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FRIENDSHIP**

Palestine

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EDITORIAL

THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND

Recent declarations concerning a Palestinian homeland constitute a new stage in the semantics of US diplomacy. But can these declarations be taken seriously?

History demonstrates that the Palestinians have good reason to be sceptical of such promises and dreams. Indeed, the last 6 decades of Palestinian sufferings, disappointments and resistance — first against British colonialism, and later against Zionist terrorism and Israeli expansionism — have taught the Palestinians not to depend on UN resolutions and promises alone.

The US Government has itself denied the very existence of the Palestinian people for the last 30 years, and with the most sophisticated weapons has strongly supported Zionist aggression and expansion, in so doing destroying thousands of Palestinians and Arabs. The US has used Israel as a bridgehead for reversing Arab social and economic development and progress, to maintain control of American oil interests in the region. The US has achieved this end by prolonging the state of no peace and no war with limited military confrontation.

Yet the Palestinian people and their representative, the PLO, appreciate the recent declarations made by President Carter on the subject of a Palestinian homeland. From such statements there is hope that this new US stand will end the tragedy and suffering endured by

the Palestinian people at the hands of Zionist ideology and practices.

President Carter's statement concerning a Palestinian homeland must be considered a step forward in US Middle Eastern policy, and an encouragement for the Palestinian people in their resistance to Zionist expansion and settler colonialism.

The new US diplomacy is, of course, a breakthrough towards peace in the Middle East, though it requires further specification. First, it is necessary to state the location of the Palestinian homeland and to define its political status: The Palestinians reject a substitute homeland outside their original land, Palestine. And in accordance with the Palestinian National Council resolutions, the PLO insists on the independent status of the Palestine state; i.e. the PLO refuses a federated or a confederated Palestinian union with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The appeal for human rights by President Carter has had a great effect on the oppressed peoples of the world. If set into practice, it will encourage their struggle to throw off the yoke of oppression, discrimination and exploitation. Thus it will help relieve the sufferings of all oppressed peoples of the world, including the Palestinians. It will be a great contribution toward a new world, without wars, a world of peace, a just peace.



Chairman Arafat

MAY DAY MEMORIAL RALLY FOR KAMAL JUNBLATT

On May 1st, a memorial rally was held in Beirut for the martyred Lebanese leader, Kamal Junblatt, who was killed by assassins last March. The leader of the Lebanese National Movement, a strong friend and supporter of the Palestinian Revolution and of progressive movements everywhere, Kamal Junblatt was a figure of

international standing. May 1st in Beirut was « The International Day of Kamal Junblatt », and delegations from various countries honored his memory with speeches and demonstrations. Excerpted below are some of the speeches delivered at the memorial rally, followed by a list of the delegations represented there.

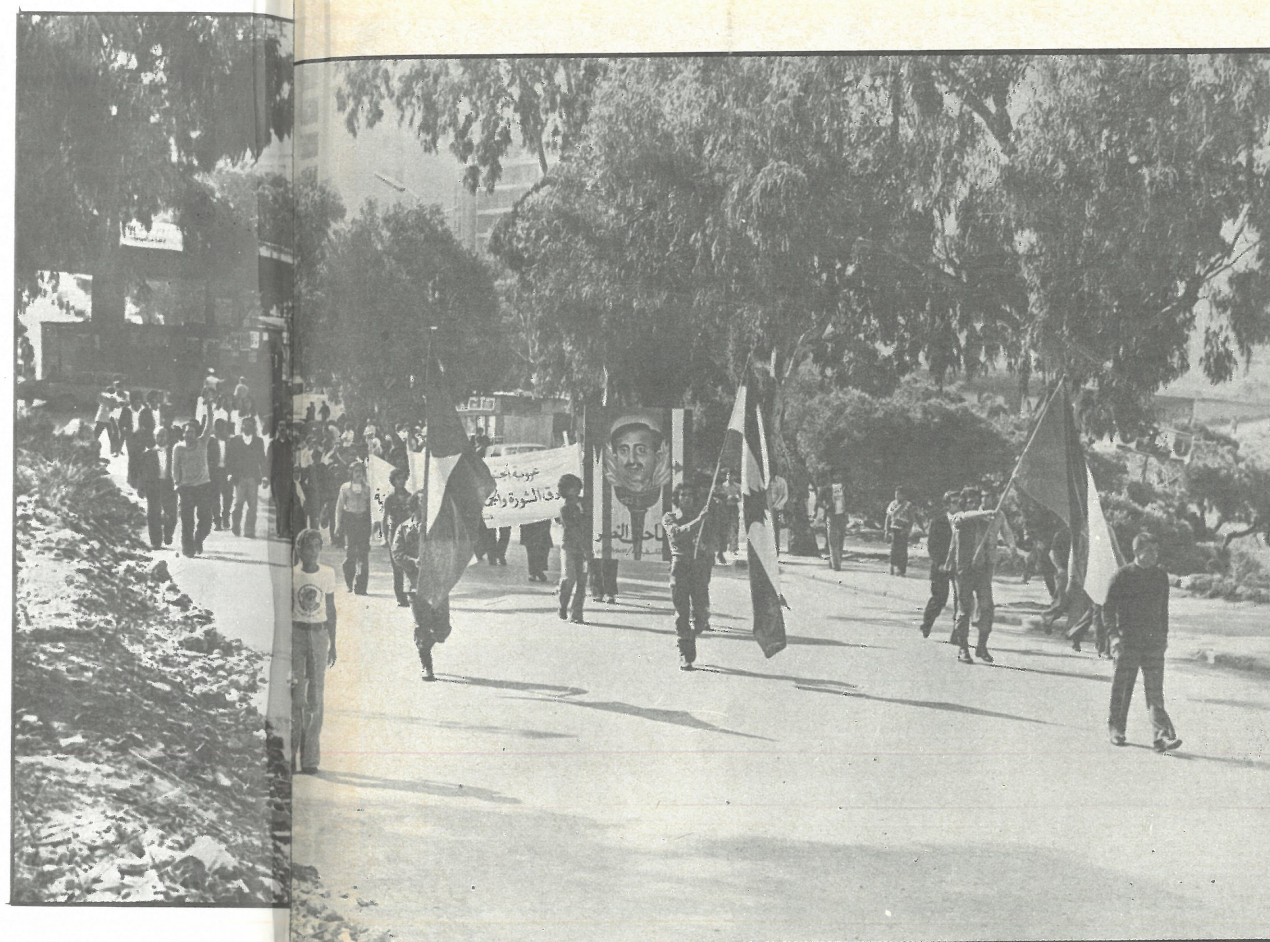
THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

Amidst chanting and roars of approval, Chairman Arafat delivered a speech on behalf of the Palestinian Revolution. In his speech, Chairman Arafat stressed

that the Palestinian Revolution and the Palestinian people would faithfully maintain their unity with the Lebanese National Movement till the realization of the goals for which Kamal Junblatt was martyred. Chairman Arafat's speech was interrupted dozens of times by applause and cheers of approval.

Here is the text of Chairman Arafat's speech:

« Dear Brothers: It hurts me to remember Kamal Junblatt's death. A teacher and leader, he was my companion on a shared road, an international, progressive, Arab, Lebanese, and Palestinian leader. Our loss is incalculable, and words



and speeches are not enough to overcome our deep sorrow for his martyrdom. The loss is deeply and widely felt, on the Palestinian, Arab, Lebanese, and international levels.

« Our exiled Palestinian people have found, in Kamal Junblatt and his brothers in the Lebanese National Movement, companions and comrades in a shared trench, sharing one blood and one cause. To all my martyred comrades, to Kamal Junblatt, Kamal Nasser, Kamal Adwan, Abu Yussef, and all my martyred brothers, to all of you, and on behalf of the masses in the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement here in Lebanon, and the masses in the occupied homeland, and in the Arab world, and in every place of freedom in the world; on behalf of all of them, I say: Our Palestinian Revolution is still dynamic and self-renewing, and the Lebanese National Movement will continue as great as before. For this, Palestinian and Lebanese revolutionary cohesion will become greater because of the sacrifices of

Kamal Junblatt and his great martyred comrades in the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. The Palestinian masses are as grieved to lose Kamal Junblatt as are the Lebanese masses.

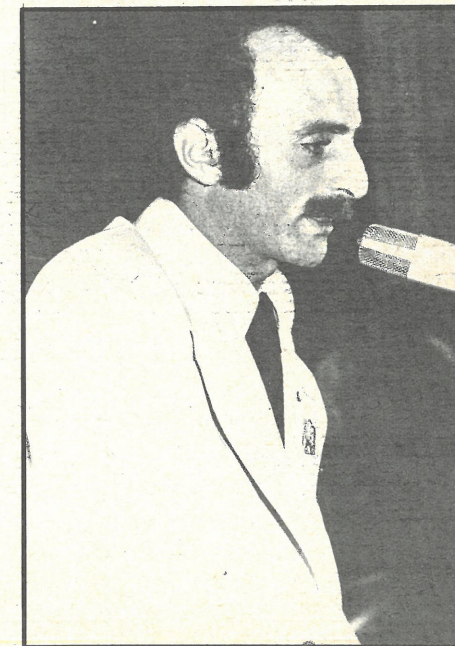
« From this podium, and on behalf of the Palestinian Revolution, and its militant heroes, I assure my brother Walid Junblatt and his comrades in the Lebanese National Movement, and all of the honest liberals in this country, that we will keep our pledge, and we swear that our hand will be clasped with yours until we achieve the goals for which Kamal Junblatt has fallen.

« Despite the cowardly bullets which assassinated Kamal Junblatt, I say that the message and goals for which he died will survive, and will continue their march with the revolutionary will of the militant fighters of the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement; and that these noble, honest, and great goals shall be achieved ! ».

WALID JUNBLATT — son of Kamal Junblatt, and leader of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party :

« I beg your pardon for a moment as I let a tear fall for a man who was dear and close. This tear has been shed so that men may remain men, and that principles may survive. The martyrdom of Kamal Junblatt in this phase of the struggle of the Lebanese people, the Arab people, and the liberation movements of the world, should not cause despair, but hope. His assassination was a desperate, mean attempt by the forces of ignorance and darkness to block the advance of progress. My father's ambition until his death was to see Lebanon overcome fighting and partition designs, and attain social justice, fraternity, and equality... His last will, « The Program of the Lebanese National Movement », constitutes the correct view, that of a unified Lebanon, and the true approach for realizing this unity.

« Kamal Junblatt was one of the stubborn leaders of the ongoing Arab struggle to regain control over all their resources. He played a significant role in strengthening the cohesion between the Lebanese struggle and all Arab liberation movements, with the Palestinian Revolution as their vanguard.



Walid Junblatt

« Many have fallen as martyrs in their struggle to liberate the Holy Land, and my father was one of those who fell on the long Way of the Cross. Denial of the Palestinian people and their national aspirations will remain a source of violence and unrest in this part of the world. Unless the Palestinian people attain sovereignty over their land, the world will always be in danger. To be true to the martyr's message, we must continue our support, solidarity, and cohesion with the world liberation movements in their struggle against imperialism, apartheid, and Zionism ».

THE SOVIET UNION (speaker: I.E. Nazimitsiev)

« We have come to Lebanon to join the Lebanese people in their commemoration of Kamal Junblatt, that prominent personality in the Arab liberation movement, the head of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, the militant who held the Lenin Peace Prize, and who was known for his struggle for peace and Afro-Asian solidarity.

« We knew Junblatt as a friend of the Soviet Union. He visited our country more than once, and he communicated with the socialist Soviet organizations. Soviet public opinion received the news of his criminal assassination with deeply-felt pain, since Junblatt was an active militant who helped develop Soviet-Arab friendship.

« We consider this sad event as another in the series of crimes perpetrated by imperialist and reactionary circles against those militants who struggle for human freedom, social progress, and world peace and security ».

THE ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (speaker: Enrico Minca):

« We received the news of Comrade Junblatt's assassination with deep sorrow. The loss of Junblatt is a great loss for all progressive and socialist movements all over the world. This murderous



act will block the path of peace in Lebanon and in the area.

« Nevertheless, the principles and ideals of solidarity, peace, democracy, and progress will survive. All the world's Socialists, and especially the Italian Socialist Party, will stand with your cause and struggle ».

THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (speaker: Robert Lakuta):

« The Communists and workers of France have received the news of the cowardly assassination of Kamal Junblatt with deep sorrow. We share with you the great loss of this prominent leader and this great militant of peace.

« We well know the great efforts which the martyr exerted to find a just and durable solution for the Lebanese crisis. We know his great devotion to this country's independence, sovereignty, and unity. We also know about his efforts to find a just and durable solution to the Middle East crisis.

« Junblatt has fallen as a martyr in the battlefield, the victim of the policy of imperialist reactionary circles, who employ all means to block the progress of liberation movements.

ABU LUTF MEETS BULGARIAN DELEGATION

Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Pol-

itical Department, on May 3 met with the Bulgarian delegation which participated in the Lebanon, Arab and international day to commemorate Kamal Junblatt. The latest developments of the Palestinian problem on the Arab and international levels were discussed during the meeting.

ABU HATEM MEETS CYPRIOT COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION

Beirut, ^

Abu Hatem, member of the Fateh Revolutionary Council and responsible for its external relations, on May 3 met with the Cypriot Communist Party (Akel) delegation headed by Comrade Yannes Catsorides, a member of the party's Secretariat and Political Bureau.

During the two-hour meeting, all aspects of the Palestine and Cyprus problems were reviewed, and the two parties decided to put forth a joint plan for cooperation and coordination in all common issues.

It is to be noted that this is the first meeting to be held between the Palestinian Revolution and the Cypriot Communist Party.

Abu Hatem also met with the delegations representing the Zimbabwe National Liberation Movement, the Namibian Liberation Front — Swapo — and the African Conference (ANC) for the Liberation of South Africa.

Bilateral relations between the PLO and all of these movements were discussed during the meeting, in addition to the current situation in the African continent, in the Middle East, and regarding the Palestine problem.

Abu Hatem last night also met with Mr. Aziz Sharif, representative of the World Peace Council, and discussed several issues among them the conference of the 'Builders of Peace' which is to be held in Warsaw on the sixth of this month.



I.E. Nazimitsiev



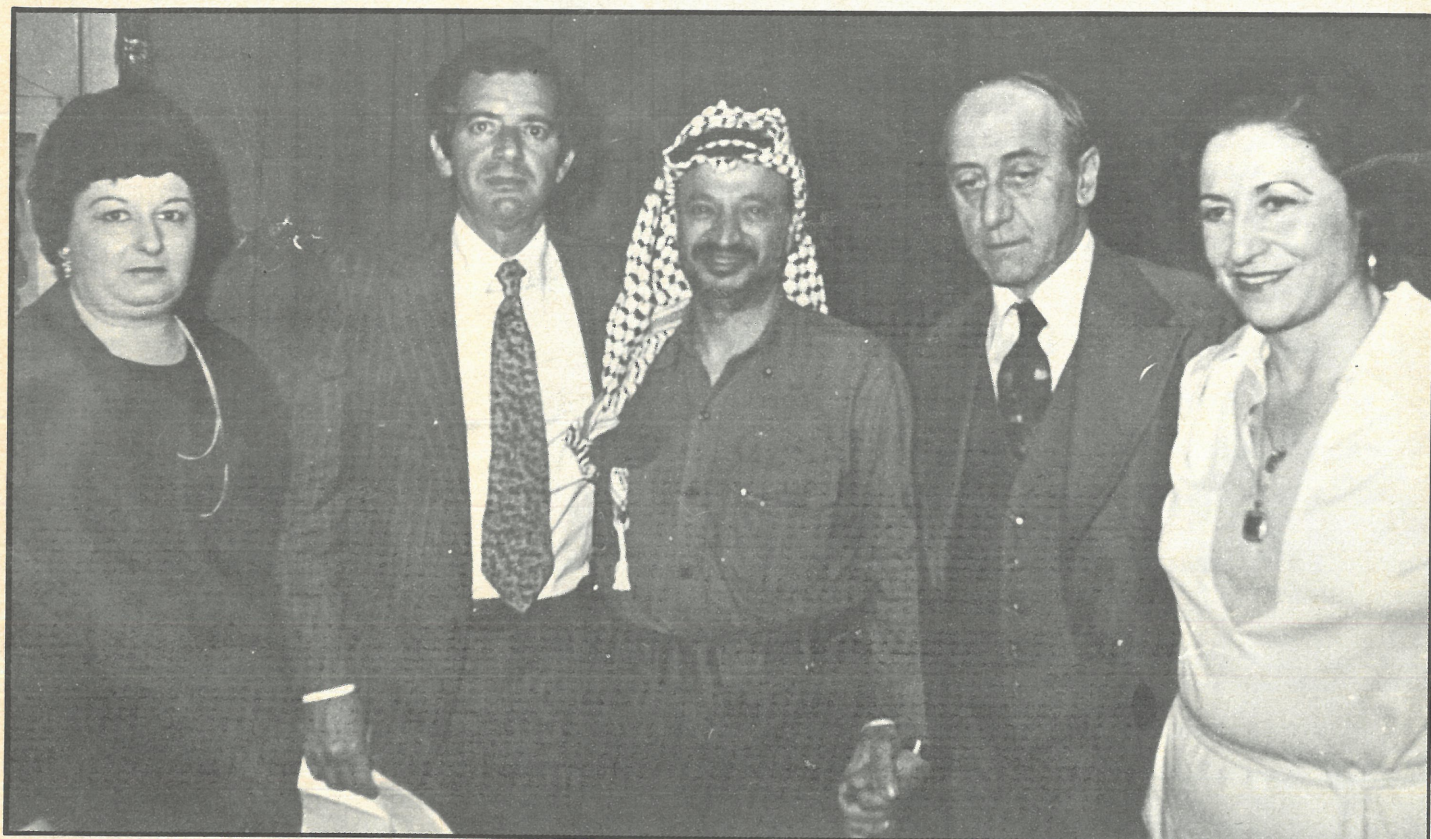
Robert Lakuta

Here is a list of the delegations which attended the rally :

1. World Peace Council
2. Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee
3. South Africa National Liberation Movement
4. National Liberation Movement of Zimbabwe
5. National Liberation Movement of Zambia
6. U.S.S.R.
7. German Democratic Republic
8. Arab Republic of Egypt
9. The Progressive Egyptian Party
10. Liberal Organization in Egypt
11. Republic of Iraq
12. The National Patriotic Front in Iraq
13. Democratic Popular Republic of Algeria
14. Republic of Tunis
15. The Arab Participating Front for the Palestinian Revolution
16. Arab Youth Union
17. Morocco
18. Kuwait
19. Arab Lawyers' Union
20. Democratic Yemen
21. Progressive National Forces of Kuwait
22. Syrian Arab Republic
23. Libyan Republic
24. Republic of Hungary
25. Republic of Bulgaria
26. Italy: The Italian Communist Party — The Italian Socialist Party
27. France: The French Communist Party — The French Socialist Party
28. Greece
29. The Socialist Democratic Front, Greece
30. Cyprus: three delegations
31. Socialist Democratic Republic of Vietnam
32. Bahrain
33. Eritrea
34. Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Vietnam
35. Yemen Arab Republic

33. Eritrea

PALESTINE NOTES



From left to right: Joanne McKenna, Edmund Howar, Chairman Arafat Minor George, Mrs. George.

ARAFAT RECEIVES A DELEGATION FROM NAAA

On 26 April, 1977, Chairman Yasser Arafat met a delegation from the National Association of Arab-Americans, headed by its President, Mr. Minor George. The delegation included Mr. Edmund Howar, Mrs. Joanne McKenna, secretary of the association, and Mrs. George.

During this meeting, the delegation exchanged views with Chairman Arafat on the latest developments of the Middle East crisis and the Palestine Question.

It is worth noting that this visit aimed to promote the traditional ties between the people of the United States and the peoples of the Arab countries.

The delegation expressed their support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people and their just demands for self-determination.

ON MAY 15 TH

« On May 15, 1948, the state of Israel was established on the soil of Palestine, after the dispersion of the Palestinian people and the breaking of their political will. This event marked the beginning of a dark period in Palestinian history.

« Out of this background, the Palestinian Revolution was launched on the 1st of January 1965, declaring to the world that the Palestinian people have chosen the

path of armed struggle for the recovery of their homeland. From that day onwards, May 15th has been an incentive for the deepening of the Palestinian struggle, and for the Palestinian people to tighten their grip on their weapons arms in order to liberate their homeland from the nightmare of Zionist occupation and oppression.

« And now, several years later,

those who have supported, armed and encouraged Israel as a military outpost for the defence of their monopolies and strategic interests are increasingly perceiving the Palestinian Revolution as a threat to their position in the Middle East. As a result, they have openly begun casting about for new weapons, both military and political, with which to launch a counter-attack on the Palestinian Revolution and the Arab nation.

« On May 15th 1977, a quick flash-back shows the considerable achievements of 12 years of Palestinian struggle, and reflects the firm determination of the Palestinian people under occupation to regain their rights in their homeland. At the same time, the Revolution both inside and outside occupied Palestine daily provides fresh affirmation of its continuity until the achievement of victory.

« Meanwhile, the world which used to talk of the Palestinians as refugees, has been forced by the firmness of Palestinian armed struggle to speak of the right of a people to self-determination in their homeland.

« This favourable development of the world and Arab situation will continue as the Palestinian people continue their stubborn struggle to regain their rights in their homeland. And May 15th, instead of a day of sadness will continue to be a day of Palestinian struggle, until the achievement of victory ».

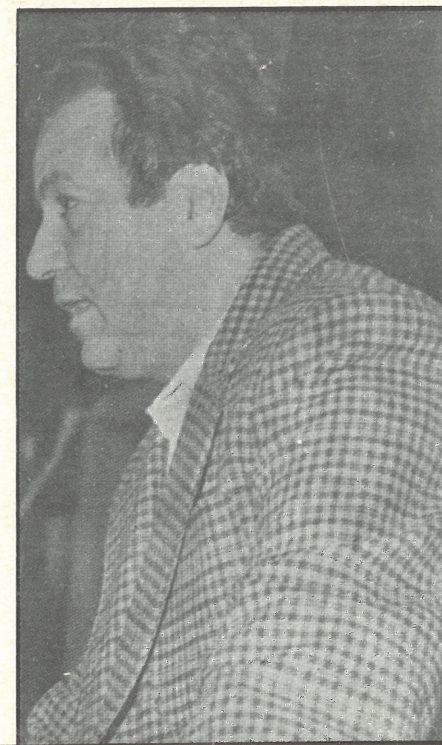
ABU LUTF IN STOCKHOLM AFTER TALKS IN FINLAND

Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department, met with Mr. Olof Palme, the former Swedish Premier and General Secretary of the Socialist Party, in the Swedish Capital of Stockholm.

Abu Lutf and the Palestinian delegation accompanying him arrived in Stockholm May 12 for a visit of several days, during which discussions were held with the Swedish labour unions.

Abu Lutf and the accompanying PLO delegation met with Finnish President Kaddouen on May 11. The one-hour meeting dealt with the latest developments of the current situation in the Middle East, bilateral relations and the opening of a PLO office in Helsinki. Abu Lutf and the Finnish President exchanged views on the Palestine problem. An atmosphere of frankness and understanding prevailed in the meeting, it was reported.

Meanwhile, the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in Finland held on May 11 a reception in honour of Abu Lutf and the accompanying delegation, which was attended by several diplomats from socialist, European, Latin American, Asian and African countries by high-ranking officials in the Finnish Foreign Ministry, and by representatives of Finnish political parties and labour unions.



Also in Finland, Abu Lutf held talks with the three Finnish parties: the Social Democratic Party, the Communist Party and the Center Party, as well as with representatives of the federations of workers' unions. The talks started on May 1 with a meeting with representatives of the Social Democratic Party, which dealt with the situation in the Middle East and the latest developments of the Palestinian cause at all levels. On May 10th, Abu Lutf met with representatives of the Finnish Communist Party, with whom he discussed the development of the CP-PLO relations. During the meeting, the Communist Party reaffirmed its support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and for the national determination and to return to their homeland. The PLO delegation asked the Communist Party to contact with the Finnish Government on the issue of opening a PLO office in Finland. Also during the meeting, Abu Lutf confirmed that any solution for the Middle East crisis should be based on realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

On the same day, Abu Lutf held

a meeting with the leadership of the Federation of Workers' Unions, which includes an alignment between the Communist and the Socialist Parties. The meeting dealt with the Palestine problem and discussed developing relations between the Federation and the General Union of Palestinian Workers and the PLO. The Federation's leadership expressed their readiness to take any initiatives among the Finnish Liberal Federation Unions and the Democratic Union of Workers that would support Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian proletariat. Abu Lutf thanked the Federation for the moral and material aid it provides to the Palestinian people and proletariat.

Later in the evening, the PLO delegation held a meeting with the Finnish Center Party, during which the two parties exchanged views on the current situation in the Middle East and the latest developments of the Palestine cause. The meeting was said to have taken place in a frank and friendly atmosphere.

Abu Lutf and a PLO delegation arrived in Helsinki on May 9th at the invitation of several Finnish political parties.

PLO PROTESTS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS, I.R.C. ABOUT WEST BANK SITUATION

In a memorandum of protest presented to the director of the Human Rights Department at the UN and to the head of the International Red Cross on May 6, Daoud Barakat, the PLO permanent representative at the UN headquarters in Geneva, called upon the United Nations to take urgent measures to protect Palestinian citizens under occupation from continuing Zionist attacks on them. Barakat referred to the deterioration of the situation in the West Bank as a result of the murder of a 55-year old woman and a young boy by Zionist troops on May 3rd.

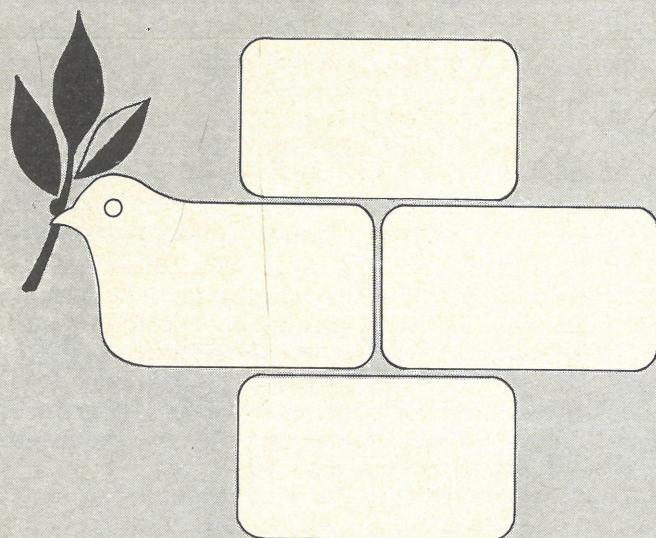
CHAIRMAN ARAFAT SPEECH BEFORE PEACE BUILDERS CONGRESS IN WARSAW



In a speech delivered before the General Assembly of the Builders of Peace Congress in Warsaw, and which was interrupted several times by applause, Yasser Arafat called for further efforts to establish a just peace in the Middle East, failing which he warned of the

danger of a new war. Arafat declared that the main source of tension in the region was Israel and its US

imperialist backers, and their stubborn refusal to recognize the national existence of the Palestinian people.



Mr. Chairman,
dear friends,
dear comrades,

It is a great honour for us to meet in this Assembly, in this friendly country, as guests of the great Polish people. It is a further honour that the date of the World Assembly coincides with the 32nd anniversary of the victory of the great Polish people over Nazism. Our Assembly also has a great and important meaning, since Warsaw is the beautiful capital which Nazism wanted to erase from the map of the world. Nazism further wanted the Polish flag never to fly again, but led by its vanguard, the Polish Peoples' United Workers Party, the will of this great heroic people was victorious.

Warsaw became an important symbol of defiance of the invading Nazis, and the Polish flag flew ever higher. Nazism was defeated forever by the will of struggling peoples, and definitely all waves of Nazism, neo-Nazism, and neo-fascism will be defeated in the future.

Mr. President
dear friends and
comrades, members of
the world conference
of peace-builders,

I thank you from the depths of my heart for your kind invitation, which has given me the opportunity to speak before your Conference dedicated to serving the cause of world peace. This invitation is the most faithful expression of the strength of world solidarity with the just struggle being waged by the Palestinian people to decide their own destiny, and to build their independent national state.

I thank you again my friends, the builders of peace, for giving me the opportunity to speak to you in the name of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and in the name of the Palestinian people, their revolutionaries and militants, and for enabling me to take part in the work of this Conference. It takes on added importance because of its international character, and because it is the framework within which constructive international dialogue

may develop and deepen the bases necessary for finding a world peace based on justice and equality. It provides the framework in which we may work towards a world

a without war, a world of security in which social justice prevails; a world free of the danger of aggression and occupation, and far from racism, colonialism, Zionism, World monopoly, fascist and imperialist hegemony, and the exploitation of man by his brother man; a better world for the man of tomorrow, and the goals and values for which we all struggle on this earth.

DEAR FRIENDS:

The Palestinian people, who have struggled without respite for 60 years, and continue to wage a hard and bitter struggle against the worst forces of imperialism, Zionism, and Colonialism and have given tens of thousands of martyrs to achieve their just and legitimate national objectives, look towards peace and freedom. The heroic and difficult struggle being waged by the Palestinian people against occupation and racism, and against the hegemony of the Zionist-imperialist military gang, is a great historical contribution by the Palestinian Revolution and Palestinian revolutionaries in the Middle East region to uproot this source of aggression and constant tension which truly threatens peace in this area.

Four wars have taken place in the Middle East, but the forces of aggression have proven unable to impose their conditions on our Arab nation and force our Palestinian people to capitulate to their imperialist expansionist plans. Therefore, I warn you most strongly that this Zionist imperialist source of aggression which forms the bridgehead of imperialism and oil monopolies in our countries, and which aims to control the surface and subterranean riches of our lands — the primary materials, the agricultural produce, and the enormous petroleum reserves — not only threatens our Arab nation, but also threatens the peace and security of the peoples of the neighbouring regions, including Europe, Africa and Asia, and consequently threatens world peace.

On this basis it can be understood why our enemy actively seeks armaments, and why he is supported and backed in this by American imperialism, until this small spot has become a veritable military arsenal full of the latest and most sophisticated arms. It is obvious to you that the rulers of Tel-Aviv are storing these huge quantities of destructive weapons and are blackmailing our Arab nation with nuclear weapons, so as to force it to submit to policy of fait accompli. That is the logic of arrogance and violence which the imperialists wish to impose as the basis of international relations with the developing countries.

World public opinion and international peace movements have played a major role in exposing Israel's racist, aggressive and expansionist policy to the world. At a time when occupation authorities are setting forth the confiscation of land to establish settlements and to imprison thousands of our militants and to deport them out of our homeland.

Dear comrades:

All thus constitutes a flagrant violation of human rights in our occupied homeland, Palestine. On the other hand, they have supported the human, progressive and civilizing essence of the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO leadership. The noble and courageous support given to our Palestinian and Arab peoples by all freedom and peace — loving forces in the world reinforces the possibility of a just and durable peace in the Middle East. The wars of aggression waged by the Zionist Movement and the rulers of Tel-Aviv — encouraged and supported by international imperialist circles — have resulted in the dispersion of the Palestinian people from their homeland, Palestine.

Thus, peace will not be realized in this area, not because it is impossible to achieve peace, but because of the policy of ignoring the existence of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and independence in their homeland and the repatriation of the refugees. That is the policy of the rulers of

Tel-Aviv and their imperialist allies, headed by the United States of America, which has led to this succession of destructive wars. This policy will never lead to a real and honourable peace in Palestine, the land of peace, in which Muslims, Christians and Jews can coexist in equality, justice, peace and fraternity, without any religious, or racial discrimination, far from fascism, oppression and suppression.

On this occasion I seize the opportunity to greet our steadfast Palestinian masses inside the occupied territories. I greet also those setting in Zionist jails, who suffer from oppression and barbaric torture

Dear comrades,

The battle of economy and development is the battle of this age against all forms of exploitation and economic and social oppression resulting from social and economic injustice. It is also the result of colonialism's looting of the natural resources of the peoples of the world. It is, therefore our duty to struggle both for the development of our resources through joint cooperation, and for a balanced economic system freed from imperialist hegemony and exploitation, and to struggle to impose principles based on equality in order to build a better future for us and for the generations of the future, carrying our principles with us in order to contribute to the alleviation of the sufferings of humanity as a whole.

Taking into consideration all these developments, we must recognize the importance of an integrated, balanced and cooperative world economic system to meet the needs of man at present and in the future, when demand will exceed the sources of supply. That is why we have to build our political forces depending on the power of our economic resources.

Dear comrades,

I cannot fail here to refer to the urgent necessity for revolutionary solidarity among all world Liberation Movements. And I stress the importance of this joint militant

role in order to confront all the hardships and conspiracies instigated by world imperialism and its local and international allies, aiming to stifle these militant peoples' determination for liberation and freedom.

We see, therefore, our duty as Palestinian Revolutionaries is to stretch our hands to all these militant forces and revolutionary peoples with whom we stand in a single trench against Zionism, racism, fascism, racist colonialism and imperialism. And we say to them with pride in the name of the Palestinian People, revolution and revolutionaries: « We are with you in the same trench. We were together in confronting these colonialist oppressive and policies in their old and new forms, and with their various and numerous tools,

We in the Palestinian Revolution are aware of the militant relationship between the struggle of our Palestinian People against the Zionist settlers colonialism and the struggle of the peoples of Namibia and Zimbabwe against the settler colonialism of South Africa and Rhodesia.

We are side by side with these free revolutionaries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa where imperialism is nowadays trying to create explosive points in the world.

Dear friends and comrades,

Let us struggle together for the realization of a peace based on justice, in order to make the road shorter and less painful. This will only be achieved through our mutual solidarity and the consolidation of the solidarity on sound bases and principles.

— Victory to the will of the peoples struggling for freedom.

— May the flag of a just peace fly over our land.

— Long live the struggle of all peace-loving forces.

— Long live the struggle of the oppressed peoples.

— Long live the struggle of revolutionaries for freedom and liberation.

— Long live the militant solidarity among the free people of the world.



Edward Gierek, Secretary-General of the Polish Worker's Party.

ARAFAT MEETS GIEREK

Warsaw, 7/5,

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, on May 6 met with comrade Edward Gierek, Secretary-General of the Polish Workers' Party, in the presence of Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department, and Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar, the PLO Official Spokesman. The meeting dealt with the situation in the Middle East and the PLO's struggle on the political and military levels to establish an independent Palestinian state.

During the meeting, comrade Gierek confirmed to Arafat his country's support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to liberate their homeland and establish their independent state.

BUILDERS OF PEACE CONFERENCE ENDS

The International Conference of the Builders of Peace, held in Warsaw, ended its meetings on 11 May with an enlarged session during which the President of the Council was elected.

The conference issued a call praising the struggle of the developing countries for their full indepen-



Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov.

ARAFAT IN BEIRUT AFTER MEETING WITH BULGARIAN LEADER

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, met with Comrade Todor Zhivkov, Bulgarian President and First Secretary of the Communist Party. The meeting, which lasted three hours, dealt with various issues in the Palestinian, Arab and international arenas. During the meeting, Comrade Zhivkov reaffirmed his country's stand with the PLO in its just struggle. Later, Arafat had lunch with the Bulgarian leader, after which he left for Damascus on a private plane, arriving there in the afternoon.

Arafat had arrived in the Bulgarian capital, Sophia, two days earlier after a short visit to Poland where he spoke at the Builders of Peace conference.

dence and confirmed its unlimited support to the heroic struggle of the peoples of Palestine, South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and other oppressed peoples.

It is to be noted that the conference included 1500 representatives of the peace-loving forces from 100 countries. A PLO delegation also participated in the conference, where Yasser Arafat gave a major speech last week.

PALESTINE NOTES

ARAFAT RECEIVES CABLE FROM HUNGARIAN LEADER

BEIRUT. — In a cable of thanks received on May 12 by Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, Comrade Janos Kadar, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, confirmed his country's full solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people to recover their legitimate national rights. The cable reads as follows:

« On behalf of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and in my name, I thank you for the good wishes which you sent me on the occasion of my country's National Holiday.

« I take this opportunity to wish you and the Palestinian people fresh victories in the just struggle you are waging for your independence and your right of self-determination ».

ARAFAT CONGRATULATES CEAUDESCU ON INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

Yasser Arafat, on May 9, sent a cable of congratulations to comrade Nicolai Ceausescu on the hundred-year anniversary of Rumania's independence, in which he transmitted to the Rumanian President, to the members of the Politburo and the Central Committee of the Rumanian Communist Party, and to the Rumanian Government and people, his most sincere wishes, on behalf of the Palestinian Arab people and the PLO Executive Committee.

Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department, sent a similar cable to the Rumanian Foreign Minister, in which he wished the Rumanian people, Government and party progress and prosperity, stressing the vital role of the Rumanian Communist Party in building the socialist state in Rumania.



CEAUCESCU RECEIVES LETTER FROM ARAFAT

Rumanian President Nicolai Ceausescu on May 10 received a Palestinian delegation headed by Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar, the PLO Official Spokesman, who delivered a letter to the Rumanian President from Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution.

The meeting dealt with the situation in the Middle East and the latest developments of the Palestinian cause.

The Rumanian news agency mentioned that President Ceausescu affirmed to the Palestinian delegation his country's support for a permanent and just peace in the Middle East, which guarantees the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish an independent state.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGREES ON COMPOSITION OF GENERAL COUNCIL

In its latest meeting held on April 30th in Damascus, headed by Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, the PLO Executive Committee decided that the PLO Central Council be constituted of 55 members as follows:

- 14 members from the Palestinian organizations.
- 13 independent members

— 4 members from Palestinian popular unions.

— 8 members from among the Palestinians in Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt.

To these are added the 15 members of the PLO Executive Committee.

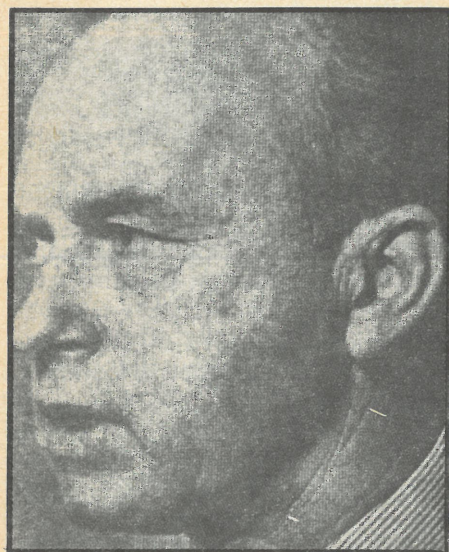
The PLO Executive Committee also decided to change the name of the Department for national and international relations' to the Department of national relations'. This decision aims to limit the function of the above-mentioned department to contacts and relations with parties and national liberation movements.



ARAFAT MEETS AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY IN DAMASCUS

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, on May 5 met in Damascus with the Austrian Chancellor, Bruno Kreisky. The one-hour meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee members Abu Lutf and Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar, and dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the latest developments of the Palestine problem in light of the resolutions of the Palestinian National Congress, and international activities related to the crisis in the area.

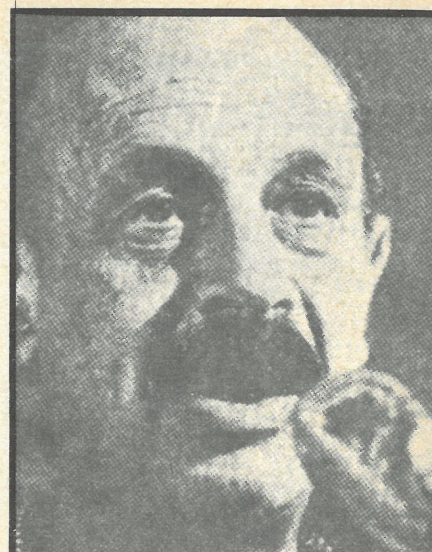
During the meeting, Chancellor Kreisky expressed his support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people and for the establishment of their own independent state in Palestine.



Yitzhak Rabin: America wanted that.



Menahim Beglin, Likud extremist leader.



Yigal Yadin, a man of change.

PEACE: AN AGONISING DILEMMA FOR THE ISRAELI LEADERS

By our diplomatic Correspondent

The scandal over the illegal Washington bank account kept by Israeli ex-Premier Yitzhak Rabin and his wife, which broke just before the recent elections for the Knesset, was no casual coincidence. There is a growing belief in diplomatic circles that Rabin's fall was engineered by the United States government, despite the fact that he had the reputation for being the Israeli leader who most faithfully served US interests.

Before US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance made his tour of Middle East countries, it had been widely expected that the Carter administration would make some gesture (such as lifting its ban on the sale of Israeli-made Kfir jets to Ecuador) to strengthen Rabin's position with the Israeli electorate. But this did not materialise, thus giving an indication that Mr. Vance may have concluded that Mr. Rabin's leadership was not necessarily the best from Washington's point of view.

The objection of US policymakers to Mr. Rabin, it appears, was his weakness, which gave him very little room to manoeuvre in terms of concessions (which means restoring territories seized from the Arabs in 1967) in the event of a settlement. This was clearly demonstrated when, during his last visit to

Washington for talks with President Carter, Mr. Rabin adopted a very intransigent line. At that point, the argument against his continued premiership gained great strength in Washington.

And in fact, when Rabin was replaced by then Defence Minister Peres as the leader of the ruling Labour Party, the US reaction was a very «low profile» one. President Carter himself stated that the change was unlikely to affect the prospects of a political settlement. This is not entirely correct, but the effect will be different from what most news media anticipated. Mr. Peres' reputation as a «hawk» does not mean that he will necessarily adopt a more uncompromising policy than his predecessor, since the difference between Zionist «hawks» and «doves» is very marginal. But it does make it easier for him to persuade other Israeli «hawks» to accept the «concessions» he decides to offer. For it is a well-known fact of politics that leaders frequently apply a policy different from their electoral promises once elected, and that politicians with a reputation for extremism can push through moderate policies with less criticism than politicians regarded as moderates.

In the early part of May, at any rate, many officials in Washington were confident that Peres would be the next Israeli Prime Minister, and

that he would be a stronger Prime Minister than Rabin and more able to overcome any possible opposition to US plans for a settlement. Peres had an added advantage as far as the Carter administration is concerned, in that his reputation as a hard-liner gives the US an excuse to offer the Arab governments for further delays in the settlement process.

Although the Carter administration is making more noises in favour of a settlement than its predecessor, it sees further delay as tactically necessary in order to force more concessions out of the Arab side. In this context, it is particularly eager to see the Palestinian Resistance disarmed, to ensure that any Palestinian entity that may be established would be militarily weak. The delay secured by the excuse of the hawkishness of Mr. Peres is thus to be used by the United States for an effort to weaken the Resistance by means of local reactionaries and elements disloyal to the Arab cause.

While they expected the Labour Party again to emerge on top in the Knesset elections, US officials were not unduly worried by the possibility of the Likud gaining strength or even coming to power. According to an opinion poll by the Smith Research Centre published on 27 April, both the Likud and the Labour Party were gaining potential votes at the expense of Yigael Yadin's movement. The Likud's support, then 24 %, was trailing behind that of the Labour Party which had 35 % (compared with 39,6 % in the 1973 election), but 17 % of voters were still undecided.

The controversy in Zionist ranks over whether to accept peace with the Arabs, and if so on what terms, is not being fought out primarily on party lines, despite the impression given by press reporting of the public debate between the different factions. In the main, it is reflected in a struggle for power between the two most important elements in the Zionist ruling elite, which can be termed the military and economic establishments.

Both these elements have the same aim, namely to dominate and exploit the Arab World. They differ in their methods, and this has led them to disagree over the question of peace.

The military Zionists, who have hitherto been the dominant force in the state apparatus, see the issue in the territorial terms of traditional Zionist colonialism. To them, the Zionist aim can best be achieved by maintaining overwhelming military superiority over all the neighbour Arab states and by ensuring «secure borders». Their border concept is an elastic one. While for many Zionist military strategists the territories seized in 1967 provide convenient

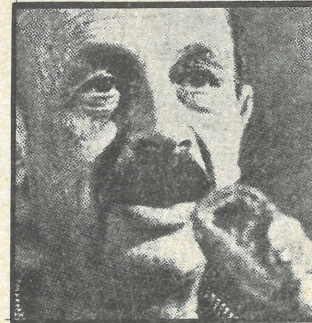
boundaries for the time being, their long-term aim is to extend them to whatever extent future military, political and demographic circumstances will permit. Their territorial designs include South Lebanon, the fertile areas of Jordan, then «from the Nile to the Euphrates» and even beyond.

Israel's military leaders control not only the armed forces but also the key political positions and many top posts in other areas of life such as big business and the academic field. Probably the most notable examples today in politics are the ex-Generals Yitzhak Rabin, Yigal Allon, Moshe Dayan, Ariel Sharon and Yigael Yadin. Many Israeli companies have retired senior army officers on their boards of directors. Mr. Peres is something of an exception in that he is not a former General, but throughout his career he has co-operated closely with the armed forces, particularly as Defence Minister, and this has provided him with a vital asset in his climb to the top.

The economic Zionists, the wealthy bourgeoisie of Israeli society, take second place to the military elite. This is to be expected in view of the war fever that is constantly being stirred up by the Zionist movement, which makes Israelis feel that their very existence depends on the armed forces. This war fever at the same time gives a benefit to the bourgeoisie in that the workers can be restrained, in the name of «national unity against a common enemy», from demanding better conditions of employment. However, the civilian bourgeoisie has to take second place to the Generals in such an atmosphere.

Nevertheless, this bourgeoisie is a force to be reckoned with because of its wealth and its controlling influence in the news media. It would prefer to dominate the Arab World economically, considering this more profitable and in the long run more secure than naked military might. Its leading theoretician is former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who was pushed out of ministerial rank because he did not maintain a close relationship of co-operation with the military leadership. Mr. Eban's recent scandal over his foreign bank accounts is an interesting illustration of the power struggle going on between Israel's military and economic establishments.

The plan put forward in the UN General Assembly after the 1967 war is a blueprint for Zionist economic domination of the Arab World through its «open borders» concept. It provided for Israeli technological expertise to dominate the raw material resources of the region, assuming that the necessary capital was forthcoming. This was to be ensured presumably by something on the lines of the «Parsky plan».



Mr. Gerald Parsky, a senior official under the Nixon administration and an ardent economic Zionist like Dr. Kissinger, put forward proposals for funds invested by the Arab oil states in the US to be reinvested in the Israeli economy.

Because their form of domination is less obvious and very easy to camouflage, the economic Zionists could well represent a much greater threat to Arab security over the long term than the military establishment. This, at any rate, is the belief of subtle diplomatists like Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Eban. Dr. Kissinger is perhaps the world's greatest expert in the technique of using economic leverage to manipulate political situations with coups and civil wars.

On the whole, the most sophisticated elements in the Israeli civilian bourgeoisie believe that with a formula like the Eban plan they can turn peace to their advantage and become the most powerful force in the Middle East. The military establishment, on the other hand, fears that it would lose its position at the top of the Zionist social pyramid and become the servant instead of the master of the state. It would be a powerful servant, certainly, and would probably fulfill the role that President Lyndon Johnson envisaged for it, as the leading «policeman» for US interests in the region. But it would no longer have the most important say in Israeli policy decisions.

Hence the power struggle now going on within the Zionist leadership. Even the economic Zionists, however, have their worries about what peace may bring them. As well as opportunities for greater power and profits, a settlement also contains the risk of losses, some of which could be serious. For one thing, US military aid would very likely be reduced, and the contributions now exacted from Jewish communities throughout the world could not so easily be extorted if it is no longer convincing to claim that «Israel is in danger». At the very least, this is likely to cause the Israeli economy severe strain during the readjustment period immediately after the settlement.

Even more dangerous for the Zionist power structure is the fact that peace would remove the most powerful factor that has hitherto contained many potentially violent contradictions within Israeli society: the sense of having a common enemy in the Arabs. The most serious of these contradictions are the class one between employers and workers and the ethnic one between European and Oriental Jews. To a great extent they overlap, in that the top social strata are formed almost exclusively of European Jews while the Oriental Jews are generally given the menial jobs, and are victims of discrimination in almost all aspects of life. Although more than half of Israel's inhabitants are Oriental Jews, virtually all the top posts are held by Europeans. Orientals secure a mere 5 % of university places.

Because they are also the victims of vicious discrimination by the Aryan European Zionist leadership, the Oriental Jews have a common cause with the Palestinian people in the overthrow of racial discrimination. Oriental Jews as well as Palestinians would benefit greatly from the establishment of a secular democratic state in Palestine, under which they would no longer be second-class citizens as Israeli society considers them now. Some of the more politically conscious Oriental Jews, particularly in the Israeli Black Panther movement, are coming to realise this fact, and to join forces with other progressive Jewish people who oppose Zionism.

In this connection, the meeting earlier this month between representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Israeli Communist Party, Rakah, is an extremely positive development. It constitutes the beginning of what may hopefully develop into a fruitful dialogue between the Palestinian people and decent anti-racist Jewish people. This type of approach, if extended and developed, could at last lay the foundation for Jews to live together in a democratic state of Palestine with their Christian and Muslim brothers after the racist ideology of Zionism is overthrown. There is no other solution to this problem that is civilised and humane, in accordance with international law, and ensures justice for all concerned.

ENEMY NEWS

GOSH IMONIM TO ESTABLISH NEW SETTLEMENTS, WHILE AUTHORITIES PLAN TRANSFER OF FACTORIES TO NAQAB AND GALILEE

The Israeli newspaper, Yediot Aharonot, wrote on May 3 that the Gosh Imonim extremist group has completed a plan for the establishment of a new Zionist settlement in the occupied West Bank, with the approval of the Zionist authorities.

The newspaper confirmed that the group decided to construct a new settlement in the coming two weeks which would include modern factories; and that it also intends to establish a chain of settlements in Nablus and Jericho.

On the other hand, one of the leaders of the Gosh Imonim declared that his movement will work towards the annexation of ten thousand Dunums of land from the occupied territories after their expropriation and fencing; and that it intends to bring 250 Zionist families to settle in the village of Mesha in the Nablus area.

In related news, the BBC reported on May 4 that Israel intends to establish more than 100 new settlements, most of them in the Southern Neqab and in the occupied region of Sinai. It added that an Israeli ministerial committee declared yesterday that the Israeli Government had approved a \$3 million budget to realize these plans.

In other news from occupied Palestine, the Zionist authorities have decided to move several military factories to the Naqab and Galilee regions, as part of a plan to redistribute Zionist settlers in all parts of occupied Palestine, so as to prevent demographic concentration in the coastal region. The reports added that 3,000 workers and their families will be transferred to the new Zionist settlements which are to be established in the Naqab while 4000 other workers will be moved to the Galilee region.

The budget for this project — which will be implemented over a seven-year period — is estimated at IL2 billion.

600 STUDENTS TO BE DUTY IN ISRAEL

The leader of the Israeli Gadna youth para-military organization declared on May 6 that his organization will give special military training to six groups of secondary school students consisting of 100 students each, during the summer vacation. These students were chosen on May 5 to guard several institutions and regions that are possible targets of Palestinian commando operations.

AL-ITTIHAD COMMENTS ON TRANSFER OF MILITARY FACTORIES TO GALILEE AND NAQAB

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Acting Prime Minister and Minister of War, presented in the last Cabinet meeting a plan for the transfer of eleven arms and military equipment factories to the Naqab and Galilee regions.

In this context, the May 9 edition of al-Ittihad newspaper organ of the Israeli Communist Party, said that the establishment of military factories under the pretext of developing the country has become associated with the Zionist policies of judaization and Seizure of Arab land, and that the project presented by Peres recently, for the transfer of military factories to the Naqab and Galilee, is but another method of seizing Arab land. This method has been devised due to the difficulty Israel faces in seizing land by force for settlement purpose, especially following the Day of the Land demonstrations.

Al-Ittihad added that Yigal Allon is using the slogans «Populating Galilee» and «developing the Naqab» as propaganda tools in the coming elections, thus demonstrating that all that Palestinians get

from these so-called «development projects» put forth by Zionist leaders is further seizure of Arab land.

The newspaper concluded by saying that it is no secret that no Arab is allowed to even approach a military factory, and recalled the Koenig report, which recommends that no Arab factories should be established and that the number of Arab workers in any factory should not exceed 20 %.

54 ISRAELI PARATROOPERS DIE IN COPTER CRASH

54 Israeli Paratroopers died when an Israeli CH-53 military helicopter exploded in mid-air shortly after takeoff near the city of Jericho in the occupied West Bank on the night of May 10. The Zionist authorities kept news of the crash secret for more than 19 hours.

According to reports from occupied Palestine, news of the crash provoked a wave of gloom in Israel. The Israeli government held an emergency meeting attended by Yitzhak Rabin, the ex-Prime minister; Shimon Peres, the interim Prime Minister, Lt. Gen. Mordechai Gur, Chief of Staff of the Israeli army, and Benyamin Peled, commander of the Air Force.

At the press conference in the evening of May 11, Gur described the accident as the worst catastrophe which the Israeli army had ever suffered in peace-time. He added that the reasons for the crash were not yet known, but the sabotage was «completely ruled out».

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES CONFISCATE BOOK BY PALESTINIAN

The Israeli occupation authorities have recently prevented the distribution of a new book by Ismail Ajweh which was issued in Jerusalem. The 550-page book, entitled «A Revolution that Will Not Die»,

ENEMY NEWS

includes an extensive exposé on the Palestine cause, and on Palestinian organizations and national personalities in the occupied West Bank. The Israeli authorities confiscated the book and interrogated its author, alleging that the book contains provocative statements against the occupation, and that it had not been submitted to censorship.

ISRAELI INTELLECTUALS CRITICIZE LAND EXPROPRIATION Jerusalem, May 9

A public discussion was held in Jerusalem recently between several Israeli professor and intellectuals, in which they strongly attacked the Israeli law of expropriating Arab land. A professor at the law school of the Hebrew University said that the law is being interpreted in a way which coincides with the Israeli policy of expelling Arabs from their land.

The participants in the discussion asked that this law be changed, and that expropriation orders be submitted for judicial control, giving the owner of the expropriated land the right to object.

CLASHES IN TEL AVIV BETWEEN PROGRESSIVE JEWS AND POLICE

Fierce clashes broke out on May 1 between members of the Israeli Communist Party — Rakah, the Black Panthers Party and other progressive Jews on the one hand, and the Israeli police, Kahane's gang and members of the Likud Bloc on the other.

According to reports from occupied Palestine, these clashes took place in front of the municipality square in Tel Aviv during May Day celebrations, while thousands of progressive Jews, members of the Black Panthers and Rakah parties and of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality held a mass rally on this occasion in the center of Tel Aviv.

ISRAEL BEHIND 1968's URANIUM THEFT

A uranium shipment large enough to build 30 nuclear weapons disappeared on a trip from West Germany to Italy in 1968, and was probably secretly obtained by Israel, the *Los Angeles Times* and *New York Times* reported on April 30. It is likely that the uranium was used to operate a small, 26 — megawatt reactor in the Negev Desert at Dimona, Israel, the *Los Angeles Times* was told by unidentified European and U.S. government authorities.

A spokesman at the Israeli embassy in Washington said, « The embassy knows nothing about it ». And in Tel Aviv, the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission denied any connection with the disappearance.

Israel has said the uranium for the Dimona reactor is a by — product of phosphate plants on the Dead Sea. The reactor runs on natural or unenriched uranium, the *Los Angeles Times* said.

The reactor is not subject to international safeguards of inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, which makes sure that uranium is not used to manufacture nuclear weapons. Israel hasn't signed the treaty that provides for inspections.



The 200 tons of uranium that disappeared were on a cargo ship from West Germany to Italy in early 1968, the sources told the *Los Angeles Times*.

One source said investigators found the ship had « doubled back in the middle of the Mediterranean » and returned to Germany whier inspectors found « an entirely different crew of an entirely different nationality ».

The crew and the ship's flag had been changed, and oil had been poured on the relevant pages of the log book.

One source said the uranium was unquestionably stolen in what the source called the largest disappearance of nuclear material in history.

Another source said the disappearance was a « complicated deception » involving « all kinds of phony documents » to mask the seller and the buyer.

The shipment would have been worth 3 million dollars at the time, the *Los Angeles Times* said.

Meanwhile, in Vienna, Austria, a former US Senate expert on nuclear proliferation confirmed that Israel may be behind the disappearance of 200 tons of uranium.

Paul Leventhal, formerly of the Senate Government Operations Committee, said that several weeks after the ship failed to make its scheduled call at an Italian port with the uranium, « it reappeared with a new name, new registry, new crew, but no uranium ».

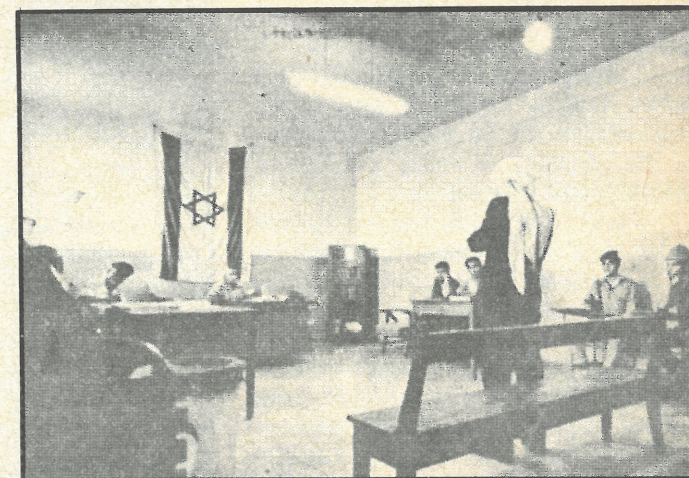
He said intelligence sources from several countries investigated the incident, « but eventually closed their probe of the case. It is assumed that it was unloaded in Israel ».

Leventhal, who gave no further details and did not identify his source for the information, was speaking at a conference on « A Non-nuclear Future », a gathering of nuclear energy critics from 20 nations.

He told the participants that the incident illustrated the need for more rigorous safeguards of nuclear fuel and « the importance of international escort services for shipments of nuclear materials ».

Israel has never issued a clear-cut denial of persistent reports that it has — or can quickly build — nuclear bombs. When asked about the reports, government spokesman consistently respond that « Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East ».

OCCUPATION DIARY



Palestinian before an Israeli military court.

Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees in the Zionist Occupation Prisons

With the escalation of the Palestinian people's resistance in the occupied areas, in order to end the Zionist occupation and attain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights (their right to self-determination on their territory and to establish their free and independent state), and with the broadening of world support for the Palestinian people's cause and their national leadership represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies against this people are intensifying with the aim of crushing them and bypassing their just national demands. Likewise, arbitrary repressive measures against our Palestinian people in the occupied areas are being stepped up, to enable the Zionist occupation to push through colonisation and Judaisation projects in Palestinian territory and deny our people's rights that have been affirmed by international conventions. What most reflects the Zionist policy of denying our Pales-

tinian people's rights is the question of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in the Zionist occupation's prisons, since there prisoners are not treated as campaigners for a people's internationally recognised rights, but as criminals and terrorists who want to «harm Israel», as the Zionist Minister of Police Shlomo Hillel puts it.

What the Palestinian prisoners and detainees in the Zionist occupation's prisons endure in terms of suffocating overcrowding in the jails, psychological and physical torture, deliberate neglect of their health care, the conditions of forced labour in prison and maltreatment resulting from racist hatred, all these inhuman circumstances require us to concern ourselves with the question of Palestinian prisoners in the Zionist occupation's prisons and to work to free them or improve their conditions of imprisonment.

The Palestinian prisoners have been campaigning throughout the years of occupation for the improvement of their conditions of imprisonment, and have been exposed to the harshest repressive measures which have resulted in the deaths of many of them. The local and international campaign of solidarity with the cause of these prisoners has expanded, so as to make the Zionist occupation authorities change their policy in dealing with them. The hunger strike went on for several weeks, so that the lives of dozens and even hundreds of Palestinian militants became endangered. One prisoner, Adnan Abu Hayya, died in Ashkelon prison, as a result of his long abstinence from food. However, the Zionist occupation authorities still clung to their position on the question of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, alleging that the hunger strike was politically motivated and a «political bomb exploded by saboteurs who placed bombs» to harm Israel, in the police Minister's words. In presenting here a picture of the situation of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, we are merely assisting the international bodies and organisations concerned with human rights to fulfill their task of pressuring Israel by various means



to change its policy towards imprisoned Palestinian militants and to treat them as prisoners of war and respond to their just demands of the improvement of their conditions of imprisonment.

OVERCROWDING OF PRISONS

The Commissioner — General of Zionist prisons, Haim Levy, recently told the Herald Tribune correspondent, following the hunger strike; «The Prisons Authority did not plan the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and so it did not draw up a plan to establish prisons that would accommodate this large number of saboteurs.»

He added: «The situation of political prisoners is much worse than that of civil prisoners. In Hebron prison, for example, the prisoner has less than one square metre in which to live.» The official in charge of Ashkelon prison, Westelfield, commented on the issue of overcrowding: «A detainee spends a 15-year or life sentence in a small cell with 20 other prisoners. This situation can only be considered a form of torture.»

It is clear that in cells which are not large enough for 15 people, 20 people are very cramped for performing all their functions of daily life including praying, sleeping, eating, «visiting the toilet» exerci-

sing their limbs and reading, for 24 hours each day.

There is the testimony of the progressive lawyer, Leach Tzimel, on 15 December 1976 concerning 39 prisoners in Jerusalem who were placed in Muskobiya prison. She related that they were placed in a room containing only 18 mattresses, and so they slept in two shifts for three days.

The following are examples of overcrowding of prisons:

Tel Mond prison, built for 300

prisoners, contains 600.

Ashkelon prison, with room for 200 prisoners, has 450 crammed into Kfar Yuna prison, built for 220 prisoners, contains 460.

Thus the problem of overcrowding of prisons causes severe suffering to Palestinian prisoners, despite projects carried out by the prisons authority to repair and expand old prisons, establish new ones and use some civilian buildings as prisons and detention centres.

The problem of overcrowded

prisons still exists and requires great attention because of its serious affects on the health and lives of Palestinian prisoners.

PRISONS AND PRISONERS

The majority of Palestinian prisoners are held in the prisons of Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarm, Gaza, Beersheba and Ashkelon. There are a total of 25 prisons and concentration camps in which Palestinians are held. They are Muskobiya (in Jerusalem), Shatta, Damoun Tel Mond, Kfar Yuna, Sarafand Military Prison, Nabi Salih, Bassa, Yaghour, Jenin, Jericho, Navi Tritsa Women's Prison and Ramleh.

More than 5,000 Palestinian militants are held in these prisons sentenced to terms ranging from five to 120 years. The Zionist Prisons Authority admits that there are 3,100 prisoners. There are also thousands of detainees whose confinement may last for several months.

All the prisons are surrounded by walls topped with barbed wire and watch towers, and strict guard is maintained on them. Many of these prisons were built a long time ago and are unfit for habitation, their walls moss-grown, putrid, and oozing moisture in winter, and the daylight does not penetrate them. The cells are not more than 120 by 180 centimetres in area, and they usually serve as both cells and toilets, with their floors covered with filthy water. Some cells are more cramped and their floors have projecting pebbles fixed into their floors, such as the case in Sarafand military prison.

PATTERNS OF TREATMENT IN THE PRISONS

Palestinian political prisoners are frequently confined with Israeli prisoners held on civil charges, who attack them and beat them up. In Shatta prison, for example, the interior of the prison is dominated by a gang of criminals who are able to smuggle drugs and firearms, and who practice homosexuality there. In Navi Tritsa prison, a number of Palestinian women militants have been beaten up and stripped by



Palestinian prisoners: labor...



torture...

Israeli women imprisoned on prostitution charges.

The prison system allows the warders to beat and humiliate prisoners, punish them with solitary confinement, and prevent them from washing, changing their clothes, and taking their daily fresh-air exercise. The warders are also allowed to deny them medical treatment, and sometimes to give them rotten food as punishment. A number of prisoners have died from inhumane prison conditions. We have a list of 46 prisoners who have died in prison as a result of torture, neglect of health, beatings and broken bones at the hands of warders.

For sleeping, prisoners are provided with only a few blankets, at present five, plus a sixth provided by the International Red Cross. Prisoners are not provided with beds or mattresses, and in many cases they do not receive appropriate clothes for summer and winter.

The fresh-air exercise period is short and strictly controlled, in that the prisoners are compelled to go round the prison yard in a double file with their eyes to the ground, and anyone who drops behind the file is beaten, regardless of age or illness.

In the event of a hunger strike, the Prisons Authority uses forcible injections which are forbidden by the Geneva Conventions, and hoses are also used for forcible feeding. Armed soldiers and border guards are called in to break the prisoner's strike by force and terror, as happened recently in Ashkelon Prison, where about 150 soldiers armed with rifles and truncheons were brought into the rooms of the prison.

The prisoners also suffer from the prison visiting system, in that they are allowed one visit per month, whereas Jewish civil prisoners are allowed two visits, without barriers and without the number of visitors being limited. In fact, for children to visit their fathers behind these barriers is an extremely harsh torture.

In Navi Tritsa Women's Prison,

the emphasis is on the psychological torture of prisoners. The prison administration prolongs the period of their solitary confinement in the early part of their imprisonment, and puts them under tight surveillance in the prison to prevent them from any contact with the outside world. It also works to Zionise the environment for the Prisoners by employing numerous Zionist officials in the prison, teaching Hebrew and the history of the Zionist movement and separating politically conscious militants from the rest of the prisoners.

TORTURE OF DETAINEES

The Zionist occupation authorities impose a veil of secrecy on the question of torture, and do not allow a detainee's relatives or lawyers to see him during the interrogation period, which may last several months.

Despite this secrecy on the question of torture, however, the world has come to know how Palestinian militants are treated at the hands of vindictive Zionist torturers, who are trained in the arts of torture and intimidation.

« Le Nouvel Observateur » in January, 1970, quoted a Zionist General's comment on the accuracy of news published regarding torture in the Zionist occupation's prisons :

« We have modern methods in this field, and it would be stupid to pretend, as some people do, that we do not need to resort to torture on the pretext that the Arabs are cowards and they quickly reveal all the information they have. The truth is different from that. The Arabs we detain are not prepared to talk, and because of this I refuse to allow an International Red Cross representative to be present when they are interrogated.

Lawyer Felicia Langer, hundreds of whose licents have been tortured, states

« The accused is threatened with beating, and if they do not find that the threat is any use, they set about him. The accused is completely stripped, and several people take turns at beating him, taking

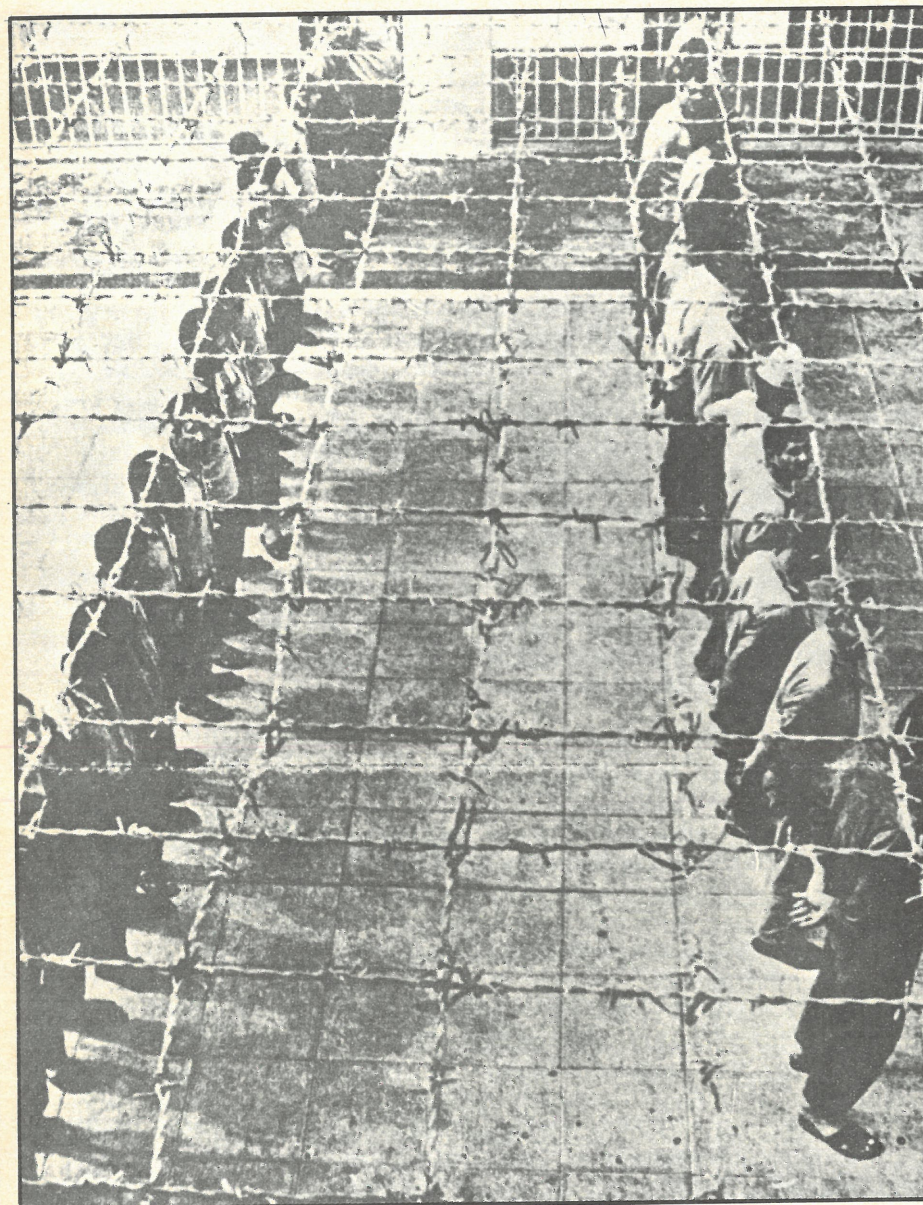
care that the blows are on his head in a specific spot, his eyes and his sexual organs. Cold water is poured on him every time he loses consciousness. After that the interrogation is continued with extremely cold water followed by extremely hot water, or cigarettes are stubbed out on the detainee's hands and body or corrosive substances are put on his body or electric currents are passed through him. This is in addition to crushing his toes and fingers, pulling out his nails and hair and threatening to rape the person or to rape his wife, sister or mother in front of him, of suspending him by his hands in various ways from a height or chaining his hands and feet for long periods ».

It should be noted that, under these forms of torture, despite the torturer's precision and concern not to leave scars or kill the victim, a number of militants have died at their hands, such as Qasim abu AKR of Jerusalem in 1969 and Ahmad AL Shaikh Dhib of Salfit in 1976.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

As a result of the combination of circumstances inside the prisons, including overcrowding, bad and insufficient food, dampness, exposure to cold, savage torture, insufficient washing or deprivation of it during the interrogation period, and lack of sunlight, the prisoner's health conditions are bad. Many illnesses are widespread among them, such as gastric ulcers, anaemia, hemorrhoids, rheumatism, slipped discs, nervous disorders, nausea, blood pressure, nyctalopia (eye trouble) and loss of hair.

The situation with regard to medical treatment in the prisons is no better than the health conditions. A doctor visits the prison once a week for no longer than a quarter of an hour, during which he gives the patients one type of medicine for all the different illnesses. With regard to serious cases requiring hospital treatment or urgent surgery, the prison authorities consider that every case can be postponed as long as it does not lead to the death of the prisoner. They thus ignore the sick prisoner's severe



concentration camps.

re pains or the threat of total or partial paralysis or the loss of his sight, hearing or the use of one of his limbs, as is the case of the imprisoned trade unionist, Muhammad Qatamish of Ramallah, and the women prisoners Hala Al Tahir and Mariam Al Shakhshir of Nablus.

FORCED LABOUR IN THE PRISONS

In 1969 the prisons Authority drew up a law for forced labour in the Zionist occupation's prisons, motivated by the temptation to exploit thousands of workers free of charge, to distract the prisoners from their cause and to try to strip them of their patriotism and humiliate them by making them render

some services to the police and troops, as well as to sow discord and confusion among them by dividing them into groups and giving some of them responsibility for the others. The Prisons Authority exploits the prisoner's natural need to get out of the cells as well as their need for cigarettes which are offered to them in exchange for eight hours of work each day. The work is not voluntary but compulsory, and is imposed on the prisoner under threat of punishment. The prisoners perform various kind of work, such as clipping and folding, painting Mickey Mouse toys stitching ready made clothes, and making metal or wooden boxes for exporting vegetables and fruit. There are also various construction

jobs. About 100 prisoners worked on building the Beersheba desert prison for two years, in 1971 and 1972.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

In detaining citizens in the occupied territories by an order from the military governor of the region, the Zionist occupation authorities base their actions on the Emergency Regulations drawn up in the time of British colonialism and finalised in 1945.

The period of administrative detention is determined every few months by order of the governor. Thus hundreds of citizens remain in prison under torture for long months in accordance with these tyrannical laws. Some administrative detainees have so far spent more than 35 months in detention.

THE PALESTINIAN PRISONERS' DEMANDS

Through the bitter and long struggles of Palestinian prisoners and detainees for the improvement of their conditions of imprisonment, their demands have crystallised into one specific and just demand: that they should be treated as prisoners of war in accordance with the Geneva Convention. This general demand may be translated into the following:

- 1 — An end to the problem of the overcrowding of prisons.
- 2 — An extension of the daily fresh-air exercise period.
- 3 — The improvement of visiting conditions.
- 4 — The formation of international legal and medical committees to enter the Zionist prisons.
- 5 — The release of sick prisoners with chronic or dangerous illnesses.
- 6 — The introduction of various kinds of newspapers and cultural books in the prisons.
- 7 — An end to mass arrests and the imposition of heavy fines on the relatives of detainees.

— EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR HOMELAND AFFAIRS — THE PALESTINE WAR PRISONERS DETAINEES COMMITTEE DETAINEES COMMITTEE



Jewish lawyer Felicia Langer.

WITH MY OWN EYES

By Felicia Langer,
Ithaca press,

London, 166 pp., L3.80
By Dr. Abdel-Qader Yassine

It is indeed very interesting to see how «civilised» people indulge in a sanctimonious «abhorrence of violence» whenever a freedom fighter raises his hand in protest, but when it comes to Zionist savagery they ape the proverbial three monkeys of oriental wisdom.

Zionist savagery, needless to say, is nothing new. There are victims galore, both past and present, who can testify to this fact. Of late, however, Jews with a conscience within «Israel» itself have come out to document and expose these savage and inhuman crimes. The case in point here is the informative, authentic and well-documented book by the leading anti-Zionist Jewish lawyer, Mrs. Felicia Langer. The book is aptly titled «With My Own Eyes».

Mrs. Langer's book has a short introduction, a short epilogue and a bulk of case histories divided per year. On the last four pages are passport photographs of some of the people mentioned in the text.

In the introduction, Mrs. Langer says that «little Israel became an empire at the end of the six-day war» of 1967. She then goes on to recount parts of the frenzy and arrogance accompanying the «victory» and the savagery unleashed by the Zionists. «In the Latrun area, on the way to Jerusalem, there were once three villages: Yalu, Beit Nuba and Imwas. Israeli soldiers destroyed them after the fighting although there were no army bases whatsoever there... Qalqilyah was to suffer the same fate... Not a stone remains in place of the villages of the Latrun area. FOR THE FIRST TIME I UNDERSTAND THIS EXPRESSION, AFTER SEEING THE FLAT LAND WHERE HOUSES ONCE USED TO STAND: MORE THROUGH THAN THE ROMANS, WHO AT LEAST LEFT US ONE WALL...»

After the initial period of Zionist aggression «the waters of the Jordan ran red with their blood», says Mrs. Langer.

The destruction and blood-letting by the Zionists was followed by «the era of military trials». «The Arabs, a stubborn people, refused to put up with the brilliant, sophisticated and organised force», admits Mrs. Langer. She goes on to confirm that «they died by the hundreds with their guns in their hands» rather than surrender to the Zionist enemy.

Thereafter, Mrs. Langer takes the reader on a descriptive guided tour to the misery of Arab existence under the heel of that «brilliant, organised and superior force».

The publisher described the book in the following terms: «In this moving personal account we learn at first hand the human facts behind the statistics: the confiscation of property, the deportations, the blowing up of houses, the torture of prisoners... (Mrs. Langer) puts a case which must be heard».

Although the general opinion, and a valid one at that, is that the authoress has a «case which must be heard», there is a well-calculated campaign to discredit Mrs. Langer.

However, this does not rule out the fact that the book is a living recorded testimony of the savage and brutal nature of Zionism. It is a kind of document which will be presented when the Zionists face their Nuremberg. In conclusion we may add that although the book primarily aims at showing atrocities committed by the Zionists, the authoress cannot but acknowledge the fact that the Palestinians are a brave people and that with all his alleged superiority, «HE (the Zionist enemy) did not hear the volcanic sound under his feet!»

ENEMY NEWS

ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE TERRORIZES DISSIDENT JEWS

— Tel Aviv uses Mossad and Shin-Bet to exert rude pressures on Jewish communities in the Diaspora. The assimilated Jews in their original countries are forced to immigrate to Israel through threats and blackmail.

Rumours about these pressures are increasingly circulating in Jewish communities in Europe and the United States.

It is reported that leaders of small Jewish communities trying to keep away from the maddening whirlwinds of the Zionist movement have been frightened the most. For they are the first victims of the Mossad and Shin-Bet agents.

It all starts with telephone calls and innocent persuasion, followed by more persistent suggestions «to return to their legitimate homeland», and then comes the turn of violent threats and bad language.

Experienced observers see right away that this is the work of professionals, and often first-class professionals.

«You just can't imagine what a horror this is», — whispers a Jewish shop owner from a Parisian suburb, nervously looking around. He is called a «trustee» of an isolated group of merely two dozen Jewish families. «The agents always remind us of themselves, and still they remain invisible and leave no traces».

Another Jew, a leader of a small Jewish group in Lyon, heaving a heavy sigh says that he fears for his children most of all.

Cases were reported where children of Jews who had refused to go to Israel were kidnapped and their parents terrorised. In some cases parents were informed that their 14-15 year old children «had gone to study» to Israel. After that reports came in that they had

become members of Gachal (air force volunteers), or Machal (army volunteers).

This seems to confirm reports, that a special centre has been set up in Israel under the code name «Vengeance» to control various operations against dissident Jews.

It is believed that one of the top officers of the centre is Brigadier-General Dan Shomron, who had over-all charge of the Entebbe Airport operation.

Structurally, «Vengeance» consists of a brain trust and about half a dozen groups of commandos subordinated to the trust.

The brain trust has on its staff high-ranking officers from Mossad, Shin-Bet, Army Intelligence and the General Staff, as well as from the new intelligence headed by General D. Tamari.

Each of the groups is specialised in certain operations. The first group deals with the search for and liquidation of Palestinian guerilla leaders. The second group is in charge of «clandestine operations» against foreign intelligence agents.

The third group (rescuers) carries out Entebbe-type operations.

The fourth group deals with the files of «enemies of Zionism» in the Jewish world.

Jewish dissidents: victims of Israeli intelligence.



The fifth group (custodians of the Aliya) is engaged in «working» on Jews in the Diaspora.

The sixth group specialises in secret operations to raise money for Israel by safe-breaking, thefts and shady machinations.

Each of the groups has the so-called «volunteer helpers».

For example, «custodians of the Aliya» reportedly use members of such organisations as the Jewish Defense League and Young Zionists Union.

The Jewish Defense League helps the fifth group to encourage American Jewish immigration to Israel.

The role of «volunteer helpers» in Western Europe is played by the Young Zionists Union. According to reports, the fifth group's «patron», is the ex-chief of the Israeli intelligence service, Isar Harel, master of terrorist operations disguised as gangster attacks or accidents.

According to some information, «Vengeance» is getting ready to strike a blow against leaders of the World Jewish Congress who, Tel Aviv thinks, have chosen the road of treason.

«Tel Aviv has been yearning for years to get even with Dr. Goldmann», says a WJC leader in Belgium. «The only thing which stops them is the fear of adverse publicity».

Many thousands of Jews today are forced to live in constant fear. And the most shocking factor for them is that the source of the fear is the intelligence monster of Tel Aviv which, in utter disregard of all rules of international relations, operates with impunity and impudence in the territories of many European countries.

Today, only those Jews in the Diaspora who are ready to donate large annual sums of money to Israel, and to carry out Massad instructions (including secret ones), may feel safe. But tomorrow... who knows? Maybe the long arm of «Vengeance» will reach them also.

RALLY IN ADEN IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

The student press seminar, which ended its meetings in Aden on May 11, held a huge rally in solidarity with the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

The speakers at the rally reaffirmed their full support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and their armed revolution, and for the LNM. The rally was organized by the International Students' Union with the cooperation of the National Union of Yemeni Students. The seminar discussed the role of the press and student information in the struggle for national independence and social and economic progress. Delegations representing 50 foreign student organizations, including a GUPS delegation, participated in the rally.

ARAB RADIOS TO CONSIDER AUGUST 21 «JERUSALEM DAY»

At the end of its meetings in Abu Dhabi on May 10, the general assembly of the Organization of Islamic Broadcasting stations decided that the 21st of August — the day al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem was burned in 1969 — will be considered every year as a day for Jerusalem. On that day, all Islamic broadcasting services will concentrate on news of Jerusalem and of the holy sites which are daily desecrated by the Zionist occupation.

The Organization's General Assembly also agreed to form an executive council composed of nine members, eight of whom are chosen by the assembly.

27 Islamic countries, the PLO, and representatives of various Islamic organizations and of the UNESCO participated in the Abu Dhabi meetings.



CASTRO REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

On May 10 issue of the weekly magazine *Afrique-Asie*, published in Paris, Cuban leader Fidel Castro condemned the aggressive acts and practices of the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian people and the Arab Nation. Castro also condemned all imperialist maneuvers in the Middle East area which aim to strike at the revolutionary tide for the benefit of Zionism and imperialism.

He concluded by saying: « We strongly reaffirm, more than at any time in the past, our solidarity with, and support for, the struggle of the Palestinian people with all the means at our disposal ».

RALLY COMMEMORATING JUNBLATT IN ROME: WEEK IN SARDINIA ARAB-ITALIAN SOLIDARITY Rome, May 13

A commemorative ceremony for the martyred Lebanese nationalist leader Kamal Junblatt was held in Rome two days ago and was supervised by the Italian — Arab friendship Committee. The celebration was attended by the Vice President of the Italian Senate, by various Italian parliamentarians, and by Nimr Hammad, the PLO represent-

ative in Rome, as well as several Arab and foreign diplomats.

Italian Senator Gilio Basso, the honorary President of the Arab — Italian Friendship Committee, chaired the rally, during which several speeches were made in praise of Junblatt's struggle on the local, Arab and international levels. In his speech, Nimr Hammad said that the Palestinian Revolution remembers the martyr as a thinker, philosopher and a great national leader struggling for peace, and as a brother who together with the LNM shared the path of the Palestinian Revolution.

The celebration attracted huge numbers of people. The central newspaper of the Italian Communist Party, *l'Unita*, covered the rally extensively.

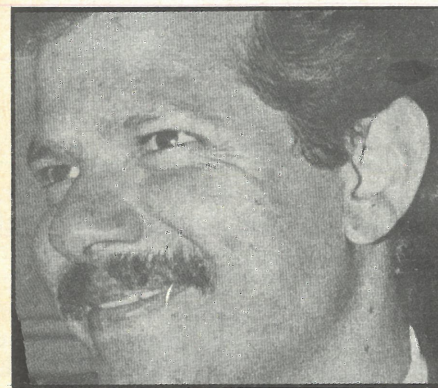
A week of Italian — Arab solidarity was held recently in the city of Calavria on the island of Sardinia. This week was organized by the Italian — Arab Friendship Association, the PLO office and the Arab League office in Rome, and the Arab Ambassadors, with the participation of the Italian Communist Party, the Socialist Party and

NOVOSTI: PLO MUST PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE FROM BEGINNING ON EQUAL FOOTING

MOSCOW.—The Soviet news agency Novosti stressed in an article published on May 11 that the Palestinian problem could not be solved without the participation of the Palestinian people in any settlement, and that the PLO should receive an official invitation to participate on an equal footing in the Geneva conference from its co-chairmen, the USA and the Soviet Union.

It added that the Palestinians should participate in the conference from its beginning and at every stage as a party with rights equal to all other parties. Novosti denounc-

ed the proposals by some parties to exclude the Palestinians in the first stage of the conference. It also refuted the attempts to link the participation of the Palestinians in Geneva with preconditions, such as the recognition of Israel's defensible borders, which means in effect approval of the continuation of Israeli occupation of Arab land. Novosti concluded by quoting Brezhnev's speech with regards to the necessity of convening the Geneva conference, in which he said, « The PLO, being the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, should naturally participate equally in the meetings of the conference; and we take a firm stand so that no resolution related to the Palestinian Arab people is decided without the Palestinians, or against their will ».



DEMOCRATIC YEMEN CONFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

ADEN.—In a speech he gave at a rally held on May 1st in Aden on May Day, Abdel Fattah Ismail, Secretary-General of the Unified Political Organization of the National Front, reaffirmed his country's support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people against the Zionist occupation, to recover their national legitimate and inalienable rights, and to establish their own independent state. Mr. Ismail also called for the withdrawal of Zionist forces from all occupied Arab territories, and for an end to all savage and racist practices against the Palestinian detainees, citizens and workers in the occupied territories.

COMMITTEE OF 20 CALLS FOR TIME-TABLE FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL New York, 14 May 1977

In a letter sent recently to the UN Security Council, the UN Committee of Twenty called upon the Socialist countries to provide a constructive start for discussions on the Palestine question which are due to take place next month. Highlights of the legal bases of the Committee's recommendations concern the preparation of a time-table for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories, and the return of the Palestinian population to their homeland.

It is necessary to recall that the UN General Assembly during its 31st session adopted the report of the Committee of twenty which reaffirms that the Palestine question is at the centre of the Middle East problem, and that this problem cannot be solved without taking into consideration the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people, and their inalienable rights, including their right to return to their homeland, to self-determination, independence and sovereignty; as well as the necessity of the PLO's participation in all efforts, discussions and conferences concerning the Middle East. The report also stressed the illegitimacy of the occupation of land by force, and the necessity for the immediate withdrawal of Zionist forces from the occupied Arab territories.

SOLIDARITY NEWS ON THE 29 ANNIVERSARY OF USURPATION OF PALESTINE

ROME

On the 29th anniversary of the usurpation of the Palestinian State and the establishment of the Zionist entity, festivals of solidarity with the Palestinian people and their just struggle were held on May 15 in a number of Italian cities. The General Union of Palestinian Students — Italian Branch — held a huge rally in Rome with the participation of representatives of Arab and Foreign student unions, several Italian political parties and delegations

HAVANA

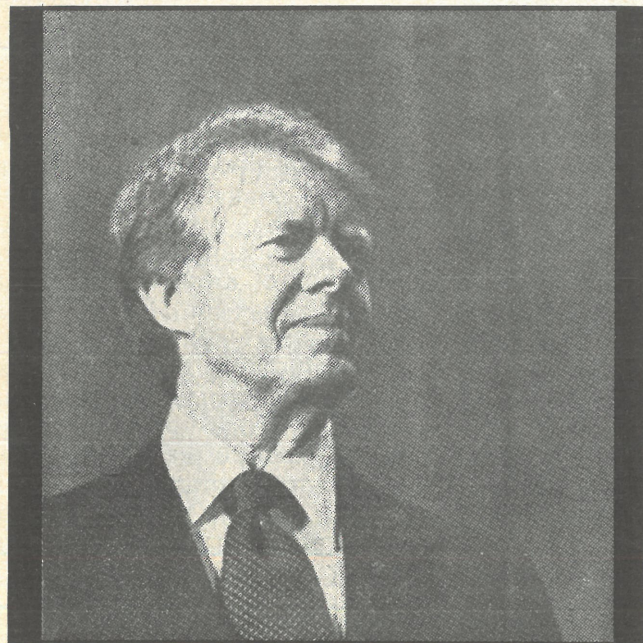
Democratic and progressive forces all over the world have demanded an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of statehood. This call came in a communique issued by the organization of solidarity with the African, Asian and Latin American peoples (OSPAAAL) in Havana. The communique added that the major characteristics of Zionist policy are territorial expansion, oppression and aggression. It pointed out that the USA, which denigrates the rights of the Palestinian people, is conducting a policy of political machinations and intervention, seeking to enlarge its economic and political control over the Middle East and to reinforce Israel's policy of aggression.

In the same context, ITV television two days ago showed a program on Jerusalem, in which it questioned the commitment of the Israeli authorities to human rights in the occupied territories.

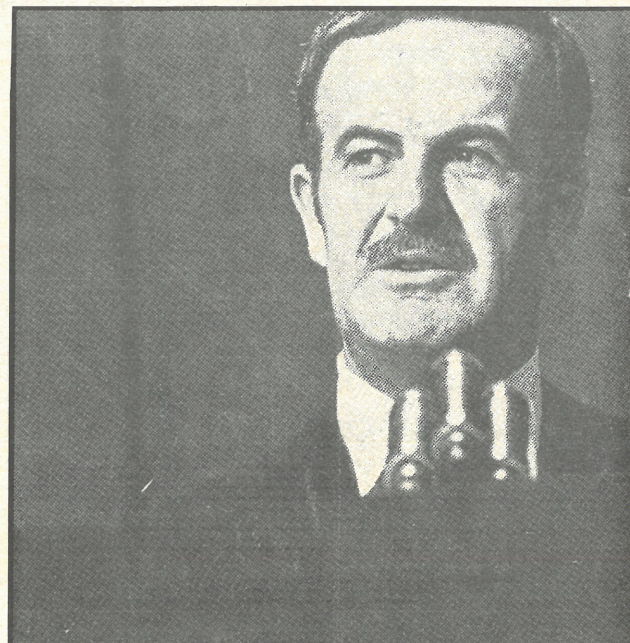
from Asian, African and Latin American liberation fronts. Another festival was held in Padua in Northern Italy, with the participation of the Parma Artistic Group. Meanwhile, massive demonstrations were staged in Florence, Pisa and Sienna, in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people. LONDON

The Union of Arab Students in England and Ireland published a letter in the *Guardian*, in which they called for support of the civil and human rights of political detainees in Israeli jails, and condemned the establishment of Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab territories. The letter, which was published on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine, also called for the establishment of a democratic state in Palestine, which would guarantee the civil and human rights of all citizens.

ASSAD-CARTER MEETING



American President Carter: American pledge for a solution in the Middle East.



Syrian President Assad: the man of balance.

US President Carter has held talks in Washington with the retired Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, President Sadat of Egypt, and Jordan's King Hussein. These were reported as part of an American effort to accelerate the peace process in the Middle East. President Carter is scheduled to meet the Saudi Crown Prince on May 24 in Washington.

Arriving in Geneva to meet President Assad of Syria, President Carter described Syria as one of the major factors to the search for peace in the Middle East.

President Assad visited Moscow earlier this month, and a high-ranking Syrian military delegation was still there discussing Soviet military aid to Syria when President Assad arrived in Geneva on May 9. At the airport Assad declared that Syria would not abandon a single inch of the Arab occupied territories.

On the other hand, and before the first formal meeting, Mr. Carter said: «There must be a resolution of the Palestine problem and a homeland for the Palestinians ».

WHAT WERE THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE MEETING?

Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, said that the two leaders had discussed in detail what Washington regards as the three main issues: « The nature and meaning of peace, boundaries and their relation to security », and the Palestinians, both with regard to their representation at future negotiations, and their part in the longer-term aspects of a settlement, Mr. Brzezinski added: « The question of demilitarized zones or other security arrangements to guarantee borders was taken up in detail ».

Mr. Assad agreed that resumption of a Geneva Middle East Conference « should be well prepared » apparently an endorsement of the US approach and timetable for a settlement.

President Assad has made careful plans concerning his diplomatic efforts. He is ready to come closer to the Americans without giving up his relations with the Soviet Union or becoming involved in a settlement aimed harming the Soviet

Union. In meeting Mr. Carter, Mr. Assad wanted to find out just what is hoped of him if he continues on his present course — and what rewards he can expect in return. He has been doing his best to make the meeting a success. He has added his voice to the Arab praises for the new American President. Also, President Assad has made it clear that, if diplomacy fails, he will press for a general Arab return to the battlefield. For, this, Assad effected a reconciliation with the Soviet Union before meeting Carter.

Partly as a result of this reconciliation, he has now adopted a much more pro-Palestinian posture. In the Syrian-Soviet joint Communique Mr. Assad for the first time unequivocally called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

OPTIMISM

At the end of the two leaders' meeting, President Carter said that he felt better about prospects for movement towards a Middle East peace than at any time since he took office three months ago. He

praised Arab leaders for their moderation and constructive attitudes. Syrian officials were more circumspect declaring: « There has been an effort in the right direction on the part of the United States, which gives us some hope ». They also welcomed the US Administration's recognition of Syrian's key role in the Middle East. It was noted that President Carter made no mention of his controversial idea of « defensible borders » for Israel, that he stressed the idea of buffer zones between « Israel » and the Arab countries, and that it was accepted by all the Middle East leaders he has met. President Carter also spoke about peace keeping forces and long-range radars, and in so doing he threw light on the renowned US plan for a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, this would depend mostly on mutual pledges from Israel and Arab countries concerning mutual recognition and periodic Israeli withdrawals from the Arab occupied territories, with small modifications of the borders. This would, however, leave the Palestinian problem unsolved, verbal promises about a Palestinian homeland.

The USA has accepted the Israeli stand of refusing to recognize the PLO or invite it as an independent

delegation to Geneva Conference which US officials expect to see resumed by the end of the year. In any case, President Assad stated that the US Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance would visit the Middle East « in the near future ».

It is not certain whether the US President has finished his exploratory efforts, or whether the expected US initiative is ready. In spite of this, the Syrian President has insisted upon a comprehensive solution, taking into consideration that the US supports Israel and guarantees its security and existence, and that President Carter has not yet defined the location of the Palestinians homeland, or whether he is ready to recognize the PLO before Israel took the first step. President Assad knows well that Israel will block any attempt towards a just peace, and to achieve a just peace, America will have to exert more pressure on Israel to make the latter more flexible. However, for Israel to become flexible and adopt a positive attitude runs against its nature.

Will the USA make the effort, or will it just make vague promises to gain time for Israel to launch a new war? ?



Carter and Sadat: optimism.

SOLIDARITY

NEWS

IN SOLIDARITY WITH

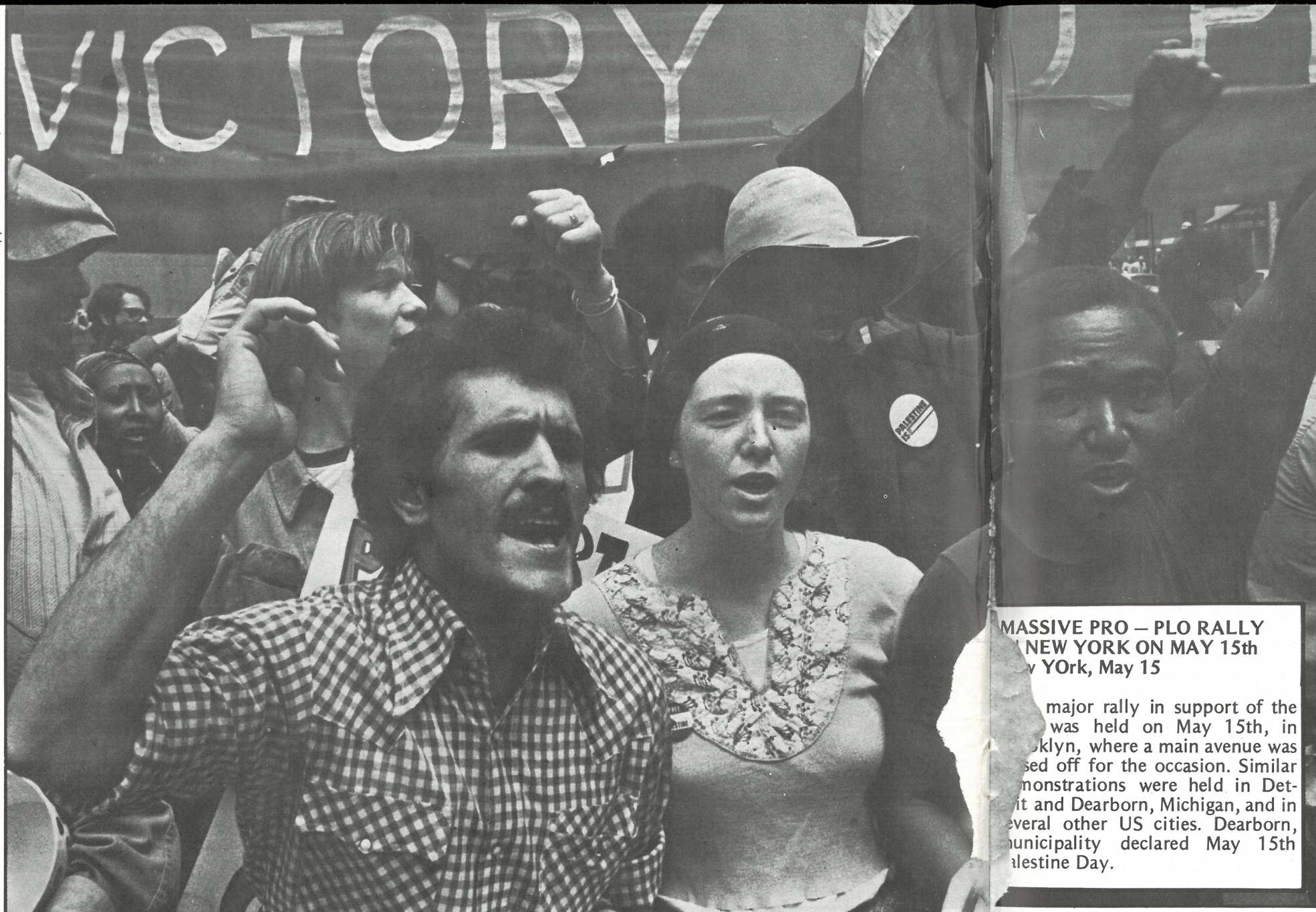
PALESTINE:

A REPORT FROM THE US

INTRODUCTION

On July 4, 1976, 50,000 people in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and 5,000 people in San Francisco, California, marched in a demonstration to oppose the US government and the system of oppression it represents. The demands of the march reflected the growing mass anti-imperialist movement inside the United States. Thousands of people marched under banners demanding « No More US Colonies » and « Independence for Puerto Rico ». Large groups chanted in support of the Native American struggle for sovereignty and in support of Indian control of Indian land and resources. Contingents demanding an end to white minority rule in Southern Africa showed the growing solidarity felt by Americans, especially Black Americans, with the struggle of the peoples of Southern Africa. Marchers also demanded more jobs and a better life for working people in the US. Both marches contained contingents in solidarity with Palestine.

There are a growing number of people in the United States who oppose US imperialism. In the movement against the war in Indochina, demonstrations drew up to half a million people to march against the US government. These people are becoming more conscious of the Palestinian people and their struggle for self-determination. Both the anti-war movement and the civil rights movements of the 1960's showed the potential to mobilize the American people to effectively counter the US government. The task of the Palestine solidarity movement is to build another such mass movement in support of the Palestinian people.



**MASSIVE PRO — PLO RALLY
IN NEW YORK ON MAY 15th
New York, May 15**

A major rally in support of the PLO was held on May 15th, in New York City, where a main avenue was closed off for the occasion. Similar demonstrations were held in Detroit and Dearborn, Michigan, and in several other US cities. Dearborn, Michigan, municipality declared May 15th Palestine Day.

SOLIDARITY WORK IN THE UNITED STATES

The possibilities of solidarity work with the Palestinian struggle have increased since the October War. The war and its political aftermath brought a shift in public consciousness about the issue of Palestine and about the situation in the Middle East in general. Americans have begun to question the US policy of unswerving support for Israel. The oil embargo brought home to Americans that events in the Middle East could dramatically affect their daily lives. Some people began to examine and demonstrate against the giant US oil companies — who control not only Middle Eastern oil, but much of the energy resources in the US and abroad. The American

media and government tried to use the «energy crisis» to fan anti-Arab racism but the new atmosphere of questioning and criticizing US policy was unmistakable. Americans began to seek answers about the Middle East and about the Palestine problem for themselves.

In this new context, solidarity groups that work in support of the Palestinian people have grown. Groups now exist in New York, Knoxville, Washington DC, San Francisco, Berkeley, Boston and Detroit. In general, these groups are still small, but they have been able to hold sizeable demonstrations, do consistent information work, and provide resources for their communities. There are also a wide range of church and peace groups —

including groups of anti-Zionist Jews — who support Palestinian human rights and the national aspirations of the Palestinian people.

In the last two years, groups have held solidarity events that have ranged from small forums and discussions to large demonstrations. Slide shows, films and film strips have been used to explain the struggle to large numbers of people. Speakers from the PLO have been very effective in promoting both discussion and support of the Palestinian struggle. Presentations about Palestine and Zionism have found their way into churches, classrooms, community groups and discussion groups in the US. Left. May 15 is celebrated in a number of cities as the day of solidarity with

the Palestinian people.

Thus, it is an important opportunity to challenge the US government's version of the Middle East and to undermine the effectiveness of Zionist propaganda. Work must proceed on many different levels in order to reach every possible anti-Zionist force. Work that explains the Palestinian struggle through linking it with other struggles Americans understand is very valuable. In this context, work linking Israel and South Africa is very important. Recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people is one crucial thrust, as is stopping all aid and arms to Israel.

Although the tasks are many,

experience in the past few years has shown that the cause of Palestine can be explained to the American people. The conditions exist for a large mass movement in the United States in support of the Palestinian people. Groups have

held demonstrations against the Sinai Accords, against US aid to Israel, against the Syrian invasion of Lebanon, and against King Hussein. Last year on June 13, the day of a very large annual «Salute to Israel» parade in New York City, the New York Palestine Solidarity Committee held a counter-demonstration of hundreds of people under the banner: «A Salute to Israel is A Salute to Racism, Colonialism and Repression». They intend to make this counter-demonstration an annual event. Lobbying, petitions, information work and protests have aimed to stop US arms and aid to Israel.

Propaganda and information work have increased. Two newsletters by the Palestine Solidarity Committee circulate to thousands of people. MERIP Reports provides a constant stream of information in its bulletin. Peoples Press in San Francisco is publishing a new book that will hopefully provide a basic book for organizing and educational work.

PROSPECTS FOR SOLIDARITY WORK

It is important to stress that Palestine solidarity work in the United States is still in a beginning stage. Both the American people and the progressive movement in the United States have been deeply effected by Zionization. The interests of US imperialism in controlling the Middle East for strategic, economic and political reasons have insured that information in the US media and from US politicians is distorted. Americans are taught that the issues in the Middle East are too confusing for ordinary people to understand — with the calculated result that decisions should be left to the «experts» in the US State Department and Pentagon — both departments full of personnel connected to the US oil companies. The media treatment of

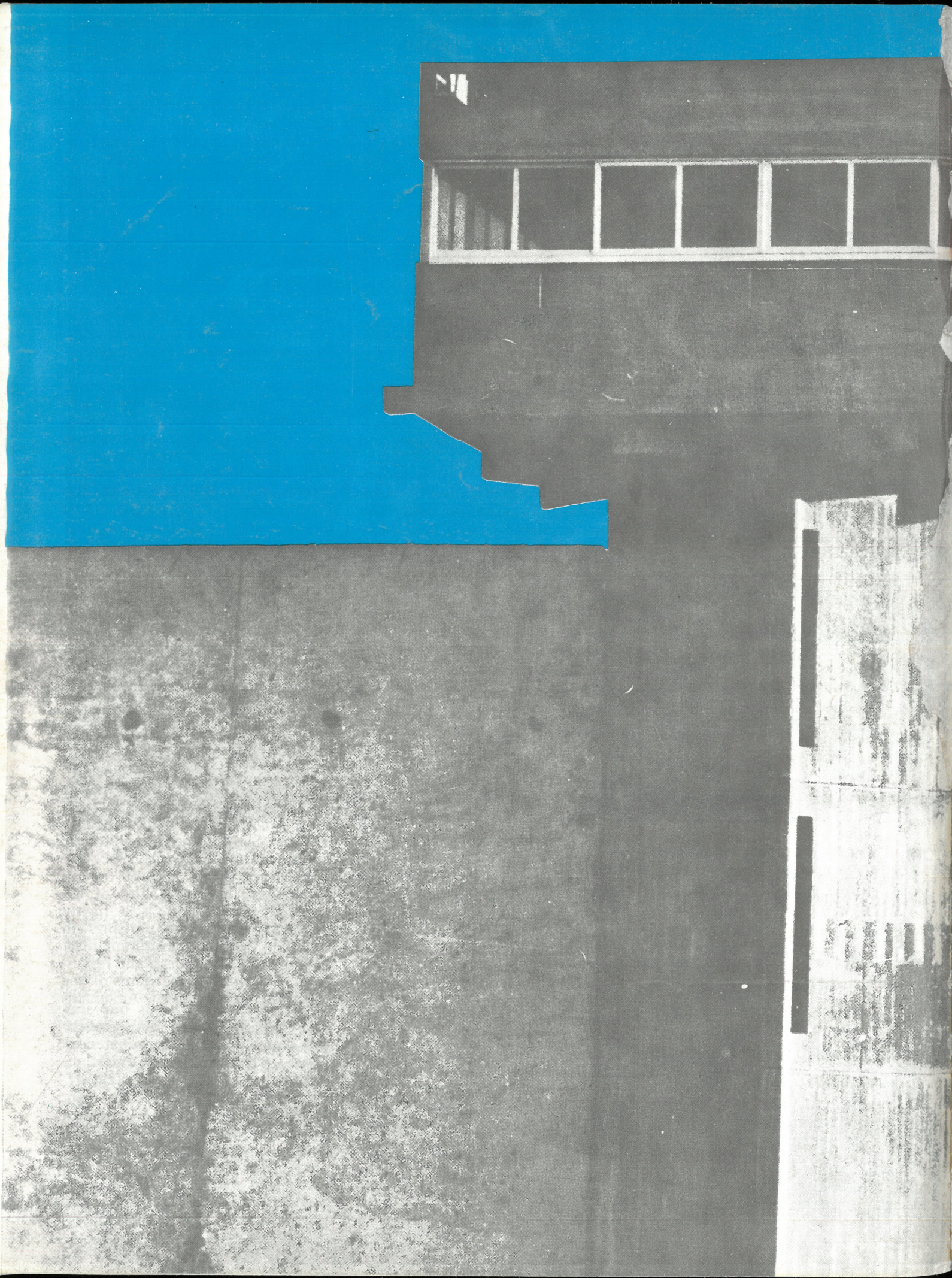
the war in Lebanon is a good example: it was, the media said, a war with a cause, impossible to understand. They constantly portrayed the Palestinians as losing in Lebanon, weary and ready to bow to the US plans for the region.

Some parts of the American people have grasped more quickly the heart of the Middle East situation — the struggle of the Palestinian people against a Zionist settler — colony sustained by imperialism. In the late sixties, Black organizations and Native American groups understood the injustice of Zionism from their own experience of oppression and dispossession. Today, as the US government becomes more oppressive to most people living in the United States, more and more people will side with the Palestinians. Working people in this country are fighting back against the crisis caused by US imperialism — demanding an end to unemployment, better childcare and schools, and safety on the job. A task of the Palestine solidarity movement is to show the links of these struggles to the struggle of the Palestinian people. Both peoples have a common enemy — US imperialism.

The coming period of time is crucial to developing such an understanding. Both the drive for a settlement and the possibilities of another regional war in the Middle East will greatly affect public consciousness. Americans are being prepared by the US government to go to war in the Middle East to protect the interests of Israel and of the oil companies. The possibility of US military involvement is a highly explosive issue. The uprisings in occupied Palestine have dramatically shown Israel's racism and repression. The international gains of the PLO have begun to show Americans

that there exists a united Palestinian people, determined to return to their homeland, Palestine, and create there a democratic

secular state. All these things propel Americans to seek information about the real situation. □



P.L.O.
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Palestine

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**BEGIN'S
VICTORY**

