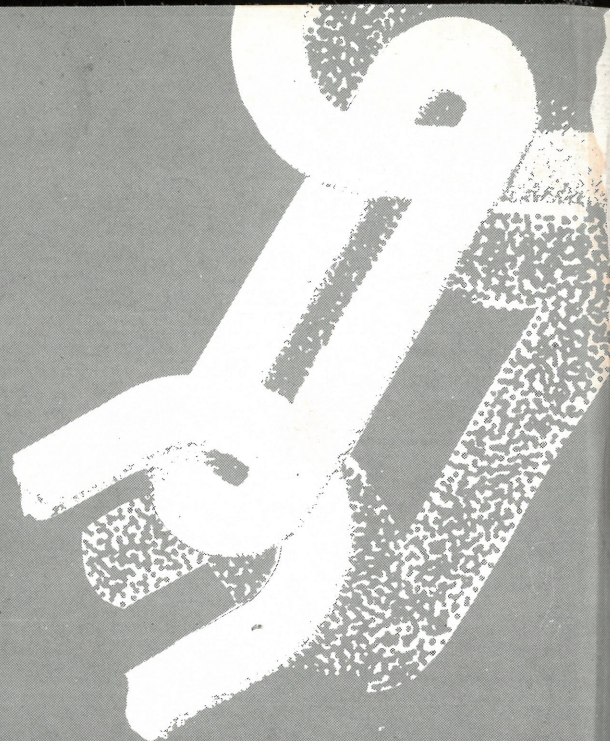


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## EDITORIAL

# THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL : NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

The 13th Conference of the Palestinian National Council will be held as the region passes through a critical phase of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Between this 13th Conference and the 12th, the Palestinian Revolution itself has passed through an extremely critical phase, including the two years of the Lebanese civil war. However, the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Executive Committee, understanding fully the complications of that war against the Palestinian Revolution, foiled the conspiracy. The Council is, moreover, meeting in a period witnessing intense diplomatic activity, and renewed proposals concerning a Middle East settlement.

For this reason, the 13th Conference is committed to define a clear policy for the newly-elected Executive Committee to follow in the coming political era.

It is the duty of the Palestinian National Council to preserve and support the unity among the Palestinian organizations in order that they may be adequately qualified to confront the challenge of a decisive political era, so that the Palestinian people can assume their right to self-determination and their legal rights to live in peace, freedom and independence, like the rest of the world's people.

No doubt the Palestinian National Council will stress again the ten-point program of the 12th Conference (held in Cairo on June 19, 1974), calling for the establishment of an independent state on any part of the liberated occupied territories.

The Palestinian Revolution is fully aware of the American policy to support and maintain the

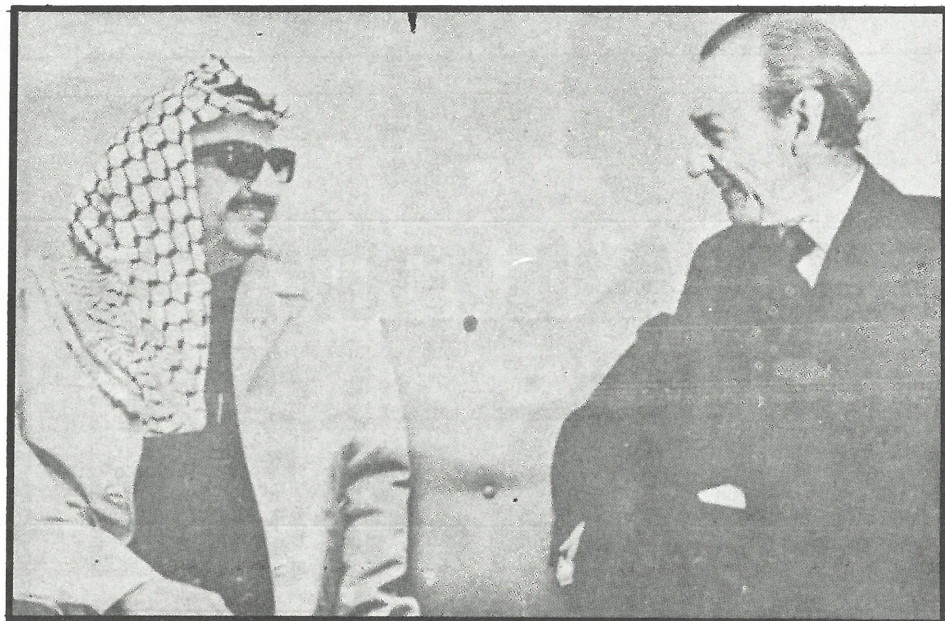
aggressive Zionist enemy, as well as to provide Israel with highly sophisticated weapons in order to perpetrate her belligerency. As Minister of War, Shimon Peres stated, "Now Israel is stronger than all the Arab states together." This clearly shows the American role in altering the balance of power in the Middle East in favour of the Zionist enemy. Israel has made good use of American and imperialist support. Her alleged will for peace is contradicted by her obvious clinging to her aggressive and expansionist policy. This is illustrated by the continuing establishment of new settlements in the occupied Arab territories, and the importation and manufacture of destructive weaponry.

Israel, then, is preparing herself for a new war in order to dictate her terms of "peace." Neither can we disregard the slogans used in the campaigns for the Israeli elections of May 1977 - including "No to PLO," "No to the Palestinian people," "No to a Palestinian state," "No to the Palestinian right to self-determination." All the evidence indicates that no just and durable peace settlement is at hand.

The Palestinian people and their just struggle have become a reality which cannot be ignored in spite of the aggressors' audacity, and in spite of those who fear the granting of Palestinian rights and the Palestinian state.

In this regard, the Palestinian National Council meeting will tackle all current issues, with the flexibility of revolutionaries who are confident in themselves and in the movement of history - those who make their way with steady steps towards victory and a just peace for all peoples.





## THE M.E. PEACE IS NOT AT HAND

Throughout February the Middle East witnessed a high influx of foreign diplomats, anxious to play their part in the search for peace in the area. In the forefront of these was United Nations Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim, whose visit was followed by that of U.S. Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance. A few days later, Mr. Stinko, Head of the Middle East Section at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived in the region in an attempt to activate a Middle East initiative. France was also on the move, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. de Guirngaud arriving in Beirut on 8 February on the first stage of his Middle East tour, while the visits of

the West German Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hans Genscher to Cairo and Damascus, had preceded the other diplomatic missions to the area.

Following the UN General Assembly resolution concerning the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the necessity for Palestinian participation, on an equal footing, in any talks concerning a solution to the Palestinian question, the United Nations requested Dr. Waldheim to undertake a fact-finding mission to the Middle East.

Dr. Waldheim arrived in the Middle East with an optimistic outlook, considering, as he bluntly put it, that circumstances in the Middle East had never been more

favourable for the achievement of a peaceful settlement. During his deliberations with Arab officials in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and with PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, Waldheim noted that the Arabs had a unified stand towards a peace settlement in the area, favouring the resumption of peace talks at the Geneva Conference, but insisting on the invitation of an independent Palestinian delegation to participate in any such talks.

The Palestinian stand concerning discussions with Dr. Waldheim was as follows:

1- We have as yet received no invitation to attend the Geneva Conference. If and when such an invitation is received, a decision will be made.

2- We shall not attend any Geneva Conference held on the basis of General Assembly resolutions 242 and 338.

3- Israel must recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish a state.

Meanwhile, prior to Waldheim's arrival in Israel, the Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yigal Allon, announced in Brussels, where he was holding talks with the European Community delegation on economic affairs, that Israel was not prepared to accord any role to the United Nations in the peace-making process in the area. This arrogant Israeli stand, which constituted a blatant insult of Dr. Waldheim and the United Nations which he represents, clearly reveals the Israeli attitude to United Nations resolutions; at the same time, American support of such intentions is illustrated in Allon's statement, "We will follow the United States' approach, and nothing else."

In order to avoid further complications, Dr. Waldheim stressed the fact that he was not a mediator, but merely carrying out an exploratory mission. Despite such set-backs, Dr. Waldheim did his best to improve the possibilities for an early resumption of peace talks. While greatly appreciating

the Arabs' moderate stand and their real desire for peace, Dr. Waldheim was also seriously disappointed by the Israeli stand which illustrated a complete lack of respect of even the most elementary rules governing the protocol of the occasion. Dr. Waldheim did not, perhaps, achieve much success in his missions, but he did pave the way for the visit of American Secretary of State, Mr. Vance.

Mr. Vance, like his predecessor Dr. Kissinger, arrived with vague assurances for the Arabs. His visit was preceded by the following events:

1. The deportation of Sabri Jiryis, Head of the PLO Information Office in Washington. This move, which represents a serious blow to moderate Americans who are aware that there can be no peaceful settlement in the Middle East if the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are neglected, also illustrates the extent of the influence of the Zionist lobby on the American Administration, and

how arrogantly American Zionists attempt to determine American foreign policy in favour of a foreign state, "Israel."

2. The American Administration increased its financial aid to Israel for the current fiscal year to 1,785 million dollars.

3. Zionist circles in the United States continued to press for the delivery of concussion bombs to Israel, following up on a promise made by President Ford towards the end of his term in office. The Zionists are exerting these further pressures on the American Administration for additional aid to Israel, so that the latter may preserve its aggressive role, and continue to thwart any chances of a just peace in the Middle East.

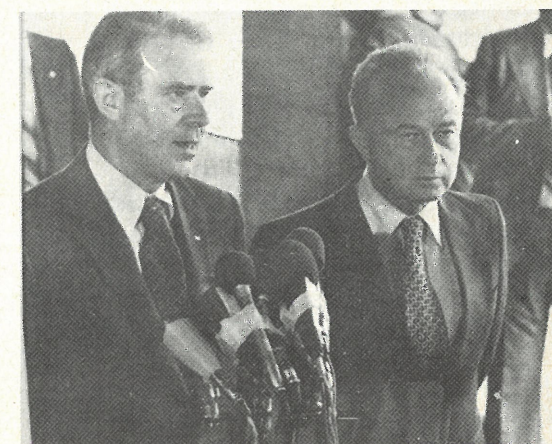
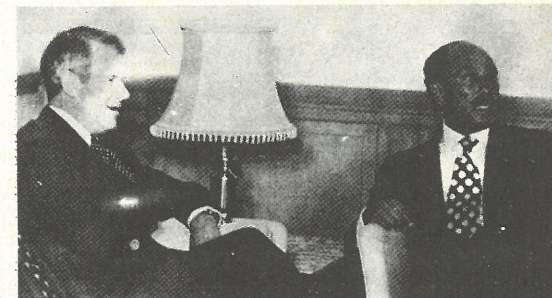
Mr. Vance met with Arab officials in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. To Egypt and Lebanon, he promised economic aid in order to help them confront their respective economic crises, which in Egypt followed in the wake of signing of the Sinai Agreement, and in Leba-

non had resulted from the two-year civil war. Although President Sadat of Egypt declared that ninety-nine percent of the peace cards were in the hands of the United States, Vance said in Tel-Aviv that there were no major differences between the American and the Israeli stands. This clearly illustrates the United States' reluctance to exert any pressure on Israel, and implies that the controversy about financial aid to the Arabs is but an attempt to divert the Arab masses from their national problems regarding the total withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Arab territories occupied since June, 1967, and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Last January, the West German Foreign Minister paid visits to Egypt and Syria during which he expressed his country's readiness to contribute to development and construction projects. Mr. Genscher's visit can be interpreted as follows:



Cyrus Vance with Kurt Waldheim



Cyrus Vance: new messenger of an old policy





Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry representative, Mr. Setenko (left) in discussion with Lebanese President, Elias Sarkis (right)

1- It expressed Western European interests in the Middle East. Mr. Genscher promised economic aid to both Egypt and Syria, and was moreover accompanied on his visit by a number of West German businessmen.

2- Genscher stressed the conservative Western European stand, and declared that his country was not ready to participate in the Geneva Conference on the Middle East if invited. He affirmed that his country will not support any European initiative independent of the United States. This same German attitude was already apparent prior to the signing of the Sinai agreement in September 1975 in the German policy of leaving political initiatives in the hands of the U.S.A.

3- Genscher expressed his country's acceptance of a Palestinian presence at a Geneva Conference re-convened on the basis of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338.

4- Like all E.E.C. member-countries, West Germany is ready to contribute to peace in the Middle East, and safeguard Middle Eastern states' security, integrity and independence through offering guarantees to the countries concerned.

Confirming French interests in the Middle East, the visit of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. de Guiringaud took place at the same time as Arab-European

dialogue was underway in Tunisia. Mr. de Guiringaud expressed his country's concern for the achievement of a peace settlement in the Middle East. During his meetings with Arab officials, he re-affirmed the French stand which calls for total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, and safeguarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and statehood. France is ready to participate in a re-convened Geneva Conference and to offer guarantees. Mr. de Guiringaud was in fact intent on bringing the Arab attitude towards a Middle East peace settlement more in line with the French attitude and away from the American approach.

Mr. de Guiringaud did not visit Israel because of disagreement on the following points in the approach to peace:



French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Louis de Guiringaud

1- France insists upon total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, while Israel continues to establish additional settlements and demands partial territorial concessions.

2- France is prepared to participate in the Geneva Conference and to offer guarantees, while Israel refuses the principle of guarantees and insists upon "secure borders."

3- France sees that no peace settlement can be implemented in the Middle East without recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Israel has refused recognition of these rights and considers that there is no place for the PLO in peace talks, and no room for a Palestinian state.

Mr. Stinko, Head of the Middle East Section at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on his recent visit to the Middle East, declared his government's attitude on the following points:

1- The Geneva Conference must be resumed as soon as possible with the participation of the PLO as an independent delegation representing the Palestinian people.

2- The need to establish a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

3- Total Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since June 1967.

As the Soviet Union is Co-Chairman of the Geneva Conference, Mr. Stinko's fact-finding

mission to the area was an attempt to accelerate the resumption of the Geneva Conference in order to ensure that the Soviet Union play a role in achieving a peace settlement not leaving the initiative in the hands of the United States.

Israel, for its part, sees the danger in discussions about peace because it is unwilling to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories or recognize the PLO and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. Israel continues to rely on American support in order to obtain additional military and economic aid, and arrogantly raised the question of concussion bombs while Arab leaders and foreign diplomats talked about peace. Israel is fully aware that peace means withdrawal from the

occupied territories, the limitation of its borders and its military machine, and ultimately the eruption of party conflicts.

The recent Labour Party elections returned Rabin as leader of the Party, which means that Israel will maintain its previous recalcitrant attitude towards peace talks, and continue its buying-time policy and its determination to assign the United States the major role in future peace talks.

It has become apparent that the world now recognizes the importance of reaching a peace settlement in the Middle East. Within this context it is important to emphasize that such a settlement cannot be implemented through ignoring the legitimate national

rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right to self-determination and statehood. Israel is determined to obtain further concessions and to maintain arrogant attitude towards the Arab countries, depending on the support of its principal ally, the United States of America, and continuing to endanger the security of the Middle East and that of the world as a whole. It is now the turn of Israel to take one step forward and announce its readiness to recognize the PLO as sole representative of the Palestinian people, and at last to stop talking about peace while it prepares itself for another war.



Vance talks with Israeli leaders: new words, old tunes





#### ARAFAT MEETS SADAT

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, on February 14 met with Egyptian President Muhammad Anwar Sadat for two hours, and discussed the current situation from all angles in light of the strategic coordination between Egypt and the PLO.

During the meeting, President Sadat confirmed to Arafat that there is no neglect of the Palestinian cause and that Palestine and peace are one and the same. He added that neither the Sinai nor the Golan Heights, but rather the Palestine issue is the essence of the Middle East problem.

Arafat also met with Egyptian Premier Mahmoud Salem and Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi, who declared that the discussion during the meeting dealt with the latest developments of the Arab situation and added that this meeting comes in the framework of uniting stands between Egypt and the PLO.

Accompanying Arafat during his meetings were PLO official spokesman Abdul Muhsin Abu Maizar, and Mr. Ribhi Awad, the Fateh representative in Egypt.

#### ABDEL JAWAD SALEH HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN ROME ON ISSUE OF DETAINEES

During a press conference held in Rome on February 17, PLO Executive Committee member, Abdel Jawad Saleh called upon world public opinion to work in defence of Palestinian citizens unjustly detained in Israeli prisons, and to support the struggle of the Palestinian people for national liberation and the establishment of their independent state. He added that Palestinian detainees are subjected to ill-treatment and are in critical health conditions.

According to information gathered by the International Red Cross, he said, there are currently some 3,000 Palestinian political prisoners in Zionist jails. In addition, the occupation authorities have stormed and blown up the homes of countless Palestinians accused of contacts with the PLO. Some 80 adolescents have been arrested during the latest uprising in the West Bank.



#### ABU JIHAD: REVOLUTION SHOULD PREPARE ITSELF FOR EVENTUAL CONSPIRACIES

At the inauguration of a training session for officers on 1 March, Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee, delivered a speech pointing first to the

repeated conspiracies aimed at silencing the Palestinian people, but from which they "always emerged stronger and with a firmer will."

Referring to the past 20 months in the Lebanese arena, he described them as the most difficult period over faced by the Revolution. But he reiterated that the steadfastness of the Palestinian militants, their will, and their unity with the Lebanese National Movement have helped the Revolution pass through this long and difficult phase.

Abu Jihad affirmed that as long as the Palestinian Revolution raises the slogan of armed struggle, it will be subject to new conspiracies. He stressed that all plots will be foiled thanks to the Palestinians' firm will and their belief in the Revolution, concluding that "military potential should be reinforced, and the Revolution's forces increased, trained and organized on the basis of a clear revolutionary line."

#### ABU LUTF MEETS DE GUIRINGAUD IN CAIRO

Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department, on 22 February met with French Foreign Minister, Louis De Guiringaud in Cairo.

The meeting dealt with Palestinian-French relations, the latest developments of the Middle East crisis on the international level, as well as with the results of the recent visit of UN Secretary General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim to the region.

The French Foreign Minister the previous day declared that the Palestinians have the right to a state like other peoples in the world. He added that it was natural that the Palestinians should participate in any negotiations

concerning peace in the Middle East, and that the basic mission of these negotiations should be the way in which the Palestinian people will achieve their legitimate rights.

De Guiringaud also stressed the necessity of an international solution of the Palestine question that deals with the problem from all angles.

He concluded by recalling that France was the first European country to consider the Palestinian problem as the heart of the Middle East crisis, and that this crisis could not possibly be solved without a just solution to the Palestinian problem.



#### PALESTINIAN-ALGERIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The PLO Official Spokesman, Executive Committee member Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar, payed a visit to the Algerian Popular Democratic Republic on 19-20 February, 1977, and was received by Algerian President Houari Boumedienne in the presence of the PLO representative in Algeria.

Abu Maizar, who delivered a letter to President Boumedienne from Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, explained to President Boumedienne the PLO stand with regard to the

latest developments of the Palestinian and the Middle East problems on the Arab and international levels. He also gave a detailed description of the conditions through which the Palestinian Revolution is at present passing.

Abu Maizar was also received by Muhammad al-Sharif Musa'diya at the head quarters of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party, and exchanged views with him concerning the Arab cause in general and the Palestinian cause in particular. The discussion took place in a friendly atmosphere, and was attended by the member of the Central Committee in charge of Liberation Movements, Jalloul al-Malaika; Muhammad Kasouri, member of the Central Committee and in charge of Foreign Relations, as well as the PLO representative in Algeria. The views of the two parties proved to coincide totally, confirming the deep-rooted relations that link the Palestinian people and Revolution to the Algerian people and Revolution.

The two parties affirmed their belief that the Palestinian cause is at the heart of the so-called Middle East crisis, and that peace in the region can only be brought about through the achievement of all the national rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, Palestine -- as specified in UN General Assembly Resolution 3236 -- particularly their right to return to their homeland, and to self-determination, sovereignty and independence on their national soil. The two parties affirmed their rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 242, which ignores the national rights of the Palestinian people in their land, Palestine, and does not provide a just and acceptable basis for the solution of the Palestinian problem, which is the heart of the Arab-Zionist struggle in the Middle East.

Moreover, the two parties affirmed that the protection of the Palestinian Revolution and the defence of its right of action and movement, as well as the provision

of financial, military, political and informational support to accelerate its struggle and achieve its just goals, were duties imposed by national responsibility at the popular and official levels on all Arab countries, particularly the confrontation countries.

The Palestinian and Algerian sides called upon all Arab officials to bear their historic national responsibilities, and on the Arab nation to escalate its struggle in order to protect the victories of the Palestinian Revolution. They called as well for increased consciousness and alertness to foil all imperialist-Zionist projects against the Palestinian Revolution and the Arab national liberation movement.

The Algerian side affirmed its firm stand in support of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, wherever they happen to be located.

The two parties stressed their belief in the Arabism of Jerusalem, considering the responsibility of its liberation an Arab and Islamic national responsibility, as well as an indisputable right.

The Algerian and Palestinian parties condemned the dangerous violations practiced by the isolationist forces with the support of the Zionist enemy in South Lebanon, affirmed the necessity of putting an end to them, and declared their attachment to the rights and privileges of the Palestinian Revolution in the Lebanese theater, within the limits of the Cairo agreement and its annexes. At the same time, the two parties also affirmed their concern for the independence, Arabism and unity of Lebanon, and declared their rejection of any unilateral modification of the Cairo agreement.

The two parties condemned the previous and current American policy, which is based on supporting the Zionist enemy, its occupation, violations and racist practices, as well as the USA's continued ignoring of the existence of the Palestinian people and their national rights.



The two parties affirmed their determination to confront all imperialist and Zionist projects which aim at limiting the achievements of the Arab liberation movement and those of the Palestinian Revolution, particularly at the Cairo and Riyadh summit conferences and at the UN.

The two sides also condemned the racist aggressive alliance between Israel, Pretoria and Salisbury, and affirmed their absolute support of all national liberation movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as of Afro-Arab solidarity.

The Palestinian side expressed its appreciation of the firm stand of the Revolution, people, party, Cabinet and President of the Algerian Democratic Popular Republic in support of the PLO, its leadership and for the struggle of the Palestinian people. At the same time, the Palestinian side saluted the Algerian role in the Arab and international liberation movements.

The two sides agreed to continue consulting each other in order to strengthen their stands and efforts to support Arab solidarity on the basis of supporting the Palestinian Revolution, and continuing the Arab struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and regain all the national rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to return and establish their independent state on their national soil, in accordance with the resolutions of the Riyadh and Cairo summit conferences.



OPEC: search for co-operation

## SEARCH FOR PEACE OR STRATEGY OF AGGRESSION

### United States Greed for Arab Oil

*The London stock-market witnessed a boom, and U.S. President Carter expressed his "pleasure," while his Secretary of State hailed the "courageous" decision, when, at the meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) late last December, Saudi Arabia, the organisation's largest producer, announced that it would limit the rise of its export prices to only 5 percent, instead of the 10 percent agreed upon by the majority of the organisation. Moreover, Saudi Arabia announced that it would even increase its daily output of about eight million barrels per day to about 10 million, in order to meet increased demand from, above all, the U.S.A. However, the relief in Western headquarters, where the expectation of a higher increase in oil prices had been accompanied by continued concern about the slim prospects for an economic recovery, was not a healthy one. In general, it was understood that the Saudi Arabian gift meant only a brief respite for the U.S., grappling with the intricate difficulties confronting its Middle East, as well as its energy policy.*



### HEADING FOR ANOTHER ENERGY CRISIS

The Western world is heading for another and even worse oil and energy crisis. U.S. policy seems to deliberately aggravate the explosive situation in the Middle East, while all signs point to confrontation, conflict and war rather than peace.

Oil, the largest single source of energy, meets 45 percent of the world's energy requirements. On the basis of proven reserves, the world would, at the 1975 rate of consumption, run out of oil in forty-four years. In 1975, however, consumption was relatively low, due to the economic recession. Meanwhile, oil consumption in the West is on the rise, growing by 5 percent in 1976, and expected to continue to rise by 4 - 5 percent per year during the next years. Thus the rate of depletion exceeds by far expected growth of reserves. Various studies and forecasts in Western energy headquarters agree that, on the basis of the present data, demand for petrol will soon exceed production, with a profound and overall shortage emerging at the latest in the mid-eighties. The "International Herald Tribune" (17 January, 1977) summarized the conclusions of all serious studies: "Within ten to fifteen years, in the absence of massive new oil discoveries, hydrocarbon production is bound to decline. As of now, nothing is in sight that would fill the energy gap of nearly every importing country in the world."

As a matter of fact, all the hopeful goals set in the development of alternative energy sources after the first oil-"shock" of the embargo in 1973-74, turned out to be unattainable in the foreseeable future. The problems of the nuclear energy alternative, with its incalculable risks for environment and humanity, are far from being

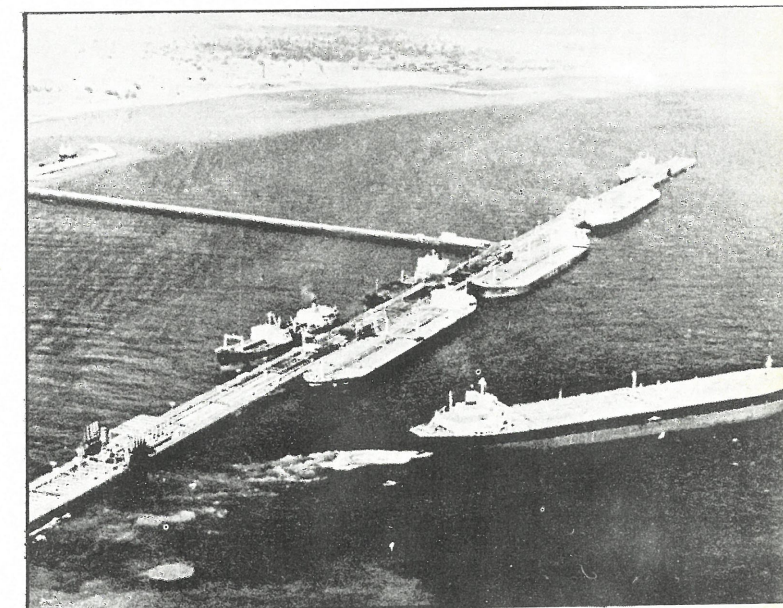
solved, and all the industrial nations are at the moment rather curbing their nuclear energy programs. The sources have so far proved unworkable because of low output and high costs, or their development has not been seriously pressed. Coal alone is not sufficient to replace petrol.

### U.S. FRANTIC WASTE

However, the main culprit for this alarming development is undoubtedly the Western capitalist economic system with its center in the United States. Based on the greed for profits from an increasingly absurd chaos of wasteful production and consumption, it robs, after it has nearly exhausted its own natural resources, the petrol resources of the world, as if they were unlimited, and as if they existed solely for its own use. With 6 percent of the world's population, the U.S.A. presently accounts for 30 percent of the world's total energy consumption. U.S. per capita consumption is five times the world average, and two-and-a-half times that of even the highly industrialized nations in Western Europe.

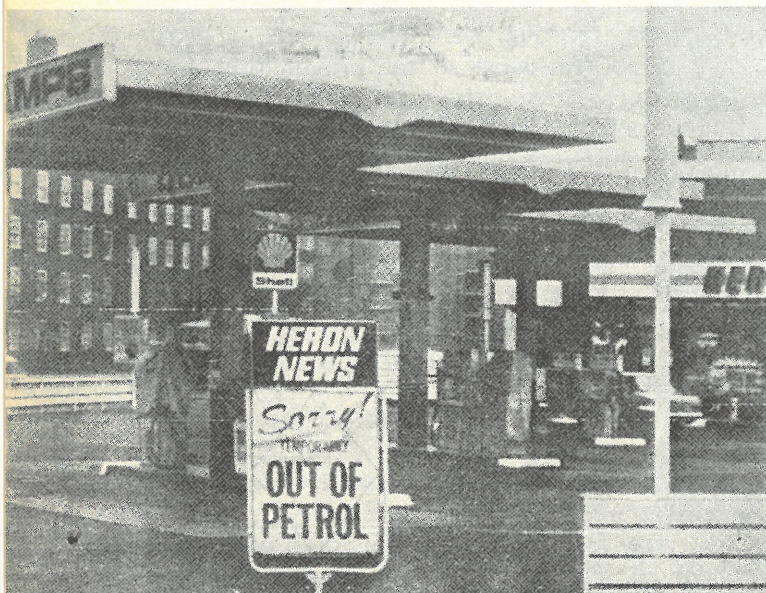
Gone are the times when U.S. Presidents Nixon and Ford boastfully proclaimed their pretentious programs for saving energy, developing alternative sources and making the United States once again self-reliant in its energy supplies. Quite on the contrary, today the United States relies more than ever on its arrogant exploitation of foreign resources, and increasingly on oil imports from the Middle East.

The U.S.A., which in the early fifties still met its energy needs completely from its own resources, imported in 1972 -- before the emerging



Increased Saudia Arabian production...





Heading for another -- and worse -- energy crisis

oil and energy crisis -- 29 percent of its oil needs, though it was still the world's largest oil producer. But in 1976, after the oil-"shock" and all the proclamations for energy-saving and independence, 42 percent of U.S. oil consumption came from imports (a rise of 28 percent in 1976 alone), and in January, 1977, the import rate reached the record level of 50 percent ("International Herald Tribune," 9 and 21 January, 1977).

#### The Grab for the Middle East

The relentless expansion of U.S. oil consumption and imports -- in full view of, and in spite of, the rapidly approaching oil crisis threatening the whole non-socialist world -- is inseparably linked with the U.S.A.'s Middle East policy. Over 55 percent of the whole world's known, proven oil reserves are situated in the Middle East, including Iran, and it is only in the Arab Gulf area -- and especially in Saudi Arabia -- that oil production capacities can still be quickly expanded.

U.S. shipments from the Arab Gulf went up by 85 percent from 1973 to 1976, and now make up more than half of total U.S. oil imports, while still tending to rapidly increase. Saudi Arabia, which in 1970 delivered only 42,000 barrels per day to the U.S.A., had increased this figure more than ten-fold by 1974, and is now delivering as much as 1,125,000 barrels per day.

Obviously, such concentrated demand on rapidly shrinking supplies is bound to provoke soaring prices for the precious black gold. It is sheer hypocrisy, when U.S. leaders lament high oil prices. Moreover, the quick depletion of these resources is totally contrary to the national interests in the area. The Arab countries are not pre-

pared to absorb and use reasonably the flood of petro-dollars; they must be much more concerned with the continuous long-range use of their resources. Saudi Arabia is now producing two or three times more than it needs to get all the revenue it can presently use for its own hastened development. ("Le Monde," 24 January, 1977).

To feed its short-sighted and egoistic greed for Arab oil, the U.S.A. is using the whole arsenal of its aggressive Middle East politics.

Some ten thousand U.S. personnel from government agencies and private companies are at work in the Gulf, where they manage key positions in oil production and in other industrial, banking, construction, and administrative sectors, build military bases and equip, train and sometimes even maintain the armed forces.

The United States is boosting by all available means its exports to the area (1974 alone saw an 80 percent increase), trying to monopolize the markets in order to get the "petrol-dollars" back quickly. Increasingly, national Arab authorities and business are complaining about the wastefulness of U.S.-sponsored "development" projects and the usurious excesses of their prices, which instigate local inflation.

U.S. banks now manage to channel nearly half of all remaining OPEC monetary surpluses back as capital for the U.S. Treasury, banks and corporations, while, at the same time, non-oil-producing developing countries and even Western Europe are facing increasing deficits in their balance of payments, and shortages of capital.

Furthermore, the U.S. uses all kinds of military and economic threats to maintain -- against the market forces it has itself provoked -- the oil prices at a relatively low level. It threatens to seize Arab deposits in the West in response to "economic warfare" and accuses the Arabs of "strangulation," hinting even a military intervention, while in fact it is the United States which is strangling the Arab as well as the whole "Third" world. Above all, it is the aggressive military potential of Israel, the U.S. watch-dog in the area, which the U.S. continually uses to blackmail the Arab states and to tame their national political and economic interests. Western observers noted for instance, that it was mainly the concern that the new Carter administration might take an even more pro-Israeli attitude which prompted Saudi Arabia last December to hold the oil prices down, and even to increase its oil production in favour of the United States.

#### POLICY OF DEADLOCK AND WAR

This special U.S. mixture of imperialist energy policy and Middle East "peace" policy, this ag-

gressive strategy of playing Israel off against the Arab world, explains why, after all, the U.S.A. might indeed not be so interested in real peace in the area. However, this power game, though it may go on for another year or two, is so full of contradictions, and is bound to aggravate so rapidly all the conflicts, that it will, if continued, turn before long the Gulf region into a gulf of war. And this war may easily spread around the world:

*First, the U.S. rush for Arab oil must lead to an even more accelerated depletion of the world oil resources, even more relentless competition and, eventually, to an even sharper overall explosion of prices, with a subsequent deep crisis of the Western economy. It will sharpen the antagonism between the U.S.A. and the Western European countries which themselves have long depended heavily on Middle East oil economy. Western European energy officials have already started to criticize violently the United States for its relentless waste, its artificially cheap energy prices, its one-sided hoarding of petro-dollars and its complete lack of any even medium-range energy strategy. Likewise, confrontation with the non-oil-producing developing countries is growing rapidly. These countries cannot possibly compete with the aggressive U.S. oil and capital strategy; they lack both oil and oil-dollars, with their balance-of-payments deficits soaring (increase by about \$100 billion during the last four years). The U.S. race for Arab oil confronts also the*

*other OPEC countries, especially Iran, which cannot tolerate a forced, rapid depletion of its very limited oil resources at relatively low prices.*

*Secondly, no Arab national regime can or will tolerate for long the present U.S. strategy of penetration and exploitation of Arab resources, Arab business, Arab administrations and Arab military forces. The Arab people will not submit to a game in which the United States tries at the same time to a) rob and swiftly deplete limited national resources; b) hold oil prices artificially low; c) cheat Arab business with ostentatious projects and prices; d) exploit Arab deposits; and e) arm, support and deploy the Zionist occupation, aggression and blackmail against the just aspirations of the Palestinian people and the whole Arab nation.*

#### DEADLINE

It should be obvious that the latest Saudi decision last December to keep oil prices down and even to increase production, can offer only a short-lived respite, and one which may well represent a last chance for the United States to change its strategy.

The U.S. magazine "Time" (24 January 1977) commented bluntly: "By increasing production, Saudi Arabia is taking a gamble that violates one of its most precious principles." As recently as November, King Khaled of Saudi Arabia, in an interview with the U.S. magazine "Newsweek"



... a deadline for the U.S.A.



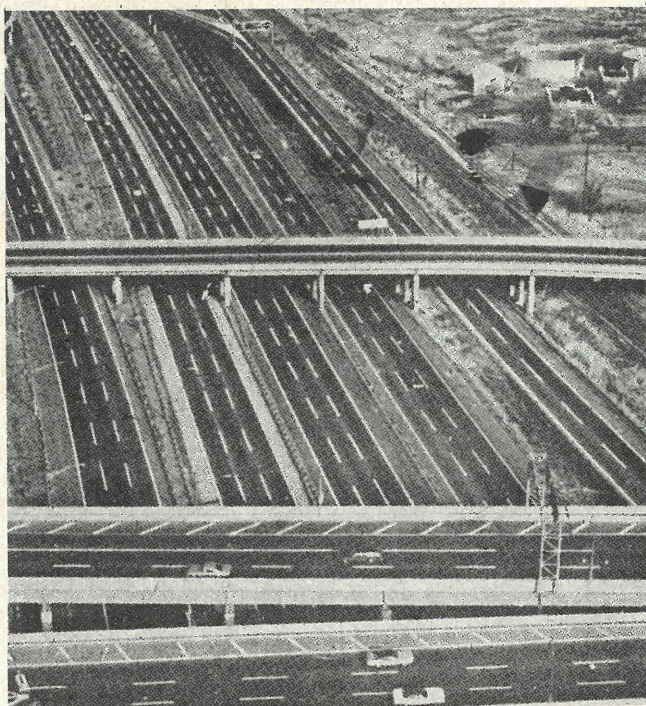
(22 November, 1976), had himself called strongly for the West to conserve energy and to control inflation, and stated: "Increasing production to stabilize prices would be the most damaging thing that could happen to humanity." Saudi Arabia has, in the meantime, in fact increased its oil production as an obvious favour to the United States, but it has made it clear that this arrangement cannot possibly go on for long, and that it expects U.S. "appreciation to be shown on two different fronts -- number one, the North-South dialogue in Paris, and number two, the Arab-Israeli conflict. There must be real peace in the area." ("Guardian", 18 December 1976).

In Paris, in the on-going "Conference on International Economic Cooperation", the Arab states along with the "Third World" countries have long been calling for comprehensive agreements for a multilateral energy strategy:

- to eliminate oil and other energy waste in the developed countries, in particular the United States. It is estimated that the United States alone could save about 50 percent of its energy use, thus at once relaxing the whole energy crisis.

- to develop rapidly hydro-electric, coal and solar energy sources schemes, especially for the developing countries.

- to shift energy-intensive and hydro-carbon-based industries from the developed countries to the OPEC countries, where much natural gas is still available alongside the oilfields, but is flared off and goes to waste at present.



U.S. greed for profits and frantic waste

— to solve the balance-of-payments and capital deficits of the non-oil-producing developing countries on a multilateral collective level. In fact, such a strategy curbing U.S. monopolies is the only way out of the narrowing deadlock.

#### ONLY ALTERNATIVE: PEACEFUL COOPERATION OF MUTUAL INTERESTS WITH THE ARAB WORLD

But of course, such a strategy, an alternative to aggression and war, would need voluntary and indeed peaceful cooperation on the basis of equal and mutual interests between the Arab world and the United States.

Necessarily, it would include and even presuppose real peace in the Middle East. Obviously, it would mean that the United States must first of all stop all methods of military pressure and blackmail, and all support for the Zionist aggression and occupation. It would mean, in fact, that the U.S.A. would have to recognize, and to work for the realization of, the full national rights of the Palestinian people, the core of all Middle East problems, including the right for ending Zionist occupation, undoing all illegal expulsion and re-establishing an independent national identity and authority.

#### No Signs for Peace.

If the U.S.A. cannot change very quickly its imperialist policy of waste, exploitation, blackmail and aggression, this policy will, in the course of its inner laws, force it always to escalate further the confrontation and aggression, in order to keep its grip on the Arab resources; it will finally lead to military explosions which will confront not only the Zionist U.S. watch-dog, Israel, but eventually the U.S.A. themselves with the whole Arab world.

So far, there are no signs at all that the U.S.A. is really prepared to abandon the time-buying game of power-play, and vote for a change towards peace.

At the Paris North-South Conference, all progress has been blocked by the U.S.A. and its closest ally, West Germany.

To tackle the energy problems, President Carter has appointed none other than James Schlesinger, an imperialist hawk and arch-Zionist.

In the Middle East, the U.S.A. continues to increase its material and political support for the Zionist aggression. Above all, the U.S.A. refuses still to grasp the key for peace, that is the recognition of all rights of the Palestinian people, and of its only authentic representative, the PLO.



## ARAFAT AT THE AFRO~ARAB SUMMIT

**\* THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE STRUGGLE FOR A JUST POLITICAL SOLUTION WHICH WILL NOT BE AT THEIR EXPENSE.**

**\* WHOEVER THINKS THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ALONE WILL PAY THE PRICE FOR THE OCCUPATION OF THEIR LAND AND THE DENIAL OF THEIR RIGHTS IS MISTAKEN**

Speaking at the second session of the First Afro-Asia Summit Conference on 7 March, Yasser

Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, warned against the dangers of the continuation of the Zionist occupation of Palestine, and the continued denial of the rights of the Palestinian people. The full text of the speech follows:

"It gives me pleasure to begin by transmitting to you in the name of the Palestinian Arab people, inside and outside their occupied land, and in the name of

their Revolution and of all militants for liberty, the warmest greetings to your fraternal, militant peoples who, through their long and arduous struggle, have succeeded in winning the freedom and independence of their countries, and in regaining for the green continent its role in deciding the fate of man along the path of freedom, justice and peace.

"History has witnessed the ties of brotherhood, proximity, common interests and destiny which link the Arab nation and the peoples of Africa; and it is a great honour that it has chosen our Palestinian Arab homeland as the gateway between Africa and Asia, and the bridge connecting the oldest civilizations, the most lofty religious messages, and the most deeply-rooted cultures.

"Every one of you knows that traditional European colonialism, from which we have suffered and continue to suffer, and which both we and you have struggled against, took our Palestinian homeland as its objective, expelled our people by force of arms, and put in their place the aggressive foreigner, in order to close that gateway and destroy that bridge, and to establish on our sacred land a dangerous racist colonialist entity. Surely you remember that some of the African countries were the targets of Zionist-racist settler colonialism, where they intended to establish their own state and institutions long before they revealed their intention to establish a state in our homeland, Palestine.

"The Palestinian Revolution, however, which was launched to lift the yoke of oppression under which our people suffered, has always been faithful to the historical role of our homeland as a gateway and a bridge between Africa and Asia. Out of its continuous struggle, it fashioned a militant bridge bringing together the Arab national and the African continent on the basis of joint struggle against imperialism, colonialism, Zionism and racism. The membership of Palestine in the Arab League, and





its acceptance as an observer in the Organization of African states, are reflections of the profound understanding on the part of both the Arabs and the Africans of the role of Palestine and the Palestinians in Afro-Arab solidarity, and phase of the history of Africa and the Arabs.

"As we meet here today at this high level and at this important stage of history, we stress to the whole world that what unites us is stronger than all attempts to separate us. We prove that our will is stronger than the will of colonialism and Zionism, and we give a practical indication that the current of history is always moving forwards, smashing in its path all conspiracies to perpetuate discrimination, and all policies which vainly attempt to halt its march.

"We meet today as part of a joint struggle against all types of colonialism, both new and old, against all its racist settler forms, and against all its overt and covert methods, for the sake of the liberation of what has not yet been liberated of our homelands, and so as to consolidate the independence of those of our countries which have gained their independence. We meet today for the sake of liberating man from racist ideologies and the hateful practice of racial discrimination, as represented in the unholy alliance between Pretoria, Salisbury and Tel Aviv.

"The battle of development is the battle of the age against the monopolies, oppression, and sub-

jugation which have for many years dominated our countries against economic and social coercion, and against the robbery by imperialism of our national wealth. It is a battle for the development of our peoples' resources within the framework of joint co-operation, and in order to build a better future for us and for the coming generations, out of our joint and genuine commitment to propagate the message of peace based on justice, and to overcome the policy of aggressive wars and trading in the blood of the peoples.

"Therefore, from my position as a committed Arab revolutionary, I declare that all of you are witnesses that our Palestinian people inside and outside Palestine, who have picked up the gun and chosen the path of armed struggle for liberation, have always supported, and still support, all serious and constructive efforts to find a just political solution which will not be at the expense of our people and their national and patriotic rights.

"All of you are witnesses to the fact that over the past three years, the Palestine Liberation Organization has made all possible attempts, and employed all the energies at its disposal, in cooperation with its Arab and African brothers, to search for an honourable solution which will ensure such a just peace in this region.

"The resolutions of the United Nations -- especially the latest of them -- approved by the General Assembly in 1974, 1975 and 1976, were passed with your support, and thanks to your clear stand by the side of right and justice. You, and all peoples who love justice, freedom and peace are witnesses to the fact that it is Israel in its capacity as a bridge for colonialism, imperialism and monopoly, and as a gendarme for their interests in the region, which stands against right, justice and peace.

"As for the present, the Israelis still carry on their oppressive

measures inside occupied Palestine, Judaizing large areas of land, damaging Islamic and Christian holy places and arresting thousands of Palestinian citizens.

"Meanwhile, in South Lebanon, the Zionists still carry on their aggressions against Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps, through heavy shelling, using a local cover to obscure their criminal acts of expulsion of peaceful inhabitants, as well as creating a dangerous and tense situation in that area, and preventing the march of peace in our beloved Lebanon.

"Honourable brothers,

With your struggle, your victories and your achievement of independence, you have shifted the international balance of power since 1948, at a time when the states of the imperialist camp dominated the United Nations, which approved the establishment of the state of Israel on the soil of our homeland, Palestine, and in doing so expelled our Palestinian people, making them the prey of poverty, hunger, aggression and dispersion.

"Israel, which was created by decision of the United Nations, today tries to denigrate this international organization, to distort its image, to mock its decisions, and to destroy it. What is the reason for this? It is that this international organization, as embodied in the UN General Assembly, represents the contemporary international community, whose conscience you have awakened through your struggle. Your presence in this international body said yes to the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to return to their homes and property; and yes to their right to independence, sovereignty and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

"I take the opportunity of this historical Afro-Arab meeting to repeat what I said to Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, during our recent meeting in Damascus, so that the

entire world may hear before it is too late. I told him:

"For thirty years, our Palestinian people have dearly paid the price of the occupation of their homeland, their expulsion from it, and the denial of their inalienable national rights. Anyone who believes that our people alone will pay the price if the occupation of their homeland and the denial of their rights continues is sorely deceived."

"From my position as a committed African revolutionary I speak to the Arab national and say: 'The security of Africa is our security; the prosperity of Africa is our prosperity; and it is our duty to offer all kinds of support and assistance to this heroic continent, which today stands bravely fighting the last bastions of racist colonialism and imperialist hegemony to achieve complete victory through liberation of every inch of its soil, believing that the victory of Africa is the victory of the Arabs, just as the victory of the Arabs is the victory of Africa.'

"And as your struggle and the struggle of the peoples of the whole world have proved, the will of the peoples is always victorious. Thus the will of our people will foil all imperialist, Zionist, and racist conspiracies; and we will continue our struggle to realize the aims which you yourselves have

fulfilled, recognizing their legitimacy and their justice. We are also fully confident that you will pursue your revolutionary commitment with our support, for the sake of what you have so long struggled to achieve for your countries and peoples. Let us add that we shall not allow any force to usurp what is our right, a right recognized by all the laws of heaven and earth. No matter what the enemies of our people do, they will be confronted by a Palestinian militant, who will never yield until the rightful owner regains his rights and returns to his land; only then will peace and stability prevail.

"The economic integration of our African and Arab countries, which are full of natural resources, raw materials, and of immense agricultural and industrial capabilities, will, if we make good and concerted use of these resources in the foreseeable future, enable us to push forward progress, development and prosperity in our countries. This will allow us to take our rightful place in this disturbed and exhausted world, so that we will be able to contribute to progress and prosperity for the whole world. This is not impossible for our countries which witnessed the inception of the very first civilizations of history. Our present generations, while trying to overcome

the nightmare of colonialism, oppression and racism, deserve to find their proper place on our planet to contribute to relieving the world's catastrophes through their creative heritage, civilization and human and divine missions.

"The importance of this economic integration is based on our organic, geographical and historical links. We have to stand firmly to put an end to international monopolies on the part of hostile forces to enable ourselves to build up our political forces depending on our economic potential. For a country's political independence is based on the strength of its economic structure. These are necessary and indispensable principles in the modern international arena. Taking into consideration all these circumstances, we have to be aware of the importance of our commitment to develop the rich economic resources in our countries to stop all kinds of monopolies, exploitation, and foreign domination.

"Our patriotic, national, geographic, and historical commitments impell us to support each other and impell the rich Africans and Arabs to support the poor Africans and Arabs, the strong to help the needy. This is not charity, but it is a duty, human and brotherly commitment, failing this, we will give room to the colonialist, Zionist and monopolist hostile forces in our land. And that will be the hour of danger.

"Here I take the opportunity to point out a basic necessity, which I think you have in mind at this historic conference: that is your national and patriotic commitment to all liberation movements to bring about the complete expulsion of colonialism, Zionism, monopoly, racism and coercion from our countries.

"The same unholy military, political and economic alliance which in the past brought us Zionist colonization, South African colonization, and Portuguese colon-





ization, is still occupying the last strongholds of colonialism.

"Through our national and patriotic commitment we must stress the necessity that our national, patriotic and human commitment go beyond, and cover all the liberation movements in the world.

"Our peoples look to us today in Cairo, this Arab and African beacon, and we are all hopeful that you will be able to realize the aspirations of these peoples for progress, prosperity and unity.

"In ending my speech I have to convey my gratitude to the non-aligned countries, Islamic states and nations, socialist states and all peoples who stood, and still stand, by our Palestinian people's struggle for freedom and the independence of our homeland, Palestine.

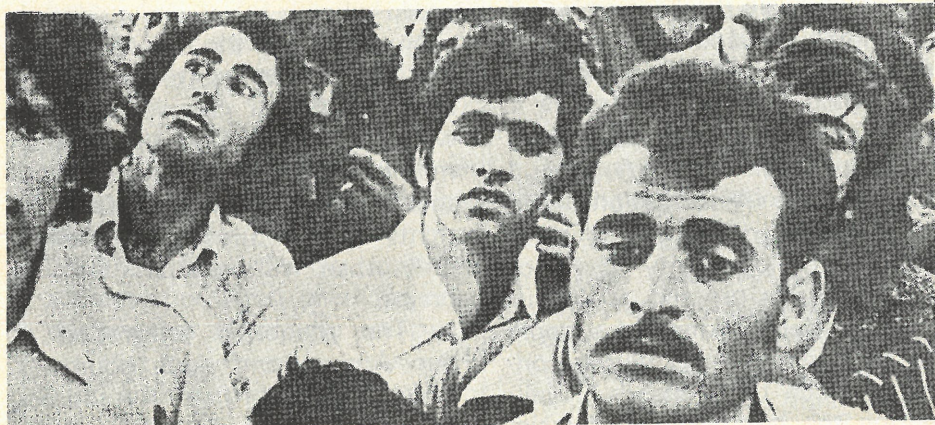
"In conclusion, I would like to convey my profound gratitude to our grand sister Egypt, her leader President Sadat, and her heroic people; who have generously sacrificed for the Palestinian people and cause; the African peoples, and all struggles for liberation and freedom in the world.

"Out of the belief of the Palestinian Revolution in Afro-Arab solidarity, I am glad to declare that the PLO has recently established an Institution for African Studies and Research, which includes Research, which includes experts specializing in Afro-Arab relations, to help in grounding these relations on a firm scientific and cultural basis. This Palestinian institution will always be in the service of the victorious Afro-Arab march."

Yasser Arafat, on 8 March, met with Amir Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister. Arafat also met for the second time with Algerian President Houari Boumedienne, and later with Syrian President, Hafez al-Asad, the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan al-Nahyan; the Mauretanian President, Mokhtar Ould Dada; the Head of the Angolan delegation, and Ugandan President Amin. □

## Occupation Diary

# ALL --- NO TO OCCUPATION



*Continued resistance to the inhumane practices of the Zionist occupation*

## NO END TO PROTESTS IN GAZA, WEST BANK

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continue to demonstrate in fierce resistance to the Zionist occupation and its arbitrary and inhumane practices.

The uprisings which have been going on almost continually for the past year, reached another peak during the visit of U.N. Secretary-General Dr. Kurt Waldheim to Israel, thus proving to Dr. Waldheim the steadfast determination of the Palestinian people in its homeland, in spite of all oppressive Zionist measures.

Palestinian citizens in Nablus and other cities of the West Bank took to the streets again on February 13 in massive demonstrations against the occupation. Zionist military forces were rushed to Nablus. After brutal clashes with the demonstrators, the Zionists carried out wide-scale arrests of Palestinian citizens on charges of demonstrating against and resisting the occupation.

The wave of protest gathered strength with the announcement of a resolution by the Israeli Knes-

set, that the Gaza Strip be considered part of the Zionist entity. On February 20, 21 and 22, students of the Kalandia Industrial School staged huge demonstrations condemning the Zionist measure. The students refused to attend their classes, and declared an open strike.

In Nablus, meanwhile, on February 22 the Zionist police opened fire on Palestinian students near the Salahieh school after the students closed their schools and held a sit-in in the public square. Heavy fire and constant Israeli patrols prevented the students from launching a demonstration. On February 23, a Palestinian student was shot and wounded by Zionist soldiers. The incident occurred when a group of students attacked a Zionist military vehicle which was passing through one of the main streets of the city.

Reports from the occupied territories say that posters were hung on the walls and pamphlets circulated condemning the Zionist decision on the Gaza Strip. Schools are closed, and the Zionist police have sealed the doors of dozens of shops because their

owners joined the protests against the Knesset resolution. Strict Zionist security measures have been imposed in every part of Jerusalem, and a curfew was declared in the eastern sector.

The Zionist authorities have arrested scores of Palestinian citizens and students on charges of participating in demonstrations and attacking Zionist patrols with empty bottles. □

## DETAINEES RESUME STRIKES

About 450 Palestinian detainees in Asqalan prison on February 25 resorted once again to a hunger strike, when the Israeli authorities failed to respond to their demands. The prisoners had suspended the strike when the Zionists promised the fulfillment of their demands on condition that the strike, which had been going on since December 13, be stopped. The detainees are demanding that they be treated as prisoners of war, in accordance with international conventions, and a general

improvement in prison conditions, especially in medical care.

In the furor caused by the strikes, the appalling conditions to which the Palestinian detainees are subjected have been revealed. Cells are small, damp, dark and hopelessly over-crowded -- even Chaim Levi, Director-General of Israeli prisons, admitted in a Knesset debate that it is not unusual for a prisoner's living-space to be less than one square meter. Food is of poor quality, and portions are skimpy. Medical care is virtually non-existent, while due to their poor treatment the prisoners suffer chronically from ulcers, rheumatism, tuberculosis, and nervous disorders. In addition, prisoners must endure the brutality of the guards, which ranges from harassment and beatings to outright torture.

During a meeting February 21 with Jewish progressive lawyer Felicia Langer and another lawyer at Asqalan prison, Palestinian militant Muhammed Mahdi Bsiso, spokesman for the detainees, discussed their deteriorating condition due to the inhumane treatment at the

hands of the Zionist jailers.

Bsiso held the Zionist authorities fully responsible for the martyrdom of Palestinian detainees in the prisons. He expressed the detainees' appreciation and thanks to the Communist Party, the U.N. Human Rights Commission, the national forces in the occupied homeland, and all who raise their voices in the defense of Palestinian prisoners. Bsiso stressed the determination of the detainees to continue their hunger strikes until the fulfillment of all their demands. He also affirmed that no one will succeed at suppressing the detainees at a time when both the national forces in occupied Palestine and Jewish progressive forces have come out in their defense.

On February 24, the Zionist occupation authorities deported a Palestinian detainee, Omar Abdel Ghani Salameh, to Jordan. The Red Cross vehicle which brought him to Jordan carried him directly to a hospital, because of his poor health condition caused by the inhuman treatment he received during his more than three years of detainment. Salameh had originally been sentenced to eleven years imprisonment, on charges of joining the Palestinian Revolution and carrying out military operations against Zionist targets in the West Bank. However, when his health recently deteriorated dangerously, the Zionists preferred to deport him to Jordan rather than provide with the necessary medical treatment themselves. Meanwhile, the Human Rights Commission in occupied Palestine issued a communiqué on February 24, severely criticizing the conditions in the prisons, and pointing out the justice of the prisoners' demands. The commission called on all peace-loving and progressive forces to support the struggle of the detainees, and requested that the Zionist authorities meet the demands of the strikers, and establish a committee to investigate prison conditions. □



*Zionist repression*



## DEMANDS OF THE PRISONERS.

— Annul the condition of crowdedness in the prison, where 20 prisoners are put in a narrow room which is not enough for half this number.

— Giving the prisoners ordinary mattresses and beds to sleep instead of the 1 cm. thick rubber mattresses, they have now.

— Giving them clothes suitable for the weather.

— That the food presented to them be similar to that offered to the Jewish prisoners, since the food presented to the Arab prisoners is less in quantity and quality, the fact which inflicts diseases among some prisoners.

— That their visits be the same as those of the Jewish prisoners, i.e., during a 2-week period, and without limiting the number of family visitors. For the Zionist authorities only permit the Arab prisoners one visit per month, for only two of the prisoner's family.

— To have a special suitable room for reading and be permitted to have the books the prisoners demand, among which the Marxist ones.

— To increase the daily recreation time, for the rooms which the prisoners spend in around 23 hours a day, are dark and hardly the air enters them.

— The most important of all this is improving the health conditions; most of the prisoners are ill and they do not receive enough treatment, where the sick ones receive a unified drug for all diseases. And it is to be noted that a large number of the prisoners have chronic diseases like ulcers and rheumatism.



## ESCAPE ATTEMPT FROM SHATTA PRISON

Radio Israel reported in a Hebrew language broadcast on February 22, that four Palestinian detainees tried to escape from the Zionist prison in Shatta. The report said that the detainees used a saw to cut a part of their cell door after tying up a guard. A Zionist officer discovered them by chance while inspecting the cells. The report added that an empty car had been left for the detainees outside the walls of the prison.

Zionist security forces surrounded the jail and confiscated pam-

phlets found inside the prison. A state of emergency was declared and the number of guards was increased.

## WEST BANK DOCTORS PROTEST NEW TAXES ON MEDICAL SERVICES

The Zionist authorities have recently imposed new taxes on general medical services in the West Bank, ranging from 90 Israeli pounds for a third-class patient to 285 Israeli pounds for a first-class patient.

The local Health Directors in

the West Bank, in a protest memo of February 18, called on the Zionist authorities to cancel the tax measures. The measures, they said, would increase the spread of disease and lead to a deterioration in the level of public health, due to the inability of Palestinian citizens to meet the resulting expense.

The new taxes must be linked with other recent Zionist measures, such as the added-value tax imposed in August and the enormous increase in the water-rates in December, all geared to. These measures are clearly geared to make life difficult for the Palestinian citizens, and if possible to

force them to emigrate, making room for Zionist settlers.

The measure also further handicaps the health services in the occupied territories' health services, already suffering from the studied neglect of the occupation authorities. Hospitals are old, dilapidated and over-crowded, no new clinics or hospitals have been built since the occupation, while some hospitals, such as al-Nazir and al-Hammat in Gaza, have even been converted into prisons. Medical equipment is in short supply, and medicine has been heavily taxed since 1974. Many doctors and other medical personnel have emigrated from the occupied territories as steady inflation has rapidly decreased the value of their already low wages.

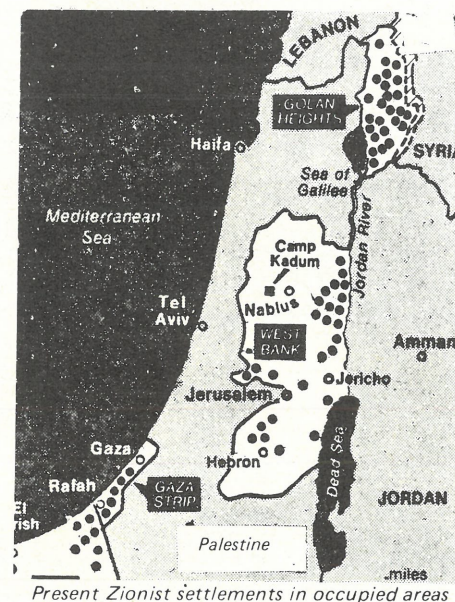
## ZIONIST COLONIZATION PLANS CONTINUE

The Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv* reported on February 14 that the Zionist cooperative movement will establish five new settlements in the Galilee region, after the approval of the project by the Ministerial Committee. It is to be recalled that the Zionist authorities have lately approved the destruction of 1,500 Palestinian houses in Bir Sabe'.

In the West Bank as well, the occupation authorities continue expropriating Palestinian land, particularly in Jerusalem. A spokesman for the Zionist Ministry of Housing declared that the Ministry has completed a new settlement project in Jerusalem to house those who have served in the Israeli army. The Ministry has offered 80,000 Israeli pounds to every soldier who settles in Jerusalem.

The Zionist authorities are deeply concerned to increase the number of Zionist settlers in the Jerusalem area, where the proportion of Jews in the total population has shrunk from 75 percent

to 73 percent over the past few years. This development is doubly disturbing to the Zionists as it has occurred in spite of their exertions to increase the Jewish population of the city, by both the expulsion of Palestinians from the city and the extensive encouragement to Israelis to settle there.



## ISRAELI PAPER ADMITS OCCUPIED PALESTINE PRO-PLO

The Israeli newspaper, *Ha'aretz*, admitted in an article on February 20 that all Palestinian citizens in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip consider the PLO their legitimate representative. It added that the PLO enjoys the support of almost all Palestinians, while other elements which oppose the organization find no support.





## ENEMY NEWS



Zionist arms industry: looking for new markets

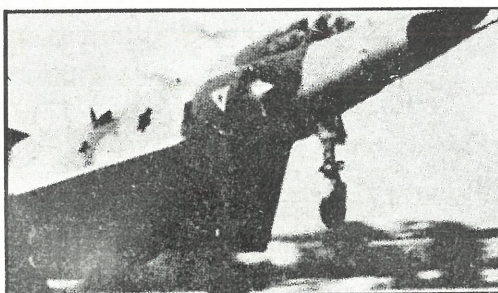
### U.S. HAS SECOND THOUGHTS IN ZIONIST ARMS INDUSTRY.

In recent decisions U.S. President Carter has reversed the Ford administration's promise to sell high-powered concussion bombs to Israel, and refused permission for an Israeli sale of 24 Kfir jets to Ecuador. The U.S. government has made up the loss of the sale to Israel by a corresponding increase in this year's aid package. Meanwhile, Zionist Minister of War Shimon Peres, in announcing that Israel would not receive the bombs, added that she would, however, receive equally effective weapons in their place.

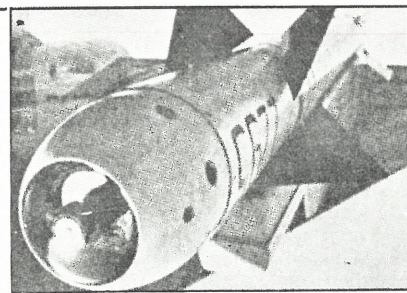
Former President Ford's original decision to deliver the bombs was made in October, just prior to the American elections, without the usual discussion and consideration in the executive branch. Mr. Ford's haste to approve the sale reflected his desire to win the votes of Zionist American Jews.

No other nation has the concussion bombs, which can totally destroy everything within a 50-foot diameter, and are one of the most lethal non-nuclear weapons in existence.

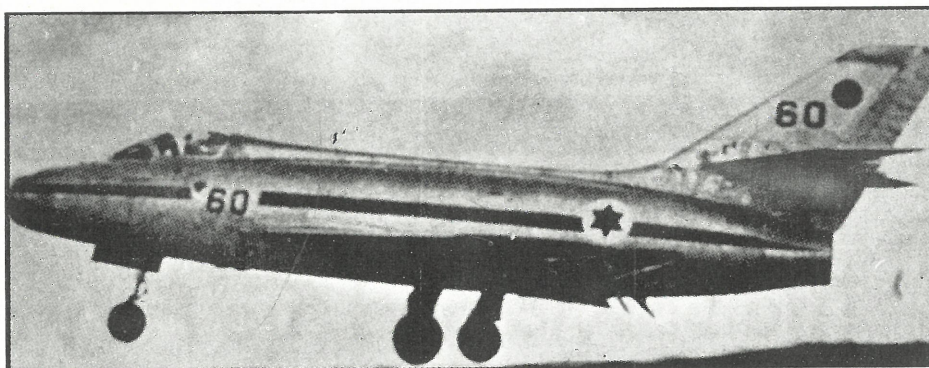
A briefing paper prepared by the State Department for Secretary of State Cyrus Vance urged



Israel's Kfir jet fighter



Shafrir air-to-air missile



Super-Mystere fighter: French plane with American engine

a ban on selling the bombs to any country. A number of Pentagon officials opposed the sale of the bombs because they want its technology to remain a U.S. secret.

Opposition to both the delivery of the concussion bombs and the sale of the Kfirs to Ecuador, seems to stem from growing American uneasiness over the Zionists' habit of "copy-catting" the technology of arms bought from other countries. The Zionists re-use the

technology of the foreign-bought weapons in their own domestically-produced weapons, which they then release for sale on the international arms market. Examples of this method are the Kfir jet, which has an American-made General-Electric engine, the Gabriel and Shafrir missiles, and the Super-Mystere fighter.

Until recently the U.S. government appeared to give its full tacit consent to the development of the

Zionist arms industry. The industry gives a boost to the Zionists' sagging economy, and further, provides the U.S. and other imperialist regimes with a willing middleman for the export of weapons to direct and open military aid. Now, however, some U.S. officials seem to be entertaining second thoughts. No doubt they realize that the Zionists are rapidly becoming competitors of the highly profitable American arms industry. They are probably even more concerned that, with Israel copying and selling its technology, the United States might lose its absolute control of the decision as to which countries are firmly enough in the American orbit to be granted the use of American arms technology.

### YADLIN'S CONFESSIONS CAST MAPAI INTO DOCK

The former Governor-designate of the Bank of Israel and Head of the Histadrut Medical Insurance Fund, Asher Yadlin has admitted all the charges made against him in court, including the embezzlement of millions of Israeli pounds from the Histadrut Funds to cover the expenses of the 1973 elections in favour of the Mapai party with the help of high-ranking party members. Other charges include income tax fraud and fraudulent real estate deals.

The Legal Advisor of the Israeli Government has requested the examination of these confessions. It should be mentioned that Asher Yadlin has been under arrest since last October, and appeared before a court in Jerusalem on 18 January, but his trial was delayed due to his critical health condition following the suicide of his friend Avraham Ofer, the late Minister of Housing, who was also accused of fraud and embezzlement.

Yitzhak Rabin was behind the appointment of Asher Yadlin to the post of Governor of the Bank



Yadlin (in dark glasses) entering courtroom

of Israel, but in the face of financial scandals and Yadlin's confessions Rabin has found himself obliged to declare that the Government will no longer try to hide or cover facts.

Following this scandal, a number of party representatives asked for the opening of an inquiry into Yadlin's statements before the court, at the same time as Mapai is preparing for its general conference in anticipation of the Knesset elections.



Israeli Minister of War, Shimon Peres

### ALLON AND PERES PRAISE U.S. STAND

Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon declared to the newspaper *Davar* on 19 February, that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has promised Israel weapons as effective and powerful as the concussion bombs previously

promised by President Ford but refused by President Carter. Allon expressed his appreciation of the American decision to provide Israel with this arsenal. Allon also admitted that the Israeli authorities have taken advantage of the Lebanese war, and that their policy during this war had proved to be a profitable investment.

In another interview with the newspaper *Yediot Aharonot*, also on 19 February, Israeli Minister of War Shimon Peres expressed his appreciation of the stand taken by President Carter's Government *vis-à-vis* supplying Israel with arms. He added that while the position of Carter's administration may differ from that of President Ford, it is in no way less cordial or positive. He further admitted that behind Israel's need for the newest U.S. bombs are two reasons: the need to clean up the minefields along the Israeli-Arab frontiers, and to destroy the rocket and missile bases in Arab countries.

### JERUSALEM POST: 1/2 MILLION ISRAELIS LIVE IN UTMOST POVERTY

According to a report carried on February 15 by *Jerusalem Post* newspaper, half a million Israelis live in utmost poverty, most of them Eastern Jews. The newspaper went on to say that it was proven that poverty is hereditary among those coming from the Middle East and South Africa. It also pointed out that Eastern Jews are scarcely represented in Israeli political parties, for these parties originally appeared in Eastern and Central Europe with the assistance of the Zionist Movement, which consists mainly of Western Jews.

The *Jerusalem Post* said that although Eastern Jews form 50 percent of the inhabitants of Israel, they have only 23 seats in the Knesset out of 120, and only three Ministers in the Government. It added that about 8 percent continue their higher education.





Foreign Minister Allon:

### ALLON: NO CHANGE IN OUR POLICY

In a statement before the Knesset on February 14, Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said that the Israeli regime still maintains its stand on a Middle East solution. Allon declared, "There is no change in Israeli policy towards settlement plans with the Arabs."

Allon answered the rightist Likud bloc in the Knesset by saying Israel would not withdraw from the occupied territories, not recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In another statement before meeting U.S. Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, Allon said that Israel would not give concessions, despite any pressure that might be exerted upon her by the USA.

### HA'ARETZ AFFIRMS PALESTINIANS IN GAZA STRIP AND WEST BANK UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT PLO

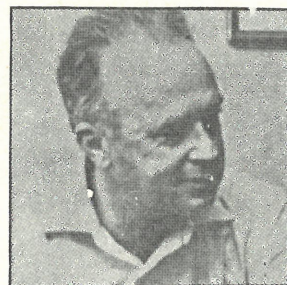
The Israeli newspaper, *Ha'aretz*, on February 20 admitted that all Palestinian citizens in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip consider the PLO their legitimate representative. It added that the PLO is supported by all Palestinians there, while other elements who are opposed to the organization are deprived of any support.

### ISRAELI MINISTER OF EDUCATION ADMITS EXISTENCE OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ISRAEL

The Israeli Minister of Education and Culture recently admitted in a ministerial report the presence of racial discrimination in Israel. He was quoted as saying that there is an educational gap between Eastern and Western Jews.

On the other hand, it is no secret that Western Jews -- Ashkenazim -- occupy most high-ranking posts and enjoy all possible privileges, whereas Eastern Jews are generally much less well-off and are the victims of subtle forms of discrimination.

Rabin... rejecting the Palestinian state



### RABIN: NO DIFFERENCE IN U.S. AND ISRAELI STANDS ON PALESTINE PROBLEM

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, on February 17, declared at a local meeting of the Labour Party in Haifa, that there is no difference whatsoever between the U.S. and Israeli stands concerning the Palestine question.

Rabin moreover declared in an interview published on February 18 in the Israeli afternoon paper *Yediot Aharonot*, that the USA and Israel both believe that there are no chances for the convention of the Geneva Conference before the second half of this year. He also declared Israel's readiness to negotiate with any Arab country or with a group of such countries, but not with the P.L.O.

### GOSH IMONIM RECEIVES GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES ON FURTHER SETTLEMENTS

According to reports from occupied Palestine, the Zionist authorities have promised the Gosh Imonim Movement that they will take all steps necessary for the establishment of Zionist settlements all over the West Bank.

The reports added that in execution of this plan, a meeting was held on February 27, attended by more than 600 members of the religious Kibutz organizations and the settlements movement, during which decisions were taken to ask the Israeli government to establish temporary and permanent settlements with full aid to the settlers. Reports added that one of the Gosh Imonim movement leaders called on all Zionist settlers to settle in every corner of the West Bank. The reports confirmed further that a group of Zionist settlers has started to transport building materials to the West slopes of Nablus mountains.

On the other hand, the AFP on March 1 reported that the Gosh Imonim movement held a meeting in Petah Tekva settlement which was attended by 20,000 Israelis. The agency added that the members of this organization intend to stage a torch-light march towards the village of Mesha in the West Bank. On the morning of March 1 sixty settlers marched towards the village of Mesha and started establishing a new settlement in execution of a decision taken by the Zionist authorities three years ago.

## THE CIA'S DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL STRATEGY.

Dr. Abdel-Qader Yassin

Recently committees of the U.S. Congress have made public the direct involvement of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in plots to assassinate Cuba's Prime Minister Fidel Castro, and its implication in the killing of, among others, Patrice Lumumba, first Premier of the Congo (now Zaire), and in the overthrow of the Popular Unity Government of Chile headed by Salvador Allende.

Testimony and other data released by the committees also pointed to the long and continuing efforts of the CIA, throughout its twenty-nine years as a secret unit of U.S. imperialism's global police forces, to dictate the policies of other countries. For this purpose it utilised the personnel, resources, and connections of U.S. universities, foundations, youth and student organisations, trade unions (the AFL-CIO and international labour organisations), journalists, businessmen, banks, corporations, and especially U.S.-based multinationals such as ITT, Kennecott, Anaconda, United Fruit and the oil monopolies. When its measures of economic, political and psychological "persuasion" failed to achieve the desired results, para-military means and armed forces were used (and are still being used) to "destabilise" or overthrow governments. All such activities are given the non-committal name of "covert operations."

In the autumn of 1974 the U.S. press reported that although the CIA's charter expressly forbids the agency from exercising "police subpoena, law-enforcement power or internal-security functions", the organisation engages in massive, illegal domestic activities. These reports were followed last June by the bulky report of the commission, headed by Vice-president Rockefeller, for the investigation of the CIA. This report claimed that although "some" of the CIA's domestic activities "were plainly unlawful and constituted improper



Castro: target of CIA assassination plot

invasions upon the right" of U.S. citizens the great majority comply with the agency's statutory authority.

It should be noted that only an infinitesimal part of the facts and testimony given these investigators has been made public. Conspicuously missing from many disclosures is information about the relations of the CIA and allied agencies with the top echelons of monopoly capital: the designated puppet-masters of the financial-industrial-military complex, such as the "Committee of Four" and the business and foreign policy elite, who pull the strings that control the movements of the entire apparatus of espionage and subversion.

Nor are the activities described in these disclosures new to US activists. Much of the inform-



whereas the other group would retain a more powerful CIA under the control and direction of the executive branch.

These differences in ruling circles are sometimes interpreted as a reflection of efforts by Congress to recoup its constitutional powers which, partly by its own default and partly by presidential usurpation, are now exercised by the executive branch of the government. According to this view the current differences are merely another manifestation of the "constitutional crisis" which, it is claimed, was the major feature of the Watergate affair.

However, the issues of this dispute go deeper and are more far-reaching than is suggested by the term, "constitutional crisis." Such a crisis in U.S. history has generally been associated with a disruption of the balance of powers defined and distributed by the Constitution between the States of the Union and the Federal Government, and among the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the Federal Government. The term does not reveal the underlying causes of such imbalances. As is known, in the case of the Civil War of 1861-65, the imbalance manifested in the secession of the slave-holding states and their counter-revolutionary aggression against the Union was generated by the contradictions between the production requirements of capitalist development and the pre-capitalist production relations of chattel slavery, which the slave-owners sought to impose on the entire country.

So, in the case of the CIA, although the differences are manifested in a conflict between the legislative and executive branches, basically they stem from the contradiction between the remnants of the Cold War in domestic and foreign policies, and the deeper requirements of the U.S. ruling class in the context of its acute, all-encompassing crises at the present stage of the general crisis of capitalism, when the balance of world forces favours socialism in the struggle of the two systems.

Moreover, the dispute between the legislative and executive branches is also the outward form of a more portentous political struggle. At this stage of the general crisis, the political crisis of state-monopoly capitalism is manifested in a sharply aggravated *crisis of bourgeois democracy*. Characteristic features of this crisis are the increasing militarisation of society, the ever-widening gulf between the government and the electorate, and the growth of the powers of the executive powers and its increasing resort to repression. These features, of course, are not characteristic exclusively of U.S. state-monopoly capitalism, but are common among other countries of developed capitalism. Basically, the dissension over the CIA represents the division in



The overthrow of Allende: now giving U.S. an uneasy conscience

the ranks of U.S. monopoly capital over whether in the recent disclosures had already been presented by leftists, but it was disregarded or suppressed by the very information media and some of the politicians and officials who lately have been compelled to publicise it. In addition, most of this information had already been presented in magazine articles and books by defectors from the CIA and allied agencies and by independent investigators.

Reporting the congressional committee disclosures, *US News & World Report* (Dec. 1, 1975) said they had "a heavy impact" in the U.S.A.; with "out-raged" voters, legislators and newspapers expressing indignation that the U.S. should be involved in assassination plots and attempts to overthrow foreign governments. The magazine commented that public confidence in the U.S. government, already eroded by the Watergate revelations of 1973-74, had now received another blow. It noted that the disclosures concerning assassination plots increased the probability of a reorganisation of the CIA and listed some measures under consideration. As proposed by the Senate investigating committee, these measures would establish a joint congressional body to supervise all CIA covert operations, appoint an inspector-general to control CIA finances and to report to the Congress as well as to the President re-define the CIA's domestic authority, and require the agency to report to Congress on covert operations.

However, in contrast to the Senate committee, the Rockefeller Commission claimed it had found no proof of CIA transgressions abroad. Fearing

that popular revulsion against the CIA's domestic activities would spill over to cripple its operations abroad, the commission recommended that the agency's activities should be related only to foreign operations, not domestic. Its proposals would by-pass the Congress and vest new supervisory powers over the CIA in the President and appointed bodies of the executive branch, which are not accountable to the electorate.

Thus the disclosures of CIA activities bring into the open the sharp divisions between US governing circles and American people, as well as the contradictions within the governing circles. The large majority of the people strongly oppose the CIA's violations of their constitutional liberties, and disapprove of its covert operations against other countries, the brinkmanship which, they fear, increases the danger of war. As for the governing circles, all are concerned with rehabilitating the CIA's tarnished image, and, as President Ford expressed it, improving its strength, effectiveness and credibility. But one group of the governing circles, represented by a number of newspapers and elected officials, wants this done under congressional supervision and control; or not the bourgeois democratic form of the U.S. political system can continue to serve its interests. As the Watergate affair only recently showed, "there are powerful forces of monopoly capital who see the traditional democratic structure and the democratic political institutions as obstacles to their class operations in the present stage of developments."<sup>4</sup>

In the center of this political conflict is U.S. foreign policy and the struggle over détente. The bone of contention is neither solely nor fundamentally the role and future of the CIA and its home-front counterpart, the FBI. At the moment, these are the on-stage actors in the unfolding political drama. Their fate is linked to the *dénouement*, the yet undetermined resolution of the struggle over whether U.S. monopoly capital will persist in attempts to realise its Cold War aims and continue its self-appointed activities as imperialism's global policeman, or will adapt to the new world situation and the turn toward further concretisation of détente. Even this last eventuality does not rule out the probability that imperialism, while making a show of curtailing the more objectionable features of the CIA, will attempt to pursue its aims by other means, including a better camouflaged counter-revolutionary tool.

The CIA was conceived, devised and utilised as a tool of the Cold War aims of U.S. imperialism, and evolved into an instrument of the most aggressive sections of U.S. monopoly capital. Its role and functions, orientation and guidelines were fixed by the National Security Act of 1947,

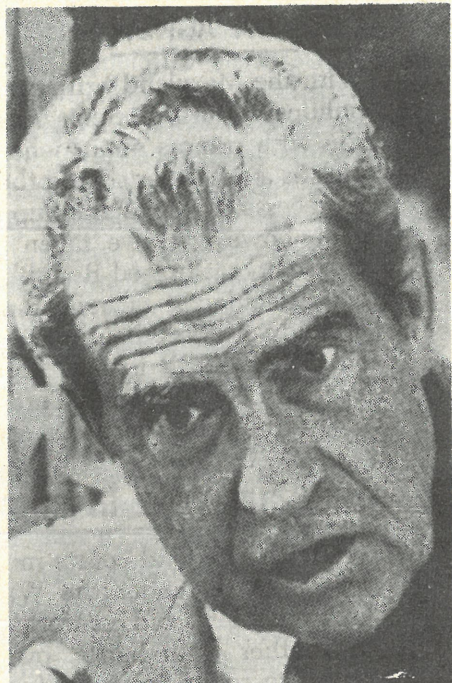
which simultaneously unified the armed services to improve their efficiency and striking power through further centralisation, set up the Department of Defence in the Pentagon, and established the National Security Council with the CIA as its operational arm. This coincided with the promulgation of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshal Plan in 1947, which, in the spirit of Churchill's speech at Fulton, Missouri, in 1946, constituted a master-plan of military, economic, political and ideological aggression. These and subsequent measures to implement this master-plan were given the ideological camouflage of protecting the "national security" and "vital interests" of the U.S.A. and safeguarding the "free world" against a fabricated Communist and Soviet "threat," that is, a camouflage of defending "freedom" and "democracy."

The changes in weaponry brought about by the scientific and technical revolution, the changing balance of world forces resulting from the increasing might of the Soviet Union and the socialist community, and the continuing advance of other revolutionary forces brought changes in the CIA's role, scope and functions. As U.S. imperialism retreated from suicidal strategies of "liberation", "rolling back communism" and "massive retaliation" to a strategy of "flexible response", the CIA's capabilities and licence for covert operations increased in importance, and it shifted its top priority targets from the European socialist countries to the countries of Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Suffice it to say that no weapon or strategy in the "cloak-and-dagger" bag of tricks has been unacceptable to the CIA as unethical or inhuman, and no country on our planet has escaped its attempts at dictation and subversion.

Clearly, US imperialism's aggressive activities, of which these CIA activities are one form, grossly violate both the standards of civilised human conduct and the international norms and principles of peaceful co-existence to which the U.S.A. gives both verbal and written adherence. The principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and of non-interference in the domestic affairs of other states are incorporated in the Charter of the United Nations of 1945, the Basic Principles of Relations between the USSR and the USA of 1972, and the Final Act of Helsinki of August 11, 1975 -- all of which were signed by U.S. Presidents.

The (sixteen) billion dollars (an under-estimation) annually spent for the operations of the CIA and its allied agencies, which are concealed in the continuously increasing 100 billion-plus dollar budget of the Pentagon and in the budgets of other government departments, is an





Nixon: boss of "covert operations"

additional burden on the people. This is all the more true as government fiscal policy makes the people pay the cost of these activities which are directed against their own interests.

The people, particularly the racially oppressed minorities, are strongly resisting the creeping police-state attacks on their liberties. Illegal invasions of the privacy and infringements on the rights of U.S. citizens by the CIA and its subordinate agencies, which are estimated to be sixty to ninety in number, have become a prominent feature of U.S. life. A vast bureaucracy -- said to number 700,000 -- including more than 60,000 full-time "investigators" of 44 government agencies and departments, assists 90,000 military spies and more than 17,000 agents of the CIA and the National Security Agency.

To these should be added the army of "part-time" informers and provocateurs, and the police forces of the entire country, which are influenced by the CIA's example and are monitored by the FBI. All spy on citizens in their communities and compile dossiers. No social or occupational strata is exempted. Bankers, businessmen, educators, students and church officials, even members of Congress and state legislatures, are included along with the activists and militants who form the bulk of the victims, owing to the racist and anti-democratic orientation of the repressive apparatus. Economic and social reprisals even when short of frame-ups and criminal prosecution, are severe.

Official propaganda makes much of an alleged rivalry between the CIA and FBI, and of the independence of the latter. Evidence shows, on the

contrary, the close collaboration between the two and a similarity of methods. Not only is there no rigid compartmentalisation, but the CIA has engaged in domestic activities, while the FBI, utilising its connections with the Canadian, Mexican and other Latin American secret police, and with the international police forces (Interpol), has conducted espionage against and harassment of U.S. citizens abroad as well as of "radical" nationals of other countries. Actually, the CIA exercises a controlling if not a directing influence over the FBI.

The FBI, which was set up in 1908 behind the backs and against the expressed opposition of Congress, launched its first large-scale operation against opponents and resisters of the U.S. entry into the First World War, and above all against the Socialists. Then followed its sweeping round up of "bolsheviki" and other radicals in the notorious Palmer Raids of 1919, when it commanded an army of "volunteer" vigilantes. Its intermittent activities against the country's criminal gangs have been fleeting interludes in its seven-decades-long hounding and persecution of people's democratic organisations and leaders. Recent figures of soaring crime rates in the U.S.A. have underscored the FBI's failure to provide protection for the people.

The recent disclosures of the FBI vendetta against Dr. King, its connivance with the Ku Klux Klan in its violence against civil rights demonstrators, its numerous "break-ins", wire-taps, and acts of harassment of student and women's organisations--these are but the tip of the FBI iceberg threatening the ship of U.S. "democracy".

The disclosures of the flagrant violations by the CIA and FBI help the people to see the fraud and hypocrisy of U.S. imperialism's ideological camouflage of anti-Communism. They make clear the chauvinistic arrogance and transparent absurdity of its attempt to impose its values and ways of life on the rest of the world.

Although, as said before, the recent disclosures of CIA, FBI and related spy agency activities are not all that sensational, they have opened new opportunities for the U.S. people, and above all the racially oppressed minorities who are the main targets of these activities, to determine the outcome of the struggle over their future. It is a difficult and lengthy struggle. Many years passed before divisions developed in the ruling class and the people's protests won even the recent scant disclosures. The catalytic consequences of the defeat of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, coinciding with disclosures of the Watergate conspiracy and of the all-encompassing corruption in federal, state and municipal government, created a climate conducive to probing the behind-the-scenes operations of official circles.

But the disclosures, however limited, will help to strip the veil from the underlying issues of the struggle, which the democratic forces stressed in the recent national election campaign.

U.S. state-monopoly capitalism's political crisis is a manifestation of the decline of its social base, and, together with the crisis over production and inflation which it is unable to solve, is a symptom of its advanced state of decay and parasitism in this 200th year of the Republic's existence. Yet, its capabilities for repression at home and aggression abroad remain formidable, and its means of manoeuvring are far from exhausted.

(1) During the congressional disclosures, CIA activities were reported in Angola, Portugal, Greece, Bangladesh, India and Uruguay. Its complicity in the fascist putsch in Chile, in the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, the overthrow of the Arbenz government of Guatemala and of the Mossadegh regime in Iran, its U-2 flights over the USSR and other socialist countries, its notorious "phoenix" murder operations in Vietnam and the war in Laos -- these are well-known and highly publicised CIA activities. Less well-known activities are too numerous even to list here. Countries "targeted" by the CIA include all the socialist states, with the USSR given top priority; countries allied with U.S. imperialism in the NATO, CENTO and SEATO blocs; and countries of Latin America, Africa, Asia and Middle East.

(2) *US News & World Report*, June 23, 1975, p. 17.

(3) See, for instance, sources of the information for this article: *CIA The Inside Story*, by Andrew Tully, William Morrow & Co., New York, 1961; *The Invisible Government*, by David Wise and Thomas B. Ross, Random House, New York, 1964; *Inside the Company*, by Philip Agee Stonehill Publishing Co., New York, 1975; *The CIA and American Labour*, by George Morris, International Publishers, New York, 1967; *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*, by Victor Marchetti and John D. Marks, Alfred Knopf, New York 1974; *The CIA's Global Strategy*, Africa Research Group, 1972; *The FBI Nobody Knows*, by Fred J. Cook, The Macmillan Co., New York, 1964; and reports and articles of *The New York Times*, *Daily World* (New York), *U.S. News & World Report*, *International Herald Tribune*, and *The Economist* (London).

(4) *The Crisis of US Capitalism and the Fight-Back*, International Publishers, New York, 1975, p. 44.

(5) *International Herald Tribune*, Oct. 14, 1975; *US News & World Report*, July 21, 1975.

## SOLIDARITY NEWS

### YUGOSLAV PAPER DENOUNCES ZIONIST POLICIES

The Yugoslav newspaper *Politika* on February 11 denounced the belligerent maneuvers of the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories. It said that the Zionists are trying to gain time and to escape from efforts for peace in the Middle East, by alleging that withdrawal from the occupied territories and the recuperation of the Palestinian people's rights will provoke further tension in the region. *Politika* said that US policy in the Middle East has so far been a failure, and asked that this policy be changed under the new President.

### SISTER-CITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN AIN AL-HELWEH CAMP AND ITALIAN CITY

It was reported February 12 that a delegation of the popular committee of Ain al-Helweh camp in southern Lebanon has received an invitation to the Italian city of Bologna. This invitation aims at strengthening the relation between the Palestinian and Italian peoples.

It is to be recalled that a celebration was held at the Bologna municipality on February 7, and was attended by the head of the region, the mayor, and members of the Municipal Council, as well as the director of the PLO office in Rome.

Several sister-city agreements will be signed in the future between Italian and Palestinian cities and camps, as a symbol of solidarity with the Palestinian people. These agreements are a well-known tradition followed by world progressive forces after world war II to indicate their solidarity with peoples struggling for freedom and progress.



PALESTINIAN SONGS AT  
BERLIN FESTIVAL

The Palestinian artistic group participating in the 7th Festival of Political Songs held during February in Berlin, presented several national and folkloric songs reflecting Palestinian traditions and the historical background of the Palestinian problem, as well as the periods of Palestinian struggle.

The GDR news agency, ADN, in commenting on the Palestinian session at the festival, declared that the songs of the Palestinian group made the listeners feel the enormous faith of the Palestinian people in their future.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR  
ARAB INFORMATION ASKS  
MORE COVERAGE OF  
PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

On February 18 the Permanent Committee for Arab Information recommended that the Arab media coordinate their news on the struggle of the Palestinian people and give it the widest coverage possible. The committee called for the production of TV and radio programmes and documentary films on the uprising of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. It also called for the transmission of a unified programme on the "Day of the Land," March 30, and the issuing of pamphlets on this occasion. The Palestinian struggle, the Committee said, should be the first lesson in all Arab schools on that day.

The committee then called for an international Archbishop Hilarion Capucci seminar to expose Zionist violations of human, civil, political and religious rights of the Arabs inside the occupied territories.

The committee confirmed its support for the conferences and seminars which have recently been held to expose Zionism as a racist movement.

Concerning Afro-Arab cooperation, the committee recommended the preparation of informational pamphlets in all languages concerning Afro-Arab cooperation and urged haste in holding the 2nd seminar of the Afro-Arab news agencies.

Concerning the cooperation of Arab countries with Non-aligned ones, the committee confirmed the importance of informational cooperation and the participation of the Arab countries in the coming meeting of the Information Council of the Non-aligned nations to be held in Tunis late in February.

All these points were part of the recommendation of the committee in the final meetings of its 21st session, which was attended by representatives of several Arab countries, unions and organizations connected to the Arab League. The committee started its meetings February 12 in the Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

IZVESTIA CONDEMNS ISRAELI  
STAND

On February 18, the official Soviet government newspaper, *Izvestia*, declared the Israeli stand another proof of Israel's intention to continue its expansionist policy, demonstrated as well by its refusal to withdraw to 1967 borders, its demagogic way of considering that the Geneva Conference needs further preparations, and its refusal to negotiate with the PLO.

The paper added that the declarations of Israeli leaders have always represented an attempt to escape an overall solution of the crisis, to force the Arab countries to accept separate agreements, and to return to step-by-step diplomacy.

*Izvestia* concluded by declaring that Israeli policy adds to the danger of the situation in the region, which is precisely why world public opinion condemns the delaying tactics adopted by Israel.

## POEMS

I AM THE SON  
OF THE LAND

By Fouzi El Asmar

You may take my hands  
and lock them in your chains  
You may also blindfold me.

You bereaved me  
from the light  
and I marched  
You robbed me  
of the bread  
and I ate.  
You plundered the land  
from me  
and I ploughed.

I am the son of the land  
and for that  
I find goodness in this earth  
anywhere I happen to be:  
The ants of this land  
feed me  
The branches of this land  
foster me  
The eagles of this land  
will shield my open revolt  
Yes  
You may take my hands  
And lock them in your chains  
You may also blindfold me  
But here I will stand tall  
And here I shall remain  
until the very end.

## BECAUSE I AM AN ARAB

By Fouzi El Asmar

I sit in preventive detention.  
The reason, sir, is that I am an Arab  
An Arab who has refused to sell  
his soul  
who has always striven, sir, for  
freedom.  
An Arab who has protested the  
suffering of his people  
Who has carried with him the hope

for a just peace,  
Who has spoken out against death  
in every corner  
Who has called for - and has lived -  
a fraternal life.  
That is why I sit in preventive  
detention  
Because I carried on the Struggle  
And because I am an Arab.





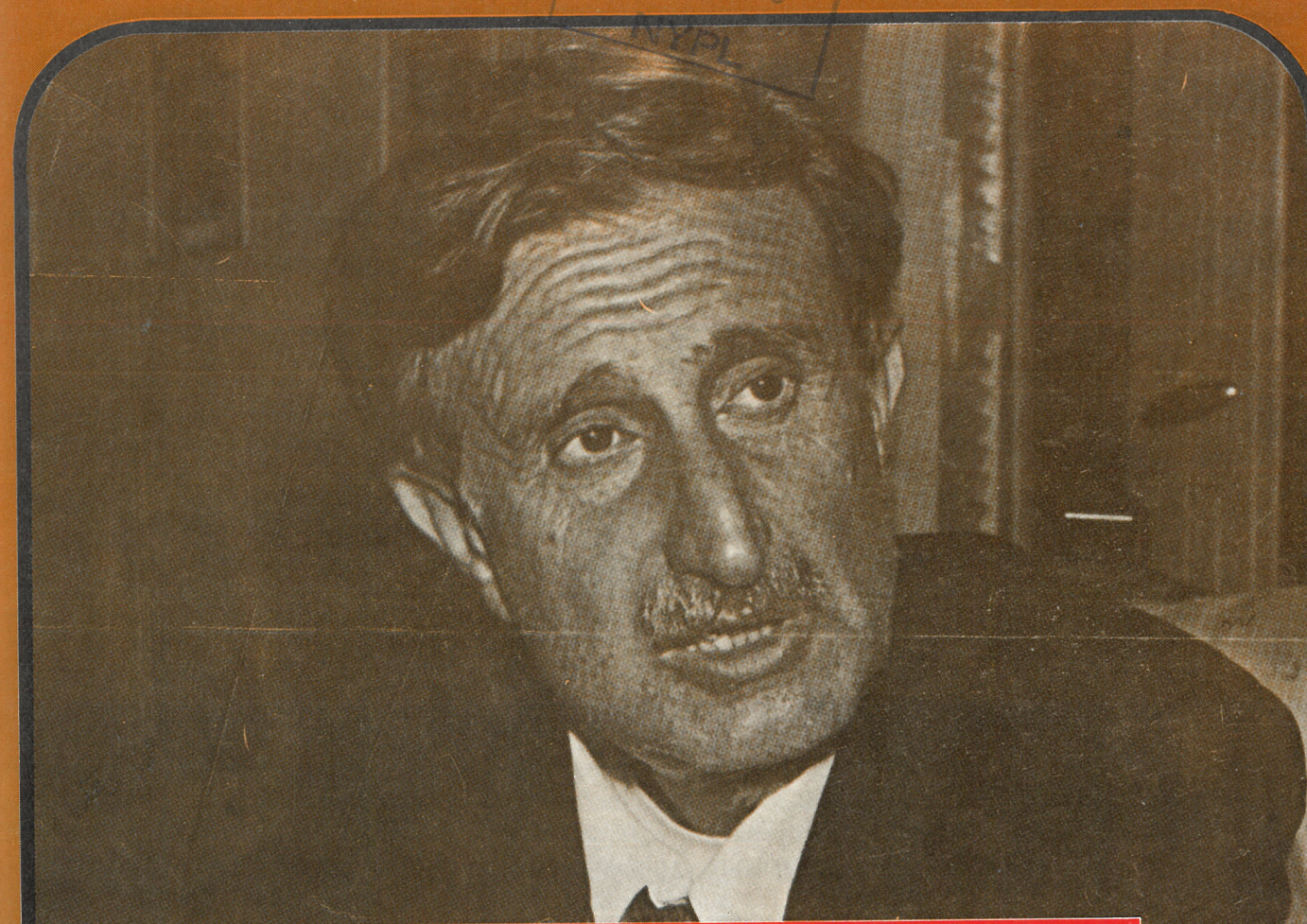
**8<sup>th</sup> OF MARCH**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN DAY**

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

Volume 3, No. 5 — 1 April 1977

# Palestine

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**THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL**  
**COUNCIL - JUNBLATT'S**  
**SESSION**