried out an operation in answer to the Zionist forces' attacks against our people who were on their way to pray in the al-Aqsa mosque, and to the wide-spread arrests by the occupation authorities of Palestinian citizens of Jerusalem. One of our units booby-trapped a car and drove it to a set target point on the main road of the Ramat Eshkol quarter of Jerusalem, in spite of the Zionist check-points erected at the entrances of the city and in its main streets. The charges exploded at 5.30 p.m., wounding an unknown number of the enemy, destroying the fronts of some shops, and damaging a residential building and a number of cars which were parked near the site of the explosion. The streets were immediately evacuated of cars and passers-by, for fear of a new explosion.

Our mass uprising continued to escalate all over the occupied West Bank, reaching new peaks of vio-

lence. Consolidating the resistance of our masses, our commandos reinforced with their military action our struggle against the Zionist enemy. On February 21, one of our units prepared an ambush against military patrols engaged in confronting our masses.

As the enemy personnel carriers were passing on their way to Hiwwara, our unit surprised them with automatic weapons and handgrenades. The two vehicles were destroyed, four enemy soldiers killed and a number of others wounded.

The enemy was obliged to admit some of our commando operations, but did his best as usual to avoid reporting the majority of them. The Zionist enemy typically attempts to conceal our commandos' military action, partly due to the occupiers' desperate need to maintain the morale of the Zionist settlers, and partly to protect enemy claims as to the invincibility of his military entity. Even when the Zionists admit that an operation has taken place, they attempt to pass over it in order to minimize as far as possible the impact of our people's resistance, and defame it through dismissing it as « terrorist activities ».

Following each of our commando operations — although these operations are mainly denied by the enemy — hundreds of Palestinians near the place of the operation are arrested, detained, jailed and tortured, for the purposes of « interrogation ». All the destructive means available to the enemy are used in an attempt to subjugate our people and consolidate the enemy occupation of our homeland. But our people are steadily confronting and resisting.

Over the period 21 January-21 February, our armed resistance, supported by our mass resistance, have together been a continuation of our resistance of the Zionist occupation. At the same time, these two forms of resistance have come as a simultaneous answer to the Zionist-imperialist conspiratorial moves against our people.

□□

WHEN TERRORISM IS LEGAL

by Faris Glubb

While the United Nations Security Council conducted its first debate attended by a Palestine Liberation Organisation delegation in January this year, a number of time explosive devices were discovered in or near the UN Headquarters building. Responsibility for these was claimed by the so-called Jewish Defence League (JDL) and groups associated with it.

These bombing attempts, which were part of a long series of JDL attacks against civilian targets, prompted the Iraqi Government to send a memorandum to UN Secretary General Dr. Kurt Waldheim recommending that the United Nations should seriously consider transferring its headquarters from New York to a place where diplomatic missions would be less exposed to terrorist attacks. Iraq pointed out that her Mission to the UN had been attacked three times, and that the US security authorities « have not been able to carry out their duty » of protecting diplomatic missions on their territory.

The Iraqi memorandum noted that, in connection with the Security Council debate, two bombs were thrown at the UNESCO Headquarters and the New York police subsequently discovered three time bombs at entrances to a subway station near the UN Headquarters. These had been timed to explode when the Security Council debate was scheduled to open on 13 January.

An Iraqi newspaper subse-

quently commented that the transfer of the UN Headquarters « out of the reach of the Zionist terrorists and their American protectors has become an essential matter so that the world body's institutions may carry on their work in a natural manner ». It said « The American judicial authorities are impotent to prevent these criminal acts, and unable to take legal action against the criminals. Likewise the United States has failed to honour its commitments under the agreement concerning the presence of the United Nations Headquarters in New York. » The newspaper said that this Zionist terrorist campaign « enjoys the support and encouragement of official imperialist institutions, and particularly of the United States. » (1)

BEATING UP BLACK AMERICANS

The Jewish Defence League was founded in 1968 by Rabbi Meir Kahane, ostensibly to « protect Jews in the New York slums ». Very soon, however, it began organising gangs to beat up Black Americans, and then widened its choice of targets to include pro-Arab quar-

ters, Arab and other diplomatic missions and even Jews who disagreed with it.

In 1969, the JDL established Camp Jedel at Wawarsing, New York State, as a training centre for its thugs, who were given rifle and karate training. The JDL also set up a karate training school at its youth division headquarters and arranged weekly rifle practice for its members. On 20 November, 1970, it announced the formation of a « Rabbinical Military Academy » named Yeshivat Torah V'Oz, to train young men as Rabbis, with karate, weapons training and military drill as part of their preparation for a life of holiness and divine love.

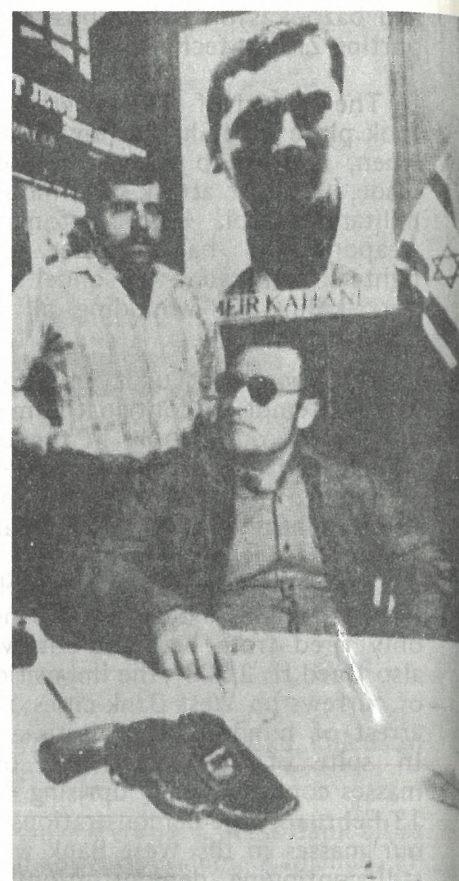
A Jewish publication, reporting on a JDL meeting addressed by Rabbi Kahane, quoted him as saying : « If I have succeeded in instilling fear in you, I consider this evening a success. » The newspaper commented : « He has instilled fear ; now he will sign up some new members. In time the new members will be taught to harass, to challenge all who dispute them at a

given moment — even the police — and to use their rifles and karate against their enemies. And Rabbi Kahane will teach them that they indeed have enemies. »

JDL TERROR ACTS

The same newspaper listed the following acts of terrorism committed by Kahane's followers :

- 40 JDL members with clubs, chains and baseball bats converged on New York's Temple Emmanu-El against the wish of the Rabbi and the congregation, because it had been rumoured that a Black Power leader might appear there.
- In September 1969, the President of the UN Security Council revealed that the UN Missions of six Arab states had received threatening telegrams from the JDL.
- On 22 May 1970, six young men broke into two Arab information offices in New York and severely beat three Arabs with wooden clubs.
- On 27 September, 1970, two JDL members, Abraham and Nancy Hershkovitz, were arrested at Kennedy Airport in an alleged plot to hijack an Arab airliner. They were carrying firearms and explosives.
- In October 1970, JDL members led by Kahane seized the offices of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies in New York. On 16 November, they personally harassed the Federation's President, George C. Hayman Jr.
- In early 1970, all synagogues and Jewish institutions in the Philadelphia area received an open letter from Rabbi Novoseller warning that the JDL would not tolerate the appearance in any synagogue of a representative of Black Power activist James Forman. Rabbis were threatened that if they did not evict the representative, « then the Jewish Defence League will wage a concerted demonstration against those



Terrorist Defence League.

synagogue officials responsible. »

- A B'nai B'rith lodge President in Brooklyn who had written an article criticising the JDL received a midnight telephone call : « If you don't want to be found lying next to your car in the parking lot, lay off the Jewish Defence League. »
- On 18 May, 1970, some 30 JDL members forcibly seized New York City's Park East Orthodox Synagogue, opposite the Soviet Mission to the UN. (2)

A Zionist publication listed further JDL acts of terror, from « patrols » of thugs to beat up Black Americans to « explosions outside two Soviet offices — the cultural in Washington, the airline in New York. Explosions inside an Arab propaganda office : premises wrecked ; one official injured... Illegal arms at Camp JDL. Russian Embassy shot into. » Threats to hang an Iraqi diplomat and even to assassinate Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin. (3)

A very large proportion of the JDL's terrorism has been directed against Jews whom the League does not consider loyal enough to Zionism. A number of Jewish writers have had the courage to describe the JDL as it really is. In the words of one such writer : « Does any word more aptly define the JDL's operations than terror ? Possibly only fascism, a term that remarkably Kahane himself applies to his activities, is equally descriptive. » (4)

Indeed, the JDL's paramilitary youth forces, with their blue berets and brass insignia, have a striking resemblance to the Hitler Youth both in appearance and methods. Their gangs who roam the streets of American cities beating up « non-whites » are reminiscent of the SS and SD thugs who staged similar patrols to assault « non-Aryans » in German cities in the early days of Hitler's rise to power.

ZIONIST SUPERMAN

The resemblance does not end

there. Rabbi Kahane in his writings has also developed a philosophy of the « Zionist superman » very close to that of the « Aryan superman » put forward by Nazi ideologists. In Kahane's own words, the superman « must have within him the iron and steel to move forward against obstacles that will be placed in his path at all times... Little men cannot abide giants in spirit. » (5) He pours scorn on any Jews who express liberal views or back humanitarian causes, just as Hitler branded decent Germans as « traitors to the race ».

The JDL's actions constitute terrorism in every sense of the word. Its attacks have been directed exclusively against civilian targets, and JDL activists have shown a healthy reluctance to attack anyone who can fight back. Their favourite targets, as we have observed, include not only Arabs or pro-Arab elements but also American citizens and fellow-Jews, as well as foreign diplomatic missions enjoying US hospitality.

Any civilized government would have banned this terrorist group for such actions against innocent citizens and foreign diplomatic missions. But the United States Government has taken no action to declare the JDL illegal or even to curb its paramilitary training activities and incitement to violence.

This is particularly incongruous in view of the loud and frequent declarations by US Government spokesmen calling for international action to combat terrorism (by which they all too often mean the just struggles of oppressed peoples who are trying to free their homelands from alien occupation). If the United States Government is really so eager to combat terrorism, a good place to begin is at home — with the JDL.

-
- (1) Al Thawra, 26 January, 1976.
 - (2) Australian Jewish Times, 3 June, 1971.
 - (3) Israel Magazine, July-August, 1972.
 - (4) New Outlook, October, 1972.
 - (5) Meir Kahane, Never Again (Los Angeles, 1971) pp. 234-235.

PLO'S INTERNATIONAL VICTORIES

One of the first moves of the victorious Cambodian Liberation forces in the summer of 1975, after they had cleaned out the US-puppets and established their national government, was to hand over the embassy previously used by the Israelis to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In another development in early December of the same year, an irritated Zionist government quickly recalled its ambassador from Sweden. Sweden, this « longtime friend of Israel », had dared not only to condemn the bloody Israeli terror raids against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in Lebanon, but, as a member of the UN Security Council, had also dared to vote decisively in favour of full PLO participation in the Council's latest debates on Palestine. The Zionist protest served little purpose. In early January, 1976, the Swedish Government agreed with PLO to open a PLO office in Stockholm.

Further, on 31 January 1976 the Socialist Party of Italy for the first time addressed an official invitation to the PLO to attend the party's festivities in early March. The invitation was maintained despite pressure on the part of the « Socialist International » — led by the West-German and British social-democrats — to withdraw it and to invite instead the Zionist Labour Party. The latter meanwhile is refusing to take part in the festivities.

THE PALESTINIAN «TIDE»

These events are quite characteristic political developments, since the recognition achieved by the PLO at the end of 1974 as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, first at the Arab summit in Rabat, subsequently at the United Nations. At that time, the PLO was only reaping the political fruits of the long-standing and lasting struggle of the Palestinian people. But some « Western » observers and politicians dreamed and speculated that this was only a Palestinian high « tide ». They thought and planned, how this « tide » could be dried up. They started to dig disengagement trenches to separate and divide the area. They poured more and more arms into the region. They finally directed an insidious

aggression against both the Palestinian and Lebanese people in Lebanon.

But despite all the continuing vileness and aggression against the Palestinian people, the PLO has also maintained steady political progress on all international levels during this period. And when it became obvious, that the Palestinian Revolution could not be crushed and that the impact of the aggression threatened to turn against the aggressors, it dawned on even the main conspirators behind it in the USA, that the Palestinian cause was « the core of the problem ».

Likewise, reluctant but significant change in the general attitude of the leading Western media is emerging, typified in the British « Sunday Times » editorial of



The PLO delegation at the UN

11 January, 1976, which finally came to conclude: « Palestine will not go away ». The editorial added that « the chronic grievances of the Palestinians will attract increasing sympathy »; that Israel's « playing for time » and its « stubbornness will lose it still more approval, even in the United States »; and that the Zionist government « risks something more deadly than hot air in the United Nations » where, at the Security Council debate, « the hated Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) will take part as the accredited representative of the Palestinian people ».

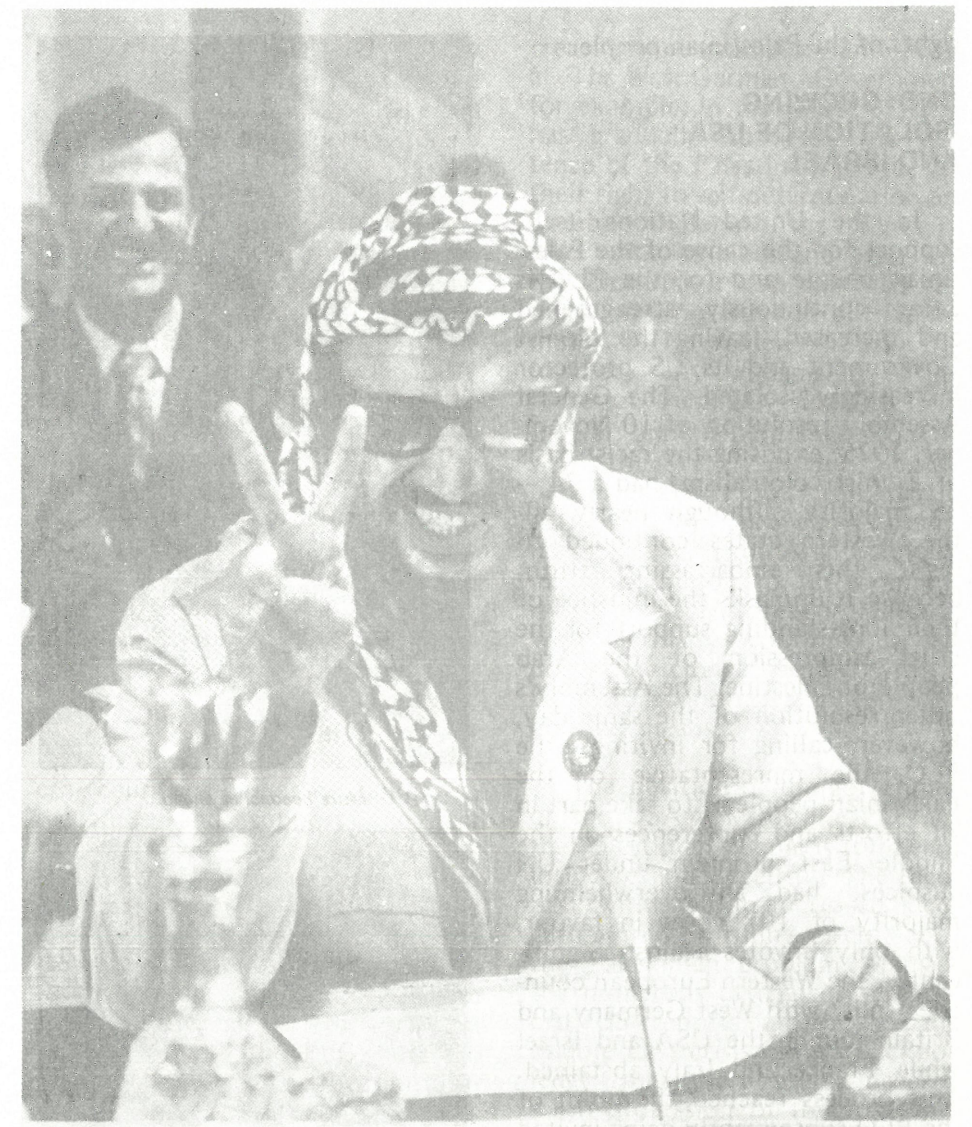
RECOGNITION ON ALL LEVELS AND IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

In fact, the PLO nowadays is



recognised by more governments than the Zionist government of Israel. The establishment of PLO representations and offices has been agreed upon with numerous countries, during the last year, with India, Zaire, Switzerland and Cyprus, for example, and most recently, with France, Italy, Sweden, Austria and Japan.

The PLO has become member of, or is associated with, all the leading international organizations. Early in 1975, it was accepted as a member of the UN Human Rights Commission (with only the U.S.A. voting against it). The International Labour Organization (ILO), at its conference in Geneva on 13 June, 1975, admitted the PLO and some other liberation movements as observers, while the USA, West



Abou Ammar at the Rabat Arab Summit

Germany and Israel opposed this move. The USA withdrew from the conference, threatening to stop its financial contributions, and is meanwhile — because of its growing discontent with the progressive economic and social line of the Organization — « considering » withdrawing from it altogether. In the wake of these « considerations », the Zionist government is now considering a similar move. In August, in Lima, Peru, the PLO was admitted to the Association of the Non-Aligned Countries. In September, a PLO delegation joined the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference in London, overcoming all Zionist pressures on the British Government, not to allow the delegation to enter the country. When, in November, the PLO was admitted to the Food and Agricultural

Organization (FAO), the USA and Israel found themselves alone in voting against the PLO, losing even the support of their former helpers, in particular West Germany and Britain.

Many of these organizations, and others in addition, such as the World Women's Conference in Mexico and the World Council of Churches at its session in Nairobi, also adopted various resolutions, stressing the national rights of the Palestinian people for self-determination, their homeland, for an independent state, or calling for an end to Zionist occupation, denouncing Zionist racism. It is worth noting that the Vatican too, has established contacts with the PLO, and that the Pope, in his Christmas address, likewise referred to the

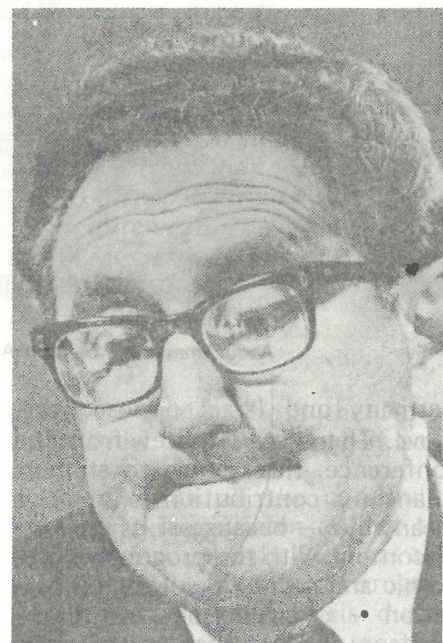
rights of the Palestinian people.

UNO: GROWING ISOLATION OF USA AND ISRAEL

In the United Nations itself, support for the cause of the Palestinian people and for the PLO is being continuously strengthened and increased, leaving the Zionist Government and its US protector increasingly isolated. The General Assembly resolution of 10 November, 1975, exposing the racist basis of Zionist colonialism, had a 74 — 35 majority, although nearly all the Western states continued to resist this embarrassing truth, because it unmasks the injustice of their long-standing support for the cruel suppression of the Arab people of Palestine. The Assembly's other resolution of the same day, however, calling for inviting « the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people », to take part in all efforts and conferences on the Middle East problem under UN auspices, had an overwhelming majority of 101 votes in favour, with only 8 votes against. Significantly, the Western European countries split, with West Germany and Britain joining the USA and Israel while France and Italy abstained. This process reached the point of the PLO subsequently being invited twice to take part in the debates of the Security Council: firstly, after the insane Israeli terrorist air-raids on Lebanon, in which more than 100 Lebanese and Palestinians — mostly women, children and old people — were killed — when at the Security Council, Sweden joined the socialist and anti-imperialist countries in inviting the PLO as a fully-recognized UN member, with only the USA, Britain and the US-satellite Costa Rican Government opposing. The final unanimous condemnation of the Zionist bloodshed by 13 members of the Council, including France, Italy, Sweden and even Britain, could only be suppressed by the solitary veto of the USA. On 14 January, 1976, when the Security Council at its central debate on Palestine again invited the PLO to attend as a fully recognized UN member, the USA, vainly opposing the move, found themselves left in the lurch even by



More headaches ahead...



Britain. Moreover, at the end of this debate, the Security Council adopted, with overwhelming majority, a resolution affirming among other things, « that the Palestinian people should be enabled to exercise its inalienable national rights of self-determination, including the right to establish an independent state in Palestine ». Most significantly, France and Japan now came to join the majority vote, while Britain, Sweden and Italy abstained. This

marked, a general change in the position of these Western states as compared with their attitude about a year ago. Thus US super-imperialism found itself totally isolated, when it once more blocked with its veto the progress of the Palestinian cause, as well as « the peaceful solution » the US has always pretended to wish for the region.

POLITICAL PRUDENCE

What are the reasons for these steady advances of the Palestinian cause and of the PLO?

First of all, one can observe throughout the world, including the Western world, a growing understanding and recognition of the fact that the Palestinian people have suffered and are still suffering unparalleled injustice; that this people will not cease their resistance and will continue to fight the aggression, and that the Palestinian people are defending their national identity with growing political and military experience. It is also recognized that resistance and opposition are increasing in the occupied areas, and even within Israeli society itself; that, finally the conflict will ignite the whole region to an extent which will threaten the interests of the whole world, and particularly those of the Western countries. Consequently, the PLO is finding its allies and friends on different levels within the international arena.

Its first allies still remain the Arab brother countries. Apart from their different degrees of social and economic development, and the different and even conflicting daily interests of their governments, they all continue to face a basically common threat from the Zionist tumor implanted in their national body; from an entity which does not represent just another state, but an aggressive bridgehead, controlled by and at the disposal of, the foreign US super-imperialist power.

All the socialist and the anti-imperialist countries, particularly in the Third World, have proved to be the natural and reliable allies of the Palestinian cause. They have already long supported the PLO, and the friendly links between

them have been steadily improved and enlarged. But the Palestinian cause and the PLO have recently also witnessed a kind of breakthrough in Western countries such as France, Italy, Sweden, and in Japan. It is not only a concern for justice and humanity which prompts the governments of these countries to understand increasingly the need for ending the Zionist occupation and aggression, and for re-establishing the homeland of the Palestinian people, and recognizing the PLO. It is rather political prudence. These countries are beginning to realize the nature of the deadly game US-imperialism is trying to play in the Middle East: not only to confront or neglect the Palestinian people and the whole Arab nation, but also to extend — with the help of the Zionists and some other accomplices — its economic, military and political influence, even at the expense of other Western countries, which will, in addition be the first and main sufferers in the case of an eventual explosion of the situation.

This is why France, who, with its East European detente policy in the sixties and its policy of rapprochement with China in the early seventies, has always shown politic-

al sensitivity and forethought, now comes to stress « the right of the people of Palestine, to have its homeland like all other nations » (President Giscard D'Estaing); why Italy and France for instance, recently called for the full participation of the PLO in the Geneva Conference; why the Australian Prime Minister has recognized « the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people and its only representative the PLO »; why the previously pro-Zionist Swedish Foreign Ministry's spokesman has now declared: « It has always been our feeling, that the other party (the PLO) should be heard. »

USA AND WEST GERMANY: CONTRADICTIONS AND DECEPTION

It is obvious also that the Western countries are still failing to recognize and support the just Palestinian cause to the same extent that they themselves depend upon — or participate in — the economic and military supremacy of the USA. This applies particularly to Britain for instance and even more to West Germany, which remain hostile towards the PLO. Here, however, their policy becomes in-

creasingly contradictory and illogical. The West German Government, for example, in the course of 1975 has gradually admitted the existence of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and statehood. Behind the scenes, in talks with its allies and even with the Zionists, it also admitted that there was no way of outflanking the PLO. Nevertheless it still tries to block any recognition or presence of the PLO. Together with Britain, and in permanent concord with the — master, it still prevents the PLO's full participation in the European Community's talks with the Arab countries, in contradiction to the Community's own declarations on Palestine. West Germany continues to support the Zionist regime with all feasible economic, military and political means.

The position of the government of the USA towards the PLO and the Palestinian people is still deeply insincere and deceitful. The recent past witnessed an increased « concern » in US ruling circles about the Palestinian problem. Many of the numerous official or semi-official US reports on the so-called Middle East crisis came to acknowledge that there was a need for « self-expression of the Palestinian identity » that the Palestinians were « the core of the problem » (Under-Secretary of State, Saunders, in November, 1975), and that on the road towards peace there was no way of outflanking the Palestinians and their representative, the PLO.

In reality, however, the USA did nothing at all in consequence to progress towards peace. And all the statements and « leaks » of the US magicians and charlatans were but mere deception, time-buying and eye-wash. In November, 1974, US President Ford had spoken of « the hope for an arrangement between Israel and Jordan or the PLO »; in October, 1975, Kissinger, for instance, bumbled over the possibility of an « autonomous Palestinian state »; and Saunders, in his November statement, recalled the representative nature of the PLO. On many other occasions, however they contradicted these « hints »,



Rabin and Kissinger... friendly plots

excluded any recognition of the PLO and blocked the progress of the Palestinian cause in all negotiations and within all organizations. Notwithstanding, they went on to censure the armed resistance of the Palestinian people against the Zionist oppressor regime, and even demanded of the PLO that it recognize this very regime. Moreover, directing the aggression against the Palestinian people and the PLO in Lebanon, as well as their latest Israel-Jordan manoeuvres, they have continued, and will continue, to try to hit, exhaust, bamboozle and outflank the Palestinian people and the PLO.

KEY ROLE OF THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE

Thus the PLO and the Palestinian people are well aware that — in spite of all their political victories and advances — they still remain a small political force facing the powerful imperialist backer behind their Zionist enemy. The Palestinian people and their resistance, however — both of which « will not go away » — play a key role, and their neglect will have dangerous consequences even for the powerful USA. It is probable that the deceitfulness of the US administration towards the Palestinian cause is less a sign of the power of US policy in the area, than of the deep internal contradictions of this policy, which prevents it from truly solving any of the reasons of the conflict. It must also be noted, that even in the USA public opinion has altered significantly in favour of the Palestinians, above all, discontent is growing at « the Zionist tail wagging the American dog ».

The time has passed, when it was possible to decree a « Balfour Declaration », to decide and implement colonization, settlement and partition plans in foreign countries and nations, without even asking their people's opinion, as has been the case for decades with Palestine. The time has also passed when the Palestinian people and their representative the PLO were defenceless and without weighty allies and friends among all the peoples of the world.

□ □

SOLIDARITY NEWS

NATIONAL SWITZERLAND-PALESTINE ASSOCIATION CONDEMNS THE CRIMES OF INTERNATIONAL ZIONISM

The founders of the Association, which is composed of representatives of the different progressive, political and public organisations of Switzerland, on 16 February addressed an appeal to public opinion in Switzerland asking it to support the just struggle of the Palestinian Arab people against the racist and aggressive policy of the Zionist entity.

Without the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, the declaration stressed, peace in the Middle East is impossible. The Association further declared that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

CONDEMNATION OF WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

— The World Union Federation issued a declaration on 4 February in Prague denouncing the intention of the international Zionist movement to hold a conference in Brussels. The declaration stressed that the world Zionist movement — linked to the giant monopolies and to the most powerful financial groups — supports Israel's expansionist policy, its refusal to withdraw from the Arab occupied territories and to recognize the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

The Federation, the declaration continued, which has invariably supported actions aiming to establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East, considers the Zionist conference in Brussels as a new form of opposition to constructive decisions on the Middle East. The Federa-

tion calls on all world progressive forces to strengthen their vigilance in order to confront the new intrigues of the Zionist movement.

—The International Confederation of Arab Unions (ICAU), has made a strong protest against the convocation in Brussels of the Zionist Congress.

In a communiqué issued on 17 February in Cairo, the ICAU condemned the Belgian Government which had given its consent to the organisation of this Zionist gathering in Brussels. The communiqué stressed that the Belgian Government's cooperation with international Zionism will be considered as a challenge to the entire Arab nation and to the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people. The ICAU has appealed to all the forces working for liberation, requesting them to condemn the decision of the Belgian Government.

The ICAU has in addition called for a boycott of Belgian economic interests of Belgium in the Arab region.

THE PALESTINO-BELGIAN LEAGUE OF FRIENDSHIP

On 20 February in Brussels, some 30 members of the Belgian Parliament signed an appeal inviting the Belgian people to join the Palestino-Belgian League recently founded in Brussels.

The League's founders held a press conference on the occasion of the founding of the League, which was attended by two members of Parliament of those who signed the appeal, as well as two PLO representatives, one of whom was the PLO representative in Belgium.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE CONDEMNS ISRAEL

The Palestine Question achieved a new victory when the UN Human Rights Committee meeting in Geneva on 13 February, issued a resolution condemning Israeli violations of human rights in the Arab occupied territories, which it declared to be war crimes. The resolution also condemned the latest Zionist steps to annex and Judaize the occupied Arab territories, the destruction of Arab citizens' homes, the changing of the Arab character of Jerusalem, and the looting of archaeological and cultural antiquities.

The Committee also denounced Zionist settlement projects, the deportation of original inhabitants from their lands and settling Zionists instead, the seizure of lands and the Zionists' refusal to recognize the right of deported Arabs to return to their homes and families. It condemned the massive arrests of Palestinian citizens and their ill-treatment, acts of suppression and repression of all kinds of freedoms, as well as the desecration of holy sites. It finally condemned the fact that Arabs in the occupied territories are prevented from exercising their civic, national and cultural rights.

It is worth noting that this is the 9th consecutive Conference on Human Rights to condemn such Zionist acts. The Israeli representative, who is an observer at the conference, said « Israel will reject any condemnation issued by the Conference ».

The resolution also called on the UN Secretariat to distribute the text of the resolution to all states, international organizations and specialized agencies and to give it as much coverage as possible in the mass media.

The draft resolution was presented by seven Non-Aligned countries and voted for by 23 countries, with only one opposing — the USA — and eight abstaining.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

— Delegations of the General Union of Palestinian Workers, of Lebanese workers' unions and of the World Union Federation met on 18 February in Damascus. Following this meeting, a joint communiqué was issued on 19 February in which the World Union Federation affirmed its entire support of the GUPW.

The communiqué appealed to all friendly forces to stand at the side of the Palestinian people in order to enable them to continue their struggle until the achievement of victory.

In addition, the World Union Federation declared its complete support of the resolutions adopted by the Lebanese workers' unions concerning Lebanese workers, and asked that they also be applicable to Palestinian workers.

— Both Iraq and Poland, in a joint communiqué issued in Baghdad and Warsaw on 16 February, condemned the racist Zionist occupation of Arab lands and the usurpation of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The communiqué was issued following the visit of an Iraqi workers' delegation to Poland where it met with the Union of Polish Workers.

ASSISTANCE

— On 29 January, a special plane from the German Democratic Republic landed at the airport of Beirut. The plane was carrying medicines and foodstuffs as aid and support for the Palestinian and Arab people in Lebanon.

— The Soviet Red Cross organisation sent to Damascus on 16 February, an important batch of medicines and bandages intended for the Palestinian refugees who have suffered during the recent hostilities in Lebanon.

ACTIVITIES OF PALESTINE SOLIDARITY GROUPS IN THE USA.

— The Palestine Solidarity Committee in San Francisco sent a congratulatory message to the Central Committee of FATEH on the occasion of the eleventh anniversary of the launching of armed struggle for the liberation of Palestine.

« We pledge our firm support to the struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination and national independence under the leadership of the PLO », the message stressed.

— The Palestine Solidarity Committee in New York is preparing a mass demonstration for 15 May, as the day of Palestine. The day will end with lectures and poetry-readings.

— In addition, the Arab, the Palestinian and the progressive American organisations in Phoenix and Tuscon (Arizona), Las Cruces and Albuquerque (New Mexico), El Paso (Texas) and Salt Lake City (Utah), have organised Palestine weeks which began on 17 February. The activities included the projection of films, lectures and Palestinian folk-dancing.



LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

ANGOLA: Road to a New Africa

Anxious to safeguard their interests, the countries of the European Community have bowed to the evidence. Whether we like it or not, they have recognized the Popular Republic of Angola, thus renouncing following to the letter the interventionist policy of the USA — which did not fail to cause some displeasure to Henry Kissinger. Portugal, the first European country concerned in the matter, but lagging behind in relation to its neighbours, later took a similar decision. The recognition of Western Europe indicates a decisive turning-point in the Angolan war of liberation. It throws into relief the retreat of numerous countries which were giving assistance to the secessionists and to their allies, the South Africans in particular, and the irreversible victory of the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, led by Agos-

tinho Neto) both on the diplomatic and military levels.

The massive diplomatic offensive was launched with the extraordinary International Conference for Solidarity with the Angolan People, held in Luanda on 2-4 February, 1976, at the initiative of the OSAAP (Organization for Solidarity with the Afro-Asian Peoples). The Conference coincided with the 15th anniversary of the armed struggle under the leadership of the MPLA. Over 80 delegations from countries from every continent, from international and national organizations, from liberation movements... came to the capital of the Popular Republic of Angola in order to express, on this occasion, their unanimous support of the Angolan people and their authentic representative.

This event was followed by increased recognition on the African level. We even witnessed a sudden **volte-face** on the part of several states previously partisans of the coalition government. Thus it was that the OAU (Organization for African Unity), almost all of whose members have recognized the government of the MPLA, announced on 11 February the admission of the Popular Republic of Angola into the Organization as a full member.

As far as military successes are concerned, the MPLA has recorded many and has, from now on, mastery of all the towns and all the axes of strategic importance. It has completely neutralized the FNLA on the northern front, the MPLA having taken San Antonio from Zaire, the last town which Holden Roberto's gangs were still holding. This enables the Luanda government to control the off-shore petrol deposits of that part of the coast. In the south, the take-over of Huambo — previously Nora Lisboa, UNITA stronghold and « capital » of the puppet government of this latter and of the FNLA — marks the disbanding of the reactionary forces. The MPLA is from now on in complete control of the Benguela railway which crosses the whole country and links the extreme west (the port

of Benguela) to Zaire. Mobutu's adventure at the sides of the FNLA and UNITA therefore runs the risk of proving costly to Zaire, whose economy is already suffering considerably from the blocking of the afore-mentioned railway... and from the expenses of war, although these latter are largely paid for by American « assistance ».

Has Angola been « shelved », in the words of Kissinger himself, which showed only too well his confusion in the face of the failure of his external policy? It is certainly inconceivable that the imperialists will not have recourse to other manœuvres, the intervention — through South Africa — of mercenaries and local agents financed by the CIA having proved inoperative. They are already glaringly obvious in their attempts to strangle economically the new Angolan republic. The United States in particular is pressurizing the trusts exploiting Angolan soil so that they will not pay their fees to the legal government of Angola — to which, it must be stressed, Gulf Oil Corporation owes some 200 million dollars for its exploitation of the Cabinda oil-fields. Their obvious goal is to undermine the economy of the country and to prevent national construction on the socialist basis laid down by the MPLA. Unfortunately, the State Department was not able to obtain the unanimous support of the capitalist world, and, in consequence, its action can only be very precarious. The Angolan people will overcome it, all the more easily because they have



been nourished by 15 years of armed struggle.

The total victory of the forces of progress in Angola has brought with it radical changes in the balance of forces in Africa in its entirety. The immediate repercussion is to question South Africa's « open » policy. The racist regime of Rhodesia is the first to suffer from it and Ian Smith, not hiding his anxieties in the face of the trust of the guerilla of the liberation movements of the ANC (African National Congress), has now launched an appeal to his western friends asking them to come to his aid. Ian Smith, who had always put forward the racist thesis of racial inequality and refused to discuss any participation in power on the part of the native population, has suddenly changed his opinion. He has, in particular, solicited British benevolence with a view to breaking the deadlock in which Salisbury finds itself, and convincing the black leaders of his noble intentions.

Stressing the close link which exists between the struggle of the MPLA and that of the other authentic liberation movements of South Africa, a member of the Central Committee of the ANC of Zimbabwe, declared on 3 February, 1976: « The victory over the forces of reaction and racism in Angola will exert a favourable influence on the national liberation struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. »

With the militarization of Namibia — a territory occupied by the South African forces in violation of several United Nations' resolutions — as a basis for aggression against the Angolan people, the AWAPO (Popular Namibian organization of South-West Africa) has for its part, intensified the struggle against the South African troops stationed in this country. South Africa thus finds itself militarily against the wall. The political isolation of Pretoria is at its most extreme, the few African states which had subscribed to its plan for « détente » up to then having been obliged to withdraw.

ENEMY NEWS



Menachem Begin : a legal terrorist.

BRUSSELS Zionism in Action

The extraordinary meeting which took place in Brussels, Belgium from 17-19 February, 1976, happened at the time when the whole world has called into question the nature of the Zionist movement, and when the international organisations have condemned it and considered it as a form of racial discrimination.

The Brussels meeting also occurred at a time when Israel is confronted by the most acute economic crisis in its history, as well as by a huge increase in emigration and a critical decline in immigration (see ENEMY NEWS in the January and February issues of PALESTINE).

It is well-known that immigration is the foundation stone of the

Zionist entity. If this stone is withdrawn, the whole Zionist edifice will gradually crumble.

Taking into consideration the previous observations, we can deduce that the Brussels congress is but an absurd attempt on the part of Zionism to re-assemble world opinion around it by using the watchword often brandished by this movement—which puts itself forward as the defender of persecuted Jews throughout the world: anti-Semitism. The Zionist leadership is unaware perhaps of the fact that the Palestinians they persecute also belong to the Semitic race.

The theme of this congress, as was announced during the wide information campaign which preceded it, was « the protection of Jews in the Soviet Union ». This congress received the full approval of the USA, which actively participated in it and which « requested » Belgium to allow the congress to be held in Brussels. It is to be noted that Menachem Begin, responsible for the Deir Yassin massacre and well-known terrorist, chaired the congress.

The Soviet Jewish professor of petro-chemistry, Sergei Bobovitch, sent a letter declaring: « This congress is nothing more than a wounding insult for us... it is an attempt to distract the world from the racism of Israel ». Let us finally recall that the famous historian, Arnold Toynbee, declared before the October War that the Zionist movement was not only directed against the Palestinians but against the Jews themselves.

The Palestinian reply to the Brussels congress was made by Abu Lutf. Some extracts of his declaration follow:

« Thus we are disturbed that, Belgium, one of the countries which played a positive part in radicalizing the very bases of the Human Rights Commission, allowed such a congress — considered as an insult to the Helsinki agreement — to take place on its territory.

« The PLO has always called for struggle in order to guarantee the rights of Jews in the Arab countries and throughout the world. The PLO has never been aggressive towards the Jews, as is illustrated by the various assistance given by the PLO to the Jewish community in Lebanon during the bloody events which took place in this country.

« World society in general, and European society in particular, are called upon to free themselves of the « guilt complex » which guides them, to learn a lesson from the past and to begin to look at the present and the future.

« Such a congress only serves to encourage the Palestinian Revolution to continue its struggle for the creation of a democratic secular state in which Jews, Christians and Moslems will be able to live in equality and without any racial discrimination whatsoever. »

ZIONIST AUTHORITIES EXPULSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The British « Sunday Times » reported on 22 February, 1976, from Jerusalem that Major Derek Cooper — a member of the International Committee for Human Rights for Palestine — and his wife have been ordered to leave « Israel ». Originally they were given a three-month visa, but have now been told that they are « undesirables ».

Major and Mrs. Cooper had come to « Israel » to study the treatment of Arab prisoners, and attend trials of young Arabs accused of « security offences ». They also had several meetings with Israelis active in human rights. Major Cooper, an OBE, who lives in London, has made several visits to « Israel » since 1967 to study the situation of Arab refugees.

He was interrogated by an

Israeli security official and then told the official « was not satisfied with the reasons for his visit and Israel wished him to leave ». He was also told that « the authorities had enough evidence against him to warrant his expulsion and that the police would be in touch ».

LIBERTY AND PROSPERITY ISRAELI STYLE

The Israeli delegate to the Human Rights Commission declared on 11 February, 1976, in Geneva, that economic and social progress without precedent have taken place in the territories occupied by Israel, and that the population of these territories enjoys a freedom never known before the Six Day War. If we believe the Israeli representative, not only are human rights not infringed in the occupied territories, but Israel has ensured the population of economic and social progress without precedent.

The Israeli representative seems to be confusing black and white, if he is seriously speaking of the prosperity of the occupied Arab territories:

* Last year in the occupied territories over 1,600 Arabs were imprisoned without sentence or trial, and approximately 11,000 Palestinians are being illegally detained in Israeli prisons.

* According to Israel Shahak, Chairman of the Israeli League of Human Rights, after the 67 War the Israeli authorities razed more than 16,000 Arab homes. In the Golan Heights they wiped out more than 60 villages; in the place of Arab villages, they constructed 20 kibboutzim in the Golan Heights, 11 in Sinai, and 13 on the West Bank.

* After 1967, the Israeli military authorities confiscated more than 800,000 hectares of land belonging to Arabs in the Negev, Gaza, and the region of Al-Arish.

The affirmations of the Israeli representative cannot but be qualified as a derisory attempt to justify the arbitrary regime of occupation implanted by the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories.

NEW EMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS

According to information from Tel Aviv and according to the *Herald Tribune* of 15 February, 1976, Israel has decided on new measures in order to prevent citizens leaving to go abroad. The tax on emigration has been raised from 750 to 1,000 Israeli pounds (\$ 100 to \$ 135), while the price of tickets for those wishing to leave Israel has increased by 15 per cent.

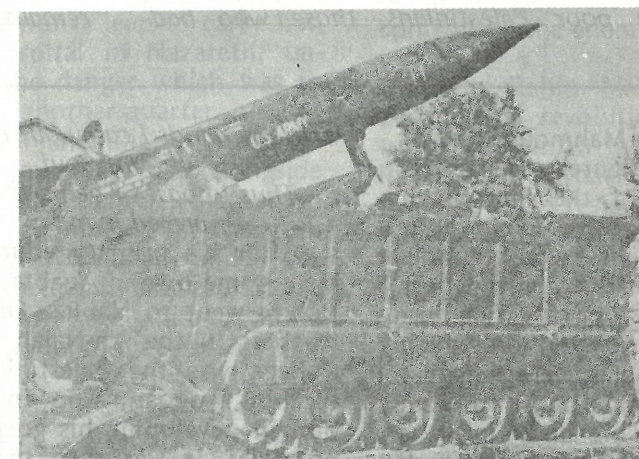
All Israeli citizens leaving the country previously had the right to take out a certain sum in foreign currency. At present, those leaving to go abroad must pay 15 per cent of this sum in order to receive the authorization to export currency.

This is the first time that the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank of the Jordan have come under the jurisdiction of the new law.

The Israeli leadership explains these measures by the desire to ensure new foreign currency returns which could neutralize the negative balance of the budget in the present financial year. The new law is also of course intended to stem the increasing emigration, which is due to the extreme militarization of the country, inflation, and aggravation of the material conditions of the population.

It is well-known that immigrants arriving in Israel immediately fall victim to a system of loans and subsidies to enable them to set up house. These loans amount to hundreds of Israeli pounds. But, disappointed by the Zionist paradise, immigrants and their families who do not have well-paid work, cannot leave Israel unless they repay all these loans to the State.

The new law on emigration now reduces these possibilities.



US Imperialism in action.

ISRAEL AND PEACE

There were rumours that the USA was putting pressure on Israel concerning a just and durable peace in the Middle East; this is what Kissinger implied during his meetings with the Arab leaders.

Israeli officials have always declared that they have no expansionist designs in the Middle East and that all they are aiming for is peace with the Arab countries.

But the real intentions of these

two states were revealed when the Israeli Minister of Defence declared on 4 February: « Israel has received from the USA a first delivery of « Lance » ground-to-ground missiles.

It is to be noted that the Lance missiles can carry — as well as the traditional 454-kilo head — nuclear warheads of 10 kilo-tons. They are a primarily aggressive weapon whose main application is in the attack of targets such as airports, military bases and population concentrations.

ABDEL RAHIM MAHMOUD

**" Or to live a life of honor
Or to die a death of glory... "**



When the first of Zionist settlers started to invade Palestine under the umbrella of the Bahrain Mandatory Government, the Palestinian people realized the dangers of Zionist designs. Among the people, it was especially the poor Palestinians, those who had

nothing but the land, who realized the coming dangers. With considerable insight they perceived the objectives of the Zionist Movement, while many Arab regimes and most of the Palestinian bourgeoisie remained blind to the threats ahead.

Abdel Rahim Mahmoud, one of the outstanding figures and martyrs in the history of the Palestinian struggle, came from such a poor family. His parents were humble peasants from Anabta, a village near Tulkarem in the district of Nablus. Their love of the land on which they had lived for generations was the only inheritance received from their forbears. This close link was kept alive through their daily work toiling the land. This vital, essential contact was the gate to their national consciousness. The danger facing the whole of their homeland, Palestine, was rapidly grasped by Abdel Rahim's family, who deeply felt the threat to their identity as a people. And they resisted, together with the others of their class. Abdel Rahim's awareness of the danger was expressed in his first poem « A Call To Arms ». Every line of the poem is a strong appeal calling on the Palestinian people to resist. With time, its lines became slogans chanted by the popular masses :

*« In my hands I carry but my heart
and my soul
Thus I boast of being the best
armed man... »*

After his primary education in his hometown, Anabta, Abdel Rahim went to Nablus. One of his teachers in the An-Najah National College was the Palestinian poet, Ibrahim Touqan, who encouraged him in developing his great poetic potential. It was then that Abdel Rahim realized the importance and effectiveness of poetry as a weapon among other weapons of resistance. And Abdel Rahim resisted with the word and with the gun. He wrote poetry and carried arms for Palestine, the beloved homeland, and for its people — to whom the land represents life — and whose sufferings he deeply understood.

When the three-year revolt of the Palestinian people began in 1936, one of the first reactions of the British Mandatory Government was to attempt to suppress any militant expression. The brave voice of Palestine was then loudly springing from Abdel Rahim's pen. They

tried to silence it through the measures adopted declaring all genres of literature provoking resistance illegal. Writers of such « subversive » literature were subjected to severe punishment.

When the unholy alliance between the Zionist Movement and the British Mandate became apparent through the repression of our Palestinian people's revolts by the British Mandatory Forces, and through the protection given by these forces to the Zionist invaders, Abdel Rahim Mahmoud determined to devote himself entirely to the struggle. He at once resigned from his post as teacher of Arabic literature in An-Najah National College, and in 1936 joined the Palestinian resistance fighters in the mountains. Alongside his Palestinian comrades, he heroically fought both the British Mandatory Forces and the Zionist terrorist gangs.

In 1939, the Palestinian Revolution suffered a set-back occasioned by several factors. Among these

factors were the lack of foresight on the part of the then Palestinian leadership, and the suspicious links between that leadership and the Arab regimes which were mostly puppet regimes manipulated by the colonial powers. When the Palestinian fighters found themselves besieged in such a way that their effective action was halted, Abdel Rahim Mahmoud left temporarily for Iraq. There he joined the Iraqi Military Academy in order to develop his abilities as a fighter. After his graduation, he took part in the Rashid Ali al-Kaylani Revolt in Iraq, together with Izz el-Din al-Qassam and Abdel Qader al-Husseini. Abdel Rahim returned to Palestine when he came to realize that it was more important to take up arms within Palestine itself. As he wrote in his diary, « I went to Iraq, falsely believing that the struggle in the Arab countries to overthrow the existing Arab regimes which are linked to the colonial powers might help us to liberate Palestine. » If this belief is only partly appropriate now, it was fully appropriate at that time when many Palestinian militants left Palestine to struggle on the Arab level before struggling on the Palestinian level. Abdel Rahim returned to Palestine after he had realized that the prime task was to change Palestine into a catalyst for the whole Arab region.

On his return, Abdel Rahim joined the Palestinian Resistance Movement which was just beginning to reorganize itself. He took up action with his unit in Upper Galilee. For four years after his return from Iraq, Abdel Rahim led his comrades in the fight against the Zionist terrorist gangs in the Upper Galilee region. He fought several successful battles, the last of which was the battle of Ash-Shajareh near Nazareth, in July 1948.

The Ash-Shajareh battle was one of the most significant confrontations between Palestinian fighters and Zionist gangs. Its significance lies in the fact that here the strategy carefully worked out by the Zionist gangs was defeated by Palestinian fighters. By deploying large numbers of soldiers equipped with more sophisticated weapons than those used by the Palestinians, the enemy aimed to force the Palestinian fighters to retreat and thus

avoid a confrontation. The enemy further believed that a Palestinian retreat would so affect the morale of the villagers in the area that they would abandon their villages. Abdel Rahim, however, realized the objectives behind the Zionist preparations, which were also evidenced in the massacres of Palestinian villagers carried out by the Zionist gangs. He, therefore, determined to confront the enemy.

One of his comrades who survived the confrontation recalled, in an interview with **Palestine Bulletin**, the details of the battle : « The enemy brought in a heavy armed battalion in addition to the Zionist settlers from Assajareh settlement near Ash-Shajareh village, while Abdel Rahim's men were no more than 100 fighters. The outnumbered Palestinian fighters fought heroically for three consecutive days thus preventing the Zionist terrorists from achieving their objectives. But they suffered the loss of their leader, when he was wounded by a fragment of hand-grenade. They hurried to his rescue and put him in a jeep to carry him to the hospital in Nazareth, unaware of the danger which was to come from another quarter... »

A Jordanian military unit, supposedly coming to fight alongside the Palestinian fighters, planted an anti-vehicular mine on the Nazareth road, which exploded under the jeep transporting the injured leader. Abdel Rahim was injured while fighting the Zionist aggressors and killed by the agents, but he was buried in the Palestinian soil in Nazareth. »

The Martyr's son recently recalled his last moments with his father. « At that time I was four years old », he said, « but I can remember some moments of that historic period. Abdel Rahim Mahmoud sometimes appeared as if he had forgotten that he had a wife and children. He was committed mentally and spiritually to the armed revolution, but behind this appearance there was something important. It is revealed in his poetry that his mental and spiritual involvement in the armed revolution was for one simple reason : to defend his children. »

« I remember », he added,

« before he bid us the last farewell, he met with his military aides in the upper floor of our home in Nazareth. The meeting lasted for almost an hour, then he came down to us. He kissed me and my younger sister, and kissed my mother and my grandmother and set out. Three days after his departure, we received the news of his martyrdom, on 13 July, 1948. »

Ash-Shajareh battle was not the end of the Martyr Abdel Rahim. The martyr always remains in the mind, in the consciousness, in the memory and in the hearts of our people. And Abdel Rahim still lives with the Palestinian people. His steadfastness in Ash-Shajareh battle in particular was cited by his comrades in the Palestinian Revolution. During the battle of Al-Karamah, in 1968, the martyr Phosphoury said to Abu Ammar, « We learnt from the martyr Abdel Rahim Mahmoud that we should not abide strictly to the tactics of guerrilla warfare if there is a strategic goal to be achieved in confronting the enemy. » In this battle, our fighters remained steadfast and heroically confronted the enemy.

Abdel Rahim Mahmoud lives as a continual revolutionary example to all Palestinian militants. He put into practice what he advocated in his poetry. His resistance poetry has since been recited by all Palestinian children, thus inspiring the Palestinian people. His poetry is not made up of lines composed in his idle moments. It is a poetry born of his deepest convictions and his experiences as a fighter. He expressed in his poetry his belief in the martyrdom of revolutionaries as the means of a nation's rebirth. Martyrdom is the only candle left to shine out through the darkness of oppression and occupation.

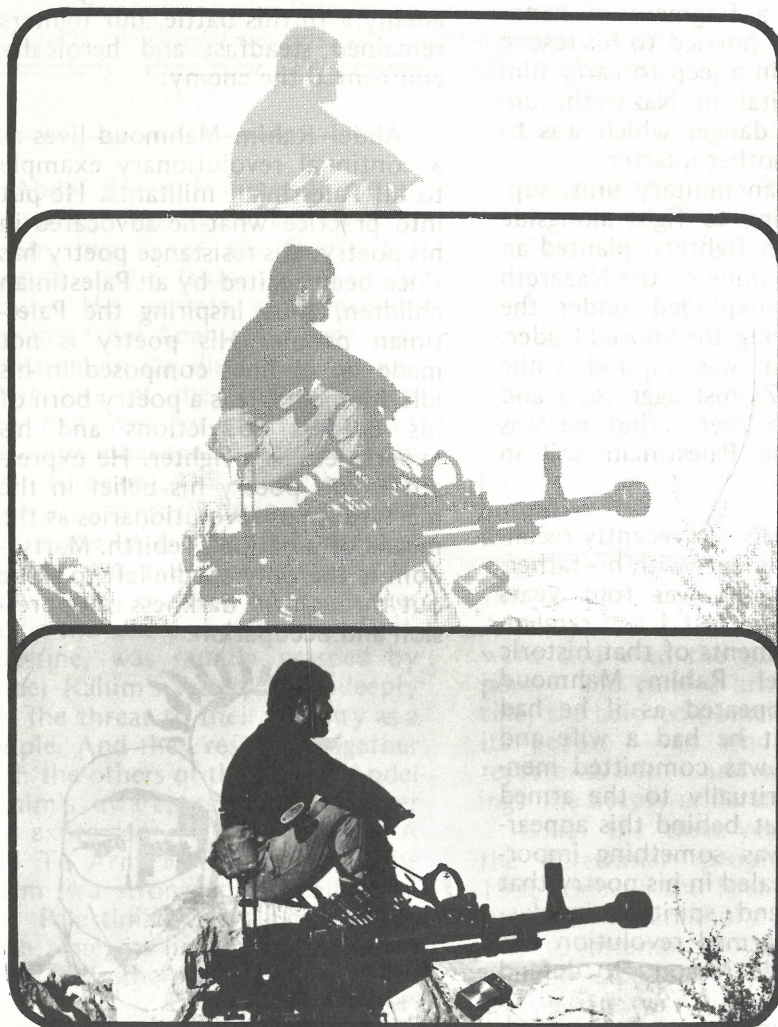




PALESTINIAN CINEMA

III. NEW WEAPON FOR STRUGGLE

For a long time, Arab cinema delighted in dealing with subjects having no connection with reality or dealing with it only in a superficial manner. Any serious attempts to express the reality of our world and its problems was rapidly smothered by the supporters of reaction who disapproved of the emergence of a new cinema. It seemed one could never escape the cumbersome heritage of the conventional cinema.



The defeat of June '67, however, was a jarring experience and it raised fundamental questions. There also appeared, at long last, young talents committed to creating a completely new cinema in the Arab world, film-makers convinced that a complete change must affect the form as well as the content. Nevertheless, most Arab producers used the impact of June '67 in the same way the producer of *A Young Woman from Palestine* had done in 1948. With no political aim, their motivation continued to be that of box-office sales.

A number of commercial films were produced at this time in the Arab countries exploiting in a mercantile manner the Arab people's legitimate feeling of solidarity with the Palestinian resistance. In this large collection of films there was neither developed political thought nor analysis of the Palestinian reality. Instead, the producers gave a distorted picture, a mere caricature of Palestine and the enemy. This flagrant exploitation of the general emotional upheaval of the masses was at first successful, but then the Palestinian organizations became aware of the dangers and real results of such films and restricted further production.

Among the films of this deplorable type, we can denounce: **We Are All Fedayeen**, a Lebanese production by Gary Garabedian, and **The Palestinian Revolt**, by Reda Myassar. Both are what could be called « *moujaddara Westerns* », as the equivalent for the Italian « spaghetti

Western ». (« *Moujaddara* » is a widely-served dish in Lebanon). These films present the fedayeen as Supermen, Tarzans or Zorros — the unreal, invincible heroes of a resistance movement with no problems. Such films have not been made since. People today wouldn't buy them, and the hucksters know it.

LONG FEATURE FILMS ON PALESTINE

But alongside these commercial films a new approach was being born. This emerged in artistic feature and documentary films produced mainly by the public sector of different Arab countries. They tried to present objectively the Palestinian question or reflect their own views and aspirations.

The most prominent among this type of long, feature films, according to their date of production, are:

Men Under The Sun, 1971, a film made up of three short stories directed by the Syrians Mohammed Shaheen, Nabil el-Maleh and Marwan Muazen. The film brings into view different aspects of repression in occupied Palestine, and gives recognition to the anti-Zionist consciousness acquired by a young European Jew visiting Israel. The film has a good political level, although technically it lacks perfection.

The Dagger, by Khaled Hamada, 1971. Adapted from a novel by the Palestinian militant writer Ghassan Kanafani, it tells the tragic story of a young Palestinian woman who has been cheated by a collaborator of the Zionist authorities in Gaza. The film is apparently pessimistic, which may be explained by the fact that the novel on which it is based was written prior to 1967, when the Palestinian resistance seemed to have been betrayed by the whole world.

The Dupes, directed by the Egyptian Toufik Salah in 1972. Like the two previously-mentioned films, it was produced by the Organization of Syrian Cinema. As described by the cinema critic Guy Hennebelle in his book *Guide of anti-Imperialist Films*, **The Dupes** tells the story of three Palestinians of different generations who put their lives in the hands of a Palestinian driver. The three unemployed Palestinians try to emigrate from Bassourah in Iraq to rich neighbouring Kuwait. But the borders are closely guarded, since the country has a fixed immigration quota. Some have risked crossing the desert and died of thirst. Abu Kheizaran takes advantage of this situation and engages himself in smuggling immigrants across the borders inside the water-tank of his truck. Two minutes before reaching the borders he makes his passengers step inside the water-tank, which is empty and exposed to the burning sun, and he makes them get out two minutes after crossing



Two films on the Palestinian question: one bad (WE ARE ALL FEDAYEEN)



... and one good (WE SHALL RETURN)

the border check-point. He has carefully planned that the whole operation, including formalities, must not last more than seven minutes: the bearable maximum. Unfortunately, during the crossing described in the film, the Kuwaiti custom officers start joking with Abu Kheizaran. Time passes. Nobody hears the desperate cries of the three Palestinians who are suffocating in the intense heat inside the water-tank, while the ventilators smother their cries. Some time later on the road, the driver removes three corpses from his truck and throws them onto a garbage heap somewhere in the desert, safely resuming his journey. « Isn't such the destiny of the Palestinian people after 1948? », asks Toufik Salah, who, in this film, denounced some Arab governments who betrayed the Palestinian resistance, and what he saw as the lack of a clear, political line in its leadership (embodied in the film by the weak Abu Kheizaran). The charge is too hard and the resistance has undoubtedly progressed beyond this stage, but the film was adapted from a book written in 1965 by Ghassan Kanafani. As it is, this remarkable Arab film retains, if correctly interpreted, the value of a warning for all revolutions which do not give importance to the political and ideological line.

Another remarkable film **Kafr Kassem** was also produced by Syria and directed by the Lebanese Borhan Alaouye in 1974. In this, his first full-length film, Alaouye relates without emphasis, but with on the contrary a remarkable exactness, the massacres carried out on 29 October, 1956 in the Palestinian village of



Kafr Kassem by a regular detachment of the Israeli army, allegedly without orders. In order to cut out all useless suspense, the author opens by briefly reconstituting the « trial » in Hebrew to which the assassins were called by an Israeli tribunal... which only condemned the officer responsible to pay a fine equivalent to one French franc. Then Borhan Alaouye replaces the incident in its context. Three months earlier, on 23 July, 1956, Gamal Abdel Nasser had made a resounding speech announcing the nationalization of the Suez Canal. In a cafe in Kafr Kassem we listen to the important speech, all of which then allows the director to point out the political forces in existence among the Palestinians: the « Nasserites », the « communists » and others. Then, the director spends considerable time describing the real conditions of existence of the villagers wedged between Zionist oppression and the slight perspectives of struggle due to the fact that the resistance was at that time without real leadership. Progressively, we arrive at the fatal day of 29 October. On this eve of the tripartite aggression against Egypt, the



Kafr Kassem : an unassailable indictment of the methods used by Zionism and a blow to its false image.

Zionist military authorities wished to make an example in order to dissuade the Palestinians living in Israel from rising up on that occasion. Thus, they decreed a curfew only half an hour before it was to take effect and at a time when the villagers, who were in the fields, had no means of receiving this information. At the appointed hour, fifty-two of the inhabitants of Kafr Kassem were pitilessly machine-gunned down. Then, a complete list of the names and ages of the victims is given on the screen. The film ends with a scene of a young man reciting the poem of the Palestinian resistance poet Mahmoud Darwish, « Song of Blood » :

« The jailer's blow taught me
To endure the pain of my wound
To continue and to resist... »

« We Will Return » (Sanaoud), made in 1973, was the first Algerian film about the Palestine cause. It was directed by Mohammad Slim Riad, who exalts the resistance of the Palestinians showing that they will never renounce returning to their usurped homeland, or, for those who remained there, never renounce overthrowing the Israeli yoke.

The distinguishing features of most of these films, regardless of their standard or mode of execution, are the intellectual clarity and political analysis of the dimensions of the Palestinian problem. The directors of these films tried to present the problem clearly and progressively, so the films could reach international festivals as a first step in overcoming the barrier of Zionist propaganda abroad. At the same time, these films expressed another trend in the Arab cinema aside from the prevalent commercial approach.

Besides producing this type of long films, the public sectors of different Arab countries also produced a large number of documentary, short feature and artistic films about the Palestinian cause.

PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE CINEMA

Revolutionary cinema is a new weapon for struggle. It started in Latin America as a means of denouncing pro-imperialist governments and supporting the popular struggles, (for example « The Time of the Furnaces », by the Argentinians Gettino and Solanas). It then continued in the United States to denounce the aggressive war then being conducted in Vietnam.

The Palestinian Resistance uses cinema as a weapon serving its revolutionary tasks, both in clarifying what is to be done and in creating political conscience among the masses, and in making the Palestinian struggle known.

As Jorge Sanjines, the young Bolivian filmmaker explains : « The revolutionary cinema is a cinema at war against imperialism. This kind of film making excludes profit, « star complex », competition... Communication with the people is the objective of this cinema... The work of revolutionary cinema must not limit itself to denouncing, or to the appeal for reflection; it must be a summons to action... We must participate in the effort to remove our people from the slumber and confusion to which oppression and misery have submitted them. »

Thus understood, Palestinian cinema was only born towards the end of 1968. During this year, the Palestinian revolution started a division for photography. This was the outcome of the singular effort of a young Palestinian woman, a



Amman burning, as captured by the camera of Mustapha Abu Ali in the film « With Blood and Soul » : an analytical document of the fierce, reactionary Jordanian attack against the Palestinian people.

graduate of the « High Institute of Cinema » in Cairo, who started taking photographs of materials related to the resistance. Together with other militants, they took pictures of every aspect of the struggle, later adding a recorder to their « equipment » in order to record events, speeches, the opinion of the masses, etc. (Today all that material forms part of a valuable documentary archive).

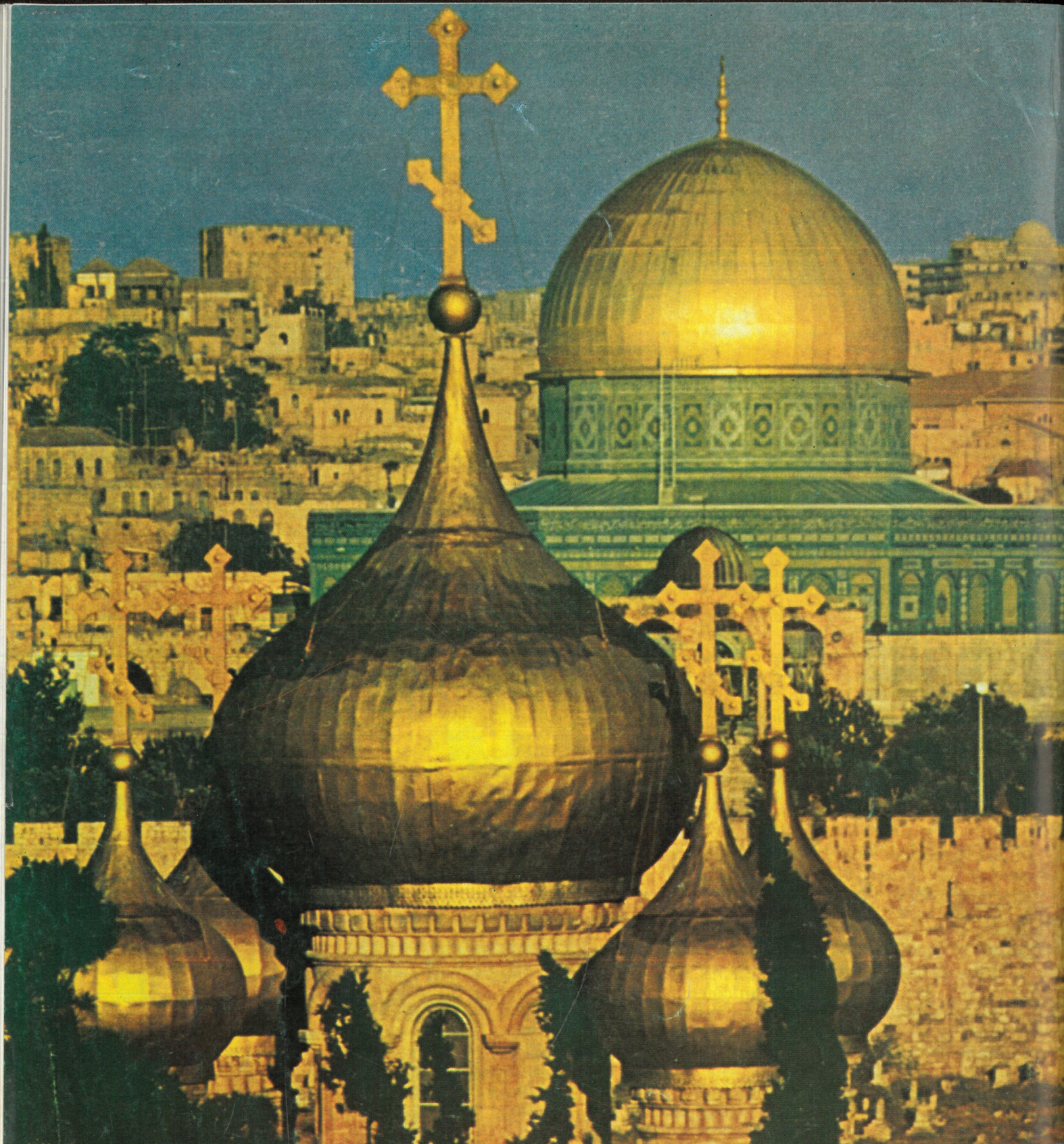
This continued till after the al-Karameh battle of 21 March 1968, which marked an important stage in the history of the revolution and influenced each of its aspects. The need to create a Palestinian cinema which could record the events in the area, and through which the revolution could express itself, became evident and urgent. A union of Palestinian cinema, the first to operate through a fighting Palestinian organization (Fateh), had, by the end of 1968, a 16 mm. movie camera and a tape recorder. With these, they started implementing the idea of what revolutionary cinema would be. No easy road was undertaken, and tremendous efforts were required to obtain the minimum resources to materialize even the simplest project. Within these conditions, the Palestinian camera was not really active and capable of producing and distributing up to the required standard. But the persistence of these young revolutionaries made it possible that, by the end of 1969, several 16 mm. films produced with the camera and the tape recorder started to circulate. They were made in a very elemental way, but they put up the bases of what today is the Palestinian cinema.

From this time is the documentary film **No To The Peace Negotiation**. It portrayed the gigantic popular demonstrations against the Rogers Plan in 1969 in Amman. (The Rogers Plan was a U.S. « peace plan » proposed in June 1970 by then Secretary of State William Rogers. The proposed settlement neglected the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people).

This film was followed in 1970 by **With Blood and Soul**, directed by Mustapha Abu Ali. The film is an analytical presentation of the fierce, barbarous attack by the forces of the reactionary Jordanian authorities against the Palestinian Revolution and the Jordanian-Palestinian people in September 1970. It displays the heroic struggle of the people and the revolution. The film contains scenes and sound recordings taken during the events. Therefore, this film is not only a struggle document, but also a struggle experience in itself. It won the First Prize for average-length films in the First International Youth Film Festival in Damascus, 1972, and the Silver Prize in the First International Festival for Films and TV Programs of Palestine (Baghdad 1973).

To be Continued



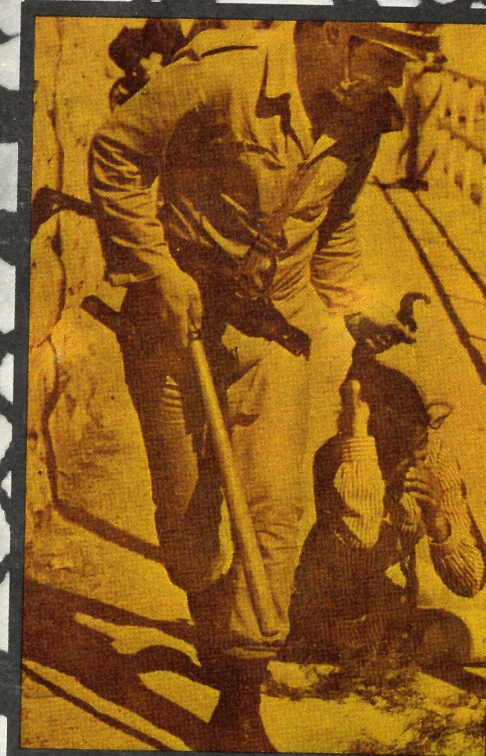


JERUSALEM
STEADFAST UNTIL VICTORY

Volume 2, No. 11, April 1978

Palestine

P.L.O.
information
bulletin



**DOWN
WITH ZIONIST
OCCUPATION**