



P.L.O.
information
bulletin

Palestine

PER. SEC.
MAR 29 1978

**Our Martyred Comrade
Mahmoud Saleh**

Hunger Strikes in Zionist Jails

**Health Conditions
in Occupied Palestine**

**U.S. Diplomacy
and the Geneva Conference**



CONTENTS

EDITORIAL.....	3
PALESTINIAN NOTES.....	4
Our Martyred Comrade Mahmoud Saleh.....	8
Open Letter to President Carter	12
OCCUPATION DIARY.....	14
U.S. Diplomacy and the Geneva conference.....	18
Interview with Abu Lutf.....	22
ENEMY NEWS.....	25
SOLIDARITY NEWS	36

Price

1 L.L.

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».

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

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

TO OUR FRIENDS

While the Palestinian Revolution is celebrating its 12th anniversary, our "Palestine" is now two years old. The year 1976 was a hard year for the Palestinian Revolution and for "Palestine" as well. Many difficulties concerning printing and publishing faced us. Mostly we were unable to ensure regular distribution to our readers. Our subscribers were cut off from receiving "Palestine," because the postal services and all Lebanese institutions were paralysed during the civil war. But the determination of the "Palestine" staff, and the responsibility we shoulder towards our just cause, gave us the impetus to continue and to overcome all difficulties.

As we enter our third year, we will, as ever, continue working to ensure the regular publication of our magazine which will continue to appear bi-monthly. The continuity of "Palestine" is an important achievement for the Palestine cause, although it will never be able to out-do the Zionist propaganda prevailing in the West.

In the hope of continuing on the same level, we wish our readers a successful year in 1977.

Palestine

BI-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

EDITORIAL

FOR AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINE STATE

There is no doubt that the Palestinian liberation movement, after successfully beating back attempts to crush it militarily in Lebanon, is now entering a stage of political struggle. In this period the Palestinian Revolution faces new circumstances and new tactics aimed at isolating and intimidating the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The Palestinian Revolution is prepared to confront all plots and manoeuvres. As is its policy, it will never interfere in the internal affairs of the Arab states, nor sabotage Arab efforts to recover their territories by political means. But neither will it ever accept to be isolated or allow itself to be represented by any other Arab force. Palestine is the core of

the Middle East problem. Palestine belongs to the Palestinians; and the only party authorized to represent the Palestinians, whether they live in the occupied territories or abroad, is the PLO.

The enlargement of the Palestinian National Congress has made the Congress more broadly representative of the Palestinian people dispersed throughout the world. This expansion of the Palestinian parliament should halt all efforts to represent the Palestinians through anyone other than the PLO. These delegates to the 13th Palestinian National Congress, to be held in the near future in Cairo, will lay the foundations for the future Palestinian state.

It must be clearly stated to the visitors due in the Middle East in February -- U.N. General-Secretary Dr. Kurt Waldheim, French Foreign Minister De Guiringaud, and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance -- that the Palestinian people and their representative the PLO are the key to any durable peace in the Mideast. Only a just solution for the Palestinian people can bring peace to the region.

Still, the Palestinian people and their vanguard, the PLO, know better than to be too hopeful. The United States is still supporting Israel with all means, military, political, economic and moral. But the Palestinians will not submit to Zionist suppression. Even the Palestinians held prisoner in Zionist jails are protesting their mistreatment and the Zionist occupation and colonization, with a massive hunger strike. The will of the Palestinian people under Zionist occupation cannot be bound by chains. The Palestinian people will carry on their struggle; they know they have no choice but to resist. Resistance is the only way to survive and to overcome all attempts at annihilation.

In Southern Lebanon, the Israelis continue to attack peaceful villages. Together with their isolationist protégés, they have occupied the border village of Odeisa and expelled its population. The same fate was inflicted on the villages of Deir Mimas and Taihe. All this must be seen in the context of long-standing Zionist ambitions to occupy the fertile, water-rich South.

The Middle East fact-finding missions must be warned of all these facts. Israel is preparing for a fifth Middle East confrontation.

PALESTINIAN NOTES



ARAFAT MEETS WITH PALESTINIAN WORKERS, KUWAIT AMBASSADOR

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, on January 2 met with the Executive Council of the Palestinian Workers' Unions, and discussed the current situation with the members.

Yasser Arafat later met with the Kuwait Ambassador to Lebanon, and discussed with him the current situation in the country.

ARAFAT OFFERS CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF YUGOSLAV PREMIER

The Yugoslav Ambassador to Lebanon on January 19 met with Ahmad al-Azhari who offered condolences on behalf of Yasser Arafat, on the tragic death in a plane crash of the Yugoslav Prime Minister and his wife.

FATEH DELEGATION IN SAUDI ARABIA

A Fateh delegation consisting of Abu Iyyad, Abu Lutf and representatives of the Palestinian Resistance Movement met with Prince Fahd in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, on January 18.

The 2 1/2-hour meeting dealt with the current situation in the Arab theater and the latest developments of the Palestine question. During the meeting, Prince Fahd confirmed the firm stand of Saudi Arabia in support of the Palestinian Resistance, both financially and morally.

ARAFAT MEETS EGYPTIAN, SAUDI AMBASSADORS TO LEBANON; ABU LUTF HEADS DELEGATION TO RIYAD

Yasser Arafat, on January 8, held a 1 1/2 hour-long meeting with the Saudi and Egyptian Ambassadors to Lebanon. The meet-

ing, which was also attended by Abu Jihad and Abu al-Walid, members of the Fateh leadership, dealt with suggestions concerning the implementation of the Cairo Agreement.

Meanwhile, Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department, is to head a delegation consisting of PLO Official Spokesman, Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar and Said Kamal, Deputy-Head of the PLO Political Department, to the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Confrontation States, due to be held on January 9 in Riyadh.

GUPW AT WORK FOR PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE COOPERATION

In view of its deep concern for safeguarding the interests of the Palestinian working class and the development of its standard of living, the administrative council of the General Union of Palestinian Workers and representatives of the Sidon and Tyre branches met on January 24, 1977, with representatives of the Sidon and Tyre citrus growers and exporters. The general situation and low wages of the Palestinian and Lebanese workers were discussed in a friendly atmosphere of mutual understanding. Agreement was reached on the following points:

1. The daily wage of the Palestinian and Lebanese workers is to be increased from ten to fourteen Lebanese pounds.
2. The employer will pay the cost of the workers' transportation to and from the place of work.
3. This agreement is in force as of January 21, 1977.

Upon the achievement of this agreement for nearly 6,000 Palestinian and Lebanese workers, the GUPW asked the workers to strive to increase production in their fields of work, as a sign of their common concern for the progress and development of the national economy, in which they regard themselves as a basic part.



WALDHEIM CABLES ARAFAT

Yasser Arafat on January 18, received a cable from UN Secretary-General Dr. Kurt Waldheim, which read as follows:

"I wish to thank you for the kind message of congratulations on my re-election as Secretary-General. Your thoughtfulness in

conveying your good wishes was much appreciated.

"You may be sure that I shall continue to strive for the goals of the World Organization, as set forth in the United Nations charter, and to work in the interest of furthering the cause of international peace and cooperation."

ARAFAT RECEIVES CABLES FROM WOMEN OF PALESTINE RED CRESCENT;

Yasser Arafat has received a cable from the women of the Palestine Red Crescent, Cairo branch, on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian Revolution.

The Cable demanded an increase in the number of female representatives in the Palestinian National Congress, to match the increasing responsibilities and sacrifices of Palestinian women.

PRCS OPENS MOTHER AND CHILD CARE CENTER

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society on January 19 opened a new center for mother and child

care in the Haifa Hospital in Burj al-Barajneh, as part of a health plan to serve the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. Dr. Fathi Arafat, Head of the PRCS, opened the new center at a ceremony attended by a large number of the camp's inhabitants.

PLO LETTER TO RED CROSS ON SITUATION OF PALESTINIAN DETAINEES

The Palestine Liberation Organization on January 4 sent a letter of protest to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, denouncing the Israeli occupation authorities' terrorist practices against Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories. The letter, which was sent by the PLO repre-

sentative in Geneva, pointed out that hundreds of Palestinian citizens are detained daily, and asked the Red Cross to intervene to obtain the release of 28 detainees aged between 15 and 17 years, who were arrested on the night of December 15, 1976.

The letter also brought up the issue of the hunger strike begun by around 400 prisoners in the Asqalan jail 28 days ago, requesting the Red Cross to help improve the conditions of detainees in Zionist prisons.

TEWFIQ ZAYYAD DECLARES SUPPORT FOR PLO

Tewfiq Zayyad, Mayor of the occupied city of Nazareth, declared his full support of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In a January interview with the American, *Washington Daily Star*, the Mayor referred to the terrorist actions practiced by the Zionist authorities against Palestinian citizens in order to force them to leave occupied Palestine. He said that the Zionist authorities have expelled Palestinian citizens from more than 480 Palestinian villages, which the authorities have subsequently destroyed.

Mr. Zayyad added that the Zionist authorities are planning to escalate their terrorist policy against Palestinian citizens, in an attempt to increase their emigration from Palestine. He also confirmed the attachment of the Palestinian people to their land, in spite of all Zionist measures and practices, and said: "We naturally do not intend to leave our country, for we are a part of it."

Answering a question about Israeli government policy, Zayyad said: "We find no substitute for armed struggle."



197 COMMANDO ATTACKS IN 1976

On January 11, Wafa's Military Editor wrote the following:

"1976 was a year of mounting conspiracies against the Arab liberation movement in general, and the Palestinian Resistance in particular. In spite of the deep involvement of the Palestinian Revolution in defending itself and its masses in the Lebanese arena against the joint enemy offensive, Palestinian commandos last year launched 197 operations against Zionist targets in the occupied Arab territories.

"In doing so, the Revolution has proved its determination to direct its efforts towards the Zionist enemy, and its ability to challenge its enemies on more than one front. Contrary to all expectations, the Lebanese civil war in no way diverted the Revolution from continuing its armed struggle against the Zionist enemy in the heart of the occupied territories.

"Virtually all of the 197 opera-

tions were launched from within the depths of the occupied territories, in spite of the extensive precautionary measures taken by the Zionist enemy in and around settlements, cities, towns and vital installations.

"It is to be noted, moreover, that during the past year, besides continuing armed struggle, the Palestinian masses under occupation have crowned their resistance with a heroic and continued uprising which reflects the Palestinian people's determination to reject the occupation, as well as their complete unity around the Palestinian Revolution, under the leadership of the PLO.

"A breakdown of last year's operations reveals that the areas occupied in 1948 were the scene of the great majority of operations, as total of 116 operations, mainly directed at military and vital economic targets. Around 50 of these operations were executed in Tel-Aviv, while 28 others were executed in Jerusalem.

"The West Bank and the Gaza Strip witnessed a total of 47 operations, directed mainly against Zionist military targets. The execution of six other operations against the Zionist enemy in South Lebanon and the occupied Golan Heights brings the total number of Palestinian commando operations in 1976 to 197.

"The continuation of the Palestinian armed struggle and the massive popular uprising in occupied Palestine reaffirms the determination of the Palestinian people to liberate their land and challenge all imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots to suppress their freedom and deny them their right of national self-determination."

Breakdown of operations in 1976.

By region:-	
- Areas occupied in 1948	116
- Areas occupied in 1967	47
- Jerusalem	28
- Targets in S. Lebanon & Golan	6
Total:	197

By type of operation:-

- Military targets	73
- Economic targets	64
- Official & governmental targets	31
- Vital installations	29
Total:	197

FATEH COMMUNIQUE IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE ON REVOLUTIONS' TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY

The Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fateh, distributed an important political communiqué in the occupied territories, on the 12th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian Revolution, in which it confirmed the continuation of the struggle to defeat the current imperialist and Zionist offensive, and obtain the rights of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination on their

land, under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The communiqué read as follows:

"On the 12th anniversary of the launching of your Revolution, we send revolutionary greetings to every town and city of Palestine struggling against the Zionist occupier.

"Your Revolution enters its new year after overcoming the conspiracy in Lebanon which aimed at liquidating the Revolution, so as to propose the Jordanian regime, or others, as an alternative to the PLO in representing the Palestinian people. The conspiracy was defeated due to the unity of our people with the Revolution and the huge sacrifices they have offered, proving that the unity of the Revolution and its masses is undefeatable, and is able to confront all conspiracies and suppress them, no matter how huge they are.

"This anniversary follows a phase in which you have achieved a series of victories and successes as a result of your continuous uprisings and your challenge to Zionist settlement plans. The march continues, and the more the Revolution grows, the larger the number of conspiracies. However, the struggle of the Revolution will ultimately be successful because of the justice of its cause.

"This is what makes us more able to give and sacrifice and strengthen our national will to establish our independent democratic state on Palestinian soil."

CELEBRATIONS OF 12TH ANNIVERSARY IN BEIRUT AND ARAB CAPITALS

The Palestinian and Arab masses

in various Arab capitals, on January 1, and 2, celebrated the twelfth anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian Revolution and the foundation of Fateh. On the evening of December 31, a torch-light procession marched through the streets of Beirut, with the participants carrying banners and Lebanese and Palestinian flags; chanting slogans and singing hymns of the Palestinian Revolution. Lion cubs, Zahrat, militiamen, the marching band of the Yarmouk forces, the Student Company, the Women's Union Company, students from the School for the sons of Palestinian Martyrs, and a number of popular organizations all took part and marched to the headquarters of Yasser Arafat, who saluted the procession and lighted the first torch. The masses then pursued their march into the various quarters of Western Beirut.

The main celebration was held on January 1 at the Beirut Municipal Playground, and was attended by Yasser Arafat, Abu Iyyad, and a number of other leaders and cadres of the Palestinian Revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and the Lebanese Arab Army, as well as several Arab and foreign ambassadors. The festival began when Arafat lighted the central torch amidst the cheers of the crowds. Then sports teams, accompanied by the marching band of the Yarmouk forces, and wearing the colours of the Palestinian flag and bearing 12 torches, marched into the stadium and up to the central podium. At the end of the festival, Arafat reviewed the participating units and saluted the enthusiastic masses who had gathered to renew their pledge to the Palestinian Revolution.

Later in the afternoon, Yasser Arafat and Abu Iyyad inaugurated an exhibition of photographs by the martyr Hani Jawhariya at the Club of the Arab University Graduates. At 4.20 p.m. the sixth anniversary of the SAMED institution was celebrated at the Beirut Arab University hall. Following the distribution of prizes to the

workers, Arafat delivered a brief speech.

A similar procession took place in Damour, in South Lebanon, with the Tal al-Zaatar resistance fighters, scouts and militiamen marching through the town's streets until they reached the main square, where a graduation ceremony of new cubs was held. In the afternoon, the Tal al-Zaatar drama group performed a popular artistic show.

In Sidon, the Palestinian and Lebanese masses celebrated the 12th anniversary with the same enthusiasm. Following a massive demonstration, Abu Saleh made a speech before a rally attended by Abu Mussa and a number of Lebanese national leaders.

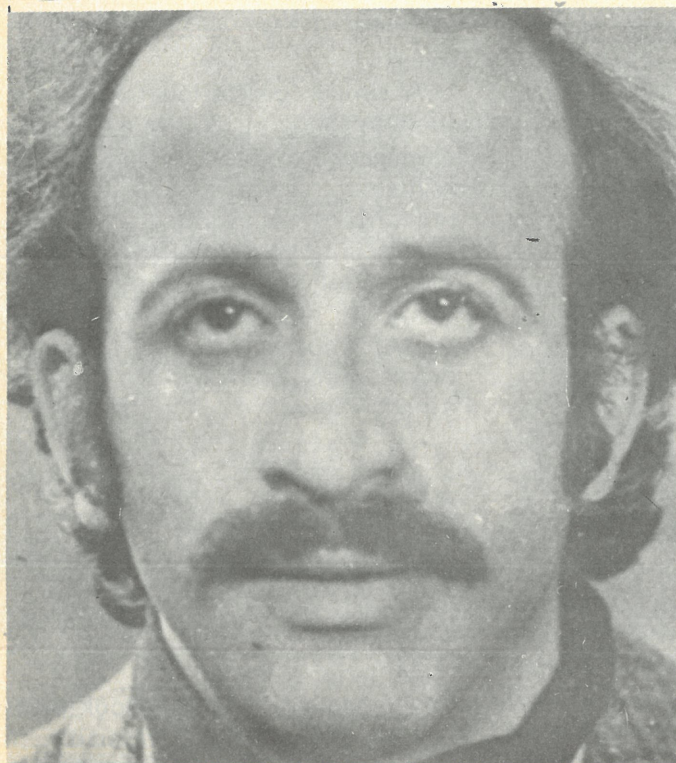
On January 4, a rally took place at the Beirut Arab University, in commemoration of the Tal al-Zaatar martyrs. On January 5, the Tal al-Zaatar drama group performed in the Burj al-Barajneh camp and later in Sabra and Shatila camps. The performances were followed by the showing of films on the Revolution.

On Friday, January 7, the Day of the Palestinian Martyr, an official march was staged to the Martyrs' Cemetery in Beirut.

In Cairo, Palestinian popular unions issued several statements in solidarity with the Palestinian Revolution, on the occasion of its 12th anniversary. The General Union of Palestinian Students -- Cairo branch -- stressed, in a statement, the importance of revolutionary struggle to achieve the Palestinian people's aspirations. GUPS also organized a 'Palestine Week' at its Cairo headquarters, which includes political seminars, film shows and speeches about the latest developments of the Palestine question.

Meanwhile, the Secretariat-general of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists stressed the determination of the Palestinian people to continue armed struggle against all conspiracies.

□ □



OUR MARTYRED COMRADE MAHMOUD SALEH

On January 3, 1977, Mahmoud Saleh, a former PLO spokesman in Paris, who now ran the city's Arab bookstore, was murdered by terrorist agents of the Israeli secret service, Mossad. Our martyred comrade Saleh is only the latest in the long line of Palestinian activists who have been murdered by the Zionist terror

squads, and of whom five have been assassinated in Paris alone since the bomb attack on Mahmoud Hamshari, the official PLO representative, in December, 1972.

None of the murderers ever being arrested. Zionist propaganda hustled to spread

the lie that Saleh fell victim to "Arab disunity and rivalry." Yet his murder was, as Israeli terror always is, not caused by, but aimed at provoking Arab disunity and further political trouble for the Arab and Palestinian cause. This was clearly underlined by the subsequent so-called "Abu Daoud"-affair:

"ABU DAOUD": FAILURE OF A PROVOCATION

After the murder of Mahmoud Saleh and through diplomatic contacts with the French authorities, a five-member delegation of the PLO visited Paris to attend the funeral service for comrade Saleh and also to receive the official condolences of the French Foreign Ministry at Quai d'Orsay. Israeli Mossad agents, however, cooperating with pro-Zionist helpers inside the French secret service D.S.T., denounced one of the members of the Palestinian delegation as an alleged "terrorist" at the same time they pressed the West German authorities to hastily produce an international warrant of arrest, in-

vented ad hoc, and alleging that "Abu Daoud" had been involved in the events at the Munich Olympiad in 1972, and demanding from the French authorities the arrest of the PLO diplomat. According to several reports (see U.S. "Time" and "Newsweek," 24 January, 1977), the C.I.A., too, had a leading hand in the manoeuvre, which in fact, resulted in the temporary illegal arrest of the PLO delegation member.

Now, the Zionist propaganda machine, followed by the greater part of the imperialist media, stoked up a campaign of hatred and hypocrisy:

Suppressing the killing of Mahmoud Saleh and the long series of Zionist murders they started a

great hue-and-cry about the "terrorist Abu Daoud." The "state of Israel" has from its very beginning, the days of Deir Yassin, where 254 Palestinian civilian villagers were cold-bloodedly slaughtered, been based on nothing other than Zionist terror, and it continues to be based on daily mass terror practiced against the uprooted and oppressed Palestinian people. But instead of holding this in mind, the papers shed crocodile tears over the alleged Palestinian responsibility for the "Munich-massacre" (hereby deliberately omitting that the bloodshed at Munich was caused by the West German authorities' and Israeli agents' attack on the airplane at Munich airport.)

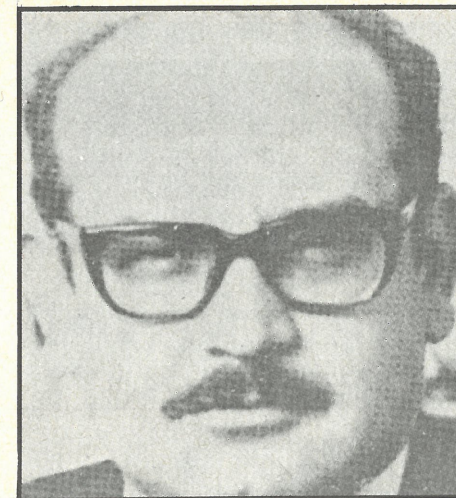
Smear campaign intended.

As it soon turned out, West Germany and even the Zionist authorities scarcely intended to really get the PLO official extradited from France; nor was there any proof for their accusations. What the Zionists hoped however, was to exploit the prolonged manoeuvring and publicity surrounding the arrest of the PLO official to build up a protracted propaganda and smear campaign. Such a campaign would first of all divert attention from the Saleh murder and the actual Zionist system of individual and mass terror.

It would also serve to distract world opinion from its growing understanding of the Palestinian cause as the just struggle of a whole people for its inalienable rights and not as a matter of single persons or actions.

Above all it would serve as a pretext to smear the PLO and hereby to discredit the sole and world-wide-recognized representative of the Palestinian people. This was especially intended to sabotage the necessary participation of the PLO in any further political and diplomatic efforts in search of a real solution for the Palestine problem and the Middle East conflict.

In addition, the campaign was meant to "complicate things for France," as the French "Le Point" of 17 January, 1977, quoted Israeli Foreign Minister Allon as saying on the "Abu Daoud"-affair. This meant, first, to disturb French good relations with the Arab world and the PLO. But it also sought to disturb any French or French-connected initiative to search for a solution in the Middle East and Palestine which would not fall in line with the U.S. interests in a continued supremacy over the whole area; and especially to hamper French President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Saudi Arabia as well as Foreign Minister Guiringaud's imminent Middle East tour.



Mahmoud al-Hamshari

This explains the CIA's interest in the affair, as exposed by the French official radio station "Europe Number One." "Giscard terrorist."

Obviously, the French authorities, confronted also with widespread Arab and international protest against the illegal detention of the PLO delegate, immediately understood the aims of the dirty manoeuvre and -- to the great disappointment of Zionist and imperialist circles -- put a quick end to the provocation and the arrest.

No wonder then that the duped slanderers burst into another outcry. This time the Zionist and im-

perialist propaganda machine mainly turned against the French authorities themselves. Israeli "children" were broadly quoted as crying "Giscard assassin," "Giscard terrorist." "French abjection," "foolishness," "cowardice" "contemptibility" etc. -- these were the shrieks of the so-called "serious" imperialist press.

Such vehemence only exposed the rage of the Zionists finding themselves suddenly stripped of their opportunity to smear the PLO and the Palestinian cause, and seeing their hypocrisy exposed. The tumult vanished as quickly as it arose as the instigators had to realize that the dirty affair would turn against its authors. After an indignant protest by the French government, the U.S. Senate's Foreign Committee had to cancel a draft resolution launched by its pro-Zionist lobby and plainly interfering in the internal legal affairs of the French authorities.

The Zionist newspaper, "Haaretz", however, revealed from Tel-Aviv part of the true Zionist motives behind the "Abu Daoud-affair", saying, on January 12, 1977, that it was absolutely necessary "to frustrate French pretensions to be among the peace makers in the Middle East."



Funeral of Mahmoud Saleh, latest victim of Zionist terror squad



ABU IYYAD SPEAKS AT RALLY IN MEMORY OF MAHMOUD SALEH

A massive rally was held on January 9 at the Beirut Arab University, in memory of the martyr Mahmoud Saleh, who was assassinated in Paris the previous week. Yasser Arafat, Abu Iyyad, Abu Saleh, the two latter members of the Fateh Central Committee, and Abu Maher, member of the PFLP Political Bureau, as well as hundreds of Palestinian and Lebanese citizens, attended the rally.

Bassem al-Sabe' spoke first, in the name of the Lebanese press, followed by the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish who read one of his poems. Then Naji Alloush, Secretary-General of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and

Journalists, spoke and affirmed that "our brother-prisoners, whether in Zionist or other countries' jails, are not the first to be detained, and they embody the Revolution's continuity."

In a lengthy speech that ended the rally, Abu Iyyad said: "Now that Mahmoud Saleh has been martyred as a result of the conspiracy, one can only be proud because he was killed by a known enemy, an enemy which is expected to kill our youths, leaders and people. While losing Mahmoud Saleh, we stress that we are living through a period of political assassinations, and the assassination of the word. In the Arab World, they

neither want a word to be spoken nor a bullet to be fired. Instead, they want us all to be cattle driven according to their wishes."

Abu Iyyad continued: "On this occasion, we reaffirm to the whole world that this Revolution was launched to achieve victory and not to die. Anyone who attempts to obstruct the Revolution's march is mistaken, because this Revolution will continue and will be victorious, for such is the will of the masses. To all those who want to assassinate the Revolution, we say that it will not stop, because it is not a revolution carried out by individuals but by a whole people. To those who propagate rumours to the effect that the Revolution will hand over its weapons, we affirm that we will definitely not give up our arms to anybody."

Abu Iyyad reiterated: "We are a generation who know the meaning of the rifle as well as the significance of the Palestinian man, and what he used to be before he obtained the rifle. We were merely refugees living in our camps, and the rifle appeared on January 1, 1965, for the sake of the honour of this people. They might ask 'what have you done with this gun? You have not liberated one inch of the land.' This is true, but we have liberated many sick and hesitant mentalities. We have created pride for our people, and this is the greatest victory."

Abu Iyyad then pointed out: "Without the Arab people, the Palestinian Revolution cannot liberate anything, and we fully realize that this Revolution and rifle cannot alone liberate the land."

About the *status quo* in Lebanon, Abu Iyyad said that the Revolution stands with peace in Lebanon, but is at the same time against any conditions imposed against the Revolution's will. "There is a Red Line," he said, "which we will not allow anyone

to cross: this line means our weapons. For those who want to split the Revolution's unity," Abu Iyyad continued, "we reply that we constitute a broad unified Palestinian front, and we all work together to protect the Revolution and guarantee its continuation."

Abu Iyyad concluded: "On this basis, I would like to say, with regard to the militant Abu Daoud, that there are certain people within the French Government who are trying to undermine our relationship with France. We will not permit those who murdered Ben Barka as well as hundreds of militants to sow discord between us and the French Government. At

the same time, we will not keep silent about two crimes: the assassination of Mahmoud Saleh and the criminal arrest of Abu Daoud; because Israel, while making a vast outcry in asking for Abu Daoud, is in fact trying to cover up the murder of Mahmoud Saleh.

"Furthermore, we will not stand idle about the assassinations of al-Hamshari, Qubaisi and other militants." Abu Iyyad finally asserted: "We will do our best to deal with this issue as quickly as possible, so that an inquiry is opened into the case of Mahmoud Saleh and so that Abu Daoud is immediately released."

□ □

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY PAYS CONDOLENCES TO PLO DELEGATION

The Director of the South Africa and Middle East Bureau at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs on January 6 received a PLO delegation headed by Muhammad Abu Maizar, member of the PLO Central Council, and including Yusif Raji, Ezzedine Kalak and Ibrahim al-Sus.

The Foreign Ministry official paid his condolences to the Palestinian delegation in the name of the French Government, and affirmed the authorities' determination to search for the killers of Mahmoud Saleh. The delegation exchanged views with the French official with regard to the latest developments of the Palestine question.

On the other hand, WAFA learned that the body of Mah-

moud Saleh will be transported to the 18th *arrondissement*, where French students and workers are to gather at the Père Lachaise cemetery on January 8. Mahmoud Saleh is to be buried near Mahmoud al-Hamshari's grave. A speech is to be given in the name of the Palestinian Revolution in commemoration of the 4th anniversary of the martyrdom of Mahmoud al-Hamshari.

Meanwhile, the French Socialist Party distributed a press communiqué, denouncing the assassination of Mahmoud Saleh, which it described as a dangerous criminal act.

A communiqué, issued on January 6, by the Algerian Journalists' Union also condemned the Zionist crime, saying that this

criminal act would enhance the determination of the Palestinian people to continue their struggle.

In related news, the French Medical Association called for a massive meeting on January 8 in commemoration of the martyr Mahmoud al-Hamshari, the former PLO representative in Paris, and of Mahmoud Saleh. The Association further affirmed its support for the PLO in its just struggle against Zionist terrorism.

Student unions in Paris in turn said, in their communiqué, that the assassination of Mahmoud Saleh was part of a conspiracy aimed at liquidating the militants of the Palestinian Revolution wherever they are.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT REJECTS US PROTESTS OVER ABU DAOUD'S RELEASE

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs on January 13 issued a communiqué expressing its rejection of the statement released by the US State Department regarding the release of Abu Daoud. The French communiqué said that France cannot accept this American stand with regard to measures taken by the French Judicial authorities.

On the other hand, European and Arab diplomatic circles in Washington welcomed the French stand as regards the Abu Daoud affair, and described it as consistent with France's frank policy towards the Middle East and Arab rights. These circles, moreover, added that this act has once again proved the independence of French policy, which does not fear Zionist pressures.

News agencies have reported the declarations of European diplomats in Washington that it would be better for the USA to take the Palestinians into consideration and help them solve their problems, rather than reject this healthy French position.

OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER



"Palestine 12"

Mr. President,

On the occasion of your inauguration as the 39th President of the United States, we, the people of Palestine, address you, and through you the American people which has chosen you. We approach you not as enemies, but as potential friends; for we, like you, are dedicated to the principle that all peoples share the same rights to live in peace, freedom and dignity.

You have, on many occasions during your recent campaign, pledged to work for a lasting and just peace in the Middle East. We would like to remind you that a just settlement must ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The nations of the world have long ago recognized the Palestinian problem as the core of the Middle East conflict. The United Nations has confirmed the Palestinians' right to self-determination on their own lands, and condemned those persons and policies which deprive them of this right. For recent history has seen their most basic human rights -- the rights to live in the land and homes where they were born, to organize politically, to develop their economy, to maintain their culture -- brutally and systematically suppressed. Obviously there can be no justice, no freedom, where an entire people is so persecuted. If peace, as we all ardently hope, is to come to the Mideast, the rights of the Palestinian people cannot be ignored.

Nor will we let them be ignored. The events in Lebanon over the past two years have once again proved our determination and ability to resist all efforts, from whatever quarter, to destroy our movement or limit its independence. The PLO has emerged from the conflict confirmed in its mandate from the Palestinian people, and in its world-wide recognition as their sole legitimate representative. We have emerged as determined as ever to continue our struggle and to achieve our just aim, the full realization of our rights in a secular, democratic state in Palestine.

The Palestinian people, led by their only representative, the PLO, have always expressed their desire for a just and durable peace in the Middle East. Accordingly, the Palestinian National Congress, meeting in Cairo in 1974, adopted the resolution to establish a Palestinian national authority in any and every part of Palestine that will be liberated, or evacuated by the occupation forces.

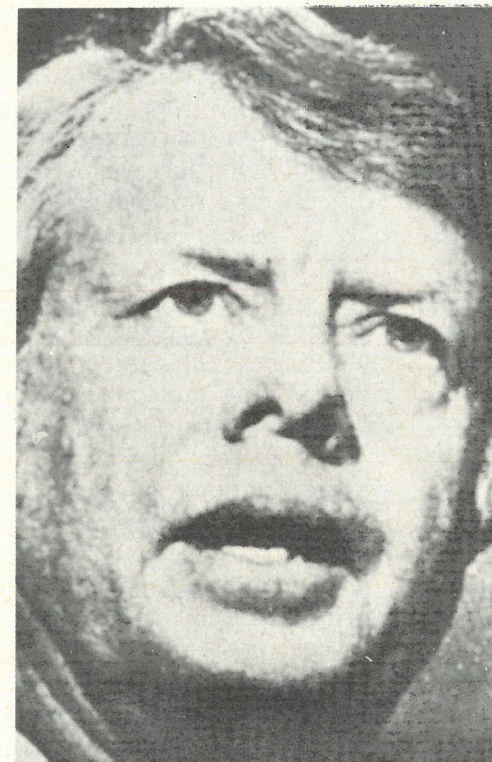
And so in the name of the Palestinian people we ask you, as you take up your responsibilities as the leader of a great nation, to take a responsible attitude towards these facts. We know that the Zionists who occupy our homeland are well represented by eloquent and powerful voices in Washington and throughout the United States. But we hope this new administration will prove itself capable of resisting the pressures and seeing beyond the well-turned phrases, to discover the truth about Palestine, and to act accordingly.

Please allow us, Mr. President, to clarify this, by referring to the history of your great nation. The American people fought against foreign domination and won their independence, as we Palestinians are trying to do now.

After the First World War, the American people made a valuable contribution to the advancement of human civilisation by advocating the principle of self-determination, as one of the famous 14 points of their President Woodrow Wilson. The American people also made a valuable contribution to humanity's fight against fascism in the Second World War.

All the sacrifices and efforts the American people have made for the cause of human dignity are deeply appreciated by us, and by other peoples of the world. But we would like, with respect, to ask you a few questions. Why, for instance, was it decided that the Palestinian people should not be allowed the right of self-determination that President Woodrow Wilson's principles acknowledged as a fundamental right for all peoples of the world?

When the Zionist movement decided that we should be the only nation denied this right of self-determination, that we should be uprooted from our country in which our ancestors lived for centuries, and dispersed to other countries without any opportunity for us to state our wishes on the matter, why did



the United States acquiesce? Why did the United States, which set up the Statue of Liberty as its symbol, give its blessing to the state of Israel, whose "Law of Return" and Nationality Law created a system of racial discrimination similar to that under the Nuremberg Laws of Nazi Germany, with first-class and second-class citizens? Why, whenever we stage a military operation to try to assert our right to return to our homeland, are we branded as terrorists in your news media, while Menachem Begin, who ordered the massacre of Dair Yasin in which 250 civilian Palestinian villagers were killed, is always a welcome guest in the United States?

The argument is often put forward that the Jews deserved compensation for the persecutions they had suffered for centuries in Europe. As victims of persecution for the past three decades, we agree with this entirely. But the compensation should be made by the guilty party, not extracted forcibly from an innocent party who has never persecuted the victims concerned.

If you study history closely you will learn that, from the Spanish Inquisition to the pogroms of Czarist Russia early this century, the Arab countries always gave a welcome and asylum to thousands of Jews fleeing persecution from Europe. We Palestinians, and our fellow-Arabs from other countries, traditionally sympathised with the Jewish victims of European persecution, and tried to relieve their suffering to the best of our limited ability. And yet, for the sins committed by Europe, the sins we opposed and whose effects we tried to mitigate, we had to pay the penalty. Is this justice?

Now that we face this situation, however, what is the solution? We have stated many times what we believe it should be, but please allow us to state it to you again, in case the news media did not give you an accurate account of it. We are in favour of a secular democratic state in Palestine, in which Jews, Christians and Muslims can live together on a basis of equality, without ethnic or religious discrimination. We believe this is the only solution that accords with international law, is humane and offers the best hope for future stability of the region.

In the past the world has watched with sorrow and amazement as the American government continually ignored our rights, while giving massive economic, military and diplomatic support to those who suppress our rights. You must realize that such vast, uncritical support of the Zionist regime serves only to encourage those irresponsible and extreme elements who think they can "solve" the problem through military confrontation and ever-harsher repression of the Palestinian people.

These tactics can only lead to an escalation of the struggle, more bloodshed, bitterness and hatred on both sides. As a result of her own policy of confrontation, Israel now depends, for her very survival, upon the United States. Thus no country is in a better position, nor has a greater responsibility, to convince the Zionist leaders that a continued policy of aggression, expansion and annexation is a sure road to disaster and destruction for all the peoples of the area.

The Palestinian people's deep belief in their just cause gives them the strength to carry on the struggle against the alien occupation of their homeland. Like all peoples of the world, the Palestinians have the right to live in peace, freedom and dignity. The Palestinian people will never give up their rights in their homeland, Palestine. We will persist in our struggle against the Zionist colonization schemes; schemes financed by the United States government, and thus, ultimately, by the ordinary American taxpayer. We cannot believe that Americans advocate the use of these funds and of their country's might, to support such schemes. If they have, for the moment, acquiesced, this can only be because they are unaware, or misinformed, of the real situation in Palestine. It is inevitable that the American people will eventually realize the truth.

You, Mr. President, have promised to make the American government once again something the American people can be proud of. Your actions in the Mideast may well determine whether Americans of the future will look back on this administration with shame, or with justifiable pride.

"Palestine 13"

Detainees Strike Goes On



The Resistance continues, even within prison walls

The past two months, December, 1976 and January, 1977, have witnessed revolutionary acts of protest against continued enemy atrocities and terrorism in Zionist prisons. The strikes broke out at Askalan prison, but soon spread to Shatta, Beersheba, Atleit, Shfa Amr, and throughout the Zionist prison system. One prisoner has died in the strike, and several are in critical condition. This revolutionary protest emphasizes the Palestinian's unconquerable determination to go on with the struggle and the revolution till victory and liberation.

In Askalan prison: a hunger strike started in early December is still going on, and spreading due to brutal Zionist attempts to suppress our militants. The enemy has tried to foil the strike by force-feeding, which is prohibited by international law. The prison authorities have transferred to Beit Lid prison seventy of the detainees, including thirty injured militants who because of their bad health were not allowed by their fellow-prisoners to join the strike.

The detainees have made the following demands of the prison administration:

1. Treatment as prisoners of war, in accordance with international conventions.

2. Improvement of food supplies, and the release of prisoners who are crippled or have lost their sight.

3. Better medical treatment, especially surgery for those in need of it.

Some of the prisoners have been confined for over two weeks in cold dungeons, and cold water periodically poured over them. Others have been subjected to savage beatings by the prison guards.

In Shfa Amr prison, the strikers have also been subjected to solitary confinement in cold, damp cells, and have been deprived of family visits for two months, in an effort to make them end their strike.

Meanwhile, in Gaza, Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron and Tulkarem prisons, detainees must endure a daily fare of brutal Zionist intelligence measures, both physical and psychological torture.

In Beersheba, the prisoners' health condition is steadily deteriorating due to the lack of medical care. This has already caused the martyrdom of the militant Hassan Hamed Sawawke. Other detainees, including Dr. Nafiz N. Ellan, Nassar S. Huwaitat, and Mahmoud Jaradeh, are in serious condition.

A dozen other prisoners are suffering from savage beatings they received when they refused to receive their ragged summer clothing from prison officials. A complaint was issued to the International Red Cross in the presence of a Zionist officer representing the military regime. Another complaint was presented to protest the brutal torturing of two prisoners, Khalil Abu Husra and Hassan Abu Halil.

Conditions in the Prisons.

Although the Zionists established more prisons after the June 1967 war, and have enlarged others, the prisons are still overcrowded, for the campaign of terror and detention against the Palestinians goes on and on. In 1968 Beit Lid prison was built. A year later the occupation authorities built another jail in Askalan, and another in Beersheba in 1970. Nablus and Tulkarem prisons were enlarged, and collective concentration camps set up in the desert. In spite of all this, over eighty prisoners are confined in cells originally intended for no more than fifty people.

Bad conditions in the prisons, with inadequate nutrition and medical care, are reflected in the extremely poor health of the Palestinian detainees. In Beersheba prison alone, a score of prisoners are suffering from severe abdominal pains, forty-five prisoners have had nervous breakdowns, 176 are suffering from respiratory and heart diseases. More than two hundred have rheumatism. Some prisoners are in such poor condition that they have had to be confined in individual cells. Almost all of these detainees have dental problems and impaired vision as a result of Zionist tortures.

The prisoners are not allowed to see an Arab physician because this matter concerns the administration of the prison. A Zionist doctor visits the prison every week; the only medicines allowed are aspirin and Novalgyn. The administration generally forbids surgical operations for the prisoners. One prisoner, Shehadeh Shalaldeh, was badly

in need of surgery for a severe heart condition; when prison authorities realized how expensive the surgery would be, they refused the operation, claiming the prisoner's condition was improved.

In the absence of proper nutrition and medical care, all the detainees suffer from a general physical weakness. Both the quality and the quantity of food given the prisoners are insufficient. A typical main meal consists of a small piece of bread and some boiled vegetables, with red food coloring added to give the appearance of a sauce. On the whole the prisoners do not get even the bare requirements to stay alive.

The Zionist policy of starvation, used against our militants resembles policies once practiced by the Nazis. By this policy, the Zionist authorities intend to permanently weaken the prisoners, ultimately shortening their lifespan.

In addition, the prisoners are not allowed to leave their prisons until their sentence is complete with. For a half-hour period each day, smoking, talking and movement are forbidden. Only a half an hour's visit per month is allowed cupation and its policies. Zionist troops led by the military governor broke up the demonstration. On January 3rd, wives and sisters of the detainees began a sit-in strike near the prison. They announced that they will continue their strike until the detainees are released and their demands are met.

In Jerusalem, the Zionist occupation authorities prevented the heads of the West Bank municipalities from holding a meeting scheduled for January 1st. The meeting had been called to discuss the conditions of the striking prisoners, and to protest the brutality of the occupation authorities and their refusal to consider the just demands of the prisoners.

In Nablus, citizens organized a sit-in at the town hall in protest against the occupation authorities' continued practice of arresting and imprisoning militant Palestinians without trial.



Detainees being transferred

In Gaza, on January 8th the prisoner's family. Whenever a prison sees a visitor, he is twice checked in a special room.

Campaign of Solidarity with the Detainees

A mass solidarity campaign to support the political struggles of the Palestinian detainees has sprung up throughout occupied Palestine and is growing steadily. Messages of protest have been sent to the Zionist leadership as well as to international committees and organizations. Demonstrations are taking place all over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Financial contributions for the detainees have been collected to support their efforts against Zionist terrorism.

On January 2nd fifty Palestinian women travelled from Gaza to Askalan prison to visit their sons and relatives. When they arrived, they were refused permission to see the prisoners; Zionist troops attacked them and forced them to leave the prison grounds. On their way home they held a demonstration, holding up traffic and chanting slogans against the Zionist oc-

city witnessed a massive demonstration against the transfer of ninety Palestinian detainees from Askalan prison to the prison at Kafar Youna.

Palestinian Lawyers' Memorandum:

Eighty-three Palestinian lawyers have presented a memorandum to the Zionist authorities, a memorandum objecting to the harsh treatment of the Palestinian detainees. The memorandum requested better conditions for the detainees, and that they be considered prisoners of war and treated in compliance with the Geneva Conventions.

Relatives of Detainees Appeal to World Public Opinion:

Relatives of the detainees have sent letters to the Zionist War Minister, the Zionist Military governors of the West Bank, the International Red Cross Society, the Human Rights Committee, the Secretary-General of the U.N., and to the consuls of Spain, Great Britain, the United States, Sweden, France, Belgium, Turkey and Greece.

Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society Asks Intervention:

The President of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society, Mr. Abdel-Aziz Hamed al-Sidr, called on the International Red Cross Society in Geneva, asking it to intervene immediately to study the situation of the detainees in Zionist prisons, and their bad health conditions resulting from their hunger strike.

The Moroccan National Progressive Parties and Forces addressed U.N. General-Secretary Dr. Kurt Waldheim, and called for an intervention to end the harsh measures which the racist Zionist occupation authorities are using against the Palestinian detainees.

The occupation authorities think their repressive practices can halt the revolution in Palestine. In this belief they follow in the steps of their colonial and Nazi predecessors. But these practices will always backfire, just as they backfired on the fascists; for they will only serve to increase the Palestinian people's determination and resistance.

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE

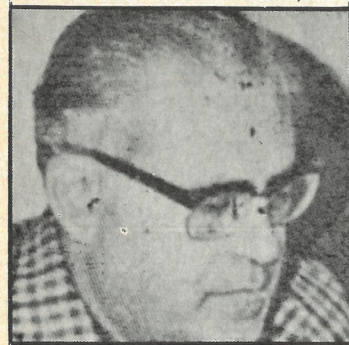
MAJOR REPORT ON HEALTH CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE

The Palestinian people in the occupied territories are suffering from increasingly serious health conditions which are directly re-

lated to the political and economic policy of the Zionist occupation authorities. The following is a report received in January and made by the PLO Office for Occupied Palestine Affairs, which exposes these Zionist measures:



Dr. Ahmad Hamza al-Natshe,



Dr. Alfred Toubasi



The occupied West Bank, which now has a population of approximately 750,000, had eight hospitals in 1967. It was planned that two more sophisticated hospitals be established, one in the Shaykh Jarrah district of Jerusalem, and the other in West Nablus. However, the Zionist authorities have turned the hospital planned for Jerusalem into a police headquarters, while the other was never built. Moreover, the situation of

the eight existing hospitals has deteriorated, and they are now seriously defective in various fields.

In Gaza, there were four hospitals in 1967, two of which were transformed by the Zionist authorities into jails. One is the Nasir Hospital in the city of Gaza, and the other is al-Hammiyat hospital in the northern part of the Gaza Strip.

As regards clinics, there were 221 clinics in 1967, but this number has declined to 157 under the occupation. Promises have been made by the Zionist authorities to improve and increase the number of clinics, but nothing has been done, and no new clinics have been built. Moreover, in the West Bank there are only 27 Registered Midwives in the government service, 42 health inspectors, and 43 centers for mother and child care. These figures are an indication of the health situation of the over one million Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

1. Buildings: The existing hospitals are housed in very old buildings, which are not capable of absorbing new medical equipment. The Nablus hospital, for example, which has 153 beds, is in such a bad state that water leaks through cracks in the roof. Moreover, after the 1973 war, the authorities decreased the budget of the health administration and prevented any public projects to establish modern surgery sections, for example in the Ramallah hospital.

2. Beds and Staff: Government hospitals suffer from a serious lack of beds. In 1967, there were 1,050 beds, while in 1973, under the occupation, the number decreased to 932. Moreover, the hospitals are unable to fill more than two-thirds of their beds, due to staff shortages resulting from the low income of employees in this field, which leads many of them to emigrate. The Beit Jala Mental Hospital was forced to engage the patients themselves to run some sections of the hospital, but the patients eventually went on strike, demanding higher wages.

Employees in the field of health in 1967 numbered 419, while in 1975 they totalled 323, in spite of the increasing density of population in the West Bank.

Hospitals are also suffering from a state of confusion due to the

lack of technical and non-technical workers. In Ramallah hospital, there are 100 technicians and other workers for 114 beds; in Jenin, 42 employees for 70 beds; in Tulkarm, 41 for 70 beds. In addition, there is a terrible shortage of ambulances, butane gas and diesel oil, which makes the running of the hospitals considerably more difficult.

3. Medical Equipment: Hospitals also suffer from a lack of medical equipment, medicine, plasma and the simplest basic needs of a hospital, such as cotton. Such problems force patients to undertake tests at their own expense outside the hospital. There is also a lack of X-Ray films, anaesthetic machines and EKG apparatuses.

4. Specialists: There is a lack of doctors, both general practitioners and specialists. The Zionist authorities have played a major role in decreasing the number of doctors by deporting a large number of them from the West Bank, such as Drs. Ahmad al-Natshe, Alfred Toubasi, Abdel Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, Nabih Mu'ammam, Ahmad al-Zein, Mustafa Abdel Shafe'i, and Adnan al-Za'noun. Several others were imprisoned, such as the pediatrician Dr. Farhan Abul Leil, 'administratively detained' for two years. Other doctors were dismissed from their posts, such as Dr. Tewfiq Barghouti, a bone surgeon, from the hospital of Jericho. Moreover, the authorities prevent the immigration of Palestinian doctors who happened to be outside the West Bank in 1967.

The low income of medical doctors, and the devaluation of the Israeli pound increase the emigration of doctors. In 1967, a doctor used to have a salary of 170 Jordanian Dinars, while in 1975, the salary was only 3,200 IL, which is equivalent to 110 J.D. This does not take into account the massive inflation which has taken place in the occupied territories.

5. Financial Status of Health Administration: The Zionist authorities have appointed Levi Kafka, a Zionist, to supervise hospitals in the West Bank, and

adopted a budget of IL 9 million for all West Bank hospitals, while IL 15 million were budgeted for one single Israeli hospital in Sarafand. In 1974, the authorities decreased the budget from IL 9 million to IL 8 million, and imposed heavy taxes on medicine for hospitals. This led to the closure of 18 clinics.

Treatment in Israeli Hospitals: Not every Arab citizen is eligible to be transferred to Israeli hospitals, yet the Israeli authorities make enormous propaganda out of this issue. In addition, over and above all the difficulties that an individual goes through for a transfer to an Israeli hospital, he is frequently subjected to political blackmail and is forced to give certain information about Palestinian nationalists. Treatment in Israeli hospitals is naturally conditional on the individual being able to afford the incredibly high fees.

Zionist Health Policy: The Israeli authorities clearly impose the worst possible health conditions on our masses in the occupied territories. The policy objective behind this is to make the people leave their land in search of better conditions. In fact, the authorities put huge obstacles in front of any person or group which offer its assistance. For example, an English doctor, D. Garret and his wife, a nurse, offered their help to a hospital in Jericho. This was, however, refused by the Israeli authorities, who made them both leave the country.

The World Health Organization



Hospitals: Overcrowded, under-equipped

in Geneva, whose investigative committees were refused permission to conduct complete investigation in 1976, condemned these Zionist measures, including the destruction of villages, bad health conditions in prisons, and the torture of political detainees.

Health Conditions in Gaza: The health situation in Gaza is much worse than that of the West Bank as a result of the emigration of Egyptian doctors in 1967. To this must be added the imprisonment and deportation of several doctors, and the unique comedy of transforming hospitals into prisons, such as Al-Nasir and al-Hammiyat hospitals in Gaza.

All this led to an increase in the death-rate and a 20 percent increase in the spread of diseases among the Palestinian masses. It is enough to know that there is only one doctor for 20,000 citizens in the Gaza Strip to understand the endurance and steadfastness of our militant masses there.

Situation of Political Detainees and Prisoners: The number of Palestinians who entered Zionist jails is more than 40,000, many of whom are still imprisoned. Most of them have suffered from appalling health conditions due to torture and poor nutrition. The only medicine offered to the prisoners is Aspirin or Novalgin, plus a weekly visit of 15 minutes by a doctor.

In the Bir Sabe' jail, the 600 prisoners compiled the following statistics on themselves: 17 prisoners suffering from ulcers; 45 from nervous disorders; 67 from tuberculosis; and 200 from Rheumatism and hemorrhoids.

The Zionists are still claiming that they took a land without a people to establish on it a developed and democratic state. They are, in fact, still seeking by all means to empty the land of its people, and suppress its civilized character. However, the Palestinian people have heroically resisted this criminal plan and are today waging a fierce struggle to recover their freedom and land and establish their own independent state.



The new team: The same policy?

U.S. DIPLOMACY AND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE

By our Diplomatic Correspondent

The UN General Assembly's adoption of a resolution, on November 24, 1976, calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state under the PLO's authority (see *Palestine* of 1-15 December 1976) can be regarded as a defeat for Zionism and its main ally, the United States Government. The US and Israeli delegations both vigorously opposed this resolution, which was eventually passed by 90 votes to 16 with 30 abstentions.

This resolution may likewise be considered yet another bargaining card placed in the hands of the PLO, which could strengthen its position in the current diplomacy related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The overwhelming majority of the international community, by this resolution, now recognises the PLO not only as the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people but also as the body which should constitute the future government of Palestine, or at

least of whatever portion of Palestine can be freed from Israeli occupation through diplomacy or armed force.

It would be premature to assume, however, that the passage of a UN General Assembly resolution has made the birth of a Palestinian state with a genuinely representative government imminent. Indeed, all present indications are that such a state can only be born after long and painful labour, and that great efforts are required to prevent this birth being aborted.

It is clear, both from the statements of Israeli and US officials and from hitherto unpublished information to which PLO researchers have access, that the Zionists and the United States Government agree with each other in opposing any Palestinian state that is progressive or democratic in character, since they see such an entity as a threat by its very nature to US and Zionist interests in the region.

Preventing the establishment of such a state can thus be seen as a joint US-Israeli strategic aim.

While there is agreement on strategy, there are differences within US and Zionist ranks on the most effective tactical approach. For many years, there have been two competing political trends within the Zionist movement. One of these, which may be called the "traditional" trend, represented by "hawks" like Likud leader Menachem Begin or former War Minister General Moshe Dayan, sees the salvation of Zionism in terms of military strength and favours the continued occupation of all conquered territories, with the option of further expansion, even if this means constant war with the Arab World. The other trend, which may be termed the "modern" one, is more subtle and is advocated particularly by subtle diplomatists like Dr. Kissinger and former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban, and to a lesser degree by Premier Rabin. This trend recognises that the concept of "secure boundaries" is illusory in this age of missiles, and regards the economic domination of neo-colonialism as more effective than the military domination of 19th-century colonialism. It advocates the establishment of Israeli economic control over the Middle East through "open borders" and the destruction of the Arab boycott, even if to achieve this Israel has to make "territorial concessions" (which involve restoring to the Arabs part of the territories which are rightfully theirs anyway). The "modern" trend believes Israel can establish economic domination over the Arab World in the same way that the USA dominates most of Latin America. Recall that the US Army did not overthrow Allende, US economic interests persuaded the Chilean Army to do the job for them.

The next Israeli parliamentary election is likely to be fought out over this issue between these two trends. Shimon Peres, who follows the "traditional" militarist trend, is now contesting Rabin's leader-

ship of the ruling alignment and has naturally received Dayan's backing. If he wins, Peres can count on the support of the Likud and other extreme rightists like the National Religious Party for any hard line he takes.

The United States, at least as long as Dr. Kissinger's views hold sway in the State Department, backs Rabin. In December 1976, Rabin sent Minister Israel Galili on a "private" visit to the United States. Galili held secret talks with Kissinger and promised him that, in return for US backing, Rabin was willing to make "concessions." These reportedly included returning more of the Golan Heights to Syria than Israel had originally contemplated.

Dr. Kissinger and other US policymakers are eager that the "modern" Zionist approach should prevail. They fear that time is running out for Zionism at least on the international diplomatic level, in view of the growing support for Palestinian national rights by world public opinion. Even in the United States, an increasing number of people are beginning to realise that they have hitherto been misinformed about the issue,

and the Palestinian case deserves a fairer hearing. So far, the vast majority of UN members have endorsed a partial restoration of Palestinian national rights, but this compromise has been met with intransigence by Zionism. The US policymakers are anxious that, if this hard line continues, the world may become impatient with it and see the total restoration of Palestinian rights and the abolition of Zionist racism as the only solution.

The US leadership thus feels that the surest guarantee for the Israeli state's survival is for it to secure recognition from the neighbouring Arab countries, and particularly recognition from a Palestinian entity. For this, the USA recognises, a Palestinian state of some sort will have to be established. But the sensitive point for US policymakers is what sort of Palestinian state. To ensure that it is not democratic or progressive, they would like it to be governed not by the PLO, but by the most conservative elements in the West Bank bourgeoisie, who would be willing to recognise the Israeli state and then federate with Jordan under King Hussein's "United

Arab Kingdom" plan. The Jordanian government has privately indicated to the US government that it is willing to recognise Israel if the latter gives back the whole of the West Bank, including the former Jordanian-held sector of Jerusalem.

While pursuing its aim of creating an unrepresentative Palestinian state, the US government at the same time is hoping to persuade the PLO to change its policy in a way that will undermine it. The US line is that it will not recognise the PLO or agree to its participation in the Geneva conference unless it accepts UN Security Council resolution 242, which implies recognition of Israel. Even in return for this concession, the PLO would secure no guarantee that Palestinian national rights would be restored even in part. US planners hope to persuade the PLO to fall into this trap so that its claims for Palestinian rights, and its authority with the Palestinian masses, would be weakened, enabling the USA more easily to present a reactionary Palestinian leadership as an alternative.

Even if the PLO does succeed in foiling this manoeuvre and arriving at the conference table in Geneva without any such concession, there is still no certainty that the conference will produce any satisfactory results in terms of Palestinian rights. Dr. Kissinger is not very keen on the Geneva conference. In particular, he is eager that the Middle East conflict should be settled in the way the United States sees fit, and essentially through a US initiative. If it is done through Geneva, the United States will have to share the settlement, and the credit for it, with the Soviet Union. In addition, Dr. Kissinger is worried that, because of the importance the Arab side attaches to the Geneva conference, this conference may be seen as a "last hope" for a settlement, and so if it were to fail, the Arabs would see no course left but a fight to the finish.

Accordingly, in order to ensure



Kissinger... has time run out?



Former Israeli Minister of War, Moshe Dayan

that the Geneva conference does not offer the Soviet Union an opportunity to win more influence in the Arab World, and that the settlement the United States desires is imposed in the region, Dr. Kissinger is currently engaged in a series of intrigues whose results are likely to damage Arab, and particularly Palestinian, interests. He is, for instance, advising President-elect Carter to adopt the step-by-step approach of working for separate agreements between each Arab confrontation state and Israel, even within the framework of the Geneva conference. This would mean, in effect, that even if all the Arab confrontation states, plus the PLO, assemble at the Geneva conference with the Israelis, the United States would attempt to divide the Arab delegations from each other and persuade each one to negotiate a separate agreement.

This approach would clearly have a number of disadvantages for the Arab side. It would threaten Arab solidarity, for great temptations would doubtless be offered for itself at the expense of the other Arab parties at the conference. When one recalls how Dr. Kissinger's step-by-step policy succeeded in causing problems between Egypt and Syria, after the unity of purpose they had achieved in the October 1973 war,



Aha Eban, former Israeli Foreign Minister

the seriousness of this danger becomes apparent. Furthermore, in separate negotiations the Arabs would lose their power of collective bargaining, and on an individual basis could not hope for terms as good as they could secure collectively. Also, the separate negotiations would be conducted under American auspices, thus eliminating an important safeguard for the Arab side: the possibility of the Soviet Union counterbalancing the United States at the Geneva conference.

Under the separate negotiations approach, the Palestinians would come last in order of priority. The United States will continue to do its best to delay, if not prevent, PLO attendance at the conference. And if it succeeds in applying the separate negotiations approach, the United States will make sure that the negotiations on the Palestinian question are left till last, after all the other Arab delegations have concluded their agreements and when Palestinian bargaining power will be weakest. In addition, as we have noted, the USA will try its hardest to prevent the Palestinians being represented by the PLO. In this context, it should be noted that the Israelis have indicated their willingness for West Bank notables to attend the Geneva conference. This is an obvious illus-

tration of the US and Israeli governments' search for an alternative Palestinian leadership to whom the West Bank and Gaza would be handed over, to ensure that the Palestinian state comes under conservative rule.

US policymakers regard the Arab states as being too hasty in calling for the reconvening of the Geneva conference by March 1977. The forthcoming Israeli elections are likely to delay this, and may well be designed to do so, as Egypt's Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy believes. But even once the conference is reconvened, US officials hope they may be able to drag out the proceedings for as long as three years. The separate negotiations formula would certainly take much longer than a conference with all the parties together negotiating one comprehensive settlement. In addition, the United States and Israel are planning all sorts of delaying tactics, such as entangling the conference in petty procedural points, to lengthen the negotiations as much as possible. The time thus gained would be used in efforts to weaken the Palestinian Resistance and undermine the unity of the Arab side. The effectiveness of this policy has been only too evident in the period since the October 1973 war.

Thus the attainment of peace in this region is still very far away, despite the plainly evident desire for it on the Arab side and the UN resolutions which express humanity's desire to resolve this conflict which threatens world peace. For the United States and Israel are approaching the Geneva conference with the aim of achieving not a just peace, but a settlement in which the Arab side is outmanoeuvred by the type of skillful diplomacy at which Dr. Kissinger excels. As the Head of the PLO Political Department Abu Lutf pointed out recently, the chances of another Arab-Israeli war in 1977 seem much greater than the chances of peace.



Interview

Wafa Interview with Abu Mazen

Several Arab and international newspapers, news agencies, and broadcasting services have carried statements ascribed to Abu Mazen, a member of the Fateh Central Committee. Abu Mazen, however, spoke to Wafa about the PLO's stand concerning several important issues, especially the questions of a Middle East political settlement, the Geneva Conference, the relationship with Jordan, the PLO's stand towards Syrian-Egyptian coordination, and its political moves in the next phase.

Concerning the Geneva Conference, Abu Mazen said: "If the PLO were invited to attend the Geneva Conference, and the Palestinian National Congress accepted the invitation, then we will go as an independent delegation."

"As for the relationship with Jordan," he added, "for the past two years, there have been Arab efforts to restore this relationship. For certain reasons, these efforts encountered several obstacles, but we still, as in the past, have no objection to restoring Palestinian-Jordanian relations. In fact, we welcome this on the basis of the Rabat resolutions, which were ratified by all Arab leaders, including King Hussein of Jordan and Yasser Arafat."

"The resolutions of the 12th session of the Palestinian National Congress," Abu Mazen went on, "confirmed the establishment of an independent national authority for the Palestinian people, which means that our people are calling for an independent state on any part of Palestine liberated from the enemy. After that, the Palestinian people themselves will determine their relationship with the



Arab countries. There is no doubt that Jordanian-Palestinian relations would then be normal and good due to the fact that there are many ties between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples."

Regarding the political moves of the PLO on the international level, Abu Mazen said: "We in the PLO have no objections to contacting any party or person, as long as they recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state."

Abu Mazen added that "Contacts have been undertaken with Americans concerning the opening of a PLO office in Washington. Contacts have also been made with various groups, including anti-Zionist Jewish organizations, some of which are strong sympathizers with the Palestine cause. In reality, the USA and its imperialist policy backs the expansionist racist policy of Zionism in our occupied homeland, so as to keep the Arab arena divided and Arab wealth flowing to the USA."

About the new American Administration headed by Carter, Abu Mazen said: "A number of Arabs always bet on each new US President. But it is evident that American policy is planned for every President, and it is a policy

controlled by the American monopolies, trusts and cartels."

Asked about the Revolution's stand *vis-à-vis* a Government-in-exile, Abu Mazen replied that this issue has been under consideration for many years, but all the necessary pre-conditions have so far not been provided to bring it about. "I expect that this issue will be put forward for discussion before the National Congress," he added.

About Syrian-Egyptian coordination, Abu Mazen said, "We are in principle with this coordination. But if it is for the sake of dealing with the current problem and its essence -- the Palestine cause -- then the PLO has to be included in this coordination."

Abu Mazen then spoke about the current government crisis in Israel, saying that since the 1973 October war, Israeli society has been caught in a series of crises on the political, economic and social levels. Many voices have, moreover, begun to rise in opposition to the official Zionist view of the Palestinian problem, with some of them asking for the recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. "We do not believe," he continued, "that these differences are simply a form of political tactics. They are rather a concrete reality, and are among the reasons for the 'Liberals' leaving the Cabinet, for Mapam's threat to leave the Maarakh, for the exit of Sharon from the Likud Bloc, and for Yigal Yadin's appearance at the head of a force opposing the Labour Party."

"Among other effects of these developments are the grouping of small political groups in blocs, to prepare for the elections, and the rise of the National Front in Galilee (Rakah plus some Arab nationalist leaders) which is trying to form blocs with some leftist forces, such as the Black Panthers." Abu Mazen added that this political crisis is due to the results of the October War and of the political and military struggle of the Palestinian people.



Interview

ABU LUTF'S INTERVIEW

WITH
ROSE
AL-YOUSSEF
&
AL-QABAS



Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department, and Secretary of the Fateh Central Committee, answered the following questions, in an interview published simultaneously on January 9 by the Egyptian magazine, *Rose al-Youssef*, and the Kuwaiti paper *al-Qabas*:

Q: How do you evaluate the current situation on the Palestinian level?

A: I believe that the current Palestinian situation is good. There is no doubt that after any big event or war, all parties are engaged in a period of political reassessment due to their losses, casualties and martyrs. However, Palestinian work was able to

emerge from the regrettable events in Lebanon in a good position at all levels, in spite of certain negative incidents which arose due to the tension created by these severe contradictions.

Regarding national unity, Abu Lutf said that: "All Palestinian factions within the PLO aim at developing national unity to the highest degree possible. This issue was discussed at length in the Central Council's recent meeting in Damascus. There is currently an attempt to unify all military forces; and measures were taken for the widest participation of the Palestinian people, in all their groupings, in the discussions of the next meeting of the National Congress.

"We are very much concerned to develop fraternal and comradely relations among all the factions of the Palestinian Resistance Movement, and to create common work in which everybody can participate, such as establishing a Palestinian deterrent force to prevent any future internecine Palestinian clashes. We will also implement national reconciliation in order to wipe out the traces of previous regrettable incidents."

"The new Palestinian National Congress," Abu Lutf continued, "will consist of around 300 members, including some 120 additional members. We have consecrated the largest share of seats to those deported from the West Bank, the émigrés, the independents (i.e. those committed but not affiliated to specific groups) and the popular organizations. We have also consecrated several seats in the Congress to the occupied territories, both old and new; the two banks of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip. The Congress will be held in Cairo, around the middle of February."

Q: Did the Central Council discussions include criticism and self-criticism of the Revolution's leadership?

A: There was no self-criticism by the leadership. However, several tactical mistakes were referred to; and an evaluation of the previous events was made, not only as regards the Palestinian leadership, but also the Arab leadership.

"All efforts were directed at the positive sides, and the lessons learned from the bitter experience. There was also confirmation of the necessity of restoring normal relations with Syria, and the restoration of normal and secure conditions to Lebanon, steps which will ultimately serve the Palestine cause, and the Arab cause in general.

"This is the exact picture of what happened at the Central Council meeting, where the reaffirmation of the unity of Syria, Egypt and Palestine was stressed."

Q: There have lately been calls for liquidating the Rejection Front. What is your opinion on this?

A: There has undoubtedly been some confusion regarding this issue, because democratic dialogue is the only procedure followed within the PLO. The resolutions taken during all meetings of the National Congress confirming this principle cannot, under any circumstances, be ignored or by-passed because that would mean a change in Palestinian internal relations which we are intent on keeping on a democratic level.

"There is no doubt that everybody is working under the umbrella of the PLO, which protects every faction of the Palestinian resistance, and its right to objection, criticism and action in the Palestinian, Arab and international arenas. These rights will remain sacred and protected and cannot be harmed. For this is the will of our people, as embodied in the resolutions of the National Congress.

"As for the slogan of liquidation, it is rejected by the Palestinian people, from their grass-roots.

"The cooperation between all factions of the Palestinian Revolution was obvious in its aim of restoring normal life to the camps, and restoring democratic dialogue among the different factions.

Regarding reports carried by news agencies on splits within the ranks of Fateh, Abu Lutf said: "This issue is an old one used by forces hostile to the Revolution to glean the fruits of their psychological war against our people and their revolution. Years ago, similar rumours were spread, but many were disappointed when Fateh grew stronger, developed and achieved prominent political successes through the PLO, and in cooperation with other factions.

"Kissinger has succeeded to a certain extent, as declared to one of the friendly leaders, in turning the Palestine cause into a problem

for the Arabs. In fact, he Arabized the conflict in the region through the regrettable bloody incidents in Lebanon."

"Apparently," Abu Lutf added, "the bet is now on provoking internecine killing between the Resistance factions, or within each faction. Imperialism, Zionism and other forces rely on various means to try to implement this plan, including rumours, assassination attempts, describing Palestinian leaders as 'Extremists', 'moderates' or 'capitulationists', as well as talk about a future settlement. In reality the possibilities of war surpass those of peace, due to Israel's obstinate refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

"All the above makes it likely that the plan is aimed against the Palestinian arena. As is well known, Fateh plays a major role within Palestinian action, and thus persistent hostile campaigns have been directed against it, and alleged declarations were attributed to it, in order to sow discord in



the Palestinian theatre. The false and erroneous reports carried by the Lebanese magazine, *al-Hawadess* are an example of these campaigns. The magazine once said that Abu Lutf was the man of the coming settlement. Another time, it alleged I was deliberately brought back from the frontiers because of conflicts with certain brother leaders. The reaction of any normal reader would be to think that there are splits inside Fateh, or between it and the other factions. I would note here that the existence of differences of opinion is a sign of a healthy relationship; besides, Fateh is known for its democracy and flexibility. But I would like to point out here that we use certain tactics to discern a number of facts and positions in the Arab region and internationally. Thus, we have to send a Spanish-speaking envoy to Spain and Arabic-speaking ones to the Arab countries."

Asked about the Palestinian Government-in-Exile, Abu Lutf said: "Talk about a provisional Government or a government-in-exile has gone on for a long time and resembles a series of obscure rumours. Every Revolution crowns each of its phases with an outstanding achievement, and a temporary government would be one of these prominent achievements for a fixed phase. This issue with regards to the Palestine cause needs thorough and careful discussion due to all the events and incidents on the Arab and international levels which have direct or indirect influence on the Palestine question.

"This means that the provisional government is not a matter for discussion, because it is the beginning of the crystallization of the political gains of the Palestinian people. The real issue is rather that of the appropriate timing to declare this provisional government, for its formation needs specific conditions. This is my own belief, because this issue is still under discussion with the PLO and will be set before the Palestinian

National Congress next February."

Abu Lutf reiterated: "The provisional government needs land for the establishment of the institutions of the Palestinian state, a popular resolution by the National Congress, Arab consultations and contacts with the friendly, socialist and Non-Aligned countries.

"In this Government, we should not repeat the experience of the 'Government of All Palestine,' so as not to abort it. Among its advantages will be that it will solve the problem of passports for the Palestinian people. The recognition of such a government is a recognition of our rights to a relationship with all states that recognize us. We will then possess an international responsibility which we cannot by-pass, and to which we would have to be committed.

"We have to take into consideration the status of the PLO and bring about this provisional government, while at the same time preventing the appearance of duplicity between the PLO and this Government. The latter needs a provisional political program, with the ten-point program as its basis. Among the advantages of this government is that it will finally settle the problem of who speaks in the name of the Palestinian people. This government is a political time-bomb which should be exploded only at the appropriate time and place, and it should be left to the Palestinian people's representatives to take whatever decisions are necessary concerning it."

Answering questions on the project for a Palestinian state, Abu Lutf said: "I have no knowledge about any such project being submitted to any Palestinian leader, but I know that the UN Committee of 20 has presented recommendations on the ways for the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable national rights. The General Assembly has approved these recommendations and requested the Security Council to take the necessary measures for their implementation. These re-

commendations include: First: the right to return, which is divided into two stages. A: the return of the 1967 refugees. B: the return of those uprooted since 1948 and upto 1967. Second: the right to self-determination, sovereignty, and national independence.

The resolution requested the Security Council to undertake the following measures to help the Palestinian people exercise this right:

1. Ask Israel to withdraw its forces from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to a time-table ending no later than June 1, 1977.
2. The UN is assigned the responsibility for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after the completion of Israeli withdrawal.
3. The UN, in cooperation with the Arab League, will hand over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to the PLO.
4. After the establishment of the independent Palestinian entity, the UN, in cooperation with the concerned parties, will ensure the provision of the remaining Palestinian national rights, so as to assure the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region.

"This is the project adopted by the General Assembly in its latest resolution on the subject. I do not know any other."

About reports of contacts between Palestinian and Israeli officials, Abu Lutf commented: "The Political Department has nothing to do with these rumours, even if they are true. But contacts have been undertaken with members of the Rakah Party, such as Felicia Langer, Emile Touma and Tewfiq Zayyad. As for the other contacts, we only read about them in newspapers and magazines."

In reply to a question about expected changes in the PLO leadership, Abu Lutf said that "as long as the policy followed by the PLO remains the same, any change is decided by the organizations that constitute the PLO, and by the Palestinian National Congress."

As for the situation in South Lebanon, Abu Lutf declared that

the PLO is ready to apply scrupulously all the agreements signed with the Lebanese Government, in order to facilitate the task of President Sarkis; but requires in return the commitment of the other parties to these agreements.

With regard to the Geneva Peace Conference, he reaffirmed the resolutions of the 12th session of the National Congress, rejecting any conference based on UN Security Council resolution 242. He considers the PLO's efforts in the Security Council and the General Assembly suitable for the current period.

Abu Lutf described Soviet-Palestinian relations of friendship as natural because of the firm stand of the Soviet Union and the Socialist countries in support of Arab aspirations. He went on to say that the Soviets have lately been exerting efforts to maintain good relations with the Egyptians, as well as offering weapons to the Arab countries to protect their independence and strengthen their stand against Zionism and imperialism.

Abu Lutf concluded by describing the Soviet Union as standing firmly in solidarity with the Arab and Palestinian people in their struggle against Zionism and imperialism, regardless of many considerations and stands.

ABU LUTF DENIES PLO CONTACTS WITH GENERAL PELED

Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department, has denied that any member of the Palestine Liberation Organization held any contacts with Israeli Reserve-General, Matitiyahu Peled.

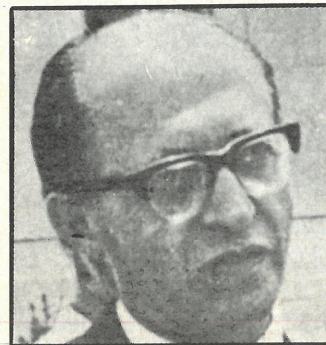
In a statement to Wafa, Abu Lutf said that "Peled's declarations about the alleged document have no basis in reality, either in form or in content, and the PLO has no knowledge of the existence of any such document."

Enemy News

ISRAELI ANNEXATION POLICY

HERUT REJECTS CONCESSIONS IN WEST BANK, GAZA.

Menahem Begin, head of the Herut party



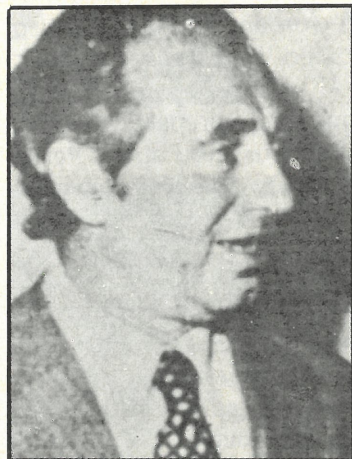
On January 6, during the closing sessions of the conference of the Zionist party Herut, Menahem Begin, the head of the party, declared that his party refuses to offer what he called "territorial concessions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip." He also declared the party's rejection of the establishment of a Palestinian state, and of any negotiations with the PLO. He stated that limited concessions in the Sinai and the Golan area would be sufficient to maintain peace.

It is to be noted that this terrorist Zionist party, which together with the Liberal Party, makes up the Likud Block, has 35 representatives in the Knesset.

YET MORE ZIONIST SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED WEST BANK

(AFP, 24/1/77)

In continuing settlement projects, the Zionist authorities are currently establishing a new colony near the Dead Sea, in the occupied West Bank. Affirming that Zionist settlers are now setting up



Shimon Peres, Israeli Minister of War

the colony north of the Dead Sea, Shimon Peres, the Israeli Minister of War, said that he was certain this settlement will remain even in the event of an agreement being reached in the Middle East.

It is worth noting that earlier this month the Zionist authorities officially approved the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories. Previously they had always claimed that Zionist settlers were carrying out their settlement construction activities illicitly.

KAHANE: PALESTINIANS ARE A TIME-BOMB INSIDE ISRAEL (Agencies)

On January 20 the Zionist Rabbi Meir Kahane expressed his deep anxiety over the continuation of an Arab presence in Israel. He was quoted as saying: "The Palestinians are a time-bomb in the heart of Israel, and their continued presence would be a catastrophe for Israel and would lead to an internal conflict."

Kahane added, in a press conference held recently in Tel Aviv, that "Palestinian citizens hate Israel and cannot stand the occupation." He called furthermore for the expulsion of a quarter of a million Palestinians.

These explicit statements by Kahane prove the failure of the

persistent Zionist attempts to contain the Palestinian population, particularly those of the territories occupied by Israel in 1948, and to suppress their identity through efforts to encourage what is euphemistically called "Jewish-Arab Co-existence." They also prove the failure of the policies of repression imposed on the Palestinian population in order to consolidate the Zionist occupation of Palestine.

Meir Kahane's call to deport a quarter of a million Palestinians from Palestine and replace them with Zionist settlers corresponds with the Koenig report. Koenig, an official of the Ministry of Interior responsible for the north, has called for the consolidation of Zionist occupation and the expansion of its area in Galilee. In his report, Koenig also revealed his fears as regards the increase of Palestinian citizens in the Galilee area.

In related news, Shmuel Toledano, former advisor to the Israeli Prime Minister for Arab Affairs, who recently resigned from his post, has revealed that his resignation came in light of his failure, in his ten years in the post to bring about understanding and co-existence between Palestinian and Zionist citizens.

I. Kollek Admits Expulsion of Palestinian Families From Jerusalem

Teddy Kollek, the Zionist Mayor of Jerusalem, has declared that the Israeli authorities have expelled 45 Palestinian families from their houses in Jerusalem and closed 100 shops belonging to Palestinian citizens in the city.

In a statement last night in Jerusalem, Kollek said that the destruction of the houses and shops of Palestinian citizens was carried out in preparation for the establishment of residential quarters for Zionist settlers.

The Israeli Mayor gave a picture of the future Jerusalem and what he called the closed sectarian quarters, whereby Moslems are to be forbidden from entering the Jewish quarters, the Christians separat-

ed from the Moslems, and special living quarters established for each religious sect.

II. Decrease in Zionist Population Density in Jerusalem

On January 20, Israeli Minister Chaim Tzadok presented a report to the Knesset Committee for Internal Affairs, in which he mentioned that the Zionist population density has decreased from 75 percent to 73 percent in Jerusalem, in spite of all the facilities offered by the government to the Zionist citizen to encourage him to settle in Jerusalem. The Minister attributed this decrease to the insistence of the Palestinian citizens on remaining in the city, particularly in the old quarters, which the Zionist authorities hope to settle with Israelis.

The Zionist paper, al-Hamishmar, on January 16, mentioned that a gang of hoodlums is directing threats at Palestinian citizens to make them leave their homes and their country. The so-called Jewish Defense League, a proto-fascist Zionist group headed by Meir Kahane, is leading this expulsion campaign in Jerusalem on the basis of directions from the Zionist authorities. Kahane is known to have been responsible in the part for similar campaigns of threats against Palestinian citizens.

The Zionists plan to Judaize the Holy City, establishing a uniform city to be the capital of Israel.

GALILI AND THE LABOUR PARTY PROGRAM.



Israeli Minister of State, author of the Galili Project to consolidate the Zionist occupation

In a television interview of Jan-

uary 22, the Zionist Minister of State, Israel Galili, speaking about the necessity of negotiating only with Jordan on the future of the occupied West Bank, said:-

"All members of the committee assigned to prepare the political program for the Labour Party have objected to the establishment of a third state between Israel and Jordan."

Galili's statement is based on two basic Zionist policies: First: The policy which the governing Labour Party put forth and which was adopted by the Maarakh (the governing coalition) concerning the settlement, which insists that no negotiations should be held with the PLO and no third state established between Israel and Jordan, and that no prior conditions for the Geneva conference should be accepted.

Second: The Galili project itself, which included several proposals for consolidating the roots of the Zionist occupation in most of the occupied Palestinian territories. Thus, work goes on on limiting sectors of the Palestinian economy and annexing them to the Zionist economy, while the open-bridges policy continues and help is extended Zionist industrial projects for the continuation of colonization, mainly in Jerusalem and its suburbs. The Galili project also talks about establishing paramilitary and civilian settlements in all the occupied Arab lands.

In trying to by-pass the PLO Galili is, like all Zionist leaders, ignoring the essence of the problem, which is the Palestinian issue, and trying to ignore the international support the PLO has received.

RABIN REJECTS ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE

Tel Aviv

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared in a television in-

terview of Janary 7, 1977, Israel's rejection of a Palestinian state in the Arab territories occupied in 1967. He added that Israel would accept the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian state in part



Prime Minister Rabin... rejecting the Palestinian state

of the occupied territories, within the context of Jordan. Rabin stressed Israel's refusal to withdraw from all occupied territories, saying that his country is willing to withdraw its forces from only parts of the West Bank, Sinai and the Golan Heights.

Meanwhile, the elections committee of the Israeli Labour Party declared its opposition to an independent Palestinian state and to any negotiations with the PLO. The committee stressed Israel's determination to keep one third of the West Bank, all of Jerusalem, and all Zionist colonies in occupied Arab territories.



Enemy News

EXPANSIONIST POLICIES

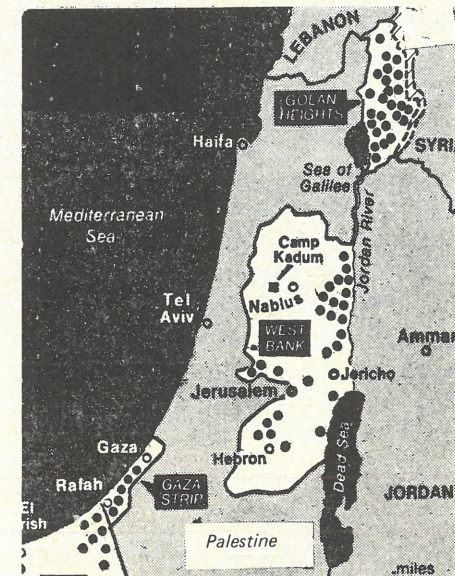
After the October War, which shook the Zionists militarily and politically, the Arabs in the occupied territories appeared to the enemy as a potential uncontrollable force behind the lines in case of a future war between Israel and the Arab countries. For this reason, enemy leaders began to develop various projects to break down the Arab conformation of these areas through the confiscation of land, ostensibly for reasons of security. These confiscations soon proved to be first steps in a general plan of colonization through which the Zionists hope to spread and consolidate their control of the occupied territories.

At the beginning of 1976, the Zionists began to implement these new colonization projects in the territories occupied since 1967. An outstanding characteristic of these projects is that they are presented not, as in the past, by independent Zionist committees and organizations, but by the government itself.

On May 15, 1976, Shimon Peres, Zionist Minister of War, revealed the government's intention to found a series of settlements in the West Bank. These settlements would parallel the series of seventeen settlements previously erected in the Jordan valley. The new settlements would be established on the eastern slopes of the West Bank heights, in an area with only a light Arab population. Peres concluded that the settlements were necessary to ensure the Jordan River as Israel's final eastern border.

Study of the colonization project shows that:

— the Israeli authorities are not serious in their claims of willingness to withdraw from occupied Arab territories, but intend instead



Present Zionist settlements in occupied areas

to retain all the occupied territories, with the Jordan River as their eastern "secure border."

— by avoiding areas with a dense Arab population, the Zionists are trying to avoid a situation similar to that in Arab Galilee. The enemy realizes its inability to establish more Zionist colonies in the West Bank and outnumber the Palestinian population there, and thus has decided to contain the area by surrounding it.

— the enemy hopes that the presence of the settlements will strengthen its hand in possible future negotiations.

The new colonization plan, unlike its precedents, finally reveals the real intentions of the Zionists in the occupied territories. The Zionist Lands Department has now prepared an additional plan, even more indicative than the previous one. The introduction to this plan states the intention to establish settlements within the projected future borders of Israel. This of course excludes any eventual withdrawal from the areas in which the settlements are to be founded.

Part of this plan is the "Project

for Jerusalem and its Suburbs." This project aims at linking geographically the Al-Nabi Yaaqoub quarter in the north and the Tel-Shbira quarter in the south of Jerusalem by means of blocks of building in series connecting the two points, and including the lands confiscated in Shaafat. In the southern suburbs housing units would be set up to the south of the Wall and of the Ramat Rahil settlement. A further aim is to link Jerusalem with neighboring Jewish settlements to the north.

Another part of the colonization plan is a big city project for the Beit Houroun area west of Ramallah, near the Modiem colony. This new city would accommodate more than forty thousand people, and would be independent of nearby Arab villages. The city could expand westward into the coastal areas. The plan also suggests the founding of another city south of Al-Sammou'a in South Hebron, to provide a labor force for the cities of Beersheba, Dimona and Arrad, which have huge economic potential.

The new colonization plans have been conceived in order to coordinate the many previous projects of various organizations and departments, among them the Ministry of Housing and the Zionist Lands Department. But the government's plans go further in their aims to guarantee Jerusalem as the future capital and to link her by means of wide corridors to other parts of the Zionist state.

The Jewish Agency also shared in the 1976 colonization campaign in the West Bank. A spokesman for the agency declared that the Zionist government has agreed to the establishment of four settlements between Jericho and Ramallah. There is a possibility of transferring the colonists of Kfer Kadum to one of these colonies, which is known as the "Dawn Planet." In addition, the authorities have consented to the establishment of a new colony at Kfer Asyoun, in answer to an appeal from the Israeli Religious Kibbutz.

SOCIAL

STRIKES COVER ISRAEL



Striking workers at the Leyland factory

A series of violent workers' strikes in Israel this month has resulted in the formation of several committees to study the causes of these strikes, which have turned into a serious threat to the Israeli economy.

Strikes have affected all government institutions in Israel, as workers are demanding major pay rises to keep up with the vastly increased cost of living.

The first of these strikes, which started January 2, involved 6,000 administrative and maintenance workers at government hospitals, they were demanding a salary increase and better living conditions. That strike almost completely paralyzed government hospitals.

On the same day, the Zionist authorities stopped broadcasting their Hebrew-language news bulletin, after what were described as acts of sabotage by workers in that section throughout the last week of December.

Then 700 X-ray specialists went on strike in protest against their demands being ignored. Afterwards, Merchant Marine officers went on strike in protest against the fact that a ship was prevented from sailing, and because their demands concerning improvement in employment conditions were ignored.

In addition, the Union of Israeli Tax-collectors, which includes

7,000 workers, staged a strike on January 27th, in protest against the high cost of living and their deteriorating employment conditions.

Meanwhile, the owners of the Maz gas-stations continued their strike, which started on January 25, demanding a salary-rise and the improvement of working conditions.

It is to be noted that the deterioration of social and economic conditions reached a high point in Israel last year when strikes hit all government institutions, in protest against the economic problems caused by the high level of Israeli military expenditures.

37,000 SETTLERS LEFT ISRAEL IN 1975

The Zionist English-language daily *The Jerusalem Post*, of January 14, 1977, reports that 37,000 Jewish settlers left occupied Palestine during 1975. In an analysis of emigration from Israel, the newspaper notes an increased birthrate in the Zionist entity, but goes on to say that Jews born in Palestine, or who came to the country as children, are more likely to leave than those who came as adults. Statistics from the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption show that Jews born in Palestine form the majority of the emigrants. According to the *Post*, the main reasons for emigration are economic factors and harsh conditions.

The article adds that British Zionist organizations have recently published statistics showing that 20 percent of their members are returning to Britain, while fifty percent of those coming from the United States have left.

It should be noted that Zionist immigration to occupied Palestine and the expropriation of Arab lands are the two pillars of the Zionist plan to completely usurp

Palestine. The Zionist leaders also consider immigration to Palestine essential for strengthening security and realizing their plans for expansion in the occupied Golan Heights and Sinai.

More Financial Scandals in Israel

On January 7 Israeli newspapers uncovered new financial scandals in Israel. The papers repeat that opposition Deputy Shimon Schneer has asked the police to extend its investigations of the financial scandal involving Avraham Ofer to cover the suspicious financial relationship between the Histadrut and the Labour Party. The papers said that Ofer, who until recently was in charge of a Histadrut institution, was forced to offer certain amounts of money to the Labour Party.

The eulogy at Ofer's funeral was delivered by Yitzhaq Rabin. Speaking to the country's political elite at a crowded service in Tel Aviv, the Premier recalled how Ofer had come to him to discuss the accusations in what turned out to be their final meeting. "Your words still ring in my ears," Rabin said. "Yitzhaq you told me, believe me, I am not guilty of any transgression. I replied to you Avraham, that I, Yitzhaq Rabin, wholly trust in your innocence."

What Rabin omitted, however, was more tantalizing than what he said. Ofer had come to him after learning of a secret meeting convened by Rabin at his Tel Aviv apartment with his police and justice ministers. The discussion was reportedly about allegations

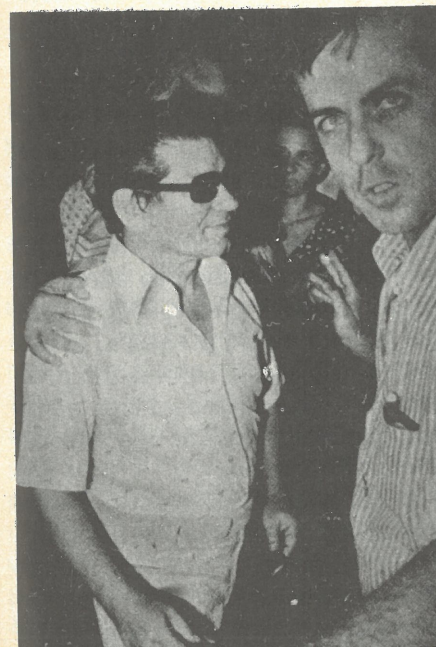


Rabin delivering eulogy at funeral of Avraham Ofer (right)

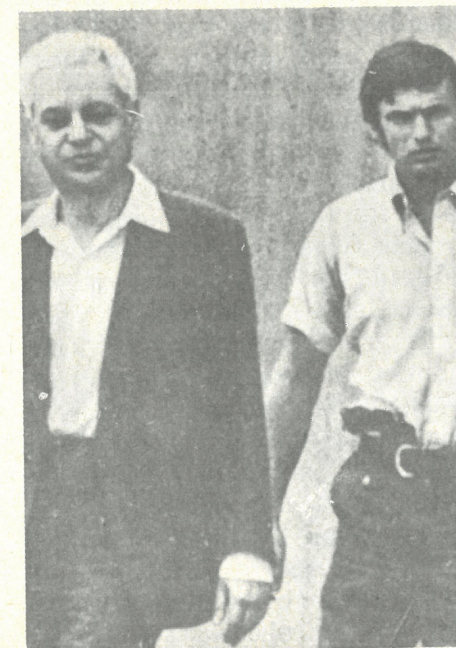
that Ofer, while director-general of the vast housing-construction company Shikum Ovdin, had given choice apartments to family and friends and diverted government funds designated for land purchases into Labour Party coffers. After seeing Rabin, Ofer told a friend that he had received scant satisfaction or comfort. "I am sinking in the mud of libel and insult, and I don't know what to do." If Ofer was indeed innocent, some mourners wondered, why had Rabin not done more to protect his friend from innuendo?

Other Scandals: All in the Family"

A few cynical Israelis shrug off the recent epidemic of white-collar corruption in the Zionist entity as the predictable result of Israel's gradual shift from the zealous utopian socialism of its founders. No one, however, is ignoring the crimes and the accusations of crimes, which range from bribes of refrigerators and TV sets slipped to government officials to the outright theft of millions of dollars. Psychiatrist Hillel Klein points out that the shock of the scandals is



Yadlin (in dark glasses) entering courtroom



Tzur (in coat) after sentencing

particularly hard on a nation such as Israel, where public officials are so well known they seem virtually members of the family.

Among the most dramatic recent charges of corruption:

* Asher Yadlin, 53, was abruptly dropped last October as governor of the bank of Israel seven weeks after Rabin appointed him to the job. Arrested on charges of fraud and bribery, Yadlin is currently awaiting trial. The most serious charge against him is that three years ago, while head of the nation's largest medical insurance organization, he allegedly accepted a 30,000 dollars bribe in return for an engineering contract.

* David Peled, 60, director of Customs and Excise, was arrested a year ago and suspended from his post, accused of accepting a number of bribes, including one for 35,000 dollars. He is also charged with maintaining a foreign currency account in a Swiss bank, which is a violation of Israeli law. Peled is free on bail awaiting trial.

* Michael Tzur, 53, former director-general of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, was sentenced to fifteen years in prison in 1975 after pleading guilty to fraud, bribery, illegal currency transactions and the embezzlement of 3 million dollars from a government holding company for tourism and industry which he headed.

* Yitzhaq Rubin, 40, a middle-level War Ministry official, was sentenced to a two-year prison term for accepting bribes from businessmen dealing with the ministry. Four lesser employees received one or two-year sentences on the same charges. Three of the bribe-givers were also convicted.

* Mordechai Rubenstein, 40, and Giora Rubenstein, 31, who with their father Aharon operate one of Israel's biggest construction companies, were arrested last month on suspicion of income tax evasion. The Rubenstein firm is a major government housing contractor.

TERROR



Menahem Begin, founder of the Irgun: specialized in terror

THE REALITY OF ZIONIST TERROR.

The organ of the French Communist Party, L'Humanité, published on January 6 the declaration made by Vincent Montier, Professor of Arabic Literature at the French university, in which he stated that he had given the French police the name of the chief of the network responsible for the assassination of the martyr Mahmoud al-Hamshari. Professor

Montier said that this man is Harley Liebermann, who is a colonel in the Israeli Army, and who is known in Israel as Livman. Liebermann worked as military attaché in 1965 in France. Professor Montier accused his network of also assassinating the martyrs Basil Qubaisi and Muhammed Boudia, as well as Hamshari, and Mahmoud Saleh.

The British authorities have recently decided against releasing official documents of the year 1946 relating to the occupation of Palestine. Two reasons are said to lie behind this decision:

First: The documents reveal the terrorist methods practiced by Zionist groups -- including Menahem Begin's Irgun -- against British officials.

Second: One of the Zionist terrorist leaders of that period still holds a high-ranking position in the Israeli Government. There are also indications that Yigal Allon has threatened to expose Britain's role in conspiring against the Arabs if the secrets of that period are revealed. Thus both parties have evidently concluded a political deal to hide the truth about the criminal complicity against the Palestinian people, particularly since all other British official documents for the year 1946 have already been released; only those related to the British Mandate in Palestine have been held back.

At the same time, the imperialist states, with the USA at their head, are violently denouncing the French Government's decision to release the Palestinian militant Abou Daoud, while none of these states has condemned the on-going Zionist terrorism against the Palestinian masses, including the assassination of the militant Mahmoud Saleh on January 3rd by Zionist intelligence agents.

The reason for this hypocrisy is that the struggle of the peoples for the liberation of land and man incites the apprehension of certain governments and is described as

"terrorism," whereas the policies of terror practiced against the struggle of the Palestinian people and Revolution and other national liberation movements are considered legitimate and healthy phenomena, and are consecrated by the laws and regulations of the "Free World," led by US imperialism.

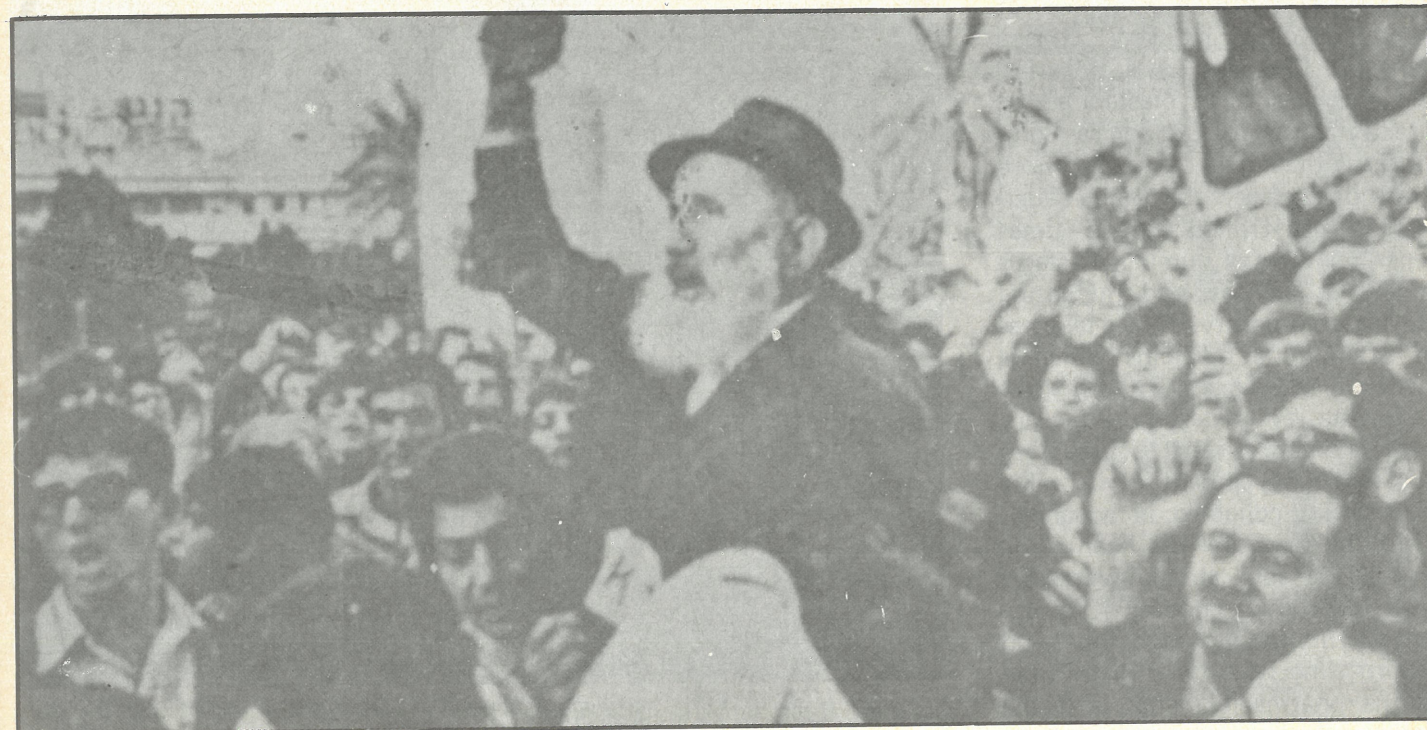
Therefore, the US-Israeli cooperation in the campaign launched against the French Government and its just decision to release Abou Daoud, is merely an attempt to put the world in an atmosphere of confusion so as to prevent it from grasping the essence of the political problem involved, and so as to obscure the support which the PLO has achieved.

This campaign is aimed moreover at isolating the PLO internationally, in the face of increasing world support for the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state; at reducing the rising pressure on the Zionist enemy; and at diverting the world's attention from Israel's political crisis and from the various United Nations resolutions condemning the Zionist entity.

The pressure exerted by the Israeli Government on the British Government to prevent the latter from releasing some of the most important historical documents on Palestine represents a new historical indictment of the policy of terror exercised by the Zionist authorities against the Palestinian people.

The British Government about ten years ago decided to allow the release of government documents after the lapse of 30 years. What, then, is the secret behind the decision not to release these documents related to the Palestinian question?

To answer this question, one should be well aware of the realities of Zionist policy, of which terrorism was a basic principle in the establishment of the Zionist state.



Demonstrations against the added-value tax in "Israel"...

ECONOMIC

Value-Added Tax: Its Aims And Effects

by: The Permanent Bureau for the Affairs of the Occupied Territories.

From the beginning of June 1976, the occupation authorities have been declaring their intention to impose a new tax on the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, namely the value-added tax. This decree was issued after it had been adopted by the Israeli Finance and Defence Ministers (Al Shaab, 28/7/1976, from Israeli newspapers). The decision to levy this tax followed its imposition in "Israel," despite violent protests against this in the form of demonstrations, strikes and clashes with the police. In spite of these protests, the tax was imposed in Israel, although to a reduced degree for some commercial institutions, particularly factories.



Poverty and unemployment on the rise

At a meeting with the Chairmen of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the West Bank, the Military Governor-General announced that the payment of value-added tax had become an irrevocable decree as from the beginning of August 1976 (Al Shaab, 29/7/1976). This announcement came in spite of widespread Arab opposition to this new tax, in the form of the strikes by shops and factories at the beginning of July (Al Fajr, 28/7/1976).

This tax is imposed on all sectors of commerce and industry at a rate of 8 percent of their sales. This rate is determined purely according to its numerical value with regard to a commodity sold in one

stage only, whether on the level of commerce or of industry. Thus a transport fare that costs 100 piasters will have eight piasters added directly onto it. But on a commodity that goes through more than one stage, the value-added tax is multiplied several times depending on the number of stages in the production and marketing of this commodity. If we take, as an example, a medicine which is made in a factory in the West Bank, the raw material the factory imports from abroad is subject to this tax of 8 percent of its value (the tax is collected in advance). After the medicine has been made up and is sold at the wholesale price to drug warehouses, it is subject to this tax a second time, and a third time when it is distributed to the pharmacies. That is if the import of the raw material from abroad was directly to the factory. If the raw material was imported by an Israeli import merchant, as is usually the case, it would be taxed a fourth time. Thus the medicine whose raw material cost 100 piasters would reach the consumer, as a result of value added tax alone (not counting manufacturing costs, profits, transportation, etc.) at a price of 136 piasters. Consequently value-added tax for the consumer is not, as would appear, 8 percent but in fact according to this example 36 percent, and can be more or less depending on the greater or lesser number of phases of production and marketing.

Although this new tax adds a new burden on the shoulders of the consumer in occupied territory, who is suffering severe hardship from the unendurable rise in prices, the deliberately motivated measures accompanying this tax are no less dangerous. For the occupation authorities, on the pretext of this tax, are forcing tradesmen and factory owners to submit precise accounts of their sales, by compelling them to keep account books in a legal manner. This would enable the occupation authorities to have precise knowl-



and in the territories occupied in 1967

edge of the profits of these establishments, in preparation to laying income tax on these profits. Tradesmen and factory owners sense a great danger in keeping account books, since they see this as a preliminary to the imposition of the escalating income tax applied in Israel, which escalates at a high rate and which cannot be borne by the standard of living and level of incomes in the occupied territories. In fact the greatest danger implicit in the keeping of account books is that it would reveal the financial situation of the tradesmen and factory owners to the occupation authorities, and enable them to channel Zionist capital into the appropriate direction to contain and destroy commercial and industrial establishments. The tradesmen and factory owners would thus fall victims to the blackmail of Zionist owners of capital, as well as transferring a large proportion of the profits from their capital to Zionist monopoly establishments.

Another danger which specifically threatens factories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a result of this new tax is that it weakens its ability to face up to competition from Israeli factories. In addition to the advantages Israeli factories

enjoy in the form of support, protection and a larger market, the value-added tax levied on most Israeli factories is lower than that imposed on factories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (*Al Fajr*, 13/7/1976). If we take into consideration the fact that some factories in the West Bank have closed down, or almost done so -- like the match factory in Nablus -- as a result of the difficult circumstances they are undergoing, such as the restricted market, the lack of support and protection and the difficulty of ensuring raw materials or of competing with the working conditions that Israeli factories can provide the workers -- all this before the imposition of value-added tax -- we can imagine the fate of these factories under the circumstances created by the new tax. We can anticipate the fate of these factories in advance: either they will stop operating, or be contained by the Zionist establishments which work under better circumstances.

If we also take into consideration that this tax comes at a time of intolerable price rises in the occupied territories as a result of the Israeli economic decline and the devaluation of the Israeli pound and at a time when the occupation

authorities -- with the aim of repairing this economy -- have resorted to raising customs duties many times over on several imported materials, we can determine which sectors are the target, in addition to the factories. For example, the price of a new bus is four times what it was before the occupation, and the compulsory insurance on it is more than six times as high (insurance on a bus is now 12,000 Israeli pounds). The prices of spare parts for cars is many times higher (*Al Shaab*, 28/9/1976). This clearly indicates the occupation authorities' intention to damage the Arab transport companies in the occupied territories in preparation for opening the way for Zionist transport companies. It is no secret that this plan covers other companies like electricity, water, cooking oil, cigarette and other companies which suffer from roughly the same problems as those affecting the Arab transport companies.

The occupation authorities' aims become clear when the facts mentioned above are linked with their other actions in the occupied territories. For instance, under the heading of "To Strengthen the Occupation: Linking Israel with the West Bank by New Railway," *Al Fajr* newspaper of 10/7/1976 quoted *Davar* as revealing that the occupation authorities planned to establish a new fast railway link between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, via Lydda Airport, the three villages which Israel had effaced (Yalu, Amwas and Bait Nuba) and Qalandiya. It is clear from this that the occupation authorities intend to link the West Bank to "Israel," not only economically but also geographically. This coincides with suspicious attempts by some quivering personalities and establishments to set up relations of co-operation and exchange with their Israeli counterparts, and the occupation authorities' attempts to persuade some personalities in the occupied territories to play a role of representing the Palestinians inde-

pendently of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the Palestinian Arab people's sole legal representative.

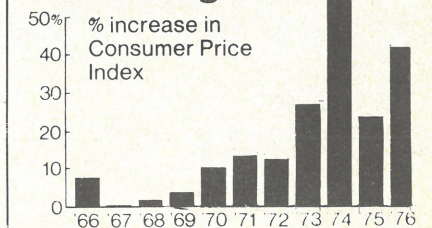
The combination of obstacles and complications that Israel is creating in the occupied territories is aimed beyond doubt at placing the Palestinian Arab there in a difficult and intolerable situation, so as to force him to leave his country in search of better living conditions. The exorbitant cost of living, on top of the suppression and terrorism to which the citizen in the occupied territories is subjected in the form of imprisonment, detention and deportation, may, in the Zionists' view, lead to the depopulation of the occupied territories and facilitate the task of absorbing and annexing them.

Undoubtedly the plans for colonising and expropriating Arab lands and the repeated acts of aggression against holy places all converge in this same Zionist direction.

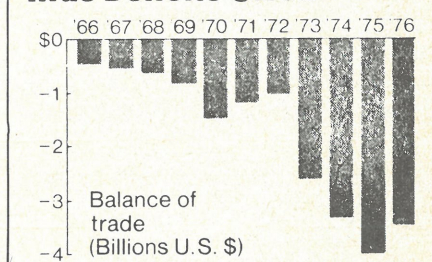
Nevertheless, our citizens in the occupied territories are fully aware of the occupation authorities' aims, and are determined to struggle against their plans and foil them. Accordingly, the mass reactions to these plans have never ceased for a moment. From the beginning of July to now, organised protests, strikes and demonstrations against the whole Zionist policy in the occupied territories, and against the value-added tax in particular, have gone on ceaselessly. The statement by Chambers of Commerce and Industry to the Military Governor-General of the West Bank in July clearly outlined the assessment of this tax by the Presidents of these Chambers and their rejection of it, on the basis that it is a contravention of international laws, particularly the Geneva Convention. The statement also clearly indicated the deteriorating economic situation as a result of the continued imposition of customs duties and various taxes, the linking of the economy of the West Bank and Gaza Strip

Israel's Plight

Inflation Rages...



...as Deficits Swell



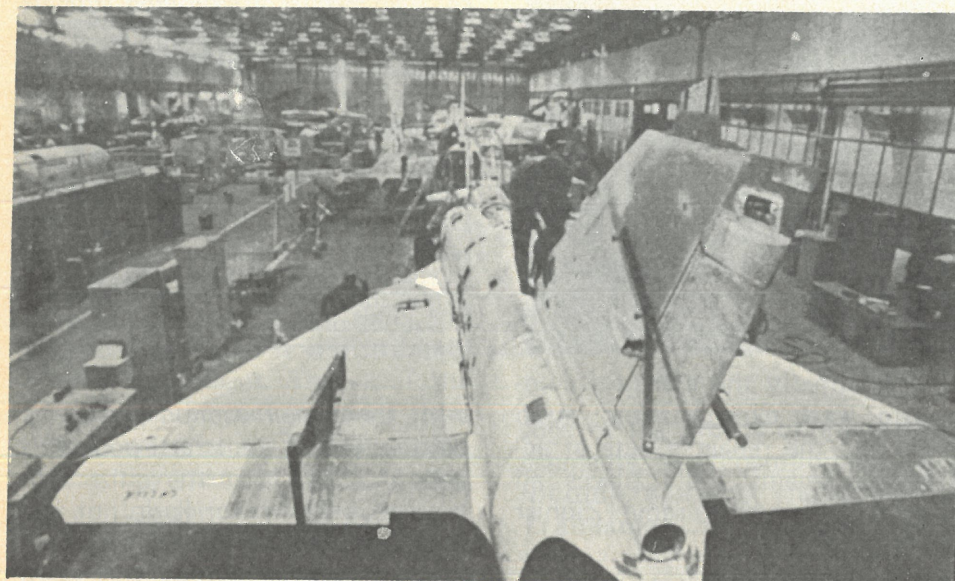
with the Israeli economy and the devaluation of the Israeli pound. It also indicated that the citizens in the occupied territories do not feel they are receiving services and facilities in proportion to the taxes they are paying, and that this new tax has placed factories in the occupied territories under the pressure of severe competition from Israelis which have been exempted from this tax or had it reduced (*Al Fajr*, 13/7/1976).

These demonstrations, strikes and violent clashes with the occupation authorities are a confirmation of the masses' awareness in the occupied territories of the implications and aims of Zionist conduct. Thus, in addition to rejecting the new tax and all the occupation authorities' practices in the occupied territories, they affirm through their slogans the firmness of these masses against the occupation authorities and their rejection of them, as well as their adherence to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the Palestinian people's sole legal representative and their rejection of conspiratorial plans aimed at bypassing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to establish their independent state on their Palestinian soil. 21 January 1977.

□ □

MILITARY

Israel a Major New Exporter of Arms to the Third World



Workers assembling Kfirs at an Israeli aircraft industries plant

The United States press recently reported that Israel has been making good use of American military aid, which has amounted to over two billion dollars annually since 1973. As a result Israeli arms exports have increased in value from 60 million dollars in 1973 to 400 million dollars in 1977

Press reports in the *New York Times* and other papers add that Israel has exported weapons to Honduras and to other Latin American countries as well as to Iran, South Africa and Formosa. The weapons, as described in an Israeli report, range from Light Uzi sub-machine guns to Gabriel rockets, electronic equipment and military aircraft including Kfir, Fouga Magister and Mystère jets. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, this new Israeli role of world arms salesman supplies ten percent of Israel's total exports.

In this context the Soviet News Agency Novosti pondered a contradiction: expansionists in Israel plead the necessity of increasing arms purchases, while at the same time they are selling modern weapons.

The contradiction is only apparent, for behind Israel's export of arms are European and American companies hiding under the Israeli flag. For many years prominent American arms producers, including the Rockwell Standard Corporation, Lockheed Aircraft and others, have been working inside Israel. These giant American corporations affiliate with Israeli companies for arms production in Israel.

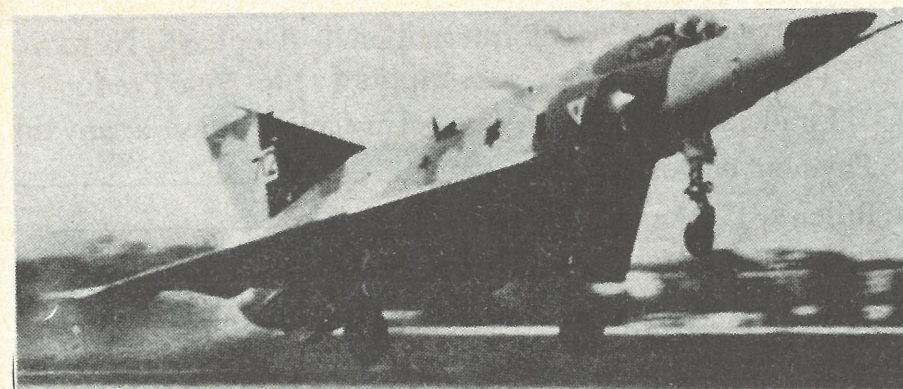
Analyzing the actions of industrial companies, the French newspaper *Le Monde* said: "It is not easy for Israeli companies to really

develop if they do not get out of their Israeli national framework. So, after they reach a certain stage, they give up part of their capital to any United States company which provides them with wide-scale opportunities for marketing." The Israeli Defence Ministry, for example, which is the largest share-holder in the federation for wireless equipment, TADERAN, has given up around seventy percent of its shares to the General Telephone and Electronics Company.

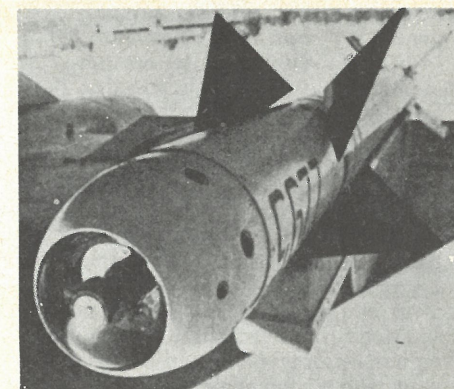
The Gabriel missile introduced by Israel on the international weapons market was manufactured with the help of the French Dassault Company. In the latter's factories, a group of Israeli technicians worked on the production of a medium-range surface-to-surface missile. When the French government embargoed all export



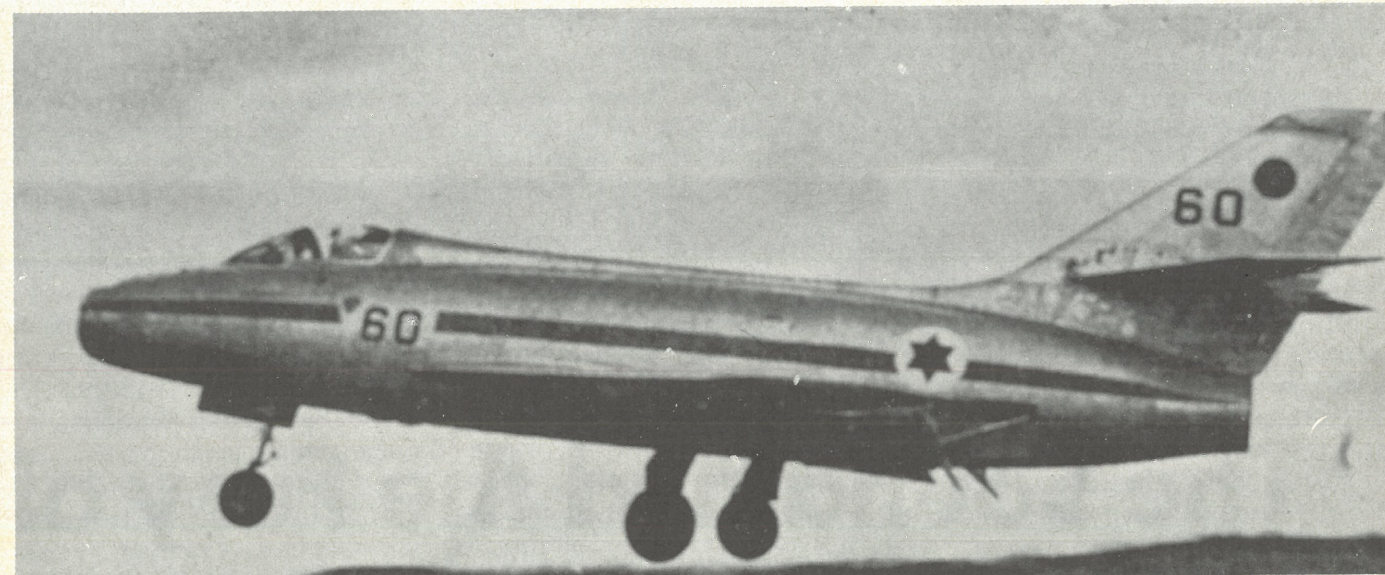
Assembling 120-mm. mortars



Israel's Kfir jet fighter



Shafrir air-to air missile



Super-Mystère fighter: French airplane with American engine.

of military equipment to Israel, the blueprints of the missile were transferred to Tel Aviv. The Iri-khon missile was produced in 1971 on the basis of these plans.

A French company which manufactures jet-engine bombers has constructed a factory in Israel to produce aircraft engines, in joint ownership with the Israeli government company, Israeli Aircraft Industries.

Weapons labelled "Made in Israel" are sold particularly to countries ruled by reactionary regimes. The West, moreover, depends on Israel to play the role of middleman, exporting weapons to governments which, for political reasons, do not receive direct military aid from the major imperialist countries.

The greater part of the Israeli military arsenal is sold to South Africa, for the common denomina-

tor of racial discrimination has made natural allies of the two countries. As a result of Vorster's visit to Israel, Tel Aviv began the implementation of an extensive program to arm the racists in South Africa. Six ships equipped with missiles for the South African naval forces are currently under construction at the Haifa docks. About fifty South African military technicians are now studying in Israel to operate these ships. Rhodesia is also a major buyer of weapons from Israel, who has also sold her a license for the manufacture of the Uzi sub-machine gun.

Tel Aviv furthermore used to provide arms to the Portuguese colonists, and to the Biafra rebels during the civil war in Nigeria. Israeli weapons have also been used against the nationalists in Angola.

Commenting on Israeli arms deals with Latin American countries, the

Costa Rican newspaper *Liberatad* indicated that Tel Aviv could not have supplied the Central American states with arms without United States approval. The newspaper affirmed that the Pentagon uses Israel for purposes which the United States does not dare achieve directly. It pointed out that Israel offers to both Honduras and Salvador fighters, transport planes, machine guns and artillery, with the aims of fanning the differences between the two countries and causing them to expand their arms contracts. Tel Aviv now intends to sell weapons to Thailand.

Thus world imperialism expands its use of Israel, strengthening its own arms industry and increasing its indirect exports of weapons to the most backward regimes in the world, while serving its major aim; namely, the maintenance of its Israeli outpost in the Middle East.

□ □

ARAFAT RECEIVES LETTER FROM BREZHNEV

In a letter to Yasser Arafat on January 5, Leonid Brezhnev, Secretary-General of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, expressed his confidence in the final victory of the Palestinian people in their struggle for national independence and the establishment of their independent State. The letter said:

"I thank you deeply for your wishes on my 70th birthday, and I avail myself of this opportunity to reconfirm that our party and the people of the Soviet Union have in the past, and will always, support the struggle of the Arab countries and of the Palestinian people for a just settlement in the Middle East. We are confident that the strong union between the Palestinian Liberation Movement and all progressive forces in the Middle East and in the world, and the strengthening of the Revolution's internal unity, will ensure the ultimate victory of the Palestinian Arab people in their struggle for their legitimate rights.

"I wish you and the Palestinian Arab people further successes in your struggle for national independence and the establishment of an independent state, and in the struggle against imperialist and reactionary conspiracies."

A delegation of officials from the Soviet Embassy in Beirut met with Yasser Arafat and handed him the above letter, which is in reply to the cable Arafat had sent on Brezhnev's 70th birthday.

ITALIAN PRESS CONDEMNS ASSASSINATION OF MAHMOUD SALEH

Italian newspapers appearing on

January 5 described the assassination of Mahmoud Saleh in Paris on January 3 as evidence of the resumption of Zionist terrorism against the militants of the Palestinian Revolution in Europe.

The influential morning paper, *Corriera Della Sera*, wrote that the assassination of Saleh bore the traces of similar assassinations committed by Israeli intelligence agents in Europe. The paper added that this crime is a direct blow to the current efforts for a just solution of the Middle East problem.

Meanwhile, in an article entitled "In Whose Interest is this Terrorism?", the Italian Communist Party paper, *L'Unita*, described the assassination as a continuation of Zionist crimes against Palestinian militants, starting with the assassination of the martyr Wael Zu'aitar in Rome, and reaching its climax the night of the assassination of three Palestinian Resistance leaders in Beirut, Kamal Adwan, Kamal Nasser and Abu Youssef in April 1973. The paper went on to say that this latest terrorist act is an obvious attempt to increase the danger of the situation at a time when the Palestinian Revolution is passing through a critical period in its struggle.

ALGERIAN WRITERS CONDOLE ARAFAT ON DEATH OF MAH- MOUD SALEH

Yasser Arafat, on January 6, received a cable of condolences from the administrative committee of the Algerian Writers' Union on the assassination of the militant Mahmoud Saleh. The cable reads as follows:

"We have heard with deep pain the news of the assassination of the Palestinian militant Mahmoud Saleh, in France. We would like to express our heart-felt condolences

to you, to the Palestinian people, and to all free militants of the world. We strongly condemn such ugly crimes, which Zionism, imperialism and racism are perpetrating. We take this opportunity to reaffirm our stand by your side."

CABLES TO ARAFAT ON 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION

Yasser Arafat received cables of support on the 12th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian Revolution from the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Afro-Asian Peoples, the Eritrean Liberation Front, the Yemeni Democratic Party, the Republic of the Sudan, the people of Sri Lanka, the Ain Jalout Forces of the PLA, and Palestinian teachers in the Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The Soviet cable stressed the stand of the PLO as a leading power in the struggle of the Arab people against imperialism and Israeli aggression; and reaffirmed the Soviet Union's firm stand in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle to establish an independent Palestinian state.

The Eritrean cable expressed hope that the New Year would be full of Palestinian victories; while the Yemeni Democratic Party expressed its hope that the Palestinian Revolution will achieve its rightful goals and aspirations, and stressed the importance of the Palestinian Revolution not only for Palestinian struggle, but for the struggle of the whole Arab Nation. The Palestinian teachers stressed in their cable the role of the Palestinian Revolution in restoring the Palestinian identity, and reiterated the importance of Palestinian independence and self-determination.

ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGES FROM VIETNAMESE AND LAOTIAN LEADERS

Yasser Arafat received two messages from comrade Le-Duan, Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party, thanking Arafat and the Fateh Central Committee for their congratulations on his election as Secretary-General. He also expressed his hope that the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Palestinian and Vietnamese peoples will be developed.

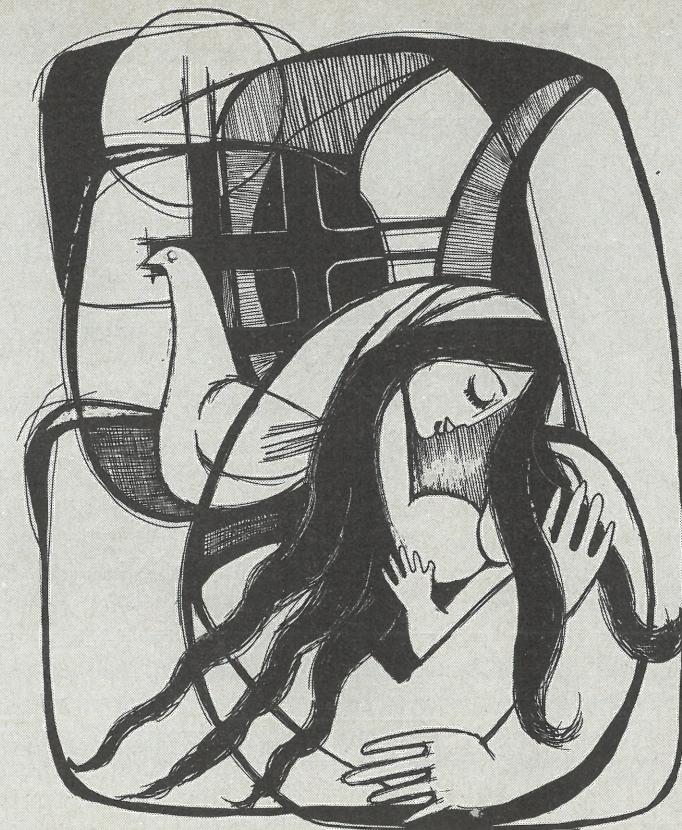
Yasser Arafat also received a letter from comrade Souphanavong, the Chairman of the Central Committee of the National Front in the People's Democratic Republic of Laos, congratulating him on the occasion of the New Year.

A TELEGRAM FROM CAMBODIA TO YASSER ARAFAT

In observance of the twelfth anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution, the following telegram was addressed to Mr. Yasser Arafat from Mr. Kheiu Samphan, President of the Presidium of the State of Democratic Cambodia:

Mr. President,

On behalf of the people and the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, we are very happy to extend to your Excellency and through your Excellency to the friendly and heroic people of Palestine our warmest congratulations on the occasion of the glorious anniversary of their armed struggle against Israeli Zionism. We would like on this occasion to add our best wishes to you for good health, to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian



People for greater success in their just struggle.

Under your leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organization has pursued with determination their armed struggle against the Israeli Zionism. The sacred cause of the Palestinian people to recover their inalienable rights for national independence and sovereignty, for coming back home in their land unlawfully occupied by Israeli receive stronger and stronger support from the peoples and countries in the world especially in the Third World and in the Non-aligned Movement.

Whatever the obstacles to overcome in the future, we are convinced that the Palestinian people educated by their rich experiences of struggle, will regain their sacred national rights and their right to be master of their own destiny.

The people and the Government of Democratic Kampuchea always support the just struggle of the Palestinian people through to their total victory.

We are confident that our friendship and solidarity will be strengthened and developed for the interest of our two peoples

and our great family of the Non-aligned countries.

Highest consideration.
Phnom Penh, December 31, 1976
KHIEU SAMPHAN
President of the Presidium
of the
State of Democratic Kampuchea

CYPRIOT SOCIALIST PARTY SENDS CABLE OF CON- GRATULATIONS

Dr. Vassos Hyssarides, head of the Cypriot Socialist Party (EDEK), on January 4 sent a cable of congratulations to Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian people on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the launching of the Revolution.

The cable read:
"On the occasion of the anniversary of Al-Fateh, and on behalf of EDEK and myself, I convey our warmest comradely greetings confident of final victory for your just cause.

"The gallant struggle of Palestinian fighters inspires all people of

the world and is the biggest catalyst for progressive developments in our era. The peoples of Palestine and Cyprus will never accept the idea of lost fatherlands.

"Both our peoples are struggling against imperialism, Zionism, foreign occupation and reaction. We will never cease our common struggle. The Palestinian people have been the best ambassadors of the Cyprus cause and our people are profoundly grateful. In these difficult hours, you must know that we feel complete identity with you. People who create Tel al-Zaatar will never lose. We stand by you and we shall stand by you till the final victory, till the complete restoration of your inalienable rights. Our struggle is common, our enemy is common, our road to victory will be common. Our minds turn at this moment to the martyrs who fell heroically in the battle, opening the perspectives for victory. Their example will be a permanent reminder of our duty to continue our fight. With all our love and our solidarity, we wish you every success."

HUNGARIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE CONGRATULATES PLO ON REVOLUTION'S 12th ANNIVERSARY

On the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian Revolution, the Hungarian Committee of Solidarity, on January 5, sent a cable of congratulations to the PLO. The cable saluted the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO's leadership, and condemned imperialist attempts to weaken the unity of the Arab liberation movement. It concluded by wishing the Palestinian people further victories in their struggle to establish a democratic Palestinian state under

the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

MOSCOW: A massive popular rally was recently held in Moscow in support of the Palestinian struggle, on its 12th anniversary. In his speech, the Vice-President of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Afro-Asian Peoples reviewed the difficult path followed by the Palestinian people in their struggle against imperialist-Zionist conspiracies to regain their legitimate national rights. He pointed out that the resistance movement has, over 12 years, turned into a major political force in the Middle East, and has become a vanguard faction in the Arab National Liberation Movement. He stressed that the Soviet people have always stood alongside.

The Vice-President of the Soviet Women's Committee also gave a speech, in which she expressed the solidarity of Soviet women with the struggle of Palestinian women. Representatives of a variety of popular and official organizations also participated in the rally.

In related news, on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian Revolution, the Soviet Union reaffirmed, in a *Pravda* article, that a just solution of the Palestine question could only be realized through the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. The article held imperialism, Zionism, and their agents in the Arab area responsible for the explosive situation in the Middle East, and described the Lebanese war as another attempt by the imperialists and Zionists to use Arab

reaction in their efforts to disperse the progressive Arab forces.

BELGIAN SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE WITH PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

A solidarity conference with the struggle of the Palestinian people for independence and freedom began in Brussels on January 19. The conference was organized by the Belgian Association for the Friends of Palestine, as well as the Christian Movement for Peace, the Socialist Youth, and several other Belgian organizations. The Soviet news agency, Tass, has mentioned that the speakers at the conference stressed their stand in support of the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN FINNISH SOLIDARITY WEEK

A Palestinian delegation headed by Adel Wasfi, Political Editor of Wafa and member of the Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists, is participating in the solidarity week with the Palestinian People organized in Helsinki by the Finland Committee for Support and Solidarity.

A Palestinian artistic delegation left Beirut on January 18 for Helsinki to participate in the solidarity week.

SUDAN HOLDS RALLY ON ANNIVERSARY OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

Khartoum, 17/1, Wafa

A massive popular rally was held on January 15 in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, as part of celebrations of the 12th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian Revolution. Thousands of Sudanese citizens, several high officials and ministers, heads of unions and popular organizations, the Premier of Democratic Korea, and several Arab Ambassadors, participated in the rally.

In his speech, the Secretary-General of the Sudanese Socialist Union supported the Palestinian armed struggle and its revolution, headed by Yasser Arafat. The PLO representative in Khartoum also gave a speech. Meanwhile, a Palestinian Film Week is to begin in Khartoum on February 14.

BELGRADE: The newspaper, *Politika* condemned Zionist policies in the occupied Arab territories and added that Israel's isolation has changed her into a heavy burden on the USA. The paper also reaffirmed the stand of the Non-Aligned countries in support of the just rights of the Palestinian people.

CAIRO: Al-Fateh and the Arab Socialist Union in Egypt are to hold a political rally on January 13 at the headquarters of the Socialist Union's Central Committee, in celebration of the twelfth anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian Revolution. Scheduled to speak at this rally are: Sayyed Mar'i, Chairman of the People's Assembly; and Dr. Mustafa Khalil, First Secretary of the Central

Committee, as well as the rapporteurs of the three political parties of Egypt; Lutfi al-Kholi, on behalf of the Arab Front for Participation in the Palestinian Revolution; and Abdel Mon'em al-Sawi, Dean of the Egyptian Journalists. Ribhi 'Awad, Fateh's representative in Egypt will also speak at the rally.

TUNIS: In Tunisia, celebrations of the 12th anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution took place in all parts of the country. Other celebrations on the occasion of Martyrs' Day are expected to go on until the end of January.

CONFERENCE OF WORLD PEACE FORCES ENDS IN MOSCOW

The Conference of World Peace Forces ended its meetings in Moscow on January 17 with an appeal to strengthen the United Nations Organization and to respect its resolutions concerning international security.

In its final session, the Conference elected the Chairman of the World Peace Council, Romesh Chandra, as head of its General Assembly. The major topics discussed by the Conference, which started on January 14, were social progress and the political and economic liberation of the Third World countries, whose progress in these fields is slowed down because of the arms race.

At the opening session, Leonid Brezhnev, Secretary-General of the Soviet Communist Party, made a speech in which he stressed the danger of the nuclear arms race. The Conference also discussed intensively the interests of the Third World nations.

The PLO representative in Mos-

cow later addressed the Conference, explaining the stages of Palestinian struggle to establish a democratic state. He also praised the firm stand of the Soviet Union in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people and of Third World countries.

Meanwhile, the participant delegations stressed the necessity of the participation of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in any talks held on the Middle East problem.

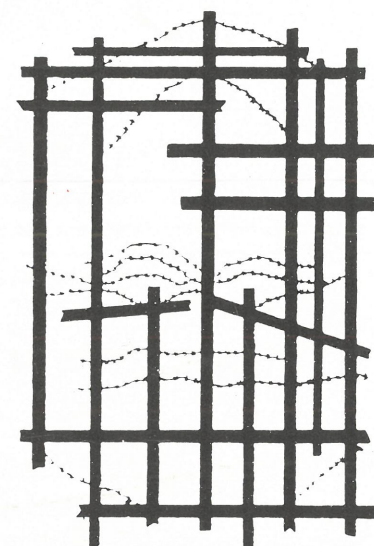




Palestine

P.L.O.
information
bulletin

PER. SEC.
MAR 29 1978
NYPL



**DEMONSTRATIONS
ERUPT AS
DETAINEES'
STRIKE GOES ON**

**THE MIDDLE EAST:
WHO
NEEDS GUARANTEES?**