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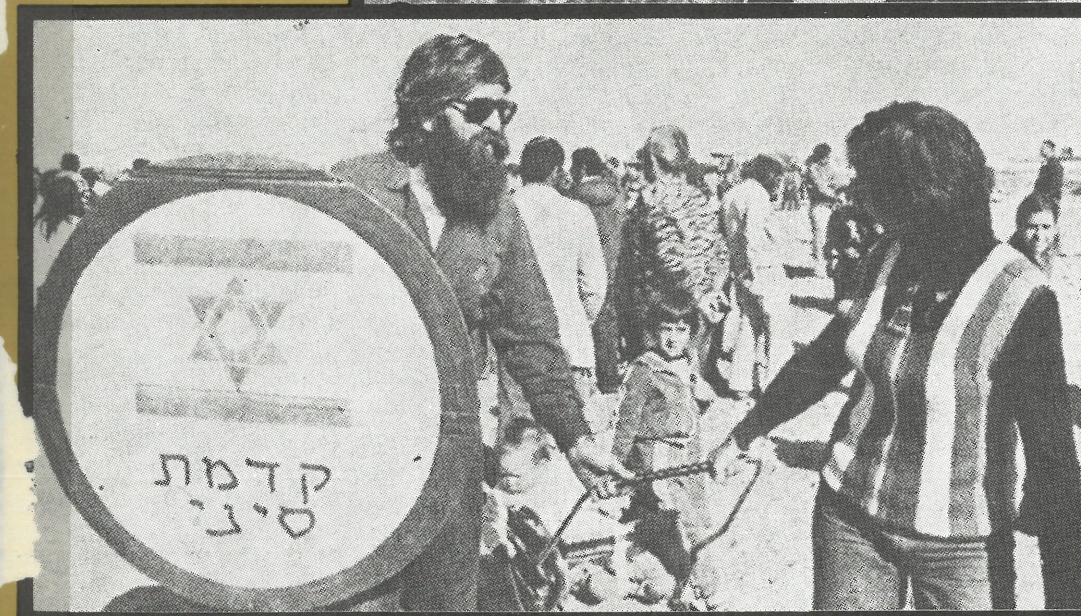
P.L.O.
information
bulletin

Vol. 4, No. 3
 FEB. 15, 1978

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ZIONIST SETTLEMENTS POLICY:
A THREAT TO PEACE

TO OUR FRIENDS

Now going into its 4th year, our "Palestine" Information Bulletin is continuing its unbending duty to inform our readers on the Palestine question and the Middle East crisis. We will continue to appear bi-monthly and hope to reach you on time.

Due to the devaluation of the dollar, and in order to cover, at least partially, the ever rising cost of publication, we have been forced to increase the subscription rates of "Palestine".

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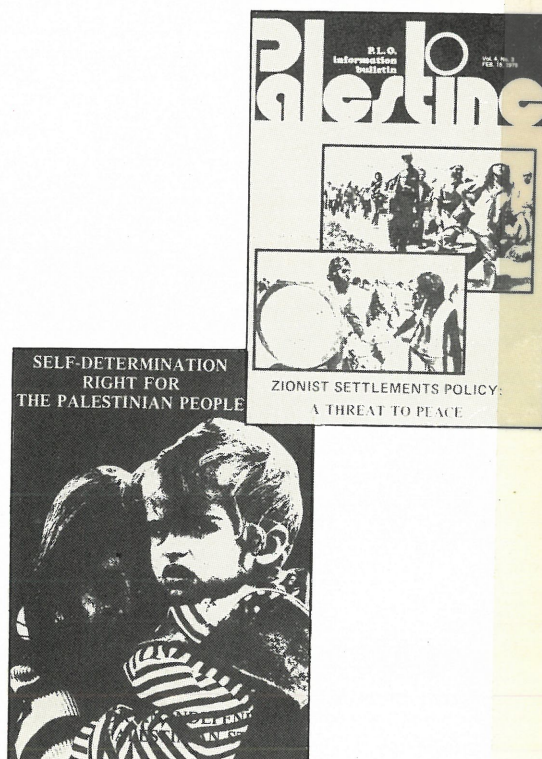
All copies of "PALESTINE BULLETIN" will be sent by air mail.

Palestine

BI-MONTHLY INFORMATION BULLETIN
published in English & French, by
THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION
UNIFIED INFORMATION
P.O. Box: 145168, Tel. 302432
BEIRUT - LEBANON

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"PALESTINE" bulletin

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EDITORIAL

CAN THE UNITED STATES BE NEUTRAL?

Pro-American Arabs who encouraged Sadat's "peace" initiative and his visit to Israel believe thoroughly in the neutralization of the United States in the Middle East conflict. They also believe in the good will and good intentions of the US administration, and it's role of seeking a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Whether one should accept this hypothesis or not, a clear fact remains, which is the continued US arms supplies to Israel, and the failure to exert any form of US pressure on the Israeli occupiers to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories of 1967. Nowadays, and especially after "Sadat's initiative" another question has also to be raised. Can the United States and its present administration exert any pressure on the Israelis whatsoever. Or, who is exerting pressure on whom?

Taking into consideration the Zionist presence in the United States, we can state that it has always been effective in influencing US Middle East policy. Since the Truman administration in the late forties the Zionists have organised a well functioning lobby which played a major role in the creation of the Zionist state of 'Israel', in Palestine, in 1948. At the present time, and after such a long experience of having a well functioning lobby organization in the United States the Zionists have a great influence in US public life. They have Congressmen, Senators, leading personalities in finance, the mass media, etc. through whom they can influence any decision making process of the US President.

Most of the power blocks are penetrated, more or less, by influential pro-Zionist personalities who can block any decision which is contradictory to Zionist expansionist ambitions.

President Carter, the President elected by the average Americans, is now confronted with this bitter fact in his country. He cannot keep his promise given to Sadat and his Arab friends

on the one hand, and he also cannot admit failure on the other. President Sadat, who went to the US last week to ask his big friend to help save his "peace initiative" was not offered anything but new promises and wishes. Material assistance was not prescribed by the US President to 'help' his unfortunate friend. The President told his guest to continue his bilateral talks with the Israelis, and promised that other Arab countries will join the talks. The question of arms sales to Egypt, according to Sadat, to fight "the communist danger in Africa" doesn't belong to the US President's sphere of influence. This question has to be presented to, and decided by the Congress.

The Israelis, on the other hand are embarking on their intransigent and arrogant policy in the region. Neglecting international public opinion, they continue to build new settlements in the occupied territories. They still refuse to withdraw from these territories and recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Israelis are now more isolated than ever before, the whole world does not believe their false demands for peace. Even their best friends and supporters in the west who supported them for many years in the past, cannot continue supporting Zionist expansion and arrogance. World public opinion does not believe Zionist propaganda any more. For thirty years they have distorted the facts in the region, and misinformed and misled the whole world by their false propaganda. But this propaganda does not work anymore.

This makes the Zionists more dangerous and more aggressive, since they possess the most sophisticated weapons and constitute the strongest military power in the region. In this context the United States plays a major role since it is the largest weapons supplier to the Israelis. This is definitely the origin of Israeli intransigence which will lead to new wars, new bloodshed, and destruction in the Middle East.



ALGIERS SUMMIT FACING SADAT MANOEUVERS

It has been three months since President Sadat made his visit to Jerusalem and by doing so offered Israel open recognition without getting even a promise from the Israelis that they would withdraw from occupied Arab territories or provide recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people.

The Middle East arena has since witnessed crucial developments in the attitudes of all concerned parties. The stalemate in the Egyptian - Israeli talks is due to Israeli intransigence and is promoted by the United States which is trying to pressure Sadat into making even further concessions to the Israelis.

Until now, Sadat has received nothing from American assurances. Even when he pleaded with President Carter to exert "pressure" on Israel his words fell on deaf ears.

The Algiers summit conference, comprising Libya, Algeria, Syria,

South Yemen and the PLO followed up the first conference of the "Confrontation and Steadfastness Front" which took place in Tripoli, Libya. The results of the Tripoli Conference was the organisation of an Arab front to resist Sadat's capitulationist initiative. The Front is to set up the practical steps to prevent any bilateral agreement with Israel, and to reaffirm the stand of the concerned Arab parties to support the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Arriving in Washington, Sadat's objective was to 'persuade' Capital Hill to approve a US arms deal with Egypt, moreover, convince Israel to give territorial concessions to Egypt, but his "good will for peace" is vanishing for the following reasons:

A. Sadat is trying his best to

oust the Soviet Union from any kind of participation in solving the Middle East crisis by slandering the Soviet reputation and by turning down their aid, so as to win the favour of the Americans; all that Sadat could get was a statement from the American President that "the United States will sincerely keep its historical commitment to Israel's safety within recognised borders." Israel, thus far has not defined its borders.

B. Before Sadat's arrival in Washington, US officials confirmed that the United States "is just a mediator between Israel and Egypt, and that the US would not apply any pressure on either side." What the Americans can offer is only "helping the concerned parties achieve a durable peace in the area", thus promoting: 1) Israel's establishment of new settlements in the occupied Arab territories, and 2) Israel's reiteration that it will not withdraw to the pre-1967

borders, and 3) Israel will not accept, on any condition, an independent Palestinian state.

C. The American President, as well as his administration, has verbally denounced the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, describing these settlements as "obstructing the road to peace", while in turn supplying Israel with the most recent and sophisticated weapons.

D. Sadat has previously asked the United States to supply him with the same weaponry that the Israeli's receives including F-15 and F-16 fighters. An American official commenting on this issue said, "It is under review and until the President has made up his mind, there will be no announcement."

This statement disappointed Sadat and made him lose his temper while addressing American Congressmen; angrily he said "I will raise hell if you do not approve a weapons sale, I am speaking as a partner and I am threatening." But Sadat left Washington without getting any indication that the United States would decrease the amount of arms supplied to Israel nor a 'promise' that his own requests would be adhered to.

Sadat has repeatedly announced that 99% of a Middle East settlement lies in the hands of the Americans. In doing so, he is still clinging to the American approach to achieve "peace", the pretext which the Americans use to further their "buying - time policy".

The participants in the "Confrontation and Steadfastness Conference" were aware of the consequences of Sadat's policy which proved to be motivated by imperialist interests. These interests included the extending of Israeli occupation into other Arab territories, setting up protege regimes under American tutelage, endangering the Palestinian cause through negating Palestinian legitimate rights, breaching Arab solidarity and facilitating the exploitation of Arab resources by the imperialists and the Zionists.



Chairman Arafat addressing the conference

The conference has condemned the slanderous campaigns carried out against the role of the Soviet Union which has proved to be a friend of the Arab cause and people.

The Summit Conference stressed that Palestine is the crux of the Middle East problem and that no lasting peace can be achieved without the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

Sadat was participating in the imperialist - Zionist conspiracy, which aims to frustrate the basis of a peaceful settlement which will guarantee the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. In this context Chairman Arafat stressed that "peace cannot be but Arab and nobody can represent the Palestinian people except the PLO."

The Algiers summit warned of the imperialist plot to push Egypt into playing an aggressive role against the Palestinian cause through the imperialist claim that the PLO does not represent all Palestinians and that King Hussein of Jordan can be authorised to be

a partner on behalf of the Palestinians. Of course, this trend is highly appreciated by the Israeli's.

The conference showed deep concern toward the hostile campaigns carried on by the Sadat regime against the socialist countries which are the Arabs natural allies in their struggle to liberate their occupied territories.

In his 'peace efforts', Sadat has proclaimed himself the sole authorised representative of the Arab world. The conference vehemently denied him this right and stressed that "he has no legitimacy to represent the Palestinians or to negotiate the future of the Syrian occupied territories."

It was clear that the Israelis would not give up their settlements in Sinai. Begin has said that he "is going to live at one of them when he retires." If this is the case it is dubious as to whether Sadat can really represent the Egyptian people and army who fought so bravely in the October 1973 war, side by side with the Syrian army and the Palestinian revolution.

ALGIERS SUMMIT FACING SADAT MANOEUVERS

In this context the conference stressed the necessity of mobilizing all Arab capacities to stand firmly behind Syria and the PLO as the main forces against Israel.

The Solidarity Conference in Algiers has dealt a blow to imperialists and their agents in the area, (the Israelis and the Lebanese rightists among others), who were anxious to foil its immediate consequence. Therefore Israel mobilized its forces on the southern boundaries of Lebanon in a threatening move against the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. In Beirut, the 'Lebanese Front' forces provoked the Syrian forces, which make up a large part of the Arab Deterrent Force in Lebanon, in order to:

A. Distract world and Arab attention from a future bilateral agreement between Egypt and Israel under the auspices of the United States.

B. To disturb peace in Lebanon in order to promote isolationist — imperialist interests in controlling Lebanon, and thus achieving the main Israeli ambition of occupying South Lebanon and establishing normal relations between Israel and its Arab neighbours, as President Carter stated.

C. To facilitate the establishment of self-rule for minorities under Israeli control: the idea which the Israelis have hinted at 'offering' the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza as opposed to self-determination and statehood.

In order to confront the imperialist offensive and conspiracies, the progressive forces in the Middle East have to rally their efforts to foil these moves which aim at getting rid of all patriotic forces in the area. These antagonists attempt to resume the clashes in Lebanon hoping to achieve stability, security and prosperity for



Carter and Sadat: one route

the Zionist state, facilitating its endeavours to annex Arab lands, bit by bit while distracting Arab solidarity and guaranteeing imperialist interests in the area.

WAFU ANALYSIS ON ALGIERS SUMMIT

First: — Sadat is acting within the framework of a US-Israeli plan to curb the possibilities of achieving a just peace based on withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands, and on the guaranteeing of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including their rights to return, to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state on their national soil, the rights which were recognized by the world and confirmed by the resolutions of Arab summits, by the UN, and by the Islamic, African, Socialist and Non-aligned states. Aside from this, the plan seeks to achieve reconciliation with the enemy, to recognize the legitimacy of its existence, to establish relations with it in various political, economic and cultural domains and to open the frontiers with it, thus enabling Zionism to impose its hegemony on the Arab Nation, its resources and potentials.

Second: — This imperialist plan aims at making the Egyptian regime play a role hostile to the interests of the African and Arab peoples.

Third: — Another objective of the above-mentioned plan is to exclude Egypt and certain Arab states from the framework of Non-aligned policy, thus linking them to the imperialist camp and creating a conflict with the Soviet Union and other Socialist states, as well as with the forces of liberation and progress all over the world.

Fourth: — The real dimensions of the conspiracy being concocted against the entire Arab Nation are coming to light as all its links are being integrated through the expansionist ambitions and the direct military intervention of imperialist forces and their stooges. These forces aim to strike at the freedom of the peoples and their right to self-determination, and to violate the principles of sovereignty and independence.

Fifth: — Other objectives of the plan are to deal a harsh blow to Arab solidarity and to drive a wedge between the Arab states so

as to realize the plot without any overall Arab resistance. These hostile projects furthermore intend to allow the Zionist enemy to weaken world solidarity with the Palestine question and with Arab rights, at a time when awareness of Israel's expansionist and racist character has been enhanced, thus giving imperialism the opportunity to return in strength to the region and monopolize the opportunity to settle the Middle East problem.

Sixth: — The USA, Israel and President Sadat are currently seeking to work out a unilateral Israeli-Egyptian solution, at the expense of the occupied Arab territories, of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

Aside from reiterating its attachment to the Tripoli Summit resolutions and its determination to resist all attempts aimed against the Palestine question, the conference warned any Arab official or unofficial party against violating

the Algiers and Rabat resolutions by trying to claim representation of the Palestinian people.

The communique underlined the necessity of achieving Arab solidarity as a means to liberate the Arab territories and to regain the Palestinian people's rights by massing all potentials against the Israeli enemy, and subsequently by continuing efforts and contacts with the Arab states which did not support Sadat's policy. It called upon Arab states to strive for a strategic equilibrium between Syria and the Zionist enemy.

The conference further expressed grave concern over military intervention in the West Sahara which, it said, endangers the independence of Arab states and their national security; and affirmed its support for the Arab people of Sahara and for their right to self-determination. It also asserted its backing for the people of Oman and their revolution, and expressed deep anxiety over the current events in the horn of Africa.

ARAFAT ADDRESSES ALGIERS SUMMIT

In a speech delivered at the final session of the Confrontation and Steadfastness Summit Conference on February 6, Yasser Arafat said that while the Revolution was launched from Syria, the land of Arabism, it found Arab support in Algiers, in Libya and in Democratic Yemen. He described the five parties to the conference as a unified current representing confrontation, force, steadfastness and dignity. Arafat added that Syria is a fortress which defies all imperialist Zionist plots, remaining steadfast together with Palestinian and Arab revolutionaries from the Ocean to the Gulf; and reiterated that "the Socialist states, headed by the Soviet Union, the Non-Aligned, African and Islamic states, as well as the Arab peoples are standing by our side."

PALESTINE

NOTES



ABU MAIZAR DENIES INVOLVEMENT OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION IN POISONING ISRAELI ORANGES

Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar, Official Spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee on February 2, affirmed that the Palestinian Revolution has nothing to do with the poisoning of Israeli oranges, which the western media is exploiting against the Palestinian Revolution and the Palestinian people.

In a press conference held this morning in Algiers, Abu Maizar said that "the Palestinian Revolution absolutely condemns such methods", and added: "We fight our enemy face to face and not through such methods".

He then said that the entire media campaign is aimed at turning world public opinion against the Palestinian Revolution and its just struggle. Finally he confirmed that the organization which declared itself responsible for the operation is completely unknown.

PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN LAOS HOLDS CEREMONY ON 13th ANNIVERSARY OF LAUNCHING PALESTINIAN ARMED STRUGGLE

The representative of the PLO in Laos held a ceremony on the

PALESTINE NOTES

occasion of the 13th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian armed struggle against Zionist colonialism in Palestine.

Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, with six other ministers and members of the Lao government and party and Army officials

attended the ceremony. Heads of diplomatic missions in Vientiane were also present. The official Laotian mass media carried widely the news of the ceremony.

Comrade Sapharini, the PLO representative told the guests that "the Palestinian Revolution has achieved several political victories on the international level. In the United Nations a separate item was discussed concerning the Palestinian people and their sacred rights and aspirations. The resolution No. 3236 confirmed and emphasised the right of the Palestinian people to their homeland and independent state. In the circles of the Socialist countries, Latin America, Afro-Asia, the non-aligned countries and the Islamic countries, our cause gained more recognition, support and prestige.

"I would like to take this solemn opportunity to express, on behalf of the PLO, the Palestinian people and all Arab nations, our deep gratitude to the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and to the Laotian People themselves, for their endless help and precious assistance, both material and moral to the people of Palestine in their just struggle, in the past, as in the present time. And please allow me to extend our good wishes for the progress and prosperity of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

LONG LIVE PALESTINIAN-LAO FRIENDSHIP."

In reply to the PLO Representative's speech Comrade Noban, the Deputy Foreign Minister had this to say:—

"On behalf of the Lao People's

Democratic Republic, the Laotian people and myself, I Grasp this occasion to express our warm congratulations and deep appreciation on the 13th Anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian Revolution. For 13 years you have struggled and made great sacrifices under the leadership of the PLO, headed by Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"All that has been said by Comrade Sapharini, the PLO representative in Vientiane, indicates clearly the close and strong relationship between our people and our revolutions.

"The Government of the Lao

People's Democratic Republic and its people stand firmly beside the just struggle which the Palestinian people is waging. We stand behind your cause as we always have until you realise your final victory and expel the Israeli enemy from your land, and regain your inalienable legitimate rights through your independent democratic state and the return of your people to their national homeland.

"I wish you progress and success in your struggle.

"LONG LIVE THE COMRADELY AND REVOLUTIONARY FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES"

MILITARY OPERATIONS

COMMANDO OPERATION IN JERUSALEM

A Palestinian military spokesman issued the following communiqué No. 7/78:— A commando unit on February 3rd placed a 12 kg charge with a timing device in a flower pot in Benyohuda street in Jerusalem. At 7:10 AM, the charges were discovered by Israeli authorities and were taken to the police station where a number of explosive experts tried to defuse the charges which exploded in their hands. The blast was heard all over the city.

Enemy losses include a number of policemen and explosive experts killed or wounded; serious damage to the building, as well as damage to police cars parked outside the station.

After the operation, traffic was halted, ambulances were rushed to the scene and more than a hundred Palestinian citizens were arrested. Reporters were not allowed to approach the site of the explosion. Our commandos, nevertheless, returned safely to base.

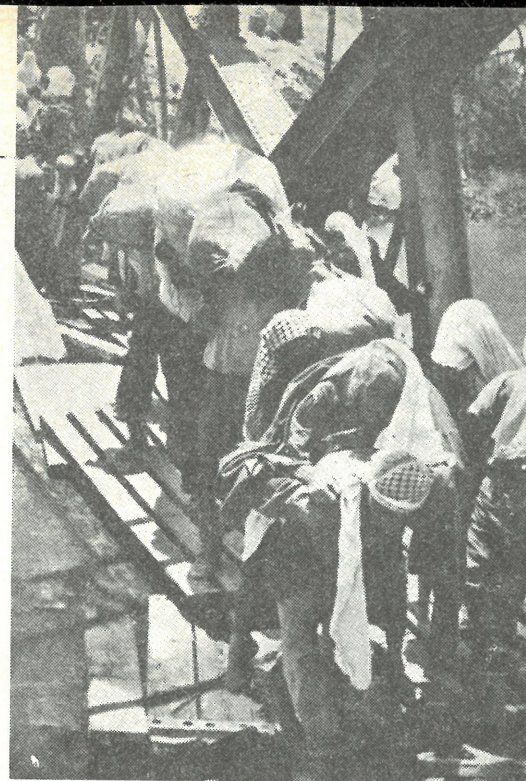
CHARGES IN JERUSALEM FLAT OCCUPIED BY ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

Palestinian commandos on

January 25, set off charges in a building housing Israeli intelligence services in Jerusalem. Three guards were wounded and parts of the building damaged. The Palestinian Military Spokesman issued the following communiqué No. 6/78:—

A commando unit on January 25, placed timed explosive charges at the entrance to a building occupied by Israeli intelligence agents for observation in Samuel Hanabi street in Jerusalem. At 8:00 AM on the same day, the charges went off, wounding three Israeli guards and destroying parts of the building's entrance. After the explosion, security forces sealed off the area for several hours during which they arrested numerous Palestinian citizens on suspicion of their involvement in the incident. Our unit returned safely to base.

Revolution until victory



The results of the Israeli deportation policy: homeless, dispersed Palestinians

THE ARAB BEDUINS IN ISRAEL

Within the 'Green Line' of the Arab occupied territories live some 60,000 Beduin Arabs, some 35,000 of whom live in the Negev, south of the country, and 25,000 in the centre in Galilee. The Israeli authorities have been usurping their land and forcibly trying to concentrate them into reservations, (not unlike the Bantustans of South Africa), which the Israelis call 'exemplary townships'. Here they aim for the Beduin Arabs to become a cheap source of labour for the Israeli economy.

Sheikh Khalil Abu-Amer explains their plight:—

"We were forcibly expelled from our lands by the Israeli authorities in the year 1951. We all have documents showing our ownership of the lands in our possession, but the Israelis tell us those documents date from the time of Ottoman rule and cannot be considered as proof! However when we were forced to sell land to individual Jews these same documents have been considered legal enough for the purpose of selling our land to Jews, and yet for us they are suddenly not good enough to prove prior ownership? We have never left our country! It was the Israeli military administration which expelled us from our lands and transferred us to other places. We have been promised other lands but have received nothing..."

"Who can explain," asks Sheikh Tarabin Sana'a, "Why we have suffered for more than 25 years? Our lands near the town of 'Ofakin' stand empty. Let us be permitted to return

to our lands. Why do they compel us to choose between being cheap wage labourers for the Israelis, or starvation in the desert?"

A special governmental inter-office committee, the 'Superior Beduin Committee', has prepared plans for the future of the Beduins.

A member of this Committee, the Director of the Department of 'Minorities', (the term used by the Israelis to describe their Arab citizens), in the Israeli Land Authority (ILA), Amos Mokadi has explained in detail the Committee's plan for the Beduins. "Technological progress and the Israeli economy are hungry for workers who do not wear a collar or smoke a pipe. Because of the state's need for rapid development we need land, land which is settled by the Beduin tribes. Therefore the Committee proposes to Beduins that they renounce all of their claims and all of their rights to all of their property, and for this the government will give a house and a plot of land for each Beduin family, in 21 specified and allowed concentrated areas where they will turn from being peasants to being tractorers, garbage removers, construction workers, waiters, dishwashers, drivers or agricultural labourers"

The Israeli Minister of Agriculture and former General Ariel Sharon has stated in the most belligerent and aggressive terms:—

The Arab Beduins completely rejected this plan designed by the Israeli authorities to transform them into cheap and expendable labour for the benefit of the Zionists' economy.

"I am also dealing now with strangers, with Arabs, taking over state's lands. There has been total weakness on this subject. National Lands are being stolen by strangers. From Ashkelon (in the south) to Hadera (in the centre) some 10,000 Arabs have settled and have established about 800 living units on National Land. In Galilee, land has been free to all, and while talking about the Judaization of Galilee, (a chauvinist term used by the Israeli authorities), the area has become again a land of gentiles. Together with other responsible elements, I have begun to take drastic measures to prevent the National Lands from being taken over by strangers" (Haaretz — 15/9/77).

In order to force the Beduins into submission, many tricks and plans were devised by the Israeli authorities. Beduins were refused permits to construct buildings on their own land and they were removed on the pretext that "they were a sanitary danger". Even more violent means were adopted to try and force the Beduins off their land. The authorities decided to establish a special patrol that would persecute the Beduins into submission.

"It's founders nicknamed it the 'Green Patrol'," wrote the journalist Dan Margalit of the 'Haaretz' (conservative Israeli newspaper) — "and under this name, it appears in their documents. One night last week, the patrol prepared a secret commando raid. Armed people braced themselves for an attack on a Beduin Hamula (large family) which had set up camp near Mevo'ot-Beitar. In the parlance of the Green Patrol the destination of their attack is not just inhabited by Beduins. They are the 'invading enemy' and it is a supreme imperative to remove it from National Land..." ('Haaretz' — 30/9/77).

These official declarations by the Israeli Land Authority



What exemplary townships?

and Sharon, and the viciousness of the activities of the Green Patrol provoked protests from progressive circles in Israel, among them the 'Israeli League for Human and Civil and Human Rights' which protested stating:—

A. The National Land of the state of Israel belongs to all citizens of Israel, without regard to differences of race, religion or origin; it must serve all Israeli citizens without discrimination.

B. Referring to Arab citizens as if they were foreigners on their own land — in this or any other context — is an act of racism and discrimination.

C. The expression 'Gentile Galilee' is humiliating and racist and recalls the expressions used by the anti-semites against the Jews. We do not know of any country in which government ministers refer today to Jews in the same style which the Minister of Agriculture in the Israeli government uses to refer to Arabs. We call on public opinion to oppose the danger lurking in Ariel Sharon's words and actions, and organize to defend the victims of this racism before it will be too late."

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*

What is this "Beduin settlement" which the Israelis try to prevent?

During the last years, because of the severe lack of land available to the Beduins and the surplus of land in the areas of the Jewish kibbutzim and moshavim (agricultural co-operatives), a situation was created in the Galilee and the Negev in which Jewish settlers are renting part of their land to Beduins, who are hungry for land the Beduins are paying much money to the Jewish settlers. The lands which the Beduins rent under these conditions are the same lands from which they were expelled, the lands which were theirs not so long ago. They are forced to rent them under such difficult

conditions in order to stay alive.

Using chauvinistic reasons like "defense of National Land" the authorities, headed by the Ministry of Agriculture, began a crusade against the Jewish settlers who rent their land to Beduins, or enter into partnerships with them. The Ministry threatened that it "will stop the water supply and will confiscate the lands of those agricultural settlements which rent their lands to Beduins."

Those threats were not made idly. The Ministry of Agriculture has inflicted heavy fines (which because they were inflicted out of court were called 'donations'..) on a number of Jewish settlers, among them agricultural co-operatives. The authorities threatened other sanctions against Jewish settlers who rent land to Arabs, like: the immediate cessation of any governmental help and the prohibition of taking their agricultural produce to market.

The hunted Israeli Beduins, living under constant threat of expulsion are horribly exploited. Their wages are much lower than is normal, and their employers are placing them in inhuman housing conditions. A moshav member explains the system this way:—

"From your own work, or that of your wife's and children's work you will never get rich. What you should do (in order to get rich) is to bring families, either of Arabs from the Gaza Strip or of the Beduins from the Negev. It is best to take big families, together with their women and children, and you should not be a fool, that is you should not pay them any honest wage or social benefits. You should never pay an Arab worker more than 40 Israeli Liras (3-4 dollars) a day, and you should compel him to work from sunrise to sunset. You should also learn to use the women and the small children, for they are a workforce that is by no means negligible." ("Haaretz — 9/9/76").

The situation hasn't changed since this article was written. That is one of the pictures of Israeli life in the most 'civilised' and the most 'western' country in the Middle East.

POGROM IN MAJD AL-KRUM

Since 1948 the Israeli authorities have denied adequate land for building homes to the Palestinian Arabs in occupied Palestine. In many places the population of villages has tripled while the amount of land allocated to building has only been slightly increased. The Israeli authorities consistently deny building permits to Palestinian Arabs, especially those living in Galilee, and many people have been forced to live in tin huts, or with their parents. The authorities also consistently and very conveniently 'forget' to inform Palestinian Arabs of the already harsh and restrictive building regulations.

Majd al-Krum, in Western Galilee is one of these growing villages, most of its citizens' land confiscated in the early 60's, which has been denied adequate building space. Hussein Awad Keiwan is one of its villagers, whom the authorities conveniently 'forgot' to inform of the building regulations. Hussein Awad Keiwan went ahead and built his home in 1972 and there he lived with his family until early November 1977...

On Tuesday morning, Nov. 8 1977, a force of 250 Israeli police and border guards assembled near the western entrance to Majd al-Krum. Hussein had already been fined IL 850 for building his house illegally, and the police were now there to evict him and his family and to demolish their house.

The police took up their positions, isolating the town from the



Demolished houses; a regular scene in occupied Palestine

outside and surrounding the condemned building. At the same time about 20 policemen entered the house, in which there was Hussein's seven young children, his wife Remi, and he himself, paralysed and bed-ridden since 1970.

The family was given 10 minutes to evacuate the house, but had few possessions to remove, except for a few beds and blankets. After the time had passed, with the house still not completely empty the police attacked those remaining, using clubs and tear gas. Remi Keiwan explains:

"Four policemen approached my husband, who was lying in bed

and unable to move because of his paralysis. I told them he was paralysed. A policeman hit me in the stomach with a board and told me to shut up. Another hit my husband and told him to get up quickly. I started to cry and told him to have mercy, but instead they attacked him and beat him up with boards. Then they pushed him out of bed and dragged him along the floor to get him out of the house."

A tractor began the demolition work and had it finished in less than 15 minutes. Hussein Awad Keiwan is now hospitalized in Haifa, unconscious and suffering from a concussion.

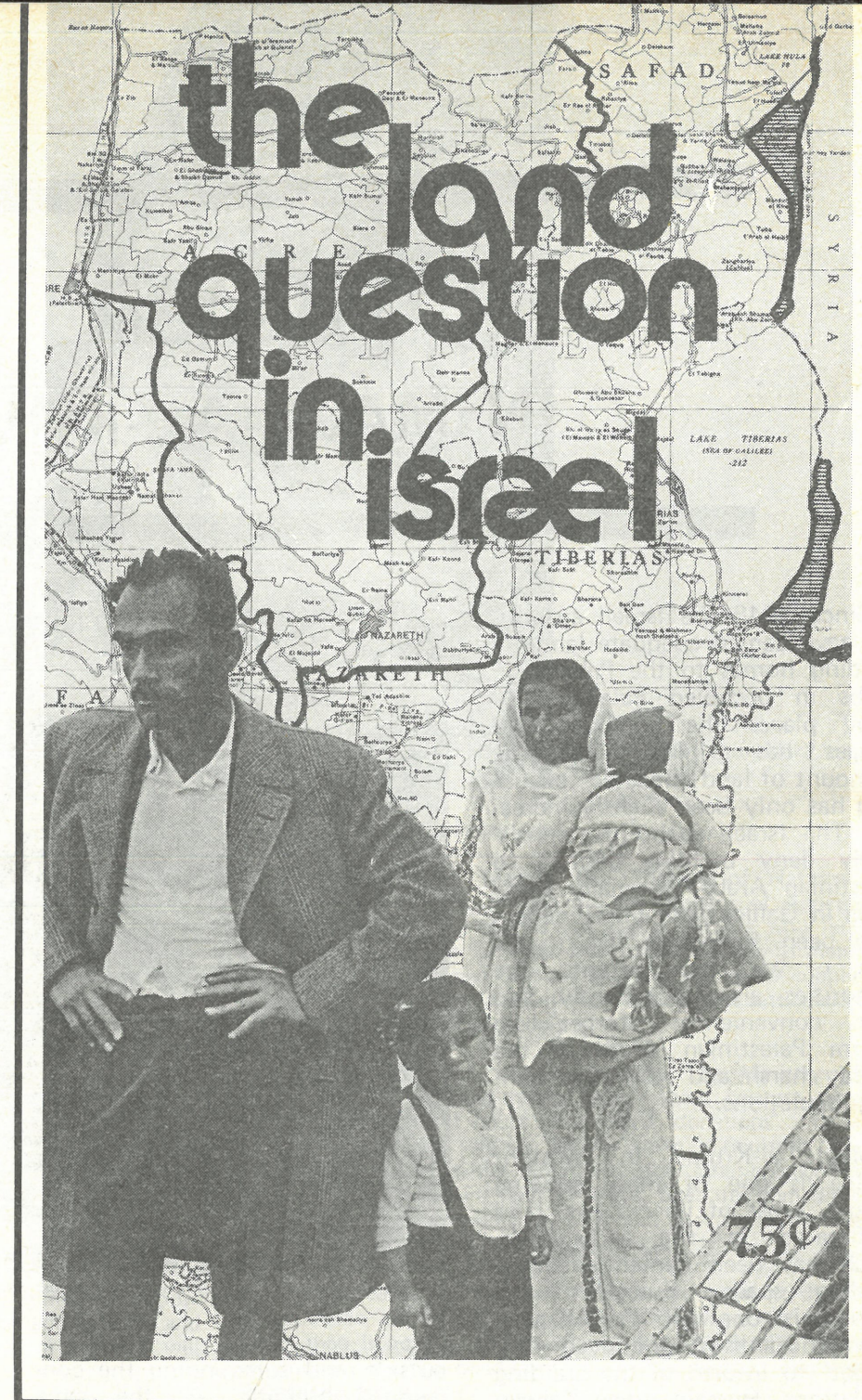
When the destruction of a house occurred three years ago things quickly returned to normal, but not so this time. Immediately after the tractor had been removed a water truck was driven through the village spraying the inhabitants. Simultaneously police and border guards stormed the buildings firing shots and throwing tear gas. Those women and children who had not fled the onslaught began throwing stones at the invaders. The policemen dealt out blows indiscriminately.

Part of the police force then dispersed into 'search' parties which passed from house to house. A reporter from Haaretz describes the results of the search; "All the signs showed that the border guards and policemen broke into the houses of people who were absent from the village at the time. I visited some of the houses... something in the atmosphere reminded me about the stories of the pogroms in Tsarist Russia. The door locks were broken and the windows were smashed... Glassware, lamps and television sets were smashed, electrical appliances were destroyed, furniture was damaged and even foodstuffs were destroyed." (Haaretz, 11/11/77).

While the policemen went wild inside the houses some of the young men who had not gone to work that morning threw stones at the forces stationed above the road outside the village. Suddenly shots could be heard from the direction of the policemen and one young man, Ahmed al Masri, fell down near a little boy. The other young men ran towards him but more shots rang out and they fled, shouting "Ahmed has been murdered?"

Three doctors examined the body and concluded that Ahmed had been hit by two bullets, one on the left thigh and the other in the throat.

The whole affair was raised in the Knesset, where Charlie Biton of the Democratic Front for Peace, (DFP) and Tewfik Zayad, (DFP) declared that the action was "premeditated murder" by the



police and represented a government authorised "pogrom policy" against Majd al-Krum, Sahnin and other villages.

Knesset member Meir Pail stated that "in the Jewish sector demolition orders are executed with a velvet glove and in the Arab sector with iron gloves".

Another member, Tewfik Tubi, (DFP) complained that construction in the Arab villages is strangled by lack of contour plans and that the government was conduc-

ting a policy of land confiscation and Judaization of Galilee. He further accused the police of "lawless acts against Arab citizens" and cried out against the "murder and pogrom of Majd al-Krum" and against the "bloodshed" of the 'Day of the Land'.

The villagers' words from all over occupied Palestine ring true: 'Where shall we build? — our population is growing — the authorities take our land and give nothing in return — We are being strangled!'

PALESTINIAN PROTEST AGAINST UNRWA REDUCTION OF SERVICES

In a lengthy memorandum to the Head of Operations of UNRWA in the occupied West Bank on February 7, Palestinian citizens protested against the reduction of the flour ration from 10 kgs to 6.5 kgs per person and the withholding of rice the ration without previous notice. The memorandum expressed their chagrin at this policy which aims "at making the Palestinian citizens accept the status quo and aims in the long run to obliterate UNRWA services completely".

The bakeries of the Palestinian camps in the Nablus area also protested against the decrease in rations and declared that they "won't receive any statistics agent sent by the UNRWA, until the services are resumed."

Moreover, the reduction of UNRWA services resulted in the refusal of the Palestinians of the Jabalia and Rafah camps in the Gaza Strip to receive their rations. The mayors of the Palestinian camps in the Nablus district also called for an urgent meeting to discuss the step to take against this procedure.

WIDE DENUNCIATION OF UNRWA DECISION TO DECREASE RATIONS

In a cable sent on February to UN Secretary General Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the Chairman of the Executive Committee for Refugees in the Gaza Strip conveyed his committee's denunciation of UNRWA's decision to decrease rice and flour rations beginning this month, describing this step as a breach of the UN's commitment to the Palestinian people. He added that "the rations were already insufficient, and this last decision has in fact deprived most of the refugees of basic foodstuffs. The Gaza Strip refugees have therefore decided to counter this unfair measure by refusing the rations starting the beginning of March, until the decision is annulled".

OCCUPATION DIARY

Lastly, the Chairman of the Committee asked the UN Secretary General to personally intervene in the name of justice, to halt the deterioration of the services offered by UNRWA. Needless to say, the UNRWA decision was also widely denounced in all other refugee camps.

BIR ZEIT PROFESSORS TESTIFY ON TORTURE OF STUDENTS

Al-Ittihad, organ of the Rakah Party, recently printed a letter bearing the signatures of a number of professors and lecturers at Bir Zeit University, which draws attention to the torture of Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

The letter told the story of two Bir Zeit University students who were called to the office of the Israeli military governor in Ramallah for interrogation around ten days ago. The two students refused to confess and were released around midnight; but one of them, Khaled Muhammad Abd Rabbo, fainted and was rushed to hospital for fear an internal hemorrhage. The same student was nevertheless forced to report to the interrogator's office the next day.

The signatories to the letter said that such incidents take place daily, but that they only represent a minor example of the harassment to which the Palestinian people under occupation are subjected.

DEMONSTRATIONS ERUPT IN NABLUS

A series of demonstrations against Israeli settlements and the expropriation of land were staged in Nablus over the past two weeks, with demonstrations raising slogans condemning the Zionist occupation and the suppressive measures applied by the Zionist authorities against the Palestinian people. The demonstrators expressed support for the Palestinian Revolution as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and denounced the policy of Anwar Sadat which represents a conspiracy against the Palestine cause and the rights of the Palestinian people.

Consequently, Israeli police and frontier guards clashed with the demonstrators using tear gas, clubs and fire arms. The demonstrators, thereupon, attacked the police and threw stones at them after barricading the city's entrances and its minor streets, and setting tires on fire to prevent Israeli tanks from entering the city.

Fifty Palestinian citizens were reported wounded and many others were arrested. Nevertheless, the demonstration was not dispersed and the Palestinian masses continued to wave Palestinian flags and cheer for the PLO. Pamphlets and posters condemning the Israeli occupation and calling for a continuation of struggle against Zionism and its expansionist ambitions were also distributed.

Nothing can stop our Palestinian masses from resisting Israeli occupation





Carter, Hussein of Jordan and the Shah: the "Pincer" strategy.

US-ZIONIST-IRANIAN ILLUSIONS

One of the main aspirations of the U.S. president's New Year's trek around the globe was to put an additional Iranian horse before the U.S. Middle East "peace" cart. Due to its defeat in Vietnam U.S. imperialism, especially in its dealings outside Western Europe, has shifted from a policy of immediate military involvement to that of supplying and selling weapons and aggressive techniques to strengthen the forces of "friendly" stooge regimes. In the Middle East, the U.S.A. at present apparently tries to deploy, side-by-side with its Zionist base, also the Iranian regime, in order to bring about the

final capitulation of the Egyptian president, the liquidation of Palestinian rights, and the consequent expansion of U.S. economic and military domination and exploitation over the whole area (Iran and even the Zionist state are not excluded).

Simultaneously, the Shah was to be pushed to nose into the Horn of Africa, and to hint, in the higher interests of U.S. imperialism, at Iranian intervention and "support" on the Somali side.

U.S. TENTACLES ON IRAN

While nourishing some short-li-

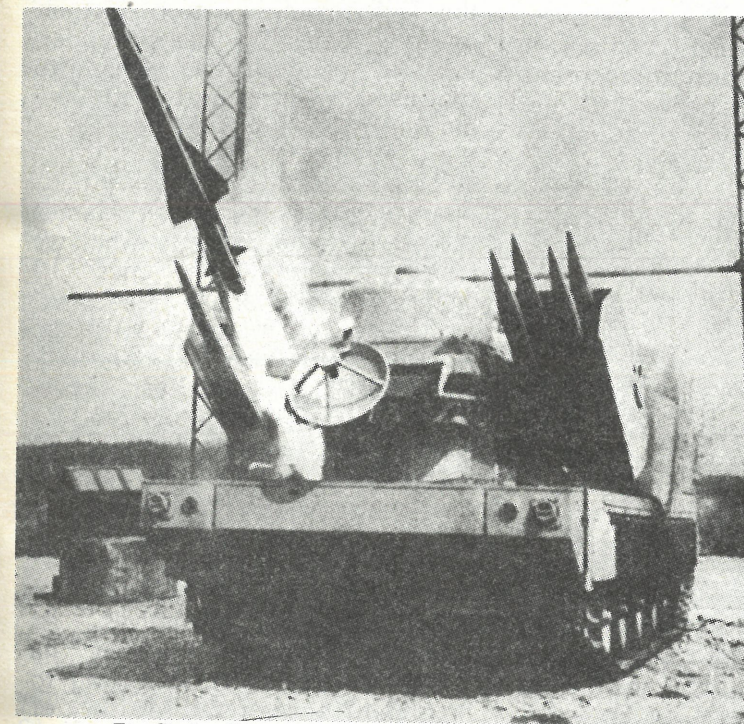
ving "subimperialist" aspirations of the Iranian Empire the U.S., in reality, only attempts to exploit the Iranian potential as a tool.

First, Iran was assigned to be one link (Baghdad-Pact, CENTO) in the meanwhile moulding a cordon of anti-Soviet outposts in the U.S. "roll-back" strategy all over the world. In 1943, a formal agreement between the U.S. and Iranian government established the "U.S. Army Mission to the Imperial Iranian Armed Forces" which continues to function up to this day. U.S. build-up of the Iranian forces has been accelerated at an

alarming pace, and has also resulted in the present strained Iranian financial and economic situation. In 1977, out of a record total of \$11.1 billion (U.S.) world-wide arms sales \$6.7 billion was for Iran alone ("New York Times", 10 November 1977). U.S. arms stockpiled in Iran, like those in the Zionist depots, include the latest models of practically every type of weapon, ranging from AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) to the latest F-16 and F-14 fighter planes. As in the case of the Zionist aggressors, the Imperial Iranian Forces at times receive weapons before they are

grasping for the entire Middle and Near East and even parts of Africa. The foremost aim of this strategy is to enforce the rapidly increasing and exhausting flow of Middle East oil and capital to the U.S.A. and to secure the overall predominance of U.S.-controlled monopolies in the area.

The U.S. colossus is absorbing Nowadays, about half of its excessive oil needs from imports. Twenty five per cent of the 8.5 million barrels it consumes daily, come from Saudi Arabia, with Iran itself providing for another 6% ("International Herald Tribune", 20



The Shah will receive 1,800 Rapier missiles in exchange for oil.

even supplied to the U.S. units themselves. On the other hand, in order to handle all the excess equipment Iran is now "in need" to also pay for the presence of 40,000 U.S. "technicians" ("International Herald Tribune", 11 September 1977).

THE U.S. "PINCER" STRATEGY AGAINST THE WHOLE MIDDLE EAST

At present, the U.S.A. is trying to deploy Iran, together with Israel and other subordinated stooges, in the frame work of a kind of "pincer" and "axes" strategy

December 1977). The U.S.A. obviously does not rely on a peaceful international trade and energy policy in the mutual interest of all the peoples concerned, it does not trust even any of its "allies" in the area, but turns to dirty and dangerous power and exploitation tactics which are eventually detrimental for all parties. Recently, the U.S. Senate "Committee on Energy and Natural Resources," headed by the aggressive Zionist Senator Henry Jackson, released a report, obviously "in time" to threaten and frighten the Arab world, Saudi Arabia not being spared. It brutally claims that the

"U.S. has a direct interest in insuring that Iran has sufficient military forces to prevent the Soviet Union or 'radical forces' from taking power in any of the oil-rich Gulf states, especially in Saudi Arabia". "If Iran", so the cynisms of the study, "is called upon to intervene in the internal affairs of any Gulf state, it must be recognized in advance by the U.S. that this is the role for which Iran is being primed", and that "the U.S. should condone an Iranian invasion of Saudi Arabia in certain circumstances" ("International Herald Tribune", 20 December 1977).

This is, after all, "the moral" of the "new peace" policy of the U.S.A. of Carter which apparently has learnt nothing from Vietnam and other of its disasters.

It is obvious that these aggressive schemes reach from the African West coast to Iran and from Palestine to the Horn of Africa. They threaten all people in the area and any kind of national Arab regime, even some not hostile to the U.S.A. It calls "radical" or "pro-communist" any force, even from national bourgeois or capitalist ranks, which do not unconditionally submit to the exclusive interests of U.S. domination and exploitation.

Significantly, the aforementioned U.S. Senate report, while stating the U.S.'s interest in Iran's military strength, argued that the U.S. had no such interest even with Saudi Arabia. There, it said, the primary U.S. goal was "maintaining access to the vital oil reserves of Saudi Arabia", with political stability there being only "A complementary interest."

THE IRANIAN-ISRAELI LINK

Iran has long since been one of the very few countries outside the West which has been prompted to actively support Zionist aggression against the Arab people and resources. Iran has been supplying vital oil to Israel, and within the framework of the destructive second Sinai agreement in September 1975, the Shah has been



deployed by the U.S. to guarantee 90 % of the Zionist oil needs. In return, Israel together with the C.I.A. experts "helped" Iran in such fields as training the Iranian secret service SAVAK in repression and torture tactics (see Report of International Commission of Jurists, "International Herald Tribune", 29 May 1975). Together with the Zionist regime, Iran is participating in uranium enrichment schemes and an uncontrolled nuclear build-up in racist South Africa.

In summer and late 1977, Iran has been visited several times by the Zionist Foreign Minister Dayan seeking to break the international isolation of the Zionist warriors.

THE WOULD-BE-MASTER OF ARAB AND AFRICAN "SECURITY"

At first glance, the Shah seems eager to shoulder the underlying role which the U.S. has assigned for Iran. In November 1977, he was asked: "Is there at least a consensus among the Gulf states — which straddle the oil jugulars of Western Europe and Japan and, increasingly, the U.S. too — on what Gulf security means and what should be done about it if it is breached?", and he replied: "There isn't a consensus and that's one of the big problems and this worries us, and that's why Iran must be prepared to do the job alone if necessary" ("International Herald Tribune", 7 November 1977).

The Gulf has, indeed, not yet forgotten that Iran has moved in by force and occupied areas which Britain presided over for two centuries. The Bandar Abbas fleet, and the seizure of Khark from Sharjah are but a couple of exam-

ples of Iranian expansionist moves that have made the Arabs cautious in their dealing with Iran. The U.S. also may, after the early depletion of the Iranian oil resources in the interest of the West, well try to push Iranian sub-imperialist ambitions in the direction of the richer Arab fields.

The 1973 Iranian invasion of Oman, executed with the consent of the U.S., has proven to the Arabs the dangerous role Iran is trying to usurp in the area.

When the South Yemeni Premier Ali Nasser Muhammed again demanded the withdrawal of Iranian troops from Oman, he declared: "Iranian troops and other foreign bases have become a source of anxiety for the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf." ("Arab Press Service Recorder, p. 152).

Self-deceiving Iranian "big power" aspirations, in reality working only in the service of U.S. imperialist interests, are also behind the dispatch of "Iranian arms and military experts to Somalia" (Kuwaiti "Al-Yakza, November 7, 1977) and the pithy statements on the part of the Shah which have raised considerable concern among all sovereign African states. The usually pro-Western Kenyan press, for instance, has exposed the hypocrisy of these moves which under the pretext of "fighting subversion and Soviet influence" themselves actually favour imperialist subversion and aggression. And the Organisation for African Unity found "alarming sounds" in the Shah's New Year address and commented that Iran should better participate in the search for a peaceful solution of the conflict in the Horn of Africa. ("Reuter", 24 January 1978).

LATEST MEDDLING IN ARAB AND PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

No wonder after all of that the U.S., when President Sadat's latest suicidal solo ran into difficulties, pushed the Shah of Iran into the scene, in an attempt to weaken the Arab anti-Zionist front further, to press Sadat into final surrender, to drag the Jordanian King into the mess, and even put Saudi Arabia under pressure and threats.

Upon arrival in Aswan on January 9, 1978, the Shah declared: "Sadat is doing precisely what we believe is right" ("The Times", 10 January, 1978). In a "spectacular" television interview with the American Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) on New Year's Eve, he heavily meddled into Arab and Palestinian affairs, as if he was the only chosen and begotten herald of the peoples in the area: "Obviously we have got to find a formula, and some kind of supervision to let the people of that region speak for themselves." As for the Palestinian people, he "assigned" the Jordanian King to "represent at least the territory of the West Bank", adding his "very grave reservations for something like an independent Palestinian state."

And asked, whether he had also any "worries about the government in Saudi Arabia?", he answered with veiled threats: "Not really, not really. But the destructive negative elements everywhere are in turmoil."

IMPERIAL AND IMPERIALIST ILLUSIONS

The help the U.S. is seeking from Iran as a proxy for the implementations of its own destructive Middle East strategy is based on feet of clay.



Shah of Iran: the dream of the old Empire.

Iran's "Great Civilisation" plan which aims to achieve independence for Iran in the "era of Rastkhiz" has failed to materialize and rather resulted in the contrary, due to a still weak political and economic infrastructure, the heavy purchases of costly Western equipment and the high dependence on the U.S.A. Internal and world inflation has diminished the big oil revenues. In the "Fifth Economic Plan", the government's 1976-budget had a \$ 3.5 billion deficit and "wealthy" Iran had to extend a begging hand to the Western and imperialist monopolies for loans.

The frantic U.S. arms sales to Iran, at the expense of the development of its infrastructure, have aggravated this situation. More-

over, Iran has become unable to handle the military machine without the "presence of 40,000 U.S. technicians to train Iranians and even to operate the equipment" ("International Herald Tribune", 11 September 1977).

This means also that the U.S. will themselves have to become involved and participate in any Iranian military adventure in the Middle East and Africa and will have to bear the full responsibility. The above-mentioned U.S. Senate Committee report itself, states brutally: "Iran does not have a free hand and must not have one, and the U.S. is not committed to resupply Iran with military equipment or parts in the event of an Iranian military action which does not serve U.S. interests."

It is doubtful whether Iran will eventually be prepared and willing to carry out such a mere stooge role in the Middle East and Africa, for the final exclusive interests of U.S. imperialism.

In any case, the Arab people and states are increasingly aware of the danger of this "new" U.S. imperialist strategy to try to expand new ultra-reactionary "axes" over the whole area linking among others the Zionist aggressive foothold "Eretz Israel" with a "Greater Iranian Empire".

The strategy is to threaten and undermine the security, territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states in the area and it wants to get the national resources, above all the oil, of all the countries involved under the control and at the unconditional disposal of the U.S.A. In a recent interview on 16 January, 1978, one of the leaders of the Palestinian Resistance, Abu Iyyad, clearly exposed that this strategy is aiming not only at the liquidation of the resistance and the national rights of the Palestinian people but is an attempt against the peace, national interests, welfare and future prosperous development of every single country in the area.

It is inconceivable that this continued colonial U.S. strategy will work out. Anyhow, for the time being it will result in increased insecurity, explosions, serious danger of war, human ordeals and social upheavals. Obviously, all the nations and countries in the area have to — and eventually will do so in their own interests — confront this imperialist scheme, in a regional alliance of forces and with the broadest possible international political and military support which cannot reasonably exclude the Soviet Union. ○

FILM ON EXPULSION OF PALESTINIANS BANNED



TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Education and Culture Minister Zevelun Hammer banned the showing on television in Israel of a film depicting the eviction of Arab villagers by Israeli soldiers in the 1948 war.

Critics had said the film could serve as Palestinian propaganda against Israel.

But the Israeli Film and Television Directors Guild urged Hammer "not to become the first cabi-

net minister to undermine Israel's democracy."

The decision provoked sharp debate. Television called it "a blow to free speech" and leftist Victor Shemtov, a former cabinet minister, demanded that Hammer resign.

SUPPRESS

It was believed to be the first time Parliament has intervened to suppress television fare, although

veiled threats to tame the often-controversial network have been heard ever since Prime Minister Menahem Begin took office in June, in coalition with Hammer's party.

The film, "Hirbet Hiza", does not attempt to resolve the dispute over who turned the Palestinians into refugees in 1948.

But in dramatizing a single fictional incident of the 1948 war — the capture of a village called Hirbet Hiza — it questions the official Israeli version of the 1948 events.

Israel has always contended that the Palestinians fled on orders from invading Arab armies, so as not to be caught in the crossfire.

The film is based on a short story by S. Izhar, a former member of Parliament who fought in 1948 and became Israel's premier novelist of that conflict with his terse, unvarnished depictions of Jews at war.

According to those who have previewed it, the film shows an Israeli unit occupying a strategically placed Arab village, Hirbet Hiza, and expelling its population.

The film focuses on one sensitive Israeli soldier, whose conscience is tormented by what he sees.

Critics claimed the film would fuel Arab propaganda and confuse Israel's youth. Hammer called it "self-accusatory, controversial and untimely."

Izhar's story is based, he says, on his own experience. It deals with the fate of about 15 villages which military historian Meir Pa'il says were destroyed for strategic reasons at the tail-end of the 1948 fighting.

Palestinians have always claimed the Israelis systematically expelled them from this country in 1948. Israeli historians like Pa'il say the truth falls somewhere in the middle.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Pa'il said about a third of the 600,000 Palestinians fled unprovoked. The rest, he says, were expelled outright or intimidated into leaving.

About 190,000 remained to become Israeli citizens.

SURVIVAL

"I don't think the Jews were blameworthy," says Pa'il, a former colonel. "It was a war for survival. We had to control large tracts of territory in the face of a hostile Arab populace, or else we would not have survived."

Some Israelis hotly dispute Pa'il's view. They note that he is a leftist and a member of Parliament with a party line to follow.

Giora Zeid, a government official, recalls that in 1948 the Israeli army sent him to several Arab villages to persuade the populace to stay. Zeid says Moshe Dayan, then a young officer and today

Israel's foreign minister, ordered him to stand at the gate of a port through which the Arabs were fleeing and plead with them to stay.

"It was hopeless," he said. "They had been told by their leaders to get out and make way for the Arab armies, and nothing could stop them."

Israel Television closed down in protest at the banning of the film. The decision to stop all broadcasts was taken at an emergency meeting of television journalists.

Meanwhile, 25 of Israel's best known authors have written to the education minister demanding that he allow the immediate screening of the film or resign.

ENEMY NEWS

DAYAN: ISRAEL WILL NOT STOP ESTABLISHING SETTLEMENTS

Addressing Knesset members on February 1st, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan asserted that the Begin government will continue to establish further advanced military settlements over all territories under Israeli control, adding that they will later be turned into civilian colonies. He denied that Israel had promised US President Carter to stop the setting up of new settlements in the occupied territories, and said: "No Israeli government can at present or in the future give such a commitment."

The Israeli cabinet has recently ratified the construction of three civilian colonies situated within military zones near the West Bank city of Nablus.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT REITERATES OBJECTION TO WITHDRAWAL OR PARTITION

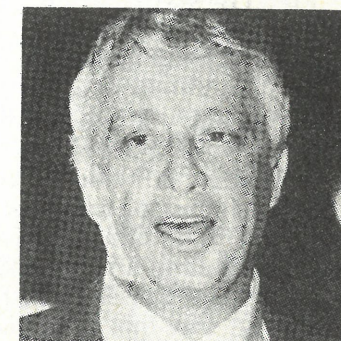
Israeli Minister of Interior, Yusef Borg, has reiterated his government's rejection of any withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Addressing the Knesset on January 25, he added that there is no room for compromise as regards Jerusalem and that the partition of the Holy City was out of the question. He affirmed that Jerusalem will remain Israel's capital forever.

Borg's statement was apparently

a response to a draft resolution presented by the Labour Front Party, headed by Shimon Peres, which called for declaring Jerusalem the capital of Israel. Borg said that there has been agreement to safeguard the holy rights of all religious sects in Jerusalem without discrimination. He indicated that six quarters have been set up in the Holy City since 1967, in addition to the construction of 17,500 new residential units. He pointed out that the government is planning to transfer 3,700 of its employees to Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Haaretz recently reported that 5000 government employees have already been transferred to Jerusalem along with their families.

SHARON CALLS FOR PREVENTIVE ACTION AGAINST PALESTINIANS



The Israeli Minister of Agriculture and head of the Israeli Settlement Committee, Ariel Sharon, has called on February 4, for

"preventive action against the positions of Palestinian forces which aim at eliminating Israel". While speaking about the nature of peace with Egypt, Sharon added that action against "the Palestinian organizations" should not fall solely within the framework of retaliation operations. He said that such a preventive operation, carried out on a large scale, would enable Israel to lead a natural life without fear.

NEW BUDGET FOR JUDAIZATION OF JERUSALEM

The Israeli authorities have decided to allocate in the budget for the forthcoming fiscal year, IL 140 million for construction in the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem. Sources at the Ministry of Housing indicated to foreign news agencies that so far 378 out of a planned 650 apartment houses have been constructed, while 197 apartments are still under construction and will be finished during 1978. The source added that according to the plan, 150 new shops and department stores will also be built while 38 stores have already been constructed. These procedures are part of the long-term Israeli plan to judaize Jerusalem and obliterate its Arab character.

JERUSALEM POST: 60% OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS DO NOT GO TO ISRAEL

The *Jerusalem Post* recently confirmed that over 60% of Soviet Jewish emigrants do not go to Israel, and that most of them head for the USA and Canada. The paper added, quoting a spokesman for the Executive Council of the Jewish Agency, that this phenomenon is mainly due to the deteriorating economic conditions and the lack of stability in Israel, and to the constant tension in the Middle East.

ZIONIST PARANOIA AND PALESTINIAN SYMPATHISERS

Zionist authorities are not satisfied in exercising their sadistic repression against the Palestinian Arabs but the wave of repression now encompasses foreign citizens suspected of being what the Zionists alledge "potential terrorists".

In a frenzied move against 'suspicious persons', the Zionist Police arrested innocent travellers or visitors whose only crime was expressing their sympathy with the Palestinians' just cause. In an ingeniously pre-designed plan intended to terrorize world public opinion in general, and individuals or groups sympathetic to the Palestinian people in particular, the Zionists 'intercepted' many foreigners in an awkward fashion under the classical fabricated pretext of being agents against the state. In statements released by the progressive Jewish lawyer, Felicia Langer, who traditionally undertakes the task of defending arrested Palestinian freedom fighters, she disclosed that the arrested foreigners were subjected to physical and mental torture.

The list of foreign detainees includes journalists, students and tourists. The nationalities involved were American, a West German and Greek Cypriot. In hurried summary trials, Israeli military tribunals sentenced a number of those arrested without allowing them ample opportunity to defend

themselves. Others still awaiting trial are being held incommunicado without even being able to contact lawyers or their respective embassies.

In a consorted effort to black-out the Zionist repression and grave violations of human rights, respective West German and US governments remained almost silent lest they 'anger' their Zionist allies. Meanwhile the Begin ruling clique known for its long standing historical terrorist record continues to challenge the basics of human rights in such a way that recalls the law of the jungle.

In fact the imperialist governments' reluctance to move on behalf of their citizens encourages the Zionist repression to encroach even further upon others' human rights.

Twenty-three year old Brigitte Schulz together with a West German citizen, Thomas Reuther, were convicted by a Zionist court of attempting to shoot down an EL-AL jetliner at 'Nairobi Airport'. The result was that the West German authorities hardly did anything to obtain their release. In addition Brigitte was subjected to methods of torture, "she was kept in a blindfolded state for a long time so that she could not concentrate on what was going on around her in the court room" — her Jewish lawyer disclosed.



Cypriot masses demonstrating outside the Israeli Embassy.

Shortly before the Zionist court passed the sentence on the West Germans, the same court passed sentence on 23 year old Terry Fleener, an American citizen who was convicted of gathering information on strategic Zionist installations for Palestinian commando organisations.

Meanwhile, progressive Greek Cypriot journalist Panciotti Paschalis, together with dual-national journalist Hans Lebrecht, were arrested on the same charges brought against Miss Fleener.

Another arrest was made at Lydda Airport, Sami Ismail a naturalised American citizen of Palestinian origin and a university graduate student. Ismail was arrested by Zionist secret police on charges of

belonging to a Palestinian guerrilla organisation and receiving military training in Libya. Ismail's purpose for returning to Palestine was to visit his dying father. As usual in such a case, Ismail is being held incommunicado and it is assumed that he is being secretly tried on the alleged charges.

Upon increasing pressure from world public opinion and progressive circles in general, journalist Lebrecht has been released on bail, but the fate of the others is still obscure.

These Zionist practices are not a new phenomenon but are part of the long established repressive tradition in a militaristic and police state whereby any movement or individual becomes a suitable tar-

get for repressive action. In this sense information and photos, which are the essence of journalism instantly become militarily sensitive.

The continued detention of journalists, students and tourists, calls upon progressive and humanitarian public opinion to more rigorously and swiftly raise their voices of protest so as to ensure the termination of the detainees' plight as soon as possible.

The plight of the foreign detainees also provides the opportunity to recall the thousands of other prisoners of war against Zionist aggression who experience a process of slow death and liquidation at the hands of the Zionist hangmen inside dungeon walls.



ARABI THE OPPRESSED

by Yahya Yakhluf

It was a red car, a car with a green number plate. The dark faced men were sons of the government, and bastards at the same time. They overturned vegetable, fruit and lemonade and tamarind juice stalls, and confiscated scales, tape measures and any old scraps.

They would emerge with canes and wide belts, cursing people's mothers, sisters and honour, spitting, spitting and spitting again.

Arabi tried to hide behind the sack which contained his trade and his capital, but the hand of the sons of the government grabbed him quickly, stinging him on his shoulder, below his neck, on his sweatsoaked khaki shirt. The cane stung his shoulder, and the dry voice said:

"Halt. Give it to me."

He stopped. His chest rose and fell, rose and fell, as oppression seeped into his lungs. For an instant, he thought of humiliating the son of the government. Humiliating,

humiliating him and stamping on his head, but he remembered that his children would be hungry if he went to prison.

His hold on the sack relaxed, the sack containing women's slippers made of cheap plastic. The son of the government took the sack and threw it into the boot of the red car. Then he went off.

Arabi, the oppressed, stood watching the car as it drove off, a number of owners of confiscated items running after it.

The blood boiled in his veins, and he was filled with aggressiveness resentment and anger.

His hands became aware of a few piasters. He remembered that that morning he had prayed for God and his parents to be pleased with him. He looked into a sky as clear as a cockerel's eye, and said: "God, make this a pure day."

Umm Husni the refugee woman said: "Instead of destroying our livelihoods, get us back to our country."

The one-armed man who sold fruit juice said: "To hell with you and your mothers."

Ahmad the porter spat angrily.

Abu Sarra the orange seller exclaimed: "Don't have mercy on us or let God's mercy fall upon us."

*
* *

In front of the bus stop.

Buses were coming and going. Schoolgirls, ugly women, women with blonde wigs, shoeshiners, national servicemen and beggars with deformities.

He had been yawning all morning. What would it be like when noon came?

Arabi the oppressed yawned, and yawned. The day was still young, and the aroma of cheese and meat pastries was emanating from nearby shops.

In the cafe, the day labourers were drinking tea. They were sipping it slowly, with their legs crossed, staring at the women, thinking of how to support their families, chatting, spitting, blaspheming, waiting for the contractor... and waiting.

"Rose, I love you."

The student, clutching his briefcase under his arm, was flirting with an angelic-faced girl student. She turned her face away, concealing her joy.

Arabi the oppressed felt at that moment that he had forgotten his pains, and his gaze fell on a green tree.

*
* *

Everything suddenly changed. The bus arrived, and all eyes were fixed on it.

When it stopped, hundreds of people stormed it, pushing, punching and crowding each other. Some of them climbed in through the windows, while others came in through the exit door.

Arabi the oppressed found himself being pushed amid a sea of arms and pale faces. Suddenly he went in through the door and found himself in front of an empty seat.

He sat down, regaining his breath. Why had he got on? He wondered, to start with, whether he would be able to get off. "What's behind me?" he asked himself. "I'll ride five stops and then I'll be in the city centre."

The bus filled up, and the number of people standing became more than the number sitting. From the window he saw a red government car pursuing the fruit juice sellers on the opposite pavement. Then the bus moved off.

"Tickets."

He heard the conductor's voice, and put his hand into his small pocket. Then he noticed that the angelic-faced girl student was standing and clinging to the edge of the seat with one hand, and carrying her briefcase clutched to her breast with the other.

Arabi the oppressed stood up, and told her to sit down.

She smiled at him as he gave her his seat, and her hand clutched the metal tube from the roof.

"Tickets."

Her boy friend the student was standing directly in front of him, and looked at him gratefully. Arabi felt then that he had done something good that day.

"Tickets," the conductor said, and a man near him said, "I'm administration."

The conductor raised his voice, and repeated angrily: "Administration, administration, you're all administration. Where's your identity card, Mr. Administration?"

Some faces turned pale, and Arabi felt sympathy for the conductor. How could he humiliate a son of the government without batting an eyelid.

Arabi expected the son of the government to stand up, slap the conductor and throw him under people's feet between the seats.

But the son of the government (to the astonishment of both Arabi and the student), the son of the government took out his identity card.

"Good, Mr. Administration," the conductor said. "Now I agree that you can ride free."

"This conductor is a brave citizen," the student whispered.

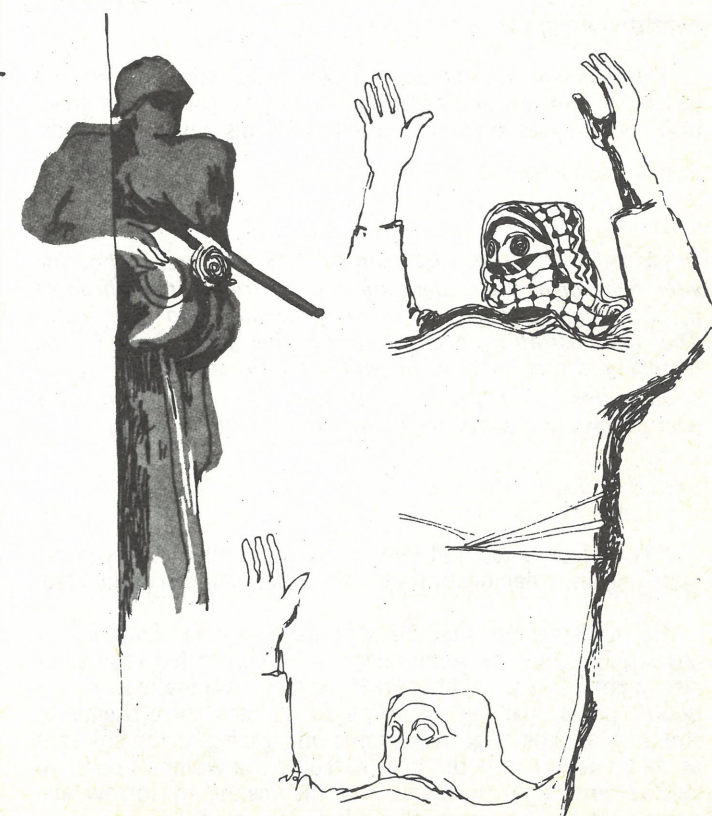
He looked at his girl friend as if he had asked her, "Isn't he?"

She nodded in agreement, and Arabi told himself that there was still good in this world.

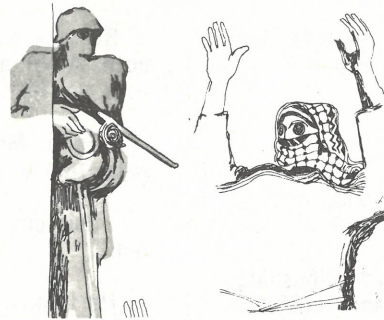
The conductor pushed his way on, eyes watching him in amazement. The administration man felt disconcerted, and took a newspaper out of his pocket and buried his gaze in it.

"Tickets."

The student stretched out his hand with the money, and Arabi's eyes fell on the conductor's belt. There, from under the belt, protruded the barrel of a pistol, a real pistol like those worn by security men.



ARABI THE OPPRESSED



As if talking to himself, Arabi muttered: "The conductor is also administration."

A great sadness showed on the girl student's face, and she lowered her eyelids gloomily.

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He stepped down from the bus and placed his feet on the tarred road.

"The world's gloomy and frowning. How my heart aches! How grim my country's streets are. The windows on both sides, merchandise... reductions and sales of end-of-season stocks."

They wear overcoats and carry umbrellas, and walk elegantly along the tarred road.

The cars wait for the women, who have dogs with washed white fur trotting in front of them. At the corner, the green bean vendor was standing stupidly with his unwanted goods.

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(A large demonstration surged into the street, shouting with one voice, the student and his girl friend at the head of it, shouting, red-faced, their veins swollen and prominent. The demonstrators began stoning the glass shop fronts, removing the clothes in the end-of-season sales, burning the photographs of night club dancers and frightening the women with the white dogs trotting in front of them.)

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"Your face is red and your veins are swollen as if you are marching in a demonstration," the bean vendor commented.

He remembered that he was daydreaming. Smiling, he answered: "Give me some beans, I haven't tasted food since last night." After that, Arabi walked, wandering in the public parks, passing in front of cinema advertisements, stopping outside large restaurants and gazing at the chickens as they roasted over the fire, watching the women's bottoms stuffed into tight trousers, and his feeling of sorrow and oppression and his desire to explode increased.

At the beginning of a street, he saw a fire blazing in a yellow government car. People were looking at it, and then running off. It was a vehicle of the type used to transport prisoners, and the fire was blazing in its rear compartment, while the driver and two warders were standing by watching.

"The prisoners have stopped screaming," a man next to him said, "they must have died."

"I smell the smell of human flesh," another one said. Arabi shivered, and his fingertips shivered, and a trembling went through his body.

"The guards claim they haven't got the key to the rear compartment," a third person said.

"Let's get away from this place," a fourth one urged, "or else they'll grab us as witnesses."

He felt a concealed fear, and a need to return home and bury himself under the eiderdown. He walked along, imagining the chickens roasting over a slow fire.

He arrived at the cafe. The day labourers waiting for the contractor were still waiting in vain. Cups of bitter strong black tea scalded their throats, but they did not stop drinking them. Arabi the oppressed asked for a cup of tea, which was brought to him. He drank it and the bitterness seared his throat, but after a while he felt somewhat refreshed.

They asked how he was, so he told them the story about the conductor, and the story of the men who had been burnt in the rear compartment of a military police vehicle. Then he told them about a demonstration he had seen, and swore blind that he had seen some of them in it.

They looked at each other and laughed.

"What's this terrifying country, then?" he asked them. They were silent, in sorrow and sympathy.

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On the pavement there were some vendors who felt confident that the red government car would not return until the next morning. They were scattered on the corners,

and the bus stop as usual was still crowded with people standing.

"Tomorrow this oppressed crowd will explode," he told himself.

(The demonstration began to grow longer and wider, stretching out like arms into the streets and alleys of the city, overturning buses and turning them into barricades, tearing up paving stones to smash the windows of empty private cars. The high-ranking secret police men and officers fled, while the soldiers would march side by side with the sons of the nation.)

The girl student climbed onto her boy friend's shoulders and began shouting to the day labourers and the poor. The men were aroused and their blood became hot under their skins.

"Let's get on the bus," one person said, and the others pushed forward like a sweeping torrent. He found himself being swept along with them into the bus. He found a seat at the back and sat down.

The bus moved off with panting breaths, and began to rattle and pick up more passengers at each stop. The passengers went on talking to each other.

"Did you hear about the accident of the vehicle which



burnt up with prisoners inside it?" one man asked his companion.

"Yes."

"I tell you, I was there. I was in one of the rooms in that hotel which overlooks the street."

"Really?"

"There was a woman with me in the same room. You know, in that hotel they fix you up with a room and a woman for an hour for a small fee."

"So you were there, and you had with you..."

"And when the vehicle caught fire the woman had taken all her clothes off and lain down on the bed, and I began taking my clothes off so as to get in beside her."

"And then?"

"The fire broke out and the prisoners started shouting for help in voices that sounded like howls of agony. The naked woman stood up and looked out of the window. When she saw the sight, she shut the window and began dressing."

"You didn't succeed with her?"

"No," the man answered. "She put on her clothes, handed me back the money and said, I don't want to."

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The men overturned another bus, right over onto its back, and set fire to its tyres. At that point, the police fired on them and one of the day labourers fell, but others attacked a policeman, snatched his rifle from his hands and trampled him underfoot.

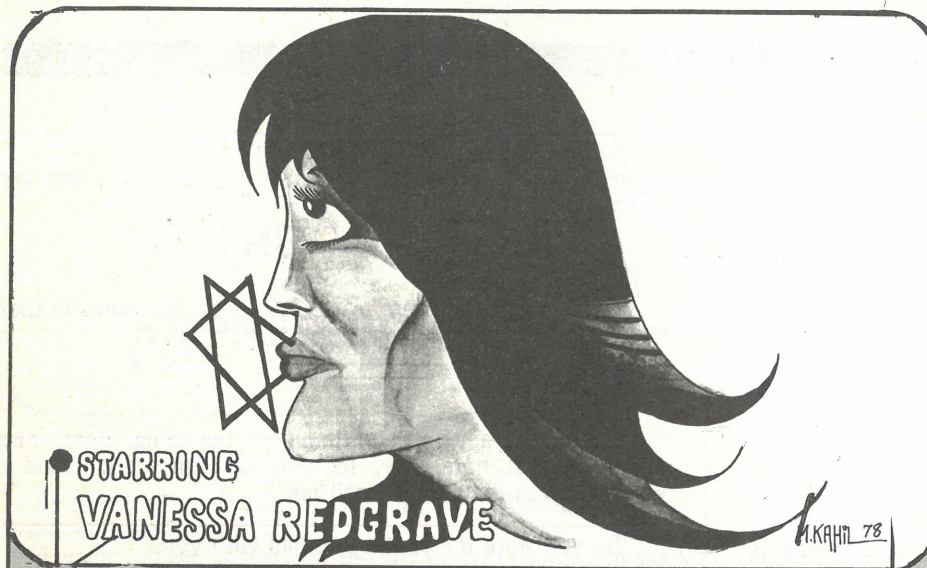
The girl student went on shouting from her boy friend's shoulders, and the honest soldiers continued to join the demonstration.

"Last stop," the conductor called out in a loud voice.

The last man still on the bus, Arabi the oppressed, stood up and stepped down from the bus. He walked the rest of the way home.

He found his wife and children waiting for him at the door.

When he reached them, they handed him a piece of paper stamped with a government stamp. He opened it, and read his call-up from the military service administration, telling him to report for duty as a reservist.



REDGRAVE FACES ZIONIST OPPOSITION

Vanessa Redgrave, the British actress means more to western public opinion than a dozen Sadats. What she does can influence more people than a year of Jerusalem visits!

In the past she has supported numerous liberation struggles throughout the world, and now she is helping finance a documentary film, "The Palestinians", to explain the Palestinian cause to the western public.

As a result of her stand on the Palestinian question she has become the target of the Zionist career destroying machinery. Strong arm tactics are being used by the Jewish Defense League in the United States, which is threatening to picket and disrupt the Academy Award ceremony, if Miss Redgrave is nominated for her role in the 20th Century Fox film, "Julia", which is about Jewish authoress Lillian Hellman's experiences in Nazi Germany. The League has also threatened to picket and disrupt performances of the film.

The League is attempting to have 20th Century Fox drop the pro-Palestinian star, but a studio spokesman has described the attempts as "blackmail". He said, "We totally reject, and will not be blackmailed into supporting any policy of refusing to employ any person because of their political beliefs."

PONOMAREV REAFFIRMS SOVIET STAND ON M.E. CONFLICT

Boris Ponomarev, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and candidate-member of the Politburo,

on 25 January reaffirmed the Soviet Union's firm stand as regards the Middle East conflict, during his talks in Washington. He said that the conflict in the Middle East can only be solved on a just and permanent basis by the implementation of UN resolutions

through the channel especially created for this purpose: the Geneva Conference, where all parties concerned would participate, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

TITO REITERATES SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

Yugoslav President Joseph Broz Tito reiterated his support for the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state, an official Yugoslav spokesman said on 27 January.

The Yugoslav spokesman added that the interruption of the Israeli-Egyptian talks on both the military and political levels was not surprising, in view of Israel's well known intransigence and its expansionist policy.

ARAB YOUTH FEDERATION CONDEMNS SADAT POLICY; SALUTES PLO STAND

The first Conference of the Federation of Arab Youth, which was held in Tunisia between the 18th and 21st of January with the participation of the General Union of Palestinian Students, and several other Arab student unions, issued a political communiqué condemning Sadat's visit to Israel and saluting the stand of the Palestinian Revolution and all Arab liberation movements.

GUPS IN FRANCE CABLES ARAFAT ON REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

The General Union of Palestinian Students — France branch — on January 28th, sent a cable to Yasser Arafat, congratulating him on the 13th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian Revolution.

It declared its support for the Revolution's steps directed against Sadat's capitulationist policy. The students said that they back all of Arafat's efforts towards consolidating Palestinian national unity on the basis of the Tripoli six point program.

ARAB AND THIRD WORLD DIPLOMATS EXPRESS WORRY ABOUT ISRAELI MILITARY SETTLEMENTS

Arab and Third World diplomats on February 4th expressed their concern regarding the establishment of three new Israeli military centers near Nablus in the occupied West Bank, with the consent of the Begin government.

According to reports published in the Israeli newspaper Maariv at the beginning of this week, these military camps will soon be transferred into civilian ones, which means they will probably get more economic help from the government to enhance their growth and development. With these three new settlements the number of colonies established in the West Bank since June 1967 will be 16, with 23 additional ones in the Jordan River Valley.

WEST BERLINERS DONATE VEHICLE TO SAMED

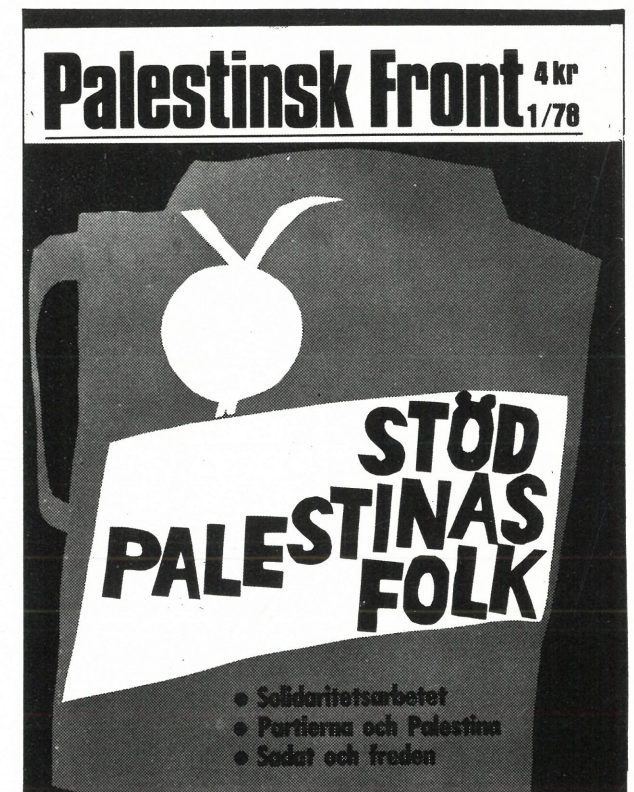
The Palestine Solidarity Committee in Berlin, West Germany have donated a Toyota Landcruiser motor-vehicle to 'SAMED', the 'Palestine Martyrs Works Society'.

The working class in Western Berlin have presented this car to the productive institute of the Palestinian Revolution as a practical reply to the Mayor of Berlin's consent to act there, as a representative of the Zionist entity.

'SAMED' hails the Palestinian working class and the working class in Berlin for its support for the Palestinian Revolution. It also thanks the Palestine Solidarity Committee for their continued support for our people's heroic struggle.

Head of SAMED
Abu Ala'

GREETINGS TO PLO FROM THE NORWEGIAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE



The Palestine Committee in Norway held its 7th Congress on January 14th and 15th. The congress salutes the heroic liberation struggle of the Palestinian people.

In spite of continuous aggression from Zionism and imperialism the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO have shown an undefeatable will in the struggle to liberate their country. The Palestinian Liberation Struggle has faced many various obstacles, but in whatever disguise the aggressors have presented themselves, you have replied by bringing the people's war up to still more advanced levels.

All over the world today we see strong and steadily growing support for your just struggle.

Here in Norway, solidarity with the Palestinian people is growing

stronger every day. At the same time more and more people are condemning the state of Israel.

For the Norwegian Palestine Committee, your successful struggle is a great inspiration to strengthen and expand the solidarity work, to unite all that can be united, and thus continue to deepen and strengthen the bond between the Palestinian and Norwegian people.

LONG LIVE THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION STRUGGLE!

LONG LIVE THE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE NORWEGIAN AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE!

SUPPORT THE PLO — THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE!

**SELF-DETERMINATION
RIGHT FOR
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**



**FOR AN INDEPENDENT
PALESTINIAN STATE**

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

Vol. 4, No. 4
1 MARCH 1978

Palestine

