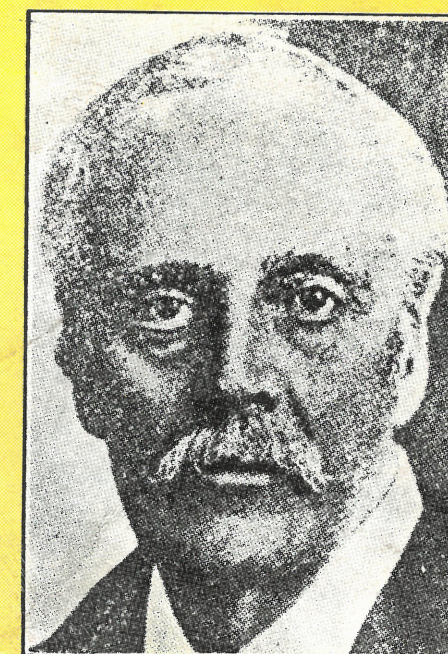


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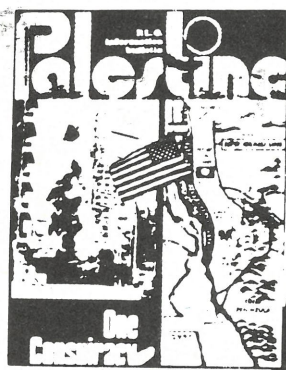


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EDITORIAL

THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

Sixty years ago, on November 2nd, the British Foreign Minister, Lord Balfour, issued a declaration promising the European Zionists a homeland in Palestine. Since that time, the flow of Zionist immigrants to Palestine has not ceased, and the Palestinian Arabs, the indigenous population of Palestine, have been subject to oppression, expulsion and persecution. They have been 60 years to continuous bloodshed, tears and destruction.

With the help of the British, and the backing of other western imperialist countries, a Zionist state in Palestine was created in May, 1948, with Zionist immigration also being openly encouraged and supported by these same countries. More than that, the Zionist state emerged as the strongest military striking force in the Middle East, threatening all the existing Arab states in the region. In June 1967, the Israelis occupied the remainder of Palestine (West Bank and Gaza Strip) as well as some Egyptian and Syrian territories.

The Arab countries viewed this injustice with their hands tied, and were incapable of removing this foreign occupier from their territories by military force. Israel, on the other hand, persisted with her humiliating policy, and the Israelis set forth their policy of expansionist settler colonialism regardless of Arab aspirations and world opinion.

The US, as the main supporter of Israel's aggression, practises a policy of cooling Arab tempers for the sake of American oil interests in the Middle East; but they still continue to supply the Zionist expansionists with the most sophisticated and destructive weapons.

But can we believe the promises made to the Arabs, or bet on the good intentions of President Carter; or does the fact remain, that pro-Zionist circles in the U.S. are still stronger than the circles of peace surrounding the U.S. president?

The Palestinian people, who suffered the consequences of the infamous Balfour Declaration for six decades, are still determined to attain their rights. The Palestinian people will never yield to this injustice committed by the western alliance in cooperation with the Zionist colonizers. With a belief in their just cause, and with their limited means, the Palestinian people will carry on the struggle against all conspiracies aimed at undermining their national and historical rights in their homeland, Palestine.

The Palestinian Resistance Movement, emerged in the last ten years to become a fact in the Middle East, a fact which the Zionists still prefer to ignore. But the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people has been acknowledged on the political map of the world. It enjoys international recognition, and has access to all international bodies, including those of the UN.

Whether Geneva conference will be convened or not, does not alter the fact that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Whether the Israelis agree or not, they must live with the fact that Palestine belongs to the Palestinians, and that there should be enough room for the Palestinians to live within their homeland in peace and freedom, like all other peoples of the world. The Palestinians too, have the right to self-determination and the establishment of their own state on Palestinian soil.

The Zionist colonizers are growing more nervous with each passing day because they are becoming increasingly isolated. World public opinion has turned against their policy of expansionist settlement in the occupied territories. The Zionists continue to ignore world public opinion, and are pushing the Middle East, and most probably the whole world, towards a new war.



Demonstration in Soweto, South Africa.

THE COMMON AFRO-ARAB STRUGGLE

The common struggle of the Afro-Arab people against Imperialism and its off-shoots, Zionism and racism, has its roots in the period of European capital expansion, justifying colonial treatment of natives as slaves, in what was so-called a "civilizing mission".

It is an established fact that Cecil Rhodes, the founder of Rhodesia and other southern African colonial settlements, was one of the main architects of Zionist colonial settlements in Palestine. British imperialism, in its dream of bringing the whole of Africa and Asia under the British crown, had advocated the creation of a Zionist state in East Africa. In 1903, Britain had offered a part of East Africa, Kenya, for Jewish

settlement and Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern political Zionism had accepted it, until the 1905 Zionist Congress held in Basel, Switzerland, turned down the offer.

It was only the development of British imperialist interest in the Middle East that facilitated the interpretation of a Jewish mythological homeland in Palestine.

The Arab and African peoples liberation struggle, to free themselves from colonialism and imperialism, has followed the same path with remarkable similarities. Both peoples, given the contemporary global political situation, have resorted to the only means at their disposal to liberate their lands.

They have smashed the fallacy of invincibility of the imperialist powers through revolutionary violence.

The Afro-Arab liberation struggle is not only similar in origin, aim and execution, but has faced a remarkably similar set of obstacles and conspiracies set against them. Local regimes, at the service of imperialism, have back-stabbed both regional liberation movements.

The atrocities committed by the Hashemite Monarch of Jordan in 1970, against the Palestinian Revolution, at the service of imperialism and Zionism, asserts this fact. And it is no mere coincidence that the monarch has warm relations with the apartheid regimes of southern Africa.

In Africa, the most outstanding example of local imperialist puppet regimes would be the regime of President Banda of Malawi. Banda, addressing a session of the Zionist Parliament on May 27th 1968, the first foreign head of state to do so, had promised to help the "Israeli cause" and convey the "truth" to the O.A.U., the Common Wealth and the U.N. President Banda, after his return, performed his puppet role by declaring over Radio Blantyre on June 14, 1970, that to "suggest that Israel was the aggressor was not



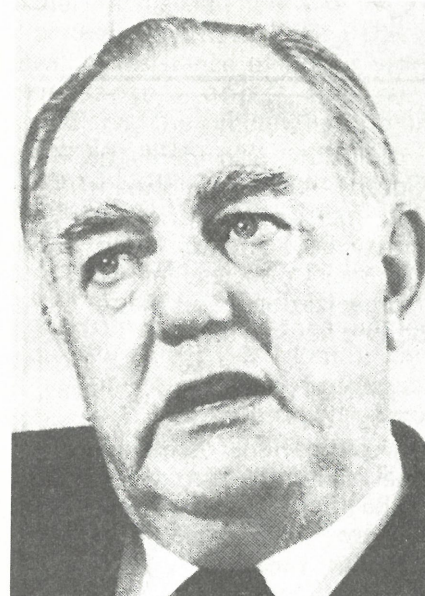
woman M.P.L.A. volunteer receives military training.

only a distortion but the prostitution of the truth".

It is to be recalled that this outspoken agent of international imperialism had spelled out over Radio Johannesburg in 1968, that "South Africa and Rhodesia could conquer Africa as far as Cairo tomorrow if they wished, fortunately Ian Smith and John Vorster are civilized men". Regarding his views on African Liberation Movements he has declared: "Apartheid is only a facet, understanding between African leaders, and those in power in southern Africa, who are willing to listen, is the solution". (Africa Research Bulletin, August 1968, p. 1143.)

President Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast, who recently met the Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan and the Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith, is well known for the negative role he performs against the African Liberation Struggle. He is quoted by the Tanzanian Times 24/4/71 as saying, "South Africa had a good claim to be African and has an important role to play in the development of the continent". The leader of the apartheid regime, Vorster, for his part labeled him "The West African leader and a highly civilized man" (R. Johannesburg 22/4/71).

Seraleone, also fits into the ranks of local imperialist agents denoun-



*South Africa's John Vorster:
"The rationale is 'hot pursuit'."*

cing African consensus at the O.A.U. to support the Palestinian struggle. The Seraleone independent Daily Unity, had declared it to be "Nose dives into wrong priorities" and that "Racial discrimination in southern Africa is practised mainly against Black Africa, not against Arabs". (9/3/70 "Unity".)

These are but a few of the enemies of the local African and Arab cause, trying constantly to undermine the ever-strengthening alliance between African and Arab peoples. As could be expected, all have an outstanding record of cooperation with the racist minority regimes. Nevertheless, these common encounters strengthen the comradely ties that exist between



The Palestinian commandos.

the African and Arab revolutions.

The African and Arab liberation struggle, as being part and parcel of the global liberation movements have acquired great lessons from the Vietnamese, Chinese and other outstanding peoples' victories over imperialism.

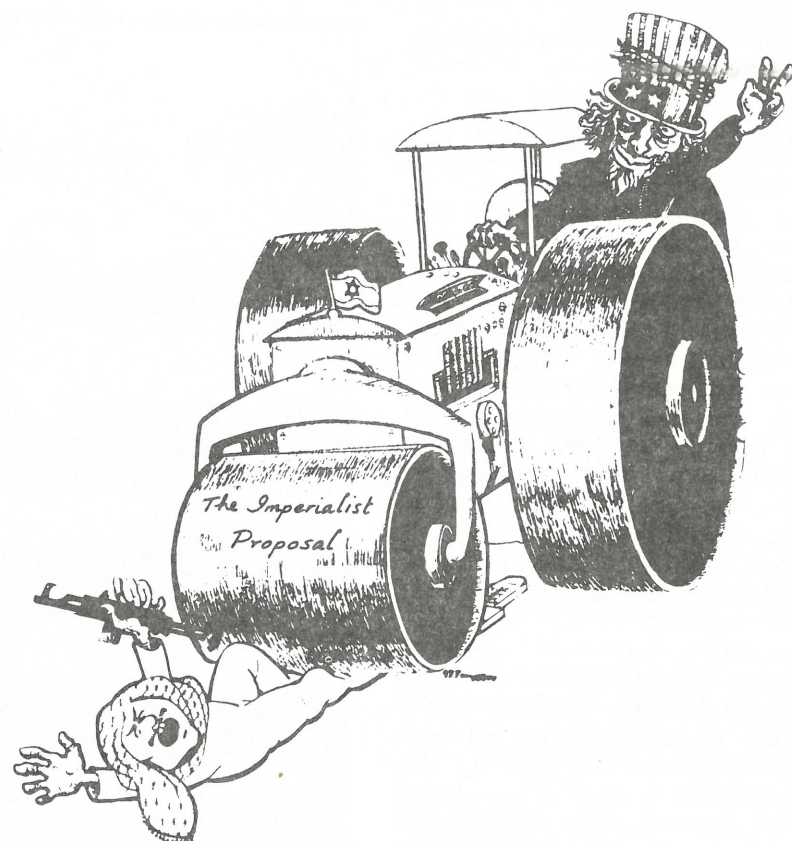
The African experience of Angola, Mozambique, together with its Vietnamese counterpart, has taught American imperialism a lesson. This has motivated America to change its tactics in its dealing with the Afro-Arab liberation movements. It is no coincidence that the so-called American "Peace initiative", has been launched simulta-

negusly in Africa and the Middle East. This imperialist conspiracy intends to crush the revolutionary struggle of the peoples of the region and maintain the neo-colonial regimes. Even the so-called "Palestinian homeland" in part of Palestine, is the same conspiracy that has been launched in Africa.

The Afro-Asian people, well aware of these plots, which are being executed in collaboration with local imperialist agents, have made it clear that they accept nothing less than total liberation and that armed struggle is the only option left to them.

The "independent African homelands", created in South Africa, which according to the then South African Prime Minister, "Dr. Verwoerd," was in accordance with the policy of apartheid; for if the territories accept South Africa's guidance and assistance, it would be much easier for them economically and for other reasons which includes the interests of the free world". (Africa Research Bulletin: June/1970/ p.91B)

The imperialist perception of the Palestinian homeland is no different from the policy of apartheid, which has created ghettos in Basutoland, Bechoanaland, Swaziland, and the sort where racial segregation within the colony is the only achievement.



The colonial occupiers of both regions are constantly reminded by militants in Soweto and West Bank towns, that an "independent homeland" is not the objective, but total liberation within a nation state.

The Arab liberation movement and its African counterparts, at

the moment, have not only realized the common nature of the obstacles and conspiracies facing them, but are entrenched in the same battlefield fighting minority racist settlers who under the umbrella of U.S. imperialism and saboteurs, have denied them their legitimate national rights.



UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The United States, Britain and France vetoed three African resolutions in the Security Council Monday that called for economic sanctions and other stringent measures against South Africa.

The 15-nation Council unanimously approved a fourth African resolution condemning the white-minority government in Pretoria for its resort to "massive violence and repression" against black South Africans and "all other opponents" of apartheid.

That resolution also demands that the South African government release all persons imprisoned under security laws and for opposition to its racial policies, and lift bans on organizations and newspapers opposed to apartheid.

SANCTIONS

The African nations demanded international sanctions two weeks ago after the latest South African crack-down on opponents of its racial segregation policies.

60th Anniversary of The Triumph of The October Socialist Revolution



On the 7th November 1917 a page was turned in the life of the peoples of the world. The diggers of the grave of the "Ancien Regime" began the task of shoveling earth onto the ugly face of tyranny and oppression. For the first time in the history of humanity and after the unsuccessful attempt of the Paris Commune 1871, the poor and the oppressed seized power and retained it steadfastly in spite of enormous challenges. The people's power had to stand up to severe tests. Internal as well as external foes of the workers and peasants joined forces in order to strangle the young republic of the Soviets. The masses who were the makers of history under the sound leadership of the Bolsheviks defended heroically their achievements with the edge of their bayonets. Facing the iron-willed resistance of Soviet workers, peasants and revolutionary soldiers, the imperialist predators had to back away, only to resume their devastating aggression under the Nazis.

During the period following the Brest-Litovsk truce, the Soviet government, under the guidelines put forward by V.I. Lenin, lay the material foundations of the future Socialist and Communist society; this policy was accompanied by the firm commitment of the Soviet people, party and state to support and promote national liberation and international workers' struggle. One of the many contributions of the October Revolution

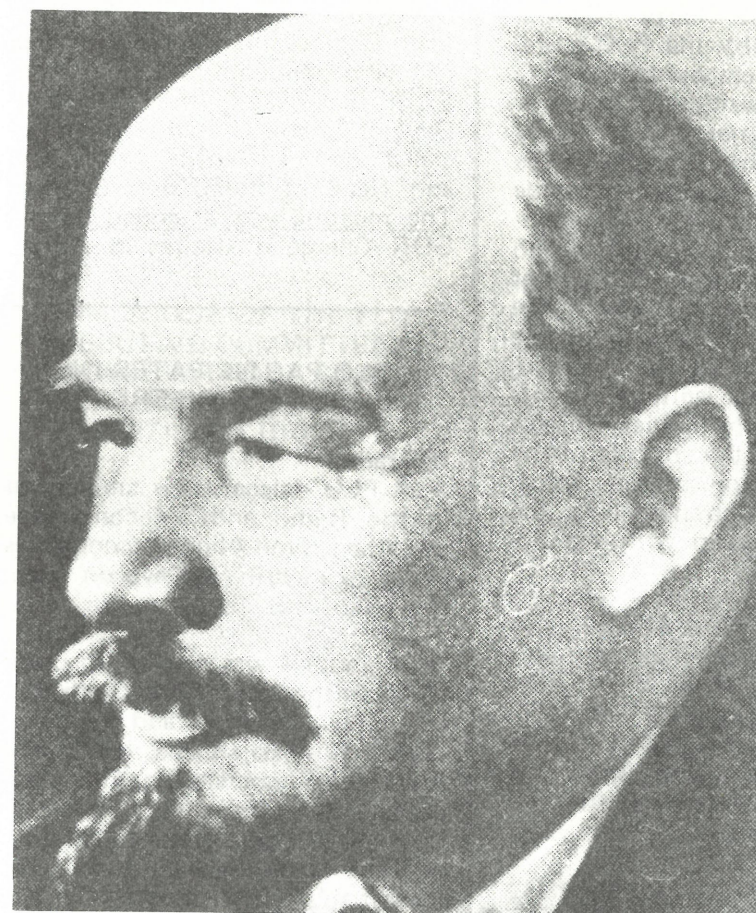
in revealing the fact of imperialism was to disclose the provisions of the secret imperialist treaty of Syxe-Picot.

Despite the enormous burdens and complicated conditions accompanying the birth of the state of the workers and peasants, the Soviet government, relying on its own subjective potential and the

solidarity of the world working class and oppressed nations, was able to break imperialist encirclement. Economic and social growth normally carried out in two centuries was performed in the past 60 years, thus proving Socialist viability. From a semi-feudal society with a weak economy before the revolution, the U.S.S.R. has risen up to the standard of a colossal industrial power.

Another test for the Socialist system was fascist aggression, whereby the Soviet Union played the major part in the downfall and the termination of the Third Reich. Finally imperialism had to discard the idea of subverting the Soviet system by means of direct armed aggression. Undoubtedly, the political and military weight of the U.S.S.R. and the emergence of the strong Socialist Camp was the decisive factor in modifying the imperialist attitude.

On a world scale, the Soviet Union in line with the general



principles of Marxism-Leninism continues to offer active political and material support to national liberation movements fighting to throw off the yoke of imperialism and reaction. After 60 years of the emergence of the first victorious experience founded on the organized armed action of the workers and peasants against their oppression, the **1917 October Revolution** continues to hold up the torch of inspiration for the broad working masses and national liberation movements of the world, who still march towards the same objectives of total emancipation and progress in all fields.

PLO PARTICIPATES IN CELEBRATIONS OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION

Moscow,

The Palestinian delegation headed by Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department, arrived, on November 3, in Moscow, where they were received at the airport by a number of senior officials of the Communist Party Central Committee and by the PLO representative and members of the PLO office in Moscow.

In a speech he delivered at the Airport guest lounge, comrade Vassilyev member of the Communist Party Central Committee and First Vice-President of the Soviet Federal Republic, praised the struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO leadership to recover their national legitimate rights and expressed the Soviet Union's appreciation on the struggle of the PLO against Zionism and imperialism and for strengthening the bonds of friendship with the Soviet Union.

Speaking in turn, Abu Lutf affirmed the Palestinian Revolution's firm stand vis-a-vis the Soviet Union which is a great and loyal friend of the Palestinian people and their armed Revolution, and saluted the October Revolution on its **60th anniversary**.

PALESTINE NOTES



ARAFAT RECEIVES LETTERS FROM SOVIET LEADERSHIP & GDR

Yasser Arafat on 11/10/77 received the Ambassador of the German Democratic Republic in Beirut, who handed him a letter from Erich Honecker, the Secretary-General of the United German Socialist Party's Central Committee and Head of the State's Council. The meeting was attended by the GDR Chargé d'Affaires in Beirut.

PLO PARTICIPATES IN RADIO-TV CONFERENCE

Belgrade,

A PLO delegation is taking part in the Radio and TV conference of the Non-Aligned countries which opened in Sarajevo on October 27.

A council was elected to preside over the conference, with Yugoslavia at its head and including Korea, Tunisia, Cuba, Peru and India as members. The PLO delegation was designated vice-president of the co-operation committee, one of three principal committees of the conference.

ABU LUTF AT U.N.: "NO PEACE WITHOUT THE PALESTINIANS"

New York. —

Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department and head of the Palestinian delegation to the UN General Assembly, spoke on 12/10/1977 before the General Assembly affirming that peace will not be achieved without the Palestinian people, who will continue their armed struggle against the Zionist entity and who are capable of disrupting any peace realized at their expense.

In reply to a statement made by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Abu Lutf stressed that "the Palestinians are the PLO", and that the PLO will continue its armed struggle until the achievement of a just peace, based on the Palestinians' desire to return to their homeland, Palestine, and establish sovereignty there.

The US and Israeli representatives to the UN protested at the PLO being given the right to speak, but the President of the session gave the floor to Abu Lutf on the basis of a past decision which allows the PLO the right to reply during the General Assembly's session.



Abu Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department.

ABU SALEH TALKS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS

Moscow,

Abu Saleh, member of the Fatah Central Committee, on October 26, began talks with senior officials in the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The talks will focus on ways to reinforce cooperation and friendship ties between the Palestinian Revolution and the USSR. Abu Saleh arrived in Moscow on October 26, in response to an official invitation to visit the Soviet Union.

OFFICIAL PALESTINIAN STATEMENT ON LUFTHANSA HIJACK

Beirut. —

An official PLO source made the following statement:

"In reply to a request made by the Cypriot Defense Minister, the PLO representative in Cyprus headed for Larnaka airport together with Cypriot officials and the Ambassador of West Germany, to help secure the release of the passengers of the hijacked German plane, which had landed on October 13, at Larnaka airport.

"We would like to clarify that the PLO representative in Cyprus, accepted the official Cypriot request because of our ties of friendship with the Cypriot Government; and we stress that neither the Palestinian Revolution nor any of its factions have any connection whatsoever with this incident.

PLO ATTENDS EAST MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

Kuwait. —

The PLO has participated in the meetings of a branch committee of the Regional Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean in its 27th session which was held in Kuwait

between the 10th and 13th of October.

Dr. Abdel Aziz Labadi, member of the Executive Bureau of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, and representing the PLO at the conference, reviewed the health conditions in occupied Palestine and the premeditated neglect from which our people under occupation suffer. He also referred to the Zionist authorities' refusal to allow the WHO's International Investigation Commission to enter the occupied territories.

PLO PARTICIPATES IN ARAB-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE

Brussels

A PLO delegation headed by Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, is participating in the meetings of the Arab-European dialogue which starts today in Brussels. Al-Dajani on October 25, made a statement to journalists in Brussels, stressing that the recognition of the PLO will be on top of the political demands of the Arab side.

COMMUNIQUE OF THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: "NO PEACE WITHOUT COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS"

Beirut. —

At the end of a long meeting on October 21, 1977, headed by Yasser Arafat, the PLO Executive Committee released the following communique:

"During its meeting, the PLO Executive Committee studied the latest developments relevant to the Palestine cause on both the Arab and international levels, and to the political and diplomatic activities undertaken at the outset of the General Assembly's 32nd session.

"The Executive Committee also examined the positive indicators contained in the joint US-Soviet communique vis-a-vis the cause of the Palestinian people, their representation and their national rights. The Executive Committee further discussed the contents of the US-Israeli working paper, which represents a new attempt to suppress our people's inalienable national rights, and a one-sided attempt to by-pass the contents of the joint US-Soviet communique, as part of continued attempts to fragment the Arab cause and our national and patriotic rights.

"In Light of information and reports on the various Arab and international positions, the PLO Executive Committee affirmed its stable and principled stand, which can be summarized in the following points:-

1. The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and it expresses their national will at all international conferences and forums.

2. A just peace in the region is conditional on the elimination of Zionist occupation from all of the occupied Arab territories and the regaining of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, at the head of which is their right to return, to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil.

3. Any international conference dealing with the Middle East crisis which does not take the Palestine cause and the rights of the Palestinian people as its basis will meet with failure in the face of the will, the steadfastness, and the determination of our people and the Arab masses.

4. The Executive Committee

salutes the great consciousness, the deep national commitment, and the continuous struggle of our masses under occupation, which were frankly expressed in the recent memoranda of the municipalities the national bodies and personalities, thus dealing a decisive blow to the Israeli-Zionist plans which aim at harming our people's unity.

"The PLO Executive Committee affirms that the unity and solidarity of our people are the essence and the sure guarantee of our people's recovery of their national rights and the achievement of their sovereignty and national independence over the soil of Palestine.

"The Executive Committee sees that all the UN sessions, the stands of various countries and the US-Soviet joint communique, all point clearly to the urgent need to find a legal and political basis suitable for solving the Middle East crisis, which takes into account the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and their right to participate on an equal footing and from the beginning with all parties concerned.

"The Executive Committee will undertake wide-scale contacts on the Arab and international levels in light of the givens of the current situation and the anticipated eventualities, to explain the official Palestinian stand, achieve Arab solidarity based on the Arab summit resolutions, and secure the support of all allied and friendly forces to the Palestinian Arab just rights."



Judaism is not Zionism.

THE ISRAELI BLACK PANTHER MOVEMENT AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

by Faris Glubb

It has become an established policy of the Palestinian resistance, reaffirmed recently at the last meeting of the Palestinian National Council, to seek co-operation with Jews who believe in human equality and democratic values and consequently oppose Zionism. This policy is one of the most important and positive aspects of the whole Palestinian struggle, since it contains the seeds of the new society which the Palestinian people hope to build through their Revolution: the democratic state of Palestine in which Jews can live side by side with Christians and Muslims, enjoying equal status.

In assessing the prospects for the achievement of the Resistance's central aim of establishing this state in the future, a vital fact must be borne in mind. This is

that the racial discrimination of Zionism is directed not only against Palestinian Gentiles, but also many categories of Jews. Specifically, the Oriental and Sephardic Jews (descended from the Jewish communities of Spain and the Middle East, including the small community of ethnic Palestinian Jews who lived in Palestine for centuries before Zionism) and certain dark-skinned Jews like the Afro-American Black Israelites have suffered most harshly from Israeli racial discrimination. (1)

This discrimination practised by the Zionist ruling elite, who are almost all Ashkenazi Jews (descendants of European converts to Judaism from the ancient Khazar Kingdom, Germany, etc.) has led to the rise of the Israeli Black Panther Movement, which

campaigns for the human rights of these "racially inferior" or "coloured" Jews.

The following are some of the aims of the Black Panthers as expressed by leaders of their movement at a meeting:

"We intend to initiate in this country a social revolution, build a new society of which there is still no example anywhere in the world; leftist, but not like the USSR or China; something like the kibbutz, but not exactly. We shall establish a 100 percent egalitarian society."

"We must reach a situation in which we shall fight together with the... Arabs against the establishment. We are the only one who can constitute a bridge of peace with the Arabs in context of a struggle against the establishment."

"We are against colonising that involves dispossession of inhabitants. Therefore we do not distinguish between military and civilian colonisation unlike Mapam, for instance."

One of the Panthers at this meeting, Kokhavi Shemesh, gave an important analysis of the feelings and attitudes of Oriental Jews. He denied, for instance, that Oriental Jews hate the Arabs or have any reason to do so, and maintained that "the establishment is the one that cultivates hatred by means which they had developed already when we were living in Iraq and Morocco. The Jews lived next to the Arabs in Iraq in peace and rest until the emissaries of Zionism came and threw bombs into Jewish centres in order to generate conflicts between us and the Arabs."

Shemesh advocated carrying the struggle for equality and Oriental Jewish emancipation to its logical conclusion: an alliance with that other group oppressed by Zionist racism, the Palestinian people. He stated: "We have carried out meetings with poor people and with Arab youth circles in East Jerusalem, Nablus and other places and with other organisations. It beca-

me evident to us that they are sympathetic to our activity and understand us. In reality the simple Arab identifies with me and it is to be regretted that given the social structure in the country we cannot co-operate with them; we must reach a situation where we can struggle together with the Arabs against the establishment." (2)

The "social structure in the country" to which he refers consists of a set of racial barriers that the Zionist leadership has erected in order to preserve its position and strengthen its racist ideology. Those barriers between Jews as a whole and Arabs are even harder to overcome than those between Western Jews and Oriental Jews. They include the psychological barrier that a group which, like the Oriental Jews, is poor and underprivileged, can often be made to vent their hatred not against their oppressors so much as against another group which is still lower in status in a discriminatory society. An example of this is the "poor white trash", the unskilled white labourers of the Southern United States, who were taught to hate black people even more bitterly than the ruling class did. This is in addition to the much more tangible barrier of inequality before the law, which divides the Jews from Arabs in Israeli society.

THE UPROOTING OF THE IRAQI JEWS

The story of the Iraqi Jews, which Shemesh mentioned, is an interesting illustration of the methods used by the Zionists to exploit the Oriental Jews in order to further racist aims. In 1948, the Jewish community of Iraq consisted of some 130,000. According to the Black Panther Movement, the Iraqi Jews were "a thriving community, with a high percentage of educated people. The management of the whole Iraqi economy was in the hands of its financiers, bankers and merchants. The representation of the Jewish community in Parliament was safeguarded by the Constitution, and almost in every Iraqi cabinet, there was at least one Jewish minister.

"The community had no experience of pogroms and of persecutions in the range common to Eastern Europe. Only once was there a pogrom; it was in 1941, during the rule of the pro-Nazi Prime Minister, Rashid Ali Al Kaylani..."

Following "encounters" between the police and Zionists trying to organise the emigration of Iraqi Jews, "suddenly, on Purim (March) 1950, the government made an astounding announcement. Every Iraqi Jew wanting to leave Iraq would be able to declare his voluntary waiving of the Iraqi citizenship. It was clear that this was meant for those wanting to go to Israel. In the explanation which appeared in the newspapers, it was said: "The encounters between the police and emigrant groups showed that some Iraqi Jews do not want to live in this country. Through their fleeing they give a bad name to Iraq. Those who do not wish to live among us have no place here. Let them go."

Not many Jews responded to the government's offer, so the Zionists decided to give a stimulus for emigration. "On the last day of Passover the Jewish masses of Baghdad went, as their custom, to walk along the Euphrates to celebrate the 'Sea Song'. At the most

crowded hours, there were on the esplanade almost 50,000 Jews — men, women and children. At 9 o'clock p.m., their number had already decreased. Most of them had gone back to their homes to have dinner. Yet Al Nawwas Street was still crowded with Jewish walkers.

"Inside the Dar Al Bayda coffee-house, intellectual Jewish youngsters were seated. Suddenly, a car passed by the place. A small object was thrown from it, while it was still moving, and exploded immediately on the sidewalk. By pure chance no one was hurt.

"The explosion reverberated throughout all Iraq. The shock was particularly felt by the Jews. They were convinced that Iraqi terrorists had tried to kill Jews... 'It is better to go to Israel, the hesitant started saying to one another..."

"When the first night had passed, it was evident that not every Iraqi Jew wanted to leave. Following the bomb on the sidewalk, only some ten thousand Jews registered themselves."

A second bomb outrage occurred, then a third. "This time, there were victims: a boy was killed and an old man wounded. The place: the Mas'uda Shemtov synagogue..."

"This time, there was no doubt in the Jews' hearts: an anti-Jewish organisation was plotting against them. It would be better if they left Iraq while they still had the time... When the registration finished, all the Iraqi Jews — except for a mere 5,000 had registered to come to Israel."

The Iraqi Parliament passed a law confiscating the property of those who had renounced their citizenship. "The wealthy community was left unexpectedly indigent."

Three months after the period for the renunciation of citizenship expired, the Iraqi authorities uncovered a Zionist espionage and sabotage ring. "The Iraqis arrested 15 men. The indictment was sensational. The prosecutor charged: the prisoners were members of the Zionist underground, they had weapons caches, and it was they who threw the three mysterious bombs. Their goal: to frighten the Jews and to push them to emigrate as fast as possible..."

"Other threads of the story can be found in Israel. One of them is Kaduri Salim. He is 49 but looks 60. He is thin, almost hunch-backed, creased-face and with a glass eye: he lost his right eye at the door of the Mas'uda Shemtov synagogue. He recounts:

"I was standing there beside the synagogue door. I had already waived my Iraqi citizenship, and wanted to know what was new. Suddenly, I heard a sound like a gun report. Then a terrible noise. I felt a blow, as if a wall had fallen on me. Everything went black around me. I felt something cold running down my cheek, I tou-

ched it — it was blood. The right eye. I closed my left eye, and didn't see a thing. The doctor told me: 'It's better to take it out'."

"He remained in Iraq for three months after leaving the hospital. Then his turn to leave for Israel arrived. The ex-clerk was sent to an immigration camp. Since then, all his efforts to receive compensations have been in vain. He claimed: 'I was hurt by the bomb. The Court of Law established that the bomb was thrown by 'The Movement'. The Israel government has to give me compensations.'"

"But the Israel government does not recognise its responsibility for the Baghdad bombs and, anyhow, cannot recognise him as hurt in action. 'I am ready to be a victim for the State,' he said, 'but when the situation at home is bad, when my wife wants money and there isn't any, what is the self-sacrifice and goodwill worth?'"

"A community that ruled over most of the resources of Iraq — which was the most developed of the states of the area — was turned into a ruled group, discriminated against and oppressed in every aspect. A community whose own ethics together with charity were its most important values, was turned into a group caught between the wheels of the Ashkenazi culture, which is totally foreign to it. From a unified and cultural community, delinquents of every kind grew in Israel from among its midst. A community which used to produce splendid sons could raise only 'handicapped' sons in Israel. (3)

The Zionists have recently indicated that they intend to raise the question of compensation for Jewish "refugees" from the Arab countries at the Geneva conference. The foregoing facts demonstrate that the responsibility, and the obligation to compensate, for the uprooting of these Jews from their original homelands and their subsequent subjection to a life of hardship, degradation and second-class citizenship, rests with the Zionist leadership, not with the Arab countries.

The Israeli Black Panthers express the Oriental and Sephardic Jews' rejection of the racial discrimination of which they are the victims. A letter from an Oriental Jew to an Israel soldier, published by the Black Panthers, outlines the grievances of the oppressed Jews: the harmfulness of the social circumstances in which they are forced to live and which corrupt the morality of their children; unhealthy and overcrowded housing, and discrimination in the allocation of accommodation. "I don't understand," the Oriental Jew wrote, "why only for me 'there is no money'. There are immigrants, there are Security matters, and there is... and there is... and only for me there isn't."

"When they wanted to invest in Iran and Uganda — countries foreign to us — they could find enough money to lose there some good millions, and when they built the Hilton Hotel, there wasn't any budget problem. You surely remember the government covering the banks deficit; also for this, there was money..."

"Dear brother! My suffering is great, and I am expecting some help from you. It might be that you are far away in Sinai, in the West Bank, in the Golan Heights, or somewhere else in the country. You have a weapon in your hand and you hope to forestall any evil. In these tense moments, I want you to know something very important: you are not defending me. I don't have any possessions to be taken care of, and my life is no life. What you are doing is to defend those who oppress me."

"You are defending them, brother, and thus you cause them to go on oppressing me."

"You can stop my suffering. You are among those who have the power to influence the social structure."

"With your silence you are again defending the rich and those who rule the country. All your efforts do nothing to better my life. You could change my situation in no time. Organise your

friends in your unit, send petitions to the leaders of the country. Tell all concerned to change the situation of the poor in the country."

"Remember, brother: your function in the Army is also to defend me. Please do so." (4)

The Panthers have also exposed the farce of the handful of Oriental Jews that are allowed to join the ruling elite, whose presence does not alter the fact that the masses of Oriental and Sephardic Jews suffer from severe discrimination. According to the Panthers, "there is no difference between Ya'ari and Begin, just as there is no difference between Sapir and Dayan or Golda and Shlomo Hillel, Yeshaayahu or Navon. They are all members of the 'two hundred families' that determine things in the state, hold the reins of power, constitute the establishment and out of their ranks all the senior administration is taken. All the talk about nominating Yeshaayahu as the Knesset Chairman in order to give representation to the Oriental communities only makes us laugh. That is lip-service and nothing else, since they too are members of the two hundred families."

"We (the Panthers) have made a survey and found that we could win at least two delegates in the Knesset, but we shall not go for that, since, given the conditions of our establishment, there is no possibility of initiating changes in the Knesset. At the moment, we don't care if 120 Ashkenazis will sit in the Knesset. They don't count anyway. The senior administration, nominated by the government, is the one that determines things. It is to be regretted that among more than three hundred senior officials ranking grades 1 — 3 there are no more than nine whose origins are of the Oriental community, and those too are from among the two hundred privileged families." (5)

THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BLACK JEWS

Like their Oriental and Sephardic brethren, black-skinned Jews are also victims of discrimination under the Zionist system. This ra-

cism is directed in particular against the "Black Hebrews" or "Black Israelites", a group of Black American Jews. One Jewish writer, Yo'elah Har-Shefi, compiled a list of 42 Black Israelite children who were being denied education in Israeli schools, many of which apply a colour bar. "What emerges is that in Israel all children are equal before the law, only black children are just a little less equal," according to Har-Shefi. The law defines "a child, meaning a person, who at the beginning of the school year was five to thirteen years of age." The writer comments: "Therefore, (unless a law explicitly legislating differently is passed in Parliament), the children of the 'Black Israelites' are entitled to free compulsory education and the State is under responsibility to them, unless we all agreed that a black child does not count as a 'person'."

Black Jews can be excluded from the privileges granted to Jews under the Israelis' so-called "Law of Return". This law in theory allows all Jews to claim Israeli nationality, although Black Israelites are seldom granted this, and most of them are allowed only temporary residence permits. The Black Israelites' spokesman has pointed out: "The children who go to schools are the children of the 'privileged' among our community, who have arrived first to Israel and have got official documents (of permanent residency). Others, who arrived later, were not granted these documents. When they went to register the kids they were told that they were not official residents in Dimonah. 'We don't have to take care of your children...' The same happens in Arab and Mitzpeh Ramon."

Har-Shefi also cited the case of Adinah Carter, wife of Black Israelite leader Ben-Ami Carter, who gave birth to a daughter in Beer-sheba Central Hospital, but was denied a birth certificate for her. "Indeed an ingenious solution: a black girl was born in the Beer-sheba hospital. But since the Israeli authorities have not yet decided how to deal with her parents — therefore, from the Ministry of

Interior's point of view she was only born *de facto* not *de jure*..."

"When Havah Carter reaches the age of compulsory kindergarten attendance, the Registrar's official will presumably want to see her birth certificate, and will then say: 'If she has no birth certificate — she cannot be registered...' And the same will apply when her time comes to go to school. And when Havah Carter grows up and understands what has been perpetrated against her, she will be able to stand up and declare: 'I was born in a racist state, in Israel, where I did not get a birth certificate because I am black; where I was not admitted to school because I am black.'" (6)

Such discrimination may eventually bring the Black Israelites to realise the value of an alliance with the other groups that are oppressed by Zionist racism, namely, the Palestinian people and the Oriental and Sephardic Jews. Only thus can racism be overthrown and equality established.

The factors necessitating such an alliance were appreciated by Kokhavi Shemesh of the Black Panthers: "How can you explain, for instance, that in Northern Tel Aviv a Moroccan Jew becomes part of the same 'category' as the Arabs? And how can you explain, according to nationalistic ideology, the fact that the treatment shown towards Oriental Jews in general, is similar to that shown towards the Arabs?"

"Reality shows, at least to me, that there is no difference between the Arabs and me. The only difference is the religious origins." (7)

References:

- (1) For details on racial discrimination against Oriental Jews, see article in "Palestine"
- (2) "Maariv," 11 April 1972.
- (3) "The Black Panther," 9 November 1972
- (4) "Ibid."
- (5) "Maariv," 11 April 1972
- (6) "Yediot Aharonot," 18 February 1972.
- (7) "Matzpen," January 1973.

Full English translations of the above-quoted articles can be found in Documents from Israel 1967-1973, edited by Uri Davis and Norton Mezvinsky (Ithaca Press, London, 1975).

TWO KNESSET MEMBERS DEMAND DETERRENCE OF SHAHAK

Tel Aviv, 27/10. —

Two members of the Israeli Knesset have called upon the Israeli Minister of Education to carry out deterrence measures against Israel Shahak, Professor of Organic Chemistry at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, because he condemned Israeli policy in the occupied Arab territories in a testimony to a US Senate committee recently. The Knesset members said that this testimony has done great harm to Israel's reputation and prestige in the US Senate.



Dr. Israel Shahak,
Professor of Organic Chemistry
at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

— AS 45 JEWISH PERSONALITIES CONDEMN POLICY — ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CONTINUES SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS

Jerusalem. —

A press release published in the Israeli newspaper Ha'artz recently and signed by 45 Jewish personalities, including journalists, politicians and writers, denounced the Israeli settlement policy and said that "any attempt to legitimize the activities of the Gush Emunim group will ultimately lead to a new war and to further victims".

The Knesset Settlement Committee, was reported to be working on the establishment of new settlements with the cooperation of the World Zionist Organization, and with the assistance of the Israeli Ministry of War. The settlement committee has moreover assigned a joint committee to supervise West Bank settlements, and decided to appoint responsables in each settlement whose main task would be to plan for the enlargement of the settlements and choose appropriate emplacements for prospective colonies.

In related news, Israeli TV on October 26, reported that the Government had allocated 88 million Israeli pounds as a contribution to settlement activities in the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the government has adopted a resolution to officially transform the military camps occupied by Gush Emunim members into tax-exempt civilian settlements.

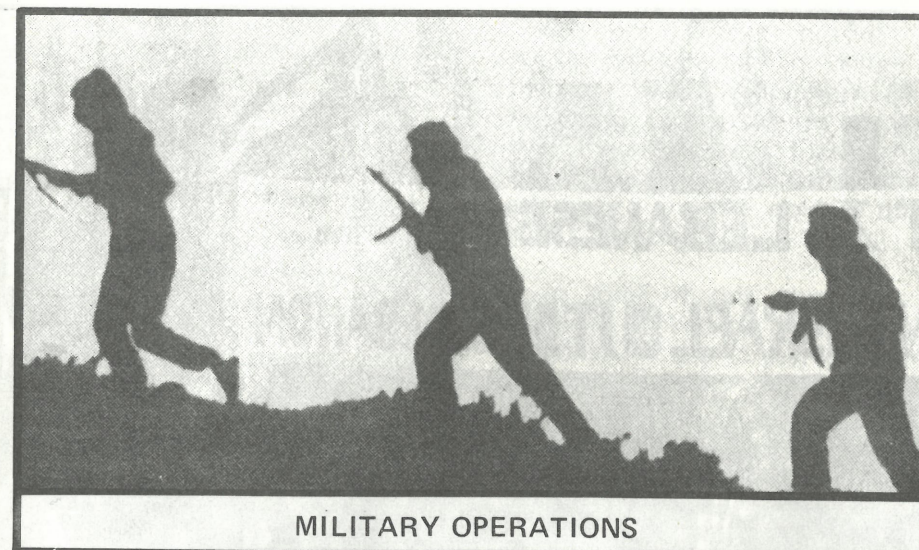
HARKABI RESIGNS AS BEGIN ADVISOR

Tel Aviv,

Reserve Brig. General Yehosaphat Harkabi, Israeli Premier Begin's advisor on countering Palestinian commando activities, has recently submitted his resignation to Begin. Justifying his resignation, Harkabi said he wanted to devote himself to academic work. However, certain sources maintain that the Begin government's reluctance to cooperate with Harkabi, who is a supporter of the defeated Labour Party and a close friend of Yitzhak Rabin, might be one of the main reasons behind his step.



Israeli Prime Minister, Begin.



MILITARY OPERATIONS

EXPLOSIVES IN NABLUS AND RAMALLAH

Palestinian revolutionaries on October 14th, executed two more military operations, one in Nablus and the other in Ramallah-- bringing to 136 the total number of commando attacks this year. The Palestinian Military Spokesman issued the following communiques:-

No. 120/77

One of our combat groups planted timed explosive charges inside the Israeli Labor Exchange in Nablus.

The charges exploded at 8:00PM on October 14, severely wounding the guards of the office, and damaging its contents. Israeli troops consequently surrounded the area, and launched a wide-scale search, which resulted in the discovery of another explosive charge under a car parked on Old Cinema Street. The charge was immediately defused by explosives experts, while Israeli police arrested 64 Palestinian citizens for their alleged participation in the operation.

No. 121/77:-

Special unit 'B', planted timed explosive charges under a car belonging to the Zionist military administration in Ramallah, while it was parked in Market Square in al-Bira.

The charges exploded at

8:05PM on October 14th, killing the driver and destroying the car. Consequently, Israeli police surrounded the area and arrested several Palestinian citizens who happened to be passing by.

Radio Israel, on October 16, admitted that the two blasts which rocked Jerusalem on October 11, caused heavy losses, including damage to the city's water network.

EXPLOSIVES IN TEL AVIV BUS STATION

Beirut.

Palestinian commandos on October 21, planted charges which exploded at the Central Bus Station in Tel Aviv, in the 138th Palestinian military operation this year. The Palestinian Military Spokesman issued the following communique:-

No. 123/77:-

A commando unit on October 21, planted timed explosive charges in the southern section of the Central Bus Station in Tel Aviv. At 3:15PM on the same day, the charges exploded with a blast which shook the whole area and wrecked the southern section of the bus station.

The enemy casualties, as reported later, included two wounded. One of the buses parked near the station was damaged and the windows of a number of other buses were shattered.

CHARGE KILLS EXPLOSIVES EXPERT

An Israeli explosives expert was killed on October 25, 1977, while trying to defuse a charge planted by Palestinian revolutionaries at the Israeli Army's flour mills in Bir Sabe'. The Palestinian Military Spokesman issued the following communique:-

No. 125/77:-

Our revolutionaries at 1:00AM on October 25, planted timed explosive charges inside the flour mills belonging to the Israeli army in Bir Sabe'. But when at 2:15AM the charges were discovered, the mills were evacuated while Israeli troops closed off all the roads leading to the area. However, a Zionist explosives expert, who was called up to defuse the charges, was killed on the spot when the bomb exploded in his hands. Several Israeli frontier guards who were standing nearby were also injured.

Following the incident, Israeli police arrested 47 Palestinian citizens of whom 22 are still under detention.

COMMANDO OPERATION IN PETAH TIKVA

Beirut,

A Palestinian commando on October 26, wounded a number of Israelis when he threw several hand grenades at a Petah Tikva coffee shop usually frequented by Israeli officers. The Palestinian Military Spokesman issued the following communique: No. 126/77:-

One of our commandos at 10:30PM on October 26th threw hand grenades into a coffee shop in the settlement of Petah Tikva. The blast wrecked the shop and wounded an unknown number of Israelis, most of them officers, who were later rushed to a hospital. Following the incident, Israeli security forces carried out an intensive search for suspects.

This morning, Radio Israel reported that an explosion rocked a coffee shop near Tel Aviv, and that eight people were wounded, three of them severely. It added that many Palestinian citizens were arrested in Petah Tikva and the neighbouring area.



Demonstration against Israeli aggression in South Lebanon, Melbourne, October 2, 1977.

A History of The Middle East Debate in Australia

This report was written by Comrade **TASMA OCKENDEN**, 1976, President of the Australian Union of Students who is now visiting Lebanon.

The 1973 October war was the initial catalyst of the rising Middle East debate in Australia. Prior to that, there was little knowledge of Arab nations and the Palestinian issue. The Zionist hegemony of propaganda was virtually complete and it suited the pro-Zionist section of the Jewish community, to maintain a relatively low profile on the issues.

In July 1973, immediately preceding the October war, the first glimmerings of a new awakening in public and political consciousness

emerged. The Australian Labor Party (A.L.P.) Federal Conference at Surfers Paradise, which was a self-congratulatory affair held a few months after the Labor win in the 1972 elections, did manage to have a debate on the Middle East, with Victorian Federal Executive member Bill Hartley, intervening on behalf of the Palestinians. It was the first time that the issue had been closely canvassed in a Labor conference.

The pro-Palestinian motions fared poorly, but their presence on the agenda acted as an agent for slightly improving the previous policy of the party, which was bland commitment to Israel. An approach to the Palestinian issue emerged from that conference described by the then Prime Minister, Mr. Gough Whitlam, as "even-handed". The "even-handed" stance

was interpreted in various ways. With pro-Zionist groups saying it leaned towards the Arabs, and pro-Arab groups, pointing out that the new Labor policy recognized a continuation of the state of Israel, saying it leaned towards the Zionists.

The Australian Union of Students (A.U.S.), which had been active in the Vietnam anti-war moratoriums and the anti-South African Springbok campaign, took up the Palestinian issue. By 1976 this national body included 76 campuses with a membership of 250,000 tertiary students, Australia's largest union. The A.U.S. National Councils of 1974 and 1975, condemned the imperialist nature of the Zionist state as well as its intrinsic racism exemplified in the Law of Return, and endorsed the concept of democratic secular Pa-

lestine, with the P.L.O. as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The issue was then taken to general meetings for debate on each of the campuses. Such a method of grass-roots ratification of new policy resolutions can be demanded by 10 percent of the campuses, and is in general a highly educative process.

Ratification of the pro-Palestinian motions was however defeated in both years, with Zionist organizations paying the expenses of prominent supporters to travel throughout the country. A marked improvement in the pro-Palestinian vote in the second year of the campus debate was insufficient to win a majority nation-wide. In 1975, the A.U.S. Council sponsored a national speaking tour of two representatives from the General Union of Palestinian Students.

There was a riot outside the A.U.S. headquarters in Melbourne the day that the two arrived in Australia, with pictures splashed over the newspapers that evening, and Zionist elements continued to attempt to provoke violence throughout the tour.

In spite of this, thousands of students flocked to the Palestinian meetings in the largest gatherings seen on campus that year, and A.U.S. was able to arrange a national televised debate between the G.U.P.S. speaker and the political affairs spokesman from the Australian Union of Jewish Students. The Palestinian speaker clearly overwhelmed his opponent with rational argument in an hour-long "live" session on the current affairs program which has the highest ratings in the country. For many Australians, this was the first time they had heard the Palestinians' case for justice in the Middle East. Late in 1975, at a General Conference in Thailand, the National Union of Israeli Students was expelled from the Asian Students Association, the regional body of which A.U.S. is a founding member.

This period of debate saw Friends of Palestine groups organized on a number of university and Advanced College campuses, a development which is continuing. Reflecting the economic power and affluence of the Jewish community, Zionists have a heavy presence at the higher levels of education and vigorously combatted the A.U.S. leadership which continued to de facto support the Palestinian cause throughout 1976. Many students joined trade unionists and Arab communities in demonstrations against the Australian visit of Israeli General, Moshe Dayan in that year. The Zionist student element dropped all "leftist" cover they once used to join forces with the growing right-wing on the Australian campus scene. They were backed by the conservative Fraser Government, which came to power after the constitutional coup of November 1975, in an attempt to crush the National Students' Union. One of the encouraging signs was, and is the emergence of

the embryo of Jewish anti-Zionist groups on tertiary campuses.

In the meantime, the second Federal Conference of the A.L.P. in government, held in 1975, saw the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, at Mr. Whitlam's own suggestion, recommending a more specific recognition of Palestinian national rights. Unfortunately long debates on the economy and the exhaustion of time allocated for foreign affairs on a debate concerning recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, precluded any Middle East consideration. Pro-Zionist sections of this conference were just as hostile towards Mr. Whitlam, then Prime Minister, for this interpretation of policy as they were towards specifically pro-Arab elements in the Party. It is probably the emergence of divisions on the question in the A.L.P. which has done most to put Middle East issues onto the front page of Australian newspapers. Any process of division within the Labor Party is always leapt upon by the heavily monopolised establishment press. The press virulently attacked both Mr. Whitlam and Mr. Hartley during the Iraqi funds affair of the 1975 election campaign.

In common with their counterparts throughout the Western world, the Australian Jewish community is well organized for pro-Israeli activity with an extensive network of Zionist organizations. On the national level the most important Zionist Organizations are the Australian and New Zealand Zionist Federations, which in turn is affiliated to the World Zionist Organization. The Zionist Federation has a fairly large staff at its immediate disposal, also acting as an agency through which other resources can be applied, for example, the closely related Australian — Israeli Publications. Financed both by Israel and by the local Zionist community, they have telex connections with Tel Aviv and the Israeli Embassy in Canberra, and disseminates Israeli propaganda to Australian news media. The Zionist Federation, is as well, the agency providing re-

cruiters to travel around the country pushing Australian Jews to emigrate to Israel.

The Zionist lobby has an easy time within the ruling conservative coalition, whose foreign policy closely follows that of the U.S.A. It is more concerned to organize within the A.L.P., which maintains a strong working class base and represents a greater potential danger in turning anti-Zionist. The Zionists have an extremely well-placed ally in Mr. Bob Hawke, the aptly-named president of both the A.L.P.'s non-parliamentary wing and the Australian Council of Trade Unions. Heavily promoted by the monopoly press to replace Whitlam as the leader of the A.L.P., Hawke is totally committed to Israel, which he has visited frequently, acting as its roving ambassador. Hawke was instrumental in establishing a Zionist faction within the A.L.P. called "Friends of Israel". His support has in fact been recognized by the Zionist entity in their naming after him of parklands in occupied Palestine.

A leaflet produced this year by the Melbourne-based Palestine-Australia Solidarity Committee for May 15, set aside as "Palestine Struggle Day" (coinciding with the date of the declaration of the state of Israel and so the formal dispossession of the Palestinian Arabs of their land), explains Hawke's ties with Zionism: "Why does a man who claims to support the ordinary working people involve himself in a campaign to carry out aggression against Arab people, steal their land, and deny them their rights?"

"Besides being wined and dined in Israel, Hawke sees a lot of what he likes there, particularly the Israeli labour federation, the Histadrut. The Histadrut is part of the Zionist state apparatus. It is involved in many business dealings with national and multi-national corporations, owns many industries, and is the largest employer in Israel. It also has a trade union department, but there is obviously a conflict between its trade union function and its employer function. The Histadrut, also is used to channel money from the U.S.A. for military and police training in third

world countries. Because in these countries such U.S. "aid" has become unpopular, it has been done through the Histadrut. This is the body that Hawke tried to utilise by getting it to invest in his ill-fated building business scheme.

"In his moves to try and drag the union movement into capitalism, Hawke has used his position and his knowledge gained from discussions with Histadrut officials to learn their tricks. Travel agencies, department stores, shipping lines, building firms — these are only the start. Trade union money which could be used to support striking workers and their families would be invested in business schemes instead."

"Hawke's positions provide him with a good atmosphere to try and pull the wool over workers' eyes. And he has certainly tried that before. Now whenever a strike is in progress, Hawke is called on to "get them back to work"; time and time again he has bent over backwards not to antagonise the Prime Minister, Fraser. Hawke, now wants to trade off rises in our wages for unspecified tax cuts. (These emerged in the August Federal Budget to be limited to the employing class, in the interest of a so-called "business-led economic recovery"). We believe that it is both timely and necessary to remove Hawke from office, in the interests of both the Australian workers and the Palestinian people. Australian workers and Palestinian people also share the same common enemy, U.S. imperialism, and a common interest in struggling against Zionism, racism, capitalism and all forms of imperialism."

Clearly, the anti-Zionist forces in Australia face a long and difficult struggle. For example, unlike many Palestinian solidarity organizations in Europe, they have yet to achieve the entrance of the P.L.O. into the country. Particular problems exist in the widely accepted Australian government compliance with American foreign policy. Australia's own long history of racism demonstrated both in the remaining elements of the "White Australia" policy, the denial of aboriginal land rights

and the lack of politicization of Australians generally, as reflected in the relatively small base of support for the revolutionary left organizations. In terms of information, political pressure and propaganda, the Zionists start out with the overwhelming advantage of a substantial Jewish community which holds political and economic influence disproportionate to its numbers. However, this advantage is being increasingly challenged.

The Palestine-Australia Committee was set up specifically to organize for the entry of P.L.O. delegations to Australia. The Sydney-based Friends of Palestine, among other educative functions, publishes a bi-monthly journal called *Palestine Forum*. Other Arab press includes *El Telegraph* and *Middle East News*. In Melbourne there is the Arab Information Bureau, the Palestine — Australia Solidarity Committee and the United Palestinian Workers group, all active in information and campaign work. The Australian socialist trade union newspaper *Scope*, publishes pro-Palestinian material and the community run radio station 3CR has a bi-weekly program called "Palestine Speaks". The Alternate News Service, established by media officers of the Australian Union of Students four years ago and now continued as an independent organ, circulates information to the student and left-wing press with a regular section dealing with the Palestinian struggle.

All this solidarity work is gradually having a wider affect. This year has seen a daily establishment newspaper, *The Age*, publish material taken from the *Sunday Times* supplement on the torture of political prisoners in occupied Palestine. The weekly *National Times* runs articles on internal Israeli economic problems, and the Australian Broadcasting Commission describes the close relationship between Australian, Israeli and American intelligence services. The Zionist propaganda machine is at last turning to the defensive. Australian solidarity organizations, with the Palestinian struggle, are firm in their conviction that the ultimate just solution of a democratic secular state, will win through to the Australian people. □

SOLIDARITY NEWS

ARAB STATES ASK EEC TO STOP AID TO ISRAEL

Brussels. —

The member states of the Arab League, have asked the EEC countries to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to stop their economic and military aid to Israel.

The request was incorporated in a speech delivered by the head of the Arab delegation to the opening session of the Arab - European dialogue in Brussels on October 26, 1977.

The head of the Arab delegation also asked EEC members to take effective steps against the Israeli policy of annexation, rather than just issue statements of denunciation as they did in the past.

It is worth recalling that a PLO delegation headed by Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani is taking part in this year's seminar.

SECURITY COUNCIL MAY DISCUSS COMMITTEE OF TWENTY REPORT ON OCTOBER 25

New York,

The President of the current session of the UN Security Council expressed his hope that the council can meet on the 25th of October to study the report presented by the Committee of Twenty for the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights.

The above-mentioned report calls for the establishment of a time-table to organize the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes, the exercise of their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state.

In related news, the UN General Assembly is due to study a number of important issues related to the Palestine question on Octo-

ber 24, on the basis of a memorandum presented by the Arab states. Among the most important of these issues will be Israel's expansionist and aggressive measures and the settlement operations undertaken by the Zionist authorities in the occupied territories.

WALDHEIM: "PALESTINIAN QUESTION ESSENCE OF M.E. CONFLICT"

UN Secretary-General Dr. Kurt Waldheim, declared that a settlement of the Middle East conflict cannot be attained without solving the Palestine question, in accordance with UN resolutions. He reaffirmed in an interview published in the Syrian *Baath* newspaper on October 11, the necessity of the participation of the PLO in any just solution to the Palestine question and the Middle East conflict.

He added: "The withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights are the main problems facing any anticipated settlement to the Middle East conflict."

Waldheim pointed out that the insistence of the PLO on having a new resolution issued by the Security Council, clearly confirms the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on the soil of their homeland.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES ZIONIST SETTLEMENTS

The UN-General Assembly on October 25, will start discussion of Israeli settlement measures in occupied Palestine. Egypt is expected to present a draft resolution to the General Assembly, stressing the illegality of Israel's establishment of settlements in the occupied territories. The resolution demands that the Zionist authorities refrain from introducing any change in the geographical, demographic or judicial status of the occupied territories,

including Jerusalem. It is to be recalled that the Arab Foreign Ministers in their last meeting decided to lay the settlement issue before the General Assembly.

SECURITY COUNCIL INVITES PLO TO TAKE PART IN DEBATE

New York,

The UN Security Council on October 28, invited the PLO representative to the UN to take part in the discussions on the report presented by the Committee of 23 for the Exercise by the Palestinian People of their inalienable rights. The PLO's participation was requested by the head of the committee and the Senegalese representative to the UN. The Council overrode US objections and the vote was 10 to one, with Britain, Canada, France and West Germany abstaining.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONTINUES DISCUSSION OF ZIONIST SETTLEMENTS

New York,

During the deliberations of the UN General Assembly on Israeli practices in the occupied territories, the Tunisian permanent Ambassador to the United Nations on October 27, announced that Israeli practices in the occupied territories are neither a coincidence nor accidental, but rather part of an overall strategy aimed at annexing these territories through their gradual seizure.

The Omani representative called for a denunciation of Israeli expansionist policy, adding that all Zionist governments have implemented a single plan for the establishment of colonies, in order to discourage any initiative for a just and permanent peace in the region.

Qatar's Ambassador in turn described Israeli settlements as an extension of the Zionist military institution.

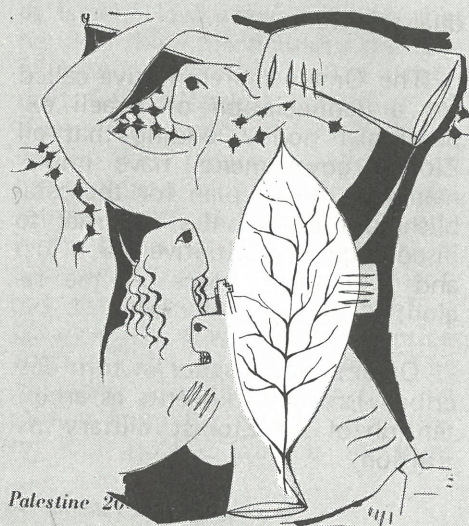
The speeches delivered by Bulgaria, Rumania, Japan, Iran and Benin unanimously stressed that the occupation of land by the use of force contradicts the UN charter; and affirmed the necessity of restoring all occupied territories and of respecting the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and statehood.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION AFFIRMS SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Sofia. —

In a report submitted to the 12th conference of the International Students Federation, which opened in Sofia on October 26, the Federation's Executive Committee called for the necessity of carrying out campaigns of solidarity with the Palestinian people, and with the peoples of South Africa, Angola, Chile, Vietnam, Northern Ireland, and Cyprus.

In related news, Muhammad Abu Kosh, member of the National Union of Students (NUS) in Britain on October 26, denounced the British Student Union's decision to submit to the NUS conference next December, a resolution discrediting any student union which condemns Zionist organizations. He described this attempt as "a way to divert the attention of world public opinion from the essence of the Palestine question".



The Palestinian Cinema



The Neo-Fascism.

"Through the cinema and photography, we can transmit and propagate the concepts of the Revolution among the masses, and so preserve its continuity."

It is in that spirit that the photographic (and later cinema) section was established, and then developed.

In fact, committed cinema, like any other revolutionary art form, is an integral part of the popular struggle. The importance of the committed cinema is apparent on two essential levels:

First, the committed cinema must be able to reach the masses concerned, expressing the reality lived by the Palestinian people in the struggle, their needs and aspirations. It must also clearly reflect the spirit of the armed struggle which the Palestinian people are waging.

Secondly, the committed cinema addresses the world as a whole. In

this perspective, its role becomes purely informative. International public opinion must know what the Palestinian cause really is. For this, the Palestinian cinema must bring out productions which enable one to go back to the origin of the problem, to reveal the historical data and finally explain regional and international developments. The Palestinian people's hardships have remained unknown to world opinion for a long time and continues to this day to have quite a superficial view of them. The committed cinema thus has the task of showing what the Palestinian reality is, and particularly the determination which unites this people as a whole; in fact, the women, men, children, the population of the occupied territories as well as all the Palestinians scattered outside their country, all are motivated by the same aspirations, and each one fights within the framework of his particular and appropriate contribution, for their achievement.



THE BEGINNINGS OF THE PALESTINIAN CINEMA INSTITUTE as described by HANI JAWHARIEH

The very first activities of the photographic section were carried out before it even obtained appropriate premises and equipment. They began towards the end of 1967 and were confined to photographs of the martyrs of the Revolution.

However, at the beginning of 1968, the need to set up an archives section for the Revolution became more and more urgent. But the absence of the financial and technical requirements made this undertaking difficult. Initially, therefore, the work was carried out in a secret manner in a department belonging to one of the Arab countries.

The situation remained unchanged until the battle of Karame, when the Revolution became the object of attention of the international press and the world showed a lively interest in the identity of those who had fought a non-stop fight determinedly for 19 hours. It was a new form of combat, hitherto unknown in the region, which no Arab army had undertaken since the disastrous 1967 defeat. There was a great need to acquire photographic and cinema equipment which would



enable the Revolution to spread its message, particularly following certain negative experiences (though not all were such) with photographers who did not belong to the Revolution. This latter factor led to the intensification of efforts aimed at establishing a photographic section.

It was then that one of the leaders of Fatah met with the founders of the Institute. They determined the three principal functions that the Institute should fulfill:

- Documentary
- Informational
- Journalistic.

The question of the cinema was likewise considered, and it was decided to leave this aside pending the acquisition of a camera, and to concentrate for the time being on perfecting the "photographic" part.

It was necessary first of all to find a workshop: a kitchen in an

apartment which at that time contained all the sections of the Revolution. This kitchen served both as a photographic studio and a darkroom. The Institute began its work with the most rudimentary equipment: primitive apparatus and a massive dryer which worked with the help of a gas heater.

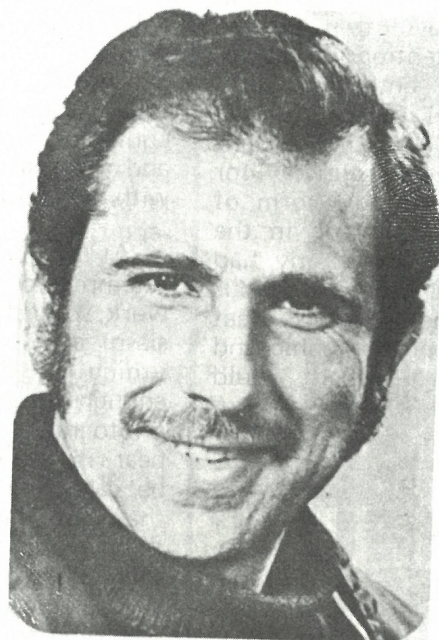
At the beginning, there was an attempt to fix a plan for the work, but this failed since enthusiasm and excitement caused everything to be forgotten. It was enough at that time for a simple photograph of combatants to appear in the newspapers for us to be carried away with delight that the team had accomplished something great. The simple act of photographing represented a militant and revolutionary action. We were searching for the particular photographic form that could be the real expression of the Revolution; be that as it may, we returned a little while later to the main aims that we had assigned ourselves. As for the archives section, the largest possible number of documents was collected. These covered the historical facts with regard to the launching of the Revolution.

In my opinion, the most noteworthy event for the section was the "Karame exhibition" in March 1969. The particular importance of this show lay in the fact that it was held in Wahdat refugee camp. It was the first time that our people were able to see these photographs which told them about the Revolution, and which showed them their children, the combatants. It was also the first time that they found themselves again and found the expression of their aspirations and their hope in the Revolution. The success achieved through this exhibition made it possible from then onwards to buy good quality equipment.

Towards the end of the summer of 1969, the staff of the section was doubled and it became possible to cover a greater range of activities in a shorter space of time. The section began acquiring



The Militant Cinema Martyr



Le Martyr du Cinema Militant.

« من خلال الصورة الثابتة والمتحركة نستطيع ايصال ونشر مفاهيم الثورة والحفاظ على استمراريتها » .
هاني جوهريه

«Through the still and moving picture, we can transmit and propagate the concepts of the Revolution to the masses, and preserve its continuity.»

Hani Jawharieh

Par la photo et le cinéma on peut transmettre et propager les concepts de la révolution, et préserver sa continuité.

Hani Jawharieh.

HANI JAWHARIEH THE FIGHTING CAMERA

Born in Jerusalem in 1939, **Hani Jawharieh** studied the art of the cinema in Cairo and London. In 1967, he was one of the founders of the Cinema and Photography Unit in the Fatah movement, which subsequently became the Palestinian Cinema Institute. He was the first person to film the operations of the Palestinian revolutionaries in the occupied territory.

From 1968 onwards, he undertook the establishment of the first archives of films and photographs on the Palestinian Revolution.

He died a martyr on April 11, 1976, on the Aintoura Heights (Lebanon), while he was filming battles between the progressive and national forces allied to the Palestinian Revolution and the isolationist and reactionary forces.

His films were:

1967 "Exodus 67", which tells of the exodus of the Palestinians after the 1967 war.
1968 "Scorched Earth", a film on the Zionist attacks against the

a structure appropriate to the standard for organising the archives. Furthermore, we were able shortly afterwards to have access to the most modern photographic equipment. All this contributed to the improvement of our production.

It was then that the cinema activities began to be developed. We borrowed a 16 mm camera, filming the largest possible number of events, without setting ourselves a precise plan. We knew, in fact, that some revolutionary movements had found themselves again, at the time of liberation, through films on the period before it. We wanted at all costs to avoid having to resort in future to foreign sources in order to recover documents which were precious material for the Revolution.

At the end of 1969, the section obtained a modern cine camera, enabling it to carry on its work at a higher level. The first cinema production was brought out at the time of the Rogers Plan for a settlement of the Middle East problem. The film was called "No... No to the Capitulationist Solution." At the time of the September massacres in Jordan, the activities of the section were centred on that crucial event. The documents collected were used for the production of a documentary film: "By our souls and our blood".

peasants of the Jordan Valley. 1969 "No to the Capitulationist Solution" and "Palestinian Rights".

Between 1967 & 1969 "Flower of Cities" and "The Bridge of the Return."

1970 "By our Souls and our Blood", a film on the massacres of 1970, carried out by the Jordanian regime against the Palestinian masses. (In co-operation with Mustafa Abu Ali).

1976 "The Key", a film for the International Habitat Conference in Canada.

THE LEBANON WAR

A documentary film of one hour and 20 minutes, which tells of the two years of war lived by the Palestinian people and the Lebanese people.

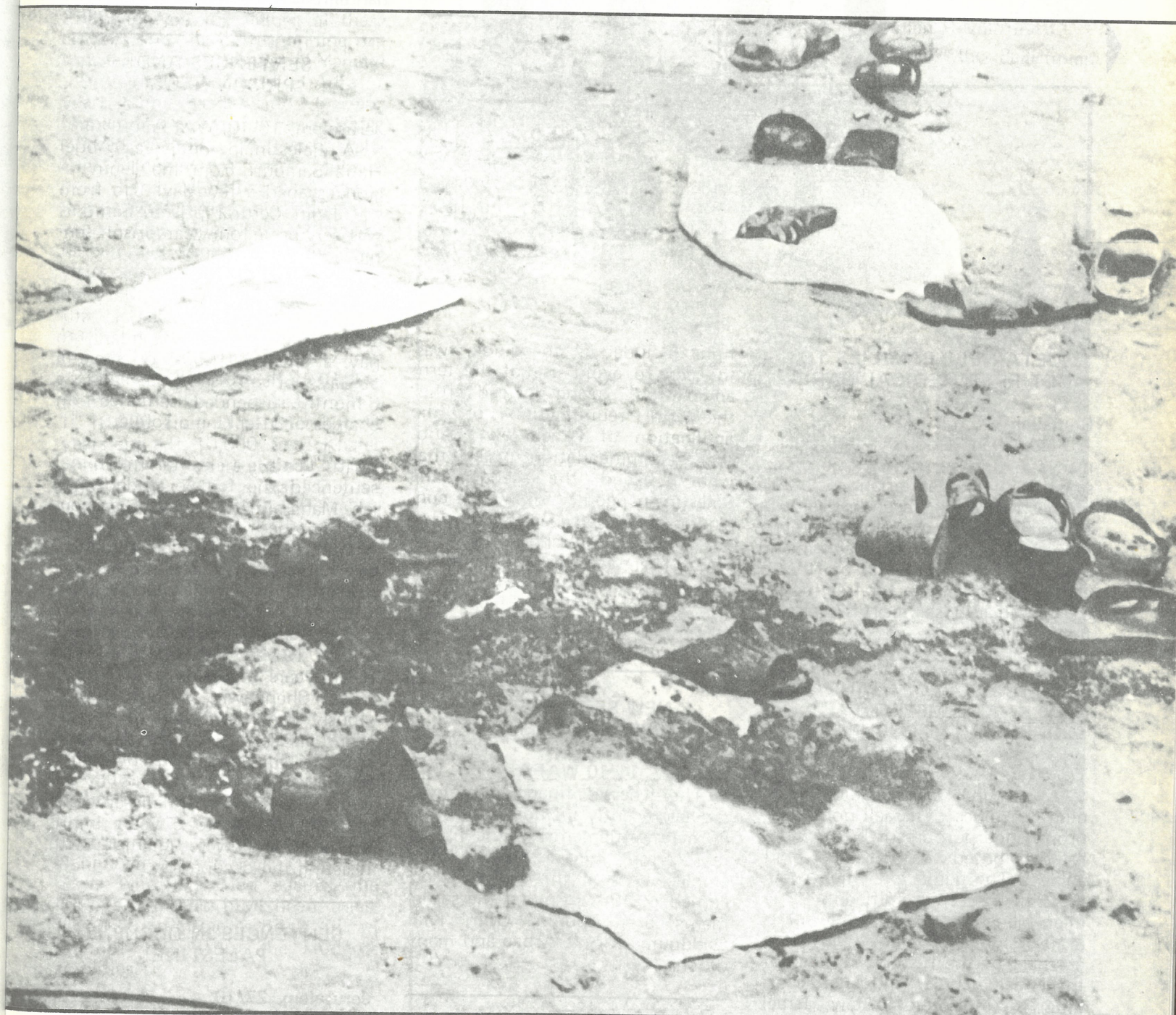
A major part of this documentary is centred on the human and

social tragedy caused by this war. During this period, everyday actions took on a new dimension. Having to queue for hours in front of a bakery often meant exposure to death. However, the population became resigned to it — a scene of death in front of a bakery: the horribly mutilated remains of those who had been trying to obtain something to eat.

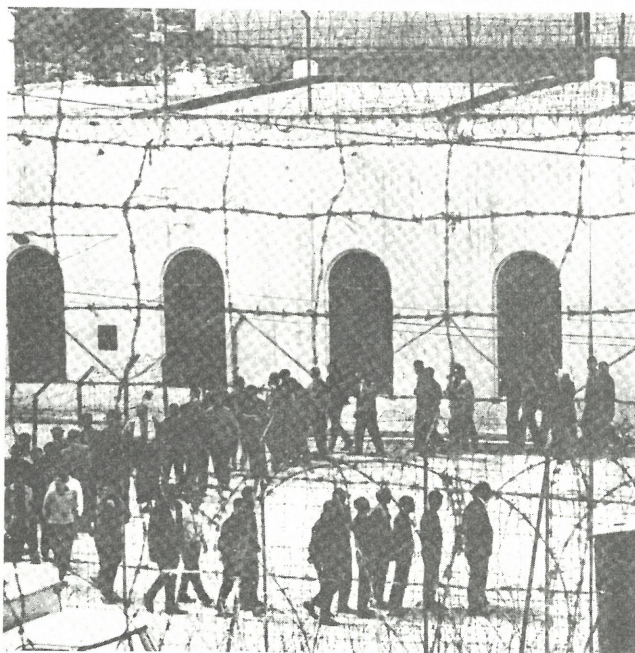
Water was also scarce, and the

attention of all was turned towards ways of obtaining it — children, women, men laden with buckets and jerrycans, in search of a little water.

The film elsewhere traces the different phases of the war in Lebanon, and shows the combatants of the Joint Forces in battle against the isolationists. The various fronts were filmed during the combat.



a scene of death in front of a bakery in Beirut



DETAINEES FAMILIES TO GET FREE MEDICAL CARE

Ramallah. —

Palestinian Doctors and Pharmacists' Unions, as well as professional and humanitarian societies in the West Bank, recently decided to issue medical cards to the relatives and families of Palestinian detainees. The holders of these cards will be eligible for free medical and health services as well as free medicine.

ISRAELI PROPAGANDA ATTEMPTS TO CONSOLIDATE OCCUPATION

Tel Aviv, 12/10, Wafa.

A new information guide outlining the bases of Israeli policy for propaganda purposes is being widely distributed inside Israel and abroad. The guide, of which some parts have been modified by Premier Menahem Begin, reads in its preface: **Judea, Samaria and Gaza are part of the historic heritage of the Israeli people. And even according to international law, Israel has the right to possess these regions.** Among many recommenda-

tions included in the guide, was the call to avoid use of the term **annexation**, using instead either the term **"reunification"** or **"the application of Israeli law"**. Another recommendation noted that what it called **"the legend of the Palestinian people"** should be continuously refuted, because they have no homeland and no relation whatsoever with the Arabs of Israel, who live west of the Jordan, and are very different from those Arabs living East of the Jordan.

NEW SETTLEMENTS TO BE TAX EXEMPT

Tel Aviv, 11/10 Wafa.

The Knesset financial committee has recently included a number of new settlements in the list of tax exempt regions, due to their emplacement in the **territories occupied in 1967**. Among the settlements are: **Tebnin, Ofer, Kfar Qaddoum, Kiryat Arbaa** and many others.

ZIONIST SENTENCES

Beirut, 13/10, Wafa

The Israeli authorities refused to release Issam Saleh Abu Rizq from **Acre**, although he has completed his 4-year prison sentence. Abu Rizq had been charged with affiliation to **Fateh**, and stealing hand-grenades from army depots.

SENTENCES AND PRISON NEWS

Jerusalem, 16/10, Wafa

A Palestinian detainee, **Abdel Hafiz Samouri** from the **Jenin** region, escaped a few days ago from the **Jenin Central prison**. Samouri was serving a four-year prison sentence.

In **Gaza**, an Israeli military tribunal sentenced the female student, **Najah Ibrahim Baghdadi**, to pay a fine of **IL500** or serve a 50-day prison sentence and a 3-month suspended sentence, on charges of attacking a soldier.

In **Jenin**, a military tribunal sentenced the female student, **Najah Mahamid**, to a 3-year suspended sentence and a fine of **IL750**, or a one-month prison sentence, on charges of resisting the occupation.

In **Nablus**, another court sentenced 19-year old **Hilal Shukri** to seven years in prison and **Mustafa Yusef Shennawi** who had previously been sentenced to 3 years -- to another 10 years imprisonment. It further sentenced **Allame-din al-Keswani** to 3 years in jail with a 3 year-suspended sentence, and **'Ali Ya'ish** to 5 years imprisonment. All were charged with resisting the occupation.

SENTENCES IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE

Jerusalem, 27/10. —

An Israeli military tribunal in **Hebron** sentenced **Muhammad**

Rafiq al-Sharabati to 3 1/2 years in prison, **Alyan Nureddine al-Sharabati** and **Abed Shukri al-Sharabati** to six months in jail each, beginning the day of their arrest on **November 2nd, 1976**.

Jerusalem, 28/10 Wafa

An Israeli military tribunal in **Hebron**, recently issued a number of prison sentences against Palestinian citizens charged with affiliation to the **Palestinian Revolution** and of resisting the occupation. Following are the names of these citizens and the corresponding prison terms: **Muhammad al-Yamani** 9 years; **Muhammad al-Adra** 7 years; **Samir Saad Abido** 5 years; **Muhammad al-Azza** 5 years; **Hafez Ahmad Dandis** 4 years; **Talal Said Samman** 4 years; **Muhammad Farah al-Balbisi** 4 years; **Samir Muhammad al-Balbisi** 4 years; **Jabr Ramadan** 4 years; **Muhammad Abed al-Natshe** 2 years and a fine of **IL10,000**; **Ismail Taha Abu Sneineh** 2 years and a fine of **IL10,000**; **Abdel Karim al-Muhtasab** 2 years and a fine of **IL10,000**; **Naaman al-Zarou** 2 years and a fine of **IL10,000**; **Hamed al-Takruri** 2 years and a fine of **IL10,000**; **Wael Sharabati** 2 years and a fine of **IL10,000**; **Khaled Sharabati** 2 years and a fine of **IL10,000**; **Abdel Qader Zaatari** 2 years and a fine of **IL10,000**.

In **Lydd**, a Zionist military tribunal sentenced **Fawaz Ashour Abu Khalaf** and **Sami Husni Ay-dine** from **Hebron**, to 5 months imprisonment each, on charges of affiliation to the **Palestinian Revolution** and resisting the occupation.

In **Ramallah**, a Zionist military tribunal postponed the trial of 28 secondary school students who have been accused of resisting settlement moves carried out by the **Gush Emunim** fanatic group in the **Nablus** region last week. Other students who protested against the group's activities have been transferred to remote schools in an attempt to disrupt the students activities.

ISRAELI SENTENCES

Ramallah,

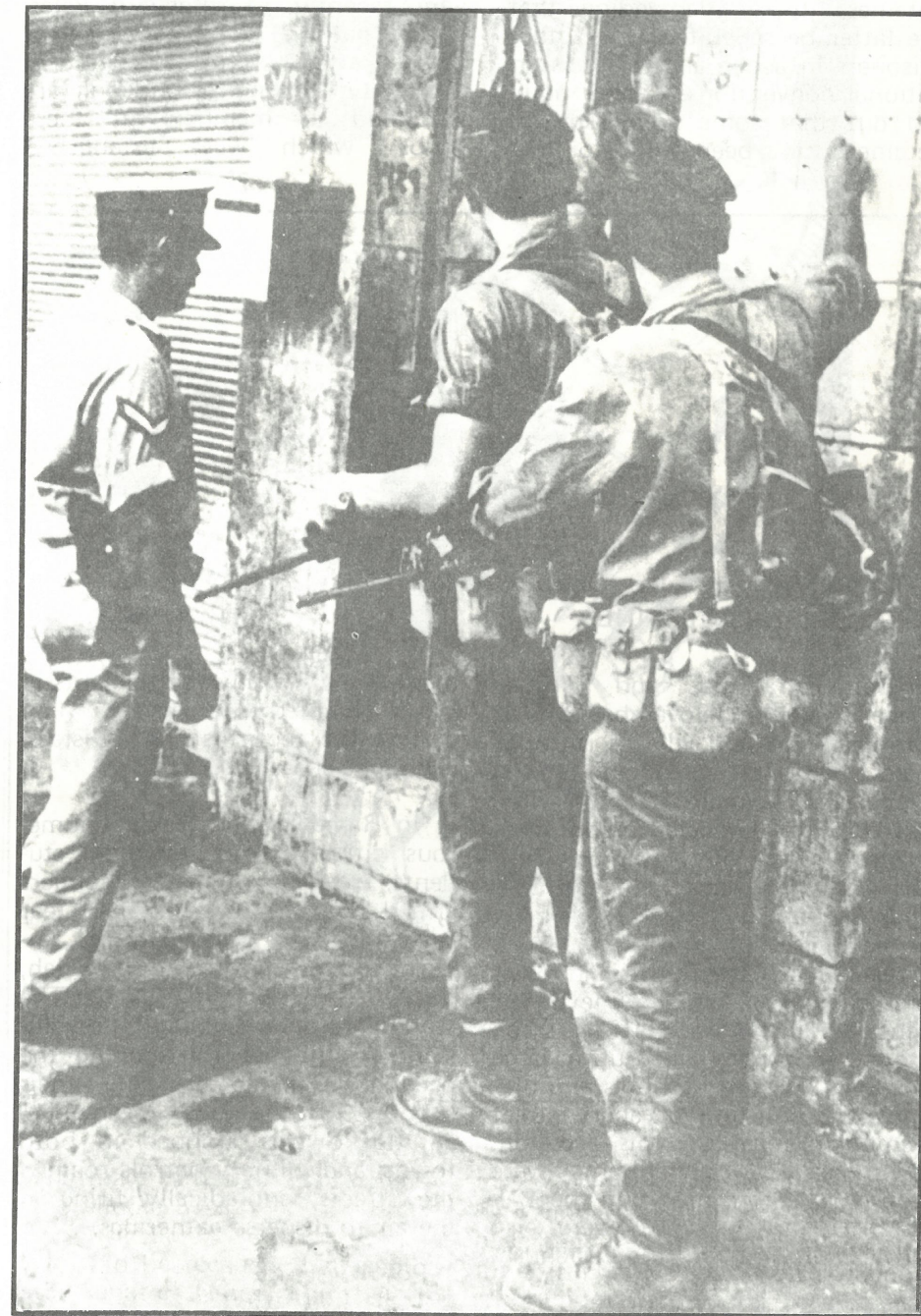
An Israeli military tribunal in **Ramallah**, on **October 25, 1977**, sentenced the Palestinian citizens **Ahmad Hussein Mashaal**, **Muhammad Abu 'Aqabeh**, and **Wahid Abu 'Aqabeh**, to 15 months in prison each; and **Mustafa Abu Hussein** to 2 years imprisonment. The same court sentenced **Muhammad Yusef** and **Zeinab Abdel Hadi** to 5 months in jail each. The citizens, all from the city of **Halhoul**, were charged with affiliation to the **Palestinian Revolution**.

ZIONIST SENTENCES

Tel Aviv, 19/10, Wafa

A military tribunal in **Nablus** recently sentenced **Muhammad Abu Suada** to six years in jail, three of them suspended, **Aref Ghazal** to four years; **Issam Afif Aqqad** to a three year suspended sentence and a fine of **IL3000**; **Fayez Musa** and **Muhammad Khalil al-Masri** to 18 months each, the period they had already served during their detention without trial. All were charged with affiliation to the **Palestinian Revolution**.

In related news, the **Palestinian**



detainee Muhammad Ahmad Ayad, revealed to the progressive lawyers Felicia Langer and Abed Assaly, that he had been subjected to severe torture at the hands of his jailors in the **Moscobia prison** and that he had lost the hearing in one of his ears.

Meanwhile, **Felicia Langer** presented a memorandum to the **Ramallah prison administration** at the request of the administrative detainees there, demanding that the latter be separated from other prisoners in accordance with international conventions. **Langer** pointed out that some administrative detainees have been jailed for mo-

re than 3 1/2 years without trial and without charges being brought against them.

In other news, the Israeli authorities have recently confined a number of political detainees to section No.7 of the **Bir Sabe' prison**, in spite of the appalling conditions of this section.

Seventeen cultural clubs have reportedly been opened in **Jerusalem** recently to safeguard **Palestinian national culture** in face of Israeli attempts to Judaize the holy city. Around **3000** people are affiliated as members of these clubs, which were established

thanks to the efforts of students and charitable institutions.

The inhabitants of the village of **Um al-Fahm**, in the **Galilee** region on October 23, observed a one-day strike in protest against the shortage of water which has been a long-standing problem for the village whose repeated demands have so far been to no avail.

ANTI-OCCUPATION PAMPHLETS DISTRIBUTED IN WEST BANK

Ramallah, 19/10, Wafa

In the wake of the new wave of settlements in the occupied territories carried out with the Begin government's agreement — at times official, and sometimes tacit — pamphlets were recently distributed widely in West Bank cities and towns. The pamphlets incited citizens to resist the occupation and denounce the Israeli settlement policy.

IMAM OF MAGHARIBA QUARTER REFUSES TO EVACUATE HOME

Jerusalem, 19/10

Shaykh Mahmoud Said Shwiki, the Imam of the **Maghariba Quarter's mosque** in **Jerusalem**, declared that he will not leave his house, despite an official Israeli evacuation order. The Israeli authorities had earlier cut off water from the Imam's house and bulldozed the staircase leading to it.

Recently, dozens of Palestinian owned houses in the **Maghariba Quarter**, have been destroyed and the residents forced to leave the area. It is, moreover, expected that this quarter will witness more changes in view of settlement plans set for the whole region. These are the latest in a series of measures by the occupation authorities in the historic **Maghariba**

Quarter which have already led to the demolition of scores of homes, large amounts of **Waqf** property, schools and mosques. Some of these buildings date back to the **13th** and **14th** centuries.



KARIM KHALAF TESTIFIES BEFORE US SENATE COMMITTEE

A US Senate committee, on October 17, listened to the mayor of **Ramallah**, **Karim Khalaf's** account of the Israeli settlement moves in the occupied Arab territories and the repressive practices to which Palestinian citizens are subjected.

Attacking the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories, **Dr. Israel Shahak** who spoke at the opening session of the Senate committee meetings, charged that the aims of establishing these settlements is territorial expansion and the permanent subjugation of the inhabitants of these territories. **Dr. Shahak**, who is Professor of organic chemistry at the **Hebrew University in Jerusalem**, expressed his belief that these settlements constitute a source of tension, racial discrimination and repression. He said that unless they are removed, these settlements will be one



of the main causes of a future war in the Middle East.

It is to be recalled, that **Democratic Senator James Abu Rizk**, is heading the US Senate commit-

tee's meetings which are being held under the slogan, "the establishment of Israeli settlements on the West Bank is a matter of decisive importance with regard to peace in the Middle East."

PROTESTS IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE



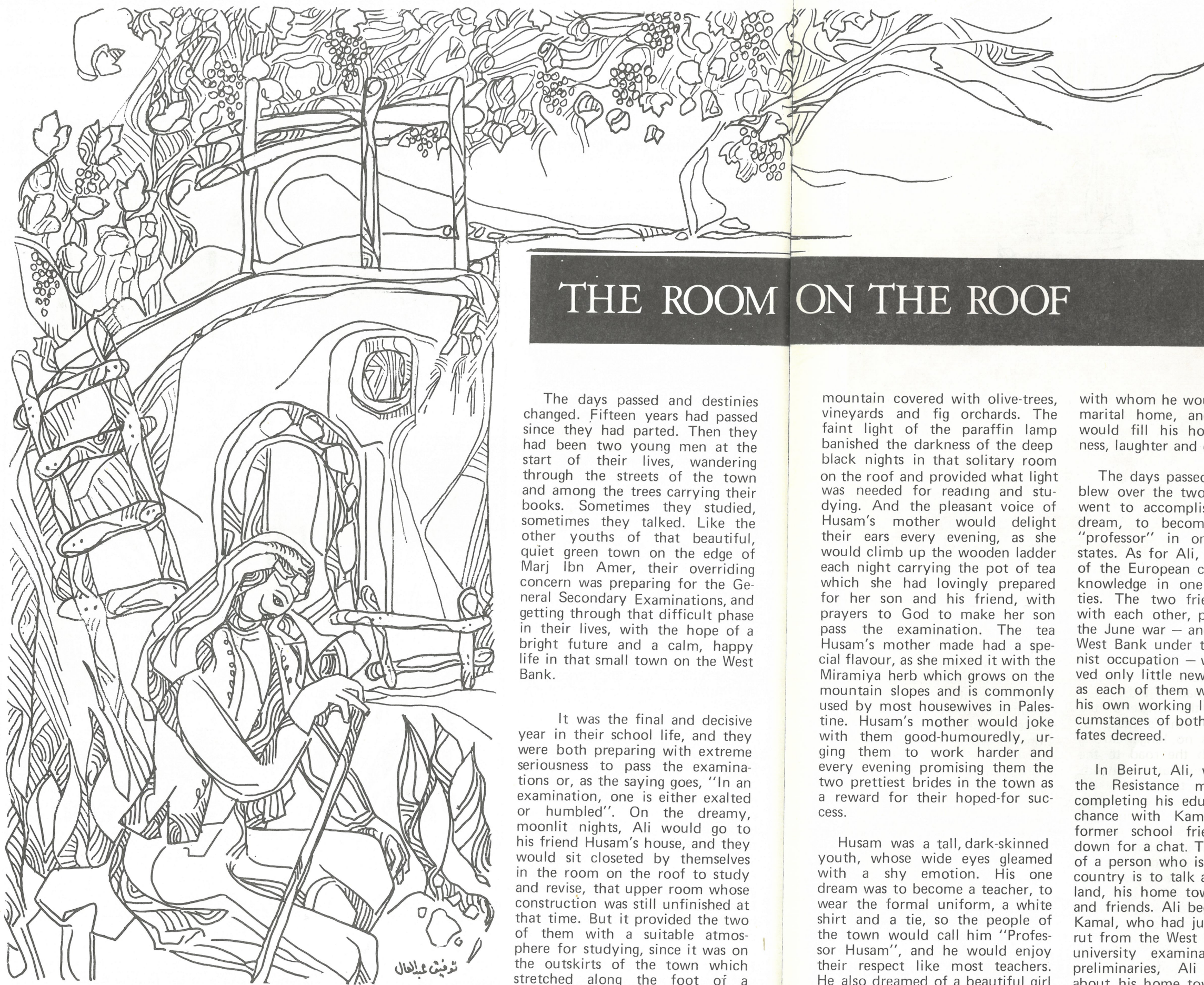
Demonstrations and strikes were staged on November 3rd, in various cities and villages in occupied Palestine, spreading to the **Upper Galilee** region and the villages of the **Triangle** region. The protest began on November 2nd, the 60th anniversary of the **Balfour Declaration**.

Shops in many cities and towns closed down, as students left their schools and clashed with Israeli troops who were called up in large numbers to storm schools and prevent the eruption of angry street demonstrations. On this occasion, the Palestinian inhabitants were not only commemorating the **Balfour Declaration**, but were also protesting against the establish-

ment of new Zionist settlements in the occupied territories, and against the recent stringent Israeli economic measures.

In **Ramallah** and **Nablus**, numerous citizens, most of them students, clashed with Israeli soldiers armed with whips, rifles and tear gas grenades. Demonstrators attacked a bus, north of **Ramallah**, throwing empty bottles at it. The demonstrators chanted revolutionary anthems condemning the occupation and affirming their support for the **PLO**. Meanwhile, all traffic was stopped in both towns, and military patrols roamed the streets, sporadically firing in the air to disperse gatherings.





THE ROOM ON THE ROOF

The days passed and destinies changed. Fifteen years had passed since they had parted. Then they had been two young men at the start of their lives, wandering through the streets of the town and among the trees carrying their books. Sometimes they studied, sometimes they talked. Like the other youths of that beautiful, quiet green town on the edge of Marj Ibn Amer, their overriding concern was preparing for the General Secondary Examinations, and getting through that difficult phase in their lives, with the hope of a bright future and a calm, happy life in that small town on the West Bank.

It was the final and decisive year in their school life, and they were both preparing with extreme seriousness to pass the examinations or, as the saying goes, "In an examination, one is either exalted or humbled". On the dreamy, moonlit nights, Ali would go to his friend Husam's house, and they would sit closeted by themselves in the room on the roof to study and revise, that upper room whose construction was still unfinished at that time. But it provided the two of them with a suitable atmosphere for studying, since it was on the outskirts of the town which stretched along the foot of a

mountain covered with olive-trees, vineyards and fig orchards. The faint light of the paraffin lamp banished the darkness of the deep black nights in that solitary room on the roof and provided what light was needed for reading and studying. And the pleasant voice of Husam's mother would delight their ears every evening, as she would climb up the wooden ladder each night carrying the pot of tea which she had lovingly prepared for her son and his friend, with prayers to God to make her son pass the examination. The tea Husam's mother made had a special flavour, as she mixed it with the Miramiya herb which grows on the mountain slopes and is commonly used by most housewives in Palestine. Husam's mother would joke with them good-humouredly, urging them to work harder and every evening promising them the two prettiest brides in the town as a reward for their hoped-for success.

Husam was a tall, dark-skinned youth, whose wide eyes gleamed with a shy emotion. His one dream was to become a teacher, to wear the formal uniform, a white shirt and a tie, so the people of the town would call him "Professor Husam", and he would enjoy their respect like most teachers. He also dreamed of a beautiful girl

with whom he would build a quiet marital home, and children who would fill his home with happiness, laughter and enjoyment.

The days passed and the storms blew over the two friends. Husam went to accomplish his favourite dream, to become a teacher, a "professor" in one of the Gulf states. As for Ali, he went to one of the European countries to gain knowledge in one of its universities. The two friends lost touch with each other, particularly after the June war — and the fall of the West Bank under the yoke of Zionist occupation — when they received only little news of each other, as each of them went the way of his own working life, and the circumstances of both changed as the fates decreed.

In Beirut, Ali, who had joined the Resistance movement after completing his education, met by chance with Kamal, one of his former school friends. They sat down for a chat. The first concern of a person who is away from his country is to talk about his homeland, his home town, his relatives and friends. Ali began questioning Kamal, who had just come to Beirut from the West Bank to do the university examinations. Without preliminaries, Ali began asking about his home town and friends.

"How is Atiyya and Hassan and Asaad? "One of them was in Algeria, a senior official in an oil company, another was in Kuwait, etcetera.

"And how is Husam, what news is there of him? "

"Husam? He's here! "

"In Beirut? Where is he? "

"He came to do his examinations, he's an external student I know. I'll bring him to you tomorrow, at the same time."

The two separated with the hope of meeting the next day. What luck, what a pleasant surprise! Was it likely that the two would meet once more, after no less than 15 years?

The next day, there was a long greeting, a feeling of joy and celebration at this unexpected meeting and a nostalgia for those sweet, pleasant days in the sad homeland that had now fallen under occupation. The joy carried Ali far away, returning him to the past, as if he were sitting in his home town, in the cafe full of greenery under the shade of the trees, playing backgammon with Husam — a long film of memories returned to his imagination. He remembered the friends and the sweet days, the days of enjoyment and sorrow, the streets of the town filled with life



THE ROOM ON THE ROOF

and vitality, and the girls' school around which they used to wander in search of an unknown lover. Husam interrupted his friend's trance, to ask him: "How are you, Ali?"

"Thank God, I'm fine, as you see, I'm here."

"And what are you doing?"

"I've been working in the Resistance for some time, putting in my share of effort to free our country, and as you see, I'm still alive, thank God. And you, Husam, what's your news?"

"Fine. I've got married and I have three children."

"And what's the news of your mother?"

"She's grown old, and her head's covered with white hair."

"And your father?"

"He walks on a crutch, but his body is still strong." Once again, Ali wandered off to complete the film, but the smile did not leave his face. Then he asked: "And the room on the roof? Tell me, for God's sake, what news is there of it? What a great room it was which brought us together between its walls for so long. And..."

"The room on the roof," Husam interrupted him quietly, "my condolences."

"What does that mean?"

"It was destroyed."

"Destroyed? How?" Ali was forgetting that the country was

burdened under the yoke of foreign occupation, and how many houses the Zionists had destroyed without justification or cause, but only for the sake of their expansionist aims and to terrorise citizens.

"Yes," Husam went on, "the Zionists blew it up."

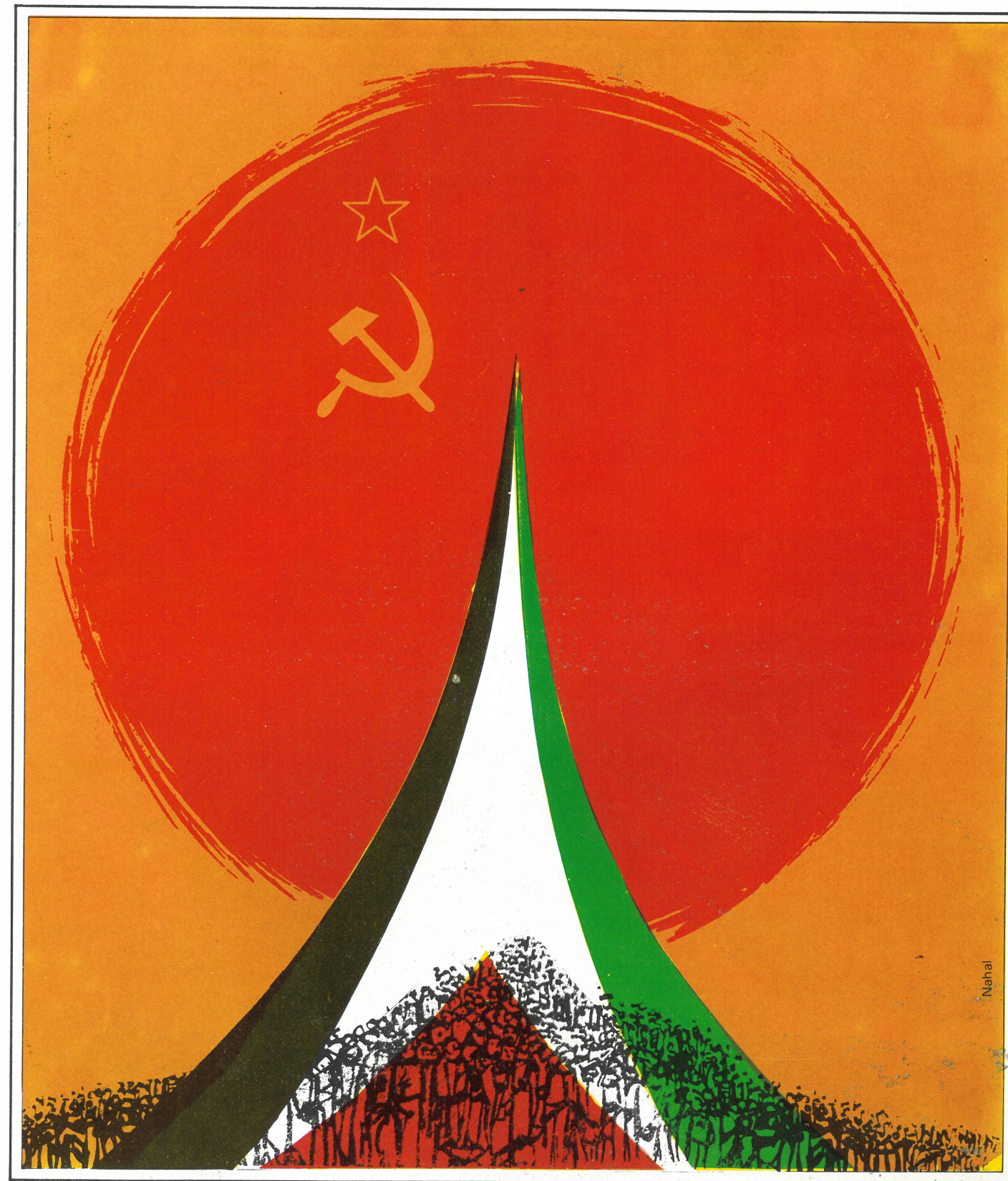
"And why? What savages," Ali said. "Did your father or one of the members of your family join the Resistance?"

"My father had rented the room on the roof to an old man called Shaikh Abdullah," Hussam continued. "We had rented ourselves a house in the centre of the town near my father's place of work, since he's no longer strong enough to climb the road to the mountain. It seems that this Shaikh Abdullah, was in touch with the revolutionaries, since our house was in a secluded place and was suitable for hiding men of the Resistance. It appears that the occupation authorities had found out about the Shaikh, who with his comrades, the revolutionaries, had been staging bold operations against the occupation troops and vehicles."

"One day, before the dawn appeared, Shaikh Abdullah was

awake early as usual, to say the dawn prayers. He picked up a jug of water and went out rubbing the sleep from his eyes, to wash himself for the prayers in the courtyard of the house. At that moment, Shaikh Abdullah heard the sounds of occupation troops coming towards the house. The Shaikh realised the situation, so he began reciting verses from the Holy Quran in a loud voice and chanting the call to prayer. The occupation forces had thrown a cordon round the house. The soldiers came closer to him and started talking to him, but he continued to talk in a loud voice, so as to attract the attention of his comrades the revolutionaries who were sleeping in the room on the roof. While he was shouting, the revolutionaries woke up and got themselves ready. They prepared a hot morning meal for the occupation forces, a large number of whose soldiers were killed. Then the revolutionaries managed to break through the cordon that had been thrown around them, and cross the mountain. As for Shaikh Abdullah, who had offered his life to warn his comrades, he fell as a martyr, his body riddled with the bullets of the Zionist soldiers. The same day, another unit of occupation troops came. They placed explosive charges round the house and blew it up."

Palestinian-Soviet Friendship





**DESTRUCTION
BLOODSHED
DEPORTATION**

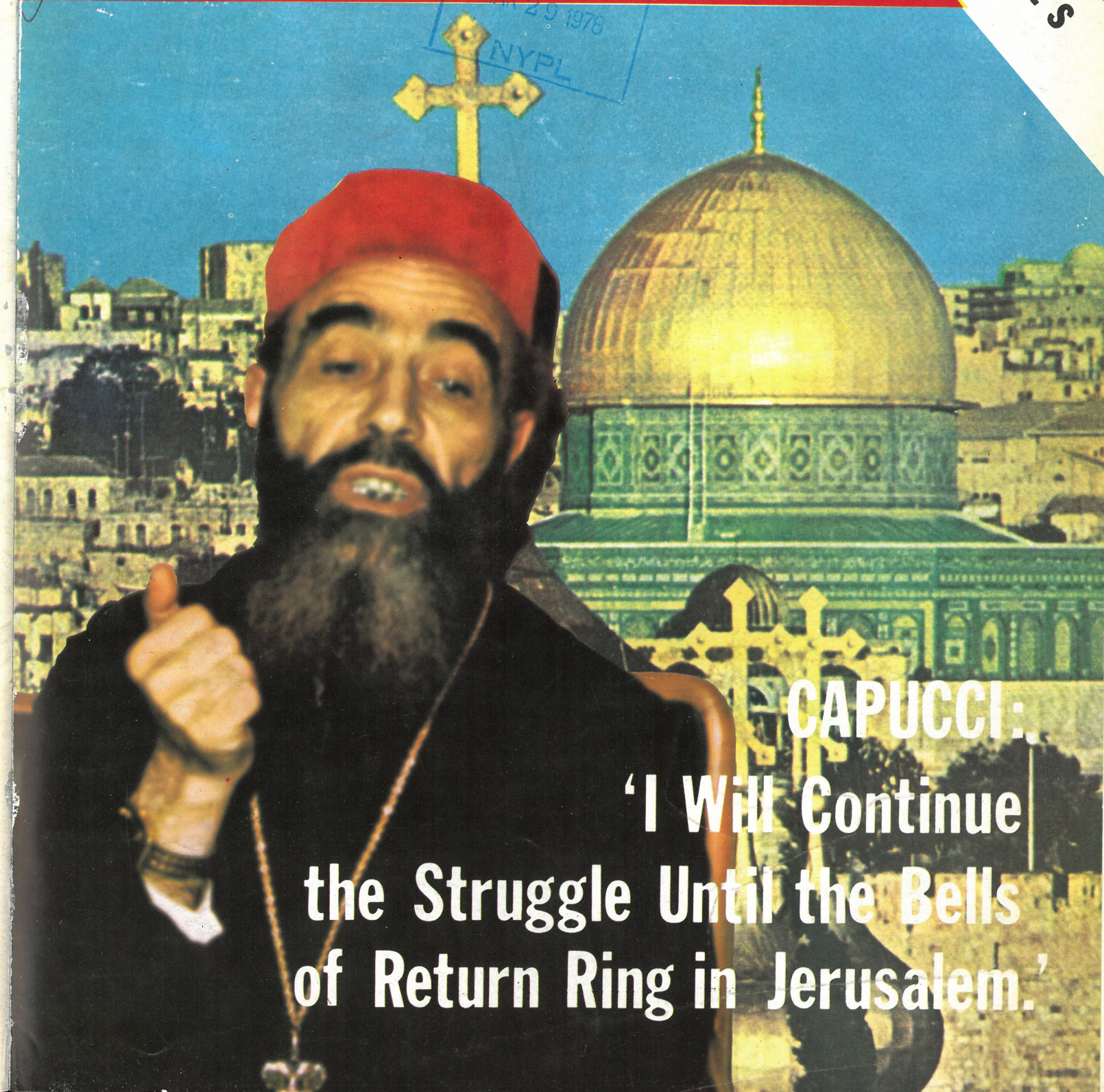


Palestine

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

**PLO Condemns Sadat's
Visit**

PER. SEC.
MAR 29 1978
NYPL



CAPUCCI:
**'I Will Continue
the Struggle Until the Bells
of Return Ring in Jerusalem.'**