

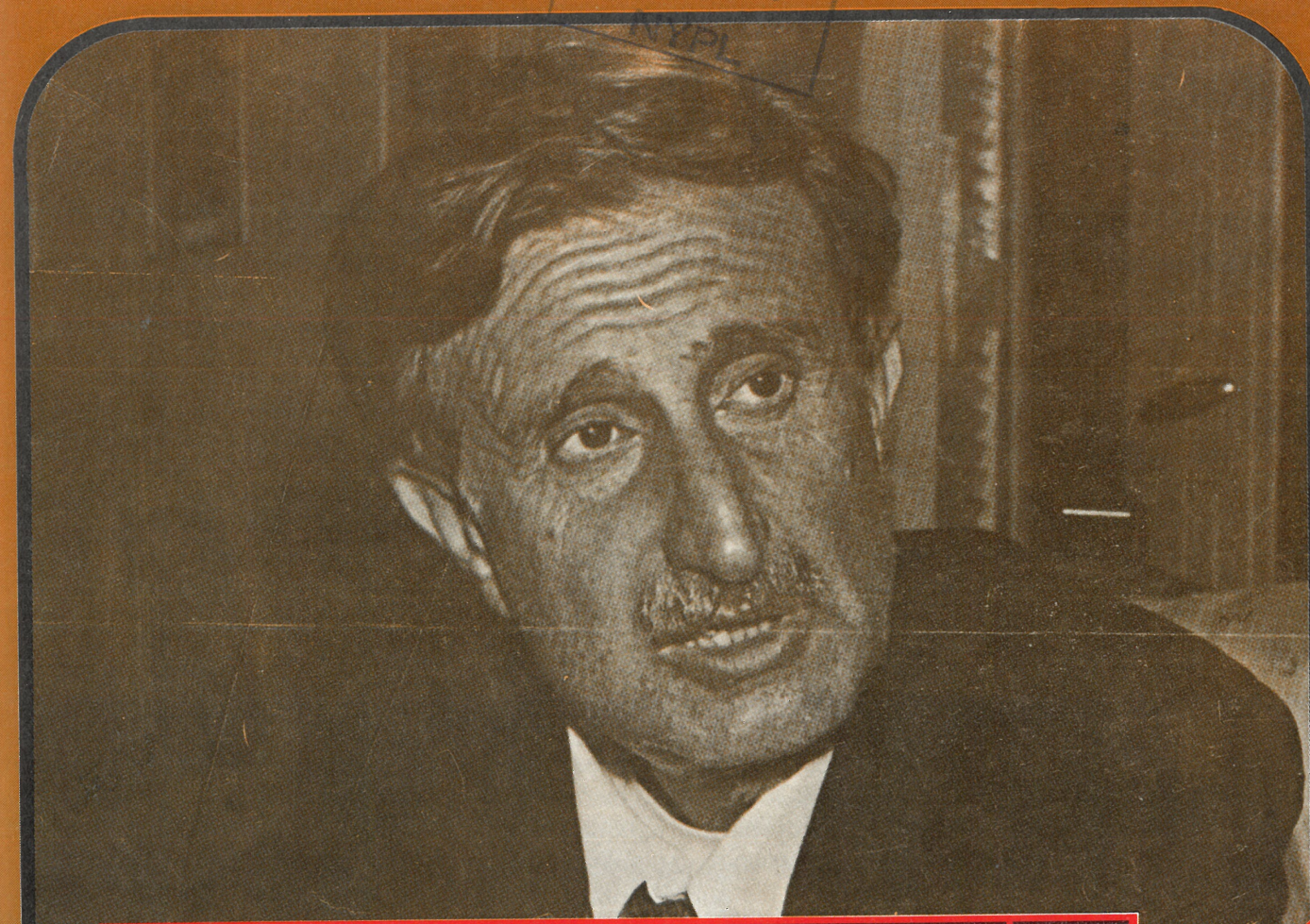


8th OF MARCH
THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN DAY

Palestine

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

THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL

The Palestinian National Council (PNC) concluded its 13th Session successfully on March 20th in Cairo. It was one of the most significant sessions in the history of the Palestinian Resistance Movement, and constitutes a milestone on the way to the liberation of the occupied Palestinian homeland.

The 13th Session comes after a period of approximately three years of political successes for the PLO on the international level, and about 20 months of civil war and bloodshed in Lebanon.

The well planned conspiracy against the Palestinian Revolution in Lebanon failed due to the heroic resistance of the Palestinian Liberation Movement and the support of all peace loving forces in the world. With self-confidence, the PLO leadership decided to convene the Palestinian Parliament, enlarging its membership by over a hundred delegates. The enlargement of the congress included representations of Palestinian professional trade unions and popular organizations all over the world: all this in order to have an accurate representation of the Palestinian people in this legislative Palestinian body.

The 13th Session of the PNC was a success for the Palestine cause for three main reasons;

1) The preservation of the Palestinian unity: the Western press media expected a split in the council especially between the "rejectionists" and the general line of the PLO. All these expectations been away with wind, and the PLO leadership left this congress more united and even stronger than before. The rumors spread around the person of YASSER ARAFAT disappeared. The Chairman of the PLO has once again proven to be the uncontested leader of the Palestinian People.

2) The preservation of the Palestinian National Charter: according to Israeli demands and to pressure from the Western countries, they asked to change the Palestinian National Charter or at least to change paragraph No. 19 which says that "the establishment of the state of Israel on our Palestinian homeland is a historical error". We say that the state of Israel has to change its still un-

declared Charter and especially to stop its immigration policy, to recognize the right of self-determination of the Palestinian People in their homeland, to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian People, to stop establishing settlements in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, especially those occupied after June 1967, and to withdraw from those territories.

The 15-point political declaration issued by the congress is also a great success for the Palestinian People and their leadership, the PLO. It is a firm but a flexible program, which will give the PLO leadership the directions for its future political line, and will give it more room for political maneuver.

They contained clear "No" to 242 Security Council resolution as a basis for future bargaining concerning any political settlement, calling instead for the adoption of general assembly 3236 of November 1974.

Among other provisions of the 15-points were: clear determination to establish the independent Palestine state in the Palestinian homeland; an authorization for the PLO leadership to participate on equal footing in all international conferences dealing with Middle East conflict and the Palestine cause;

And continued support for the armed resistance inside the occupied territories against the Zionist occupation.

The political program was adopted by the great majority of the delegates, with the opposition of 13 delegates belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (FPLP) and another smaller group. A very important indication was the fact that the two major factions of the former rejection front, the General Command and the Arab Liberation front, joined the majority and entered the Executive Committee of the PLO. This is a great sign for the national unity of the Palestinian people, and the resistance organizations in order to continue the struggle with all means against all conspiracies and against the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian homeland.



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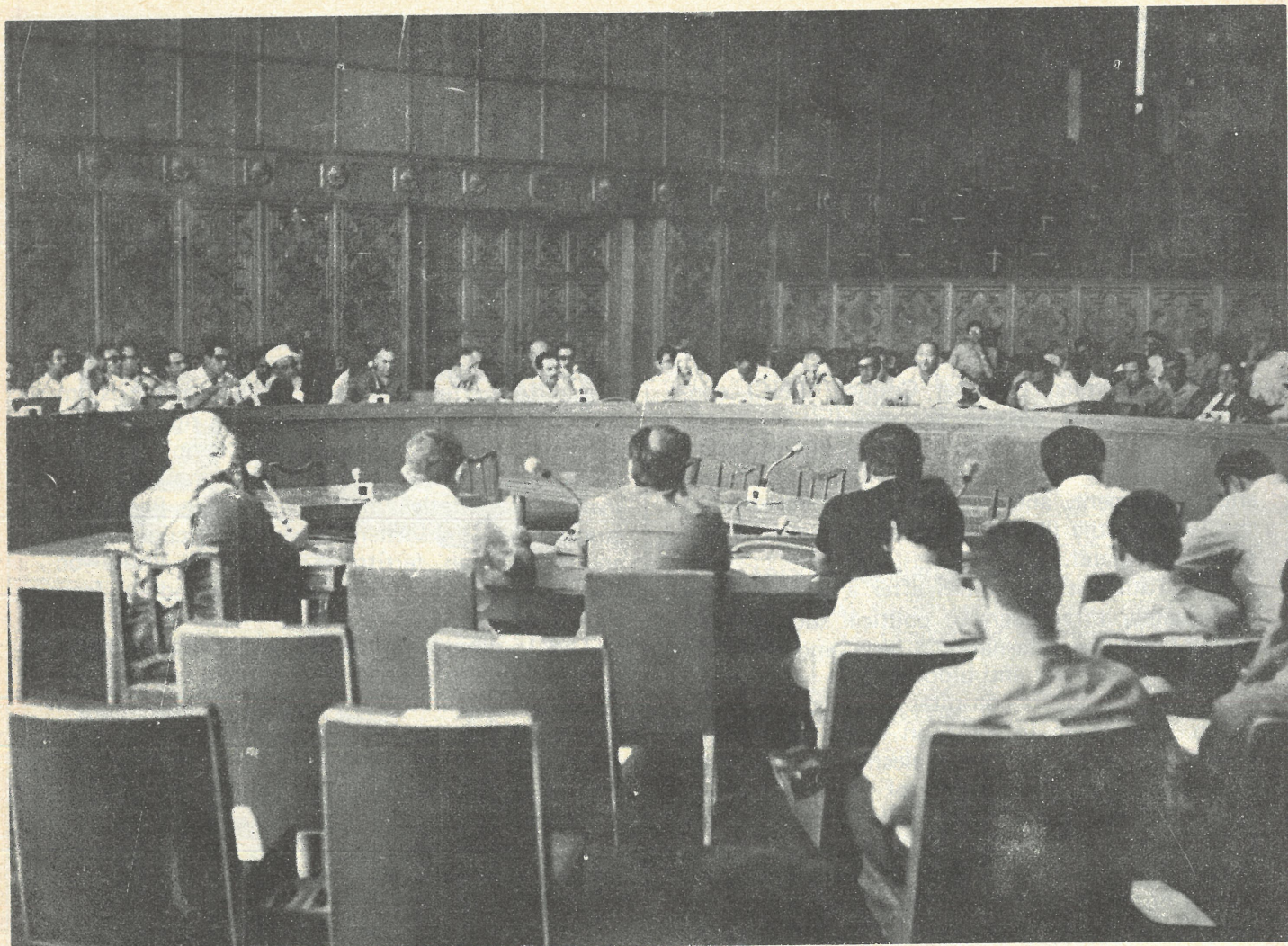
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Palestine

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The P.N.C. in one of his sessions

THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL ~ JUNBLATT'S SESSION

PALESTINIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

The Palestinian National Congress on 15 March resumed its meetings with the discussion of the political report presented the previous day by Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department.

During the morning session, several issues were discussed, including the political report, the

Geneva Conference, Palestinian-Arab relations and international moves. The political report focused on the following principles:

1. Reinforcing the position of the PLO on the Arab and international levels as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

2. The recovery for the PLO of full responsibility for the Pales-

tinian question.

3. Confirming the separation of the Palestinian issue, due to its specificity, from that of the Middle East in all international organizations.

4. Reinforcing international belief that the Palestine question is the essence of the Middle East crisis, and the basis for the establishment of a just peace in the area.

5. Working on isolating the Israeli enemy on the international level.

6. Foiling all attempts at linking the Palestinian issue to resolution 242.

7. Confronting and checking all settlement plans.

The political report falls into the following divisions: international level; bilateral relations; the UN; the so-called "political settlement"; Palestinian-Arab relations; relations with Western European countries; the Lebanese arena; conclusion, and general documents.

Meanwhile, the Congress continued to receive cables of support from Palestinian citizens in occupied Palestine and militants in Israeli prisons. One of those letters addressed by militants in Zionist prisons and read by the Presidency of the Congress said:

"We, the detainees in Beir Sabe' prison, declare our full support for the Palestinian Revolution and the PLO headed by the General Commander, Yasser Arafat, and express our support for whatever decisions the Palestinian National Congress takes for the benefit of our Palestinian people and Arab Nation."

Another letter sent on 14 March by Saher Houriah, a detainee in the central prison of Nablus, affirmed full support for the Palestinian Revolution and called upon all freedom-fighters to pursue their struggle until the restoration by the Arab nation and the Palestinian people of their dignity and freedom.

The Congress also received cables of solidarity and support from the Sudanese President Ja'afar Numeiri and the Government of Sri Lanka. Other cables were addressed by Palestinian popular societies and organizations in Saudi Arabia and the General Union of Palestinian Teachers in Lebanon.

SELECTIONS FROM ARAFAT SPEECH TO NATIONAL CONGRESS

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, on March 17 made a 4 1/2 hour long speech before the Palestinian National Congress, in which he responded to the questions and comments of the members of the Congress regarding the Executive Committee's political report.

In his speech, Arafat stated that "the past three years have witnessed the most dangerous imperialist-Zionist conspiracies against the Palestinian Revolution, in order to achieve the US decision to liquidate the Revolution."

He added that the Lebanese theater witnessed the implementation of this conspiracy, and that the Palestinian Revolution was forced to fight, following the martyrdom of the former Lebanese Deputy, Ma'arouf Sa'ad. Arafat warned that the assassination of the great militant, Kamal Junblatt, might similarly lead to another round of battles. Concerning the assassination, Arafat declared Junblatt's martyrdom a catastrophe, and described the militant as an "army" in and of himself, because of the Lebanese masses which followed his leadership, and a symbol of the unity of Lebanon and its fusion with the Palestinian Revolution.

Arafat went on to affirm that the Palestinian Revolution has succeeded in avoiding liquidation and has emerged stronger and more experienced from the Lebanese war. He added that new forces had been formed in accordance with the lessons and experiences of the war. Arafat also praised the struggle of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and its support of the Palestinian Revolution.

Concerning the situation in South Lebanon, Arafat warned



against the danger of the situation there and stated that "the Palestinian Revolution in South Lebanon is confronting Israel." He added that the fighting has not yet stopped in South Lebanon, and asked the Arab countries to bear their responsibility towards the situation there.

Arafat also stressed that the Palestinian rifle has changed the equation in the Middle East, and has kept the Palestinian cause at the heart of the Arab-Zionist struggle, as well as its being at present the decision-maker in the region.

Arafat stressed that the Revolution was neither contained nor weakened after the Lebanese war, and in spite of the conspiracies against it, the Revolution is nonetheless stronger at present than ever before, and participates fully



in decision-making in the Middle East.

Arafat affirmed that "the decision in the Palestinian theater should always be Palestinian." He added that the Palestinian Revolution as a progressive and revolutionary force in the Arab region, will neither submit to pressures, nor come to an end, "as long as there lives one cub (shibl) training in the use of weapons, and as long as we retain the freedom of military and political action in the Arab region."

Arafat also stressed "the necessity of Palestinian fusion between all revolutionary factions and forces in the name of all our martyrs, appealing to the Palestinian consciousness, which created the Revolution, to allow us to stand as one man side-by-side with our Palestinian people and Arab nation to achieve victory, and write the history of our Arab nation for future generations."

He added that democracy should always be the only means of communication among comrades-in-arms in the Palestinian Revolution, and warned against the imperialist conspiracy to destroy Palestinian unity.

Concerning political achievements on the international level, Arafat affirmed that the Palestinian Revolution has acquired new strategic depth on the African, Socialist, Islamic and non-Aligned levels. He added that the Revolution has also once again placed the Palestinian people on the political map beginning with the General Assembly session of

1974. He also stressed the Revolution's concern for Arab unity, particularly the unity of the confrontation states; Egypt, Syria and Palestine, which are the target of imperialist conspiracies.

Arafat concluded by praising the struggle and steadfastness of the Palestinian people inside occupied Palestine against all Zionist plans and their loyalty to their Revolution under the leadership of the PLO.

At the end of his speech, all members of the National Congress rose while the hall resounded to heavy applause in support of Palestinian national unity, and Arafat was embraced by the leaders of all Palestinian factions, who then joined hands and raised them, symbolizing Palestinian unity.

Following the speech, the head of the International Students' Union, made a speech in which he declared the Union's support of the Palestinian struggle under the leadership of the PLO. After the speech, the head of the Union, on behalf of millions of students, handed Arafat the medal of 13 November, which is the highest medal awarded by the Union to revolutionaries and militants.

15 POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

The following is the full text of the Resolutions presented by the Political Committee of the Palestinian National Congress and adopted by the Congress by an overwhelming majority:

"On the basis of the Palestinian National Covenant and of the resolutions of the previous National Congress; out of its concern for the political resolutions and gains achieved by the PLO on the Arab and international levels throughout the period following the 12th Congress; in the wake of a discussion and study of the latest develop-

ments of the Palestine cause and in reassertion of support for the procession of Palestinian national struggle in Arab and international forums, the PNC stresses the following:

1. The Congress stresses that the Palestine cause is the core and basis of the Arab-Zionist conflict, and that Security Council Resolution 242 ignores the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights, and the Congress therefore reaffirms its rejection of this resolution and of action on the basis of it, either on the Arab or international levels.

2. The Congress stresses the stand of the PLO in its determination to pursue armed struggle, accompanied by various forms of political and mass struggle, to realise the non-negotiable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

3. That all forms of struggle -- whether military, political or popular -- in the occupied territories, represent the central link in its program of struggle. On this basis, the PLO struggles to escalate armed struggle in the occupied lands, as well as all other forms of struggle accompanying it, while giving all possible moral support to our masses in the occupied land in order to escalate this struggle and consolidate their steadfastness towards liquidating the occupation.

4. The Congress stresses the PLO's stand in rejecting all types of American capitulationist settlements and liquidationary

It also stresses the nation to confront settlement achievements of our people's rights. It calls to shoulder potential perialist

5. Important unity, ally, antiafr al

dition of victory. Therefore it is imperative to consolidate national unity at all levels, on the basis of commitment to these resolutions, and to set down the required programs for their implementation.

6. The Congress stresses its concern for the right of the Palestinian Revolution to remain on the soil of fraternal Lebanon within the context of the Cairo Agreement and its annexes, arrived at between the PLO and the Lebanese authorities; and stresses its commitment to their implementation in letter and in spirit, in protection of the Revolution's gun and the security of the camps, and rejects any one-sided interpretation of this agreement and its annexes with full concern for the sovereignty and security of Lebanon.

7. The Congress salutes the heroic fraternal Lebanese people and stresses the PLO's concern for the unity of its land and people, for its security, independence, sovereignty and Arabism; it stresses its pride at the support shown by this heroic fraternal people for the PLO, which struggles to regain the national rights of our people in their own homeland and their right to return to that homeland, and strongly stresses the necessity of deepening and consolidating the cohesion between all the Lebanese nationalist forces and the Palestinian Revolution.

8. The Congress stresses the necessity of strengthening the Arab Front for Participation with the Palestinian Revolution and of deepening unity with all the participating Arab nationalist forces in all Arab states. It also stresses the necessity of escalating the joint Arab struggle and of putting forth a formula of support for the Palestinian Revolution to confront Zionist-imperialist plots.

9. The Congress resolves to intensify Arab struggle and solidarity on the basis of anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist struggle towards the liberation of all occupied Arab territories, and in support of the Revolution in regaining the inalienable national rights of the Pales-

tinian Arab people, without peace or recognition.

10. The Congress reaffirms the PLO's right to exercise its militant responsibilities on the Arab level towards liberating occupied land.

11. The Congress resolves to pursue the struggle to regain our people's national rights, headed by their right to return, to exercise self-determination and to establish their independent national state on their soil.

12. The Congress stresses the necessity of consolidating co-operation and solidarity with the Socialist countries, the non-aligned states, the Islamic states, the African states, and with all national liberation movements in the world.

13. The Congress salutes the stands and struggle of all states and forces which took a stand against Zionism as a form of racism, and against its aggressive practices.

14. The Congress stresses the importance of the relationship and coordination with the Jewish democratic and progressive forces inside and outside the occupied homeland, which struggle against Zionism as an ideology and as a practice; and calls on all freedom, peace, and justice-loving forces and states in the world to cut off all forms of aid to, and cooperation with, the racist Zionist regime, and to reject any contacts with it or with its tools.

15. Taking into consideration the accomplishments achieved on the Arab and international levels since the end of the 12th session of the Congress, and after reviewing the political report presented by the Executive Committee, the Congress resolves the following:

A. Stresses its concern for the PLO's right to take part, independently and on a basis of equality, in all international conferences, forums and efforts related to the Palestine question and the Arab-Zionist conflict with the intention of realizing our non-negotiable national rights adopted

by the UN General Assembly in 1974, in resolution 3236.

B. Declares that any settlement or agreement which harms the rights of our Palestinian people concluded in their absence is void in its essence.

NEW PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED

Following the adoption of the political declaration on March 20, the Palestinian National Congress discussed the election of the new Executive Committee. With all Palestinian factions and popular organizations participating, the Congress agreed unanimously on a list of national unity constituted during the discussions. The new Executive Committee is constituted of the following Palestinian personalities: Yasser Arafat; Farouq Qaddoumi; Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizer; Yassir Abd Rabbo; Zuheir Muhsin; Talal Naji; Muhammad Zuhdi Nashashibi; Abdel Rahim Ahmad; Abdel Jawad Saleh; Hamid Abu Sitta; Ahmad Sadqi Dajani; Habib Qahwaji; Majdi Abu Ramadan; Dr. Alfred Tubasi; and Dr. Walid Qamhawi.

Following the election, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, made a speech in which he reaffirmed the intention to continue the march in accordance with the resolutions of the Congress.

The Congress, afterwards issued a communiqué which reaffirmed the strategic goal of the PLO namely, liberation of Palestine from racist Zionist occupation, and the establishment of a democratic and secular Palestine.

Arafat's speech reads as follows:

"What has happened over these days, affirms the Palestinian unity which springs out of our belief that we are comrades on the same path and in the same procession.



This moves me to thank our brothers in the Popular Front and the Arab Front: thank you, for you have decided that we shall be together until victory, until victory, until victory.

"This, moreover means that the new Executive Committee enjoys the confidence of all Palestinian people in all regions, which you represent, which is really a good omen that I announce to our steadfast people our heroic people, inside occupied Palestine, who are confronting the Zionist occupation of our land with pride, strength and force. We reaffirm in your name our insistence to march along the road, in accordance with what you have decided, and what you have declared, keeping in our minds the spirit of those who were martyred along the road, in defence of our ideals and our sacred land.

"In your name, and at the end of this session, the session of the heroic martyr, our martyr and comrade-in-arms whom we have lost, the martyr Kamal Junblatt after whom this session is named, I once more declare that we will persist in our pledge, of revolution until victory!"

PALESTINIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON OCCUPIED PALESTINE

The Palestinian National Congress at its 13th session approved all the recommendations presented by the Committee for Occupied

Homeland Affairs, the text of which follows:

1. The Congress, while stressing unity of destiny and struggle of our people all over Palestine and outside it, salutes in all pride the struggle of our people in occupied Palestine and their continuous steadfastness in spite of all Zionist, imperialist and Arab reactionary plots and measures, and praises the heroic mass uprising of the past few years which expresses our people's firm stand in rejecting the Zionist occupation, in holding on to their land and national rights, in rallying around the PLO, in confronting all plots to create an alternative leadership, and in insisting on foiling all attempts to harm the national rights for independence and liberation. The Congress also salutes the struggle and steadfastness of our militants in Israeli jails who are suffering the worst forms of torture and oppression, in contradiction to human rights and international conventions, while affirming the fascist nature of the Zionist movement.

2. The Congress praises the strong cohesion of our Palestinian masses all over the occupied homeland as expressed in their battles for the defence of the land and their struggle against Zionist colonization projects; expropriation of land, suppressive measures, inhuman mass punishment, deportation, desecration of holy sites, suppression of national culture and other such measures. The stand of our people under occupation with their Revolution, both politically and materially, during the Lebanese crisis is the greatest proof of their unity and the depth of their commitment to the goals of the Revolution and to the protection of these goals.

3. In order to intensify and escalate the struggle of our people in occupied Palestine, and in consolidation of the unity of their national forces, sectors and institutions, the Congress reaffirms the importance of supporting the Palestinian National Front in the occupied homeland, and of ensuring

the participation of all national factions and forces in it.

4. In order to consolidate the international resolution which considers Zionism a racist movement, the Congress stresses the importance of the support of progressive and democratic forces hostile to Zionism and defending the national rights of our people.

5. The Congress stresses the importance of making the Arab states approve the return of their Jewish citizens who emigrated to Palestine, and of supporting all Arab activities which serve this purpose.

6. The Congress stresses the political, social and moral importance of the question of Palestinian detainees in occupation jails; and calls for:

A- Support for the families of the prisoners, detainees and those incapacitated, by developing the institution of the families of prisoners and martyrs into a Palestinian public institution capable of helping all such families, particularly those in occupied Palestine.

B- The adoption of their problems, and support of their struggle inside the prisons; the formation of permanent committees to defend their rights, and contact with peace-committees, Amnesty International and other committees which defend human rights, in order to gain support for their just cause and expose the enemy's measures practiced against them.

C- Offering material and moral support to the committees which defend political detainees in occupied Palestine.

7. The Congress stresses the importance of supporting the struggle of the Palestinian proletariat under occupation, and of helping them through trade unions and economic projects in order to improve their living conditions and prevent their emigration, that they may play their leading role in the struggle against Zionist occupation.

8. The Congress affirms the importance of full support for all national institutions in the occupied homeland through:

1- Seeking the practical execution of the Jerusalem Fund Project which was recommended by the latest Islamic conference.

2- Seeking to establish a fund to support the steadfastness of our people in the occupied homeland.

3- Exerting more efforts towards releasing the deposits of individuals and institutions in Arab countries which belong to our people in the occupied homeland.

4- The encouragement and support of projects to increase steadfastness in occupied Palestine, particularly housing societies, agricultural cooperatives, national industries, and the development of national products.

5- Calling on Palestinian emigrants to invest their money in occupied Palestine.

6- The development of national educational institutions and planning to establish a Palestinian University, so as to secure wider scientific knowledge for our students in occupied Palestine, and guarantee their remaining in their homeland. In addition, exerting all possible efforts to secure the admission of our students in Arab and foreign universities, and guarantee their welfare in these countries.

7- Offering the greatest possible medical support to our people inside occupied Palestine, through financial and technical aid to all national medical institutions, so as to discourage the emigration of medical personnel from our country, and consequently prevent the deterioration of our people's health conditions.

8- Paying adequate attention to Palestinian information, particularly the radio, so as to meet the needs of our masses in occupied Palestine in terms of clear political orientation and programs relevant to their daily problems. The Congress also affirms the necessity of establishing a special research institution for occupied Palestine affairs, to follow up objectively the affairs of our masses. The Congress also stresses the necessity of establishing an information center

on the affairs of occupied Palestine, which would issue specialized bulletins.

9- The Congress affirms the necessity of developing the Department for Occupied Homeland Affairs and furnishing it with the funds and personnel.

10- The Palestinian National Congress, in reaffirming the Arabism of all Palestine, particularly Jerusalem, rejects all demographic justifications, annexation, colonization, expropriation of land or any other illegitimate measures.

11- The Congress affirms that the defence of Palestinian land is a sacred national duty which should be a priority among the PLO's concerns, which in turn should supply greatest support to the struggle of our people. The Congress

therefore asks the Executive Committee to:

A- Consider the Day of the Land a day for solidarity with the struggle of our people in occupied Palestine.

B- Make the Day of the Land a day in which all Arab masses would participate in and support the struggle of our people.

C- Support the struggle of the committees which defend the land in occupied Palestine.

12- Take all measures to prevent the transfer of Palestine land to the enemy, and launch a campaign against all Zionist attempt to buy these lands.

The Palestinian National Congress meanwhile approved other recommendations presented by the committee for Occupied Homeland Affairs.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT OF 13TH SESSION OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

The following concluding statement was issued by the office of the President of the Palestinian National Congress:

"The 13th session of the Palestinian National Congress, 'The Martyr Kamal Junblatt session, was held between the 12th and 21st of March 1977, at Arab League headquarters in Cairo. This session was held at a time when all eyes are turned towards the PLO and its National Congress, 34 months after its previous session, months which witnessed critical events, of which the explosion of the Lebanese crisis two years ago was the most dangerous. Therefore the convening of the National Congress in its expanded form, which included our people's national organizations, institutions, groupings and leading figures, and which embodied national unity, is an honest expression of the unity of this people with their Revolution, and the steadfastness of the Revolution in the face of dif-

ficulties, and the commitment to democracy as a way towards the victory of the Revolution, and the building of our people's future.

"In an atmosphere governed by democracy to which the PLO is committed, and in which the spirit of national unity prevailed among all factions and sectors of our people, the National Congress studied the current situation of the Palestine cause in the Arab nation, in all its dimensions; and it took a long time studying the evaluation of the incidents that took place recently so as to define the realities of the current situation and analyze it, in order to put forward the Palestinian program of action, and the vision of the future. In the context of evaluating the past incidents, the Congress registered the important accomplishments of the Palestinian Revolution on the level of resistance to the Zionist occupation inside the occupied territories; of our political struggle internationally, and the uprising of



our great people against the Zionist occupation, which has persisted for over two years and which reached its climax during the Day of the Land uprising in March, 1976.

"It also recorded the great accomplishments expressed in the Palestine speech at the UN in 1974, as well as the PLO's political action at the UN. The Congress further noted the strong ties and the dialectic relation between the sacrifices of our people during their uprising, and our accomplishments in political struggle. The Congress also saw, after reviewing the facts of the current stage in all its dimensions, that in relation to Palestinian action, it represents a stage of maturity in which the PLO holds on to the Palestinian gun and to the Palestinian national identity in order to realize its aims, and during which the PLO takes its resolutions as regards the future. On the Arab level, it is the stage of concentrating the potentials of our Arab nation to erase the nightmare of occupation from the Arab territories. On the international level, it is the stage of the world's recognition of the Palestinian people's right to establish their state on their national soil after our Revolution has brought about world recognition of the existence of our people.

"The Palestinian National Congress concluded by defining the PLO's program for political action at all levels, and drawing a clear strategy of action in the Palestinian and Arab arenas and inter-

nationally. And after terminating its work, the Congress wishes to draw the attention of the world to the great danger which threatens peace and security in the Arab region and in the whole world as a result of the Zionist entity's persistence in occupying Palestine, Sinai and the Golan, and in practicing the most forms of oppression against the Palestinian people. The Congress also wishes to affirm the determination of the Palestinian people to exercise their natural and legitimate right of pursuing struggle by all means against the racist Zionist entity, in self-defence and in order to liberate Palestine and realize a peace based on justice in the region.

"The National Congress affirms to the world that the Palestine question is the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict; and that since Security Council resolution 242 has not dealt with the Palestine question and has ignored the national rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, the National Congress reaffirms the PLO's stand in rejection of this resolution, and calls upon the international community to deal with the Palestine question on the basis

of General Assembly Resolution 3236, which calls for the return of all Palestinians to their homeland and property, as well as their right to self-determination, national sovereignty and the establishment of an independent national state on their national soil.

"The National Congress also reaffirms its holding to the strategic goal of the PLO, namely the liberation of Palestine from the racist Zionist occupation and making it into a homeland for the people of Palestine: a Palestinian democratic state in which all citizens live without religious or racial discrimination, in an atmosphere of forgiveness, peace and brotherhood.

"This goal is implied by historical and geographical facts, and is a clear manifestation of the Pales-

tinian people's right to their homeland. It also provides the correct solution to one of the results of European settler-colonialism and the Jewish problem in Europe.

"The National Congress affirms that, for the PLO, Palestine would include -- as was declared at the UN -- all Jews who are willing to live side by side with us in peace and without discrimination on the soil of Palestine, casting aside their racist Zionist affiliation. The Congress affirms its differentiation between racist Zionism on the one hand, and the right of every Jew to live in dignity in his homeland, on the other. The PLO will therefore define, together with the Arab countries, the measures towards implementing this right for the Jews of the Arab nation who wish to return to their countries of origin.

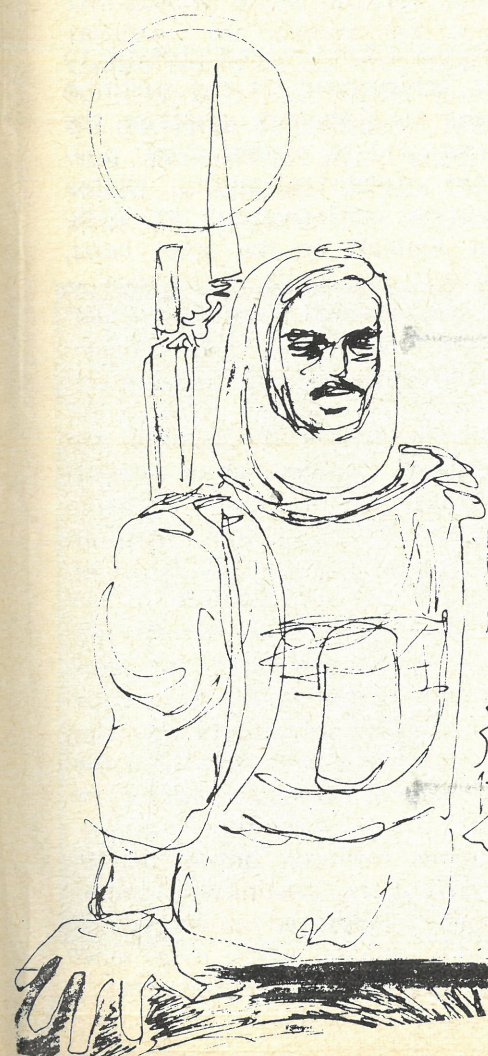
"The National Congress, keeping in mind the daily racist measures practiced by the Zionist entity, which reflect its aggressive character, declares to our people, our nation and to the world, that a just peace in the region will be preceded by long days of struggle to liberate Arab land. It also affirms that the only way to achieve this goal is the rebuilding and strengthening of national unity in the Palestinian theater, as well as the escalation of armed struggle and the steadfastness of our people under occupation, and the concentration of Arab potential through a unified Arab stand. The Congress affirms, in this field, the links with the Arab confrontation states in particular, and with all Arab countries in general.

"On the international level, the Congress declares that further political struggle in cooperation with the third world countries, the Islamic world and the Socialist countries, is needed in order to isolate the Zionist entity."

In its meetings on March 19 and 20, the Palestinian National Congress approved the recommendations of the political and statutory committees, after having earlier adopted the recom-

mendations of the Cultural and Information Committees, stipulating the establishment of a Central Council for Information and Culture responsible for PLO political propaganda. Other recommendations presented by the Social and Labour Affairs Committee asking for aid to the victims of the Lebanese war and the construction of hospitals in all camps, were also approved. Among the most important recommendations adopted by the Congress were those submitted by the Military Committee, calling for the formation of a Higher Military Council to control all commando organizations, militias and the PLO, headed by Yasser Arafat.

The members of the Palestinian National Congress Sunday March 21, stood for one minute in silence in commemoration of the President of Congo, assassinated the previous day.



KAMAL JUNBLATT: MARTYR AND SYMBOL



FOR THE LEBANESE, PALESTINIAN AND ARAB PATRIOTS, HE WILL REMAIN THE TORCH OF UNYIELDING RESISTANCE.

Marwan Hanna

Kamal Junblatt is dead. The man who symbolised the hopes of millions of Lebanese and millions of Arabs, who was the torch of the refusal of all injustice; the man who expressed the indomitable will of all patriotic Lebanese to resist fiercely all the conspiracies plotted by imperialism, Zionism, and their local agents; this man was vilely assassinated on 16 March, 1977. Over and above the grief felt at this despicable attack which cost the life of the Lebanese patriotic leader, it is today necessary to understand the politics behind this assassination. To

grasp the aims of Kamal Junblatt's murder and expose them to the masses is, in fact, the way to prevent the perpetrators of the attack from achieving them. This is, above all, a way of remaining faithful to the lines of conduct followed by the great man, and to give a new impetus to the patriotic struggle precisely at the point where the assassins were seeking to halt it.

What were the murderers' objectives?

1- They wished, first of all, to deal a deadly blow to the Lebanese National Movement, whose action during the civil war constantly foiled the calculations of the instigators of this war, who had aimed from the outset to present it as a Lebanese-Palestinian struggle. By organising the patriotic Lebanese masses, and by leading



Arafat and Abu Iyad paying condolences to Walid Junblatt, the martyr's son

their struggle side by side with the Palestinian Resistance, the Lebanese National Movement was able to foil the conspiracy in the first stages of its execution. The strengthening of its militant alliance with the Palestinian Resistance prevented the reactionary forces from achieving their fundamental objectives -- the liquidation of the Palestinian people and of their sole representative, the PLO, and the "taking in hand" of Lebanon by the fascist forces. Of this Lebanese popular will to resist an enemy whose joint forces ought to have been overwhelming, and of this unyielding determination, Kamal Junblatt was the symbol. The leader of the Lebanese National Movement often used to repeat the words of another great martyred leader, the Palestinian, Abou-Ali Ayyad, killed fighting in the forests of Jerash, and who, during the Jordanian massacres, had represented this violent determination to resist. Replying to the enemy envoys who proposed to save his life in return for his sur-

render, Abou-Ali replied: "We prefer to die standing rather than live on our knees."

In assassinating Kamal Junblatt, the criminals aimed precisely to bring the National Movement to its knees, to open a breach in the ranks of the forces rejecting the isolationist and imperialist projects, and simultaneously weaken all those in Lebanon and in the Arab countries who support the Palestinian Resistance.

A DEATH-BLOW TO UNITED LEBANON?

On the local level, the aim of the murder was, in the first place, to prepare the ground for a political battle intended to attack the patriotic orientation of the political attitude of the masses in the regions of the Upper Metn, Aley, and the Chouf. It is well-known that the Mount Lebanon area has a position of capital importance in the history and the political life of Lebanon. Under the leadership of Kamal Junblatt, these regions con-

stituted a fundamental obstacle to the achievement of the partition plans for Lebanon, whatever the terms used to present them: political decentralisation, regionalisation, confederation, etc. Without Junblatt on the other hand, without his political presence -- thanks to which these regions, particularly the Chouf, maintained an interconfessional co-existence in spite of the civil war -- one of the main obstacles to the partition was removed. In assassinating Junblatt and blatantly seeking to provoke large-scale confessional reactions (an aim which was to fail), the authors of the attack sought to give the death-blow to united Lebanon.

In the second place, the assassination of the great Lebanese national leader cannot be dissociated from the question of South Lebanon where, after two years of respite, the situation had once again become explosive after the exposure of the Israeli-isolationist alliance. In starting up the war in South Lebanon again, imperialism and its allies had multiple aims:

1. For the isolationist forces, the first aim was to prevent the Arab Deterrent Force from penetrating into South Lebanon and consequently ending the fighting which, by ending, would have allowed the country to enter successfully on the road to reconstruction and the re-building of political unity.

2. For Israel and its allies, the South was also, on the one hand, to allow them to engage in a war of attrition against the Palestinian Resistance, and to blackmail the Arabs in order to compel them to accept a political solution for the Lebanese -- partition -- which would be of tremendous advantage to Zionism. To consecrate the partition of Lebanon -- through the pressure put on South Lebanon -- would in effect amount to consecrating the existence of Israel as a confessional state. Thanks to the birth of a multitude of confessional states on Lebanese territory, the Zionist *fait accompli* would be not only legally recognised, but would take on the value of precedent. The new confessional state, which would, in addition, include the allies of the Israelis in South

Lebanon, would consecrate the first type of regional co-existence with Israel, and simultaneously the first step towards a confessional "Balkanisation" of the Middle East -- an old Zionist dream!

UNYIELDING RESISTANCE

Faced with this massive conspiracy, Kamal Junblatt, symbol of the heroic resistance of the Lebanese patriots, said no. And his determination, the material expression of that of hundreds of thousands of Lebanese and Arabs, remained unyielding: no, Lebanon would not serve as a base for the fragmentation of the Arab world and the Arab nation.

The perpetrators of the conspiracy were seeking to make of Lebanon a road destined to open up the way for them for a new domination of the region. As a preliminary, some "arrangements" were made on the regional level. But the Lebanese patriots, allied to the Palestinian Resistance, seriously hindered the execution of the plan. And Kamal Junblatt was one of the most prominent symbols of this. It thus became

necessary to eliminate this annoying obstacle. And the assassination was carried out.

But once again the calculations have been foiled. For all the Lebanese patriots, grouped around the National Movement -- for whom Kamal Junblatt has given his life -- the assassination of the man who was the symbol of the resistance struggle, only serves to reaffirm and consecrate a profound determination: to continue the struggle until the destruction of the conspiracy.

All Lebanese patriots, their Palestinian brothers, as well as their Arab brothers, must today close their ranks. It is in strengthening their unity, in continuing the work which he had begun and to which he dedicated his life, in knowing how to create out of all the patriotic Lebanese forces and their allies a barrier, and a force unyielding in the face of imperialism and its tools; it is in this way that all Lebanese, Palestinian, and Arab patriots will remain faithful to the memory of Kamal Junblatt, symbol and martyr, who died on the field of honour.



ON JUNBLATT

PALESTINIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS INTERRUPTS SESSION TO MOURN DEATH OF KAMAL JUNBLATT

Instead of resuming its scheduled meetings on the evening of 16 March, the Palestinian National Congress devoted its evening session to Kamal Junblatt, and decided to name its thirteenth session after the "Martyr Kamal Junblatt." Following the obituary given by Khaled al-Fahoum, President of the Congress, Yasser Arafat expressed his bereavement at the death of Junblatt, saying:

"I am sorry to have lost my nerves when I heard the news, for Kamal Junblatt is not an ordinary man... he was a comrade-in-arms... he was brave... he was not merely a man but rather a whole army fighting by our side against the conspiracy aimed at the Palestinian people and their Revolution, and against the Lebanese people and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. Thus, the loss of Kamal Junblatt was for us a great one.

He added: "We knew there was a plan for assassinations which began with Abdel Wahab and his wife, and Abu Musa who, although seriously wounded, escaped death. Today Kamal Junblatt was killed. We do not know who will be the fourth and the fifth victims; but we all know that the chapter of assassinations has begun."

Arafat continued: "After failing to liquidate the National Movement and the Palestinian Revolution, politically and militarily,



they are trying to liquidate its symbols. Kamal Junblatt is a symbol, and will remain one. In your name, I pledge that we will continue the procession fearlessly; for our unity with the Lebanese National Movement constitutes a shield, a shield forged by Kamal Junblatt and his companions. I thereby repeat in your name that we will not yield and will remain alert, and will continue on the same course and with the same principles."

Abu Iyyad, member of the Fateh Central Committee then spoke:

"We were shocked by the death of the great militant, Kamal Jun-

blatt, who did not know what bargaining or submission meant; he represented the pride of this nation which does not know the meaning of weakness."

Abu Iyyad added, "When we talk about Kamal Junblatt, we talk about the great militant who took a heroic stand with our people and exposed himself to danger; for he could have lived as a prince amongst his Druze compatriots, but instead stood as a man to defend this Revolution against the conspiracies planned by the isolationist forces in Lebanon."

Abu Iyyad continued: "There comes the question: who has an interest in assassinating this mili-

tant? I do not want to reach conclusions before the investigation is completed, but I want to say to all imperialist and hostile forces that true men are not afraid of death, for all militants know that this is their fate." Abu Iyyad concluded: "Kamal Junblatt did not die in vain, and whoever was responsible for his death will pay heavily for it."

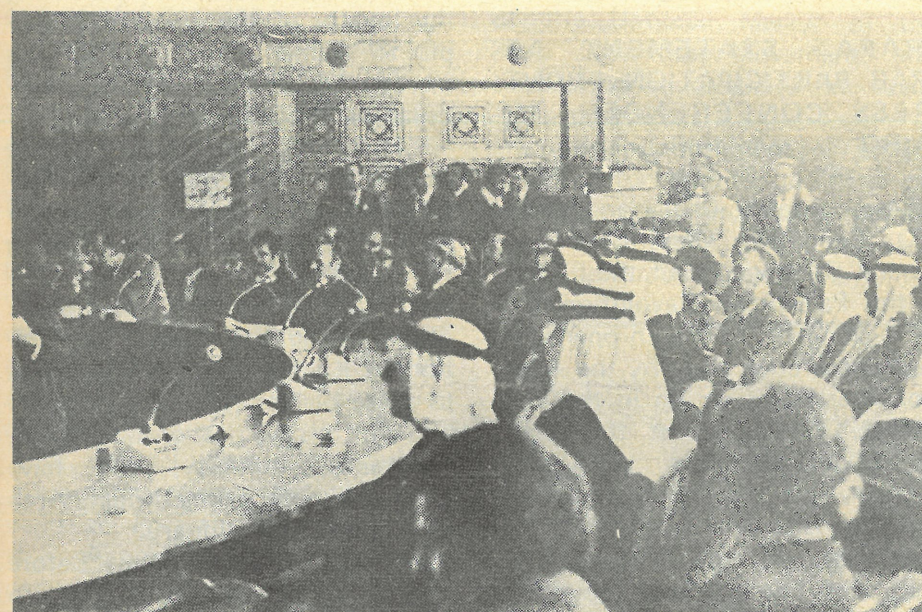
After Abu Iyyad's speech, Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department said: "After the conspiracy in Jordan, Kamal Abdel Naser died defending the Palestinian Revolution; and today another hero has given his life for Lebanon and Palestine, as the price for his stand and for his long struggle."

Abu Lutf added: "Kamal Junblatt died as a pioneer of the National Movement and for the development of Lebanon and the

Arabs. American imperialism, Israel, and their agents in the area continue to settle their accounts with the honest nationalists so as to interfere with the peace plan in Lebanon, strike at the Revolution, and prevent the restoration of normal life to Lebanon. If this was aimed at Arabizing the struggle, it will not be us who will do that; for this plan is meant to re-ignite the civil war in Lebanon."

Abu Lutf continued: "We know the murderer and we will one day point him out with our finger." Abu Lutf went on: "Physical liquidation was the only method left after the imperialists, Zionists and their agents had gone bankrupt and failed in their plans.

"We will not mourn Kamal Junblatt, but promise to continue the struggle along its correct course without submission or bargaining."



NATIONAL CONGRESS COMMUNIQUE ON MARTYRDOM OF KAMAL JUNBLATT

The Palestinian National Congress on 16 March issued the following communiqué on the martyrdom of the Lebanese leader Kamal Junblatt:

"Yesterday Kamal Junblatt was shot down by bullets of treason, and of agents of US imperialism

and Zionism. He was a valiant and loyal hero, the defender of the Palestinian Revolution, and of the new democratic national Lebanon as a firm base for the struggle of the national Lebanese Arab people and the Palestinian Revolution.

"The Palestinian National Congress honours the hero Kamal Junblatt, Secretary-General of the Arab Front for Participation in the Palestinian Revolution, Head of

the Progressive Socialist Party and Head of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement.

"While saluting the martyr Kamal Junblatt, the Palestinian National Congress affirms that the Palestinian people and their Revolution stand alongside the Lebanese people and their national progressive movement, thus stressing the fact established by Kamal Junblatt himself, that the strategic alliance between the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement and the heroic Lebanese people will remain firm and unbreakable.

"In honour and in commemoration of the martyr Kamal Junblatt, the Palestinian National Congress has decided to name its thirteenth session after him. In the future, in liberated Palestine, the name of the leader and that of our martyrs will be raised high, in an expression of our loyalty to Junblatt, to the Lebanese National Movement and to the heroic Lebanese people."

THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION MOURNS THE DEATH OF THE GREAT NATIONALIST LEADER KAMAL JUNBLATT

The Palestinian Revolution, on the evening of 16 March issued the following obituary of Kamal Junblatt:

"Today, March 16th 1977, there departed from amongst us the great nationalist militant Kamal Junblatt, Secretary-General of the Arab Front for Participation with the Palestinian Revolution, leader of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, Chairman of the Progressive Socialist Party, and a sincere friend of Palestine, its people and its Revolution; one who always came to its aid and participated with its fighters and its Revolution in all its battles, inside and outside Palestine.

"Today sinister criminal hands reached out to assassinate the



great national leader, Kamal Junblatt, and in doing so were consciously executing the policies of the enemies of the Resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, and the enemies of peace and stability in Lebanon.

"The assassination of this great leader comes at a time when the situation in Lebanon had begun to stabilize, and to move along the path of peace sought by the Lebanese, the Palestinians, and all Arab peoples.

"The criminal conspiratorial forces which planned and executed this hateful and ugly act want to return Lebanon to the atmosphere of war planned for by the forces of imperialism and Zionism, so as to drag the Palestinian Revolution and the Arab forces of Liberation and progress into secondary confrontations and distract them from the central battle with imperialism and its aggressive plots in the region, and against Israel and its expansionist ambitions in Palestine and the other confrontation states.

"The Palestinian Revolution, the Palestinian Arab people, and the masses of the entire Arab nation, in condemning this criminal act and its planners and executors, will always remember Kamal Junblatt as a symbol of national and humanitarian struggle; it will always remain faithful to his principles, his moral values, his example and his patriotic teachings, and will remember the firm stand of the leader of the LNM by the side of the Palestinian Revolution and the national rights of the Palestinian people.

"As it faces this great calamity,

the Palestinian Revolution calls on the masses of the fraternal Palestinian and Lebanese peoples to perceive the hostile aims hidden behind this hateful criminal act, and calls on all to be alert and cautious, and to avoid reactions which will assist the criminals in carrying out their plots against the two fraternal peoples. By restraining themselves, they will foil the plans to destroy the peace efforts in Lebanon, and will be loyal to the humanistic values, teachings and example of the great martyr, Kamal Junblatt.

"The Revolution, in calling upon the Lebanese and Palestinian masses to do all this, pledges the great martyr that it will pursue the procession of struggle to achieve the goals in which he believed, and for which he sacrificed."

ARAFAT STATEMENT AT ARAB PARTICIPATION FRONT PRESS CONFERENCE IN CAIRO

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, on the evening of 18 March opened a press conference given by the Arab Front for Participation in the Palestinian Revolution at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo, which was attended by several members of the Palestinian National Congress, representatives of Arab and Foreign news agencies, newspapers and other media, and representatives of Algeria, Morocco, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Yemen, the Jordanian National Front, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, the Federation of Arab Workers' Trade Unions and of Arab Lawyers, and Mr. Lutfi al-Kholi, member of the General Council of the Arab Front for Participation in the Palestinian Revolution. The following is the text of Arafat's statement:

"We have invited you in the name of the Arab Front for Parti-

cipation in the Palestinian Revolution, which includes 57 Arab organizations and parties in the Arab nation, and which held an urgent meeting yesterday following the great loss of the Arab, Lebanese, Palestinian and humanitarian militant, Kamal Junblatt; first, because of his being the Secretary-General of this front which was formed in 1972, and whose General Council was headed by comrade Jalloul al-Malaika of Algeria, who is now sitting by our side, together with the Arab, Palestinian and Lebanese delegations, as well as the delegation of the Arab Front which participated in the funeral ceremony for the late leader. This delegation saw in the funeral an Arab, Palestinian, and Lebanese nationalist demonstration, which reminds us of the demonstrations of our masses inside occupied Palestine reflecting the loyalty of the Palestinian people to Kamal Junblatt, who was martyred in defence of the Palestinian people and their cause.

"Therefore, the meeting of the Arab Front yesterday is a reflection of the martyr's position in relation to the forces representing the Arab world with all its different directions and ideologies. This meeting also reflects the position of Kamal Junblatt in relation to these parties which have chosen him for his values of humanism, militance, humility, and have chosen him as a Palestinian, Arab nationalist revolutionary.

"It will be a long time before we find another Kamal Junblatt to fill the gap. His death was a calamity, but at the same time an incentive to pursue our struggle for the principles for which Kamal Junblatt has lived. These principles will not die because the comrades of Junblatt in Lebanon, Palestine, the Arab nation, and in the world will continue on the same course. In the name of all these militants, I affirm that we will pursue the march for which this hero, who was a believer, a firm militant and a man of pride has died. When I urged him to come to Cairo and

participate in our Congress, he only told me this: "Go and struggle there, as I will struggle in your absence here, for both struggles are complementary." These were his last words to me and they carry great significance for me."

Arafat continued: "Our Arab nation knows well who Kamal Junblatt is, and it will continue on the same path. I speak in the name of the members of the General-Secretariat of the Arab Front for Participation in the Revolution, which convened yesterday with the participation of delegates from Algeria, Morocco, Iraq, Democratic Yemen, and of representatives of the Jordanian National Front, the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian Revolution."

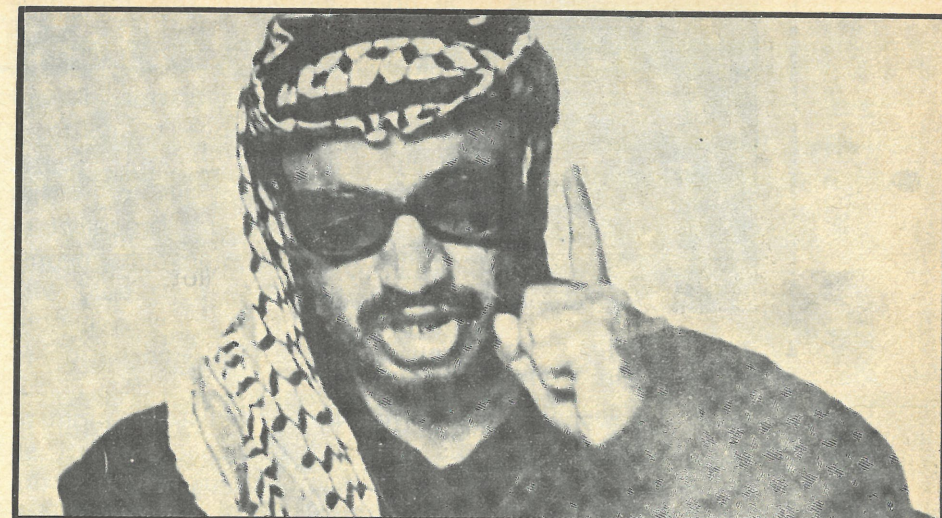
Arafat finally thanked the participants for having participated in the meeting, although it was a sad and painful occasion.

Following Arafat's speech, Mr. Nadim Abdel Samad, President of the Executive Committee of the Arab Front for Participation in the Palestinian Revolution, spoke in the name of the Front, praising Junblatt, and saying that the latter had directed all his efforts for the victory of the Arabs, especially concerning the Palestinian cause, and for the building of a unified Arab society based on democracy and social justice.

Mr. Abdel Samad concluded: "Junblatt consecrated his last years to lead the struggle against the American-Israeli-reactionary conspiracy which aims at hitting the Palestinian Revolution and destroying the Arab liberation movements."

Following his speech, Mr. Abdel Samad read the resolutions taken by the Arab Front in its meeting yesterday to the assembled journalists:

First: Inviting Arab popular federations and trade unions to hold a day of solidarity with the Lebanese people and Palestinian Resistance in commemoration of the one week anniversary of his death.



Second: Commemorating the 40 days anniversary of his death.

Third: Taking the following steps in commemoration of Kamal Junblatt:

1. Declaring 16 March the Day of the National Martyr of the Arab Liberation Movement, and celebrating it annually in every Arab nation.

2. The establishment of an institution for studies on issues related to the Third-World, named after Kamal Junblatt.

3. The establishment of an inter-

national medal in the martyr's name.

4. Collecting the writings and thoughts of the leader.

5. Setting up a statue of Junblatt in Mukhtara.

6. Calling upon world public opinion to denounce this despicable crime.

The resolutions concluded by saying: "The Secretariat-General of the Arab Participation Front is certain that the Lebanese Nationalist Movement is capable of foiling all conspiracies by strengthening unity between all its factions."

SPEECH BY TEWFIQ SULTAN TO NATIONAL CONGRESS ON DEATH OF KAMAL JUNBLATT

On behalf of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, Tewfiq Sultan, comrade of the Martyr Kamal Junblatt, made a speech during the session of the Palestinian National Congress on 18 March in honour of the memory of the late leader. The speech read as follows:

"Dear comrades:

We had hoped not to be here today, speaking on behalf of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, since we have been waiting for our teacher, leader and comrade, Kamal.

"Kamal Junblatt was late in coming, not to observe the Palestinian National Congress but to

join the leadership of the Palestinian people in adopting the appropriate resolutions at this critical hour. However, Junblatt was delayed by reasons closely related to your meeting and our cause. Junblatt was delayed because he was engaged in contacts to ensure the existence of the armed National Movement in South Lebanon, to defend our cause there. Kamal Junblatt was killed even before he could be sure of the arrival of these forces in the South to defend it against Israeli attacks.

"Our teacher and leader never was the property of the Lebanese National Movement, not that of



his own party; rather, as his comrade Abu Saleh once said, "Junblatt belonged to the Palestinian Revolution, the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Resistance." Junblatt always said: "Were our program to be delayed for a few years, history would only write a few lines. On the other hand, were the Palestinian Revolution to be struck at on Lebanese soil, be sure that the coming generations would condemn and curse us."

"Some may ask, why did they kill Kamal Junblatt? Or more meaningfully, who killed Junblatt? Our answer would be: everybody knows who killed Junblatt, and why. In any case, the comrades of Kamal Junblatt will foil the plans of his assassins, because they are pupils of a teacher who deserves his title; who never achieved power but instead dwelt in the hearts of all the militants in the world. Here, and at this critic-

al hour, we admit that they have deprived us of something very valuable, but not of everything. All we really want now is our confiscated weapons to confront Israel's attacks on our South. Although it is obvious to us that the decision for war is subject to numerous calculations, the people always fight with their bold will, and they will do so in Lebanon, and will force this Arab nation to fight there.

What we ask for at this moment is only what Kamal Junblatt always dreamt of, namely Palestinian national unity, and resolutions that meet and confront the imperialist attack on our nation. We also demand a popular revolutionary and national front, on the Arab level, to expose and confront these conspiracies.

"All that we can say in reply to those who ponder what was the contribution of the Lebanese National Movement and Kamal Junblatt, is that he contributed his sister and his comrades in the national movement, but was still accused of contributing too little. In answer to those, Kamal Junblatt at last gave himself.

"As he always stated "I am a sacrifice for the Palestinian Revolution, and for the Arab libera-

tion movement." He lived up to his words and was martyred as an embodiment of his ideals.

"To his assassins, we say that the impact of Kamal Junblatt which upset them so much while he lived, will upset them no less after his martyrdom, and will even increase, because his comrades will bravely confront the conspiracy."

"We all know that the first chapter of the conspiracy started with the assassination of the Martyr, Ma'rouf Sa'ad; and it seems that the second chapter has just began.

"Nevertheless, we will keep on confronting the conspiracy, side by side with the Palestinian Revolution, not withstanding their assassinations, their jails, their terror, and their torture.

"Comrades, I tell you, it is high time for confrontation, and I am sure that Kamal Junblatt, by his death, will awaken the Arab people to their national cause, to what is happening in Lebanon, to the possibility of the establishment of another Israel there, even before we have succeeded in confronting the Israel we know. Therefore, let me ask you all, and ask them all, in the name of Kamal Junblatt, to prevent the establishment of another Israel."



PALESTINE NOTES



ARAFAT RECEIVES CABLE OF CONDOLENCES FROM LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN ADEN ON MARTYRDOM OF JUNBLATT

Yasser Arafat on 17 March received a cable of condolences on the martyrdom of the militant Kamal Junblatt from the national liberation movements and the democratic and national organizations in the Democratic Republic of Yemen. The cable said that this ugly murder was executed by imperialist, Zionist and fascist isolationist forces at a time when peace had returned to Lebanon, in order to re-ignite the bloody war and weaken the Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian Revolution.

Abu Jihad



PALESTINIAN LEADERS ATTEND JUNBLATT FUNERAL

The Lebanese and Palestinian masses, on the afternoon of 17 March, escorted the martyr Kamal Junblatt to his final resting place, in a ceremony attended by a delegation of the Palestinian Revolution, headed by Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee and of the General Command of the Assifa forces,

accompanied by Taysir and Abu Hassan.

The delegation from the Palestinian National Congress which the previous day arrived from Cairo to participate in the funeral included: Abu Saleh, member of the Fateh Central Committee and of the General Command of the Assifa forces, Abdel Jawad Saleh and Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, and Abu Ahmad Fuad of the PFLP and Mamdouh of the PDF.

After escorting the martyr to his final resting place, the members of the Palestinian delegation stood beside Walid Junblatt, Sheiykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra, Sheiykh al-Aql of the Druze sect, and the members of the Central Political Bureau of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement to receive condolences.

PLO OFFICE OPENED IN PRAGUE

On 23 March, a PLO office was officially opened in Prague by the Czechoslovak Government. The PLO and the Czechoslovak Government declared their agreement in principle on this matter last September, during the visit of Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department, to Czechoslovakia.

SPAIN APPROVES OPENING OF PLO OFFICE IN MADRID

The Spanish Foreign Ministry, on 9 March, issued a communiqué declaring its approval of the opening of a PLO office in Madrid. This news came in a memo delivered by the Foreign Ministry to the PLO representative in Spain.

The memo added that in light of contacts with the PLO, the Spanish Government had decided to recognize the PLO officially, and to open an office within the terms of Spanish law.

PALESTINIAN UNIFIED INFORMATION

PRODUCES FILM ON LEBANESE WAR

The Palestinian Unified Information recently produced a film about the Lebanese war, which shows the extent of the conspiracy against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, as well as the heroic battle of the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement against this imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracy. The film deals with events between April 1975 and October 1976.

SAMED PARTICIPATES IN LEIPZIG FAIR

The PLO participated in March in the Leipzig Spring Fair, held annually in the GDR, and now taking place for the fourth time.

The Palestinian institution for the families of martyrs, *Samed*, showed its products in a special display section of its own.

Samed trains the sons and daughters of Palestinian martyrs in various technical fields, thus graduating technically-qualified cadres, and also opens all possible opportunities for the employment of the disabled and handicapped.



A scene from Samed's exhibition

AL-KARAMEH



FATEH COMMUNIQUE ON 9TH ANNIVERSARY OF AL KARAMEH BATTLE

The Palestinian Revolution and people on March 21, celebrate the ninth anniversary of the battle of Karameh, which constituted the first real victory against the Zionist enemy. On this occasion, Fateh issued the following communiqué:

"Today is the ninth anniversary of the victorious battle of Karameh, which regained the dignity of the Arab nation and pulled down the Zionist enemy, smashing its arrogance and the myth of its invincible army.

"On that day, March 21, 1968, fighters of the Palestinian Revolution confronted a whole army with its complete arsenal, thrust forward by the Zionist enemy against the village of al-Karameh in the Jordan River Valley. The enemy announced that it could subdue all Fateh commandos in a brief 2-hour mission. But this army retired only during the night, carrying away dead and injured, and abandoning destroyed vehicles and illusions shattered in the first real confrontation.

"At al-Karameh, Fateh took the decision of confrontation and steadfastness, despite the enemy's clear and absolute superiority. At al-Karameh the startling victories of our people answered the questions of the Arab masses about their eventual future, in the wake of the 1967 June war.

"At al-Karameh, Fateh put into action the slogans "the Palestinian Revolution is the vanguard of the Arab nation in the battle of liberation"; "people's war is the only way to defeat the Zionist enemy"; and "confronting the enemy is the way to the minds and hearts of the millions of Arabs who, united with us, will participate in our just struggle for the liberation of our homeland Palestine."

"The anniversary of al-Karameh has today come again, bearing its fruits on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels. In our beloved country, Palestine, the popular uprising spreads in all its cities and villages and last year this uprising continued for 127 days, with new methods invented by our population to face the Zionist yoke: using their bare hands most of the time, they used sticks, stones, barricades, arms, explosives and partial and full-scale strikes. Even our detainees in the enemy's prisons co-ordinate their hunger-strikes to uncover the authorities' racism and their inhuman measures.

"Last year our people in the part of Palestine occupied in 1948 recorded a day of dignity and pride, when they burst out on the Day of the Land, March 30, in a general strike in defence of the Arabism of the land in the face of Judaization and settlement projects, recording a day for Arab nationalism, for all Palestine and a day for victory.

"All the moves have been accomplished under the banner of attachment to the PLO, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and land. And on the Arab scene, Palestine and its Revolution advanced in the face of the expansionist Zionist enemy, and held out in the face of numerous conspiracies and conflicts which were aimed against its independence and its sustained orientation of action against the Zionist enemy. The position of the Palestinian Revolution was proved correct during the October 1973 war, the first Arab victory against the enemy, and later during the Algiers and Rabat summits and other Arab, African and international summits which recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian struggle. The truth of Fateh's slogans has been verified by all, in that Palestine should remain above Arab disputes, and should be always the axis of Arab solidarity against Zionism and imperialism.

"The road to steadfastness was not at all easy: the thousands of martyrs and wounded which our people have offered in battles against attempts at containment, subjugation and deviation are evidence of these hardships.

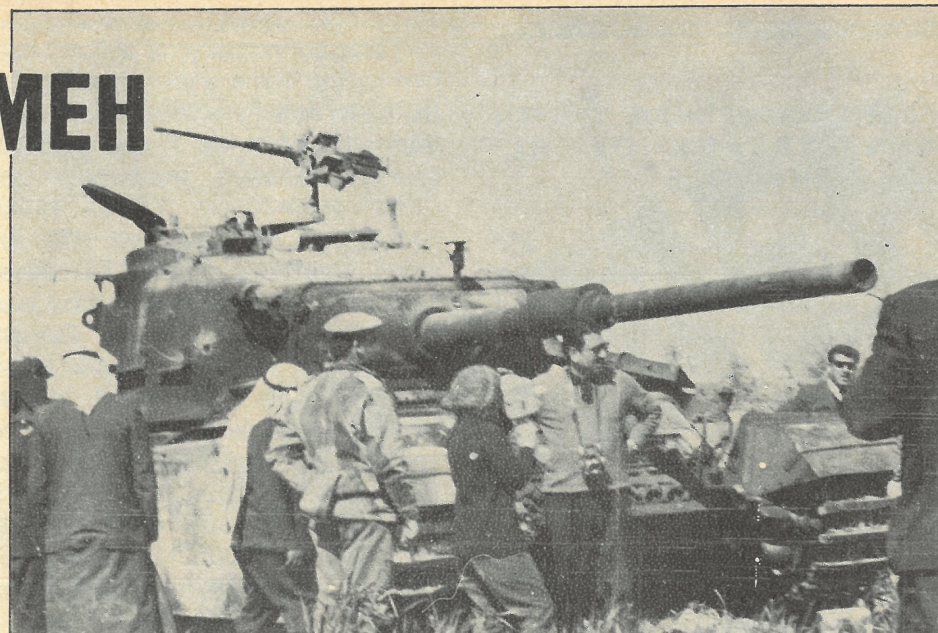
"Internationally, al-Karameh has produced its fruits since the beginning among all honest people in the world. Our cause has gained more and more weight year after year on the international activities, following Vietnam's victory and the October war. Palestine has again occupied its seat in all international conferences and at the United Nations, after years of black-out and isolation imposed by the conspiracies of the colonialists and Zionists. The ninth anniversary of the battle of al-Karameh is back again and the name of Palestine, its people and Revolution, is heard everyday, by friends and enemies, by conspirators and supporters.

"All today agree that the Palestinian cause is the focus of war as it is the focus of peace, and that the outcome of this question is today in the hands of its sons, without tutelage, or denigration of their rights, or a solution concluded at their expense.

"The ninth year of al-Karameh has witnessed the climax of feverish Zionist colonialist activity to encircle our Revolution and liquidate it. Last year the plots of the colonialists and Zionists to rekindle strife and internecine killing in Lebanon, and to sow discord among Arabs were intensified. Our Revolution has stood against all these conspiracies, fought with all its possible efforts to check these projects and limit the blazing strife in fraternal Lebanon, and to correct as well Arab relations in order to unify Arab ranks to back the Palestinian Revolution against imperialism and Zionism.

"The steadfastness, heroic deeds, sacrifices, national commitment and the unity of guns against the Zionist enemy has its great effect in reaching a cease-fire in Lebanon and the launching of the

AL~KARAMEH



Israeli tank destroyed during Al Karameh Battle 1968

plan for peace and security. However, the Zionist enemy did not accept its defeat and started moving its agents in South Lebanon, aiming at exhausting the Arab forces, especially the Palestinian Revolution, and keeping the situation tense so as to occupy the Arabs and blackmail them. We are sure that the unity of the efforts of those honest and loyal to the Arab nation, especially the Lebanese and Palestinian masses, are able to resist the Zionist enemy and their conspiracies and defend the unity, Arabism and independence of Lebanon.

"We remember with pride the stand of the Lebanese masses and their national movement with us defending the Palestinian Revolution, and their sacrifices for the Palestinian cause of thousands of the best young militants, and especially the leader Kamal Junblatt, Head of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, who was determined to remain on the front lines fighting for Palestine.

"The Ninth anniversary of al-Karameh, as the Palestinian Revolution continues its success, coincides with a day of national unity, the first weapon for victory. The Palestinian National Congress has ended its 13th session, confirming the unity of guns and the trust in the leadership which in the past disappointed the calculations of the enemies and conspirators throughout the Lebanese civil war. However, the Palestinian National Congress was a demonstration of national unity revived by our masses in occupied Palestine with demonstrations of support and trust challenging the Zionist enemy.

"Everyone knows that the road to these victories was not easy, in the same way that the

steadfastness on the day of al-Karameh was not easy. Our people have given, and are still giving, the best of their sons for the recovery of their land and the independence of their Revolution. Fateh is faithful to its declared principles no matter what it costs in the way of sacrifices.

"On this anniversary we recall the thousands of the martyrs who gave their lives for the liberation of Palestine, and in defence of the Revolution; we salute the steadfastness of the thousands of militants in the Zionist prisons, and bow in honour of our martyrs and their families.

"We direct our salute to our great people in occupied Palestine, who are united to resist the Zionist enemy and salute all our masses in the diaspora who are looking forward to the day of return.

"We salute all the Arab masses and promise to continue our struggle to realize our just aims of liberation and unity.

"In the ninth year of al-Karameh, let us be equipped with the spirit of dipuity; the spirit of resistance to the Zionist enemy and of generosity to Palestine and the Arab nation; the spirit of holding to the gun and national unity. Let us hold to the promise

we gave to our masses to continue the Revolution from one victory to the other until full liberation of our land Palestine."

PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS LAUNCH MILITARY OPERATION IN JERUSALEM

As part of the continued upsurge in military operations inside occupied Palestine, Palestinian commandos, on 10 March, launched an attack on a group of Zionist soldiers in Jerusalem. The attack was admitted by the Israeli security forces. The Palestinian Military Spokesman issued the following communiqué:

Acting on orders from the General Command of the Palestinian Revolution, one of our combat units operating inside occupied Palestine at 7 AM on 10 March, attacked with hand grenades a group of Zionist soldiers gathered in front of an Egged bus-station near the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem. A number of the enemy were injured. Although pursued by Israeli soldiers, our commandos returned safely to base.

The Jerusalem Police Spokesman later admitted the operation, saying that several shots were fired at Israeli soldiers and they were attacked with hand grenades.

OCCUPATION DIARY

RESISTANCE GOES ON

TENSION AND UNREST CONTINUE IN WEST BANK

Nationalist pamphlets were scattered in the towns and cities of the West Bank on 11 March calling for a general strike as a sign of support for the Palestinian National Congress, which was to start its meetings the following day, and in solidarity with Palestinian detainees in Zionist prisons. In response to the increasing tension, the Israeli authorities moved large

forces into the towns and cities of the West Bank and Gaza out of fear of a massive uprising.

It is to be noted that the Zionist authorities have prevented members of the Palestinian National Congress representing the West Bank and Gaza Strip from leaving occupied Palestine to participate in the 13th session of the Congress, and have threatened to deport anyone who participates from occupied Palestine.

HIGH TENSION IN WEST BANK AFTER 4 DAYS OF DEMONSTRATIONS

Extreme tension prevailed in the cities of Ramallah and al-Bira in the occupied West Bank, following four days of violent demonstrations during which 17 Palestinian citizens were injured when Zionist police opened fire at the demonstrators.

The demonstrators on 9 March attacked Israeli military vehicles



and threw stones at Zionist soldiers, who surrounded the two towns in great numbers, in a desperate attempt to stop the increasingly violent uprising, using tear-gas grenades at one point, and shooting at the demonstrators at another. Consequently, 4 Zionist soldiers were injured, while the mayor of Ramallah, Karim Khalaf accused the Zionist soldiers of injuring 17 students, 12 of whom are still in hospital. The mayor added that the soldiers used heavy clubs in dispersing the demonstrating students, breaking the legs and fracturing the skulls of several students, according to medical reports.

Following the demonstrations, the Zionist forces launched wide-scale arrests of Palestinian students and citizens, detaining 64 citizens on charges of joining the demonstrations. Meanwhile, a Zionist military tribunal in Ramallah, on 9 March, imposed fines on 20 Palestinian citizens on charges of participating in demonstrations.

A Zionist military tribunal has sentenced Ahmad Muhammad to one year's imprisonment on charges of joining the Palestinian Revolution. The same tribunal also sentenced Mustafa Samman from Qalqilya to 18 months' imprisonment on charges of joining Fateh, and Khaled Muhammad Al-Farouk to 20 months' imprisonment; Ali Saeed Asad al-Taweel to 18 months', and Osman Hussein Abu Hamad from Yazour camp to 16 months' imprisonment on charges of joining the Palestinian Revolution.

In related news, the Palestinian detainees at Jenin prison have staged a hunger-strike, in protest against the inhuman measures practiced against them by their Zionist jailors.

Meanwhile, several mayors of West Bank cities, and other national organizations have sent cables of protest against the ill-treatment of

the Palestinian detainees in Zionist jails.

The Nablus Municipal Council and other organizations in the city also sent the following cable to the Zionist Military Governor:

"Just as the Palestinian detainees in Asqalan prison ended their 40 day hunger-strike, we learned that they staged another one which started on 24 February, which will seriously endanger their health conditions. These detainees, as we all know, would not have resorted to a hunger-strike, if they had not been facing conditions for worse than a hunger-strike. Therefore, we the undersigned, extremely worried about the destiny of our sons, think that the insistence on ignoring their rightful demands, will not, on any account, serve the actual interest of any of the concerned parties. Therefore, we demand humane and decent treatment of our detained countrymen, in keeping with the international conventions of human rights."

COMMITTEE FOR DEFENCE OF LAND REVEALS PLANS FOR DAY OF THE LAND

The Regional Committee for the Defence of Palestinian Land in the Triangle Region has recently decided to hold celebrations on the occasion of the Day of the Land, under the slogan of fraternal co-existence among different peoples, and social equality which can only be achieved through putting an end to the confiscation of Palestinian land and the arbitrary measures against Palestinian citizens. The celebrations are to take place on the 30 March in the village of Arraba.

Meanwhile, the Committee held a press conference in Tel Aviv during which it explained its stand towards the Zionist expropriation of Arab land, and set forth its de-

mands concerning the constitution of a committee to investigate the incidents that took place on the Day of the Land last year. The Committee also released a press communiqué in which it stressed that for all Arab citizens the Day of the Land has become a symbol of the defence of the land and of national rights, as well as of determination to continue the struggle. The communiqué stressed the necessity of maintaining calm on the Day of the Land so that the remembrance of the martyrs would be fully respected. The Committee also declared that no strikes would be staged on this occasion.

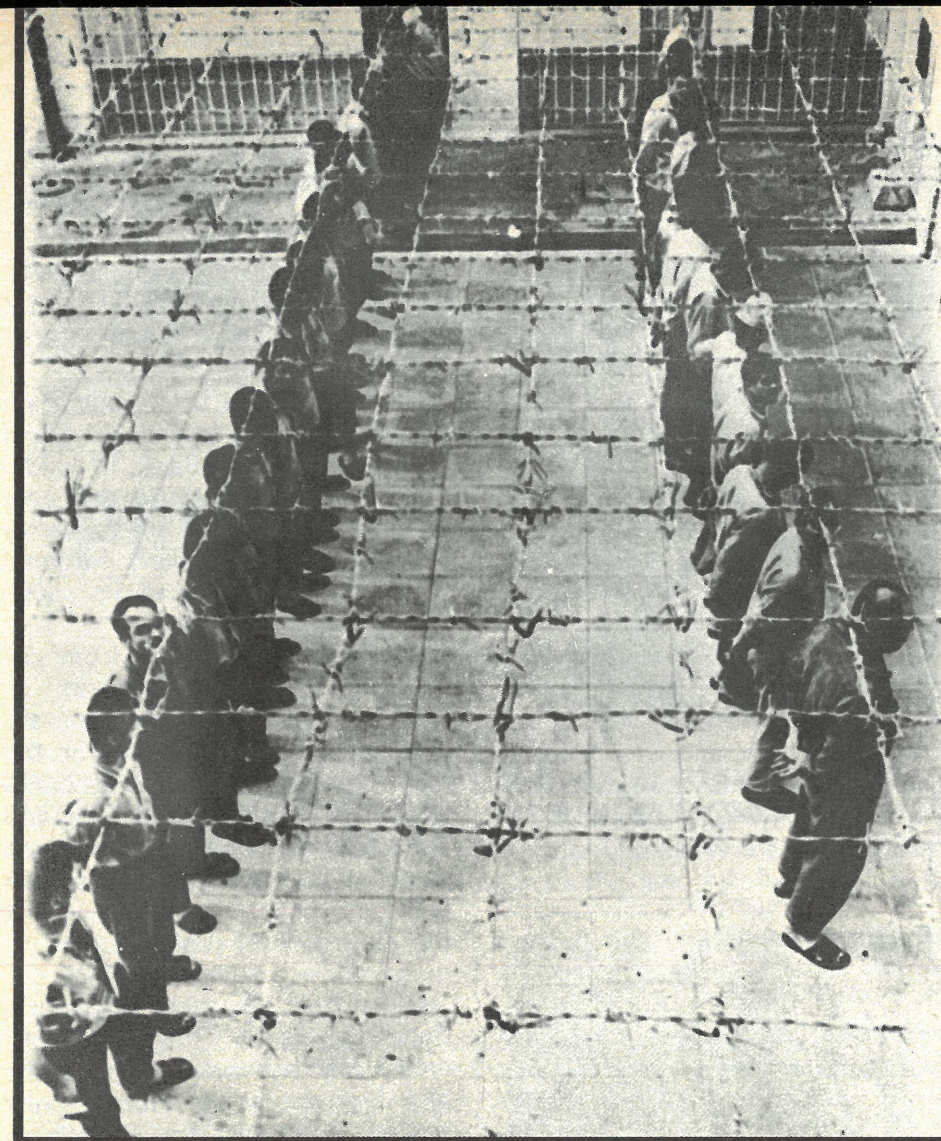
In related news, the Committee for the Defence of the Land on 21 March staged a massive gathering in Tel Aviv, which was attended by large numbers of Arab and Jewish citizens. Student demonstrations were also reported at Haifa University in connection with the Day of the Land.

DRUZE SOLDIERS REFUSE ORDERS TO BREAK UP DEMONSTRATIONS MOURNING JUNBLATT

According to reports from occupied Palestine, Druze soldiers in the Zionist army refused orders from the Israeli Military Governor to disperse demonstrations organized by Palestinian citizens in the occupied West Bank in protest against the assassination of Kamal Junblatt. These reports add that in some areas Druze soldiers clashed with Zionist troops.

It is to be noted that Palestinian citizens of the Druze sect have several times declared their rejection of conscription into the Israeli army, and that the Zionist authorities have arrested, imprisoned and fined large numbers of them in consequence.

In related news, the Israeli authorities have refused requests by Palestinian citizens to travel to Lebanon to pay their condolences on the martyrdom of Kamal Junblatt.



Even in jails - Palestinians resist

HUNGER-STRIKE SPREADS FROM ASQALAN TO RAMALLAH AND JENIN PRISONS

The hunger-strike of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails has spread to Ramallah prison, where 200 Palestinian prisoners on 14 March went on hunger-strike in solidarity with their fellow detainees in Asqalan prison.

The Asqalan hunger-strike, the second in the past few months, began on 24 February in protest against over-crowding and ill-treatment of detainees in the prison.

Detainees in the Jenin prison are said to have been on hunger-strike for a week. Reports declared that a general strike was observed in the town of Beit Sahour on 14 March in solidarity with the striking Palestinian prisoners in Zionist jails.

GROWING SOLIDARITY WITH PRISONERS ON HUNGER-STRIKE

As solidarity with striking Palestinian prisoners grows in occupied Palestine, Palestinian detainees in Ramallah prison, on 15 March, started a hunger-strike in solidarity with their comrades in Asqalan prison. Detainees in Jenin, Kfar Yona and Ramleh prisons were also reported to be on hunger-strike in solidarity with the Asqalan prisoners.

Meanwhile, women's societies in occupied Palestine addressed a call to all countries of the world asking them to put an end to the Zionist terror and oppression against Palestinian detainees.

In occupied Jerusalem, Palestinian students and progressive Jews in the Hebrew University launched a demonstration in front of the Knesset in solidarity with the

Palestinian detainees on hunger-strike in Zionist prisons, and called for the implementation of the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war as regards the detainees. The demonstrators also called for an investigation of conditions inside Zionist prisons.

MASSIVE UPRISING IN OCCUPIED WEST BANK

Massive demonstrations took place on 10 March in the cities and towns of the occupied West Bank, in protest against the oppressive measures of the Zionist occupation forces against Palestinian demonstrators in Ramallah and al-Bira over the previous four days.

Demonstrations filled the streets of Jerusalem, al-Bira, Ramallah, Hebron, Nablus and the surrounding villages, while the Zionist forces were reinforced around these towns in a desperate attempt to stop the growing mass uprising. The reports added that the Zionist forces launched further wide-scale arrests of Palestinian citizens in the West Bank, looting houses and brutally attacking citizens in the process of arresting them.

It is to be recalled that 17 Palestinian students were injured -- 12 of them severely -- two days ago previously when Zionist forces opened fire on the demonstrators in Ramallah and al-Bira. Meanwhile, a Zionist spokesman declared that several Palestinian students were injured during the demonstrations on 9 March.

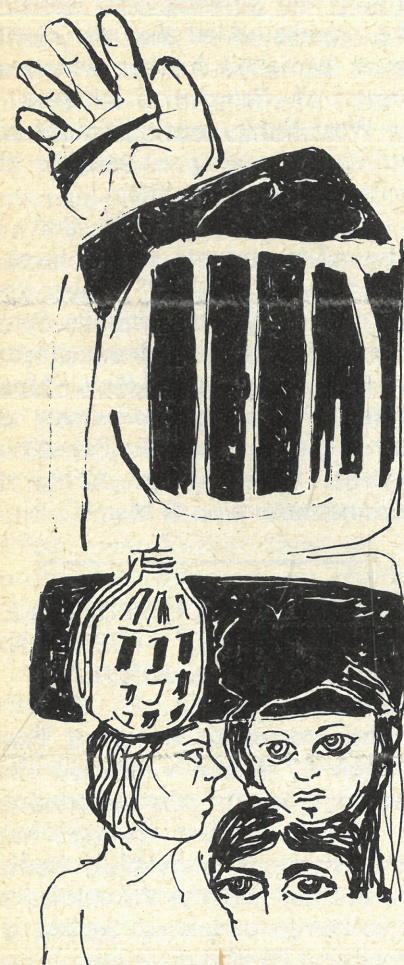
MASSSES IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE PROTEST ASSASSINATION OF KAMAL JUNBLATT

The masses in occupied Palestine on 17 March expressed their condemnation of the assassination of Kamal Junblatt through huge demonstrations in Nablus, Ramallah, al-Bira, and the Palestinian refugee camps in protest against the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary con-

spiracy to liquidate the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, which took the life of the militant Lebanese leader.

The demonstrations set up road blocks, stoned the Zionist police and carried banners supporting the Palestinian Revolution and the LNM. Zionist police unsuccessfully tried to disperse the demonstration using tear-gas grenades.

According to reports from international news agencies from occupied Palestine, tension prevailed in the towns and cities of the West Bank in protest against the assassination of Junblatt and in solidarity with the 13th session of the Palestinian National Congress, and the Zionist authorities reinforced their military forces to face the increasing mass challenge.



CAPUCCI STRIKES IN SOLIDARITY WITH ASQALAN PRISONERS

As Palestinian detainees in Asqalan prison continued their hunger-strike for the 15th consecutive day, Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, who is serving a 12-year sentence in Ramleh prison, declared a strike which, according to the *Jerusalem Post*, is in solidarity with Palestinian detainees in Zionist jails.

Meanwhile, the International Red Cross in occupied Palestine has confirmed that the detainees are suffering from very bad health conditions, and has added that the prisoners' demands in Asqalan prison are justified, especially since Israeli prisons are seriously overcrowded.

Meanwhile, the Asqalan prison director has admitted that the prison is over-crowded, and has said that each cell contains 35 prisoners, due to a deficit in the budget.

The International Peace Council has protested against the inhuman treatment of Palestinian detainees by the Zionist authorities. The Council blamed the latter for the detainees' hunger-strike. In a cable addressed to Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin, the Council called for the acceptance of the striking detainees' demands.

MAJOR WEST BANK DEMONSTRATIONS IN SOLIDARITY WITH NATIONAL CONGRESS

Demonstrations broke out again on 12 March in several cities and towns of the West Bank, in solidarity with the Palestinian detainees in Zionist jails, and in solidarity with the Palestinian National Congress which opened its meetings in Cairo that day.

According to reports from occupied Palestine, students in Nablus stoned Israeli military vehicles and burned tyres in the main street to block traffic. In Ramallah, al-Bira, Bethlehem and Beit Sahour, Palestinian citizens demonstrated waving Palestinian flags and chanting slogans against the Zionist occupation.

Meanwhile, further demonstrations took place in the West Bank on 11 March in protest against the brutal measures of the Zionist authorities against the Palestinian detainees.

In related news, the solidarity campaign with the Palestinian detainees is still growing in occupied Palestine and abroad. The Arab League in the USA has expressed its deep concern at the oppressive measures practiced against Palestinian detainees in Zionist prisons.

In Haifa, the Lawyers' Democratic Union held a meeting attended by a large number of lawyers at which it was decided to send delegations of lawyers, students and other groups from all parts of occupied Palestine to Asqalan prison on 13 March. Meetings will be held in front of the prison gates, expressing solidarity with the Palestinian detainees in their just demands.

INSTEAD OF PEACE THE PRETENCE OF PEACE

U.S. PRESIDENT CARTER'S MIDDLE EAST "VISIONS."

President Carter's various recent statements on Middle East affairs were obviously no accidental "slips of the tongue", but components of a well-planned game of U.S. Middle East strategy. Not the least important purpose of this game may well be to puzzle the minds, and to delude the hopes of the peoples in the area for progress towards justice and peace, which they so strongly long for.

If one takes a close look at the real substance of all the subtle remarks and sophisticated proposals advanced by the new U.S. Administration, only two things clearly emerge: The U.S.A., while indeed trying to avoid another big war in the Middle East, is, contrary to all assertions, not truly prepared, nor preparing, for any early comprehensive "settlement" of the Arab/Palestinian-Israeli confrontation. Moreover, in the disguise of complicated and protracted "steps towards final peace," the U.S.A. is striving for the continued, and even extended, military control and domination over the Middle East, over and above Israel, and especially in view of the exploitation of Arab oil and other economic resources.

In the context of this strategy, the pretence of "progress" and

"peace" becomes more important than progress and peace themselves. Herein may well lie the key for the understanding of President Carter's recent Middle East moves.



President Carter - a man of "visions"

HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

On March 16, 1977, President Carter told a meeting at Clinton, Massachusetts that, as an essential for peace in the Middle East, there must be "a homeland provided for the Palestinian refugees who have suffered so many, many years."

Undoubtedly, this remark, which was later confirmed as representing official U.S. policy, marks a significant step.

It is indeed the first time that a U.S. President has touched the core of the Middle East problem; the first time that the representative of the American people has been obliged to pay serious tribute to the elementary rights of the Palestinian people; it is, moreover, the first time that such a representative has referred openly to the fundamental injustice and aggression arbitrarily committed against this great people. The Palestinian Revolution will not belittle the importance of this admission on the part of the President of the U.S.A.; it is obvious that those aggressive Zionist circles which have for so long misled, misused and blackmailed U.S. public opinion as well as political interests, do not like this development.

The Palestinian Liberation Organization has also noted that, at President Carter's recent reception at the United Nations, the U.S.A. for the first time positively agreed to the participation of the P.L.O. representative, and that the U.S. President exchanged handshakes with him.

However, the 3 1/2 million Palestinian people, who are not only suffering but are also fighting for their liberation and their rights, are not helped by the U.S.A.'s pity of "refugees," nor will this pity free one inch of their occupied territory and homeland. Carter also forgot to mention, not only that more than one-third of our people are *not* refugees but live in their own land under the Zionist occupation and racist dis-

crimination, but also that it is U.S. imperialism itself which has been, and daily continues to be, the main force behind all this Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people, and that he has himself just promised another \$1 billion in "aid" to uphold it.

Moreover, Carter's vague reference to a "homeland" which has to be provided for the Palestinian people, omitted to name the essentials: an independent state corresponding to the rights of the Palestinian people to full national and social self-determination. Carter also left it completely open to say how, when, and where the U.S.A. is going to contribute to make such a "homeland" a reality.

It looks as if President Carter's concessionary remarks towards the Palestinian cause were intended mainly to appease Arab and Palestinian indignation caused by his earlier comprehensive outlines of U.S. Middle East policy, and above all to calm down those Arab regimes which have staked highly on U.S. initiatives towards a Middle East solution.

ISRAELI LOGIC EXPRESSED IN AMERICAN TONGUE.

In fact, the main line of U.S. strategy could be studied, when Carter, addressing a press conference on 9 March, 1977, gave a broad outline of future U.S. policy in the Middle East, pouring a whole flood of highly ambiguous and deliberately vague ideas over his puzzled audience.

Taken altogether, however, it was, as a P.L.O. spokesman expressed it, "Israeli ideas and logic expressed in the American tongue," which shocked the Arab public and media and disappointed those circles which had prematurely put all their confidence into U.S. "good offices."

"Carter's pronouncements," noted the British *Guardian* on 12 March, 1977, "call not only for adjustments, in Israel's favour, of the 1967 borders, but for depriving

neighbouring Arab countries of sovereignty over large tracts of their territories and setting up, in these areas, what would be in effect Israeli or foreign military bases."

First, the U.S. President, at his press conference, although suggesting that the "finally agreed borders" would "involve substantial withdrawal of Israel's present control," hinted at "some minor adjustments of the 1967 borders. But that is the matter for Israel and her neighbours to decide between themselves." This means that the U.S.A. now openly renounces in this regard the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 242, calling for Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

"MAY OR MAY NOT."

Besides, President Carter for the first time referred to the so-called "defensible borders for Israel" long put forward by Zionist propaganda, which would exceed even the "finally agreed borders." He said: "The defence lines may or may not conform in the foreseeable future to those legal borders," thereby opening, instead of prospects for a clear- and short-cut peace agreement, all gates for protracted Zionist manoeuvring, for tension and conflicts. Instead of thinking how to safeguard the Palestinian people and the Arab states against further Israeli aggression from which they have so often had to suffer during the past



Yigal Allon - defensible borders

decades, the U.S. President gave way to the expansionist and aggressive intentions of Zionist militarism. According to Carter, such defence lines for Israel "to defend itself," could take the form of "international agreements" or "zones", of "demilitarized zones," of "monitoring stations," "international forces" or -- "extensions of Israeli defence capability," or in other words "by the sometime placement of Israeli forces themselves... beyond the actual sovereignty borders as mutually agreed by Israel and her neighbours."

With what kind of alleged "peace" policy, "Israeli withdrawal" and so-called Arab "sovereignty" does the President of the U.S.A. want to dupe the Arab people and the world, if he is just trying to find new names for the old forms of Zionist aggression, occupation and racist suppression?

STEP-BY-STEP INTO ARAB SUBMISSION?

As if the vagueness and ambiguities were not enough, Carter also hinted at time-lapses for the fulfilment of any possible agreement which are such as to make all hopes for peace go up in smoke.

The U.S. President said he could see a "step-by-step process emerging where the parties might agree that the ultimate settlement would be at a fixed date, perhaps in 10 years' time." "In an interim state, maybe two years, four years, eight years, or more, there would be a mutual demonstration of friendship and an end to the declaration of war."

It is also very significant that Carter, throughout the press conference, time and again stressed that all details had to be agreed by "Israel and her neighbours themselves." The U.S.A. would only "act as an intermediary when our good offices will serve well." Carter's main Middle East adviser, Mr. Brzezinski, was reported as having immediately after the press conference assured the Israelis that this



Cyrus Vance - borders to "defend" the Israeli aggressions

was the "crux of policy." Carter had no fast "plan but wanted rather to encourage the process of negotiation by the parties themselves." This means that -- despite all "visions" of Carter and the respective hopes of Arab regimes -- the U.S.A. is not going to exert real pressure on Israel to implement any agreements which the Zionists want to block.

Above all, it is worth noting how Carter understands "the mutual demonstrations of friendship" and "the end to the declaration of war," which he would like to connect with the journey into uncertainty proposed for the Arabs. Among others he mentioned: "a termination of belligerence towards Israel by her neighbours"; "a recognition of Israel's right to exist, the right to exist in peace"; "the opening of borders"; "free trade" (end of the Arab boycott); "in other words, a stabilization of the situation in the Middle East without a constant threat to Israel's existence."

One has to link all the foregoing to the complete absence of any solution for the Palestinian problem in President Carter's vision, and of any guarantees for the Arab states; to the completely vague "time-table"; and to the experience of Israeli subversion

through "open borders" in Lebanon and elsewhere, to Zionist exploitation of Arab resources in Palestine and other occupied territories, as well as to the rapidly increasing exploitation of Arab oil, capital and other resources on the part of the U.S.A. Thus, one can easily perceive the quintessence of all the recent U.S. proposals: buying time for the benefit of the U.S.A. and Israel, postponing till doomsday an end to Zionist occupation and any fundamental solution of the Palestinian question, disarming militarily and economically the Arab side, in fact calling for total political surrender and economic submission to U.S./Israeli imperialism.

BACKING FOR "MODERN" ZIONISM.

President Carter's recent proposals are largely based on the earlier report published in December, 1975, by the Middle East study group of the U.S. Brookings Institution which is closely linked to the generally pro-Zionist U.S. Democratic Party. In addition, Carter has warmed up elements of the Zionist "Allon plan", as well as of the "Eban plan", even picking up its terminology. The Eban plan -- proposed to the U.N. General Assembly by the then Israeli Foreign Minister, Abba Eban after the June war -- called for "open borders" and further Arab concessions that would enable Israel, through the use of U.S. capital and advanced technology, to stabilize and extend its occupation into a position of neo-colonialist exploiter of the Arab world's resources, in symbiosis with the U.S.A.

The present Israeli Prime Minister, Rabin, also represents this "modern" trend of Zionism, of which Dr. Kissinger was also a leading advocate, and which prefers U.S./Zionist economic and strategic domination of the Middle East, rather than blunt and dangerous open military aggression.

Obviously, President Carter who made his proposals to give Rabin the presumed tool for the implementation of the "new" U.S. strategy -- the necessary backing for the forthcoming Israeli elections.

PRETENCE OF PEACE INSTEAD OF PEACE.

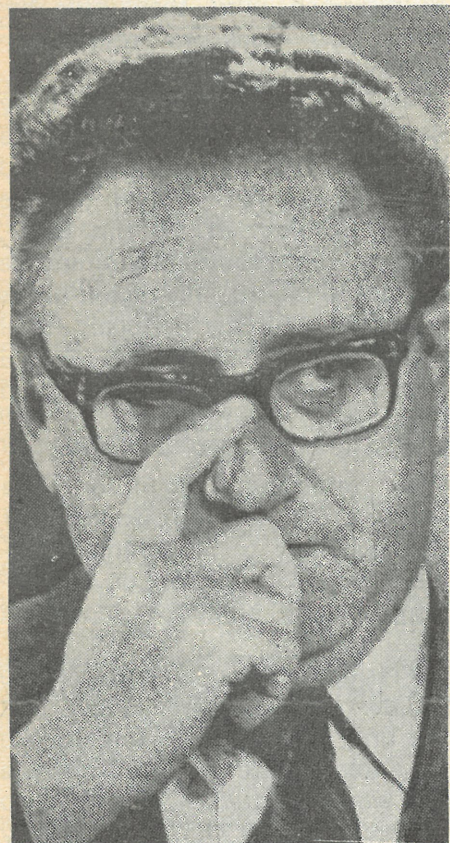
Finally, the Arab people and their regimes, as well as the Palestinian Revolution, have to draw the following conclusions: the present U.S. Middle East policy is not truly aiming for peace. Rather, the U.S.A. seems to be engaged in a big gamble, in which vague "visions" will be passed off as real progress, and year-long manoeuvres as deeds. The U.S.A. first wants to buy time, and while basically the Israeli-Zionist position is to remain untouched and even to become stabilized, together with an increase in U.S. economic and strategic domination in the area, the Arab regimes are, by rhetorical gestures and theatrical steps, to be kept in a good humour and quietly disarmed until they have become too weak to resist submission.

This is of course, a highly dangerous gamble. It is not to be expected that the Arab people and the Arab regimes will long tolerate being bamboozled by this game, and by U.S./Zionist predominance and exploitation. This region needs real peace. All the national, social and military contradictions up to a possible nuclear confrontation, and the interest of the whole world -- not only the U.S.A. -- in Arab oil, need fundamental solutions. The first of them is the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people, the end to all foreign occupation and all kinds of imperialist predominance.

President Carter and the people of the U.S.A. should know that the only alternative to the absence of a real peace will be finally a real war. It would be an illusion to believe that the U.S.A. merely by succeeding for some years in putting off the explosion could even-

tually avoid or escape this explosion which might well put the events in Vietnam in the shade.

The P.L.O., as the representative of the Palestinian people, has repeatedly declared that it desires nothing more than peace for its people, and P.L.O. Chairman Arafat has recently made clear his readiness to cooperate with the President of the U.S.A. for a "just and lasting peace". But the Palestinian people who have suffered so much and fought so hard and sacrificed so many martyrs, will not sell out their rights to self-determination and the return of all those illegally expelled and dispossessed. They need a real homeland, a democratic state, to realize their full national and social self-determination, and to work for the equal, voluntary, non-sectarian and non-racist co-operation and co-existence of all the peoples in the area. And the Palestinian Revolution will continue to fight for this end.



Dr. Kissinger - the "new" step-by-step approach

ENEMY NEWS

ISRAELI LEADERS EXPRESS PLEASURE AT CARTER STATEMENT ON "DEFENSIBLE FRONTIERS" FOR ISRAEL

Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin has declared that US President Jimmy Carter has adopted the Israeli view point on the necessity of inding "defensible borders". He said: "We have never heard a more accurate expression from any American President."

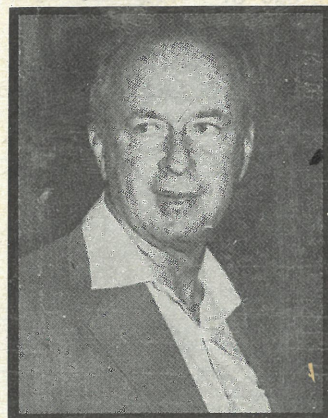
In his press conference, on 13 March, following his visit to the USA, Rabin added that the USA will not impose any peace settlement in the Middle East without the approval of Israel.

On the other hand, the Israeli Ambassador to the US, Simcha Dinitz, confirmed the Zionist policy of refusing withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands, and said: "We will not withdraw from the Golan Heights and Sinai desert because we need borders we can defend."

RABIN REPEATS ISRAELI REJECTION OF PALESTINIAN STATE

In a declaration to the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Aharonot* on 17 March, Israeli premier Yitzhak Rabin repeated that Israel will not tolerate a Palestinian state between Jordan and Israel. Rabin stressed that the Palestinian problem must be solved through negotiations with Jordan. In another declaration to the Israeli paper *Ma'ariv* on the same day, Rabin said that American public opinion should be convinced that the PLO aims at the destruction of Israel.

Rabin was responding to the recent remarks of U.S. President Carter about establishing a national home for the Palestinian people.



RABIN: CARTER ACCEPTS JORDAN RIVER AS "DEFENSIBLE FRONTIER" FOR ISRAEL

Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin declared before a meeting of his Cabinet on 14 March, that U.S. President Carter gives special importance to the Jordan River as a "defensible frontier" for Israel. His statement also made it clear that he had informed Carter that Israel will not withdraw from most occupied Arab territories.

Rabin added that Carter considers that the Jordan River should constitute part of Israel's "defensible frontiers", and reported that he had also informed Carter of the importance of Sharm al-Shaykh to Israel. Rabin went on to say that he had told Carter that the post-June war cease-fire lines are, in his estimation, "defensible borders" for Israel, and that Israel is willing to make minor modifications in them.

ISRAELIS PLAN FURTHER SETTLEMENT PROJECTS

Tel Aviv, 23/3

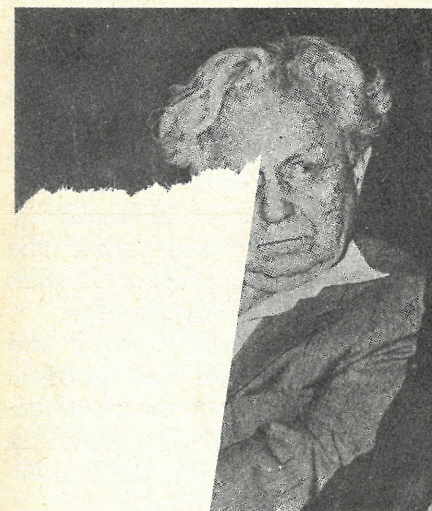
The Zionist council of Zionist cooperative villages has inaugurated a wide-scale campaign for expansionist settlements in the occupied Arab territories. 70 Knes-

set members are meanwhile pressuring the authorities to speed up the establishment of a colony in the village of Masha in the Nablus region.

The occupation authorities have so far expropriated a total of 12,000 dunums of land from the villages of Majdal Beni Fadel, Aqraba, and Shamoun in the Jordan River Valley for further colonization purposes in the area.

The Israeli Department of Lands is planning for the expropriation of extensive land from the Deir Kermeisan area on the outskirts of Jerusalem, on the pretext of opening up a new road linking the new residential quarters with the center of the Holy City, and of developing the Southern outskirts of Jerusalem.

The authorities had earlier offered to compensate the heads of the Greek Orthodox Church responsible for the Deir Kermeisan lands included in the project, but the latter protested vehemently against this proposal. The Zionist authorities as usual ignored the land-owners' protests.



CONFIRMS ISRAELI SUPPORT FOR IM FANATICS AS SETTLEMENTS IN CONTINUE

li Minister of State, in a declaration to the

Zionist Knesset, on 2 March, affirmed the insistence of the Israeli Government on implementing its settlement projects in the occupied Arab territories. He added that the Zionist authorities have established 67 out of 112 settlement centres planned in the West Bank. Galili also mentioned the attempt of the Gosh Imonim movement to establish a settlement in Mesha village, and said that the village's land was confiscated by the Zionist authorities on 18 January, and that the authorities would establish a settlement there at the right time.

Meanwhile, according to other reports, the Zionist authorities have secretly permitted the Gosh Imonim movement to carry out all steps necessary to establish more settlements in the occupied West Bank. Moreover, the Zionist authorities have decided to enlarge the area of the Qiryat Arba' settlement so as to include 500 more housing units. Radio Israel has meanwhile affirmed that the new project includes the establishment of a hotel and an athletics' center that overlooks the Ibrahimi mosque.

--In other news, the Palestinian newspaper *Al-Fajr* on 1 March declared that the Zionist military authorities are still confiscating the property taxes belonging to the Arab municipalities of the West Bank, because of the latter's refusal to include the value-added taxes in the ordinary taxes usually applied before the occupation. The paper added that international law prohibits any occupying authority from changing any of the laws in use.

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



Fanatical Gosh Emunin

all over the West Bank.

The reports added that in execution of this plan, a meeting was held on 27 February, attended by more than 600 members of the religious Kibbutz 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 further confirmed that a group of Zionist settlers has started to transport building materials to the slopes of the West of the Nablus mountains.

In addition, AFP on 1 March, 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 1 March, 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. However, the Zionist authorities later had to stop this plan, fearing the angry reaction of the Palestinian masses.



GOLDA MEIR INVOLVED IN YADLIN SCANDAL

The Israeli weekly, *Haolam Hazeh*, has reported that former Israeli Prime Minister, Golda Meir, may be included in the list of politicians who were involved in collecting money illegally for the Labour Party. It added that Asher Yadlin, the Senior Histadrut official who was nominated by the Rabin Government as Governor of the Bank of Israel before he was involved in a scandal over the illegal collection of Party funds, and who was lately sentenced to five years imprisonment, may accuse Meir of illegally collecting money for the Labour Party.

POSITIVE PALESTINIAN REACTIONS TO NATIONAL CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS MATCHED BY NEGATIVE ZIONIST REACTION

Palestinian citizens under occupation have warmly welcomed the resolutions of the Palestinian National Congress. The mayors of Nablus, Ramallah, and Tulkarm

have declared their approval of these resolutions, which were also praised by the Arabic-language newspaper issued in occupied Palestine.

On the other hand, Israeli Foreign Minister, Yigal Allon, on 21 March, received the Ambassadors of the countries of the European Common Market, and explained to them the reaction of the Israeli cabinet to the political resolutions of the Palestinian National Congress. Allon called the resolutions hard-line, and declared that the goal of the PLO is the destruction of Israel. He added that the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is only a step in Palestinian action.

Allon had meanwhile already rejected the political resolutions of the Palestinian National Congress, in an interview with Radio Israel, on 21 March, in which he declared that the resolutions transcended the most pessimistic Israeli expectations, and that Israel definitely refuses to deal with such resolutions.

Meanwhile, an official Israeli spokesman declared at a press conference on 21 March, that the political program adopted by the Palestinian National Congress mentions in its introduction that it is based on the Palestinian National Charter, as well as on the resolutions adopted during previous conferences. He added that "it is well known that the Charter, as well as the previous resolutions, specify the liquidation of Israel as a Jewish state."

Moreover, the Israeli Minister of War, Shimon Peres, as well as the Israeli envoy to the UN, Chaim Herzog, and the head of the Likud bloc, Menahem Begin, all expressed their distress at the resolutions of the Palestinian National Congress, declaring its aim, the destruction of Israel in stages, via all possible means.

-In related news, Israeli news-

papers unanimously rejected the Palestinian political program, which stressed the achievement of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people through the PLO. *Yediot Aharonot* noted that Israeli political circles believe that the PLO has not changed its stand, and that most of its "moderates" do not differ from the "extremists" with regard to their stand vis-à-vis Israel. The paper added that Israeli political circles consider Arab talk of a Palestinian secular democratic state in Palestine as nothing more than an expression for the destruction of Israel, and that the Palestinian National Congress is trying to gamble on two horses: that of making good use of the results of its claimed moderation, while at the same time keeping to the basic goals of the PLO. The paper added that the Palestinian National Congress has made clear in its resolutions that the Palestinian state, when and if established, will neither recognize Israel, nor conclude peace with it.

Meanwhile, *Davar* rejected the Congress resolutions, declaring them unsurprising. The paper added that Israel might possibly be exposed to great pressures, compelling it to recognize the PLO as an official spokesman of the Palestinian people, which consequently makes it incumbent upon the Israeli cabinet to prepare as soon as possible an adequate reply.

For *Al-Hamishmar*, *Haretz* and *Ma'ariv*, the Palestinian political program only meant the continuation of the PLO's usual policy as regards Israel, namely the liquidation of the Zionist state.

IMPRISONMENT OF BLACK PANTHER LEADER

A Zionist military tribunal in Tel Aviv, on 23 March, sentenced Shlomo Cohen, Head of the 'Free-

dom and Equality' bloc and one of the leaders of the Black Panther Party, to 60 days in prison or a fine of IL. 1,700, on charges of participating in a demonstration in Tel Aviv against inflation three years ago.

It is to be noted that Cohen recently joined the Peace and Democracy Front formed by the Communist Party, Rakah. Cohen declared that he would stand for the elections from inside the prison.

ISRAELI-US SPY NET UNCOVERED IN MOSCOW

The Soviet newspaper *Izvestia* on 4 March, declared that Soviet Security circles have lately uncovered an Israeli-US spy ring operating in Moscow. It added that a number of foreign journalists, as well as employees in the American Embassy in Moscow, were working for the CIA in organizing this ring.

DRUZE REPRESENTATIVES IN LIKUD JOIN UNIFIED ARAB LIST

Facing sharp criticism in the Knesset on 27 March, of a commemorative ceremony by the Druze community in occupied Palestine in remembrance of the martyred Lebanese leader, Kamal Junblatt, two Druze Knesset representatives, Salim Hamza and Shaikh Najib Rukn, have left the Likud bloc. They have also refused Mapai offers to join its electoral list, joining instead the Unified Arab List set up last year after the Day of the Land, 30 March.

The Druze representatives expressed their desire to withdraw from the bloc in a letter to Likud leader, Menahem Begin, and also turned down places on the Mapai party's Arab list which were promised them by the latter recently.

Mapai has also made offers to representatives of the Greek Catholic sect, guaranteeing them a seat on the Party's list in return for Greek Catholic votes for Mapai during the general elections.

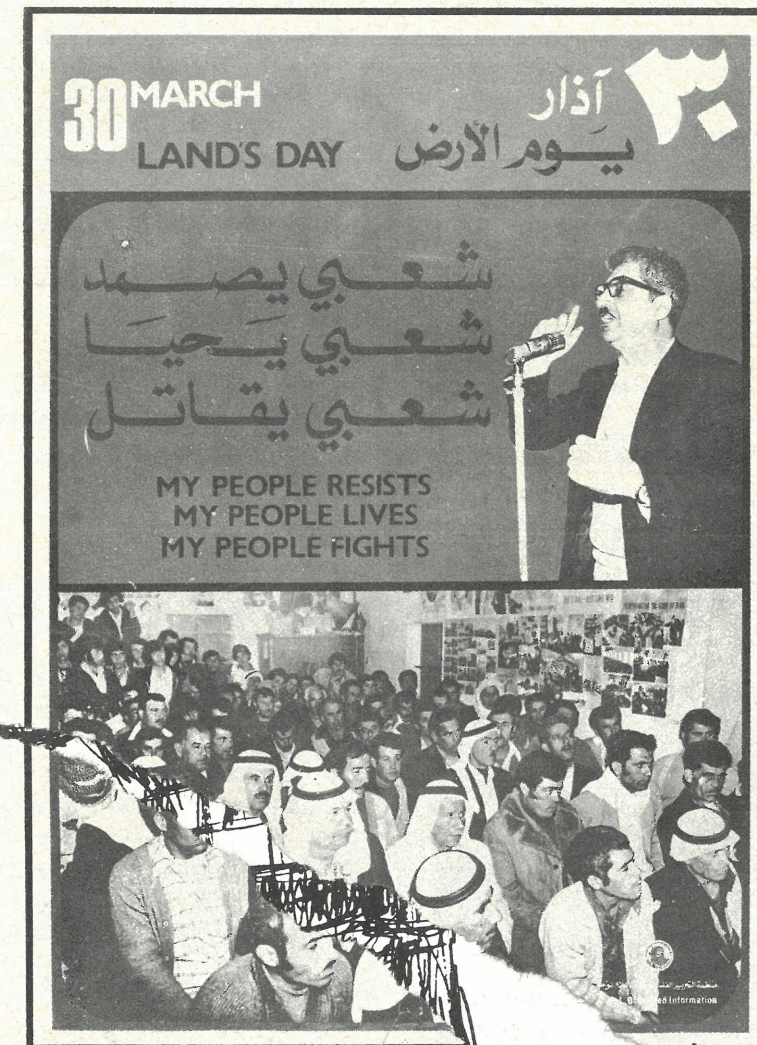
The Greek Catholic community has so far not given its final answer.

INCREASE IN CRIME IN ISRAEL

The Chief of the Tel Aviv police declared at a recent press conference that the use of "hard" drugs, such as heroin, has tremendously

increased in Israel, and that a number of well-known criminals have lately turned to selling drugs because of the high profit involved. The police-chief introduced statistical evidence to prove his point regarding the deterioration of social conditions in Israel.

According to police statistics, 2,000 citizens are drug-addicts, while 8,000 continuously use drugs, and in 1976, 61,983 criminal violations were registered in Tel Aviv, 9 percent more than violations in 1975. Among the crimes were nine murders, 99 robberies, 6,792 burglaries, 26,000 thefts, 28 rapes, and 1,679 cases of assault.



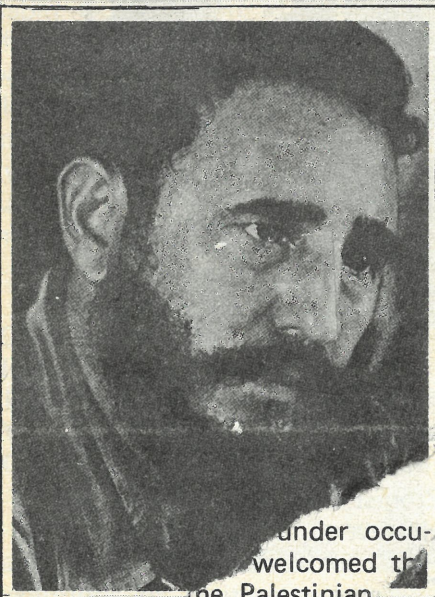
SOLIDAVITY NEWS



Colonel Qaddafi

Tripoli -- Following the 10-day visit of Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro to Libya, the two countries, in March, issued a joint communiqué in which they declared their support for the just Palestinian struggle until liberation, and as well as their support of the Lebanese National forces which struggle for the unity and independence of Lebanon against the imperialist conspiracy which aims at the partition of Lebanon and the destruction of the Palestinian Resistance.

Cuban leader Fidel Castro



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YUGOSLAV AND SOVIET PRAISE FOR RESOLUTIONS OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

An official Yugoslav spokesman has praised the resolutions adopted by the 13th session of the Palestinian National Congress, which he described as extremely important.

The spokesman said that the meetings of the Congress revealed the unity of all factions of the Palestinian Revolution, and he praised the re-election of Yasser Arafat as Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

Meanwhile, the Soviet news agency, Novosti, said in a commentary, on 25 March, that Soviet public opinion considers the resolutions of the 13th session of the Palestinian National Congress as reflecting the will of the Palestinian people, and as representing a new phase in the development of the Palestinian Liberation Movement. Novosti expressed its faith that the just struggle of the Palestinian people will be victorious.

BRITISH UNION GROUP EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

In a press conference held in Cairo on 9 March the Secretary for Foreign Relations of the British Unions Council declared that the union movement in Britain will work on supporting the just struggle of the Palestinians to liberate all occupied lands and establish an independent Palestinian state. He added that the Geneva Conf, are will not succeed ex-bloc, with the participation of all sides involved, including the Palestinians. He went on to say that the Union movement is trying to limit Zionist pressure on political and public levels in Britain and

push Arab-British relations forward.

The Council's Secretary arrived in Cairo the previous Sunday at the head of a workers' committee to investigate the facts of the situation in the Middle East. The committee has so far visited Syria and Jordan and the Palestinian camps there.

MARCHAIS SENDS CABLE OF CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF KAMAL JUNBLATT

The Secretary-General of the French Communist Party, Georges Marchais, on 17 March addressed a cable to the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, in which he paid his condolences on the death of the leader Kamal Junblatt, in the name of all French Communists and workers. Kamal Junblatt, he said in his cable, was the victim of imperialist and reactionary forces which fear peace and cooperation between the peoples of the region.

VIETNAMESE PREMIER EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

In a cable sent to the Palestinian National Congress on 16 March, Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong re-confirmed his country's support of the Palestinian people and their just struggle to recover their legal rights, including the establishment of their independent state.

ISRAEL CONDEMNED

Berlin -- In a commentary today on the UN Human Rights Commission's condemnation of Israel for violating human rights in occupied

Palestine, the GDR paper *Neues Deutschland* declared that the ruling forces in the Zionist entity should know that any violation of human rights, especially in the occupied territories, is scrupulously recorded by world public opinion. It added that Israel found itself in the dock before the latter when its violations were discussed in Geneva.

The newspaper pointed out that more than 200,000 Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been expelled by the occupation authorities, thousands of houses blown up, and hundreds detained without trial, notwithstanding the torture to which these detainees are subjected.

Cairo -- During a press conference in Cairo, on 14 March, the Czechoslovak Ambassador affirmed his country's support for the rights

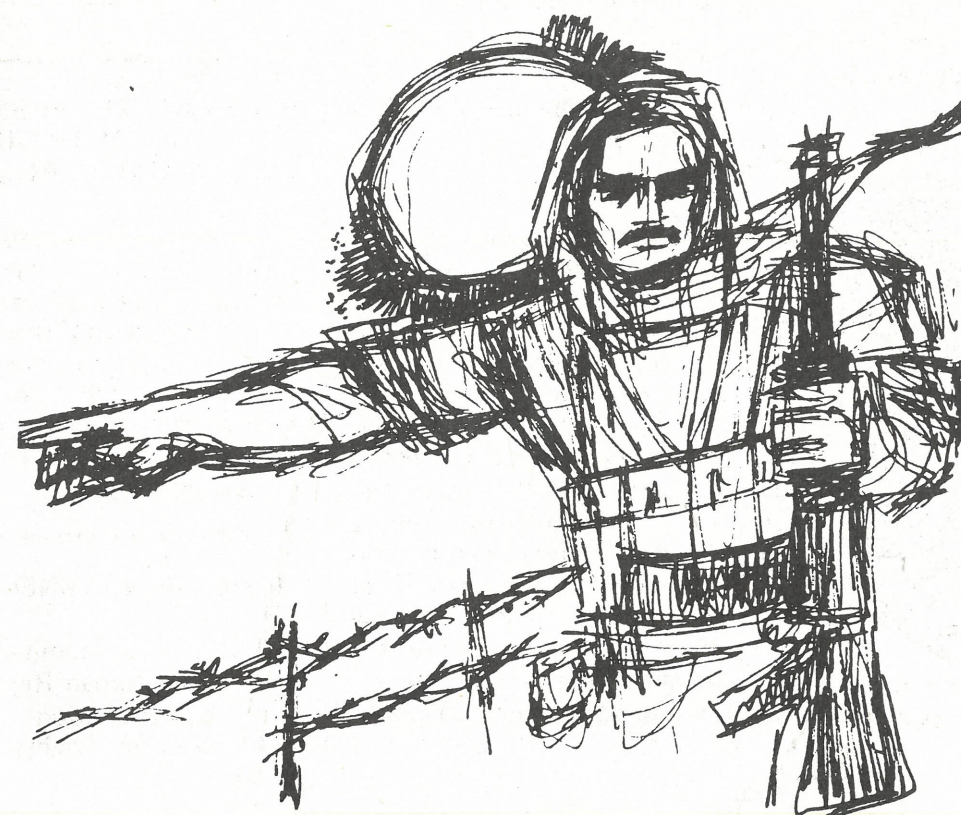
of the Palestinian people to self-determination. He declared that Zionism is a hostile, racist and imperialist movement, adding that his country opposes imperialism and Zionism, particularly in the occupied Arab territories and in South Africa. He stressed that his country has severed its diplomatic relations with Israel, out of its belief in the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Baghdad -- The Union of Arab Lawyers, on 11 March, issued a communiqué in Baghdad, in which it condemned the terrorist practices of the Zionist occupation authorities against Palestinian citizens in occupied Palestine, which are meant to contain their ongoing mass uprising. The communiqué appealed to the UN Secretary-General and the International Human Rights Organizations to intervene urgently in order to stop

the terrorist campaign against Palestinian citizens in their homeland. It also demanded their urgent intervention to release thousands of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails.

Geneva -- The Human Rights Committee of the UN on 11 March ended its annual meeting after approving several resolutions condemning the governments of Israel, South Africa and Chile, for violating human rights.

The Committee condemned the practices of the Zionist authorities against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab lands, confirming that these arbitrary Zionist measures are a clear violation of the doctrines of the International Organization. The Committee also called on the Zionist authorities to put an end to the ill-treatment against the Palestinian detainees in the Zionist prisons.



30 MARCH
Land's Day

٣٠ آذار..
يوم الأرض

هذه هي
الصهيونية

THIS IS ZIONISM



احتلال * توسّع * استيطان
مصادرة الأراضي * طرد السكان

OCCUPATION • EXPANSION • COLONIZATION • LAND CONFISCATION
EXPULSION OF POPULATION



P.L.O. UNIFIED INFORMATION

م.ت.ف. الاعلام الموحد

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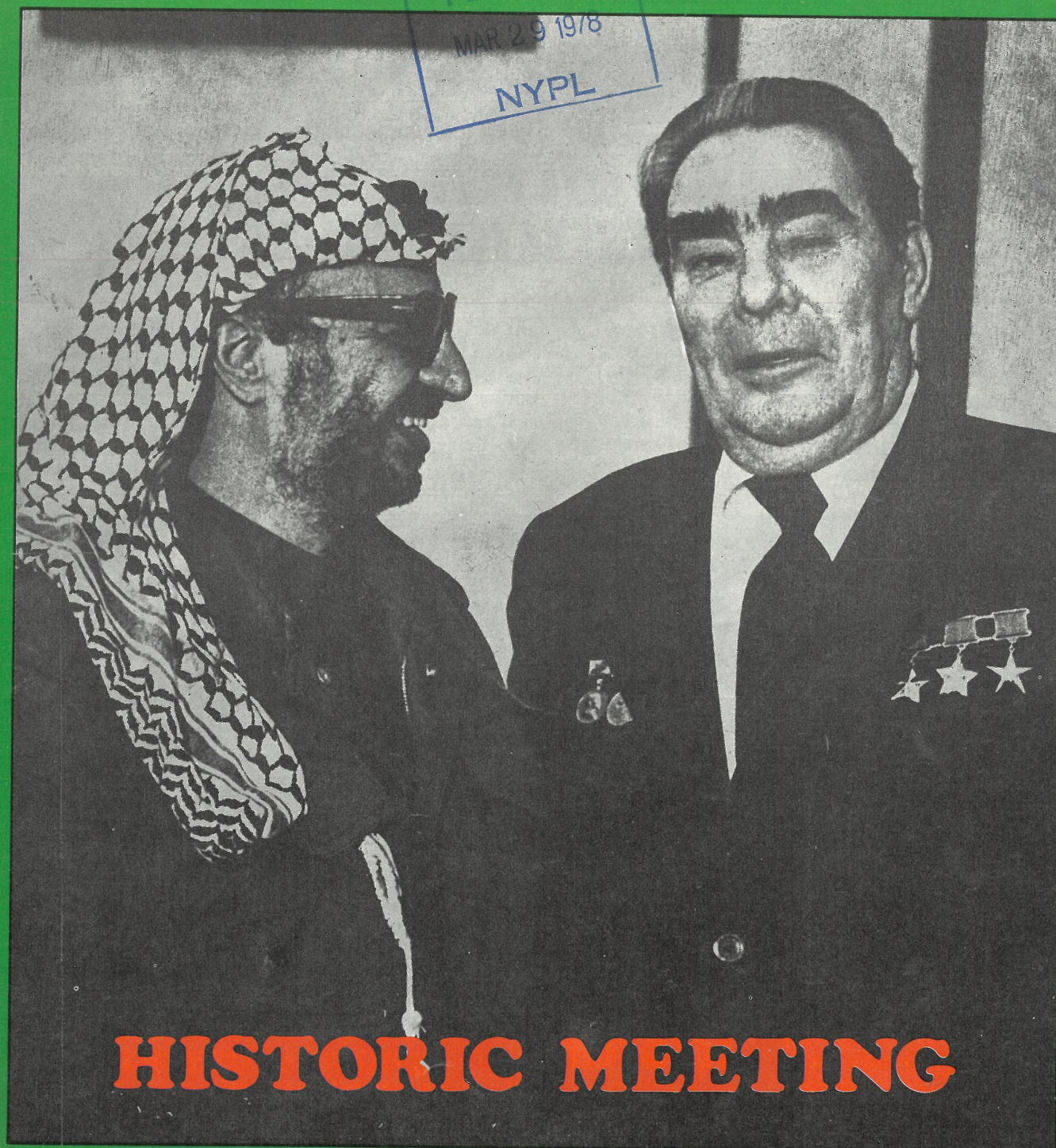
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Palestine

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HISTORIC MEETING