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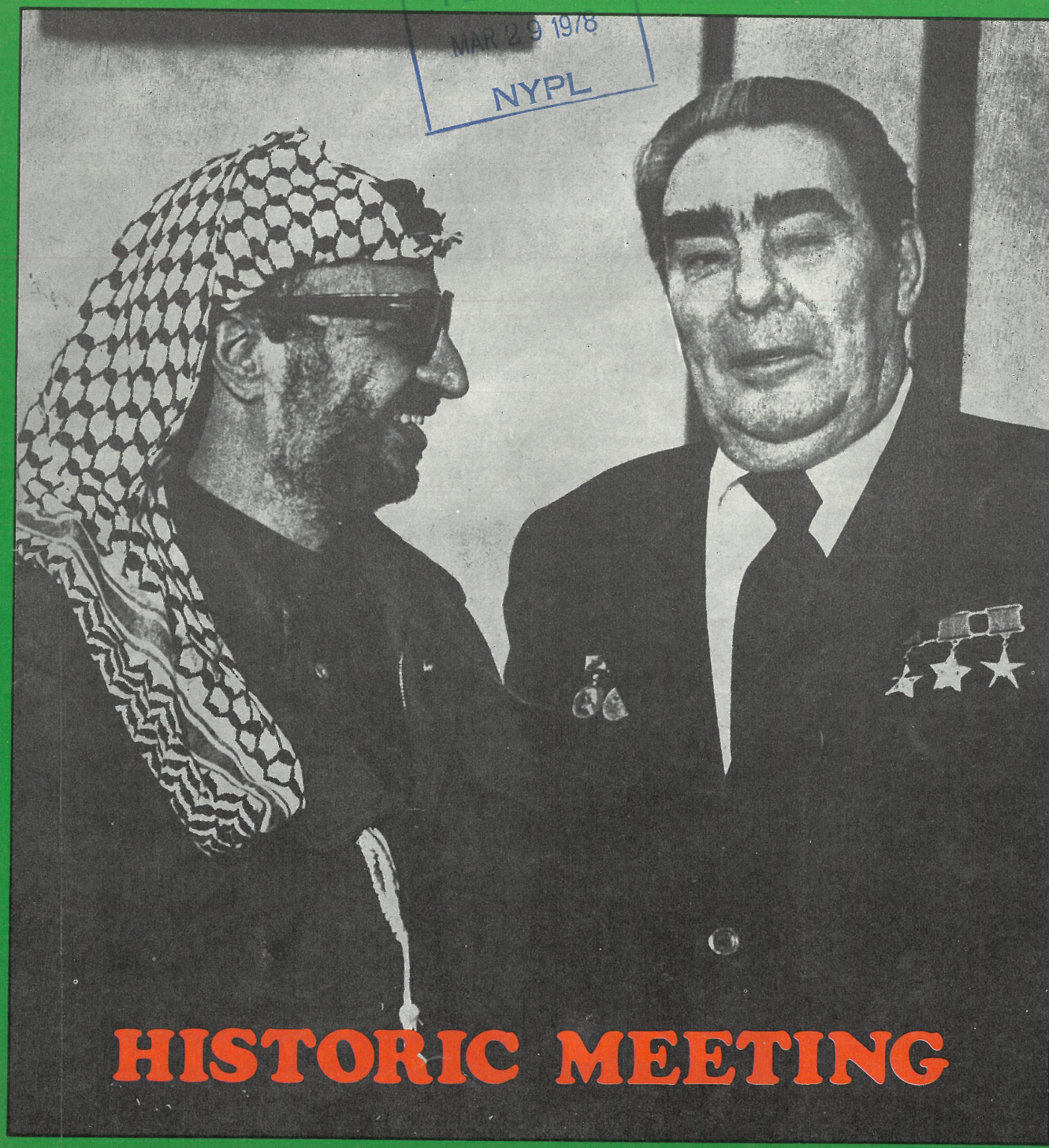
volume 3 no 6 - 30 April 1977

Palestine

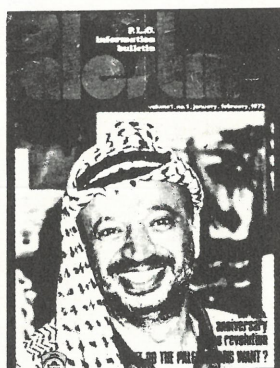
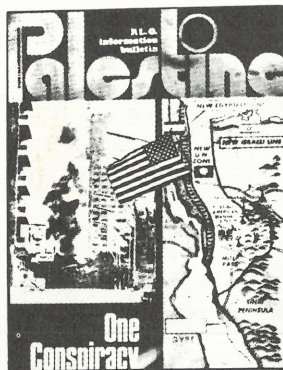
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BI-MONTHLY INFORMATION BULLETIN
published in English & French, by
THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION
UNIFIED INFORMATION
P.O. Box 195168 - Tel. 317442-304584
BEIRUT - LEBANON

EDITORIAL

PNC RESOLUTIONS AND MOSCOW VISIT TWO SUCCESSES

The PLO's success at the Congress of the Palestinian National Council in Cairo last month exceeded all expectations. The PLO emerged from the Congress stronger and more united than ever, proving to the whole world that it is the genuine and only representative of the Palestinian people. The resolutions adopted by the Congress reflect the political consciousness and maturity of the delegates and the PLO leadership. The Congress was also responsible for drawing up the PLO's new political programme in response to current political developments and realities in the area. This programme, adopted as the political declaration of the Congress, is to be considered as a moderate programme — far removed from radicalism and fanaticism — through which the PLO can enter into a dialogue with the world as a whole. At the same time it is a firm political programme, pledging to continue the Palestinian just struggle against the Zionist occupation and the establishment of the independent Palestine state.

Palestinian unity and the adoption of the political declaration together strengthen the international position of the PLO. Consequently, after the Congress, a Palestinian delegation was invited to visit the Soviet Union. Headed by Chairman Yasser Arafat, the high-ranking Palestinian delegation arrived in Moscow on 4 April for an official 4-day visit. Despite the cold weather, the reception was warm and cordial, and deliberations took place in a friendly atmosphere. The Soviet Union pledged

its support for PLO participation at Geneva as a single delegation, on equal footing with all other participants. The Soviets further expressed their support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and total Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied in June 1967.

The culmination of the visit was the summit meeting which took place between the Soviet leader and General-Secretary of the Communist Party, Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, and Chairman Yasser Arafat. This, the first tête à tête meeting of the two leaders, was the occasion for additional political deliberations and discussions. This summit meeting is the expression of the increased evaluation of the Palestinian Revolution and the PLO. It further expresses the Soviet approval of the recent political declaration of the PNC as the new PLO political line.

The new PLO political programme will unveil the Zionist pretence of seeking peace in the region. At the same time, it will bring the PLO additional respect and recognition on the international level, as well as support for the PLO stand to maintain military resistance against Zionist fascism and the Zionist occupation of Palestine.

The PLO knows well that the Zionists and their imperialist allies will torpedo all peace efforts in the region. But this will never stop the PLO efforts to settle a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

PALESTINE NOTES



PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ENDS MEETING

The PLO Executive Committee, headed by its Chairman Yasser Arafat, ended its meetings in Beirut on 16 April.

At the end of the meeting, the official PLO spokesman, Abdel Muhaimin Abu Maizar, made the following statement:

« In its first meeting, the new PLO Executive Committee discussed the political situation on the Arab and international levels, and particularly the situation in South Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

« The Committee then reviewed the latest developments in the Arab-European dialogue, as well as the results of the visit of the PLO delegation to the Soviet Union, and the historic meeting between Yasser Arafat and the Secretary-General of the Soviet Communist Party, comrade Leonid Brezhnev.

« The Executive Committee decided to hold its next meeting on the 30 April in Damascus to discuss further the nomination of members

of the PLO Central Council. It also adopted several financial and administrative resolutions, and distributed the posts among its members as follows:

Farouq al-Qaddoumi: Head of the Political Department.

Zuheir Muhsin: Head of the Military Department.

Abdel Muhaimin Abu Maizar: Head of National and International Relations, Official Executive Committee Spokesman and member of the Committee of Occupied Homeland Affairs.

Yasser Abd Rabbo: Head of the Information and Culture Department.

Abdel Rahim Ahmad: Head of the Popular Organizations Department.

Walid Qamhawi: Head of the Palestine National Fund.

Talal Naji: Head of the Education and Higher Education Department.

Majdi Abu Ramadan: Head of the Social Affairs Department and of the Central Office for Students in Egypt.

Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi: Secretariat-General and Administrative Affairs.

The Department for Occupied Homeland Affairs will be directed by a committee headed by Hamed Abu Sitta and including the following members of the Executive Committee: Abdel Jawad Saleh, Abdel Muhaimin Abu Maizar, Alfred Toubasi, Habib Qahwaji.

Dr. Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani: Head of the Higher Council for Education and Culture.

ARAFAT AND ASAD MEET IN DAMASCUS

Arafat on 10 April arrived in Beirut from Damascus, where he had met with Syrian President Hafez al-Asad. The five-hour long meeting, which was attended by Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee, and by Zuheir

Muhsin, Abdel Muhaimin Abu Maizar, and Talal Naji, all members of the PLO Executive Committee, dealt with a number of current issues, the results of Arafat's visit to Moscow, the current situation in South Lebanon, and the means of strengthening Palestinian-Syrian relations.

During the meeting, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, the two parties stressed their concern with the movement towards peace in Lebanon, and the Palestinian side felt President Asad's concern for, and support of, the Palestinian Revolution.



ARAFAT CONGRATULATES KIM IL SUNG

Yasser Arafat, on 16 April, sent a cable of congratulations to Korean President Kim Il Sung, on the occasion of his 65th birthday, wishing him the best of health so as to continue leading the struggle of the Korean people to liberate South Korea and unite their country and people. Arafat also expressed his warmest wishes to the friendly Korean people.

ARAFAT CABLES HUNGARIAN LEADER

Yasser Arafat, on 6 April, sent a cable of congratulations to comrade Janos Kadar, First Secretary-General of the Central Committee of

the Hungarian Socialist Labour Party on the occasion of the national holiday of the Hungarian Popular Republic.

After congratulating him and expressing his confidence in the leadership of the ruling party, Arafat said: « Our common struggle against international imperialism and Zionism strengthens our friendly ties, and we look forward to even stronger friendly ties for the victory of the just struggles of the people ».

In other news, Arafat, on 5 April, received a cable of support from the Palestinian-Swiss Solidarity Organization on the occasion of the first anniversary of the 'Day of the Land'. In its cable, the Organization confirmed its full support for the Palestinian Revolution in its just struggle to recover the national rights of the Palestinian people.

CAPUCCI SENDS CONDOLENCES ON JUNBLATT'S DEATH

The Greek Catholic Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, now detained in Ramleh prison, has sent a cable of condolence to Yasser Arafat on the death of the Lebanese leader Kamal Junblatt.

Capucci said that the assassination of Junblatt is an act denounced by any honest person, no matter what his principles or ideology. Calling such violence the weapon of the weak, Capucci then praised Junblatt, and said that the gang which killed him has sold their souls to the devil.



Arafat meeting with Brezhnev.

ARAFAT VISITS MOSCOW

The four-day visit to Moscow of Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, marks a significant episode in the course of Arab-Soviet relations in general and Soviet-Palestinian relations in particular.

Chairman Arafat arrived in Moscow on April 4, 1977, heading a high-ranking delegation from the PLO Executive Committee, and other Fateh leaders.

Besides Chairman Arafat, the delegation included:

Abu Lutf, head of the Political Department of the PLO;

Zuhair Mohsen, member of the PLO Executive Committee;

Abu Saleh, member of the Fateh Central Committee;

Talal Naji, member of the PLO Executive Committee;

Yasser Abed Rabbo, member of the PLO Executive Committee;

Abdel Muhaimin Abu Maizar, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Official Spokesman of the PLO;

Fayek Warrad, Communist Party;

Ahmed Azhari, Advisor;

Mahmoud Labadi, Advisor and Head of the PLO's Foreign Information Department.

The visit is important for the following reasons:

a — It came after the 13th session of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), held in Cairo from March 12-20, 1977. The Council met after the two-year Lebanese



civil war, during which the Palestinian Revolution defended its existence against the Zionist-imperialist and local Arab reactionary conspiracy. The Palestinian Resistance has emerged more powerful than it was before the war, and so the PNC resolutions stressed the PLO's stand in rejecting all types of American settlements and liquidationary projects. It also stressed the PLO's determination to confront and foil any settlement achieved at the expense of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, and that any settlement or agreement concluded in their absence which harms the rights of the Palestinian people is void in its essence. The PNC has stressed the necessity of PLO participation in all conferences and discussions dealing with the Middle East crisis. Arafat's visit aimed to underscore the necessity of consolidating cooperation with the socialist countries and with the USSR as a strategic friend of the Palestinian Revolution.

b — It was the first time that Chairman Arafat accompanied such a large delegation on an official visit, emphasizing the importance of Palestinian-Soviet cooperation in this phase.

c — It was the first time that Comrade Brezhnev conferred with a liberation movement leader. It was an important Soviet initiative honoring Chairman Arafat, and a clear recognition of the PLO's political importance on the Arab and international levels.

d — Chairman Arafat's visit came on the eve of Syrian President Assad's visit to Moscow. Fulfilling a national Arab responsibility, Chair-

man Arafat has done his best to eliminate obstacles to Arab solidarity on the one hand, and to promote friendly strategic relations between the Soviet Union and the Arab states confronting Israel on the other.

e — While the Egyptian president was on his way to Washington, Chairman Arafat was in Moscow. Arafat's visit was a clear indication of Soviet interest in finding a just solution to the Middle East crisis, and marked a significant diplomatic effort by the PLO to deal with the Middle East crisis in the wake of US President Carter's vague promises, and the setback in Soviet-American SALT negotiations.

f — The isolationist Lebanese forces are furious about their defeat in South Lebanon by the joint forces of the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. Consequently, they have waged a war of attrition against the joint forces, in cooperation with Israel, in an attempt to drive the joint forces from South Lebanon and establish a security belt for northern Israeli settlements. This would pave the way for Israel to practice its policy of occupation and annexation northward to the Litani River. In this context, the imperialist forces were trying to pour oil on the fire, and the American-Israeli-rightist alliance did its utmost to foil Chairman Arafat's visit to the URSS.

ARAFAT IN MOSCOW

On the morning of April 5, 1977, Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian delegation visited Lenin's tomb in Red Square and the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and placed a wreath at both.

In the evening, a large popular meeting was held at the headquarters of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. The meeting was attended by representatives of Soviet organizations and by representatives of the press and radio, as well as the presidents and editors of *Pravda*, *Izvestia*, *Novosti*, and *Red Star*. Comrade Kudreavtsev welcomed Chairman Arafat, prais-

ing his wise and courageous policies, and said: « The Soviet people deeply respect Yasser Arafat, his comrades, and the militant Palestinian people ». He added: « The Soviet stand expressed by Comrade Brezhnev at the 16th Conference of Soviet Trade Unions is the basis of our stand towards the Middle East crisis, which was instigated by Israeli aggression against the Arab nation. We believe that the basis for any Middle East settlement is the recovery of the rights of the Palestinian people, and the establishment of their own independent state ».

Comrade Arafat then gave a speech in which he said: « The Palestinian Revolution has overcome the harshest conspiracies because of the solidarity between our people and yours, and because of the support of world public opinion for our cause. The Palestinian Revolution is determined to face imperialist conspiracies, and we realize that the Soviet Union is a great friend who supports our steadfastness and our just struggle ».

The first official meetings between the Palestinian delegation headed by Chairman Arafat, and the Soviet delegation headed by Soviet Foreign Minister, Comrade Andrei Gromyko, took place on April 6. During these meetings, Gromyko confirmed his country's support for the struggle of the Palestinian Resistance and the Arab masses. He also confirmed that the Soviet Union has stood, and always will stand, by the cause of freedom for the Palestinian people and their national independence. Gromyko also spoke about the necessity of holding the Geneva Conference as soon as possible with the participation of the PLO as a full member.

Chairman Arafat expressed his thanks for the Soviet Union's support of the Arab masses' struggle to find a just solution to the Middle East and Palestine problems.

Tass confirmed that the meetings took place in a friendly atmosphere, and dealt with the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right to establish their own independent

state and their right to self-determination.

Later in the evening Comrade Arafat met with Cuban Prime Minister, Fidel Castro. During the two-hour meeting, which dealt with all matters related to the Middle East problem, Comrade Arafat explained the circumstances which the Palestinian Revolution had to confront. On his part, the Cuban leader expressed his deep understanding and confirmed his country's support for the struggle of the Palestinian people, led by the PLO.

Besides his meeting with Castro, Chairman Arafat met with members of the Arab diplomatic missions in Moscow at a reception held in his and the Palestinian delegation's honor by Mr. Reda Malek, Algerian Ambassador to the USSR and Dean of the Arab Diplomatic Corps there.

On April 7 a historic two-hour meeting took place between Comrade Arafat, head of the PLO Executive Committee and leader of the Palestinian people, and Comrade

Leonid Brezhnev, Secretary-General of the Soviet Communist Party. During their frank and warm discussions, Comrade Brezhnev confirmed that the Soviet Union will continue its full support for the Arab and Palestinian peoples in their just struggle to recover their occupied lands by all methods permitted by the situation in the Middle East. He also confirmed that the Soviet Union will stand against any settlement which does not take the rights of the Palestinian people into consideration, especially their right of self-determination, and the right to establish their own independent state. He continued by saying that the Soviet Union will refuse to attend any Middle East peace conference from the beginning if the PLO does not attend on an equal footing with all other parties.

At the end of the meeting, Brezhnev addressed Arafat, saying: « The world stands beside your just struggle. Rest assured that the USSR will support your struggle until you establish your own inde-

Commenting on his visit to the USSR and the talks he held with Soviet officials, Comrade Arafat said: « Our talks were fruitful and successful », and that his meeting with Comrade Brezhnev had « left a special impression » on him, and that « the meeting was proof of the great and lasting importance which Brezhnev gives to a just solution of the Palestinian cause, and represents a strong incentive for our struggle of liberation ». Comrade Arafat added that the Arabs and that « the PLO and the Palestinian people take pride in the deep-rooted Soviet friendship for them, and will exert all efforts to consolidate and develop it ».

For its part, the Soviet news agency Tass commented on Mr. Arafat's visit, saying: « It was a great contribution to the development and reinforcement of Soviet-Palestinian relations. The visit will help the Palestinian people to achieve new successes in their hard struggle under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people,

The Moscow talks have confirmed the following :

a — The Soviet Union has confirmed its pro-PLO stand in forthcoming negotiations and peace conferences dealing with the Middle East crisis. It has also stressed its deep-rooted support for the Palestinian Revolution until it establishes an independent Palestinian state, and that the Soviet Union will not allow any settlement neglecting the Palestinians' national rights of self-determination and statehood.

b — The PLO has once more emphasized its position as an effective and undeniable factor in the Middle East.

c — The Soviet Union has promised more support for the PLO and the « militant Palestinian people » as a step in confirming its principled stand in support of the progressive Arab liberation movements in their struggle for liberation, freedom, and democracy.



Visiting the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



COMMUNIQUE ON BREZHNEV — ARAFAT MEETING

The following communique was issued regarding the meeting between Arafat and Brezhnev:

The Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Leonid Brezhnev, on April 4th, received Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The main issue in the meeting was the development of the Palestinian Resistance in the general Arab struggle to eliminate the traces of the Israeli aggression, and reach a just peace in the area.

It was pointed out that certain imperialist circles, in cooperation with Israel, are trying to exploit the current situation of no settlement in the Middle East to weaken the front opposing imperialism, and strengthen the Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

Comrade Brezhnev pointed out that the Palestinian Resistance in the past few years has achieved huge victories in defending the legitimate rights of the Arabs and Palestinians.

Brezhnev then confirmed his party's and Government's principled stand in realizing an overall settlement to the Middle East problem which should take into consideration the rights of the Palestinian people, especially their rights of self-determination and establishing their own independent state. He added that the Soviet Union always supports PLO participation in the Geneva Conference for peace in the Middle East.

Arafat spoke about the struggle of the Palestinian people to realize their national aspirations. Regarding the results of the 13th session of the Palestinian National Congress, he confirmed the efforts of the Palestinian Revolution to continue the struggle against imperialist — reactionary conspiracies and strengthen its relationship with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist bloc.

In the name of the Palestinian people, Arafat expressed his deep appreciation for the Soviet Union's support for the Palestinian people and their national aims.

Brezhnev also pointed out that the Soviet Union has always supported the Palestinian people and the peoples of the Arab world in their struggle for their national independence, and for social progress and freedom. He then wished victory and the realization of their aims to Palestinian militants.

PALESTINE NOTES

ABU LUTF SPEAKS AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

In his speech to the Coordination Bureau of the Non-Aligned States, meeting in New Delhi, in April, Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department, affirmed that the Palestinian people would continue their struggle until they realized their right of self-determination and of establishing their independent state on Palestinian soil. He called upon the world community to support the Palestinian people in achieving these rights, stress that at the same time, that peace and security cannot be realized as long as the colonialist racist forces continue their blatant intervention in the internal affairs of other countries.

During the period of meetings in New Delhi, Abu Lutf met with the new Indian Premier. The meeting, which lasted two hours, dealt with the latest developments of the Palestine problem, while the necessity of supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people was stressed by the Indian side.

Abu Lutf also held several meetings with the Foreign Ministers of the countries participating.



The Text of the Resolutions on the Palestine question passed by the Coordination Bureau of the non-Aligned countries follows:

« The Bureau noted with grave concern that Israel's continued usurpation of Palestine, its flagrant denial of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people as recognized by the United Nations, its persistence in its hostile, expansionist and racist policy, and its repressive practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, constitute a defiance of the International Community and a violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Bureau recalled that the Summit Conference had stressed the need to take the most adequate measures to strengthen the pressure of the Non-Aligned countries on Israel within the United Nations and ad hoc agencies, and particularly in the Security Council, with a view to securing Israel's compliance with United Nations resolutions and ensuring the non-use of veto.

« The Bureau noted with satisfaction that the General Assembly, at session, adopted the report of the « UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People ».

« It calls on the Security Council to meet at the earliest possible date to adopt the report and take effective measures for the immediate implementation of its recommendations, which enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable national rights — a prerequisite to the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

« The Bureau, furthermore, noted with satisfaction the decision adopted by the Palestinian National Congress at its meeting of March 1977, in which it considered the recommendations of the report as a positive step towards the attain-

ment of the aspirations and rights of the Palestinian people.

« The Bureau noted with satisfaction the adoption, *inter alia*, by the Palestinian National Congress of the following decision in conformity with UNGA Resolutions 3236 and 3375:

« a) to pursue the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their national rights including the right to return, the right to self-determination and the right to establish their own national state on their national soil, and

« b) to affirm the right of the Palestine Liberation Organization

to participate in all international conferences, forums, and efforts dealing with the problem of Palestine and the Arab — Zionist conflict, for the fulfilment of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people which have been recognized by the UN General Assembly, particularly in resolution 3236 ».

The Bureau recalled the decision, *inter alia*, of the Colombo Summit Conference calling upon all Non-Aligned countries to pledge support for the Palestinian people by all possible means in their continued struggle until they fully attain their inalienable national rights ».

POLITICAL VENGEANCE AGAINST ANTI-FASCIST ISRAELI LAWYERS

The Zionist authorities increasingly try to intimidate and hinder those Israeli lawyers who defend political prisoners, and cannot help but expose fascism within the Zionist state. Israeli « juridical » authorities, following a request from the Army Chief of Staff, General Mordechai Gur, have just cancelled the permit of Felicia Langer to appear on behalf of Israeli soldiers in military courts.

A well-known lawyer, Felicia Langer has for years defended the civil and human rights of both Palestinian Arab and Jewish resisters incarcerated by the Zionist state, and she has in her book « With My Own Eyes » exposed the barbaric mass terror of Zionist occupation, and the torture and intolerable living conditions thousands of Palestinian « security » prisoners are subjected to at the hands of their Zionist tormentors.

Mrs. Langer had « in recent months been approached to take on an increasing number of soldiers' cases, some of them arising from

refusal to take part in 'repressive measures', in the occupied Arab areas » (British « Times », 27 February, 1977).

According to the « Times », the recent ban on Felicia Langer, who is also a central committee member of the Israeli Communist Party (Rakah), was motivated also by her political contacts with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation at meetings abroad.

Subsequently, Mrs Langer has condemned the ban as an « act of political vengeance » and « an attempt to intimidate not only her but the group of Israeli public figures who have been holding meetings with PLO representatives in Europe in recent months ».

Among numerous others, a group of 12 British Members of Parliament, both from the Labour and the Conservative Parties, have sent a protest to the Israeli authorities, demanding that no restrictions should be imposed against this Israeli lawyer, who defends numerous resisters in Israeli jails.

ARAFAT SPEAKS AT OFFICERS' GRADUATION

At the graduation ceremony of the « Martyr Muhammad Ali-Abu Ya 'qoub- » class of Officers, which took place on 3 April, Yasser Arafat made a speech in which he stressed that « this promotion bears special significance, for it represents a vanguard of political action among the forces of the Palestinian Revolution ».



Arafat added that « the Zionist army expands to five times its normal size in war time, because it is constituted of cadres. As for us, since 1971 we have concentrated on changing our forces into forces made up of cadres, because a cadre is the leader who leads groups and always remains in the forward lines, followed by the others ».

Arafat then went on to stress the significance of the promotion in that it provides a fighter with adequate knowledge of, and faith in, what he is fighting for; adding that political action is the only way to translate political theory into armed struggle.

« Any political decision », Arafat said, « if not protected by a faithful revolutionary and committed fighter, would be a failure; similarly, a revolution cannot achieve its political goal without the support of its revolutionary fighters ».

Concerning the Lebanese crisis, Arafat affirmed that the Revolution had overcome an imperialist conspiracy to liquidate it, and that, « in spite of the land, sea and air blockade, the Revolution succeeded in emerging from the war, great in its men, fighters and revolutionary cadres, faithful to their cause and to armed struggle ».

As for the occupied homeland, Arafat stressed the role of Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, Shaykh Abu Tayr, and the Jewish militant

ing Palestinian prisoners in smuggling weapons; Ahmad, a nuclear physicist, died in Qammatiyeh, in defence of his Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement ».

Arafat then spoke about the Palestinian National Congress, mentioning four basic points:

1. The unification of the military forces, including the Palestine Liberation Army, organizations, militias, Ashbal and Zahrat, all of whom are considered the vanguards of this struggle.

2. The right of the PLO to struggle with all possible means, to realize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and establish an independent democratic state on Palestinian soil.

3. Living with the Jews in a democratic state, and opening contact with all Jewish democratic and progressive forces, which do not believe in Zionism, either in theory or practice.

4. The right of the PLO to participate in any efforts, conferences or international forums regarding the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Arafat concluded by saluting Palestinian-Lebanese unity and stressed the importance of this unity.

The ceremony began with a minute of silence for the martyrs of the Palestinian Revolution and the Arab Nation. It was attended by Brigadier. Saad Sayel; the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Lebanon, Abdel Hamid al-Ba'ayjan; and by cadres of the Palestinian Revolution.

Ehud Ediy, who shouted in a Zionist tribunal « I'm Fateh » and was sentenced to 26 years' imprisonment. He added that « these people give the Palestinian Revolution pride and dignity, and prove to the world the correctness of the Palestinian Revolution's goal of a Palestinian secular democratic state ». Arafat affirmed that these people are the leaders of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and said that « such people as 16 year-old Muntaha al-Hourani who was crushed by Israeli tanks, and the Palestinian youths who hurl stones at Israeli vehicles are the leaders of our people whose one and only obsession is the defence of their land ».

« The determination of our cadres goes ever further: an Israeli jailer was recently accused of help-

CARTER'S DIPLOMACY OF SEMANTICS

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

It is becoming increasingly apparent that President Carter's statement on the Palestinians' need for a homeland does not indicate any real change in US policy. Leaders in the United States have developed to a fine art what may be termed « semantic diplomacy »: a technique whereby a statement is issued in fine words which, when closely examined, are an empty and meaningless deception.

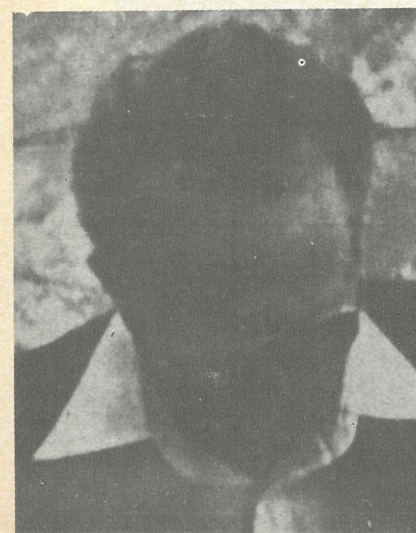
This, at any rate, is the conclusion that a number of experts on diplomacy have reached after analysing the results of President Sadat's recent visit to the United States and his talks with President Carter. What has so far been made public regarding these talks is merely « the tip of the iceberg ». It is now time that the world public became aware of the more substantial and important aspects that were not revealed.

President Sadat made serious efforts to persuade the US government to make contacts with the PLO, and in fact to recognise it as a valid negotiator in the Arab-Israeli conflict. But Mr Carter remained adamant that he would have nothing to do with the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative organisation. He sidestepped the issue by maintaining that it is an Arab responsibility to decide on how to settle the Palestinian problem, and therefore no concern of Washington.

At the same time, Mr. Carter maintained that the only homeland to Palestinians to have is Jordan, including the West Bank (thus leaving the future status of the Gaza Strip obscure). Some State Department officials are even going so far as to hint privately that the USA « will never allow the Palestinians to have a state of their own ». « This is a heads I win, tails

you lose argument ». It means that the United States rulers want to avoid doing anything that might restore any of the Palestinian people's just rights on the excuse that it is no concern of theirs. But they make it very much their concern to intervene to ensure that no solution comes about that could result in Palestinian statehood, in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution of 24 November 1976. In other words, the US government is intending to use its superior material power and its position on the Security Council to thwart the wishes of the international community and prevent the application of principles of international law such as self-determination.

What, then, were the results of President Sadat's talks with President Carter? In terms of securing justice for the Arab side, not very much. For Mr. Carter was careful not to make any promises. He indicated that the United States expects (and this is another example of his semantic skill, for it is less than a commitment) to put pressure on Israel to undertake a phased withdrawal. But this would not be from all the territories the Israelis seized from the Arab states in 1967; there would be some « minor adjustments » to the pre-1967 lines. Although he has not stated it publicly, Mr. Carter has in mind the city of Jerusalem, Palestine's historic capital, as one of these « minor adjustments » which naturally would all be in Israel's favour.



Rabin... was the obstacle?



Sadat — confidence in United States.



Carter — a policy of empty promises.

President Carter also stated that he differentiates between the issue of Israeli security and the question of the Zionist state's borders. This was another way of again stressing his concept of «defensible borders» for Israel. To counter this, President Sadat asked for the supply of defensive weapons from the United States. He also said that he wanted to purchase F5-E jet fighters.

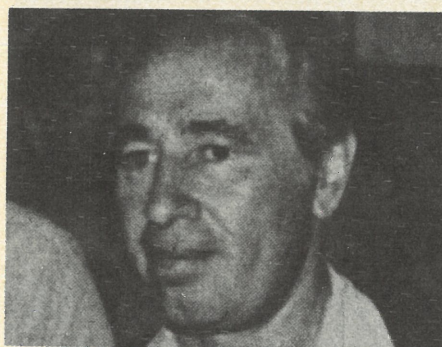
To any request for weapons, President Carter always has a handy evasive answer available: that the deal would have to be approved by Congress. The Zionist lobby can be relied on to block any move in this respect that does no accord with US-Zionist interests. As far as the F5-E aircraft is concerned, despite President Sadat's indication that these would be essentially for the purpose of African security and Egypt's military cooperation with Sudan rather than for use in the event of another full-scale Arab-Israeli war, Mr. Carter replied that now is not an appropriate time to deliver such arms to Egypt — and of course, that even if the right time were to come, congressional approval would be required.

Probably the most tangible gain Egypt secured was a reaffirmation by the United States that Israel has no right to drill in the Gulf of Suez, off the coast of territory seized from Egypt in 1967. Such exploitation of the natural resources of occupied territories by an occupying power would be a violation of the Hague Convention. But in terms of any real progress towards tackling the central issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict with the aim of reaching a just peace, US policy remains unchanged.

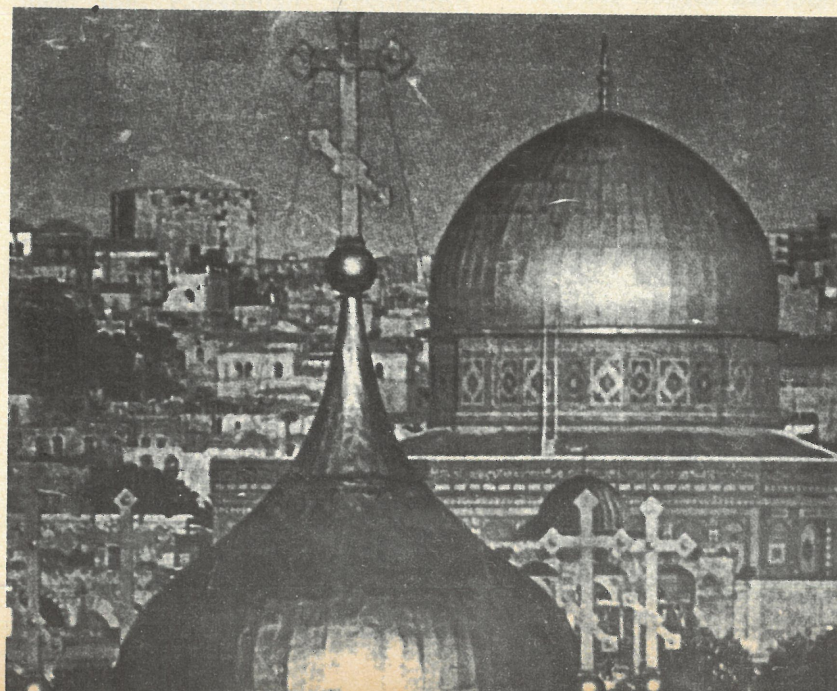
In this context, it is interesting that the United States is not worried that the withdrawal by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin of his candidature for the premiership in the forthcoming election has in no way worried the US government. This is somewhat surprising since Rabin in the past was reportedly regarded in Washington as the most suitable man to lead Israel at the present time. Now, according to a statement by Mr. Carter in Macon,

Georgia, on 9 April, it really makes no difference who leads the Israeli government. Indeed, the revelation of the bank account scandal that brought about Mr. Rabin's downfall came from an American source, although it is not yet clear whether this was with official prompting.

The assessment of US officials is that Premier Rabin's resignation will make no difference as far as the Carter administration's Middle East policies are concerned. That is, Washington expects the same degree of cooperation from the next Zionist Prime Minister as it received from Rabin. From the looks of things at present, however, the winner in the forthcoming election is likely to be a leader with a reputation for more aggressive policies against the Arabs (it could even be Menachem Begin, the man behind the massacre of over 250 Palestinian civilians at Dair Yasin). In order to preserve this reputation, he can be expected to step up



Peres... the next Prime Minister?



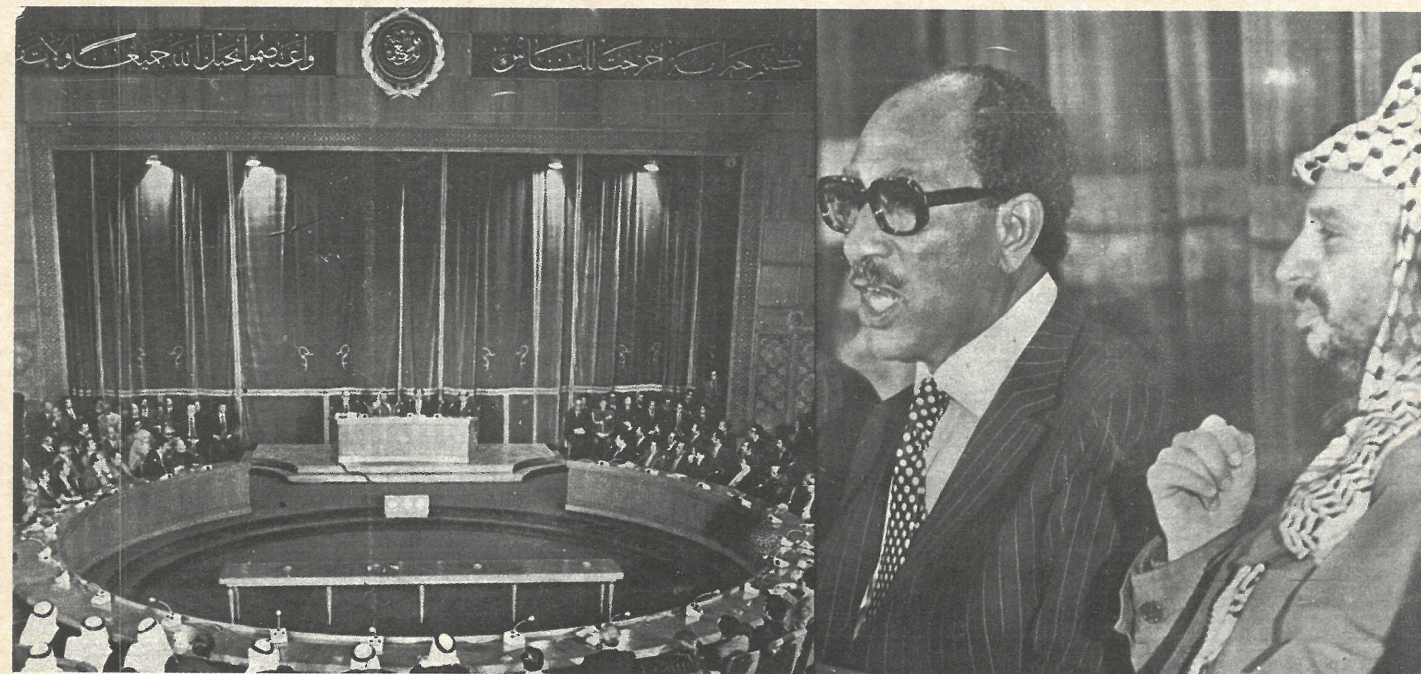
The domes of Jerusalem — a city not for Jews only.

Israeli acts of aggression against South Lebanon.

Mr. Carter's lack of concern over the complexion of the next Israeli cabinet clearly reveals an important fact: that the United States government intends to continue its full cooperation with Zionism, regardless of whether the Zionist leadership puts on a show of moderation or is openly extremist. Differences between «moderate» and extreme Zionists are in any case marginal and concern methods rather than aims. Both are united in their determination to deny the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

The statement Mr. Carter gave in Macon was yet another example of his skill in semantic diplomacy. He described President Sadat as courageous for saying that the Palestinians could form part of Jordan, and then added that the Palestinians should be represented at the Geneva conference. But he did not say that this representation should be direct, in the form of the PLO. On the contrary, he seems to envisage the Palestinians being represented by an Arab government, probably that of Jordan, a condition which the Israelis are prepared to accept as a way to avoid recognising the PLO.

As one US official indicated recently in reply to a journalist's question, president Carter's statement on a Palestinian homeland is a new form of terminology. But it does not amount to a new policy.



PNC in session

At the inaugural session

THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL

The Palestinian National Council (PNC), on 20 March successfully concluded its 13th session in Cairo. This was one of the most significant sessions in the history of the Palestinian Resistance Movement and a milestone on the way to the liberation of the occupied Palestinian homeland. The political programme which emerged from this session can be characterized as firm but flexible, giving the PLO leadership more room for political moves and manoeuvres.

The Palestinian National Council (PNC), the parliament of the Palestinian people in the diaspora, is one of the most important achievements of the Palestinian Liberation Movement. The PNC, which rallies all groupings of the Palestinian people — the professional organizations, the trade unions, and the Palestinian resistance organizations — constitutes the legislative organ of the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO.

The historic first session of the PNC was held in May, 1964, in

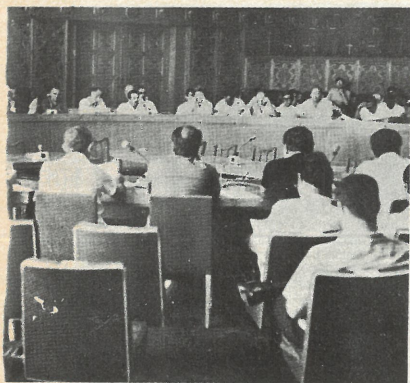
Jerusalem and witnessed the proclamation of the PLO. According to its statutes, the PNC is to hold annual sessions, but owing to the complexities of the Palestinian struggle this has scarcely ever been the case, except in the first three years of its existence.

Since the last session of the PNC from 1-8 June, 1974, many changes have taken place. During the intervening period, the Palestinian Revolution has passed through the most crucial and critical period in its history. On the other hand, the Revolution has scored many successes on the international and Arab levels.

Armed with its 10-point political programme elaborated at the 12th session of the PNC, the PLO attended the Rabat summit conference in September 1974. It was at this conference that the PLO obtained the recognition of all the Arab states as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Depending on its status as the sole legitimate representative of

the Palestinian people, PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, was invited by 105 states to attend the 29th session of the UN General Assembly in November, 1974. At this session, the General Assembly adopted resolutions 3236 and 3237, recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and admitting the PLO as an observer in all international organization meetings.

The PLO's diplomatic successes were a blow to the US-Israeli plans for they came in contradiction to the step-by-step diplomacy of the former US Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger. The US schemes had, for many years, been directed at isolating the PLO, and at depriving the Palestinian people of their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination in their homeland. The Palestinian successes on the international level set in motion further joint US-Israeli plans to undermine the PLO and its successes. Consequently, the tragic events in Lebanon were launched — in an undeclared war against the



Palestinians — by the attack on a civilian bus and the cold-blooded killing of 30 of its Palestinian passengers on 13 April, 1975.

During the ensuing conflict, the Palestinian Resistance Movement bravely defended its positions, and proved, over the 20-month period of the Lebanese civil war, that it cannot easily be defeated or liquidated. The PLO has passed the danger of liquidation, and has proved itself able to defend the successes it achieved on the international level. It was during the Lebanese civil war itself, in November 1975, that the 30th session of the UN General Assembly condemned Zionism as a form of racism. This implied that international public opinion in the Western hemisphere was no more dominated by overt or tacit consent to Israeli aggression and fascism directed against the Palestinian people and the neighbouring Arab countries. The 31st session of the UN General Assembly in 1976 adopted the project of the Committee of 20 to establish an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

THE PNC

The Lebanese civil war, which was launched to weaken the Palestinians or to bring them under control, achieved the opposite. Instead of weakening the Palestinians, the war clearly showed the Palestine question to be an indispensable factor in the Middle East equation, and the Palestinians obtained increasing international

recognition and respect. There were certainly many rumours spread to harm PLO prestige and the PLO leadership. Those circles which dedicate themselves to fighting the Palestinians and undermining the PLO exerted all their efforts to cause a split in the Palestinian ranks. Even on the eve of the PNC Congress itself, imperialist circles believed that the Palestinians were divided into « rejection » and acceptance fronts. All the anti-Palestinian circles predicted the collapse of the PNC and thus of the PLO. But the PLO leadership paid little attention to these rumours, and went on with the preparations for the Congress.

The PNC was, this session, enlarged by about one hundred additional delegates. Delegates from the popular organizations and the trade unions were increased, and delegates from Palestinian communities all over the world were invited. This increase to 293 the number of delegates. This was a good reason to stop all attempts at imposing tutelage on the Palestinian people.

For there are some circles in the Arab world which have already authorized themselves to represent the Palestinians and to speak in their name.

The 13th session of the PNC, which began its meetings on 12 March in Cairo in the Arab League Headquarters, was inaugurated by President Sadat as the head of state of the host country. In his speech, President Sadat promised the Palestinian delegates support for the Palestine cause and for all Palestinian decisions and resolutions. He also pledged to continue the struggle till the liberation of the last inch of the occupied Arab territories.

The Congress continued its meetings the following day with the elections to the Presidency, and the decision to renew the mandate of the former Presidency. During the following two days the speeches of the delegates were heard, and the political report of the Executive Committee was then read by the Head of the Political Department, Farouk Kaddoumi. This report was

discussed by the delegates in a free and democratic atmosphere, which was typical of the atmosphere which prevailed throughout the Congress.

Chairman Arafat was the uncontested leader of the Congress, and his 4-hour speech — which was several times interrupted by applause from the delegates and the observer tribune — was listened to with close attention. The Congress went on to divide itself into ten working commissions: political, occupied territories, financial, information, popular organizations, national unity, military, social affairs and work, organization and jurisdiction, educational affairs.

After two days of commission meetings, the Congress convened the General Assembly to discuss the draft resolutions of the various commissions. These resolutions were adopted by the PNC. The most important commission was certainly the Political Commission, whose 15-point programme the PNC adopted by a majority vote of 193 to 13. This programme was issued as the political declaration of the PLO. (see No. 5 — 1 April 77).

The political declaration constitutes a firm but flexible political programme for the coming phase of the Palestinian struggle, and gives the PLO leadership additional flexibility to handle political developments in the area. The 15-point programme issued by the Congress contains a clear and emphatic « no » to Security Council Resolution 242 adopted after the June 1967 War, as a basis for future negotiation concerning any political settlement. Instead, the political declaration calls for the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 3236 of November 1974 as a basis for negotiation.

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

programme also declares firm support for all contacts with Jewish democratic and progressive forces — inside and outside the occupied territories — which struggle against Zionism. In addition, the Congress pledged continued support for the armed resistance against the Zionist occupation inside the occupied territories.

It was noteworthy that the « rejection » front which was threatening to split the Congress was to a large extent dissolved. Two former « rejectionist » organizations, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command, and the Arab Liberation Front, joined the PLO majority. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), as the remaining « rejectionist » group, remained outside of the Executive Committee, owing to their disapproval of some points in the political declaration.

At the end of the Congress, the 15-man Executive Committee of the PLO was elected. Only four new members were elected, the other previous members being unanimously re-elected.

The Palestinians emerged from the Congress stronger than before, in being more united and more confident in their just struggle and cause. This successful outcome of the PNC reflects the maturity of the delegates and their profound belief in the responsibility they have to shoulder.

This Palestinian success was also noted by political observers in the East as well as in the West. It was a success which exceeded all the expectations of both friends and enemies. The enemies were certainly unhappy at the outcome of the Congress. The Zionists criticized both the Congress and its political programme, determined as usual to consider the Palestinians as « terrorists ». For the Zionists a Palestinian is either a subjugated being or a terrorist. In spite of their limited vision, however, the Zionists can never stop the wheel of progress and justice. From this Congress a new reality has emerged — the Palestinian.

SOLIDARITY NEWS



BREZHNEV SUPPORTS RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO DECIDE THEIR FUTURE

In a speech at a luncheon reception at the Kremlin in mid-April in honour of Syrian President Hafez al-Asad, Leonid Brezhnev, Secretary-General of the Soviet Communist Party, declared that the Soviet Union strongly opposes that any decision related to the Palestinian people be taken in their absence, or against their will. He added that it is only natural that the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, should participate on an equal basis in the Geneva Conference.

Brezhnev continued that, whereas the colonialists were previously in control of the Middle East, it is now obvious that the Arab countries are politically independent and that the peoples of these countries are on the path of social progress.

Brezhnev then reaffirmed his country's efforts to establish a just peace in the Middle East by seeking to abolish the traces of Israeli aggression and liberate all occupied Arab lands. He pointed out that peace cannot be realized on the basis of aggression and the forceful expropriation of land.

IUAW SUPPORTS PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

Aden — Following its meetings which ended on 10 April the Central Council of the International Union of Arab Workers issued a political statement in which it declared its firm stand of solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO. It also called upon the Arab heads of state to support the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese people in their battle against the isolationist-Zionist enemy in South Lebanon.

LUSAKA: COMPLETE WITHDRAW OF ISRAELI TROUPS

In Zambia, the joint communiqué issued following the visit of Soviet President Nicolai Podgorny, to Zambia reaffirmed the stand of the two countries in solidarity with the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state. The communiqué stressed that any just solution of the Middle East crisis should be achieved through the complete withdrawal of Israel from the Arab occupied territories, and the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

AFGHANI SUPPORT FOR PLO

Kabul — Afghani President, Muhammad Daoud, in a press interview on 11 April, affirmed that there can be no just and durable peace in the Middle East before the liberation of the occupied Arab territories, and the recovery by the Palestinian people of their legitimate rights, including the right to establish their state on their national soil.

The President called for the convening of the Geneva Conference, with the participation of the PLO on equal footing with all the concerned parties.

SOLIDARITY NEWS

TURKEY AND AUE CALL FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE

In Abu Dhabi, a joint communiqué issued on 1 April following a visit of the Turkish Foreign Minister to the United Arab Emirates affirmed the two countries' stand in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle. The communiqué declared that a complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, were the only means to a just solution of the Middle East crisis. Meanwhile, a Turkish official on 1 April, declared his country's welcome for the opening of a PLO office in Turkey.

FINLAND TO RECOGNISE PLO

During his official visits to the United Arab Emirates, the Director of the Finnish Foreign Ministry, on 24 April, declared that his country has adopted the call to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He added that the President of Finland had declared that the establishment of the state of Israel was a historical mistake, and that his country supports Arab rights and calls for the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from all occupied Arab territories.

HUNGARY, VICTORY FOR PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

Budapest. In a cable to the Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity, in April the two Hungarian Committees for Peace and Solidarity reaffirmed their absolute support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people and added that peace in the Middle East is conditional on the recovery of the basic rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their independent state. The cable also stressed the ultimate victory of the struggle of the Palestinian people.

RECOVERY OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IS FUNDAMENTAL

Islamabad — In a joint communiqué issued in April following the visit of the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister to Pakistan, the two countries confirmed that peace in the Middle East cannot take place except following Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands, and the full recovery of Palestinian national rights.

Berlin — In a joint communiqué issued during the Cuban President, Fidel Castro's visit to the Democratic German Republic, the two countries confirmed the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state, and the right of the PLO to participate equally in any political negotiations for a solution to the Middle East crisis.

Amman — Following its meetings in Amman in April, the Union of Arab Engineers issued a communiqué in which they declared 10 April — the day on which three Palestinian leaders were assassinated in Beirut in 1973 — the Day of Palestinian Engineers, as a symbol of their support for the Palestinian Revolution. The communiqué condemned the inhuman treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, particularly in Asqalan, and called upon all in and international organ-

izations to put an end to Zionist settlement projects in the occupied Arab territories, which aim at emptying Palestinian land of its original inhabitants.

DAY OF LAND CELEBRATIONS IN ITALY AND RABAT

The General Union of Palestinian Students — Italy branch — on 2 April continued the celebrations which started on 29 March in several Italian cities, on the occasion of the 'Day of Palestinian Land'. Arab and Foreign student unions, as well as all progressive Italian forces, participated in these celebrations.

The celebrations include artistic festivals and plays, as well as the distribution of pamphlets and posters in Arabic and Italian to explain the Palestinian cause and the relations between the Day of the Land and the Palestinian people and their just cause. Palestinian students and representatives of progressive and democratic Italian forces presented special programs on local radio stations and Italian television about the Day of the Land, and the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist occupiers.

Rabat — The Rabat branch of the Moroccan Committee for supporting the Palestinian Armed Struggle on 10 April held a massive rally celebrating the 1st anniversary of the Day of the Land and the 9th anniversary of the battle of Karamah.

After Mr. Abbas Baradah had spoken in the name of the Moroccan Committee, and the PLO representative had spoken confirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish their own independent state, cables were sent to Yasser Arafat, to the Secretariat-General of the Arab Front for Participation in the Palestinian Revolution, and to Mr. Walid Junblatt, expressing their support for the Palestinian Revolution and condemning the assassination of Kamal Junblatt.



Palestinians defending their lands

OCCUPIED PALESTINE

The Zionist occupation authorities have apparently not yet learnt their lesson from the determined resistance of our masses in defence of their lands.

Zionist colonisation plans are in fact going ahead in West Bank. The occupation authorities plan, between now and 1985, to establish 48 new military colonies around Jerusalem, and Rabin's government has voted a 240 million-Israeli-pound budget for their construction.

In addition, Israeli Radio reported on 1 April, during its Hebrew language broadcast, that work on the construction of a new colony between Nablus and Kalkilya is to begin soon. This colony is to be called Varny Shamroun.

On 5 April (according to an AFP report of 6.4.77), 20 thousand

colonists of the Gush Emunim sect organised — on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of this new colony — a march through a number of West Bank villages and towns, on which they were accompanied by large numbers of occupation forces. Gush Emunim, a fanatical religious movement which considers the West Bank as an integral part of the biblical patrimony of « Israel », advocates free settlement in this region and is opposed to any withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

On the same day, a general strike was declared throughout the West Bank in response to the Gush Emunim march and in protest against the new Zionist colonisation projects.

Shops and schools remained closed, and all traffic between the main towns and between the West

Bank and the Palestinian territories occupied in 1948 was halted.

The occupation authorities imposed a curfew from 6 a.m. on the town of Tulkarem and the surrounding villages, and from 7 a.m. on the town of Kalkilya. Enemy patrols were posted in all the towns and on the principal roads of the West Bank.

In Ramallah, technical students demonstrating against the Gush Emunim march clashed with the occupation forces, who made use of force to compel them to return to their classes.

In Nablus, hundreds of Palestinian citizens demonstrated, blocking the main roads and attacking with stones, sticks and empty bottles the occupation forces when they attempted to disperse the demonstrators. Zionist patrols later opened

fire on the demonstrators, and arrested dozens of Palestinian citizens in the town-centre.

Nevertheless, our masses' opposition to the colonisation projects is continually strengthening. From 30 March — the Day of the Land — up to 13 April, Nablus was the daily scene of violent demonstrations.

On 11 and 12 April, the Palestinian National Front distributed a communiqué in which it called on our masses of all occupied Palestine, as well as on the Arab nation, to strongly oppose the colonisation plan which threatens Nablus and certain parts of Jericho.

As a collective punishment, the Zionist occupation authorities have forbidden Nablus citizens coming from Jordan to return to Nablus. Similarly, the Zionist military governor refused to grant laissez-passers to relatives who are in Jordan, threatening Nablus citizens with even more severe collective measures if the strike continued.

Furthermore, the Zionist authorities are at present drawing up a project aiming, in the next three years, to establish 20 new Zionist colonies on hundreds of hectares of land in Upper Galilee, recently requisitioned by the occupation authorities. Each of these colonies will be inhabited by three hundred colonist families.

Observers predict violent clashes between the Palestinian owners of the usurped lands and the occupation forces, and add that the Israeli authorities have taken all measures « necessary » to confront any Palestinian popular uprising in this region.

ARBITRARY MEASURES

The occupation authorities are continuing their arbitrary measures against Palestinian citizens.

A military tribunal in Lod, at the beginning of April, condemned Adel Kandil and Mohammad Ibrahim al-Kady to a 6-year prison

sentence on the charge of having taken possession of a Zionist soldier's rifle in the village of Kastal, near Jerusalem.

In Tel-Aviv, a Zionist court condemned Samir Darwish from Acre to a one-year prison sentence for having tried to escape from the prison in which he was being held.

The Zionist municipal court of Jerusalem condemned Elias Sanduka from Ras Al-Amoud to a 150-thousand-pound fine and a six-month prison sentence for building without a permit. The court ordered the house to be destroyed.

The same court sentenced Maher al-Kaddoumi from Beit-Hanin to a 30-thousand-pound fine and a six-month prison sentence for having built an additional storey on his house. The court ordered the destruction of the additional storey.

Palestinian citizens face tremendous difficulties in trying to obtain building permits. Even in the rare cases when the authorities accept to grant a permit, it takes years to obtain it.

In Nablus, a military tribunal, on 1, April, gave a 20-month prison sentence to Abdallah Mahmoud Maarouf. Abdallah, who is 19 years old and comes from the village of Bourin, Nablus, is « guilty » of having resisted the occupation.

As for the Palestinian journalist, Kazem Abdel Hadi from Jenin, the same tribunal sentenced him to a 1,500 pound fine for having distributed reproductions of the painting, « The Bride of the Homeland », symbol of the martyred militant Lina Naboulsi, by the Palestinian painter, Sleiman Mansour. The Zionist Prosecutor justified this sentence by maintaining that the painting was an incitement to resistance. Accused of being implicated in the same « crime », Ali al-Damj was sentenced to a 2,000-pound fine, and Moussa Kaddoura, owner of the Ibn Khaldoun bookshop in Jenin, to a fine of 1,500 Israeli pounds.

In Ramallah, a Zionist military tribunal, on 6 April, issued a two-

year prison sentence to Ryad Azmi Jamil from Beit-Hanin, near Jerusalem, on the charge of being a member of the Palestinian Revolution.

The same tribunal sentenced Tawfik Abdallah from the Ramallah area to one year in prison.

In addition, at the beginning of April, the Zionist occupation authorities arrested 33 Palestinian students from Ein al-Sultan in the Jericho region, on the charge of stoning Zionist military vehicles.

ZIONIST AUTHORITIES FORBID DETAINED PALESTINIAN STUDENTS TO TAKE THEIR EXAMINATIONS

At the beginning of April, the occupation authorities ordered directors of West Bank academic institutions to refuse to admit Palestinian students held in Israeli jails to sit for the final exams of the secondary cycle.

This measure gave rise to a wave of protest on the part of West Bank teaching staff who demanded that this measure be annulled.

In addition, Palestinian shopkeepers and booksellers in Nablus protested against the new Zionist measures ordering the purchase of all school supplies — books, laboratory equipment, etc., from « Israeli » shops. These measures led to the closing of Palestinian stores and bookshops.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

On 29 March, 1977, our militants set fire to a Zionist military targets in Ramallah and Taibeh.

At 7 p.m., our militants set fire to a Zionist military vehicle which was transporting military supplies. The explosion destroyed the vehicle and its contents. The occupation authorities encircled the region until 10 p.m.

On the same day at 6 p.m., one of our militants set fire to a bus belonging to the Eged company while it was parked in the town of Taibeh. Our militant returned safely to base.



The Third Article of the 1945 Emergency Laws (Defence Regulations) now applied by the Israeli Government reads as follows:

The Israeli Government has the right to detain administratively, at any place and at any time, any person in the occupied areas, without having to specify the charge against the individual so detained.

— Representatives of the International Red Cross are prohibited from entering police stations or concentration camps where detainees are being held. In addition, they are forbidden to visit prisoners in solitary confinement.

The Committee for prisoners and detainees »

— There are about 5,000 prisoners in Israeli occupation jails, some 300 of them administrative detainees.

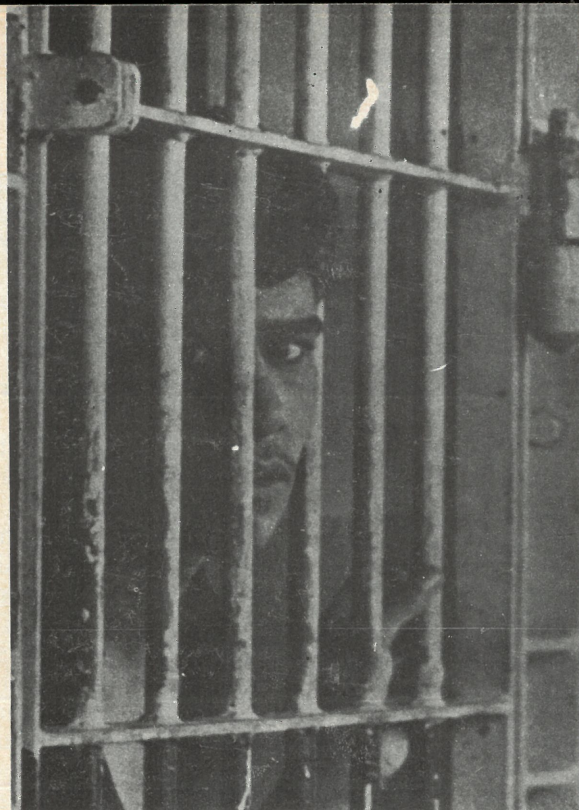
— Over the 10-year period 1967-1977, some 60,000 Palestinians were arrested, whereas the Palestinian population living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip numbers about 1 million.

— The prisoners are divided among 30 prisons, 10 of them of immense size, and all consisting of old buildings with dark, damp cells which the sun rarely penetrates, and smelling foul due to bad drainage.

— In some rooms — designed to hold up to 15 prisoners — 45 prisoners are confined at a time. Prisoners are obliged to sleep in 3 shifts.



No limits to Zionist repression.



The most widespread diseases among the prisoners are:

1. Slipped discs and diseases of the spinal column
2. Ulcers
3. Kidney diseases
4. General weakness and anaemia
5. Weakness, or loss of sight

The most dangerous methods or torture to which the prisoners and detainees are subjected:

1. Electric shocks (especially on the most sensitive parts of the body)
2. Beating on the head with thick sticks
3. Cold-water immersion in severely cold weather
4. Solitary confinement in small, damp and dark cells
5. Manging by the legs or hands
6. Beating on the genitals
7. Applying heat to the sensitive organs
8. Using chemicals which burn.

— Forty prisoners have been martyred due to the savage methods of torture used

The lives of the following prisoners are in serious danger:

- 1 — Bishop Hilarion Capucci (Ramla Prison)
- 2 — Mariam Shakshir (Navi Trista Prison)
- 3 — Mohamed Mohdi Bseiso (Asqalan Prison)
- 4 — Ismael Arafat (Asqalan Prison)
- 5 — Ne'meh El Helou (Navi Trista Prison)
- 6 — Mohamed Qatakeh (Ramla Prison)
- 7 — Haisha Aodeh (Navi Trista Prison)

Press Release
From the Union of Democratic
Lawyers in Israel

TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE STRIKING

The hunger strike declared by more than 450 political prisoners in Ashkalon prison has entered its second month. The strike has now spread to other prisons, such as Ramla, Shatta and Nablus, in solidarity with the prisoners and in order to stress the common destiny of Palestinian prisoners.

Instead of working on improving the prisoners' conditions and meeting their legitimate demands, the Ashkalon prison administration and the responsible authorities are trying to break up the strike and, taking advantage of the conspiracy of silence on the part of the local press and radio, are moving the prisoners.

The prisoners' health is seriously deteriorating, a fact that has forced the prison authorities to move some of those whose condition is critical to hospitals. This has prompted demonstrations in front of the prisons by the prisoners' families who were brutally and fiercely turned away by the authorities. Two sit-ins were also staged by Arab women, one in Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the other in the Gaza municipality, in protest against the bad treatment of prisoners and demanding the improvement of their situation.

The prisoners have declared their hunger strike in protest against the bad treatment to which they are subjected, and the sub-human living conditions in the prisons. We have obtained the following facts:

- 1 — Ashkalon prison cannot accommodate more than 200 prisoners, whereas the authorities have crowded in the prison about 450

PRISONERS

prisoners from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This over-crowding has led to unbearable conditions, and to the absence of the most basic human services.

- 2 — Into each small some 20 prisoners are crowded together for 22 hours a day. In this room the prisoners have to live their daily life: praying, reading, exercising and fulfilling their other needs, while the rooms remains closed to light and air.
- 3 — The prisoners have no beds. In this fierce cold weather they sleep on the floor on mattresses less than one centimetre thick... while the Jewish prisoners convicted of crimes sleep on beds.
- 4 — The food served to the prisoners is of bad quality, is always the same, and is of poor nutritious value. This has caused diseases to several prisoners, especially stomach ulcers.
- 5 — The clothes given the prisoners are not suited to the seasons, winter and summer.
- 6 — Visits are allowed only once a month and are conducted behind partitions.
- 7 — There are no reading rooms in the prisons, and books, magazines or newspapers are forbidden. The prisoner is thus punished mentally and morally, as well as losing his freedom.
- 8 — The above-mentioned conditions have led to tragedies among the prisoners and their families. Recently we have learned that the

mother of the prisoner Abd el-Qader Alarbeh burnt herself in protest against the bad treatment of her son... This is in addition to the fact that there are among the prisoners some with permanent disabilities, such as the blind prisoner Mahmoud Abu Danhash, or the prisoner Yussuf Ahmad Khatib who is threatened with blindness, and others who suffer from stomach ulcers, slipped discs, or other diseases and ailments.

If only some of these conditions and facts existed anywhere else in the world, they would have created a huge outcry and a tremendous storm of protest.

We cannot stand helpless and inactive in the face of these prison conditions which violate the simplest principles of justice and humanity. Our human and national duties make it imperative that we act in order to protect the lives of the prisoners, and to secure their just demands.

The Union of Democratic Lawyers has taken immediate steps for this purpose. It has issued a memorandum concerning this issue to the press, the authorities and parliamentary factions. It has also sent a telegramme to the International Centre of Democratic Lawyers in Brussels and the UN Human Rights Commission calling on them to intervene in this matter. We further held a consultative meeting in Nazareth on Thursday, 14 April, attended by the majority of Arab lawyers in Israel. We also sent a telegramme to the Minister of Police protesting against the conditions of the prisoners and requesting him to allow a delegation of lawyers and doctors to visit the prisons to study their conditions at first hand.

The Union of Democratic Lawyers announces that a popular committee is being formed in support of the security prisoners. The Union is calling upon the public and the local authorities, and the local councils and doctors, lawyers, workers and student committees to join this committee which will carry on the fight for the improvement of prisoners' conditions, and to obtain their human rights.



South Lebanon — where Israeli & Isolationist ambitions meet.

SOUTH LEBANON ISRAEL WANTS TO REKINDLE THE WAR AT ALL COSTS

by Marwan Hanna

The wheel has turned full circle. Two years — almost to the day — after the battle of Kafr Shouba which set off the mechanism of the Lebanese civil war, South Lebanon is again in the forefront of the political and military scene. Meanwhile there have been two years of murderous battles in which the Lebanese national and progressive forces (grouped within the National Movement) allied to the Palestinian Resistance have confronted the institutional and paramilitary forces of the sectarian right, directly supported by imperialism from abroad. The Lebanese war, whose main aim was the liquidation of the Palestinian Revolution militarily and politically, and consequently of the Palestinian people themselves,

had been preceded by an actual « creeping war » unleashed for many years by Israel against the Palestinian people and their patriotic Lebanese allies. It was mainly in South Lebanon that the Israeli attacks occurred. Paradoxically, with the outbreak of the Lebanese war, Israeli acts of aggression stopped abruptly. In 1975 and then in 1976, South Lebanon was actually a « haven of peace ». After the Riyadh agreement and the Cairo summit, and then the application of the ceasefire on all the internal fronts, this region bordering occupied Palestine again became the « flashpoint », not only for Lebanon but for the whole region. The fact is that the political developments and changes that

have occurred in the region since the October 1973 war have made Lebanon first of all, and then South Lebanon today, the place where all the contradictions of the Arab-Israeli conflict were, and still are, crystallised. This leads us to make several observations :

1 — It is undeniable, in the first place, that the resumption of the battles in South Lebanon, after the positive results achieved by the Kings and Presidents who met in Riyadh and Cairo at the beginning of last autumn, is a new escalation for which Israel bears the responsibility.

2 — In fact, all evidence indicates that the Zionist leaders have rekindled the fire in the regions bordering occupied Palestine as soon as it became apparent that the fundamental aims of the Lebanese war, namely the political and physical liquidation of the Palestinian people, had failed. It is no coincidence that artillery began to bombard from Arqoub to Bint Jebail only a few weeks after calm had been restored to all parts of Lebanese territory affected by the civil war.

LEBANON'S ABSOLUTE UNITY

3 — However, if Israel succeeds

in rekindling the fires of war and acting so that — as Lebanon's Premier, Dr. Selim Al Hoss has said — the Lebanese problem blows up again in South Lebanon in a concentrated manner, it is because a certain number of gaps exist through which the Zionist leaders, imperialism and their local agents plunged, once again to stir up a conflict which all our Arab brothers had agreed to contain, since they had finally understood that the fire which was consuming Lebanon was of the type that could set the whole region alight.

The main gap which allowed Israel a very wide margin for manoeuvre was first of all the one formed by the internal Lebanese conflicts. This main gap is primarily reflected by the absence of unanimity among Lebanese over a fundamental question: the absolute unity and indivisibility of Lebanon, territory, nation and people. This unanimity of the Lebanese — which is lacking — should have been the basis of a real national resurgence aimed at resisting the designs of the Zionist enemy, who for many decades has been greedy to expand at the expense of the peoples of the region in contempt of the most elementary international laws. It is because this unanimity was lacking, since certain parties refuse to assume the responsibility for a united Lebanon, that Israel is again trying to destabilise a situation that local and regional efforts had succeeded in calming down.

THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A NATIONAL POLICY.

In this state of affairs, any solution to the question of the South can only come, in the first instance, from the Lebanese themselves. Neither appeals launched to fraternal Arab countries, nor calling in UN forces, are capable of solving the problem if, to start with, the Lebanese have not worked out their own solution, which should then serve as a basis for eventual Arab support. It is therefore a question of finding unanimity among the Lebanese on fundamental questions that concern the whole of the nation. First of all, the question of the essential indivisibility of

territory and people, to which the adherence of the official authorities leaves no room for doubt, must serve as the starting-point for a genuine national policy. This policy was summed up by the Lebanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Fuad Butros, in three points: neutrality on the international level; support for the Palestinian people's rights, and the demand for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

HUMILIATING « GUARANTEES »

These basic elements for a specific Lebanese foreign policy are, it should be noted, a new fact in terms of the political conduct of the Lebanese State's official



South Lebanese villagers — poverty is the rule.

institutions. For the first time, in fact, foreign policy is no longer defined as « a price to pay » in return for unnatural international guarantees, which at best prevented Israel from annexing South Lebanon outright, while allowing the Zionist leaders complete freedom of action in Lebanese territory in quasi-official manner. The price for restraining Israel's « geographical appetites » which the Lebanese from then on found themselves compelled to pay in political terms was that imperialism and its agents, as well as Israel, ordered them to « moderate » their patriotism. Apart from this, of course, as the sole guarantee, Israel agreed not to give its intervention and its direct interference in South Lebanon an official character.

But what then are these guarantees which permit Israel to decide the fate and future of South Lebanon? What are these guarantees which allow Israel to impose its own conception of security on the Lebanese? What are these guarantees which give the Zionist leaders the right to « compete with » the Lebanese leaders and officials on their own national territory? Who gives them the right to decide the nature of the troops which are called on to be stationed there. And of all the governments which offered their guarantees, which one would have allowed the dignity of its people to be made fun of in this manner?

ISRAEL REVEALS DETAILS OF AID TO ISOLATIONISTS

Israel has continued its support to its allies, the Lebanese isolationists in South Lebanon, with the delivery of all sorts of military and other aid, such as strategic materials needed for the construction of military fortifications. Radio Israel on 17 April declared that 40 tons of cement were recently delivered to the villages controlled by the isolationists in South Lebanon, to help the latter build new fortifications. The radio added that the following week another load of cement would be delivered to isolationist-control-

led villages north of Metulla.

This Zionist aid follows the letter sent by the isolationist leaders in South Lebanon to Israeli Minister of War Shimon Peres thanking Israel for the increasing Zionist support of their forces.

Radio Israel recently admitted that the aid given by the Zionist authorities to the isolationists amounts to IL 800000 per week, adding that the sum has been increased since early April.



Israeli-made weapons captured from Lebanese fighters.

THE BATTLE OF TAIBE ~ KHIYAM: A POPULAR VICTORY

The Lebanese isolationists call themselves the « Lebanese » forces, implying that the war in Lebanon — and especially in South Lebanon — is between the Lebanese and the Palestinians, whom they call « foreigners ». The truth is, of course, that South Lebanon is a Lebanese region, and the inhabitants of the villages of this region have been Lebanese nationals since the country's independence over thirty years ago.

The villages of Taibe and Khiyam were first occupied by the so-called « Lebanese » forces, and then liberated by the popular forces. The villagers' reaction to the entry of the popular forces clearly shows their rejection of the isolationist forces which claim to represent them.

KHIYAM

Towards the end of October 1976, the « Lebanese » forces, supported by Israel, overran the village of Khiyam which had remained neutral since the beginning of the events in South Lebanon, and which the popular forces had never entered. Wanting to impose their domination at any cost, the « Lebanese » forces terrorized the population. They burned the mosque and practiced a policy of « he who is not with us must die ». They killed an aged doctor together with all his patients; the crime of the doctor, a Maronite Christian was that he condemned cooperation with Israel. They also hanged six young men in the village square. In brief, the « Lebanese » forces behaved like a foreign occupation force towards their fellow countrymen, causing the villagers to flee in large numbers to Beirut.

On 6 April, the popular forces retook Khiyam, aided by a large number of the young men of the village, who took part in the battle on the side of the popular forces, creating pockets of resistance within the village itself. Three inhabitants of Khiyam who participated in the battle later said: « We believe that the isolationist forces are nothing but the tools of Israel. We are Lebanese and Arabs, and for that reason we regard those who cooperate with

2) To respect the agreements concluded with the PLO, in their very essence, which permit the Resistance to be present in South Lebanon.

On this twofold basis, to which would later be joined the support of Arab countries aware of the danger, a strategy of patriotic resistance to the Israeli conspiracy could be defined that would serve as the line of action for a very broad Lebanese front opposed to Israeli expansionism in all its forms, within the framework of an alliance with the Palestinian Revolution.

Without this, Israel, far from evacuating the occupied Arab territories, would occupy others. The South Lebanon brazier would then become a powder keg. If it explodes, nobody, in Lebanon or in the Middle East as a whole, would be able to avoid its effects.



AL-FAJR: 'OUR HEARTS ARE WITH YOU, PROTECTORS OF THE SOUTH'

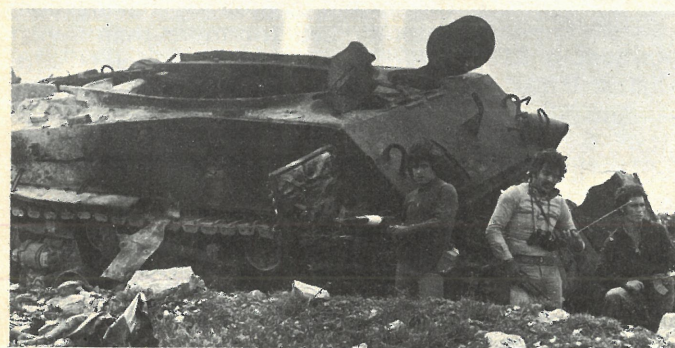
In an editorial of 8 April entitled, 'Our Hearts are with you, Protectors of the South' al-Fajr newspaper published in Jerusalem wrote: « Under cover of Israeli artillery and with the direct and indirect support of the Israeli forces, the isolationist forces in South Lebanon carry on their offensives

against the forces of the Palestinian — Lebanese nationalist alliance ».

The editorial added that « the ongoing conspiracy in South Lebanon is part of the major one which once blasted Lebanon and is again trying to set it ablaze by striking at the country's unity, and at the

Palestinian Revolution which stands as an obstacle in the way of imperialist control of the region and of the separationist reactionary rightist current ».

The editorial affirmed: « The new isolationist conspiracies will inevitably be thwarted by the resistance of our valiant brethren in the blazing South, as was the case in the past. And Lebanon will remain Arab and a solid pillar for Palestine and its people ».



Taibe — an Israeli tank captured by the joint forces.

ISRAELI-ISOLATIONIST CO-OPERATION

In an interview on Israeli television on 9 April, 1977, the commander of the isolationist forces in South Lebanon acknowledged that many of his men had been killed in recent battles, and that hundreds of his wounded had been transported to Israel.

The commander went on to accuse Syria of « not only occupying nearly all of Lebanon », but also of « trying to occupy South Lebanon », and to accuse the President of the Lebanese Republic and other Arab leaders of being indifferent to the problem of the South. He castigated the two isolationist leaders, Camille Chamoun and Pierre Gemayel, as being « afraid to declare themselves », and accused them of having « enticed the Christians with glittering promises (which he refused to cite) for which 17,000 Christians have been killed ».

The commander declined to consider Israel an enemy state, for, he said, « Israel is the only state supporting what we are fighting for ». He ended the interview by thanking Israel for its moral and military support.

Radio Israel has many times carried reports of Israeli aid to the Lebanese isolationists. It declared on 11 April that aid in the form of food-exceeding 50,000 Israeli pounds in value—had been given to the frontier village of Qlaya.

On 13 April, Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yigal Allon, declared that Israel could not adopt a neutral attitude towards terrorist attacks against Christian frontier villages, as these villages were friends of Israel. He described this stand as one of four principles of Israeli policy regarding South Lebanon, another being Israel's opposition to the 1969 Cairo Agreement, and Israel's determination to prevent its application.

Israel as traitors ». Those who emigrated from Khiyam began, on 7 April, to return en masse to their village.

TAIBE

The village of Taibe was occupied on 28 March by the « Lebanese » forces. By that time, the village was nearly empty for it had been bombarded for weeks by Israel, which thereby simplified the task of the isolationists. The « Lebanese » forces proceeded to impose their terror on the few remaining inhabitants, mostly old people, killing the village mayor who refused to cooperate with Israel, blowing up his house and stealing his flock. They also pillaged the houses of the village.

On 4 April at 2 a.m., the popular forces liberated Taibe. The remaining villagers greeted them with cries of joy, and the women sang. The news spread to all the villages of South Lebanon. In Bint Jbail people came into the streets singing and dancing, while in the frontier village of Chakra revolutionary songs issued from the minaret of the mosque, and could be heard all through the night by the settlers in the nearby Israeli colony of Manarah.

The next day, when a vehicle belonging to the popular forces drove by, people in the streets gave the sign of victory!



Jewish lawyer, Felicia Langer

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS CONDEMNS ZIONIST MEASURES AGAINST LANGER

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers on 4 April issued the following communiqué on the disqualification of Felicia Langer from practicing before Zionist military tribunals:

« Felicia Langer, member of the Israel bar, was recently denied authorisation to plead before the military tribunals.

« The reasons cited for this decision, which was taken by a 5-member ad hoc commission presided over by Mr. Moshe Shamgor, Judge in the Israeli Supreme Court, are contacts undertaken with PLO representatives, and people from the socialist countries.

« This unprecedented measure taken against a female lawyer who has dedicated herself to the defence of Palestinian detainees, and who is acknowledged for her high professional conscience and her attachment to the respect of human rights, is a serious blow to the right of defence and to the practice of the lawyers' profession.

« The International Association of Democratic Lawyers' which already at the beginning of March expressed to the ad hoc commission and to the president of the Israeli

Bar its hope that they would withhold their complaint against lawyer Langer which contradict all democratic traditions, has immediately protested against this measure to Mr. Chaim Zadok, the Israeli Minister of Justice.

ISRAELI DEMOCRACY ?

A five-member ad hoc commission, one of whose members was the legal counsellor of the Zionist governor, professor Aharon Barak, decided, following the demand of the Zionist Chief of Staff, General Gurr, to prohibit Felicia Langer from defending cases in Israeli military tribunals. According to Gurr, the motives for this measures are the contacts Felicia Langer has had with the PLO, and the « risks to Israel's security ». The real motive is the fact that Felicia Langer mainly defends Palestinian prisoners.

Felicia Langer has decided to appeal to the Jerusalem Supreme Court. The restriction imposed on her is « an undemocratic act » Felicia Langer said, and constitutes in fact merely « political revenge ».

In virtue of the same restriction, Felicia Langer was prevented from defending a German girl and two German youths, kidnapped by the Zionist authorities at Nairobi airport, Kenya, one year ago. The ban was laid down by Mordechai Gurr.

ISRAELI STATE GANGSTERS KIDNAP WEST GERMANS AND ARABS

Some aspects of a case of Israeli gangsterism came to light at a press conference in Jerusalem on April 1, 1977, in a case which is attracting international attention, and which exposes the common criminal behavior and systematic contempt for human rights and international law

on the part of Israeli « state » authorities.

At this press conference, the parents of a West German girl accused the Zionist authorities of having secretly kidnapped, deported, and tortured their 24-year old daughter, Brigitta Schulz, together with another West German, 25-year old Thomas Router, and three unnamed Arabs. They also accused the Israeli regime of having consistently lied for more than a year about the affair, in connivance with West German and Kenyan authorities.

The two young West Germans disappeared in Nairobi, Kenya, in January, 1976. The Kenyan authorities denied any knowledge of their whereabouts and excluded the possibility that they had been arrested. All queries made to the West German embassy there were also in vain.

However, in late August, 1976, the parents of Brigitta Schulz were tipped off through a letter that their daughter had actually been caught in Kenya and then tortured under the supervision of Israeli agents. Further press investigations and reports concluded that the two West Germans, together with at least three Arabs, had been secretly deported from Kenya to Israel shortly after their detention. The Zionist regime, however, continued shamelessly to deny any involvement.

But in January, 1977, Mrs. Leah Tsemel, a progressive Israeli lawyer who has repeatedly defended political prisoners and detainees incarcerated in Israeli jails, learned conclusively that those missing had been held for over a year in a secret place under Israeli « administrative detention ». This permits detention without any formal charges or time limitation. Mrs. Tsemel then informed the parents of the West German girl. Most significantly, an Israeli « diplomat » had by this time approached the parents and

tried to blackmail them in order to keep the affair secret.

Only after this strategy failed, and the undeterred parents made clear their intention to hold an international press conference on the matter, the Israeli authorities did publicly admit, on March 29, 1977, that they were holding the missing people, and announced hastily that they were soon to be put on trial. Now, the Israeli kidnappers suddenly also produced allegations that the detainees had planned an attack on an Israeli plane at Nairobi airport in January, 1976. No explanation whatsoever was given as to why and how they had been abducted by Israeli power, and why the Zionist state terrorists had lied about the matter for more than a year. The West German government issued a « strong protest » to the Israeli regime about the secret deportation and detention of its citizens and Israel's repeated mendacious denials. At the press conference, however, the mother of Brigitta Schulz accused the West German authorities themselves of collaboration and complicity with the Zionist state gangsters, in order to keep secret for fourteen months the fate of her daughter and the other detainees. All earlier requests to the West German embassy in Tel Aviv had gone unanswered or resulted in lukewarm denials. In fact, the West German

magazine, *Der Spiegel*, disclosed on April 11, 1977, that the West German authorities had known of the arrests and deportations from the very beginning, and that the West German secret services (the BND and Verfassungsschutz) had even arranged for, and cooperated with, the activities of Israeli terrorist agents in West Germany.

When Brigitta's parents finally succeeded in seeing their imprisoned daughter, under the supervision of Israeli intelligence, they found her « neatly dressed », as her mother put it at the press conference, but she was not allowed to speak about her case. She could only mention that her tormentors had threatened her with a lifetime in jail unless she became an informer.

It also became known that the detainees had been held completely isolated the whole time, and were even denied newspapers and a radio. Also, Brigitta Schulz's own choice for her lawyer, Mrs. Tsemel, was refused any contact with her client. Moreover, the « court » the Israeli authorities intend to try the defendants in will be little more than a military performance, held in tight secrecy. None of the detainees may be contacted and defended by lawyers of their own choice. They have been offered a list of « special » advocates, cleared

by a security commission, and excluding all progressive and competent lawyers. (See the following report on the ban against Felicia Langer).

This case, which has attracted international attention and indignation mainly because of the involvement of non-Arab victims, is only one further example of Israeli international terrorism and systematic gangsterism. It exposes the fascist nature of Zionist « democracy » and must be taken as an example of the daily practices which the Israeli fascists use to suppress and liquidate thousands of Palestinian resisters illegally imprisoned in Israeli jails.

LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE REPORTS ON ISRAELI MEASURES IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE

In its April issue, the French monthly, *Le Monde Diplomatique* published a study of the arbitrary measures of the Zionist authorities in the Arab lands occupied since 1967, such as the expropriation of lands and deportation of citizens by force.

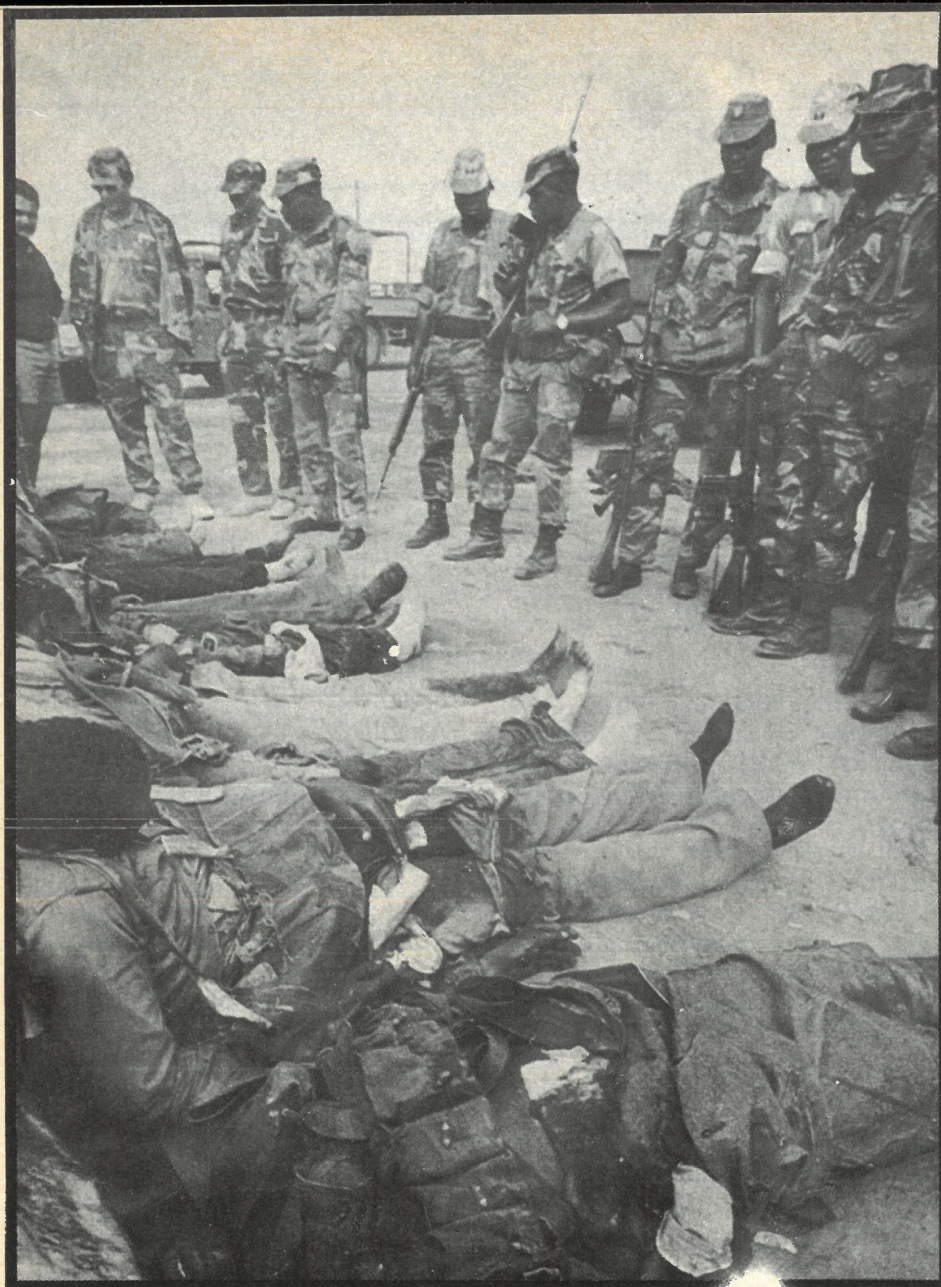
The monthly reported that since the 1967 war, the Israeli occupation authorities have forced more than 200,000 Palestinian citizens to leave the West Bank after expropriating their land, and building Israeli settlements on them. The authorities also forced around 117,000 citizens in the Syrian Golan Heights to leave their lands and homes. There are only 13,000 citizens in these heights now, besides the deportations practiced in Gaza to establish more settlements.

Le Monde Diplomatique pointed out that the Israeli authorities since 1967 have expropriated 80 % of the lands of the area of the Jordan River Valley, and prevented its owners from working their lands.

The daily *Le Monde* recently published a long study of the situation of Arab detainees in Zionist jails and the bad treatment they experience.



Mother of Brigitta Schulz meets with Jerusalem press.



Racist Rhodesian troops survey dead guerillas

AFRICA: THE IMPERIALIST COUNTER-ATTACK

Southern Africa has just entered a new stage. Certain countries, African and others, by rushing to the rescue of Mobutu Sesse Seko through the dispatch of « military contingents » or the granting of « special assistance », have brought to the point of no-return the confrontation — disguised until then — between the progressive African countries and those qualified as « pro-Western ». In all

evidence, this new development fits in to the framework of an imperialist manoeuvre. By internationalising what the Western press calls « the affair of the ex-Katangese forces » or « the Angolan invasion of Zaire », the aim is in fact to bring about a complete split in the African continent, in such a way as to give respite to the severely pressed minority racist regimes, while waiting for a development of

the situation in favour of a settlement which would safeguard imperialist interests, and maintain in power the puppets and the racist forces to which these interests are bound.

It is to be noted that the internationalisation of the African problems follows on the failure of the constitutional conference on Rhodesia; the new British Foreign Secretary is at present making a desperate attempt to re-launch the American-British initiative, but it is becoming increasingly obvious that the « peaceful road » towards the emancipation of the peoples who still suffer under the yoke of the last vestiges of colonialism in Africa has passed. It is in the interests of imperialism to prevent the isolation of the South African and Rhodesian strongholds, and to delay the outbreak of a generalised war of liberation directed against them. Under present political conditions, it would be extremely difficult for the Western powers to give their assistance openly to their bridge-heads. Thus, we can understand the stakes in internationalising what is strictly an internal Zaire affair, the insurrection of Shaba (ex-Katanga). To aid a puppet regime which is on the edge of a political and economic abyss, a regime allied to the racist forces and to imperialism, amounts not only to preventing its collapse, but also — and most importantly — to strengthening its advantages within the framework of an imperialist counter-attack. The aim of Western propaganda on the « communist invasion » is to create a favourable climate for a holy alliance of the most reactionary regimes in Africa, through which the imperialist powers hope to halt the radicalisation of the continent and, if possible, recuperate — even if only partially — the ground lost.

The internationalisation of the Zaire affair comes historically just after the visits of Nikolai Podgorny and Fidel Castro to Africa, during which they promised the total and unconditional aid of Cuba and the Soviet Union to the liberation movements and the « front line states » in their struggle against the Rhodesian and South African racist regimes.

The intervention of the African and Western countries in Zaire is of such a kind as to harm the liberation movements and the African countries struggling against the white strongholds, and consequently to hinder the march of Africa as a whole towards real emancipation and progress, under the pretext of halting « Soviet expansion ».

GUN-BOAT DIPLOMACY

The Western powers have recently granted considerable economic and military aid to the Zaire regime, and « speeded up the delivery of the arms and munitions which had been ordered from them under contract by Zaire ». They are certainly no strangers to the procession of mercenaries in Zaire — veterans of Vietnam and other colonial wars for the most part (see *The Los Angeles Times*, 7 April, 1977) — to « defend the Shaba region from foreign subversion ».

The most serious interference is that of France, which went beyond the official military intervention of the other Western states. The French President did in fact make public, on 10 April, a communiqué putting at the disposal of the Zaire regime French air assistance, in order to « facilitate rescue operations ». France is thus committing itself to a dangerous adventure with unforeseeable consequences, which could drag this country into the engagement of a colonial war, an adventure which is without doubt detrimental to the interests of the French people and to the cause of the African peoples.

On 11 April, Robert Ballanger, president of the communist group in the French National Assembly, addressed a letter to the President of the French republic denouncing « the Government's decision to intervene with military means in Zaire's internal affairs ». This decision, he said, « is aimed, beyond the people of Zaire, at all the peoples of Africa who are struggling for liberation and progress. It was taken in connivance with the American leadership and the NATO bodies. It destroys in-

dependence. » For the communist deputy, « This decision commits France to the engagement of a colonial war ».

After Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's press conference of 11 April, *L'Humanité* qualified French policy as « gun-boat diplomacy ». In particular, the French daily wrote, « the decision of the Giscard Government thus to intervene openly in Africa is extremely grave. It contributes to the internationalisation of the Zaire affair and to creating long-term tension in that part of the African continent where peace is so fragile... »

« The protests of the French communists, in solidarity as always with the African patriots, will be up to this new recourse to gun-boat diplomacy ».

THE OAU ON THE VERGE OF SPLITTING APART

The interference of certain African countries and the Western powers in an internal Zaire affair threatens, in addition, to cause a split in the Organisation of African Unity which had until then been more or less able to preserve a certain political homogeneousness of the African countries, in spite of

the ideological contradictions which separate them.

The OAU was already severely put to the test during the Angola affair, when certain African countries supported the intervention of the Western countries and the South African racists at the sides of the hired movements — UNITA and the FNLA. It is quite likely that the Organisation will not this time emerge as capable of overcoming this moment of choice which the African continent is facing. The probability of the OAU splitting apart is all the greater as the contradictions between the progressive and the « pro-Western » blocs are becoming increasingly accentuated, particularly since the independence of Mozambique and Angola.

By internationalising the Shaba insurrection, the reactionary African countries and their imperialist protectors seek to bring about the break. According to them, this would be the only means of preventing « in time » the further spread of radicalism. But the ultimate goal of the manoeuvre is to create and strengthen a front of reactionary African regimes which would work in the wake of imperialist solutions to the African problems.



Moroccan & Zairian soldiers clasp hands near the front in Shaba province.



Mobutu addresses Kinshasa rally.

NEW CONSPIRACIES AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF ZAIRE

DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF FRENCH TROOPS

A communique issued in Paris by the Congolese Liberation Front on 15 April, refuted the allegations of the French Government according to which France's actions in Zaire are limited to the delivery of arms, and to transport operations. The communique states that French soldiers were counted among the dead in the neighbour hood of Kolwezi, an important mining centre, « which bears witness to the direct participation of French troops in military operations ». The Congolese Liberation Front protests strongly against the presence of these troops in Zaire, and calls the attention of the French Government to the serious consequences which France's actions could have.

MERCENARIES FOR MOBUTU

Newsday, the newspaper of Long Island, near New York, writes, on 17 April, that the CIA is secretly supporting the recruitment in the United States and Great Britain of hundreds of mercenaries sent to Zaire to assist Mobutu's troops. Newsday, which states that its information came from members of the information services, adds that the CIA is in close contact with a Californian resident, Mr. David Burkin, who is directing the recruitment campaign for mercenaries for Zaire. The Californian press had already revealed that Mr. Burkin had undertaken to recruit several dozen men with combat experience, specifying that monthly salaries were from 1,200 to 2,000 dollars.

The news now spreading of the recruitment in certain Western countries of foreign mercenaries to curb the popular insurrection in the south of Zaire is increasingly worrying French public opinion. The 15 April edition of *France-Soir* announced that clandestine recruitment centres had been in existence for some ten days in Brussels, Frankfurt, London and Paris. *Le Monde* of the same date reproduced an article from the *Washington Post* on the recruitment of French mercenaries for Zaire, basically from those who had already taken part in subversive acts against Angola at the beginning of 1976.

AN OUTPOST OF THE REACTIONARY FORCES

The Vietnamese paper, *Quai Doi Nhan Dan*, indicated on 15 April, in pointing out the extent of the military and other aid which the USA grants to Zaire, that this country represents an important source of strategic raw materials for American industry. But the paper also stressed the fact that the USA consider Zaire as a point in the resistance to the anti-imperialist struggle in Africa, as an advance-guard of the reactionary forces struggling against popular Angola.

WHEN NATO INTERESTS ITSELF IN AFRICAN PROBLEMS

Admiral Hill Northon, president of the Military Committee of NATO, declared during a press conference in Brussels that NATO must closely monitor developments in Zaire. He subscribes to the decision of the Western countries — of France in particular — to interpose themselves directly in the internal struggle in Zaire in the light of NATO interest in the African problems.

ENEMY NEWS



Zionist Minister of Trade, Chaim Barlev.

BARLEV: 20 NEW SETTLEMENTS IN GALILEE OVER NEXT 3 YEARS

In a statement to journalists following his visit to Galilee, on 11 April, Chaim Barlev, Zionist Minister of Trade, declared that 20 Zionist settlements will be established in the next three years in the Galilee area. Barlev added that 200 families will be settled in each colony, and that the project will cost 1.6 billion Israeli pounds. He added that the settlements will be distributed in the following four areas: Sijef near Sakhnin; Tar'an Mountain on the Nazareth; Tiberias road; Yetzin between Deir al-Assad and Tarshiha; and Hazzoun mountain un Upper Galilee.

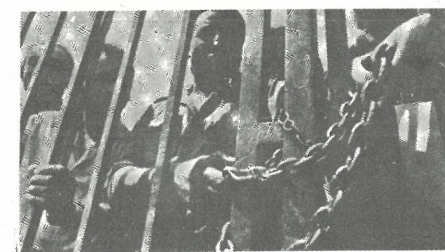
On the other hand, al-Fajr, published in occupied Jerusalem, reported on 8 April that the Israeli Minister of Agriculture, Aharon Osan, will present a project to the government for the establishment of 10 new settlements near the town of Rafah in the Gaza Strip. Three of the ten settlements are intended for new immigrants, three others for old settlers, and the rest for those who wish to live in these new settlements.

The Zionist newspaper *Davar* said that these new settlements will be the first part of the project called 'The Southern Operation', which calls for the establishment of 150 settlements in the next 15 years.

ISRAELIS HELP SELL SOUTH AFRICAN STEEL IN EEC

The GDR news agency, ADN, on 2 April exposed the close

co-operation between the steel cartels in South Africa and the Zionist entity. The agency affirmed that the South African Iscor steel company is co-operating with the Israeli company, Kur Industries, and the two firms have lately established a joint center supervised by the Israeli and South African governments. This center, located in Kur Industries in Israel, organizes the manufacture of South African steel, as well as making use of the customs' privileges offered to Israel by the European Common Market, in selling their products manufactured in Israel to West European countries. This ultimately helps the racist regime in South Africa increase its hard currency reserves, which the regime desperately needs for the purchase of armaments.



Striking workers in the Zionist entity.

A STATE LIVING ON FOREIGN DEBTS

The poor condition of the Israeli economy can be seen from its abnormally high inflation rate and its drop in production due to decreasing consumption, which in turn has led to an increase in unemployment. The rate of inflation jumped from 25 % in 1975 to nearly 40 % in 1976, and expected to be 27 % this year. Unemployment has risen from 4 % of the labor force in 1975 to 15 % in 1976, and it is expected that the number of unemployed, which was 47,000 in 1976, will reach 60,000 this year.

Consumption dropped by 15 % in 1976, with the result that by the middle of the same year, manufacturing production had decreased by 13 %, thus equalling the production level of 1973. Considering that Israel's national production did not achieve any rise in 1975, and it

only increased by 2 or 3 % in 1976, these developments clearly point out the economic crisis which the Zionist entity is suffering from, as a result of military expenditures which rose from 16 billion Israeli Pounds in 1974, to 22 billion Israeli Pounds in 1975, and 34.1 billion Israeli Pounds in 1976.

In addition, Israel has spent the sum of \$6 billion with hard currency over the past three years. This has resulted in an increase in the deficit in the balance of payments, from \$1 billion in 1972 to \$3.8 billion in 1975. At the same time, foreign debts rose from \$4 billion in 1972, to \$9 billion in 1975, and \$10.7 billion, an increase of \$1.7 billion in one year. This means that every Israeli man, woman, and child is in debt to the outside world by an amount of around \$3500.

Another factor contributing to inflation is that the Israeli economy is connected to the economy of the capitalist countries, from whom Israel imports 40 % of its necessary raw materials. The devaluation of the Israeli pound, and its connection with other foreign currencies in addition to the US dollar, is but a desperate attempt to confront the grave economic crisis within the Zionist entity. The US dollar was worth I.L. 6.12 on June 17, 1975, and I.L. 8.73 on November 23, 1976.

The Israeli pound has been devalued by 2 % for the third time so far this year. This devaluation of the pound will lead to a sharp decrease in the balance of payments, which is expected \$3 billion for this year. But this devaluation will surely lead to a high increase in prices, especially since Israel imports double what it exports. This will force people with limited incomes to go without some necessities.

Jerusalem Post: 16-12-76, 17-12-76, 31-12-76, 29-3-77

Institute of Palestine Studies Bulletin: 16-12-76



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**VOLUME 3 NO 7
15 MAY 1977**

PER. SEC.
MAY 29 1978
NYPL



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